



Talk: New Thinking in Development Studies: Bringing Culture and People Back in

Speaker:
Prof John Clammer

Date / Time:
February 11, 2013 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Venue:
10th Floor, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

The lecture will review some very recent innovations in development thinking and theory, including new interfaces between development and a range of other disciplines, including sociology, cultural studies, psychology, medicine and philosophy. It will argue that a great deal of development thinking has been far too abstract: that it tends too often to leave out the concrete lives of real people, their existential condition, their aspirations of a non-material kind, and their fundamental quality as story-telling and meaning generating creatures. The lecture will attempt to propose a new approach to these issues, and in so doing to not only greatly expand the scope of what we think of as "development", but also to re-locate development thinking at the centre of contemporary social science discourses - not simply as one subject amongst many, but as providing an intellectual and moral focus for addressing our contemporary and rapidly deepening crisis.

A Note on the Speaker:

John Clammer is currently Professor of Development Sociology at the Institute of Sustainability and Peace of the United Nations University in Tokyo. From 1989-2007 he was Professor of Comparative Sociology and Asian Studies at Sophia University, Tokyo, and prior to that taught at the National University of Singapore and at the University of Hull (UK). He has been a visiting professor at many universities including Oxford, Australian National University, Kent (UK), Handong (South Korea), Buenos Aires, Weimar (Germany), Essex, Tokyo, and Pondicherry. His research and teaching includes development sociology and especially issues of culture and development, urban sociology, art and society, the sociology of religion and Asian and Western social theory. He has published widely on all these themes, including his most recent book "Culture, Development and Social Theory: Towards an Integrated Social Development", published last October in London and New York.