

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT: UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION



DEPARTMENT OF
MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATIONS



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Source: DFID - UK Department for International Development

MEDIA@SYDNEY: SEMINAR SERIES SEMESTER 2

DATE

Friday 20th September

TIME

3-5 pm

VENUE

Rogers Room, Level 3,
John Woolley Building (A20)

COST

Free

ENQUIRIES

Fiona Martin

T: 0428391122 or 02 90365098

E: fiona.martin@sydney.edu.au

RSVP

Madeleine King

e. maddyking22@gmail.com



In 2008 the escalation of the world's hungry to 870 million led to proclamations of a new 'global food crisis'. This seminar explores how civil society actors including

NGOs and social movements are establishing new understandings of issues related to rural poverty and hunger and communicating these in formal policy arenas. Based on interviews with policy-makers at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome and civil society groups in Geneva and Vienna, this research reveals patterns of action in political arenas where non-state actors aim not only to foster reconsideration of chronic problems in light of new frameworks and ideologies, but to change the very culture of global governing institutions. The study assesses the dynamics of change occurring in transnational food policy arenas as a result of increased interac-

tion between civil society actors and the UN. It seeks to explain how this interaction occurs and to assess whether or not it has contributed to institutional change that better accommodates the views of non-state actors on food and agriculture policy.

Dr Alana Mann teaches in the Media and Communications Department within the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney. The focus of her research is political communication, specifically the engagement of non-state actors in international politics. She applies an interdisciplinary approach with a strong focus on democracy, social justice and citizenship that is reflected in her focus on the power relations between the media, governments, institutions and civil society actors in the field of food security. In her research and teaching Mann draws on grounded case studies of agrarian movements in countries including Chile, Mexico and Spain to theorise a diversity of counter-movement organising strategies and political alliances.

Dr. Alana Mann

*(Department of Media and
Communications, University of Sydney)*