# Paper3: Sociology and politics of development

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Aims and Objectives

This paper deals with the configuration, practice and politics of power, broadly defined. It explores the social and political contexts of development theory and praxis, the kinds of empirical problems that tend to matter for policy and the efforts to ‘practice development’. It interrogates the main actors, institutions and ideas that shape thinking about and doing of development. The paper critically questions the underlying assumptions of what development is, who should benefit, and who is being excluded from development, broadly defined. The paper also critically engages with questions about the future of Development as an academic discipline, as a historical project and as a set of policy interventions.

Method of Assessment

Assessment is by means of two essays:

-3,000 word essay (to be submitted during first week of January).

-5,000 word essay (to be submitted by the end of May).

The paper consists of:

-Sixteen two-hour lectures which run through Michaelmas and Lent terms.

-Weekly seminars consisting of small-group discussion classes run by Teaching Assistants through Michaelmas and Lent terms.

Core Lectures

Michaelmas Term

**Week 1: Development in Historical Context**

The lecture interrogates the different meanings of development and gives an overview of the historical development of the Development project and the rise of development studies.

- Kothari, U. (ed) (2019) A Radical History of Development Studies: Individuals, Institutions and Ideologies. London: Zed Books.

-Bernstein, H (2006) Studying development/development studies. African Studies, (65):1, 45-62.

-Hart, G. (2001) Development critiques in the 1990s: cul de sac and promising paths. Progress in Human Geography*,* (25)4:649-658.

**Week 2: The Post-colonial State and the Dilemmas of Development**

This lecture examines the realities and dilemmas associated with the role of the state in development in ‘postcolonial’ societies.

- Mamdani, M. (1996) Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*.* Princeton University Press.

Chazan, Naomi et al. (1988) Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

-Dorries, H., Hugill, D. and Tomiak, J. (2019) Radical capitalism and the production of settler colonial cities. Geoforum. See link at (https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12116-017-9248-8)

- Alavi, Hamza (1972) TheState in Post-Colonial Societies: Pakistan and Bangladesh. New Left Review, 74: 59-82.

* Shohat, E. (1992) Notes on the Post-Colonial. Social Text,31/32:99-113

**Week 3: International Development Organizations: Do they Rule the World?**

The Lecture explores the role of international institutions in the development process and the debates about the autonomy of these organizations vis-à-vis national and global power structures.

-Landau, L. and T. Achiume, (2017) Misreading Mobility? Bureaucratic Politics and Blindness in UN Migration Reports. Development and Change, 48(5): 1182–1195.

-Richard, P. (2003) Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank and WTO. London: Zed Books.

- Barnett, M. and Martha Finnemore (1999) The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. International Organization, 53(4):699-732

-Cox, R. (1983) Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: Am Essay in Method. Millennium. Journal of International Studies, 12: 162-175.

**Week 4: Capitalist Philanthropy (Dr Joeva Rock)**

Combating malaria. Developing a COVID-19 vaccine. Bolstering food security in Africa. Increasingly, some of the world’s largest philanthropies are directing their giving to private companies and commodity markets to address the world’s most pressing problems. What spurred this turn in philanthropic giving, and does it mark a major shift from more traditional philanthropy? This week we will look critically at philanthrocapitalism and ask what it means for the future of development studies and practice.

- McGoey, Linsey (2015) No Such Thing as a Free Gift: The Gates Foundation and the Price of Philanthropy [Chapter 5: “God’s Work” & Chapter 6: “Forgive Them, Bastiat”]

- Schurman, Rachel (2016) Building an Alliance for Biotechnology in Africa. Journal of Agrarian Change: 1-18.

- Daley, Patricia (2013) Rescuing African Bodies: Celebrities, Consumerism and Neoliberal Humanitarianism. Review of African Political Economy, 40(137): 375-393.

