

Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International
Development Studies Program

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Director	1-2
1st Year Abstracts	2-8

IDS WELCOMES INTERN DIRECTOR ELIZABETH COLLINS FOR 2003-2004 ACADEMIC YEAR

From the Director:

I have just returned from a year of research and teaching in Indonesia. I taught a seminar on globalization at the National Islamic University in Jakarta and did research on the impact of globalization in South Sumatra. In addition I worked with the Center for Research on Intergroup Relations and Conflict Resolution (CERIC) at the University of Indonesia, which is the partner of Ohio University in a grant that funds workshops on conflict resolution and

the development of media promoting peace. All this was extraordinarily compelling work. I never had enough time. Nevertheless, the highlight of my year, the thing that kept me going when all the news was dark, was my work with Nurani Dunia, an NGO that I helped to found in 1999. Nurani Dunia was started by a group of academics and reporters for newspapers and media who went to Buton, an island off Suluwesi, in March 1999 to document the condition of refugees who had fled from Ambon

after Christian-Muslim conflicts broke out in December 1998. Our aim was to provide people-to-people aid to the victims. Muslims would help Christians and Christians would help Muslims. In 1999 Nurani Dunia collected funds and organized volunteers to provide emergency relief to refugees from social and natural disasters. In 2000 Nurani Dunia began to help refugees rebuild their lives. We realized that if we focused on the needs of children, people

(continued on next page)

READING ASSIGNMENT FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

Over the winter break the 1st Year IDS students were given an assignment to read a recent book in the field of development, write a critical review and short abstract, and present the book to the rest of the class in the beginning of the winter quarter. The idea behind the assignment was to increase awareness and knowledge about the multiple and complex issues that development policymakers and practitioners confront on a daily basis. The selection of books chosen was widely varied with topics including sustainable tourism, small business enterprise, AIDs/HIV in Africa, foreign aid, the role of multi-lateral lending institutions and many others. To see what IDS students have been reading take a look at their abstracts on pages 2-8.



EMERGING IDEAS

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would begin to think about the future rather than the past, so Nurani Dunia began to help people in conflict areas rebuild their schools. We worked with mixed groups of Muslims and Christians. Field projects were organized and led by Nurani Dunia volunteers, who lived in the villages where they worked. The most wonderful moments of my year were when I visited the villages where schools were being built in Poso, Suluwesi, in North Maluku, and in West Java. The pride that people took in the new school that they had built was inspiring. People were talking about organizing to start a middle school. They were even dreaming of having a high school for their children. We all could begin to feel hopeful about the future, to believe that working together we could solve problems. As the news spread about the new school that was being built, people from nearby villages came to see. They would catch the "Let's just do it!" spirit and join together to see if they could get something they needed--desks for their school so that children would not have to sit on the floor, a village soccer field, help to repair the road that had been washed out in a landslide. Nurani Dunia hunted for funds to support the projects that were brought to us. Villagers made the desks from paint and wood we supplied. We moved from project to project struggling to keep up. Now, in addition to helping people build their own schools, Nurani Dunia is trying to fund libraries and organizing teacher-training workshops. There are new school projects in East Java and in Eastern Indonesia. Nothing happens fast, but what happens is exciting and real. And the funding is almost all from local sources. I am looking forward to our year together. I hope we can find ways to rethink development in a globalizing world where the gap between the rich and the poor is growing.

Elizabeth Collins, Acting Director

BOOK REVIEW ABSTRACTS BY 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

Razavi, Shahra (ed). 2002. *Shifting Burdens: Gender and Agrarian Change under Neoliberalism*. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.

Shifting Burdens is a series of essays discussing the effects of neo-liberal policies on traditional agrarian societies, rural development, and gender issues in the developing world. The editor's primary argument is that neoliberal policies have caused rural communities to suffer. According to Razavi, small farmers have not profited from a liberalized world market. Instead, they have suffered and their small communities are forced to compete in international markets. The burdens of this change particularly hurt women who are involved in agricultural work and have the responsibility of caring for the family. The essays include discussions on the challenges of land reform and empowerment of rural women, the role of women in nontraditional exports, and the different systems of microfinance among women's groups.

