



*Development Studies
Theses Presentations*

Ceira Young
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Leah Feret

Wednesday, 11 April

Coady 265

1230-1530h

Radio and the Voices from Ada: Tuning in to feminism and development

CEIRA YOUNG

Advisor: Jonathan Langdon

This study examines the participatory development work of Radio Ada and its success in constructing a reinforcing platform of communication for women in its community of operation. Utilizing an autoethnographic methodology as its primary basis for research, this study complements the participatory work undertaken by the radio station in its discussion of postcolonial, postdevelopment and critical-feminist theories and analysis. In line with turns development studies has made towards a greater emphasis on participation, this study focuses on proliferating the voices and experiences of those from Ada in anti-oppressive ways. Demonstrating experiential learning to represent an integral component in the decolonization of epistemology, this study analyzes my experiences with certain women in the Ada community in order to demonstrate the important alternative sources of knowledge created through participatory forms of endogenous research and analysis. Chapter One introduces readers to the history of radio communication in Ghana, the culture and geography of the Ada people, and the origins and current practices of the community's radio station. As a literature review helping academically guide the study, Chapter Two emphasizes transitions in the history of development studies, focusing specifically on transitions witnessed by women in development practice and research. Movements towards reflexivity and the localization of knowledge witnessed in development studies is argued to complement my adoption of an autoethnographic methodology. Building off learning acquired in previous chapters and my experiences with Radio Ada, Chapter Three engages with voices from Ada, and represents how critical self-reflection can come to represent sites of transformative learning for development studies' students.



The 'Whole Bicycle': Perspectives of governance in Northern Ghana through a case study in East Mamprusi

SEAN ROBINSON

Advisor: Jonathan Langdon

The government in Ghana has both been acclaimed for its democratic successes, and criticized for its serious problems with accountability. In the last two decades it adapted not only liberal democratic reforms, but also a decentralised government system. The government structures include Indigenous systems, but to what degree? Are the systems together, separate, in harmony or conflict? What makes governance, how is it perceived and why? This essay is an exploration of the perceptions of local governance, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous in Northern Ghana via a case study that took place in East Mamprusi, Northern Region. Importantly, a history of marginalization characterizes the situation in northern Ghana. The research conducted was co-constructive, and grounded theory based, and was an attempt to examine the complex factors involved in the process of the construction of people's perception of governance in a community in Northern Ghana. It further probed what is perceived as advantageous or disadvantageous within that framework and why. Overall, this study attempts to add some stories about governance that both show the importance of a diversity of understandings of reality and speak to the official story of governance in Northern Ghana.

Breastfeeding in the countryside: A case study of the La Leche League in Antigonish

LEAH FERET

Advisor: Clare Fawcett

This thesis is a case study of breastfeeding women in a rural community context and how organized support systems like the La Leche League –Antigonish chapter assist this demographic in overcoming the specific barriers that they face. A literature review is used to contextualize the research and illustrate the relevance of the issue. Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) theory and Participatory Development theory will be used as theoretical frameworks to demonstrate how the La Leche League has succeeded in their mission. The thesis includes interviews from both members and leaders of the group, as well as focus group material, and participatory observations from monthly meetings. Recommendations for expanding networks are also considered in the discussion portion of the thesis.



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