

## **THEMATIC SESSIONS:**

### **1. CLIMATE CHANGE, CONFLICT AND LIVELIHOODS**

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This session explores the interlinkages between climate change, conflict and livelihoods. Changes in the ecosystem influence human well-being. Societies, in particular in the developing world, are dependent on climate-sensitive economies, such as rain-fed agriculture, making them more vulnerable to environmental stress, such as climatic variability manifested in droughts and floods. Changes in the hydrological cycle as predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change can therefore lead to increased vulnerability and hence food insecurity and poverty. Poverty can increase political instability through horizontal inequalities. People's livelihoods often depend on natural resources, such as water, land or timber. Changes in the availability of these resources through climate change and other environmental changes, coupled with demographic changes and political factors are increasingly recognized by scholars and policymakers as causes of conflict, on both, the local and national level. As emerging research on conflict shows, and this session seeks to demonstrate that conflict, in particular in the developing world, is not independent from environmental factors. On the other hand, and what is often overlooked, the sustainable use of natural resources can be a driver of livelihoods restoration, peacebuilding, and indeed economic prosperity.

### **2. BIO-FUEL – DEVELOPMENT FOR WHOM?**

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### **3. GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND EMERGING DISEASES**

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The new global situation has numerous impacts on health. Most prominent in media are the emerging infectious diseases, either totally new diseases or re-emerging epidemics of "old" diseases. Factors like climate changes, economic setback with failure of previously established control strategies, man-made environment changes and behavioural factors are involved. Pandemics or local epidemics of new pathogens like SARS, avian and other flues etc. can be explained by such factors. Climate changes increase the geographical transmission area of mosquito born infections like malaria and dengue fever. Environmental and climate changes might also increase the likelihood to get tick bites and associated lyme disease and encephalitis in longer parts of the year and over larger geographical areas. Mosquito control, which reduced important killers like malaria and other tropical viruses, has got less economic support the last decades, resulting in epidemics of mosquito born diseases in the warm climates. Mosquito born viral diseases emerge in new continents related to any kind of long distance transport and bird migration. Poverty and disorganisation following political disruptions and natural disasters adds to climatic change and global warming to develop possibilities for emerging infections to create an increasing burden on health, livelihood and prosperity.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: CATASTROPHES ONLY FOR THE POOR?**

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##### **Introduction: The role and importance of environmental hazards**

Despite the on-going financial crisis, it is generally accepted in the international community that environmental hazards are the biggest threat to human livelihood. Since 1970, approximately 4, 6 billion people have been affected by natural disasters, either in the form of destruction of houses and property, economic losses, evacuation, health damages or deaths. IPCC (The International Panel on Climatic Change) is clear on the fact that the main culprit causing these hazards is the last years' climatic changes which have led to an increased number of natural disasters. Today, approximately 3, 4 billions people live in areas that are exposed to natural disasters. The number of people affected by natural disasters has increased from 211 to 256 millions per year since the 1990s.

##### **Disasters and the poverty issue**

A striking feature regarding these disasters is that they do not affect humanity evenly: "Those usually most affected by natural and other disasters are the poor and socially disadvantaged groups in developing countries as they are less equipped to cope with them". In line with this, the World Bank states: "There is ample evidence that poverty is the most important trigger which turns hazards into disasters". Consequently, in order to meet the challenges ahead; "sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction must be mutually supportive objectives". In a nut shell, this implies that to reduce the negative consequences of natural disasters, the poverty problem has to be addressed as natural disasters can be both created and worsened by social and economic conditions. In addition to poverty, other important social factors leading to disaster increment, such as over-population and urbanization must be addressed.

##### **Important issues and topics for the session**

In this session we will shed light on three fundamental relationships; that between societies and their natural environment; that between disasters and sustainable development; and that between short term emergency activities, and long, term development activities.

Important topics to be raised will be:

- Consequences of the interrelationships between societies and their natural environments
- Natural research management, poverty reduction and disaster mitigation
- Local communities as actors in disaster reduction and emergency management
- Linking development and emergency activities
- Understanding the particularities of disaster affected communities
- Major weaknesses of present emergency assistance systems
- The relationship between governance and disasters.
- Natural hazards' impacts on human livelihoods at macro, medio and micro levels.
- Capacities needed at the community and national levels to manage risk.
- The relationship between societal factors such as poverty, over-population and urbanization, and natural disasters.

