



Development Studies

Theses Presentations

4 April 2014

1430-1730h

Coady Room 242



Community Perspectives on Small-Scale Artisanal Gold Mining in Ghana's Upper East Region: Stories from Gbane

SARAH DODSWORTH

Supervisor: Jonathan Langdon

This thesis is based on a qualitative study of community perspectives on small-scale artisanal gold mining in Gbane, a community in Ghana's Upper East Region. In this thesis I argue that artisanal mining is a legitimate alternative to large scale mining though it is most often silenced within dominant discourse on resource extraction. Furthermore residents of Gbane are deeply concerned by the potential takeover of mining and want to see it in Ghanaian hands even while they recognize some of the benefits and limitations of small-scale artisanal gold mining.



From Dogs to Wolves: A look at the role of learning and organizing processes in women's empowerment in Ada, Ghana

LISA GUNN

Supervisor: Jonathan Langdon

Ghana has a strong history of women's movements and organizing. But it appears that in recent years, women's learning and organizing has become more dynamic and empowering. This thesis aims to explore how and why that change has occurred and the ways in which learning and organizing are manifesting themselves now. Using grounded theory and a post-colonial feminist lens, *From Dogs to Wolves* examines how organizing and learning processes are creating new spaces for women to voice their concerns and opinions and gain a new sense of empowerment.



Community-based Strategies for Poverty Reduction in Nova Scotia

MELISSA JACKSON

Supervisor: Nancy Forestell

In the absence of anti-poverty priorities and effective action at the provincial and national level, community-based participatory approaches have emerged in different regions of Nova Scotia. The aim of my thesis is to explore and analyze community strategies for poverty reduction in Nova Scotia that exist against a backdrop of neoliberal Canadian public policy.



Critical Reflection and Social Transformation in Planning: A Development Studies Student's Journey

REBECCA MCEVOY

Supervisor: Behrang Foroughi

Rebecca's thesis will address the barriers and challenges to participatory planning facing community development practitioners and planners in a rural Ontario context. She reflects on her foray into the field of municipal planning over the summer of 2013 and examines process design, typologies of participation, power relations, and the opportunities of Asset-based Community Development with reference to her experience working in North Grenville, ON.