



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo

**Public lecture by Professor James Ferguson,  
University of Stanford**

**“Rightful Shares and Claims of Presence: Distributive  
Politics beyond Labor and Citizenship”**

**Place:** [Georg Sverdrups hus](#), Stort Møterom

**Date and Time: Friday 6th September, 0915-10.45**



**James Ferguson** is the Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, and Professor in the Department of Anthropology. His research has focused on southern Africa (especially Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, and Namibia), and has engaged a broad range of theoretical and ethnographic issues. Recent work has explored the surprising creation and/or expansion (both in southern Africa and across the global South) of social welfare programs targeting the poor, anchored in schemes that directly transfer small amounts of cash to large numbers of low-income people. His work aims to situate these programs within a larger “politics of distribution,” and to show how they are linked to emergent forms of distributive politics in contexts where new masses of “working age” people are supported by means other than wage labor. In this context, new political possibilities and dangers are emerging, even as new analytical and critical strategies are required. His book on this topic (Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution) was published in 2015.

In this lecture, Professor Ferguson will explore the ways that “presence” (rather than membership) can serve as a basis of social obligation (including the obligation to share)

<https://anthropology.stanford.edu/people/james-ferguson>

***Profesor Ferguson will present the keynote lecture for the workshop  
Curious Utopias: Large And Small Blueprints For Human Society”  
6-7 September, UiO. The keynote is open to the public.***



**Convenor: Associate Prof Ruth Prince**  
*Institute of Health and Society, UiO*