

Vital Geographies: Life, Meaning, Politics

This ESRC-funded seminar series on Vital Geographies will consider the way the politics of life both incorporate and are unsettled by geographical issues. The cultural and technological determinants that shape the beginning of life, the end of life, and the length of life are profoundly geographical. There are important questions that need to be asked about this. How, in thinking about the length of life, for example, the lottery of place-of-birth has implications for theories of justice. Since place of birth is the primary determinant of life expectancy, it could be argued that an unearned advantage exists that is perhaps even more profound than the class-based issues of wealth inheritance that concerned Rawls. Likewise, to think broadly about the beginning of life, one might consider issues around poverty and the life chances of under-weight babies and how this intersects with any reproductive choices that might, or might not, be posed. Finally, if we think about the end of life, there would seem to be very many ways that social and geographical inequalities might be factored into the variously political and technological means by which life itself may be withheld.

Seminar I. *Life: cultural, technical and geographical variations*

Monday June 25, 2007
City Centre Seminar Room, Francis Bancroft Building,
Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, E1 4NS.

Seminar II. *Meaning: The coordination and regulation of vitality through space*

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th August, 2007
Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, Downing Place,
Cambridge, CB2 3EN.

Seminar III. *Politics: Biosecurity, biopolitics and the spaces of substantive health rights*

Friday 14th December 2007
Lock Keeper's Cottage Queen Mary, University of London,
Mile End Road, E1 4NS.

Vital Geographies team

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