

GSID Open Seminar

Researching powerful people: a neglected aspect of development studies

By Dr. Chris Williams



Date: July 6th (Tue)

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Venue: Meeting Room # 1 @ GSID (8F)

Language: English

Everyone is welcome!!

The gist of the lecture

The familiar focus for studying development and other social problems has been ‘down-system’ – populations who are poor, vulnerable, and powerless – often with the object of empowering them. Yet the causes of down-system problems, and the possibilities for change, are often ‘up-system’, located among people who have power. These elites and leaders may be inefficient or abuse their power, or create positive change and social progress. In the modern world, up-system methods are a way to understand and assess a neglected approach to research, for a range of research groups including academics, students, activists, citizen researchers, human rights advocates, journalists, and government departments.

Biography

Dr. Chris Williams is based at the *Centre for International Education and Research*, University of Birmingham (U.K.). He has also held posts at the universities of London, Bristol, Cambridge, Cairo and the United Nations. He has lived in Egypt, Jordan and South Africa where he set up education projects for street children, and has worked in India, Thailand, Turkey, Liberia, China, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Publications (selection)

Williams, C. (2009) (with Yazdani, F.) The rehabilitation paradox: street working children in Afghanistan, *Diaspora, indigenous, and minority education*. 3(1), 4-20.

Williams, C. (2006) *Leadership accountability in a globalizing world*. London: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Williams, C. (2003) Global leadership, education and human survival, *World Futures*, special issue, Survival research: proposal for a new discipline, 59: 299-311.

Williams, C. (2002) New security risks and public educating: the relevance of recent evolutionary brain science. *Journal of Risk Research*, 5(3): 225-248.

Williams, C. (2000) Education and human survival: the relevance of global security to international education. *International Review of Education* (UNESCO) 46(3-4): 183-203.

Williams, C. (1997) *The environmental threats to human intelligence*, London: Cassell. German

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