

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Course Description

The course is intended to provide critical readings of the ‘problems’ and ‘prospects’ of development. It begins by looking beyond the mainstream ideas of change, progress, and transformation, and then takes up contemporary discourses of development. It allows students to link theories and perspectives on development with ways of conceptualizing the phenomena and processes of 'development' and 'underdevelopment' with the Global South as the central focus. It focuses less on the mainstream seminal works about development. Instead, the seminar is explicitly focused on the current issues of political and economic development in the developing world. The general idea is to assess where the literature currently stands on topics of interests such as slavery, state capacity, labour practices and gender question in global South, while at the same time identifying gaps in the mainstream literature on development.

Please note that the course does not cover all core topics on PE of Development in South. Because of our formal training and expertise, the course emphasis on literature from South Asia (particularly India) and Africa. Nonetheless, we seek to achieve two main goals. First, the substantive goal is to familiarize students with foundational theoretical arguments and empirical evidence on questions in the political economy of development and second, is to expose students to a variety of methodological approaches and cutting-edge research coming from scholars based in the global south.

Prerequisites

Given the state of affairs owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the course will be taught online. This makes a stable internet connection with a web call capable computing device a prerequisite. Though it gives us the liberty to expand to new geographical regions and at the same times this excludes students from regions with little internet connectivity or state induced communication blackouts. Another reflection of the unequal world we live in.

Course requirements and Grading Policy

The course is set up with an intent to provide a critical assessment of developmental issues in Global South. We expect students to be well versed with introductory knowledge on diverse perspectives on development, a brief history of colonialism and the North-South divide. Also, the course will be taught in English, so an intermediate knowledge of the language is a must. If you full fill the aforementioned required criteria, you are good to go. And now that you are part of the course take a look at our grading policy.

1. Reading and participation (10%): Each week's lecture is accompanied by two required readings and two optional, typically book chapters, academic articles, or long-form journalism. Ensure you have read and digested all the readings before attending class, so you can contribute to the discussion. Your participation in class discussions will be graded.
2. Weekly Writing (30%): Before the start of each lecture, baring week 1, students are expected to submit a summary of previous weeks reading plus lectures in writing. These writings should be precise highlighting the major ideas and contestations and not more than three pages (MS Word). Critical assessment with local or country-specific examples will be rewarded.
3. Final project (60%). Each student is supposed to produce a final project. The project can be an academic paper, a short documentary based on any developmental issue or a photo essay. Students must take a note that the project needs to be approved by week 4 and the written approval of all three instructors is compulsory.

Weekly schedule and readings

This is a reading-intensive course. Each week we will assign about 2 required book chapters or papers. There is no textbook for the course. Two additional readings are added to each week's reading list. In most cases, these readings are either critical or agreement with the required ones thus giving the student a holistic understanding of the theme.

WEEK 1 - Introduction to Political Economy of development

This week introduces the broad discipline of development from a political economy perspective. The concept of development has been a contested terrain among scholars as evidence by different theories, unequal patterns of global development, and rapidly changing nature of the global economy. Therefore, this chapter will cover the historical and contemporary pattern of the political economy of development from a decolonised approach.

Required readings:

- Escobar, A. (1995). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Cramer, C., Sender, J., & Oqubay, A. (2020). *African Economic Development: Evidence, Theory, Policy*. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings:

- Pailey, R. N. (2020). *De-centring the 'White Gaze' of Development*. *Development and Change*, 51(3), 729-745.
- Gilbert Rist. (1997). *The Invention of Development*. Chapter 4, in: *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith*. New York: Zed Books

WEEK 2 - Slavery, Colonialism, and Global Development

Slavery and colonialism played a crucial role in the development of the West and the underdevelopment of the South. This has lingered over the years with important implications for understanding the roots of unequal development across the world. Students will learn about the role of slavery, colonialism, and imperialism in shaping the patterns of development historically.

Required readings:

- Inikori, J. E. (1987). *Slavery and the development of industrial capitalism in England*. *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 17(4), 771-793.
- Rodney, Walter (2018). *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*. Verso Books.

Additional readings:

- Nunn, N. (2008). *Slavery, inequality, and economic development in the Americas*. *Institutions and economic performance*, 15, 148-180.
- Roy, S. (2018). *Imperialism, The 'Old' and the 'New' – Departures and Continuities*. In Sen, S., & Marcuzzo, M. C. (Eds.). *The Changing Face of Imperialism: Colonialism to Contemporary Capitalism*. London: Routledge India.

WEEK 3 - Post-colonial Theory and Dependency Theories

Building on week 2, this week aims to critically examine the ideas of post-colonial and dependency scholars to understand how globalist capitalist system and the western-centric manifestation of ideas and culture have shaped the evolution of development in the global South. Similarities and contradictions between these two schools of thoughts will be examined, while their relevance in the contemporary hyper globalised world will be debated.

Required readings:

- Chatterjee, Partha (1993). *The nation and its fragments. Colonial and postcolonial histories*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0-691-03305-6.
- Kvangraven, I. H. (2020). *Beyond the Stereotype: Restating the Relevance of the Dependency Research Programme*. *Development and Change*, 1-37.

