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WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

## **The Silence of the Global Poor and the Noise of Economic Development Policies**

Dr. Charles Lemert

University Professor and John C Andrus Professor of Social Theory

Emeritus, Wesleyan

Senior Fellow, Center for Comparative Research, Sociology, Yale

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Wednesday, March 13, 2013

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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Development policies and programs are, in effect, theories of development. In this week's discussion we will reconsider prevailing theories of international economic and social development in light of the disturbing fact that, since the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944, there has been at best scant amelioration in the rate of impoverishment worldwide. Since the 1990s, widely regarded development theories have focused on the voice/silence trope as a corrective to the inability of global development policy to consider, precisely, the silence of targeted populations. In our discussion this week, we will explore ways to augment even these innovations by demonstrating that it is the development programs themselves that were and are the sources of economic and social noise silencing the voices of the global poor. To this end India will be showcased as the paradigmatic case of the promises and problems of development theory by describing three comprehensive State-sponsored programs that followed internationally determined policies. Most have failed fully to meet expectations, and in this light we will seek to identify the barriers to improving implementation and the bridges necessary to make this happen.

Charles Lemert is University Professor and John C Andrus Professor of Social Theory Emeritus at Wesleyan University and Senior Fellow of the Center for Comparative Research at Yale University. He is the author and editor of many books, most recently *Why Niebuhr Matters* (Yale University Press, 2011), *The Structural Lie: Small Clues to Global Things* (Paradigm, 2011), *Globalization: A Reader* (ed. with Anthony Elliott, Daniel Chaffee, and Eric Hsu) (Routledge, 2010) and *The New Individualism* (with Anthony Elliott) (Routledge, 2009).

**Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend. Check out our WES blog - <http://mywes.info/>**