



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND



THE WALLACE W. ATWOOD LECTURE SARAH ELWOOD

VISUAL POVERTY POLITICS



This year's Atwood Lecture analyzes the forms and potentials of visual politics that challenge hegemonic meanings and practices around impoverishment. Elwood brings together relational poverty theory with geographers' work on visual culture to theorize disruptive poverty politics, through interpretive analysis of creative visual practices by Real Change, a Seattle economic and racial justice organization that confronts Seattle's ongoing shelter crisis. By examining portrait art, a public art installation, and a parade entry, Elwood discusses how the visual form, genre, and socio-spatial relations of making and experiencing these creative visual practices refuse symbolic grammars typically used to represent homelessness and circulate counter-hegemonic explanations of impoverishment. By disrupting normative sights, practices, and socio-spatial relations in public spaces, these visual interventions re-script spaces of privilege produced through capitalist relations of dispossession and exclusion, and the ideological projects that undergird these processes. These disruptive visual politics create encounters across social and spatial difference that can challenge privileged subjects, raise new voices, and create previously unimaginable political forms. These arguments owe much to long-term collaboration and generous thinking with Elwood, her co-author, Vicky Lawson, as well as Tim Harris and other colleagues at Real Change.

7PM | THURSDAY | NOV. 9TH | TILTON HALL

Sarah Elwood is a Professor of Geography at University of Washington and co-founder of the Relational Poverty Network with Victoria Lawson. Her research contributes to relational poverty, urban geography, visual politics/methods, and critical digital geographies. Current activities include collaborative research on middle class poverty politics in mixed-income neighborhoods in Buenos Aires and Seattle and on visual politics in poverty activism.

this event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Graduate School of Geography
For information, contact Kayla Peterson at kapeterson@clarku.edu or 508-793-7434

