

PUBLIC LECTURE

Thursday 24 May, 16:00

To end a year of reflection on humanitarian action, the CERAH organises the lecture titled:

New Challenges for Humanitarian Action? Afghanistan, Past and Present.

At the end of the lecture, Prof. Doris Schopper will introduce the new training offer of the CERAH for the next academic year.

Since a decade, humanitarianism has been debated as it faces new challenges. With 9/11 and the Global War On Terrorism, humanitarian action seems to be polarized in terms of Western hegemony and needs to better understand its perception by beneficiaries and reaffirms its basic principles. Considering the case of Afghanistan, this country has been offering an interesting field since the civil war that erupted in 1979, for all the humanitarian actors (local and international) that have been involved since then. The goal of this roundtable is to put together some experts of the humanitarian world and the Afghan nation, to re-interrogate Afghanistan as a case study for the future of humanitarianism. What is a humanitarian intervention nowadays, in a place like Kabul? How this action has been improving or deteriorating since the French doctors' first action in the 80s? What is the place for local partners? What is the link of humanitarian action to development projects in Afghanistan? Should NGOs and IOs play a role in state-building? Is there a need to reaffirm the place of a humanitarian space in a country torn in ideological-cultural-religious positions towards the West? To what extent can civilians, IDPs and irregular combatants be reached by this aid, and/or protected by IHL? How can some basic humanitarian principles such as neutrality and impartiality be reaffirmed when part of this aid is conducted by military operations?

These are some questions that should be raised and confronted by the speakers, who will try to come up with some wider perspectives on humanitarianism in the 21st century.

Date : Thursday 24 May 2012
Hour : 16:00-18:30
Place : Auditoire Freymond, site Barton, IHEID

Registration required until Wednesday 16th May.

Please contact: cerahgeneve@unige.ch

Programme and Speakers:

Prof. D. Schopper, CERAH Director:
Humanitarian action, a definition ?

E. Girardet, Journalist, Afounding director of the Institute for Media and Global Governance in Geneva:
Humanitarian action in Afghanistan, past and present

Dr. A. K. Abawi, Coordinator, Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, researches reproductive health in Afghanistan:
Humanitarian action from afghan's perspective: The health system example

F. Grunewald, URD Group Director:
Rural and urban crisis: Challenges for Afghanistan post-Bonn

M. De La Cera, Coordinator of ENNA - European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan:
International community and the future of Afghanistan

Prof. A. Monsutti, Research Director, Transnational Studies/Development studies, IHEID:
Fuzzy Sovereignty? Humanitarian Action, the State, and the Local Community

Prof. G. Carbonnier, CERAH Board of Directors President, Professor of Development Economics, IHEID:
Stabilization, State-building, humanitarian development divide

Question and Discussion with the audience

Prof. D. Schopper:
Conclusion and introduction of the new CERAH training offer