Additional readings:

- Chibber, V., Chatterjee, P., Spivak, G. C., & Vanaik, A. (2016). *The debate on postcolonial theory and the specter of capital*. Verso Books.
- Kapoor, Ilan. (2002). *Capitalism, Culture, Agency: Dependency versus Postcolonial Theory*. *Third World Quarterly* 23(4): 647-664.

WEEK 4 - Globalization and Financialization in the Global South

Over the past decades, globalisation has led to a huge increase in the flows of goods and capital across the world. Particularly, poor countries have been integrated into the global economy through global production networks and financial systems, thereby exposing them to external shocks and vulnerabilities. This week focuses on how global capital has penetrated developing economies and the implications for development.

Required readings:

- Alves, C., & Toporowski, J. (2019). *Growth of international finance and emerging economies: Elements for alternative approach*. *PSL Quarterly Review*, 72, 288
- Bonizzi, B., Kaltenbrunner, A., & Powell, J. (2020). *Subordinate financialization in emerging capitalist economies*. *The Routledge International Handbook of Financialization*, 177-187.

Additional readings:

- Siddiqui, Kalim (2019). *The Political Economy of Essence of Money and Recent Development*. *International Critical Thought*. pp. 85-108. DOI: 10.1080/21598282.2019.1585275.
- Itaman, R. (2017). *The financialization of African development*. *Developing Economics*, <https://developingeconomics.org/2017/04/07/the-financialization-of-africas-development/>

WEEK 5 - Political Settlement, Institutions, and State capacity

This week will examine the role of institutions, political settlement and the state in enabling or constraining development in the global south. However, the analysis is focused on juxtaposing contemporary institutional theories on the role of power, corruption and democracy in determining economic outcomes in the global south.

Required readings:

- Khan, M. H. (2018). *Political settlements and the analysis of institutions*. *African Affairs*, 117(469), 636-655.
- Das Gupta, C. (2016). *State and Capital in Independent India: Institutions and Accumulation*, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi.

Additional Readings:

- Mkandawire, T. (2015). Neopatrimonialism and the political economy of economic performance in Africa: Critical reflections. *World Pol.*, 67, 563.
- Bardhan, P. (2000). The Nature of Institutional Impediments to Economic Development, in Olson, Mancur and Satu Kähkönen, eds. *A Not-so-Dismal Science: A Broader View of Economies and Societies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

WEEK 6 - Inequalities within and between countries

Inequality has become a burning issue both nationally and globally. Yet discussions of inequality have paid little attention to the historical and structural factors that have significantly influenced the evolution of unequal distribution of wealth within and between countries. This week takes a unique approach by interrogating the role of imperialism, globalisation, and neoliberal policies in determining inequality in the global south.

Required readings:

- Siddiqui, Kalim (2018). *Imperialism and global inequality: A critical analysis*. Journal of Economics and Political Economy. pp. 266-291.
- Milanovic, B. (2016). *Global inequality: A new approach for the age of globalization*. Harvard University Press.

Additional readings:

- Chandrasekhar, C. P., and Jayati Ghosh (2007). *The Market that Failed*. New Delhi: Left Word Books,
- Archibong, B. (2018). *Historical origins of persistent inequality in Nigeria*. Oxford Development Studies, 46(3), 325-347.

WEEK 7 - Labour and Gender Inequalities

The role of gender in economic development is often overlooked in mainstream literature. However, women actively participate in both unpaid household chores and productive economic activities despite facing unequal conditions compared to men due to patriarchy. This week draws on both theoretical and empirical feminist economic literature to examine the role of women in developing countries.

Required readings:

- Ghosh, Jayati (2009). *Never done and poorly paid: Women's Work in Globalising India*, New Delhi, Women Unlimited.
- Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison, and Anne Whitehead (eds), (2008). *Feminisms in Development: Contradictions, Contestations and Challenges*, Zubaan Publication.

Additional readings:

- Heath, Rachel, and A. Mushfiq Mobarak (2015). *Manufacturing growth and the lives of Bangladeshi women*. *Journal of Development Economics* 115 (2015): 1-15.
- Harriss-White, B. (2003). *Inequality at Work in the Informal Economy: Key Issues and Illustrations*. *International Labour Review*, Vol 142, No. 4.

WEEK 8 - Conflict, Migration, and Development

Recently, conflicts, civil unrest, and climate change have triggered unprecedented migration of people particularly in some of the poorest countries of the world. This week examines how these three variables interact and reinforce each other, while also introducing nuances by unpacking the socio-economic impacts of ‘reverse migration’ in developing countries.

Required readings:

- Kaiser, T. (2014). *Crisis? Which crisis? Families and forced migration*. in Lindley, A. (Ed.) *Crisis and migration: critical perspectives*. Routledge.
- Raleigh, C. (2011). *The search for safety: The effects of conflict, poverty, and ecological influences on migration in the developing world*. *Global Environmental Change*, 21, S82-S93.

