

David HARRISON

**Anthropologists, Development and
Tourism: Networks, Encounters and
Shadows of a Colonial Past.**

London Metropolitan University
(London, UK)

Working in 'development' can be a fraught process. This is not new, and the role of social scientists, especially anthropologists, has long been debated. Colonialism gave them special benefits but also peculiar problems, and the first part of the presentation will review some of these debates, focusing on different anthropological positions ranging from the rejectionists, through the monitors to the activists. Attention then shifts to the current role of social scientists working in the field of tourism development, which has really only occurred since the 1960s, and the issues this raises, ranging from their own attitudes to tourism, and the problems that can emerge when working with academics and other partners in destination societies. It will be suggested that these cross-cultural relations can be understood only when the wider situation of the academics involved, in both developed and less developed societies, is appreciated, and that much effort is required if genuine co-operation is to be achieved.