

**South-South Collaboration,  
Embodied Expertise, and the  
Construction of Equivalency:  
How Cameroon Becomes  
'Just like' Bolivia**

**Dr. Kate Centellas**

Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
University of Mississippi

**Monday, January 30, 2012**

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hortense Amsterdam House (2110 G St.) 202

Kate Centellas (Ph.D. University of Chicago 2008) studies anthropology with a focus on science and technology studies. Her current research is on South-South collaboration in scientific and engineering fields. Institutions as diverse as the World Bank and the Cuban government are emphasizing the importance of international knowledge exchange between Southern nations. This is justified partly by the assumption that Southern experts are *better* able to advise other Southerners due to presumed geopolitical similarities. Centellas calls this “the construction of equivalency.”

Her book manuscript, *Nurturing National Knowledge: Pluralist Science and Emergent Identities in Bolivia*, explores why growing numbers of young Bolivians, mainly urban indigenous women, are entering the research sciences. This is surprising because Bolivian science is not about producing universalist knowledge on the model of the U.S. or Europe; rather, research projects are explicitly nationalist in design and justification.