-Heather Arney

Harrison, Lawrence E. and Samuel P. Huntington (eds). 2000. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. New York: Basic Books;

Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress explores how culture affects progress in economic development and political democratization. The main theme of the book is that certain cultures promote development whilst others are resistant to development. The theoretical background to the argument underscored the book is Max Weber's publication "The Protestant Ethic and the Rise of Capitalism." One critical argument made in *Culture Matters* that gives hope for underdeveloped countries is that culture can be changed to facilitate development if governments will be committed to carry out the necessary changes. It is important to mention that the writers fail to give the historical background to the development of these attitudes and values in Africa. While colonialism should not be over emphasized it cannot be ignored when discussing Africa's underdevelopment. The book seems to down play the tenets of the dependency theory but I think a cursory look at global trends reveals that international trade and World Bank packages and policies most of the time have not been favorable to Africa's development.

-Collins Annin

Leon, David A. and Gill Walt (eds). 2001. *Poverty, Inequality, and Health: An International Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Poverty, Inequality, and Health offers an overview of studies of the health sector providing perspectives from the developed and developing world. These studies reveal substantial inequalities in health between countries. Theories have been formed and applied on the basis of these studies in order to combat inequalities. As a result, researchers have seen much improvement in equal access to health care over the past few decades. However, more work is needed to further improve health sectors in developing countries. There are four main themes in this book including the impact of social change on the health of a population, conceptual issues relating to health and wealth, neglected priorities in the health sector, and evidence for policy intervention. Each theme focuses on examples of current health inequalities and provides solutions on improving those inequalities.

-Paige Miller

Gelinas, Jacques B. 1998. *Freedom from Debt: The Reappropriation of Development through Financial Self-Reliance*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

The emancipation of developing countries from the debt system and the re-appropriation of development by civil society through financial self-reliance is an issue of great interest to many development institutions. Most underdeveloped countries have become prisoners of aid and freedom from the debt bondage is a necessary step towards debt emancipation, just like the abolition of slavery in other eras. This freedom, according to the author, starts with the discipline of self-financing through savings-based development rather than development based on foreign aid. The concepts proposed in the book intend to help poor people acquire adequate tools in order to develop efficiently by themselves, rather than becoming dependent on external credit and expensive foreign technology. The author critiques the Bretton Woods oriented development system on one hand while proposing a feasible alternative of self-financed and self-managed development, on the other hand. It's a must read book for any development oriented student or worker.

-Kwame Boakye-Agyei

Schor Juliet B. and Betsy Taylor. 2002. *Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the Twenty-First Century*. Boston: Beacon Press.

This compilation of essays has been gathered by the Center for a New American Dream, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance the general quality of life, and promote social justice. The center was founded in 1997 and its goal is to create feasible alternatives to the "more is better" American dream. The compiled essays range from new ideas about creating more of a sense of community in the United States to creative ways for women to make more sustainable fashion choices to problems with the global economic system.

The book is not written in a highly “academic” style and seems instead to be intended for an audience of average North Americans. It gives broad overviews of issues of international economics and trade, and of ecological and sociological processes. It would seemingly spark an interest in those who are not well versed in these subjects, but who wish to have a greater understanding of how their everyday lifestyle has an impact on other humans (near and far), animals, and the natural environment.

-Lisa Smith

Ake, Claude. 1996. *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Washington DC: Brookings Institute.

Democracy and Development in Africa discusses the question of why Africa has failed to develop. Ake challenges the dominant tendency of taking development as a linear, “one size fits all” progression. According to the author, one significant limitation of the paradigm of development is that it is conceived as an autonomous process, independent of politics, culture, and institutional framework. Ake finds explanation of the failure of African development in colonialism which introduced social, economic, and political structures that ignored local context and put Africa in eternal dependency. Post-colonialism was similar to the colonial period with a group of elites maintaining the same patterns of exploitation inherited from colonialism. These elites ruled on the basis of ethnic identities and never put development on their agenda. Ake suggests a participatory approach to African development inclusive of all categories of population, especially the peasant class.

-Joseph Mugenga

Hilhorst, Dorothea. 2003. *The Real World of NGOs: Discourses, Diversity and Development*. London; New York: Zed Books.

