

Major Debates in International Development

Course number: 34:970:660

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Meeting times and location: Tuesday 9:50 am-12:30 pm,
Civic Square Building Room 369

Office hours: Thursdays 11-1pm, Civic Square Building, Room 353

Introduction

As of 2007, for the first time in history the majority of the world's population lives in urban areas. While urbanization and economic development have had a positive historic correlation, uneven development and exclusion remain rampant realities even within generally high-income, well-developed cities. Today, one out of every six people in the world lives in sub-standard urban settlements, characterized by deficiencies in water and sanitation access, secure tenure of housing, and formal social inclusion in the political and socio-economic life of their city. Furthermore, estimations indicate that virtually all future urban population growth will occur in "least developed countries", and especially in small and medium-sized cities. How will such population growth in the poorest economic contexts impact and challenge the provision of basic services and healthy living conditions? This seminar will provide students with an introduction to the major enduring and new debates shaping discussions on how to address these challenges today and to improve human settlements moving forward, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. After discussing the importance of how "development" has been framed historically as well as its geographical representations in policy, four topical modules will provide students with a foundation to explore major debates and relevant frontiers of knowledge on: financing and strategizing development; housing; water & sanitation; and climate change.

Course Objectives and Rationale:

The main objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to a few of the key debates shaping approaches to development in the Global South. The course attempts to use examples from regions across the globe, though significant attention is paid to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa given that so much debate surrounds development approaches in this region. By the end of the course, students should be knowledgeable about the following:

1. demographic change and the urban-rural divide in development policy;
2. current major development strategies and debates about the effectiveness of international aid versus domestic reforms;
3. different visions of the role of housing in development and the debate around its accessibility, affordability, and adequacy;
4. the challenges of providing, pricing, and financing water and sanitation;
5. how climate change is differentially viewed in the Global South and Global North, and how cities might respond to environmental challenges (with a particular sensitivity to the vulnerabilities of the urban poor).

For the course sector modules, two strategies of introduction to debates and issues in international development are used. In particular, the readings follow one of two models:

1. One broad introductory survey piece, followed by two examples of somewhat opposing or different perspectives on the issue/debate presented in the survey piece;
2. A seminal research paper arguing one case; a second seminal research paper arguing a case in contrast to the first; a third paper with an “outside” perspective, or one presenting empirical evidence to help us consider the debate in terms outside those presented by the central research articles.

General Course Expectations:

1. I give great consideration to what readings are assigned – their purpose as well as their length. As such, I expect you to have completed all the readings assigned. Do not expect, for example, that you can complete the readings assigned in one night simply because there are only two or three articles to read. The readings can be dense and take time to get through.
2. Class participation is not an option, but a major requirement. Clearly this also means attendance is critical – if you miss more than two classes, your grade will suffer. Why? You will note that a substantial portion of your overall grade for this course is based on your active participation in class. What does that mean? It means that you will (as noted above) complete all readings before class meets and you will engage in discussion every week – not just some weeks. What does “engaging in discussion” mean? I do not expect you to reveal the new paradigm of development or the most enlightening thought ever thought in class discussions – though such delightful contribution is welcomed. What I do want is to know what you think, what you understood from readings, what you did not understand in the readings, what stood out to you as a good argument, what you did not take favor with, what you think the important questions are which remain or simply what questions came to your mind when reading, what are similarities between the topics highlighted in the readings with other issues or places you know of, etc. As part of your class participation grade (noted further below), you (and a colleague) will present a summary introduction to one week’s readings and will lead your other colleagues with questions in discussing that week’s readings.
3. There will be no time extensions granted for assignments.
4. Plagiarism or cheating in any manner is not tolerated and will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment in question. Please see the updated Academic Integrity document up on the web - <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml#I> Please familiarize yourselves with this document, as ANY violations of this code will be handled as per University policy.

Assignments and Grading:

60 % Term paper:

The major course assignment is a term paper on one of the four modules (1. financing/strategizing development; 2. housing; 3. water & sanitation; or 4. climate change) covered in class. You may choose the specific module/issue, but will need to secure my approval for the approach you will take on your paper, and the specific location you will focus on.

For example:

- A. You choose to write a paper concentrating on the water and sanitation module;
- B. You propose to me what issues or question within the water & sanitation debate you will write on for your paper, and propose a location of focus;
- C. We agree that you will concentrate on the privatization debate in water and sanitation provision for the urban poor in a city in Argentina;
- D. You decide to write about the privatization of water services in Buenos Aires and the impact of such privatization on the accessibility of water services to the urban poor in the city's peripheries.

