

Another stimulating and eventful year for the Warwick GRP International Development (2017/2018)

Our annual theme this year ["Poverty, Inequality and Development"](#) tackled issues that lie at the heart of the study and practice of International Development. 'Development' has always claimed poverty eradication as its ultimate goal – we see this reflected in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 SDGs with its commitment to 'leave no one behind.' But we live in an affluent world where at least 1 billion people presently live in extreme poverty.

Our events and supported activities over the course of the year have addressed many facets of this complex and contentious topic. We were able to work with a range of colleagues and networks including other GRPs, which were already established through previous year's themes and activities to open up new ways of thinking and collaborations.

We posed some questions at the start of this year to stimulate thinking; How are images and narratives of poverty represented to development audiences? How can we assess the historical entanglement of global poverty and inequality with colonialism and its legacies? How do we define and measure poverty? How does gender and other vectors of inequality cut across strategies to address poverty? How effective are the global institutions for tackling poverty (from multilateral agencies and donor governments to NGOs and popular celebrities)? What are the limits of global governance and the need for alternative paths to sustainable development? Does climate change make sustainable development an oxymoron?

Colleagues did not disappoint! Over the course of the year we brought together academics, practitioners, students and citizens on various platforms who brought their own thoughtful and insightful perspectives to bear on these and other questions.

Visual representation is an under-researched area of development. How do we define and represent poverty visually? And how do we do this without voyeurism or other forms of visual exploitation? Is it possible to avoid 'poverty porn'? How are images and narratives of poverty represented both by, and to, media audiences?



Our Annual Photography Competition addressed these issues head on. This is our winning entry taken by students, Jin Duong and Chien Tran.

Take a look at the other [winners and commended entries](#). They are all thought provoking.

This year we were able to share this richness of visual imagery with a wider audience. Dr Jonathan Vickery curated a very well attended [exhibition at the City Arcadia Gallery in Coventry](#) which allowed us to engage the citizens of Coventry in conversations about how archives of the global media can be countered by more engaged forms of visual research and how poverty is concealed when presented photographically.



One of the highlights of our events in term 1 looked at another means through which narratives of poverty are addressed to development audiences. Our public screening of [Ken Loach's Save the Children](#) Film (1971) at the Arts Centre Cinema in November was sold out. A capacity audience watched this film which was banned until 2011 and which has only been shown three times before. It raises strident questions relating to the role of charities, philanthropy and the 'rescue' industry. A lively and engaged Q and A session followed, involving thoughtful contributions from Fernando Espada, head of humanitarian affairs at Save the Children UK and Professor Matthew Hilton from Queen Mary University of London.

Another India invites you to

Tales of the Tribes

Film screening and talk by
Dr. Tara Douglas (Adivasi Arts Trust)

Wednesday 31 January 2018
3pm-5 pm

H3.55 Humanities Building, University of Warwick

The event is free and open to the public. Tea and refreshments will be served.



The **Tales of the Tribes** is a 38-minute series of five short animated films. These films are adaptations of indigenous folktales from India and have been made in collaboration with indigenous artists and digital media artists from The National Institute of Design, India. The stories are from the Parhan Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, the Angami in Nagaland, the Meitei in Manipur, the Tani group in Arunachal Pradesh and the Lepcha in Sikkim. Local art forms and designs have been incorporated into the visual design of the films. The programme is presented by an animated representation of the renowned ethnographer Verrier Elwin as the storyteller.

The production, by the Adivasi Arts Trust, has taken six years, has involved workshops in all the five locations and has been mastered into 7 languages, including five local languages spoken by the communities represented in the films.

Presented with the support of the GRF in International Development
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The theme of representation has been addressed in a range of other events throughout the year. In Term 2 [Another India](#) and GRP ID hosted a film screening and talk on 'Tales of the Tribes' by Dr. Tara Douglas of the Adivasi Arts Trust.

In term 3 a [Warwick Tate Exchange](#) event considered the position of the ‘tribal’ and the production of indigeneity curated by Rashmi Varma in collaboration with Tara Douglas.

The way that ‘poverty’ is measured within economic development discourse has been challenged over the years not least by Amartya Sen and colleagues who argued with considerable success that human rather than economic development (GDP) provides a better basis. The focus has moved to the issue of quantification in particular the role of ‘indicators’ (and rankings) to assess the Sustainable Development Goals and such matters as the implementation of human rights, corruption and the rule of law. Many argue these have become a new form of governance.

