Dr. Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh, PhD.
University of Auckland (New Zealand &
Goldsmith University, London

Dr Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh was a student at the University of Auckland, New Zealand from 2013-2018 and is now teaching a short course at Goldsmiths University in London, UK. Olivia spent twelve months carrying out ethnographic research in the Goroka food market from 2013-2014 and her PhD thesis examined how food becomes a tradeable commodity, exchanged for money, in the marketplace and what effect this has on the relations between men and women. She will share findings of her research and documentation on the perspective of men and women around the marketplace between 2013-2014, and the impact of money on social relations and the gift exchange of food.

Abstract

Olivia's presentation will challenge the idea that ‘economy’ is merely the transaction of material goods and services. Based on her research with market women, and tracing the exchange of money, food and other ceremonial items in ceremonial contexts, she uses feminist ideas of emotions and affect to challenge the notion that it is only material goods and services that are transacted within economies. Using feminist ideas of emotion and affect, she argues that the care that people in Goroka, especially market women, demonstrate towards each other both through exchanges of objects, and the exchange of careful words and gestures, make up an ‘economy of recognition’, where the well-being of others is valued (Honneth 2001) and maintained through everyday actions and in ceremonial gift exchange (Robbins 2009). Based on what she has learnt from Goroka’s market women, examining the gift exchange of foods in and outside of the marketplace, and the local concept of pasin, Olivia suggests we can expand the notion of economy to include people’s emotional well-being as well as material items, goods and services.

DATE: TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2019
TIME: 12.00 - 1.30 PM
VENUE: UNIGOR FUNCTION ROOM
(ADJACENT TO UNIGOR RESTAURANT)
REFRESHMENT PROVIDED - ALL WELCOME