The paper should be at least 20 pages, and should NOT EXCEED 30 pages. They should be double-spaced, and in 12pt font, Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins.

Everyone will be assigned a “draft feedback partner” for their paper. You will prepare a draft of your paper and bring in a hard copy of it for our meeting Week 9, or March 24th. You will present your draft in class. Again, this is a DRAFT – I expect you to present a summary to your colleagues of what your research topic is, what is the major issue or question you are exploring in your paper, what are the difficulties you might be finding in conducting your research, what are some enlightening revelations you have found in your research, what you feel you need help with moving forward. This presentation will count toward your class participation grade, but I mention it here as well to ensure you see it. Your assigned draft feedback partner will provide you (and me) with written comments on your work, due April 7th in class.

In summary – a calendar approach to your paper:

1. By Week 6 (February 24th), you propose your paper topic to me. Prepare brief one-page statement – a paragraph or two indicating your topic/question and location of interest, followed by a few relevant references you have found on the topic/location.
2. By Week 9 (March 24th), you prepare a draft paper and present it in class.
3. By Week 11 (April 7th), you provide written feedback on your draft partner's paper (providing him/her AND me with the written feedback – in hard copy form).
4. FINAL PAPERS due MAY 5th – in both hard copy and electronic version (i.e., you should email it to me, but you will also need to leave a hard copy of your paper in my mailbox on the 3rd floor of CSB by 12pm (Noon) on May 5th).

40% Class participation:

Your class participation grade will be assessed by the following:

- a. 10% your weekly contributions to classroom discussions. *Please note that if I suspect that you are not completing your readings for class or am unsatisfied with*

classroom discussion, I will request that you start bringing into class a one-page reaction to the readings.

- b. 10% your presentation of research challenges and feats in preparing your draft paper and your written feedback to your draft paper partner's draft.
- c. 20% leading of discussion for one week's readings. This is a group/partner assignment. Leading discussion means that you and your colleague(s) (you may have to partner with more than one student, depending on the number of students registering for this class) will come to class and provide an introduction/summary to the week's readings and will suggest questions for discussion with your class colleagues. **Note that a sign-up sheet will be circulated in class for you to choose which of the four module-session weeks you will lead discussion on.**

Readings

NOTES:

1. All readings will be made available on Sakai. In addition, I may occasionally add a news or current event article to the list below.
2. There are a few readings for which I indicate which pages in particular you are assigned to read. However, otherwise, you are expected to complete the entire reading listed.

Week 1 (Jan 20) – Framing “Development”

How and who defines, measures, and evaluates “Development”?

Crewe, E. and Harrison, E. (1998) “Chapter 1 - Development Aid: Successes and Failures” in *Whose Development? An Ethnography of Aid*. London: Zed Books. **READ PAGES 1-19.**

Escobar, A. (1997) “Chapter 8 – The Making and Unmaking of the Third World Through Development”, in *The Post-Development Reader*, eds. M. Rahnema & V. Bawtree, London: Zed Books, pp.85-93.

Frank, L. (1997) “Chapter 26 – The Development Game”, in *The Post-Development Reader*, eds. M. Rahnema & V. Bawtree, London: Zed Books, pp. 263-273.

Week 2 (Jan 27) – Targeting Geographies

What is the most appropriate unit of analysis in understanding the dynamics of geography and poverty? Should development be geographically targeted?

National Research Council (2003) “Chapter 2: Why Location Matters”, in *Cities Transformed: Demographic Change and Its Implications in the Developing World*. Panel on Urban Population Dynamics, M.R. Montgomery, R. Stren, B. Cohen, and H.E. Reed, eds., Committee on Population, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.

Corbridge, S. and Jones, G. (2005) *The continuing debate about urban bias: the thesis, its critics, its influence, and implications for poverty reduction*. Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK. E-resource: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/12590/>

MODULE 1 – FINANCING and STRATEGIZING DEVELOPMENT

Week 3 (Feb 3) – The Debate on Development Strategies

What path to “development” - transformative, comprehensive approaches or project-led/piecemeal efforts at improving living conditions of the poor? Why are we still talking about “development” after over 50 years of strategic development work?

Sachs, J. et al (2004) *Ending Africa’s Poverty Trap*, Brookings Papers on Economic Activity No. 2: 117-216, August 2004. **READ PAGES 117-151; 167-187**

Easterly, W. (2008) *Can the West Save Africa*, NBER Working Paper 14363, **READ PAGES 1-46.**

Moore, M. (2001) “Political Underdevelopment: What causes ‘bad governance’”, in *Public Management Review*, Vol.3, Issue 3, pp.385-418.