Warwick Tate Exchange
Modern Tribal: Producing Indigeneity in Our Times
 (warwick.ac.uk/tae)

THE PRODUCTION OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND HISTORY
 TATE

12-17 June 2018
 12:00-18:00
 Tate Modern Museum
 Tate Exchange
 Blavatnik Building
 Level 5

“Eiffel Tower” by Venkat Raman Singh Shyam

12-17 June, Tues-Fri 12:00-18:00, Sat 12:00-20:00, Sun 12:00-18:30 (Main Space)
 Film Screening of *The Tales of the Tribes* (continuous screening)
 Bana musical performances by Narayan Deen
 Visiting artists Venkat Raman Singh Shyam and Rajendra Shyam

Tuesday, 12 June, 14:00-15:00 (Main Space)
 The Tribal World of Vermeer Elwin: A Performative Reading by Nikesh Patel

Thursday, 14 June, 12:00-14:00 (Main Space)
 Kinetic Automata and the Good Tradition: A Demonstration by Stephen Guy
 12:00-14:30 and 15:00-17:30 (Main Space)
 Filming Orality: An Animation Workshop led by Tara Douglas of the Advant Arts Trust
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/filming-orality-an-animation-workshop-tickets-45756794805>

Friday, 15 June, 13:30-13:40 (Room: Citizens (10), Level 2 Artist and Society, Tate Modern Museum)
 Ten Minute Talk by Rashmi Varma on Gordon Bennett's *Poseidon Island* (Abstraction), 1991
 14:00-17:00 (Southwark Room)
 Performing Indigeneity: A theatre and dance workshop led by Mukul and Ghetto Tigers
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-performing-indigeneity-tickets-45757312353>

Saturday, 16 June, 15:00-17:00 (Southwark Room)
 Panel Discussion: Indigenous Art and Global Capitalism
 With Mada Bana, Venkat Raman Singh Shyam, Emilia Terracciano, Alice Tilche, Tara Douglas and Rashmi Varma
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seminar-indigenous-art-and-global-capitalism-tickets-45757436725>

Programme curation: Rashmi Varma (Warwick), in collaboration with Tara Douglas of the Advant Arts Trust

The issue of how we measure and value aspects of poverty and inequality was tackled in a variety of ways through events this year. For instance in term 1, James Harrison and Sharifah Sekalala hosted the [Economic and Social Rights Academic Network for UK and Ireland meeting](#) which considered among other matters how to measure a right to health. We hosted a *triple book launch*; all three book tackle the role that socio economic rights – a right to health and right to housing – can be used to contest an unjust World Order.



Events this year picked up the theme of quantification from a gender perspective, picking up last year’s successful theme on gender and development. Two events focused in different ways on the issue of social reproduction and in particular how to address its depletion and more specifically how to mitigate the effects of

unevenly distributed and excessive caring responsibilities which contributes to the impoverishment of those who undertake the care. In term 1 we addressed the issue in the context of [Caring for older woman in Kenya](#). Ann Stewart presented her research on this topic at a seminar which addressed wider issues relating to policy responses relating to global ageing.

In term 3 Shirin Rai, Briony Jones (PAIS) and Beth Goldblatt from the Law Faculty at the University of Technology Sydney (in collaboration with the York University’s Global Development Centre) brought colleagues from a range of disciplines and universities (including Monash; Liverpool John Moores; Ulster; Wilfrid Laurier, Canada; Birmingham;

LSE) together for a workshop on Law, Harms and Reproduction. They asked the question: can we argue for the broadening of legal definitions of harm that should include recognition and compensation of social reproduction and the depletion that may arise from this?

The [*Caste-ing Nutrition: The Politics of Health and Food in Modern India*](#) workshop in term 3 set out to produce a research agenda for thinking about the crosscutting relations between food and caste hierarchy in India. While critically reflecting on the historical and social constructions of food, nutrition and health in colonial and late colonial times, it considered what analytics of caste can - and can't - do for understanding Indian food politics. Along with reviewing a global history of nutrition, historians working on the cultural politics of food will talk about the mutual constitution of food and caste in relation to reproduction, anti-caste resistance, sociability and the advertising of food in colonial and late colonial India. This workshop involved colleagues from Warwick (Rebecca Earle and Shrikant Botre), Concordia University, MIDS Chennai and Dartmouth College and was hosted jointly with the Food GRP, IAS the Centre for the History of Medicine and the **Another India**.

