



Lecture

JANE DYSON
South Asia Center
Jackson School of International Studies
University of Washington

Monday, May 7, 2007
3:30 pm
Denny Hall, Room 401

Girls, Leaves, and Dignity: Cultures of Friendship and Micro-Geographies of Work in the Indian Himalayas

Drawing on ethnographic field research in the Indian Himalayas, Dyson explores forest-related work as a site for young people to build friendships, create individual and collective reputations of competence, and develop a sense of self-respect. Through attention to the 'micro-geography of work,' Dyson considers the importance of forest-based work in local ideas of dignity and explores how far girls' leaf collection practices reproduce caste and gender norms.

Jane Dyson is a Visiting Scholar in the South Asia Center at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores the everyday work practices of children and young people in the Indian Himalayas. Dyson focuses in particular on young people's creative struggles for respect, and examines how children themselves imagine and value their work practices. She has a forthcoming book, *Telling Young Lives: Portraits in Political Geography* that she co-edited with Craig Jeffrey (Geography).

This lecture is part of the *Global Futures* project sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities. The core theme of this project explores how youth are linked to converging crises in public life around education, labor, militarization, criminalization, and technology and how global processes affecting young people are playing out in different locations, with particular emphases on Africa, East Asia, and South Asia.