Week 4 (Feb 10) – Aid Donors and Governance Reforms

How does foreign aid hinder or help development? Do governance issues determine development? To what extent do the two (aid and governance) weigh on development “successes” or “failures”?

Burnside, C. and Dollar, D. (2004) *Aid, Policies, and Growth: Revisiting the Evidence*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3251, March 2004.

Polidano C. (2001) “Why Civil Service Reforms Fail” in *Public Management Review*, Vol. 3, Issue 3, pp.345-361.

Warren-Rodriguez, A. (2008) *Putting Aid on Budget*, A Study for the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) and the Strategic Partnership with Africa (SPA). E-resource:

[http://www.africa-sbo.org/cabri/uploads/AOBMozambiqueReport\(April08final\).pdf](http://www.africa-sbo.org/cabri/uploads/AOBMozambiqueReport(April08final).pdf)
READ PAGES 1-41

Week 5 (Feb 17) – Fiscal Decentralization and Locally-led Development

Do locally managed and domestically financed development projects more effectively secure equitable development and accountability? At what level of management do different development goals work best?

Smoke, P. (2001) *Fiscal Decentralization in Developing Countries: A Review of Current Concepts and Practice*. Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Programme Paper Number 2, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Devas, N. (2001) “Does City Governance Matter for the Urban Poor?”, in *International Planning Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 4. pp.393-408.

Jenkins, P. (2000) “Urban management, urban poverty and urban governance: planning and land management in Maputo”, in *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol.12, No. 1.pp 137-152.

MODULE 2 - HOUSING

Week 6 (Feb 24) – Homeownership as Silver Bullet?

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

What is the primary role of housing in development – as an economic asset or a human right? How important is homeownership to development outcomes? How do government housing policies targeting homeownership differ from policies targeting “shelter”?

De Soto, H. (2000) “Chapter Three - The Mystery of Capital” in *The Mystery of Capital*,

Krueckeberg, D. (2004) “The Lessons of John Locke or Hernando de Soto: What if Your Dreams Come True?” *Housing Policy Debate* 15, no.1: 1-24

Marcuse, P. (2004) “Comment on Donald A. Krueckeberg’s ‘The Lessons of John Locke or Hernando de Soto: What if Your Dreams Come True?’”, *Housing Policy Debate* 15, no.1: 39-48.

Week 7 (March 3) – Markets – Subsidies for What and Whom?

In what role can governments be most effective in the housing sector? In what role are private sector housing interests most effective? How should governments design housing subsidies?

World Bank (1993) “Executive Summary” in *Housing: Enabling Markets to Work*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.**pp.1-8**

World Bank (1993) “Chapter 2 – Understanding How the Housing Sector Works”, in *Housing: Enabling Markets to Work*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.**pp.19-37**

UN-HABITAT (2005) “Chapter 5 – Financing for Social and Rental Housing” in *The Global Report on Human Settlements: Financing Urban Shelter*, Nairobi: UN-HABITAT.**pp.87-97.**

Week 8 (March 10) – Self-help Housing

If households can building housing more cheaply and to their own liking, why not support their efforts to build “self-help” housing?

Turner, J. (1972) “Chapter 6 – The Reeducation of a Professional”, in *Freedom to Build*, eds. J. Turner and R. Fichter, New York: The MacMillan Company.

Burgess, R. (1992) “Helping Some to Help Themselves: Third World Housing Policies and Development Strategies” in *Beyond Self-Help Housing*, ed. K. Mathéy. London: Mansell Publishing Limited, A Cassell Imprint.

Stein, A. and Vance, I. (2008) “The role of housing finance in addressing the needs of the urban poor: lessons from Central America” in *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 20, No. 1.

MARCH 17 – SPRING RECESS

Week 9 (March 24) – **In-class presentation and discussion of draft papers**

MODULE 3 – WATER AND SANITATION

Week 10 (March 31) - Whose responsibility? A survey of providers

Who is responsible for providing water and sanitation services? Who is best able to provide water and sanitation services?

UN HABITAT (2003) Excerpt of “Chapter 5 – Changing Perspectives and Roles in Urban Water and Sanitation Provision: Privatization and Beyond” in *Water and Sanitation in the World’s Cities: Local Action for Global Goals*. London: Earthscan.
READ pp.167 – 172.

Ahmed, N. and Sohail, M. (2003) “Alternate water supply arrangements in peri-urban localities: awami (people’s) tanks in Orangi township, Karachi” in *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 15, No.2.

