

08 DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

The Ideology of Celebrity Humanitarianism

Kapuscinski Development Lecture

Celebrity charity work is deeply tainted and ideological. Its altruistic pretensions are belied by several accompaniments: its tendency to promote both the celebrity's brand and the image of the 'caring' (Western) nation; its entrenchment in a marketing and promotion machine that helps advance corporate capitalism and rationalizes the very global inequality it seeks to redress; its support to a 'post-democratic' liberal political system that is outwardly democratic and populist, yet, for all intents and purposes, conducted by unaccountable elites; and its use and abuse of the 'Third World', making Africa, in particular, a background for First World hero-worship and a dumping ground for humanitarian ideals and fantasies. But what about our own complicity in this ideological work? As audience members and fans, or indeed even as detractors or critics, we too easily carry on our lives, consoled that someone is doing the charity work for us, just as long as we don't have to.

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Registration: office@oefse.at or Phone: +43/1/317 40 10-100

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The Ideology of Celebrity Humanitarianism

Kapuscinski Development Lecture

with Ilan Kapoor, Professor of Critical Development Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada

May 12, 2015, 18:00-20:00
C3 – Centre for International Development,
Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna



Speaker

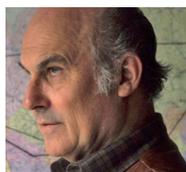


Ilan Kapoor is a Professor of Critical Development Studies at the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. He teaches in the area of global development and environmental politics, and his research focuses on post-colonial theory and politics, participatory development and democracy, and more recently, ideology critique. He is the author of *The Postcolonial Politics of Development* (Routledge 2008), and more recently, *Celebrity Humanitarianism: The Ideology of Global Charity* (Routledge 2013). He is currently writing a book on psychoanalysis and development.

About the lecture:

Top global thinkers discuss development in the European Union countries. The series “Kapuszcinski Development Lectures”, named for Ryszard Kapuscinski, a Polish reporter and writer who covered developing countries, is organized jointly by the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and partner universities and development think-tanks. Over 60 lectures since 2009 have gathered over 20,000 participants. From October 2014 to December 2015 the lectures organized in every EU member state contribute specifically to development policy debates as part of the European Year for Development 2015.

The lecture series offers students from the European Union member states an unprecedented opportunity to learn and discuss development issues such as climate change, human rights, aid effectiveness, Europe-Africa relations, Millennium Development Goals among others. The high-level events contribute to the public debates and formulation of the European development policy.



The lectures honor the name of Kapuscinski, a Polish journalist and writer, who died in 2007. Kapuscinski, whose books were translated into many languages, was often called the “Third World Chronicler” or the “Voice of the Poor” for his famous reportages and books describing developing countries on all continents. His most famous books include: “The Emperor” on Ethiopia, “Shah of Shahs” about Iran, “The Shadow of the Sun” about Africa, “Another Day of Life” about Angola, and “Imperium” about the Soviet Union.

For more information please visit: www.kapuscinskilectures.eu



2015 European Year for Development

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Programme

18.00 Welcome

Petra Dannecker (*Head of the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna*)

Brigitte Luggin (*European Commission – Representation in Austria*)

Katarzyna Czaplicka (*Representative of the UNDP Regional Centre*)

18.15 The Ideology of Celebrity Humanitarianism

Ilan Kapoor (*Professor of Critical Development Studies, York University*)

19.05 Panel Discussion

Max Santner (*Red Cross Austria*)

Monica Culen (*Austrian Fundraising Association*)

Ilan Kapoor (*York University*)

Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal (*Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs*)

Facilitator: Werner Raza (*Director of the Austrian Foundation for Development Research – ÖFSE*)

19.30 Questions & Answers

20.00 Wine reception

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