

The Rise And Fall of Development

Dr Andreas Dafinger

Fall 2024/25

4credits (8 ects)

Contact and Office hours:

Email: DafingerA@ceu.edu

Mondays 13:30-15:30 (after email)

Course Description

This course will provide a critical debate of the history, politics and the academic discourse of development politics and practice. We will discuss how questions of economic growth, poverty and inequality are framed in terms of development; how international relations are labelled and perceived in terms of development aid and cooperation. Development is no longer merely in the domain of the state, the neoliberal shift has led to the rise of national and international agencies which engage in 'development', both in the "Third World", as well as in the west and postsocialist countries. We will follow through how doctrines of Development and Progress are subject to and respond to criticism, adapt to the failure of their own development programs, and how the gap between rich and poor continues to grow despite –or because of- development policies. At the same time, the geographic distinction between the 'developed' and the 'developing' has become increasingly obsolete. Urban centers form hybrid spaces where 'core' and 'periphery' are intricately intertwined, where 'developed' and 'underdeveloped' coexist.

Course Content

As outlined, this course will discuss the major theories and approaches in the anthropological study of development, and will take a specific look at rural-urban relations in the developing world. The intention is to critically review the history of development theory, with a special attention to the political context and content of each model, alongside anthropological models of culture change. The course will continue by looking at the relation between anthropology and the development machine, and trace the paradigm shifts in development models. The debate will focus on the question if is to draw a line between development cooperation and intervention. A special focus will lie on south-south alliances, which claim to provide development "from within". Attention will be paid to the digitization of development, 'financial inclusion' and the proliferation of surveillance capitalism. A final part ties the threads together and looks at issues of urbanization, investigate the impact of cities on rural livelihoods, look at informal economies, and eventually scrutinize the role of cities as the engines in a global development machine.

Course Goals and learning outcomes

At the end of the course you will be able to demonstrate a profound knowledge of recent development politics from a sociological and social anthropological perspective. Participants will be familiar with the history of development research within these disciplines and will be able to critically reflect upon the role of development theory and applied anthropology. Successful participants will also be able to assess the role of development in processes of urbanization, hybridization of urban spaces and new middleclass formation as part of development policies.

Class Format

The course consists of lectures and seminar discussions. The lecture will introduce the general topic of the specific week and give an overview of the specific debates related to it. In the seminar, we discuss and address specific questions around the readings, which are the center of the individual classes. Participants are encouraged to come to class with specific questions on the texts. The seminar will also give space for short, 10-15 minute student presentations. Each new unit we will attempt to incorporate new arguments into previously acquired knowledge.

Requirements

Students provide written comments on the readings for classes (8 of 12), to be uploaded on the courses website two days before each class.

Students will also hold one short, 10min, presentation on the selected readings for one of the weeks. Active participation is expected and will be assessed. At the end of the course, students will prepare a final paper, based on the topic and reading of one of the classes. Papers should be between 3-3500 words and submitted 14 days after the end of term.

Grading

Active participation 20%, presentation 20%, weekly discussion papers 30%, paper 30%,

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Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction: What is “Development”? Overview and an introductory debate

- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Oxford University Press

Week 2: Development Theory and Practice until the 1980s, Modernization Theory, Dependency Theory

- So, A. (1990). *Social change and development: Modernization, dependency, and worldsystems theories*. SAGE Publications. Chapter 2: Modernization
- Escobar, Arturo. (2011). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 2: The Tale of Three Worlds

Further Reading:

- Leys C. 2004. *The Rise and Fall Of Development Theory*. In *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, ed. M Edelman, A Haugerud, pp. 109-25.
- Gow, David D. 1996. “Review: The Anthropology of Development: Discourse, Agency, and Culture.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 69:165-173.
- Rapley, John (2007), *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World*. Wallerstein, Immanuel M. (2004), *World-Systems Analysis* (Durham: Duke UP).

Week 3: Anthropology and Development. ‘it’s complicated ‘

This week examines the complex relationship between anthropology and the development industry. We will explore how anthropologists have alternately aided development projects, studied and critiqued them, and searched for alternative approaches. Key tensions around power, ethics, and purpose will be discussed.

