

# Department of Sociology & Anthropology Colloquium



## Survival Strategies and Citizenship Claims: Youth & the Underground Oil Economy in the Post-Amnesty Niger Delta

The Niger Delta is the vast oil wetland in the southern coastal region of Nigeria. Stretching well over 112,000 square kilometres, the rich swamps of the delta produce at least \$40 billion US dollars annually to the Nigerian state. It is estimated that at least \$700 billion US dollars may have accrued to the Nigerian state from the sale of crude oil belching from this region since commercial production began in 1956. Ironically, for the over 30 million inhabitants of the oil-rich region, oil has brought nothing but 'a tale of terror and tears' (Watts 2001, 196). Seventy percent of the population live in the rural areas, and in needless poverty, while youth unemployment rate in the region is put at almost sixty-five percent. In my presentation, therefore, I examine how the youth of the Niger Delta region have now evolved new survival strategies in the midst of very inauspicious socio-economic and political conditions. Specifically, I am concerned to demonstrate how marginalised youth from the oil-rich Delta have now created a parallel underground oil economy in response to a formal global oil capitalism that has exploited and ignored them for decades.

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**Friday, September 14, 2012**

**3:00 p.m.**

**A720 Loeb Building**

Reception to Follow.

This lecture is part of the Carleton Sociology and Anthropology Department Colloquium Series.

This event is co-sponsored by the Institute of African Studies.