

Report on the meeting of 14th September 2012

On 14 September 2012, the Centre of African Studies, Centre for South Asian Studies, Global Development Academy and Development Studies Association Scotland co-hosted a workshop on 'Development Studies in Africa and South Asia: Cutting across regions and disciplines' at the University of Edinburgh. The conference was the annual Development Studies Association Scotland conference.

The conference provided a platform to interrogate the multifarious ways in which research projects are shaped by and adapt to regionalization and the association of specific development problems with particular regions (e.g. HIV/AIDS in Africa, demography in Asia). It addressed the following questions: Are there research questions that are associated with either Asia or Africa? What are the reasons? Is regionalization useful or problematic? What can we learn from development studies in other regions? How can we bridge the regional and disciplinary divide?

It gave PhD-students and post-docs the opportunity to discuss their research with peers and senior academics. It also featured a keynote paper by Veena Naregal & Crispin Bates entitled 'The Genealogy of the Region within Indian Social Science Discourse'. The event was a huge success with 40 participants from all over Scotland, the UK and even beyond who engaged in a lively discussion about how to cut across regions and disciplines.

We as organizers were particularly pleased with the resonance of the discussion and look forward to future exciting workshops interrogating development theory and practice.

Gerhard Anders and Jeevan Sharma
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9th October 2012