Women and Development

CAAS/Anthropology 558/Women's Studies 698



Here a woman works alone in the family field as the older children go off to school

Is development a dream, an industry or a catastrophe?

The question is an urgent one for women in societies affected by intentionally managed socioeconomic change, and for those of us contemplating work and research projects among them. This course considers the varied and contradictory meanings development has for international agencies, donor and national governments, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations and local citizens wanting better lives. We use questions about women and gender as a window into theories and experiences of incorporation into the world system, including historical and contemporary change processes. African examples and contexts receive the most attention, but comparisons with other continents are substantial. We also address the complex issues raised by the involvement of social science professionals in these processes--discussing conceptual, epistemological, political, ethical, pragmatic and personal questions in the context of specific projects and jobs. We start by surveying conservative, critical and radical approaches to development theory, particularly those used by and for women, and continue with how these models are enacted in concrete policy arenas such as structural adjustment, participatory development and agriculture. Students will research and present issues and examples from further topics and areas of their own interest.

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Dr. Gracia Clark

Friday 1-4pm

West Engineering
CAAS Library Conference Room

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