Doe, S. and Sohail Khan, M. (2004) “The boundaries and limits of community management: Lessons from the water sector in Ghana”, in *Community Development Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 4.

Solo, Tova Maria (1999) "Small-Scale Entrepreneurs in the Urban Water and Sanitation Market." *Environment and Urbanization* Vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 117-131.

Week 11 (April 7) – At what cost? For whose benefit?

WRITTEN FEEDBACK DUE to your draft paper feedback partner (and me)

What have contingent valuations and cost-benefit analyses taught us about water provision? What is feasible and what is appropriate in pricing water? What are assumptions being made about water in pricing exercises?

Rakodi, C. (2000) “‘Getting the Pipe Laid is One Matter and Getting the Water Flowing through the Pipe is Another’: User Views on Public-sector Urban Water Provision in

Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Ghana and India,” in *International Planning Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 365-391.

Gulyani, S. et al. (2005) “Universal (Non)Service? Water Markets, Household Demand, and the Poor in Urban Kenya” in *Urban Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 8:1-27

Whittington, D. et al. (2004) “An economic reappraisal of the Melamchi water supply project – Kathmandu, Nepal” in *Portuguese Economic Journal*, Vol. 3 pp.157-178.

Galiani, S., Gertler, P., and Schargrotsky, E. (2002) *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality*, Working Paper, Berkeley, CA: Haas Business School, University of California at Berkeley.

Week 12 (April 14) – Financing water & sanitation services: vulnerability & innovations
What is the current frontier of knowledge on what works and why in providing and mobilizing financing for water and sanitation services for the urban poor? If we have the answers, why are we still discussing how to best finance water and sanitation for the urban poor?

Evans, Barbara (2007). *Understanding the Urban Poor’s Vulnerabilities in Sanitation and Water Supply*. Paper prepared for the Rockefeller Foundation Urban Summit in Bellagio, July 2007.

IRC (2007) *Innovations in Financing Urban Water & Sanitation*, Paper prepared for the Rockefeller Foundation Urban Summit in Bellagio, July 2007.

MODULE 4: ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITIES

Week 13 (April 21) – Understanding Climate Change
Whose Responsibility? Whose vulnerability?

Leary, N. (2006) *For Whom the Bell Tolls: Vulnerabilities in a Changing Climate*, AIACC Working Paper No. 21, published by Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change (AIACC). E-resource: www.aiaccproject.org.

Nordhaus, T. and Shellenberger, M. (2007) “The Pollution Paradigm” in *Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Baer, P. (2006) “Adaptation: Who Pays Whom?” in *Fairness in Adaptation to Climate Change*, eds. W.N. Adger, J. Paavola, S. Huq, M.J. Mace. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

Week 14 (April 28) – Mitigation and Adaptation: Urban Responses to Climate Change
How can cities in the Global South both mitigate and adapt to climate change challenges? Are climate change challenges the right priority target for governments?

McGranahan, G. et al (2001) “Urban Affluence and Shifting Environmental Burdens” Chapter 2 in *The Citizens at Risk: From Urban Sanitation to Sustainable Cities*. London: Earthscan.

Huq, S. et al (2007) “Editorial: Reducing risks to cities from disasters and climate change” in *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 19, No. 1.

de Sherbinin, A. et al (2007) “The Vulnerability of Global Cities to Climate Hazards”, in *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 19, No. 1.

**FINAL PAPERS DUE TUESDAY MAY 5th in electronic and hard copy forms.
Place hard copies in my mailbox on the 3rd floor of CSB by 12pm/Noon.**

Some useful research resources and internet sites (i.e. – for your research papers)

World Bank

International Institute for Environment and Development (www.iied.org)

African Development Bank

Asian Development Bank

Inter-American Development Bank

Dark Roast working paper series, Isandla Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

WaterAid

Water and Sanitation Program (WSP.org)

Other particular websites:

<http://www.nber.org>

<http://unmp.forumone.com/>

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/about.shtm>

<http://www.makingcitieswork.org/toolsAndResources/urbanResources/MCWLibrary/search>

http://www.idd.bham.ac.uk/research/working_papers/urbangov_wp.htm

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/DPU/publications/working_papers.htm#

Journals of interest

International Journal of Urban and Regional Research;

International Planning Studies;

Environment and Urbanization;

World Development

Development and Change

Community Development Journal

Environment and Planning A (spatial reorganization/restructuring)

Environment and Planning B (planning and design)

Environment and Planning C (government and policy)

Environment and Planning D (society and space)

Economy and Society

And countless more, especially journals or institutions that are regionally or sector specific...ask me and I'll be happy to provide you with further recommendations.