- Ferguson, J 1997 “Anthropology and Its Evil Twin: ‘Development’ in the Constitution of a Discipline”. In F Cooper and R Packard (eds.) *International Development and the Social Sciences: essays on the history and politics of knowledge*, Berkeley, U California

Week 4: Post-Development

This week traces the evolution of post-development theory since its 1990s emergence. While validating its ongoing relevance as a critical lens, we also analyze blind spots regarding viable alternatives.

- Nustad, Knut G. 2007. "The Devil We Know? Post-Development, Reflexivity, and the Quest for Alternatives." In *Exploring Post-Development: Theory and Practice, Problems and Perspectives*, edited by Aram Ziai, 35-49. London: Routledge.
- Escobar, Arturo. 2007. "'Post-development' as Concept and Social Practice." In *Exploring Post-Development: Theory and Practice, Problems and Perspectives*, edited by Aram Ziai, 18-31. London: Routledge
- Rahnema, M. & Bawtree, V. (1997). *The post-development reader*. Zed Books. Chapter

Further Reading:

- Matthews, S. (2004). Post-development theory and the question of alternatives: A view from Africa. *Third World Quarterly*, 25(2), 373-384. (12 pages)
- Sachs, W. (Ed.). (2010). *The development dictionary: A guide to knowledge as power*. Zed Books. Excerpts on post-development

Week 5: Developmentality, Governmentality and Power

This week discusses how the concept of the "developing state" emerges in relation to the "developed state." We critically analyze how development discourse and interventions shape external perceptions and actions towards so-called developing countries. Our discussion focuses on the politics of representation embedded in "developmentality".

- Scott, James C. (1998). *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press. Chapter 1: "State Simplifications".
- Li, Tania (2007). *The will to improve: Governmentality, development, and the practice of politics*. Duke University Press. Introduction and Conclusion

Week 6: Breaking down development: Big and small Ds, participation, NGOization

This week examines the rise of NGOs and "participation" as features of the neoliberal turn in development. As states retreated, non-governmental organizations emerged as new actors competing with global development schemes. We critically analyze this NGO-led model of participatory development, exploring how it facilitates the expansion of neoliberal governance. Our discussion focuses on the depoliticizing effects of NGOization.

- Thomas Davies "NGOs: A New History of Transnational Civil Society" (2014): pp 141-174
- Krause, M. *The Good Project: Humanitarian Relief NGOs and the Fragmentation of Reason*. U of Chicago Press, 2014. Ch 4

Further Reading:

- Radcliffe, S.A. (2015). Development alternatives: Theories, practices, imaginaries. *Progress in Development Studies*, 15(2), 136-145.
- Mosse, David 2003 "From State Bureaucracy to People's Participation: a New Moral Economy for Water?" Ch 9 of *The Rule of Water: Statecraft, Ecology and Collective Action in South India*, OUP.

Week 7: Reading Week

Week 8: Southern Development ? BRICS and South-south alliances as Development Agents.

- Immanuel Wallerstein. "Whose Interests Are Served by the BRICS?" In *BRICS: An Anti-Capitalist Critique*, edited by Patrick Bond and Ana Garcia, 269–74. Haymarket Books, 2015.
- Robinson, William I. 2015. "BRICS and Transnational Capitalism." In *BRICS: An Anti-Capitalist Critique*, edited by Patrick Bond and Ana Garcia, 85-106. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
- Bond, Patrick. 2015. "Co-dependent BRICS from Above, Co-opted BRICS from the Middle, and Confrontational BRICS from Below." In *BRICS: An Anti-Capitalist Critique*, edited by Patrick Bond and Ana Garcia, 15-41. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.

Further reading:

- Meibo Huang, "South-South Cooperation and Chinese Foreign Aid", Chinese Political Science Review 2018
- Sachin Chaturvedi, Thomas Fues, and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos (eds) "Development Cooperation and Emerging Powers: New Partners or Old Patterns", 2012.
- Goldstein, A. E. (2006). *The rise of China and India : what's in it for Africa?* Paris, Development Centre of the OECD

Week 9: Whose Environment? Environmentalism and Development

Environmental protection has become a dominant paradigm in development, leading to regulations and interventions that impact the Global South. We critically analyze "green grabbing" and the trust deficit between local communities and environmental NGOs. Discussion focuses on how sustainability programs can impose external agendas while actually restricting economic and social autonomy.

