



DEVELOPING AREAS SPECIALTY GROUP



**April 13-14, 2008
Clark University, Graduate School of Geography
Worcester, MA.**

Re-Engaging Development in a Post-Development Era?

The call for a post-development era by critical theorists and practitioners has left the field of development studies in uncertain terrain. Critiques of development have worked to re-envision the relationships between the developed and developing world, the role of development institutions, and hegemony of neoliberal economic theory. Other challenges have addressed development practice itself, including identifying the multiple factors that result in development failures. Development interventions often face issues that restrict either their success or the scope of their activities. While most development projects undergo extensive pre-planning, such activities are often limited to the funding or executive institution. Regardless of the theoretical and policy critiques, many scholars argue that it remains a continued challenge to critically engage with development programs and identify their strengths, weaknesses and prospects in the planning and evaluation stages. Such efforts highlight the important contributions geographic approaches can make to development, and open opportunities for engagement with policymakers that might result in projects and policies that better meet the needs of their ostensible constituents.

The focus of the 2008 International Development Conference will be on questioning whether development studies can or should pursue a renewed engagement with the project of international development. We are interested in organized panel sessions that draw from multiple fields, including:

- post-conflict development
- post-colonial development
- community-based resource strategies
- political ecology and development
- urban and regional development
- post-transition development
- migration and population issues
- gender and development
- identity and development
- democracy and ethnicity
- anti-development/critical development
- development theory
- culture and development
- food security
- resistance
- sustainability science and technology
- development policy

Instructions for Participation

Individuals may submit abstracts for consideration in either panels or papers. We encourage panel sessions so as to include as many participants as possible. Individuals who wish to attend but not present may proceed directly to the registration page of the blog (<http://developingareas.blogspot.com>).

Organizers will group panelists together based on common themes. Individuals who wish to contribute to a panel should submit a 150 word abstract and a list of key words. Organizers of panels should submit a 250-word abstract describing the title and topic and a list of participants.

Individual papers (15-20 mins. in length) and organized sessions of either 4 papers and a discussant or 5 papers will also be considered. Organizers of paper sessions should submit a title and 250-word panel abstract, as well as titles and 250-word abstracts for each paper. Individual paper submissions should include a title and 250-word abstract.

All submissions should be sent to Jeff Bury (e-mail: jbury@ucsc.edu) **NO LATER THAN 04 JANUARY 2008.**

Selections will be announced shortly thereafter. Please remember to register for the conference (see registration page of the blog <http://developingareas.blogspot.com>) **NO LATER THAN 15 February 2008.**

****Note: Due to difficulty sending money to the US , international participants may register on –site with no late charge, however, do send an e-mail to Molly Brown ([molly@brown@nasa.gov](mailto:molly@brown.nasa.gov)) alerting her that you will attend.*

Important Deadlines

Submission of Abstracts: 04 January 2008

Registration: 15 February 2008

Hosts

Clark University Graduate School of Geography and
IDCE

Contact Information

Conference Organizer: Brent McCusker brent@mccusker@mail.wvu.edu

Tentative Conference Schedule Outline

Sunday, April 13

Late Afternoon Keynote Address:

Professor Richard Peet

Clark University Graduate School of Geography.

Monday, April 14

**Concurrent sessions may be planned if demand exceeds room capacity.*

Kickoff event: Panel.

10-10.15	Break
10.15-11.45	Sessions/Panels.
11.45-12.30	Lunch
12.30-2.00	Sessions/Panels.
2.00-2.15	Break
2.15-3.45	Sessions/Panels.
3.45-4.00	Break
4.00-5.30	Sessions/Panels.
Evening	TBA

Tuesday, April 15

Possible Breakfast Meeting and/or Planning Session: TBA.