



FACULTY  
OF HUMANITIES  
Charles University

# The Good Project - humanitarian relief NGOs in comparative perspective

Monika Krause (London School of Economics)

**Time and venue: Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2018; 13:00**

Large meeting room H119 (José Martího 269/31)

Faculty of Humanities, in the building of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport

NGOs set out to save lives, relieve suffering, and service basic human needs. They are committed to serving people across borders and without regard to race, gender, or religion, and they offer help during earthquakes, wars etc. But with so many areas in need of assistance, how do these organizations decide where to go? This talk draws on Monika Krause's book *The Good Project* and subsequent research on NGOs. It discusses the intricacies of the decision-making process at NGOs and uncovers a basic truth: It may be the case that relief agencies try to help people but, in practical terms, the main focus of their work is to produce projects. Agencies sell projects to institutional donors, and in the process the project and its beneficiaries become commodities. In an effort to guarantee a successful project, organizations are incentivized to help those who are easy to help, while those who are hardest to help often receive no assistance at all.

**Monika Krause** teaches sociology at the London School of Economics where she co-directs LSE Human Rights. She studied at the universities of Munich and Cambridge and holds an MSc in Political Sociology from the LSE and a PhD in Sociology from NYU. Her research addresses comparative questions about forms of expertise, professions, organizations and fields of practice. Her book *The Good Project. Humanitarian NGOs and the Fragmentation of Reason* was awarded the 2015 Philip Abrams Memorial Prize for Best First Book in Sociology by the British Sociological Association, as well as awards by the ASA and the Association for Research on Non-profits and Voluntary Associations.

After Monika Krause's lecture you are invited also to the following lectures (14:30, large meeting room H119)

**Michael Weinman (Bard College Berlin):** After Postmodernity: On the need for humanistic social research into fundamental fissures in contemporary political culture

**Milan Hanyš (Faculty of Humanities, CU):** Hannah Arendt, Václav Havel and the politics of disobedience

## How to get there:

Tram 20, 26, Bus 225

Tram/bus stop „Nad Džbánem“

Map of the venue and the location of stops:



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„Culture and Society“. Faculty of Humanities

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