Additional readings:

- Pailey, R. N. (2016). *Long-Term Socio-Economic Implications of ‘Crisis-induced’ Return Migration on Countries of Origin*. International Migration Institute (IMI), University of Oxford.
- Dandekar, A., & Ghai, R. (2020). *Migration and Reverse Migration in the Age of COVID-19*. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 55(19), 28-31.

WEEK 9 - Global Economic Governance, Multilateral Institutions, and Aid

Since the 1980s, multilateral institutions like World Bank and the IMF have wielded significant power in shaping economic policy in the global south through technical assistance, loans and grants. Likewise, the role of aid from rich countries, as well as new donors such as China, has been contested among scholars. This week critically examine the role global governance and aid from a broad perspective.

Required readings:

- Fine, B., & Saad Filho, A. (2014). *Politics of neoliberal development: Washington Consensus and post-Washington Consensus*. in Weber, H (ed.) *The Politics of Development: A Survey*. London: Routledge, pp. 154-166.

- Minoiu, C., & Reddy, S. G. (2010). Development aid and economic growth: A positive long-run relation. *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 50(1), 27-39.

Additional readings:

- Klingebiel, S. (2014). Development Cooperation Actors: The New Variety of Donors. In *Development Cooperation: Challenges of the new aid architecture* (pp. 18-34). Palgrave Pivot, London.
- Sial, F. (2018). Historicising the aid debate: South Korea as a successful aid recipient. *Developing Economics*. <https://developingeconomics.org/2018/11/12/historicising-the-aid-debate-south-korea-as-a-successful-aid-recipient/>

WEEK 10 - Capitalist exploitation, climate justice, and sustainable development

The impacts of neo-colonial and capitalist structures of the global economies shall be explored with focus especially on marginalized communities. Climatic and environmental issues will be linked to the globalized economic and political structures and issues of social justice. The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development shall be considered from a critical perspective.

Required readings:

- Ramos-Castillo, A., Castellanos, E. J., McLean, K. G. (2017). *Indigenous peoples, local communities, and climate change mitigation*. Springer Science Business Media Dordrecht. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-016-1873-0.
- Struckmann, C. (2018). *A postcolonial feminist critique of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A South African application*. *Agenda*, 32:1, pp. 12-24, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10130950.2018.1433362>.

Additional readings:

- Perry, K. (2020). *Realising climate reparations: towards a global climate stabilization fund and resilience fund programme for loss and damage in marginalised and former colonised societies*. United Nations.
- Okereke, C. (2010). *Climate justice and the international regime*. Wiley interdisciplinary reviews: climate change, 1(3), 462-474.

WEEK 11 - Indigenous and social movements and political participation

Indigenous peoples and social movements have since ever positively shaped changes, transitions and developments in many countries and regions. However, their voices have often been suppressed as the consequence of colonialism and racism. How can people contribute to development and transformations in a bottom-up way? We want to discuss that and involve the students' experiences and perspectives.

Required readings:

- Ramos-Castillo, A., Castellanos, E. J., McLean, K. G. (2017). *Indigenous peoples, local communities, and climate change mitigation*. Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-016-1873-0.
- Mamdani, M., Mkandawire, T., & Wamba-dia-Wamba. (1988). *Social movements, social transformation, and struggle for democracy in Africa*. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 973-981.

Additional readings:

- Nwajiaku-Dahou, K. (2012). *The political economy of oil and 'rebellion' in Nigeria's Niger Delta*. *Review of African Political Economy*, 39(132), 295-313.
- Minority Rights Group International (2019). *Minority and Indigenous Trends 2019. Focus on climate justice*. ISBN 978-1-912938-15-5.

WEEK 12 - Rethinking development: Degrowth in the Global South

In the past weeks, we discussed current concepts, problematic implications and critical perspectives on the political economy of development. This leaves us with the question which alternative approaches we can find. We would like you to read the suggested readings in preparation plus looking for one alternative approach which can be either a concept for the globalised economy, an idea for local, regional or national economies or an approach that is already implemented in a specific context. We want to discuss together how we can envision global socioeconomic development in the future in times of post-pandemic, the climate crisis and global injustice.

Required readings:

- Kothari, A., DeMaria, F., A costa, A. (2015). *Buen Vivir, Degrowth, and Ecological Swaraj: Alternatives to sustainable development and the Green Economy*. Society for International Development 1011-6370/15, *Development* 57(3–4), 362–375. DOI:10.1057/dev.2015.24
- Chiengkul, P. (2018). *The degrowth movement: alternative economic practices and relevance to developing countries*. *Alternatives*, 43(2), 81-95.

Additional readings:

- Hickel, J. & Kallis, Giorgos (2019). *Is Green Growth Possible?*. *New Political Economy*. DOI: 10.1080/13563467.2019.1598964.
- Joy, J., Tschakert, P., Waisman, H., Abdul Halim, S., Antwi-Agyei, P., Dasgupta, P., Okereke, C., & Pinho, P. F. (2018). *Sustainable development, poverty eradication and reducing inequalities*. In: *Global warming of 1.5°*