A culmination of three years of research on NGOs in the Cordillera Region, Phillipines, concludes that there is no single answer to what an NGO is, what it wants and what it does. Providing an examination within socioeconomic, political and international contexts, this ethnographic research focuses particularly on the impact of discourse and agency of actors on NGOs’ formation, contemporary evolution and continually negotiated realities. Hillhort’s analysis of the discourse of development, concepts of accountability, and inter and intra-organizational relationships found in the sector; scrutiny of political realities, social networks and individual agency illustrates the complicated nature of grassroots development, particularly in donor-recipient relationships and presumed organizational goals and beneficiaries. The examination is quite region-specific. The lessons are not.

-Bryan Morris

Harris, Rob; Griffin, Tony and Peter Williams (eds). 2002. *Sustainable Tourism: A Global Perspective*. Oxford; Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Sustainable Tourism, edited by Rob Harris, Tony Griffin and Peter Williams describes “sustainable” tourism from a global perspective. Sustainable tourism is defined as tourism which promotes economic growth without damaging the environment. It must remain economically profitable in order to maintain environmental sustainability since unprofitable tourism will cease to exist. In sustainable tourism, especially in wildlife tourism, education is an important tool through its creation of customer satisfaction and as a result, more local employment. This book provides many case studies which give examples of sustainable tourism in their own way.

-Tomoka Udagawa

Fisher, William and Thomas Ponniah (eds). 2003. *Another World is Possible: Popular Alternatives to Globalization at the World Social Forum*. Oxford; New York: Zed Books

The book is a collection of papers and summaries of conferences presented at the 2002 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The pieces are very careful not to condemn globalization wholesale, but set out to provide philosophical frameworks and concrete plans of action striving to balance the playing field around the world. Spanning quite a breadth there are discussions covering: monopolies of international financial institutions, commodification of food and water, external debt and foreign direct investment, labor and trade unions, the neoliberal-military synthesis, and media's social justice incongruence. The concentration of the international agricultural market in the hands of a small number of transnational corporations has accelerated while dependence and food insecurity of the majority has increased. Three times less the Third World's already repaid debt would provide the entire world with basic food, drinking water, sanitation, and health care. One can leaf through the book and find bulleted suggestions as to how we can begin solving these and other pressing development issues. The authors are calling, at times redundantly, for a democracy that actually enables the multitudes rather than a hegemonic marketplace that keeps disenfranchised people in their degraded position within the hierarchy. Still poignant in its need for streamlining.

-Scott Kreps

Olaniyan, R. Omotayo. 1996. *Foreign Aid, Self-Reliance, and Economic Development in West Africa*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Olaniyan briefly summarizes five related foreign aid theories including supplemental theory, donor-oriented theory, developmentalism, dependency theory, and self-reliance. He provides basic facts of Official Development Assistance [ODA] of sixteen West African countries by looking at bilateral and multilateral foreign aid. Furthermore, he discusses trends of foreign aid policies of donor countries, such as the US, the UK, and Japan. This book also looks at the effects of Structural Adjustment Programs prescribed by the World Bank and IMF during the 1980s. Implementation of SAPs often contributed to other political and economic problems within West African countries. Moreover, this book points out political stability and drought as the major obstacles for economic development in West African countries.

-Kosuke Tamura

Baylies, Carol and Janet Bujra. 2000. *AIDS, Sexuality and Gender in Africa: Collective Strategies and Struggles in Tanzania and Zambia*. New York: Routledge.

The AIDS epidemic has gained attention as the largest social tragedy affecting the world since the middle ages. Nowhere else is the severity of the epidemic greater than in Africa, with 70% of the world's HIV positive people. Among the countries in Africa, those in East Africa have been most severely affected by the spread of AIDS. Authors Carolyn Baylies and Janet Bujra argue that sexuality and gender have played a primary role in the spread of AIDS in East Africa. The authors conducted their research in Zambia and Tanzania by exploring two hypotheses: "first, that the success of strategies to confront the spread of AIDS in Africa rests on the recognition of existing gendered power relations, and second, that AIDS campaigns can be enhanced if built on existing organizational skills and practices, especially amongst women." The authors' research exposes the relationships between men and women in six chosen communities in Zambia and Tanzania. It is their view that these six communities are representative of the overall makeup in the research countries. Baylies and Bujra's research offers a glimpse into the cultural and social practices which cause the spread of the disease in Zambia and Tanzania.

-Molly Steinbauer

United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean. 2002. *Meeting the Millennium Poverty Reduction Targets in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago, Chile.