## 5. DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS

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Because financial institutions in most underdeveloped economies are very little integrated into the international financial system, the international financial crisis has not had much *direct* impact on these countries. However, indirect effects have been severe and may have long term negative consequences, especially in sub-Saharan countries and some Latin American countries. The World Bank has reported that in Africa, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa are severely exposed to these effects. Much the same applies to several countries in Latin America, for example Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil and Jamaica, as well as and countries in Asia, for example Pakistan, Bangladesh and The Philippines. There are in particular five categories of indirect effects:

- Reduced workers' remittances leading to reduced foreign exchange inflows, as well as reduced consumption, production and investments in the recipient countries. (For 2003, the IMF has estimated total remittance flows to developing countries to 104 billion US\$, exceeding official development assistance by 75%. In 2004, the remittance flows to the top 20 developing country recipients accounted for between 9 and 24% of GDP.)
- Return of migrant workers to their home countries where they find no jobs and add to the burden of their families and the economy as a whole.
- Reduced exports and reduced prices of export crops and raw materials in general, leading to foreign exchange losses, increasing balance of payments problems and production shortfall.
- Reduced foreign direct investments (FDI).
- Increased problems in obtaining long term credits as well as short term import credits. (The average difference of the rate of developing countries' sovereign bonds compared to the interest rate on US bonds rose from 2.5% in 2007, to 7.5% in 2007, and is predicted to be around 7% in 2009.)
- Stagnation or even reduction of foreign aid.

Action Aid has estimated that total financial inflows to Africa will drop by 13% or 49 billion US\$ from 2007 to 2009, with grave consequences for economic growth. Panel 6 intends to pay special attention to these indirect effects of the international financial crisis.

## 6. THE IMPACT OF THE NEW GLOBAL POWERS

**Coordinator:** Lars Harald Bockman, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo.

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## 7. CULTURAL FLOWS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

**Coordinator:** Oddvar Hollup, University of Agder.

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This session invites contributions that address the issues of cultural flows whereby globalization has changed the nature of boundaries, space and international migration. Which implications do this have on cultural change and development? And what are the reaction of local communities and their articulation with global forces and symbols.

## 8. URBANIZATION

**Coordinator:** Jonathan Baker, University of Agder.

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We are in the midst of what can be termed the urban transition which represents a process whereby countries in the South have recently become urbanized or are close to achieving this status. According to UN data, 2007 marks the year when more than half the global population became urban for the first time in human history. However, there are areas of the South which are still more rural than urban. An illustration is sub-Saharan Africa where the majority of people live in rural areas. Although by 2025, more than 50 per cent of the region's population will be living in towns and cities. The urbanization process is producing deep rooted changes and adaptations and consequently will throw up a number of challenges which require major policy responses, as well as a greater research focus.

Papers are invited which contribute to an increased understanding of the dimensions and richness of the urban experience in the South. Below are some broad themes which may provide some ideas and pointers for paper topics.

- Defining what is considered as 'urban'. The problem of scale and size.
- Rural-urban interaction and linkages. The interdependence of the two sectors.
- Government intervention in urban affairs: A problem to be 'solved' or a development issue ?
- The dimensions of urban poverty. The range of survival strategies adopted by vulnerable groups and individuals: examples of informalisation, urban agriculture, as well as a range of other activities.
- Opportunities and constraints for women and youths in the city.
- The city as a refuge and a 'liberating space' for migrants escaping the 'confines' of the city.
- Urban health, hygiene and environmental threats.
- The role of urban planning in resolving urban problems.
- The challenges facing cities as a result of climate change

## 9. REPAIRING NEO-LIBERALISM? RIGHTS, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA

**Coordinator:** Benedicte Bull, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo.

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For more than 20 years, the Latin American economies have been guided by neo-liberal policies aimed at giving the market a larger role in production and distribution of goods and services. The neo-liberal policies have been associated with a radical restructuring of the economy that set off a process of transnationalization of business, large scale economic migration and a redefinition of the relationship between the state and citizens. The negative effect this had on social cohesion and economic distribution in many countries is a key factor explaining the rise of regimes rejecting completely a market-oriented model in for example Venezuela and Bolivia. However, the majority of countries are rather in a process of "repairing" neo-liberalism. For example, while initially the redefinition of state-society relations included mainly the removal of prior corporatist and statist linkages, it has also involved an expansion of formal rights to property and survival. At the same time, new efforts are made to make the new transnational economy compatible with broad social goals through assigning new responsibilities to companies and other non-governmental actors. This panel welcomes contributions that address initiatives, strategies, processes, policies or projects that somehow may involve a modification of the market-orientation to make it compatible with social goals such as poverty reduction, land distribution, equity, gender equality, and sustainable development.

