

DR. DOUGLAS HILL

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**APPROACHING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TIME
OF MODI: SPACE, TERRITORIALITY AND
LIMITS OF ASPIRATIONAL NEO-LIBERALISM**

This lecture analyses the complex, dynamic and multifaceted set of processes by which power is contested in contemporary India, using the conceptual tools most usually found in disciplines such as Human Geography and Development Studies. A multi-scalar analytical framework is utilised to discuss processes of uneven development, contestation and changing state–society relations that together continue to condition the trajectory of India’s polity and society. This analysis is situated within a review of how different disciplinary traditions have conceptualised the study of Indian development. In doing so, the lecture suggests how alternative approaches to uneven development in India can challenge the epistemic and ontological closures of the current neoliberal conjuncture. The last part of the lecture is focused on what the tenure of Narendra Modi’s NDA government may portend for the possible futures of India. It argues that the rise of a strain of neoliberal, semi-authoritarian populism that seeks to foreclose on dissenting voices problematizes the potential for just and sustainable development.

Dr Douglas Hill is a Senior Lecturer in Development Studies, University of Otago, New Zealand. Much of his work has focused on the Indian state of Paschimbanga (the erstwhile West Bengal), encompassing published research on both rural and urban development issues. He has also conducted extensive research in Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. He has held visiting positions in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and is a former co-chair of the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Studies Association.

Ort/Venue: SAI, Room Z10
Zeit/Date: 30.5.2016, 18 Uhr ct / 6 pm
Everybody is cordially invited!