

Invitation to apply for a post-graduate

III DEVESTU Summer School

Histories / Developments – Transdisciplinary explorations

August 26 -27, 2006

Congress Centre Hotel Linnaismäki, Turku, Finland

- Participants:** Ph.D. candidates in Development Studies or related discipline
- Lecturers:** **Frederick Cooper**, Professor, Department of History, New York University
Gyan Prakash, Professor, Dayton-Stockton Professor of History & Director of the Shelby Cullam Davis Center for Historical studies, Princeton University
- Costs:** Ph.D candidates who are accepted on the basis of their application and abstract can participate free of charge (including accommodation and full board, workshop materials). Travel expenses are participants' own responsibility.
- Deadlines:** Application and abstract of the paper 15th May
- Organizers:** The Finnish graduate School in Development Studies (Devestu) , University of Helsinki / Departments of Contemporary History and Geography, University of Turku
- Contacts:** Klaus Mühlhahn (klaus.muhlhahn@utu.fi), Taimi Sitari (taimi.sitari@utu.fi)

Purpose of the course

The topic of the 2006 Summer School of the Finnish National Graduate School in Development Studies (Devestu) is *Histories / Developments – Transdisciplinary explorations*. The theme will be explored together by international and Finnish scholars and Ph.D. students from Finland and the other Nordic countries.

The workshop will raise the issue of the complex relationship between history and development. The workshop rationale is to assess the sustainability of the conventional patterns of thought associated with the relation between these two disciplines.

History and development have appeared as interrelated epistemological concepts that fundamentally inform theories and explanations in both disciplines. The notion of "development", as it is, describes a diachronical process. It relates the present to the past and explains current configurations against the backdrop of changes and tendencies cutting through time. On the other hand, patterns of development have profoundly influenced historical thinking, too. Such thinking typically sees history as a linear, teleological process of growth.

The starting-point of the planned workshop is one strand of thinking that has emerged from the theoretical debates within social sciences and humanities since 1970s. It claims that there is of no essence neither of history nor of development and that there are therefore not grounds to see the foundation of the two disciplines in revealing this hard core. The idea of the workshop is to explore

both the soundness of this pattern of thought and its implications.

The workshop will address two themes, broadly conceived. The first theme deals with the concept or notion of development as it has played a prominent role in historical thinking since at least the nineteenth century. Here we are interested in a critical re-examination of "development" as a powerful tool of interpreting history. What are the implications of reading history through the lenses of development and are they reasonable?

The second theme deals with representations of historical variants of development. Here our goal is to reflect on the different processes in history which have been described as development. We want to understand multiplicity and diversity of such processes and therefore come to a more balanced understanding of what development means.

Who can participate

Besides the Devestu students, the seminar is open to Ph.D. students from Devestu's co-operation institutions in the Nordic countries. Also other Ph.D. students may be accepted depending on the space.

Course methods

Coursework at Turku will involve lectures and more intimate discussions of the participants' papers in small, thematic groups. The focus of all activities is to support the participants' thesis projects. In addition to the formal activities, the visiting scholars and other resource people will be available for private discussions over coffee and meals and spare time.

The course introduces two visiting lecturers of high repute to share their experience and knowledge on the theme.

Professor **Frederick Cooper** is from New York University. His areas of research/interest are African history, colonization and decolonization, social sciences and the colonial world.

Professor **Gyan Prakash** is from Princeton University. He specializes in the history of modern India. His general field of research and teaching interest concerns the colonial genealogies of modernity, and problems of postcolonial thought and politics.

Professor **Klaus Mühlhahn**, who is presently the Director of the Center for East Asian Studies in the University of Turku, specializes in contemporary Chinese history.

The visiting scholars will give lectures on the workshop theme and participate in small group sessions where students present their own research papers. The papers should be related either to the topic or to methodology.

Applying for the course

The course is open to anyone registered in a university-level Ph.D. program in Development Studies or related discipline in any country. Prospective participants should send an application including the following information:

- Programme/university department and year of registration as Ph.D. student or in the program
- Name(s) of supervisor(s)

- Source of funding (if any)
- Thesis topic
- Current situation and estimated date of completion of thesis
- Short abstract (<500 words) describing the paper that will be presented at the course

The deadline for applications is 15th May, 2006. Applicants will be informed of their acceptance by 10th of June, 2006. Finalized papers of 5000 words or less must be submitted by no later than 4th August 2006 for distribution to fellow participants and course facilitators.

Contacts

Applications to be sent to

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