

# COLLOQUIUM BY VINCENT JOOS

*THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RECONSTRUCTION: TRANSLATING POST-DISASTER PERIODS  
IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING*

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TIME: 4:30-5:30 PM, THURSDAY, 13 APRIL 2017

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

*The Anthropology of Reconstruction: Translating Post-Disaster Periods in Research and Teaching*

**Speaker:** Dr. Vincent Joos, Lecturing Fellow in the Thompson Writing Program at Duke University

\* The event is also a **faculty recruitment seminar for Language and Culture Center.**

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ABSTRACT:

Dr. Vincent Joos will be speaking about his research in post-earthquake Haiti and will present how the anthropology of disasters and reconstruction enable students to build sharp arguments that engage with pressing international issues.

Dr. Vincent Joos will first present briefly his ethnographic work on large industrial projects that are meant to foster economic activity in Haiti. Post-disaster reconstruction entails a thorough knowledge of regional economies, ecologies, and social worlds. This part of the lecture also explores the teaching and writing possibilities that the necessity of empirical research in post-disaster moments entails.

In the second part of the talk, Dr. Vincent Joos will recast his research in Haiti in a global framework. Thinking comparatively about post-earthquake reconstruction presents two advantages. First, it opens a dialogue between scholars and people involved in reconstruction projects. Second, it offers new and experimental pedagogical ventures. Students who are researching, thinking, and writing about post-disaster moments engage with multiple

disciplines in order to understand the social, cultural, and infrastructural reshuffling disasters provoke. Reflecting on disaster-related courses he taught at Duke, he will here explore the effect of engaging with real-world issues and problem-solving activities on clarity, communication, and argumentation in the writing classroom.

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BIO:

Dr. Vincent Joos is a Lecturing Fellow in the Thompson Writing Program at Duke University. He is a cultural anthropologist who works in Haiti, and with Haitian communities living in the southeastern United States. His research explores post-disaster reconstruction and the relations between states, citizens, and international institutions and NGOs in the Caribbean. He earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015, a M.A. in Folklore from the same university in 2011. Dr. Joos has taught courses on post-disaster reconstruction, Caribbean music and culture, and on issues of race, class, and gender in the Caribbean and the United States.

This event is open to all and entry is on a first come, first served basis. For any queries email [y973@duke.edu](mailto:y973@duke.edu) or call 3665 7149.