## 10. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND THE NEW LEFT IN LATIN AMERICA

**Coordinator:** Hanne Haaland, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)/University of Agder.  
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## 11. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

**Coordinators:** Bjørn-Tore Blindheim, University of Stavanger and Ragnhild Madland, University of Agder.

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Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a key developmental and governance issue in recent years. Partly in response to criticism of existing business policy and practice, voluntary CSR initiatives are evolving among firms operating in a developing context. These initiatives involve codes of conduct, reporting, certification, corporate social investment, environmental management and multiple forms of "partnership" with civil society and public servants.

What responsibility lies with the private sector to promote economic development - through the CSR programmes of large corporations? Does CSR have the potential to redefine the meaning of good business practice as meeting the needs of poor and marginalised groups? Or is the business of business, business? Is CSR only a marketing strategy of corporations, or is CSR having a real implications for development and governance?

## 12. DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT INTERACTION

**Coordinators:** Tewodros A. Kebede and Anne Hatløy from Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies (AIS).

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The involvement of private sector through its focus on corporate social responsibility is a phenomena that is increasingly playing an important role in shaping development agendas and activities throughout the world. This focus is triggered by the involvement of Non-profit NGOs in bringing focus and attention that are directly or indirectly associated with industries. The chocolate producing industry is a case in point where the industry is collaborating with the government of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire in addressing the issue of child labor including worst forms of child labor in addition to addressing forced adult labor practices. This interaction between the government, industry and NGOs has resulted in shaping national plans and project interventions. To what extent such interactions are resulting in changes in development strategies as well as the dynamics of this change are interesting phenomena that are important to explore. This panel is open to papers that address the role of industries, NGOs and governments and to what extent their interaction has resulted in changes to development policies and the dynamics thereof.

## 13. MICROFINANCE AS A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

**Coordinators:** Titus Tenga and Øyvind Aadland, Strømme Foundation.

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#### **14. THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZED SECURITY DISCOURSES ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN POST-CONFLICT AREAS**

**Coordinator:** Ingrid Nyborg, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Noragric).

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In this panel we would like to explore the various ways in which security discourses may influence local development, particularly in post-conflict contexts. Here we refer to the particular way in which development issues and needs are defined in post-conflict situations, which may or may not reflect an understanding of either what the effects of the conflict have been on livelihoods, nor an understanding of how to promote livelihood revival in situations which may continue to be quite volatile. Papers for this panel could include analyses of international, national and local security discourses in light of discourses on development and on securitization of development, paying attention to how they may influence each other in different contexts. Papers could also address how different actors in development, including local governments, interpret their roles and responsibilities in a post-conflict environment where livelihoods have been severely disrupted and security concerns provide an added dimension to their activities, and how this influences the way in which development initiatives are designed and implemented. Likewise, papers are encouraged which focus on how local women, men and children experience post-conflict development initiatives, particularly in terms of how such initiatives interface with local livelihood strategies, perceptions of security, visions of development, power relations and institutions. We are hoping for papers linking policy and practice, macro and micro perspectives, and encourage case studies from a diverse range of post-conflict contexts.

#### **15. WAR, CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF MILITARY ACTORS IN THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT SETTING**

**Coordinator:** Arne Strand, Chr.Michelsen Institute (CMI).

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We have witnessed a blurring of lines between military forces, development agencies and humanitarian organisations when it comes to involvement in development project and delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict situations. The expressed intentions of the international military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan has been to “win hearts and minds” as part of a counterinsurgency strategy. Generous budgets are made available for the military forces or for development advisors attached to the military contingents or the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have raised a concern over increased security threat to their staff and that the military violate the guidelines developed for civilian/military relations in complex emergencies.

However, in a development perspective, there a further number of dilemmas that require further attention which might hold importance for rehabilitation and development processes in countries emerging from conflicts:

- What development criteria do the military forces/advisors apply in their project and beneficiary selection?
- Do project identification processes include and promote a representative involvement of beneficiary communities?
- Do such projects take into account national development plans and strategies, or priorities made by elected or representative national or local authorities?
- Are projects subject to independent monitoring and evaluation, and what sustainability requirements are applied, including hand-over to local authorities and/or communities?
- Is there any form of collaboration and planning efforts between the different military contingents /PRTs?