- Fejerskov, Adam Moe (2018) The Gates Foundation’s Rise to Power: Private Authority in Global Politics. New York: Routledge. [Chapter 3: “Rising Powers, American Capitalism and Private Foundations” & Chapter 6: “The Global South as a Laboratory of Experimentation”]

- Bishop, Matthew and Michael Green (2008) Philanthrocapitalism: How Giving Can Save the World. New York: Bloomsbury Press. [Chapter 1: “The Age of Philanthrocapitalism”]

**Week 5: Militarization and Development (Dr Joeva Rock)**

Recently, some of the world’s largest militaries have adopted humanitarian commitments and partnered with development organizations as part of their efforts to “securitize” regions. This lecture will explore these trends and ask what blurred lines between security and development might mean for development practice.

- Bradbury, Mark and Michael Kleinman (2010) Winning Hearts and Minds? Examining the Relationship Between Aid and Security in Kenya. Report. Feinstein International Center, Tufts University.

- Miles, William F. (2012) Deploying Development to Counter Terrorism: Post-9/11 Transformation of U.S. Foreign Aid to Africa. African Studies Review, 55(3): 27-60.

- Besteman, Catherine (2008) ‘Beware of those bearing gifts’: An Anthropologist's View of AFRICOM. Anthropology Today, 24: 20–21.

- Gold, Catriona (2020) “Security, Circulation and Biopolitics: US Africa Command’s Response to Ebola.” In *Expanding US Military Command in Africa*. Tshepo Gwatiwa and Justin van der Merwe, eds. London: Routledge. Pp. 104-121.

- Benton, Adia (2017) The Words are Maps. World Policy Journal, 34(4): 76-86.

Recommended Readings:

- Rock, Joeva (2014) “Why are we Sending Soldiers Trained for War to Respond to the Ebola Crisis?” The Nation, https://www.thenation.com/article/militarizing-ebola-crisis/.

- Turse, Nick (2015) AFRICOM’s Gigantic ‘Small Footprint’: The Pivot to Africa. In Tomorrow’s Battlefield: US Proxy Wars and Secret Ops in Africa*.* Chicago: Haymarket Books. Pg. 39-58.

- Wiley, David (2012) Militarizing Africa and African Studies and the U.S. Africanist Response. African Studies Review, 55(2): 147-161.

**Week 6: Feminist Contributions to Development**

The Lecture critically reviews the changing approaches to gender throughout the different development decades and within various development agencies raising questions about the gendered nature of development itself.

-Herr, R.S. (2014) Reclaiming Third World Feminism: or Why Transnational Feminism Needs Third World Feminism. Meridians, 12(1): 1-30.

- Kabeer, N. (1995) Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought. London: Verso

- Dandiyoti, D. (1988) Bargaining with Patriarchy. Gender and Society, 2(3):274-290.

- Mohanty, Chandra (1988) Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses. Feminist Review, (30): 61-88.

* Cornell, A. and S. Jolly (2009) Sexuality and the Development Industry. Development, 52(1):5-12.

**Week 7: Health and Development (Dr Joeva Rock)**

This lecture explores how medical anthropology and ethnographic inquiry can be applied to development studies and settings.

- Farmer, Paul (2009) On Structural Violence and Suffering: A View from Below. Race/Ethnicity,3(1): 11-28.

- Benton, Adia (2015)HIV Exceptionalism: Development through Disease in Sierra Leone. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

- Han, Clara (2012) Life in Debt: Times of Care and Violence in Neoliberal Chile. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapter 4: “Neoliberal Depression”]

- Biehl, João and Adriana Petryna (2013) Critical Global Health. In When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health. João Biehl and Adriana Petryna, (eds.) Princeton: Princeton UP. Pg. 1-19.

**Week 8: Who Feeds the World (Dr Joeva Rock)**

Despite an abundance of food and a global consensus that hunger should be eradicated, it is on the rise. This week, we lay a critical eye to food security and hunger by exploring how power, private firms, and farmers shape global food systems.

- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (2020) In Brief to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming Food systems for Affordable Healthy Diets. Rome, FAO. Report. **(skim)**

- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2020) Critical Perspective on Food Systems, Food Crises and the Future of the Right to Food. Report. **(skim)**

- McMichael, Philip and Mindi Schneider (2011) Food Security Politics and the Millennium Development Goals. Third World Quarterly, 32(1): 119-139.

- Goto, Kenta and Bounlouane Douangngeune (2017) Agricultural Modernisation and Rural Livelihood Strategies: The Case of Rice Farming in Laos. Canadian Journal of Development Studies, 38(4): 467-486.

- Trapp, Micah M. (2016) You-Will-Kill-Me-Beans: Taste and the Politics of Necessity in Humanitarian Aid. Cultural Anthropology, 31(3): 412–437.

- Clapp, Jennifer and Sarah-Louise Ruder (2020) Precision Technologies for Agriculture: Digital Farming, Gene-Edited Crops, and the Politics of Sustainability. Global Environmental Politics, 20(3): 49-69.

- Fairbairn, Madeleine and Zenia Kish (2022) A Poverty of Data?: Exporting the Digital Revolution to Farmers in the Global South. In The Nature of Data: Infrastructures, Environments, Politics. Jenny Goldstein and Eric Nost, (eds.) Omaha: University of Nebraska Press.

Recommended Readings:

- Berry, Sarah (1993) No Condition Is Permanent: The Social Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Sub-Saharan Africa. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

- Clapp, Jennifer (2021) The Problem with Growing Corporate Concentration and Power in the Global Food System. Nature Food 2: 404-408.

- Goldman, Michael (2005) Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*.* New Haven, Yale UP. **[Chapter 2]**

- Hans R. Herren, Benedikt Haerlin and the IAASTD+10 Advisory Group, eds. (2020) Transformation of Our Food Systems: The Making of a Paradigm Shift. Report.

- Ham, Jessica (2017) Cooking to be Modern but Eating to be Healthy: The Role of Dawa-Dawa in Contemporary Ghanaian Foodways. Food, Culture & Society 20(2): 237-25.

Lent Term

**Week 1: Civil Society, the Sum of its organizations?**

The lecture looks at the historical development of the concept of civil society and how its different, and often contradictory, theoretical origins have contributed to its becoming a buzz word in development.

-Gready, P and Robins, S. (2017) Rethinking civil society and transitional justice: lessons from social movements and ‘new’ civil society. The International Journal of Human Rights, 21(7):956-975.

- Chandhoke, Neera (1995) State and Civil Society: Explorations in Political Theory. Delhi: Sage Publications.

- Chris Allen (1997) Who Needs Civil Society? Review of African Political Economy, 24 (73): 329-337.

- Mehran Kamrava & Frank O Mora (1998) Civil Society and democratisation in comparative perspective: Latin America and the Middle East. Third World Quarterly,19 (5): 893-915.

- Hammami, R. (1995) NGOs: The Professionalisation of Politics. Race and Class, 37(2):51-63.

**Week 2: Participation and Neoliberalism (Dr Joeva Rock)**

‘Resilience’ and ‘Participation’ have become ubiquitous in development practice and policy. Utilizing case studies from the southern United States, Puerto Rico and Chile, we will explore the genesis of these terms, ask how they become operationalized in practice, and question how they shape the politics of development.

- Paley, Julia (2001) The Paradox of Participation. In Marketing Democracy: Power and Social Movements in Post-Dictatorship Chile(pp 140-181) University of California Press.

- Tierney, Kathleen (2015) Resilience and the Neoliberal Project: Discourses, Critiques, Practices—And Katrina. American Behavioral Scientist,59: 1327-1342.

- Bonilla, Yarimar (2020) The Coloniality of Disaster: Race, Empire, and the Temporal Logics of Emergency in Puerto Rico, USA. Political Geography 78.

- Cornwall, Andrea and Karen Brock (2005) What Do Buzzwords Do For Development Policy? A Critical Look at ‘Participation’, ‘Empowerment’ and ‘Poverty Reduction’. Third World Quarterly, 26(7): 1043-1060.

