Rising to the Concrete: Critical Ethnographic Practice in West Africa

Jean Lave
University of California, Berkeley

Jean Lave is a social anthropologist, Professor Emerita in the Geography Department, at the University of California, Berkeley. Much of her ethnographically-based research concentrates on the re-conceiving of learning, apprenticeship, and everyday life in terms of social practice. Her books on the subject include: Understanding Practice (co-edited with S. Chaiklin, 1993); Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation (with E. Wenger, 1991); and Cognition in Practice (1988). She edited an ethno-historical research project on British merchant families engaged in the port wine trade in Portugal titled History in Person: Enduring Struggles, Contentious Practice, Intimate Identities (2000, with Dorothy Holland). Professor Lave published Apprenticeship in Critical Ethnographic Practice on critical ethnographic research practice, intertwined with a close account of her five years of research on apprenticeship in Liberia (2011). She continues to write about social practice theory. Professor Lave will be in San Diego to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Society for Psychological Anthropology.