



Azim Premji University Faculty Seminar Series presents

presents

"Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods after Relocation: A Case Study from Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka"

Speaker
Cynthia Caron

Date: March 22, 2017 (Wednesday)

Time: 9.30 am to 11.00 am

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

About the Lecture

Post-disaster and post-conflict resettlement programming often entails relocation. Relocation does not necessarily abrogate ties to one's point of origin. Relocated communities and their 'new places' are not static but actively constructed through social and political relationships with family, state-authority, and aid agencies. The latter are important institutions in the resettlement and relocation process, as the ways that they bring resources together to implement resettlement reflect what they *know or think that they know* about the displaced populations they work with. In Sri Lanka resettlement resources specifically for housing construction in relocation villages were brought together through four models: owner-driven, donor driven, hybrid (combined owner and donor driven elements) and self-settlement. This talk presents a case study of the relocation village, Puchchakerni located in the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka's Eastern Province. The houses in Puchchakerni, constructed through a hybrid model, show the extent to which this model enabled residents to make their new homes into places. This allows for a comparative approach to understanding how resettlement models shape place making and enable socio-economic recovery. Finally, the case study investigates what social, economic, political and cultural ties families relocated to new villages maintain with their original residences, the changing nature of the relationship between these two sites (i.e., dual home bases, or patterns of circulation that contribute to survival), and how newly-resettled families make relocation villages into places to remake lives and livelihoods.

About the Speaker

Cynthia Caron is Assistant Professor of International Development, Community and Environment at Clark University in the United States. She has a PhD in Development Sociology from Cornell University where she specialized in environmental and political sociology. Before joining Clark in 2012, she worked for a number of development organizations in Sri Lanka and India including Care International, the United Nations Office for Project Services, and the land rights NGO, Landesa.