

**The Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU)  
Annual Conference 2009**

**The new global setting: development challenges and alternatives**

**University of Agder, Kristiansand, 23-24 November 2009**

**Call for Panels**

Over the past decades it has become increasingly clear that we are living in a world of rapid and profound changes. More recently, discussions about climate changes and their causes, impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures have come to the forefront of the public and scientific debate. Over time, geo-political relationships have shifted, providing new countries with increased power and influence. In September 2008, the global financial crisis emerged. This was compounded by the hardships associated with rising food prices and increased food insecurity over the past few years. On the development arena we have witnessed that the democratization paradigm has led to a shift from vertical to horizontal governance where government authority has been decentralized and local participation encouraged. New actors are emerging in this development space; private sector involvement is gaining momentum alongside a strong focus on corporate social responsibility worldwide. This trend complements NGOs as important development actors. By many, the private sector and the civil society are seen to be important partners for governments in order to manage complex processes and activities related to development. A new development assistance architecture has emerged in order to enhance the ownership of policies and strategies by recipient countries assuming it would also lead to increased efficiency.

International financial institutions, donors, textbook theories and conventional tools have been unable to anticipate and grasp the complexity of the new global situation. Financial and economic turmoil, large scale unemployment, climate changes, shifting geo-political alliances represent new challenges to local and global development agendas. Consequently, researching, rethinking and practicing development are facing huge challenges. In this conference we aim to stimulate debates and reflections on these issues including existing and new theoretical perspectives, methodologies, approaches and practices that can address the challenges.

**We hereby call for panels for the NFU Annual Conference 2009**

**Deadline: 15. April 2009**

**Contact e-mail: [nfu-konferanse@uia.no](mailto:nfu-konferanse@uia.no)**

**For further information: <http://www.uia.no/nfu>**

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