



Zürcher Humangeographisches Kolloquium

The «Zürcher Humangeographische Kolloquium» is jointly organised by the four units of Human Geography, Political Geography, Economic Geography and Space & Organization at the Department of Geography, Zurich University. All interested are cordially invited.

Tuesday 24 November 2015, 16:00 – 17:00

University of Zurich-Irchel, Winterthurerstrasse 190, Y 15 G 91

Geraldine Pratt

Professor of Geography and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts,
University of British Columbia, Canada.

Filipino migrant labour, testimonial theatre and transnational public engagement

This lecture reports on a series of research collaborations with migrant organizations and theatre artists in Canada and the Philippines, which are evolving efforts to create more participatory, more democratic knowledges and public conversations about the global migration of precarious workers from the global South to global North. Drawing on our archive of research transcripts, we developed a testimonial play that now has been performed in Canada and the Philippines, among other places. We have begun to understand the play as a means not only of transmitting our research archive, but as an opening

to new knowledges and new ways of knowing. I focus this lecture on the experience of reworking the play in Bagong Barrio, a community of the urban poor in metro Manila, in summer and fall of 2014, in collaboration with Migrante International. This particular collaboration led us to re-center the Canadian migrant experience in the global drama of life-times of disposability in Bagong Barrio and to consider what 'falls away' from sweeping narratives of precarity under neoliberalism.



Geraldine Pratt is Professor of Geography and Canada Research Chair in Transnationalism and Precarious Labour at the University of British Columbia. She is the author of *Working Feminism* (Edinburgh 2004) and *Families Apart: Migrant Mothers and the Conflicts of Labor and Love* (University of Minnesota Press 2012), co-author of *Gender, Work and Space* (Routledge 1995) and *Film and Urban Space: Critical Possibilities* (Edinburgh 2012), and co-editor of *The Global and the Intimate: Feminism in Our Time* (Columbia University Press 2012) and the fourth, fifth and sixth editions of the *Dictionary of Human Geography*. She co-authored with Caleb Johnston *Nanay: a testimonial play*, which has been performed in Vancouver and Whitehorse in Canada, as well as Berlin and Manila. She is currently writing an ethnography of the travels of the play.