## 16. RESEARCHING GENDER AND WELFARE IN AFRICA

**Coordinator:** Hege Wallevik, Agder Research.

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In development practice the feminization of poverty is a well-known phenomenon that has prompted a strong effort to equalize access and consumption of welfare in a wide sense. Consequently, one has argued for and worked towards ensuring that women can take part in economic and social development on an equal footing with men. This includes access to welfare benefits and social services as well as opportunities to generate welfare in the form of income opportunities, both informally and formally. The concept of gender is highly contested and links between the concepts of gender, welfare and development are debated. Still, we often seem to struggle with stereotypical images - of women in particular and the links between gender, welfare and development in general. How we can overcome such simplifications are of importance to development research.

For this session we invite papers that focus on gender, or research with a gender perspective, related to welfare and development in a wide sense. We particularly invite papers which critically examine and explore into this topic; across disciplines and methodological approaches, with the cross-cultural dimension of doing development research in mind. Papers which addresses gaps between concepts used and lived experiences are of interest. Papers on experiences with how gender also intervenes with research practice; from conceptualizing research problems and doing fieldwork to the implementing of research results are also welcomed.

## 17. MOBILITY AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

**Coordinator:** Smita Mishra Panda, Human Development Foundation, Orissa, India.

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Integration of social and economic systems of Indigenous peoples<sup>1</sup> into the global economy through market driven forces is happening all around the world. The current global financial crisis has also contributed to the process of change and impact on the indigenous communities. The new setting has intensified certain consequences like increasing conflicts between the mainstream and indigenous populations due to differential benefits accessed by both. It is more often than not that the indigenous communities find it cumbersome to adjust to such changes and are priced out of the economy where their identity and rights marginalized to a great extent. The panel at hand would specifically look at liberalization, mobility and marginalization of indigenous rights with an emphasis on the gender dimension in the context of globalization and more specifically the new financial crisis.

Indigenous communities are generally characterized by close kinship and clan structures and community bonds accompanied by a strong sense of identity as well as higher position of women in them as compared with the mainstream population. They have by and large remained outside systems of accumulation engaged in subsistence agriculture along with forest gathering. They inhabit remote forest hill regions having abundant natural resources, minerals, characterized by high biodiversity. Furthermore, what is also observed is that there is a confluence of low social indicators – such as high incidence of poverty, low literacy rates particularly among women, high rates of mal-nutrition among children etc. Their habitats now witness market driven activities that have triggered privatization forces to access productive resources such as land, forest, minerals and other environmental resources, etc. by external agencies and multinationals that have high investment capacities. There are several examples to illustrate from the developing world, the linkages between the natural environment and basic human rights in the backdrop of conflicts between the multinational companies and indigenous

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Indigenous peoples are known by a variety of names in different parts of the world – ethnic minorities, minority nationalities, cultural communities, scheduled tribes, hill tribes and mountainous communities to name a few.

communities. There is ample evidence to show how human rights violation has taken place – economic, political, civil, social and cultural rights. The nature of conflict and struggle indicates how the indigenous have sought to defend their lands, livelihoods, culture and identity, more so in the new global setting.

The irony is that indigenous communities are already marginal in the context of current development – politically as they have marginal representation in politics and as organized political parties, economically they have a negligible role to play in labour markets, in capital markets as investors and in commodity markets as consumers. They are also marginal so far as their world view is concerned, usually being discarded as ‘primitive’. It is therefore inevitable that the current process of globalization and liberalization, the new setting as it is being referred to, will further marginalize the indigenous communities. It has already begun among several indigenous peoples around the world. The process is complex and what is generally observed is that the indigenous is more often than not exploited, displaced as their territories are submerged by big dams or mining companies. There are innumerable accounts available from studies around the world suggesting processes and consequences of global forces affecting the indigenous. Consequences may be manifested in the form of people’s movements, protests and conflicts with other communities. Migration and mobility is another consequence that has led to loss of identity and marginalization of their rights. Changes within the social structures of indigenous communities is simultaneously taking place in terms of social, economic and gender relations that has implications for their identity, culture and language, leading to further marginalization. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find ways of how to safeguard the socio-cultural and environmental rights of the indigenous communities. The challenge lies there and more so in the context of the new global setting.

