

SAGGSA Colloquium Series

Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies



From the U.S. South to the Global South: Practicing Development at Home With Dr. Mona Domosh

Friday, April 22, 2016 | 3:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | SIPA 502

Drawing on a range of works that extend from gendered historical analyses of colonialism to critical histories of development, and based on archival research in Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi, Mona Domosh argues in this talk that what we now call international development – a form of hegemony different from but related to colonialism – needs to be understood not only as a geopolitical tool of the cold war, but also as a technique of governance that took shape within the realm of the domestic and through a racialized gaze. Dr. Domosh does so by tracing some of the key elements of the United States' international development practices in the postwar era to a different time and place: the American South, a region considered 'undeveloped' in the first decades of the 20th century, and the agricultural extension practices that targeted the rural farm home and farm women, particularly African-American women. Thus Dr. Domosh is able to interrogate two elements that are key to understanding the making of American international development: that much of its early focus was on governing through biopolitical practices of the domestic and that those practices were based on the agricultural extension work of the United States Department of Agriculture in the American South.

Mona Domosh is Professor of Geography at Dartmouth College. She is a cultural-historical geographer, with four main research interests: 1) the cultural/historical geographies of American empires; 2) how ideas of femininity, masculinity, consumption, and "whiteness" played into the shift from American nation-building to empire-building from the late 19th to early 20th centuries; 3) connections among gender, class and the cultural formation of 19th century American cities, particularly in regard to distinctions such as consumption/production, public/private, masculine/feminine; and 4) feminist perspectives, theory, and methodology in relationship to matters of space and place.

This free event is funded by CSO and open to all FIU students and the public.

For more information, please call 305-348-2247

