

The George Washington University Department of Anthropology Presents
as part of our Fall Colloquium Series

Dr. Caroline Osella

University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies

How Accusations of Shirk are not Always What They Seem: *Malayalis and Islamic Reformism and Traditionalism in Kerala*

Please bring a **brown-bag lunch** and join us for an **informal talk** on Dr. Osella's work.

During this presentation, Dr. Osella will present an ethnography of debates and accusations between reformists and traditionalist organizations from Kerala, South India. She will then contextualize these debates using wider streams of thinking, including discussions within various Christian theologies. Finally, a plea will be made for situated and embodied understandings of doctrine in the tradition of North American pragmatism.

Monday, September 17, 2012 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Hortense Amsterdam House, Room 202
2110 G. St., NW, Washington, DC 20052
Email anth@email.gwu.edu or call 202-994-6075 with questions.

Dr. Osella holds positions at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, the Centre of South Asian Studies, the Center for Gender Studies, and the London Middle East Institute. Since 1989, she has been involved in research in Kerala, South India, and with Malayali migrants in the Gulf states. Her broadest research interest involves "the ways in which projects of identity crafting are brought back to the body, while socially constructed bodies are differentiated to reflect class, ethnic and gender differences and to forge social hierarchies."

This year, Dr. Osella published a book called *Islamic Reformisms across South Asia*, which stems from this research interest, and which also forms the basis for her informal talk.

*The quote from Dr. Osella is taken from her online bio, found at
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff31568.php>.*