Against this backdrop the main objectives of the session are:

- 1) To understand the complex processes of interface between liberalization, mobility and marginalization among indigenous communities
- 2) To understand the marginalization of indigenous rights and the gender dimensions therein
- 3) To engage with process of economic globalization and the current global financial crisis (by not dismissing them) and look for constructive ways to help the indigenous communities to carve out a decent life and livelihood as citizens.

## **18. ICT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Coordinators:** Devinder Thapa and Janis Gailis, University of Agder.

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Although there is much rhetoric of information and communication technologies (ICT) for development, ICT itself is not a panacea. ICT can be an instrumental for development, if implemented in an effective way. Giving specific guidance through media channels on effective implementation of ICT artifacts, it can enhance the impact level on human, financial, natural, physical, and social capital. Similarly, enhances the accessibility of remote communities to global market. Consequently, reduces the digital gap between urban and remote areas vis-à-vis between developing and developed countries. As a result, most of the jobs concentrated in the urban centers can be disseminated through the use of ICT, which can reduce the migration of skilled population from remote to urban areas and improve the communal harmony. Then only we can realize the true meaning of the flat world.

The workshop on Information communication and Technology for Development (ICT4D) will be organized to address the global ICT issues, opportunities and effects of ICT on economic, social, and human development. It endeavors to advance research and practice in the development of scalable IT infrastructures in the context of developing countries. The topic of this workshop is Information and communication Technology as a subject in economical, social, human, and educational programs in developing countries. The aim of this workshop is to accelerate discussion and theoretical

development of the multidimensional roles of ICT for development. The scope is broad and acceptable topics ranges from theory development relevant to ICT for development, to practical solutions that solve socio-economic problems in developing regions; and promoting ICT based education.

The following are a list of sub-topics. However, topics are not limited to the following sub-topics. Submitted research may be theoretical, conceptual, analytical, or empirical in nature.

#### TOPICS ADDRESSED:

- ICT for education, Social awareness of ICT and ICT literacy
- Impact of ICT on economic, social, and human capitals
- Comparative cross-regional research, comparing ICT and IS education in developing and developed economies
- Conceptual and theoretical perspectives on ICT for development issues
- Role of free/open source software in ICT strategies, eGovernment and in IS education in developing countries
- ICT based distance learning for ICT and IS education
- Success factors, best practices and assessment methods for ICT based projects
- eGovernment issues in developing countries
- Role of theory in ICT for development (ICT4D) research that will underpin research on the typical issues facing developing countries
- Parallel role of Micro-financing and ICT for development

### 19. GLOBAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

**Coordinators:** Anne Marie Støkken and Ståle Angen Rye, University of Agder.

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Education for all is a well-established aim in development policy and well recognised among most societies. Despite that, millions of youth around the world do not have proper access to education. At the same time global market for education is fast growing and has become a new context for national educational policy. New communication technology (ICT) is central. Although many students benefit from the new technology, many are left out and excluded from the digital networks. A digital divide, reflecting social and economic inequality, mirrors huge variations between regions in the world, and between people within poor countries. These trends raise serious challenges for all countries and this session aims to discuss some of these challenges.

### 20. MEDIA AND DEVELOPMENT: NEW TECHNOLOGIES, OLD ISSUES?

**Coordinators:** Oddgeir Tveiten, University of Agder and Terje Skjerdal, Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication.

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Communication and technology is ingrained in most aspects of development – in research, planning, politics, and education. Communication studies in a range of academic disciplines thus refer to common backgrounds – in media studies, anthropology, journalism studies, political science, information science, library science, development planning – the list goes on. This panel looks particularly at how new media technological developments in recent years invite research and debate at the intersection of scientific disciplines.

Accordingly, the panel solicits contributions that relate theoretically and philosophically to the identification of crossdisciplinary challenges in studies of technology, media and development.