This book describes the work of a UN technical team and it is based on the Millennium Declaration 2000 in which the UN members agreed upon eight goals and 18 specific targets in order to have a "basic pillar of the global sustainable

agenda.” It presents a methodology for assessing in Latin America and Caribbean the fulfillment of one of the principal targets of the Millennium Declaration 2000: to halve by 2015 the proportion of the population living on less than one dollar a day. Using a methodology base in historical and theoretical scenarios, the authors predict that only seven countries will meet the target: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic and Uruguay. Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua will continue reducing their extreme poverty, but not enough to achieve target. The other five countries, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela will not meet the target and extreme poverty will increase. The main reasons for this failure to reduce poverty are decreasing income, increasing inequality or combination of the two.

-Francisco Perez

Rischar, J.F. 2002. *High Noon: Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them*. New York: Basic Books.

Rischar's identifies twenty of the world's most pressing problems including global warming, poverty, and deforestation and explains that the current global governance system is inadequate to address them. He claims that international treaties and conventions, the G-8, and global multilateral institutions are too slow and lack the follow-up and enforcement to successfully tackle pressing global problems. However, if these problems are not addressed within the next twenty years, there will be irreversible damage to our planet, humanity, and the world as we know it. Rischar offers a new approach to addressing these problems through a system he calls Global Issues Networks (GINs). Each GIN would work on one of the identified problems on a tight timeline to set up norms and standards within three years to fix the problem. GINs would apply public pressure on states, corporations, and individuals to comply by threatening massive negative publicity if they were uncooperative. Though Rischar's solution to the twenty, most pressing global problems may be impractical because it proposes the creation of a new governing body, the book is well written and convincing that something must happen soon.

-Laura Mack

Danielson, Anders A. and Geske Dijkstra. 2001. *Towards Sustainable Development in Central America and the Caribbean*. New York: Palgrave.

The papers contained in this publication address contemporary issues in sustainable development which is fast becoming part and parcel of the development jargon used across the region. The literature seeks to impart the notion that there is no one working definition which can conclusively define sustainable development since it may take on various forms – social, economic, and environmental. Therefore this makes it increasingly difficult to charter policies across the region given that the diversity of needs in Central America and the Caribbean differ. The discourse on sustainable development issues contained in the text seeks to place differences found in the region such as GDP per capita and human development index ratings against the similarities including size, limited natural resources, and geographic proximity to the North American market into context. To this end prescribing sustainable development policies must take heed of these differences if they are to succeed.

-Jose Trejo

Stiglitz, Joseph. 2002. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

The book carries a strong message that can serve as a guide for anyone concerned with globalization or development, allowing us to gain a thorough and thought-provoking insight on global market situations and economic transition in developing countries. In order to understand how globalization can be reshaped to realize its potential, Stiglitz underlines the importance of reshaping economic institutions, beginning with an understanding of why established institutions have failed to help. He provides a provocative reform agenda to shape globalization, outlining the resulting successes and failures of transition economies. Lessons learned by the IMF today have come at the cost of depression, devastating economic crisis, and burgeoning debt for nations forced to swallow the bitter pills of the IMF's prescriptions. While it is dif-

difficult for the country to grow without globalizing, it is not easy for small economies to survive the onslaught of the powerful global market. Arguments about controversial aspects of globalization, core mission of the IMF and other global institutions promoting market liberalization, open trade and economic reforms are drawn objectively, albeit with open criticism. The author's proposal to look at the problems of transition economies from different points of view is laudable, taking into account the needs of the society and the consequences of strategies affecting the very bottom line consumers.

-*Mohira Kurbanova*

Klein, Naomi. 1999. *No Space, No Choice, No Jobs, No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies*. New York: Picador.

Author Naomi Klein exposes the increasing challenges facing consumers and world workers alike as MNCs continue to expand their global dominance. *No Logo* provides an in-depth look at the evolution of MNCs and the effects their business strategies have had in both the developed and developing world. The loss of public space and consumer choice and the outsourcing of jobs to the developing world enables MNCs to control what we buy and who will be employed. Klein chooses to close her book with examples of anti-corporate activism. The resulting corporate reform serves as a reminder that, despite their global influence, MNCs remain sensitive to the demands of world consumers who directly affect their bottom line.

