

Centre for Public Authority and International Development

Research Seminar Series 2019/20, Michaelmas Term

Thursdays, 12-30-2.00pm

10th October | FAW.9.04

Education, Work and Leisure: How young men make sense of their Lives in eastern Uganda

Ben Jones, University of East Anglia

This seminar explores the relationship between education, farming and leisure time and look at how young men overcome the tensions and frustrations of educated youth by using games to elide an interest in an 'educated style' with rural forms of work – farming, petty trading and casual employment and sustain a large degree of sympathy between generations.

17th October | FAW.9.04

The politics of saving endangered knowledges in Africa

Yirga Woldeyes, Curtin University, Australia

This paper investigates the practice of 'saving' African intellectual assets based on the premise that they are endangered resources of humankind. It will examine two important issues namely knowledge grabbing (the process of holding and utilising African intellectual resources in a way that precludes their use by Africans), and epistemic violence (interpreting local knowledge with a foreign lens in a way that reinforces colonial, Eurocentric views that are then internalised within Africans themselves).

24th October | FAW.9.04

Industrial jobs in Ethiopia: new hopes and new conflicts?

Florian Schäfer, London School of Economics and Political Science

This seminar examines the possibilities for development and new conflicts generated by the rapid expansion of manufacturing and construction labour in Ethiopia which is creating a large-scale industrial working class for the first time. Dr Schäfer will focus on the lived experiences of low- and semi-skilled workers and how their hopes and conflicts tie in with wider shifts in Ethiopian political economy.

31st October | FAW.9.05

State territorial consolidation and land conflict in North-Eastern Uganda

Matt Kandel, University of Southampton

This seminar shows how central state territorial consolidation along the Karamoja-Teso border in Uganda has reconfigured conflict over land and natural resources. Dr Kandel will describe the process of central state consolidation of territory in the northeast and show how it has reconfigured conflict by reinvigorating a latent territorial dispute between the Karamoja and Teso local states over the location of the sub-national border, and create new types of land and natural resource conflict.

7th November Reading Week

14th November | FAW.9.04

Interdisciplinary Research on Infrastructure in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Jo Beall, LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science

This seminar will examine the governance of decentralised sanitation infrastructure in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, using the concept of 'infrastructure interfaces' as an analytical lens to identify the key material connection points of the system as a whole, to scrutinise the different actors, practices and governance arrangements occurring at these particular junctures and to identify the points at which different disciplines are called upon and prevail. This will also enable us to engage with the current mass-scale housing delivery programme and show that informal solutions to pragmatic problems at the material interfaces of housing and infrastructure are intrinsic to post-networked urban services.

21st November | FAW.9.04

An emperor without clothes: what schools can teach us about authority and rule in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Tom de Herdt, University of Antwerp

The presentation analyses state governance in the DRC by discussing a number of policy reforms in the education sector: We analyse the introduction of free education by the Kabila (2010) and Tshisekedi (2019) governments and the "bancaisation" of teachers' salaries, tracing them from their pre-history over the initial plan to the local-level practices they did, or did not, change. The events allow to discuss both the "practice of government" of the representatives of an omnipresent and authoritative state and the "practice of politics" (Murray Li) of non-state actors that resource the state's actions.

28th November | FAW.9.05

Reflections from the Fortress Wall: *From Participant Observation to Access Denial in Sudan*

Mark Duffield, University of Bristol

This seminar will build on an 'informal' 40 year retrospective visit Professor Duffield made to the Blue Nile village of Maiurno where he did his PhD fieldwork in the mid-1970s, and reflect on the type of academic

research that was possible then when revolutionary hopes were still high, compared to today. The session will look at the problematic shift from circulation to connectivity, the abandonment of structural critiques of capitalism and class in favour of post-modernism's emphasis of identity and culture, and the privileging of data-friendly notions of complexity and psycho-social behaviourism, is explored.

5th December | NAB.2.16

The challenge of 'late urbanisation' in Africa

Sean Fox Bristol & Tom Goodfellow, University of Sheffield

This seminar addresses key debates about the universalism or historical uniqueness of urbanization and argue that that urbanization in many countries today is late, occurring in a profoundly different context from early urbanizers in the north, and that contemporary urban development challenges in Africa have occurred under very different and far more challenging circumstances that we will explore in detail in the presentation.

12th December | Vera Anstey Room

By Design or Chance: Negotiating the Politics of Water Provision in Goma, the DRC

Tom Kirk, London School of Economics and Political Science

This seminar will discuss the approach to programming adopted by Integrated Maji Infrastructure and Governance Initiative for eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (IMAGINE) using a public-private partnership for water provision and water sector governance in an extremely fragile context. The presenters review the benefits and costs of using these 'new orthodoxy' systems in difficult circumstance in order to work with a fragile state to create a functioning water market.