Zurich Lectures in Development Geography

The Department of Geography, University of Zurich, has the pleasure of inviting you to the 2013 Zurich Lecture in Development Geography:

Monday 16 December, 2013, 16:15 – 18:00
University of Zurich-Irchel, Winterthurerstrasse 190, Y 25 – H – 92

Professor Ben Rogaly, University of Sussex, UK

Disrupting migration stories: spaces and times of mobility and fixity among manual workers in India and the UK

Contemporary accounts of work migration emphasize the crossing of nation-state borders, long-term settlement abroad, and societal divisions between ‘migrants’ and ‘locals’. This lecture will challenge such approaches using life history interviews that illustrate how the same person may sometimes move, and at other times be fixed in place; migrate both across borders and within them. Commonalities are revealed between newcomers and longer-established residents, and between the ethnic majority and ethnic minorities which, it will be argued, can bring class back into view and thereby enable more effective resistance to the divide and rule practices of capital and the state. The lecture will draw on the life histories of workers of south Asian and other backgrounds currently living in a single provincial city in England. It will be informed by earlier research with temporary workers in India’s agricultural and construction industries.

Ben Rogaly is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sussex (UK) and is due to take over as Head of the Geography Department in January 2014. Until November 2013 he held an Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) Fellowship through which he led a team of academics and arts practitioners in a project entitled Places for All? A Multi-Media Investigation of Citizenship, Work and Belonging in a Fast Changing Provincial City (see http://www.placesforall.co.uk). He is co-author or co-editor of five books, most recently Moving Histories of Class and Community: Identity, Place and Belonging in Contemporary England.