

THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES PRESENTS

**"Constellations of Humanity': Canairelief
and the Biafran War,
1968-1971"**

WITH



**Will Tait, PhD Candidate (History)
Carleton University**

**Wednesday, January 7, 1:00- 2:30 pm
433 Paterson Hall, Carleton University***

Will Tait is PhD candidate and sessional instructor working under the supervision of Dr. Dominique Marshall. His main area of interest is transnational humanitarian history. Tait's dissertation addresses the influences and connections between Canadian Faith Based Organizations and humanitarian NGOs in the context of the Cold War.

The paper will examine the Canadian NGO Canairelief and the humanitarian airlift to Biafra in the late 1960s during the Nigerian Civil War. This conflict tested NGO's notions of impartiality and independence and Canairelief was no exception. The project was funded by private entrepreneurs, family funds from a soon to be Moderator of the Presbyterian Church as well as donations to the NGO from Churches and Oxfam Canada. This organization was a mix of the conservative and progressive put together at a time when humanitarian NGOs were becoming increasingly political, a time, historian Kevin O'Sullivan describes, as period of "acceleration" in humanitarian action.

This is part of the African Studies Brownbag Seminar Series

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