- Fairhead, J., Leach, M., & Scoones, I. (2012). Green grabbing: a new appropriation of nature? *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39(2), 237-261. (18pp)
- Tsing, Anna. 2005. "Nature Loving." In *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*, 159-202. Princeton: Princeton U Press. (42pp)

Further reading:

- Corson, C., MacDonald, K.I. & Neimark, B. (2013). Grabbing "green": Markets, environmental governance and the materialization of natural capital. *Human Geography* 6(1), 1-15.
- Chapin, M. (2004). A challenge to conservationists. *World Watch Magazine*, 17(6), 17-31.
- Brockington, Dan, Duffy, Rosaleen, and Igoe, Jim. (2008). *Nature Unbound: Conservation, Capitalism and the Future of Protected Areas*. Earthscan. Esp. Chapter 5

Week 10: Digitizing Development

ICTs expand Northern corporate and government reach framed in a rhetoric and practice of development for the Global South. Discussion focuses on digital divides, data extraction, platform governance, and modulation of Southern economies and politics.

- Ansorge, J.T. 2016. "Digital Power does Development " (Chapter 10 of *Identify and Sort: How Digital Power Changed World Politics*, OUP)
- Don Slater 2013. "New Media, Development and Globalization: Making Connections in the Global South" Chapter 4

Further reading:

- Kwet, Michael. "Digital Colonialism: US Empire and the New Imperialism in the Global South." SSRN Scholarly Paper. Rochester, NY, August 15, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3232297>
- Cesar & Chachage. (2019). Africa and the fourth industrial revolution: Technological revolution or techno-colonisation? *Development*, 62(1-4), 278-284.
- "Digital Technology and the Politics of Engagement" by Nora Draper and J. Turow (2019)

Week 11: Governance by numbers: Financial inclusion, surveillance capitalism and digital governance in the Global South

Following on previous discussion of digitization and development, this session critically examines the costs of financial and digital inclusion. We analyze how the push for access to finance and platforms is also used to expand data extraction and control by fintech, social media, and tech giants.

- Zuboff S. 2015. *Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an Information Civilization*. SSRN Scholarly Paper, Social Science Research Network, Rochester, NY
- Cinnamon, Jonathan. 2017. "Social Injustice in Surveillance Capitalism." *Surveillance & Society* 15(5): 609-625.

Further reading:

- Nickel, P. M., & Eikenberry, A. M. (2020). Knowing and governing the numbered: The politics of identifiers in the age of financialization and digitization. *International Journal of Communication*, 14, 916-932.
- Kwet, M. (2019). Digital colonialism: South Africa's education tablet project as data grab. In *Proceedings of the 10th ACM Conference on Web Science* (pp. 215-219).

Week 12: Urbanization

This week examines processes of urbanization and slum formation through a critical development lens. We discuss how rural-urban migration and uneven development integrate marginalized groups into city economies in disadvantaged ways. We discuss urban exclusion and creative resilience, exploring everyday negotiations of infrastructure, services, and governance.

- Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. London, New York. (CH 1-2)

Further reading:

- Brenner, N., Marcuse, P., & Mayer, M. (Eds.). (2012). *Cities for People, Not for Profit: Critical Urban Theory and the Right to the City*. Routledge.

Week 13: Rural-Urban Ties.

This week explores rural-urban linkages and flows of people, resources, and capital that defy spatial binaries. We discuss how rural and urban lifeworlds constitute one another, with porous boundaries. Our focus includes patterns of circular migration, livelihood diversification across spaces, and cultural exchanges. We analyze how development outcomes in each sphere are co-produced through evolving rural-urban connections

- Ferguson J. 1999. Rural Connections, Urban Styles. *Theorizing Cultural Dualism*. In *Expectations Of Modernity : Myths And Meanings Of Urban Life On The Zambian Copperbelt*, ed. J Ferguson, pp. 82-122. Berkeley: U of California Press

Further reading:

- Mills, Mary Beth. *Rural-Urban Obfuscations*.
- Harris, John R. and Todaro, Michael P. Migration, Unemployment and Development: A Two Sector Analysis. *American Economic Review*. 1970; 60(1):126-142.

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