-*Matt Korn*

Easterly, William R. 2001. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Since the 1950s economists from all over the world have been trying to help poor countries become as wealthy as North America, Western Europe and Japan. Easterly tries to explain why over fifty years of assistance to poor countries has done little to help their development. He argues that the idea of "people responding to incentives" has been largely absent from economic development theories and policies. His analysis is supported with practical examples from everyday life allowing readers who do not have an economics background to easily comprehend the ideas. The author provides statistical data for economic as well as social and political theories. Easterly analyzes different approaches and views regarding the concept of development over time including a history of disputes among competing theories. In this way, the book is a comprehensive summary of the most prominent ideas in economic development theory and policy.

-*Maria Alexeiko*

Skard, Torild. 2003. *Continent of Mothers-Continent of Hope: Understanding and Promoting Development in Africa Today*. New York: Pelgrave.

The book richly describes the reality of life in Western and Southern African. Through her book, Torild Skard explains the dilemmas of dealing with poverty in a life of HIV/AIDS, children with guns in different civil wars and sexual abuse against women. Additionally, she moves back and forth by giving everyday life and background information on African economy, history and politics. Most importantly, through different situations in education, dignity, health, and self-confidence, Torild Skard brings out some ideas of what can be done to give hope to Africa where children and women are almost hopeless. The book is a real tool of knowledge and a brainwave for development practitioners in Africa.

-*Oumar Diallo*

DeLuca, Fred. 2000. *Start Small, Finish Big: Fifteen Key Lessons to Start and Run Your Own Successful Business*. New York: Warner Books.

This book uses the experiences of twenty-one entrepreneurs to direct business minded individuals who find it intimidating to start a business. The author recommends the fifteen key lessons such as starting small, beginning with an idea, thinking like a visionary, looking at the big picture, believing in yourself and your business, increasing sales while decreasing costs and keeping a positive attitude. The bottom line is that if you intend on becoming an entrepreneur: find a need, fill it, and be careful not to analyze the idea to death before you have a chance to test it. If you overanalyze your conceived ideas, you may never get started. The owner of Subway, who the main writer of this book, claims that at age seventeen he started the business with one thousand dollars and now can count over thousand outlets. He went into the sandwich business without prior knowledge, however he learned through what he refers to as “the school of hard knocks”.

-Patrick Asante

Mawakikagile, Godfrey. 1999. *Economic Development in Africa*. Commack, NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Economic development in Africa discusses the development paradigms of various countries on the continent in the post-independence era in a succinct manner unprecedented in the literature about Africa’s development. The core idea of the book is ‘unity is strength’. Visionary and accountable leadership, better economic policies, zero tolerance of corruption, stronger regional and continental union will lead to “greater glory” given Africa’s immense potential for economic development. Ethnic conflicts, official corruption, political ineptitude, ineffective economic policies and over-reliance on external funding have made the continent a strange paradox; it is the richest in resources and diversity but the economically poorest in the world. The author argues that Somalia becoming a failed state and the end of the Cold War was an awaking for Africa. He analyzes development in the context of western democracy and its bed fellow capitalism and concludes they are not the panacea for the myriad of problems on the continent. Mwakikagile calls for a state role in Africa’s development citing the state involvement facilitating growth in the Asian NICs, Indonesia and China. African nations still rely almost entirely on external capital and policies for economic development even though this approach has largely been unsuccessful. Economic policies that are cultural sensitive and rely on local resources, human and material as well as visionary leadership will ensure success in Africa’s development struggle. Mwakikagile also looks at the possible benefits and complexities of African economic integration.

-Hector A. Addison

Speth, James G. 2003. *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment*. Washington DC: Island Press.

Global economy and the natural environment are strongly connected. The book states that the world is in transition in regards to sustainability. Unless human beings take action to preserve the environment, the earth will continue to worsen and it will be difficult to maintain the quality of our lives. Humans are on the verge of being unable to sustain natural resources and ecosystems because of their activity. Therefore, Speth claims it is about time to make a transition by using the knowledge, awareness, tools, and institutions available to use. The book points out the special significance of global governance in reference to environmental concerns. *Worlds Apart* is a thought-provoking and insightful book. It challenges the ongoing economic globalization. By revealing environmental conditions and the relationship with economic globalization, it calls attention to the natural environment. This is a good book to encourage human beings to turn their eyes toward our invaluable natural environment.

-Tae Ito

