



Re-Grounding Globalization

Geography Graduate School Intensive Course
University of Tampere, Finland 6.-7.11.2008

Professor **Matthew Sparke** (University of Washington, USA)

Professor **Maria Kaika** (University of Manchester, UK)

Professor **Lynn Staeheli** (University of Edinburgh, UK)

During most of the 20th century modern societies were typically identified with the state seen as the embodiment of a national community. Challenging this conception, the growth of transnational interconnectedness since the 1970s has gradually eroded, although not fully obliterated, the dominance of nation-state as a frame for social processes, political activities and cultural signification. In some discourses, often related to practices of neo-liberal governance, the contemporary world has been portrayed as a “global village” where both individuals and organizations should acquire modes of action that meet the demands set by ‘globalization’. In highlighting the law-like progress of globalization this discourse at once depends on a dichotomy between the local and the global, and makes the former realm appear backward or obsolete.

Critical assessment of the many transitions, tensions and possibilities related to the transnationalization of contemporary local societies calls for new approaches and perspectives. Of particular interest for this intensive course are issues related to the continuing power of geography in the double sense: as the persistent grip that geographical realities of place, space and territory have on people’s lives, and as the analytical potential of a discipline devoted to analyzing the geographical world.

Work in this intensive course is based on short opening lectures related to the theme of the course and given by prominent scholars coming from Europe and Northern America. The lectures are followed by seminar sessions in which doctoral students will present their work in progress. The student papers are commented upon by the keynote speakers and discussed in the group. On top of the content of each student paper, particular attention is paid to good practices of conference communication, i.e. presentation of the paper. Student paper sessions begin on Thursday and continue on Friday as part of the program of the 2008 Geography days.

The course invites as participants all students in the Geography Graduate School in Finland, but the number of student presentations is restricted to 10-12. Students interested in participating in the intensive course are asked to **send an abstract of no more than 200 words to Jouni Häkli (jouni.hakli@uta.fi) by September 30 2008**. The Graduate School will support the travel and accommodation costs of the participants (with presentation) in the limits of the budget available.

For more information and registration to the **Geography days 2008**, see:
<http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/yhdt/maantieteenpaivat/index.php>

INTENSIVE COURSE PROGRAM

Thursday 6.11.

10:00 - 10:15 Opening words by professor Jouni Häkli
10:15 - 11:00 Lecture by professor Matthe Sparke, discussion
11:00 - 11:45 Lecture by professor Maria Kaika, discussion
12:00 - 13:15 Lunch break
13:15 - 14:00 Lecture by professor Lynn Staeheli, discussion
14:00 - 15:30 Student paper session
15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break
16:00 - 17:30 Student paper session continues
18:00 - Free evening program

Friday 7.11.

10:00 - 12:00 Participation in the program of the Geography days 2008,
(*requires registration, see*
<http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/yhdt/maantieteenpaivat/index.php>)
12:15 - 13:30 Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00 Student paper session continues
15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break
15:30 - 17:30 Student paper session continues
19:00 - 22:00 Evening program: Museum Centre Vapriikki (*requires registration*)
Buffet dinner
Prizes and honours

Saturday 8.11.

10:00 - 15:45 Participation in the Geography days 2008 continues