

**PUBLIC LECTURE**

Wednesday 7 December, 2011

« In their eyes:

18:30

**perceptions of humanitarian action and of MSF »**

Lecture Hall R070, Uni Mail

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In the scope of the module “The humanitarian field and its actors”, the CERAH joins with MSF to launch the collaborative study “Through others’ eyes: perception of humanitarian action and MSF” (Dans l’œil des autres : Perception de l’action humanitaire et de MSF), published by Editions Antipodes under the direction of Caroline Abu-Sada, Research Unit Coordinator for MSF-Switzerland.

What is Médecins Sans Frontières? An institution based in Saudi Arabia and financed through Islamic charity? A Chinese company? Those were two of the answers received during a study by MSF Switzerland in 2007 on how the organisation was regarded by humanitarians and members of the public. The four-year research project set out to understand how MSF's work and principles – neutrality, impartiality and independence – were perceived by humanitarian actors and by populations served by the organisation. The project’s final report also examines different aspects of contemporary humanitarian action by researchers, students and professionals.

This conference launches the project report, and presents the results of the study. Thereafter, the invited experts will debate the issues of perception and acceptance of humanitarian aid in today’s environment.

**Programme**

Introduction

Bruno Jochum, Director General, MSF Switzerland

Prof. Doris Schopper, Director of CERAH

Speaker

Dr. Caroline Abu-Sada, Coordinator of Research Unit, MSF Switzerland

Response

Andreas Wigger, Head of Protection Division, ICRC

Dr. Hugo Slim, Researcher, University of Oxford

Chair

Prof. Doris Schopper, Director of CERAH

The debate will be followed by a Q and A session with the audience.