Secondly, the panel solicits papers dealing with policy issues and development experiences relating to the same cross disciplinary challenge

## **21. CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSES**

**Coordinators:** Hans Kjetil Lysgård, University of Agder and Jørn Cruickshank, Agder Research.

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In view of the rapid and profound global changes there is a need to develop new ways of grasping poverty and inequality issues. For this purpose we believe that critical perspectives on development can contribute with creative ideas. Development research often study local cultures, local management and economic organization in recipient countries on the one hand, or development policies in the donor countries when it comes to its content and effects on the fight against poverty on the other. It is more rare to see studies of the manner in which aid and research on aid is partly structured by meaning structures or discourses in the developed world. These discourses limits at the same time as they make it possible to bring about both the indigent and the relief measures. Seen in this perspective development practice follows unsaid and taken-for-granted schemes or stories that to a large degree establishes the room for maneuvering for both development and research on development. The cultural turn in social sciences has provided us with a row of tools for performing research on the appearance of discourses, stories, metaphors, systems of symbols, conceptual frameworks, storylines etc.. This kind of knowledge makes us more conscious *that* development practice is constructed and also *how* discourses affect our way of grasping challenges of poverty and inequality. In a new global setting where conventional tools are proven to fail in both anticipating and grasping the complexity, this kind of research will increase reflexivity towards present practice and open the way for alternative strategies in the future; strategies that may be more suitable for the purpose. This session invites papers with a critical perspective, and especially those who employ a constructivist view towards the role of the symbolic and the ways in which we make development challenges meaningful in the developed part of the world.

## **22. DE-COLONISING RESEARCH: POWER, METHODOLOGY AND ETHICS**

**Coordinator:** Anne Ryen, University of Agder.

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The encounter between the Westerners as travelers, missionaries, colonialists or researchers and those of foreign places slowly came to influence perceptions of “the other” (Vidich and Lyman, 1994). However, by time criticism pointed to the objectifying and colonising gaze (Kincheloe and McLaren, 1994) in much of the Western research tradition. The criticism had relevance both to fieldwork and field relations as well as to writing up research including the implications of the reports to a wider audience (Clough, 1992, Marcus and Fisher, 1986, Clifford and Marcus, 1986). Critical voices from the South are reflected in concepts and perspectives such as orientalism, methodological imperialism, indigenisation, deparochialism and the captive mind (Asad 1973, Wallerstein 1996, Atal 2000, Mathur 2004, Smith 2005, Ryen 2007, 2008). Critical reflections are also reflected in emancipatory research, focus on asymmetrical power relations, reflexivity and “otherness” (Fine 1994). This applies to North/South as well as to South/South research.

For this session we invite papers that in a wide sense relate to de-colonising research, and explore and critique dominant research approaches. We also welcome papers on or experiences with alternative ways of knowing, using non-traditional methods, researching in pre-dominantly oral communities, and communicating with stakeholders to feed into processes of social change. Papers in this session may focus on theory, qualitative or quantitative methodology or methods, research in practice or other more practical relevant issues.

## 23. SAFETY, SECURITY REGIMES AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

**Coordinators:** Bjørn Ivar Kruke and Odd Einar Olsen, University of Stavanger

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In the new humanitarianism an increasing emphasis is placed on local knowledge and capacities in relief operations. However, recent complex emergencies (e.g. Darfur, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan) have shown weak and/or unwilling governments not fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities towards the population, and increasing targeting of humanitarian agencies. The security for field officers, both international and especially national, has decreased tremendously during the last years. The security dimensions may create several dilemma concerning responses to emerging crisis:

- Relief operations must be implemented in the conflict/crisis area. Remote controlled operations will still remain as the last option. The insecure environment creates a dilemma between efficient relief to people who suffer from the crisis and security for relief officers in the field. How is it possible to meet this dilemma?
- The UN security regime (also implemented by many INGOs) has proven to be slow to adapt to the dynamic environment in the emergency area. In many cases, it is a “strait jacket” hampering UN field operations and also the operations of the NGOs adhering to the UN regulations. How can security regimes support relief operations and not limit them?
- Local knowledge and capacities are vital for efficient relief operations. Close contact with the local population and authorities, and engagement of national officers are vital when accomplishing projects in the field. However, security considerations may limit international staffs contact with local capacities. The use of host government forces or international military forces (e.g. UN forces, AU forces and NATO) contribute to the division between humanitarian field officers and local actors. At the same time, relief agencies must rely on the local population and communities as important protectors. How is it possible to develop models for cooperation between international and local actors that may increase security?

The security panel aims to discuss security implications on humanitarian relief operations, and calls for abstracts within this field.

## 24. EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The thematic group will focus on education as a tool for sustainable development and will question the dominant, Western knowledge paradigms in development. Moreover several papers will address HIV/AIDS and its consequence for development from both a global and national perspective. Other papers will include issues related to gender parity in education in Europe and Asia, and science and environment education from a regional and community perspective. The session will also address the need to establish new methodologies in the area of international development.

