



WOMEN'S,
GENDER &
SEXUALITY
STUDIES

Spotlight on Faculty Series Spring 2012

Facts, Fictions, and the Biopolitics of Development

Dr. Christine Sylvester

Professor - Women's Studies Program & Department of Political Science

Monday, April 16, 2012
12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM
Beach Hall, Room 425

Drawing on a Foucauldian understanding of biopolitics, this talk contrasts the ways development studies and postcolonial fictions generally conceptualize the subject of their interest. It argues for the infusion of postcolonial imaginative literatures into a chilly field of analysis and practice known to prize abstract quantitative approaches, managerialism, and practitioner-subject distance on the ground. Selected postcolonial fictions illustrate the main argument as it pertains to the biopolitics of contemporary Zimbabwe, the 1960s Biafran war, and genocidal Rwanda of 1994.

Christine Sylvester is Professor of International Relations and Women's Studies at UConn as of 2012. Most recently, she held the position of Professor of International Relations and Development at Lancaster University UK and simultaneously for 2010-2011 the Swedish Research Council's Kerstin Hesselgren Chair for Sweden, which took her to the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, where she is still affiliated. A proponent of critical development studies, she has taught at the National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University, and has been Professor of Gender, Women, Development at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands. Her on-site development experience includes consultancies and training sessions in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Kenya, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, as well as for the Australian Aid Agency and the United Nations University Japan.

This event sponsored by the Women's Studies Program.

For more information, please contact the Women's Studies Program
at 860-486-3970 or wsinfo@uconn.edu