

# **I**maginative Channels:

## **Networks of Migration, Money and Gifts in Vietnam**



**Ivan Small**, Postdoctoral Scholar

Department of Anthropology and the Institute for  
Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion,  
UC Irvine

**Friday, April 26, 2013**

**2:10 PM**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY BLDG SOUTH  
(INTS) 1128 Screening Room**

This talk explores sociocultural, material, historical, and geographic dynamics of international migration and remittance flows in Vietnam, examining in particular the changing nature of transnational gifting in mediating kinship networks disrupted by war and exile. I argue that long distance international gifting exchanges in the global political economy increasingly juxtapose the mobility of financial remittance flows against the confines of state bound bodies. In this contradiction is revealed a creative space for emergent imaginaries and agencies that disrupt structures and contingencies of aspiration and expectation. Furthermore, the characteristics of the gift medium itself come to affectively frame the relations between remittance economy participants and the things they exchange.

**Ivan Small** is a postdoctoral research scholar in the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion at UC Irvine. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology and Southeast Asian Studies at Cornell University in addition to a masters in international affairs from Columbia University.

Sponsored by **Viral Ports, Virtual Currents: A 2012-2013**

**Andrew W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshop in the Humanities,  
The Center for Ideas and Society, and SEATriP,  
Southeast Asia: Text, Ritual and Performance.**

**INFORMATION: 951 827-3456 or visit <http://seatrip.ucr.edu>**