

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Critical Role of Development Research (8 November 2018): Abstracts

11.15-12.45 (one session; no parallel sessions)

A Politics, statistics and contestation over food security indicators in the era of the SDGs ola

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In this workshop we bring together researchers and practitioners working with SDG2 indicators from different academic and development oriented perspectives. There will be 12 minutes introductions by:

Kristin Linnerud CICERO, Operationalizing and measuring global sustainable development

Astrid Mathiassen, Statistics Norway (SSB). Capacity building for food security statistics

Borghild Krokan, Director, The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM).

Operationalizing the SDGs in Norwegian development assistance: a perspective from the NGO side

Thor Olav Iversen, PhD candidate and research fellow SVT, University of Bergen. The politics of food security indicators: presenting a new PhD project.

Desmond McNeill, Professor, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo: The politics of indicator SDG 2.4.1 on sustainable agriculture.

14.30-15.30

B 1 Religion, conflict transformation & development Hans Morten Haugen: hans.morten.haugen@vid.no

Re-assessing climate conflicts and migration in East Africa

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This paper addresses the following question with respect to climate issues: When do environmental and resource problems lead to conflicts and how does this create incentives for migration? This question will be asked from a developmental studies perspective. The starting point of this paper is that in recent years a debate has emerged whether climate change impacts, more specifically climate variability with regard to precipitation and temperature, can lead to armed conflict. These narratives gained traction in policy and academic circles and attracted considerable attention, but they ignore

the political economy that helps to sustain conflicts. Also, the original causes of conflict change over time, with different actors carrying different motives altering the prospects for peace constantly. The climate conflict debate remains inconclusive, and has not produced robust research results, and it seems more convincing that armed conflict weakens the ability of the society and institutions to cope with extreme weather, hence contributing to human mobility (often internally). Overall, this paper argues that there is rather weak evidence to support the claim that climate change impacts will cause more conflicts and that potentially related conflicts in turn are a strong impetus for migration. More specifically, this chapter will provide evidence from a political economy analysis of Somalia to illustrate the above-mentioned points.

Church networks engagement in peacemaking in Eastern DRC and the Great Lakes Areas

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Background

During the armed conflict in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Great Lakes area, civil society mobilised against the war and for peace-making. The churches and their related civil society organisations were major actor in this mobilisation.

Methods

The paper is based on research conducted in Eastern DRC 2008-2012, in collaboration with researchers and students at two universities in Bukavu, South Kivu Province, DRC. It is based on data collected through key informant interviews and case studies in all main districts in South Kivu.

Main findings

The humanitarian and human right organisations related to the churches were the most active ones in providing information, bearing witness, documenting massacres, providing protection and assisting victims.

The churches are important actors through their membership also in global and regional networks, and through their Episcopal conferences and leadership meetings. The churches and their networks have been important in bringing knowledge about the conflict and peace building efforts to the outside world and to political leaders. The local level congregations have been severely affected by the armed conflict, the increasing poverty, and the suffering of their members. They act predominantly as a safety haven and support system for local church members, but struggle with how to assist women, children and families that are victims of gender based violence.

The Catholic Church, with its Bishop Conference (Conference des Episcopales), with its hierarchical structure plays the most important role in the peace-making and peace building process in Eastern DRC. But also the protestant churches, the Methodist and the two old Pentecostal churches, CELPA and CEPAC, are very important contributors in the reparations, protection and documentation of the armed conflict and its victims and in the peace-making efforts.

Women empowerment meets tradition: Competing gender norms and changing social practice in Himalaya

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Gender relations in Himalayan communities are influenced by increasing male out-migration and feminization of agriculture. While women tend to do most of the agricultural work, it is often assumed that men alone decide in agriculture, despite growing evidence for female participation in decision-making. This case study from Nepal demonstrates that women do have a say in farm management, but that intra-household decision-making is shaped by cultural gender norms and social practice. I argue that in Nepal, there are two competing sets of cultural gender norms at work, in contrast to Sherry Ortner's classical theory of one gender hegemony. Modern development norms currently challenge traditional Hindu norms, although there are also areas of conjunction. Traditional gender norms leave women with decision-making power within the household, but cultural conflicts arise when women engage in social spheres outside the farm. How people in practice relate to competing gender norms, and to what extent they either feel caught in a cultural conflict or have the social power to alter local gender roles, depends not on gender, but on other markers of social prestige such as caste/ethnicity, wealth, age, and marital status. The study shows how interactions between development interventions and traditional gender norms inspire cultural change, which has implications for women's participation in political and public spheres.

Geographies of Meatification: An Emerging Asian Meat Complex

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The 'meatification' of human diets has been subject to increasing scholarly attention in recent years, along with its many impacts. While the rapidly expanding meatification in many Asian countries has been noted, the geographies of these processes have been left largely unexplored. This paper maps the changing geographies of meat in South and East Asia. We use Tony Weis' concept of 'the industrial grain-oilseed-livestock complex' to analyse how forms of systemic meatification are taking place in Asia. We map and analyse regional trends in meat production and consumption, as well as trade patterns in meat products and dominant feed crops. We argue that the regional meat complex emerges through regional development processes and capital, as well as through new South-South connections that both involve and go beyond BRICS. The geographies of meatification in the Asian region(s) thus constitute an empirical manifestation of the emerging multipolarity of the global food regime.

Key words: Meat, food regimes, meatification, Asia, South-South trade, emerging economies