



“Gender and Citizenship. Inquiries from intercultural, feminist and decolonial perspectives”

Monday, 1st - Tuesday 2nd, December 2014

ENQUIRY AND POLITICAL GLOBALIZED CATEGORIES

Benveniste, Annie

ABSTRACT

My presentation will focus on the construction of alterity, analysing this process with the point of view of the new epistemology of anthropological enquiry.

The concept of alterity which has been for a long time at the heart of anthropological knowledge and practice is now submitted to questioning and shifts which invalidate the classical relation to the “Other”: it has to be considered as a construction. This questioning is imbedded in many kinds of new contexts:

- The renewal of the question of exoticism, which is, on one side, critised by postcolonial studies and, on the other side, coming back in favor through certain strands of political discourse.
- Anthropology is included in a scientific world where positions of power are questioned and new methodologies involved.
- How and to which extent the responsibility of anthropologists is engaged in formulating social questions and denouncing their instrumentalisation?

This different questioning will be developed through the analysis of globalisation and complexity indicated by the change of paradigm in anthropology. Contradictions in the discourse of “identity” which implies the making of “differences” will be analysed through the example of nationalism (France) and claims of autochtonous identity (America).