Climate change is arguably development's biggest challenge, destabilising societies, fueling conflict, producing mass migrations and impoverishing millions. The workshop on [*Climate Change Law, Litigation and Governance*](#) picked up the theme of accounting for harms in this context. James Hansen, one of the world's preeminent climate scientists, has called for a wave of lawsuits against governments and fossil fuel companies that are delaying action on what he describes as the growing, mortal threat of global warming. The workshop brought together scholars, legal practitioners and non-governmental organisations to discuss the growing number of climate change cases being litigated around the world. Speakers included Richard Harvey and Michelle Jonker-Argueta, Greenpeace International; Duncan French, School of Law, University of Lincoln, UK; Louis Kotzé, North-West University, South Africa; Sophie Marjanac, Client Earth UK; Tim Crosland, Plan B; Tom Short, Leigh Day; Gerry Liston, Global Legal Action Network; Hendrik Schoukens, University of Ghent, Belgium. Our **Annual lecture** given by Professor Simon Caney (PAIS) ([*Poverty, Inequality and Justice: Development in a Climate Constrained World*](#)) provided a thought provoking way of resisting the global injustices presented by climate change.

The workshop in term 3 brought us together with Coventry Citizens. ‘Reparation or Else’: [Climate Justice for the Caribbean](#) convened by Dr Leon Sealey-Huggins in partnership with Black Consciousness Coventry envisioned Africa and the Diaspora in a new light. It highlighted and explored in depth the importance of reparations. Wakanda - A name synonymous with sovereignty, self-sufficiency, self-determination, prosperity and technological advancement, and looks at Africa that rejects, colonialism, neo colonialism, imperialism and racism. Often at the forefront of the case for reparations is financial compensation. While monetary reparations are unquestionably important, as Africa has suffered the biggest and longest holocaust to date and continues to be extorted from all of its precious history and minerals. The workshop argued that we need to look at reparations holistically.



Our workshop convened by Professor Franklyn Lisk on [Mobile and Digital Money: A Pathway to poverty reduction though financial inclusion](#) in term 2 addressed the efficacy of global institutions – including banks – in tackling poverty in Africa. Dr Diery Seck, Managing Director, Centre for Research on Political Economy Dakar; Mr Ismaila Jarju, Director of Research and Statistics, West Africa Monetary Institute (WAMI), Accra; Ms Alix Murphy, Director of Mobile Money and Partnerships, WorldRemit, London joined colleagues from Warwick and elsewhere to develop a joint research proposal.

Our [annual networking event](#) in term 1 (which is open to all researcher across the University) was very well attended and opened up new possible research collaborations between colleagues in the sciences, social sciences and WMS. We followed this up with an [ESRC GCRF information and networking session](#) in term 2 to explore opportunities for funding and a focused *research roundtable* jointly hosted by GRP ID and Sustainable Cities in Term 3 to take forward some of these exciting potential collaborative activities in the area of medical technology; water quality and thermal public health.

We have again seen keen student interest in our events and a strong desire to be involved in our activities. We have provided internships for some. We continue our commitment to the development of early career researchers working broadly in the field of development via our [Annual Postgraduate Conference](#) which attracted researchers from a wide range of UK institutions.

We are also delighted to announce the relaunch of the [Journal of Law, Social Justice & Global Development](#) under the editorship of Dr Jonathan Vickery (University of Warwick) and Dr Rajnaara Akhtar (De Montfort University) with two special issues on earlier annual themes [Gender and Development](#) and [Cultural Rights and Global Development](#).

We could list many more creative and innovative events that we have been associated with over the year. A number of the events have led to the submission of funding bids - some have been successful although it is early days – and new networks which we are sure will lead to innovative contributions to the field of international development.

We are well underway with planning our next annual theme: [*The Politics of Hope: Reviving the Dream of Democracy and Development.*](#)

What is it that people most want in life? What are their hopes and expectations? Global surveys show people of all ages, genders and nationalities list ‘an honest and responsive government’ among their top three priorities. The other two priorities that regularly top the list are ‘a good education’ and ‘better healthcare.’ Hence, people clearly want not just that their politicians deliver development, but also that they can be held to account. Democracy, good governance and development are intertwined in a hopeful way.

All are welcome to join us to develop this theme over the year – through attending networking events, using our seed funding to develop ideas and networks, taking part in our photography competition and generally attending our events.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Co-Lead GRP International Development: Professor Ann Stewart