



SID

Society for International Development

Lecture Series 2010-2011 'Global Values in a Changing World'

Lecture and Discussion:

'We are the world?' Global Citizenship and its limits

Kate Nash (Goldsmiths, University of London)

Monday 20 June 2011

Ninth lecture in the series 'Global Values in a Changing World- Synergy of State and Society in a Globalized World'

Abstract: Human rights activists argue that, with respect to rights and obligations at least, we are already global citizens. For them alleviating 'distant suffering' is not a matter of charity, but of justice. In terms of the principles underlying human rights, including socio-economic rights, individuals are the bearers of specific, detailed entitlements in international law. But this construction of global citizenship is complicated in practice by the fact that, while individuals are the bearers of human rights, it is principally states that are obliged to guarantee them. This has two consequences for universalising human rights: firstly, the value of human rights is almost invariably constructed in nationalist terms – of various different kinds; secondly, obligations to respect human rights are undertaken by states that are fundamentally unequal in terms of economic, social and political resources. Global citizenship is still a long way off, and requires fundamental transformations in international and national political structures and cultural meanings, just to meet existing human rights standards.

Speaker: **Kate Nash** is Professor of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London, where she is also co-Director of the Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy; and Faculty Fellow at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University. She recently published *The Cultural Politics of Human Rights* (Cambridge University Press 2009) 2009 and the second edition of *Contemporary Political Sociology* (Wiley-Blackwell 2010). She is currently writing *The Sociology of Human Rights* (Cambridge University Press).

Moderator: **René Cuperus** is Director for International Relations and Senior Research Fellow at the Wiardi Beckman Stichting, the think-tank of the Dutch Labour Party. He is author of 'De Wereldburger bestaat niet', published in 2009. He regularly contributes to the online **Social Europe Journal**.

Date: Monday 20 June 2011 / **Location:** Auditorium, VU University, De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam / **Time:** 18:00h-19:30h (doors open 17:30h and drinks at 19:30h) / **Language:** English / **Admission:** Free / **Registration recommended** through sid-nl@socires.nl or 070-3383293 / **Website:** <http://www.sid-nl.org>

ALL GUESTS ARE WELCOME. REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED!