



Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture Lecture Series 2010

Perceptions and Realities for Local Communities in the Afghanistan War

Dr. Matthew Arnold

February 2, 2011

17:30-19:00

Room 301, 3F, Building 10

Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus

The speaker worked as a socio-political advisor to Coalition Forces- the US military and its allies- in Afghanistan during 2009-10. He will present the themes and dynamics of how Western militaries in Afghanistan are attempting to engage local Afghan communities as part of their counter-insurgency campaign against the Taliban. From that he will define what this means for local Afghan communities caught in the midst of the war.

Matthew Arnold is an academic specializing in post-conflict reconstruction. He received his doctorate from the London School of Economics and has written extensively about post-conflict transitions in Sudan and Timor-Leste as well as conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Thailand. His research has appeared in journals such as *International Peacekeeping*, *Asian Survey* and *Conflict, Security and Development*. He has co-authored a book, *Militias and the Challenges of Post-Conflict Peace*, and is currently a Senior Research Fellow at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University. In 2009 and 2010 he served as a socio-political advisor to Coalition Forces in eastern Afghanistan. Previously, Matthew worked as a humanitarian aid official for the UN World Food Programme. This involved extensive experience in refugee camps in Ethiopia and in humanitarian crises ranging from Liberia and the DR Congo to Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Prior to that he was a wildlife economist working in Namibia and is originally from Arizona.

Lecture in English, No registration necessary

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