

Invitation to a lecture by

Professor Jeremy Seekings
University of Cape Town, South Africa

on

**The Politics of Poverty in the Global South:
The Possibilities and Limits of Social Welfare Policies**

on Monday, 23 April 2012, 12 – 1:30 pm, K 112 A (Keplergebäude, first floor)

Chair: Karin Fischer (Politics and Development Research)

The striking expansion of social welfare programs across the global South – including conditional cash transfers (such as Bolsa Familia in Brazil), social pensions (for the elderly) and public works programs (such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India) – marks a different approach to addressing poverty to the various forms of developmentalism that dominated the second half of the twentieth century. Jeremy Seekings' talk will first examine the political, economic, social and cultural bases of this new approach to fight poverty, and also consider its limits in terms of addressing economic inequalities in the global South.

In the second part of the talk Prof. Seekings will look at recent developments in South Africa where he is currently conducting two research projects. His findings show that formal deracialization of public policy did not reduce the disadvantages experienced by the poor nor the advantages of the rich. The post-apartheid distributional regime continues to divide South Africans into insiders and outsiders. The insiders, now increasingly multiracial, enjoy good access to well-paid, skilled jobs; the outsiders lack skills and employment.

*Jeremy Seekings is Professor of Politics and Sociology at the University of Cape Town. He has published extensively on social policies and politics. His publications include *Class, Race and Inequality in South Africa* (co-authored with Nicoli Nattrass, 2005) and *Growing Up In The New South Africa: Childhood and Adolescence in Post-Apartheid Cape Town* (co-authored, 2010). Current research projects include the politics of inequality, the history of welfare state-building in the global South, the transformation of kinship and families in contemporary South Africa, and violence. He is also active in the Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) at the University of Cape Town, where he heads the Social Surveys Unit.*



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The event is organized by the Department of Sociology (Politics and Development Research, Theoretical Sociology and Social Analysis) and the Department of Politics and Social Policy.