**Week 3: Postcolonial Developers? The 'rise of the South' in international development**

This lecture traces the rise of South-South development partners and critically examines the opportunities and challenges they bring, both for poorer countries, and for the (so called) traditional donors and historically dominant development regime.

- Mawdsley, E. (2012) From Recipients to Donors: The Emerging Powers and the Changing Development Landscape. London: Zed

**-** Brautigam, D. (2009) The Dragon’s Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa. Oxford: Oxford University Press

- Kragelund, P. (2008) The Return of the Non-DAC Donors to Africa: New Prospects for African Development. Development Policy Review, 26 (5), pp. 555-84.

**Week 4: Post-development**

The lecture covers the main tenets of post-development literature and its contribution to the critique of development theory.

- Escobar, A. (1995) Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World. Princeton University Press.

- Sachs, W. (ed.) (1992) The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge and Power. London: Zed Books. (Especially chapters 1, 2, 4).

- Ziai, A. (2004) The Ambivalence of Post-Development: Between Reactionary Populism and Radical Democracy. Third World Quarterly, 25(6):1045-1060.

**Week 5: Islamic Development Models**

The lecture engages with the question of religion and development. It particularly focuses on the social, political and economic principles of an ‘Islamic model of development’ and examines its position within global capitalism.

-Rethel, L. (2019) Corporate Islam, Global Capitalism and the Performance of Economic Moralities. New Political Economy, 24(3): 350-64.

- Kuran, T. (2004) Islam and Mammon: The Economic Predicaments of Islamism. Princeton University Press.

- Mandaville, P. (2001) Transnational Muslim Politics: Reimagining the Umma. London: Routledge.

**Week 6: Child Labour: Multidimensional Approaches in Development**

The lecture engages with the debate on child labour in development and how different agencies define the concepts of ‘child’ and ‘labour’ differently and how that in turn influences the different strategies for dealing with the question of child labour.

- Foley, P. and S. Tucker (Eds) (2001) Children in Society: Contemporary Theory, Policy and Practice. New York: Palgrave McMillan

-Holloway, D. (2019) Surveillance Capitalism and Children’s Data: The Internet of Toys and Things for Children. Media International, 170(1): 27-36.

- Bourdillon, M. et.al (2010) Rights and Wrongs of Children’s Work*.* Rutgers University Press.

- Wazir, R. (2002) Eliminating Child Labour: Do NGO Interventions Add Up to a Strategy? The Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 45(3): 615-23.

**Week 7: The Behavioural Turn in Development**

The lecture traces the recent rise and dominance of behavioural approaches to development questions. It interrogates the origin of these approaches and how they have come to form a regime of therapeutic governance which shapes policy interventions in multiple sectors.

-Klein, E. (2016) Developing Minds: psychology, neoliberalism and power. London: Routledge.

-Fine, B. et al., (2016) Nudging or Fudging: The World Development Report 2015. Development and Change, 47(4): 640-6.

- Pupavac, V. (2005) Human Security and the Rise of Global Therapeutic Governance Conflict. Security and Development, 5(2): 161-181.

- Rose, N. (1992) Engineers of the Human Soul: Analyzing Psychological Expertise. Science in Context, 5(2): 351-369.

**Week 8: Debating the Future of Development/Development Studies**

The lecture encourages students to consider the current moment in development thinking and to reflect on its future trajectories including calls to decolonize the field of development theory and praxis.

-Sultana, F. (2019) Decolonizing Development Education and the Pursuit of Social Justice. Human Geography, 12(3):31-46.

-Mann, L. (2017) Left to Other People’s Devices? A Political Economy Perspective on the Big Data Revolution in Development. Development and Change, 49(1):3-36.

- Chang, H-J (2009) Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: How development has disappeared from today’s ‘development discourse’. In S. Khan & J. Christiansen (eds.) Towards New Developmentalism: Market as Means rather than Master. Routledge, Abingdon

- Saith, A. (2006) ‘From Universal Values to Millennium Development Goals: Lost in Translation’. Development and Change, 37(6):1167-1199