“Discordant Development:
Global Capitalism and the Struggle for Survival in Bangladesh”

Professor Katy Gardner
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In 1987, Katy Gardner arrived at a village in North East Bangladesh as a doctoral student. Soon after, she captivated her readers with a beautiful book about global migrants and the ways their journeys transform both their home and the foreign countries to which they travel. Twenty years later, with the benefit of a longstanding relationship with this village, she returned there to tell us what happens when a multinational mining company operates a natural gas plant in a densely populated rural area. Whether it is about dispossession and scarcity, the success of corporate social responsibility, or corruption and exploitation, everyone has a story to tell. In this talk, Gardner examines these discordant narratives and their unequal resonance.

Katy Gardner is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom). Her doctoral research examined the cultural and social changes associated with international migration and globalization in Bangladesh, resulting in her monograph *Global Migrants, Local Lives: Travel and Transformation in Rural Bangladesh* (OUP 1995). Katy is also interested in the relationship between anthropology and development, especially in recent critiques of development as 'discourse'. Her book *Development, Anthropology and the Post-modern Challenge* (Pluto Press, 1996; with David Lewis) reflects both the theoretical and practical issues arising from this relationship. More recently she has extended her interest in the Bengali diaspora through fieldwork conducted amongst Bengali elders in East London. Her monograph, *Age, Narrative and Migration: The Life Course and Life Histories amongst Bengali Elders in London* (Berg, 2002) analyses the elders' narratives of migration, ageing and illness in the UK, and suggests that transnational migration can be usefully understood as a gendered and embodied experience. She has edited a couple of collective volumes and authored several works of fiction and numerous articles. Her new monograph *Discordant Developments: Global Capital and the Struggle for Survival in Bangladesh* (Pluto Press) will be out in February 2012.

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