The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography presents:

Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 24th May 2017 6pm
Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre, St Anne's College
56 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HS

Gifts, entitlements, benefits and surplus: interrogating food poverty and food aid in the UK

Professor Pat Caplan
Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Goldsmiths University of London

What constitutes the good society? Is it one in which the state takes primary responsibility for the welfare of its citizens, or one in which the duty of care is handed over largely to the private and/or third or voluntary sectors? How can anthropologists contribute to the debates surrounding such questions? In this lecture I will examine the case of food poverty in the UK and the solutions presently on offer. As Douglas noted, food is never just feed, and in order to comprehend some aspects of the contemporary situation we must attempt to grasp how a range of institutions such as food banks, the food industry and the state ‘think’ about food poverty, what they do about it and why, and how these actors are inter-related.

For queries or to register to attend please contact: stacey.richardson@insis.ox.ac.uk