

James F. English:

Title: Global Institutions and the Production of Local Culture

Description: Recent decades have seen a dramatic rise of global institutions designed to recognize artistic achievement outside the great centers of cultural production. Examples include the increasing number of international prizes and fellowships for indigenous literature, world music, cinemas of the global south, and so on, as well as the ever-expanding festival circuits celebrating local cultural communities all over the world. This presentation will discuss some examples of this now extensive institutional network within which the local is assigned special value in the “world space” of culture. The focus will be on ways that this new and seemingly counter-metropolitan system of judgment and selection may be reinforcing established geographies of cultural power, bringing global visibility and esteem to “local” cultures largely of its own making and rarely straying far from metropolitan interests.