

Religion, Poverty and Development

Course Content

This course presents students with advanced knowledge of the subject field of religion and development (RaD). The field of RaD will be related to the field of poverty research to integrate the notion of poverty as the third, interrelated element of the conceptual nexus.

The course is structured into three broad themes. In the first part, students are exposed to current foundational issues and conceptual understanding in the academic discourse on RaD. In the second part, through an intentional deepening of the conceptual exploration of poverty, the focus more pertinently shifts towards making the theoretical connection between the contemporary global realities of wealth and income inequality. Capability approach is introduced as a theoretical tool to approach social development and poverty. In the third part, the threads between the threefold conceptual focus are brought together more pointedly. Three topical foci are touched upon that deal more closely with the intersections between religious faith and economic activity, poverty alleviation, women (gender), and Christian social practice and human dignity.

Main Subjects:

- Conceptual understandings of religion, poverty and development.
- Wealth, income inequality and the consequences of poverty.
- Social development and the capabilities approach to development.
- Religious affiliation, beliefs and economic activity / poverty alleviation.
- Women, gender, religion and development.
- Christian social practice, poverty and human dignity.

Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the candidates the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills, and general competence:

Knowledge

The student

- has advanced knowledge of the combined academic fields of Religion and Development (RaD) and Poverty Research and specialized insight in the interconnections between the threefold conceptual focus

Course Code: EMD 297

Number of ECTS: 5

Available as Single Course: Yes

Type of Course: Elective

Cycle: Second Cycle

Year of Study

Full Time: Year 2

Part Time: Not Relevant

Language of Instruction: English

Campus: Online Course

Semester: Autumn

Compulsory Attendance: Yes

Professional Training: No

Length of Professional Training: N.a.

Scope of Tuition:

10 hours

Scope of other Learning Activities:

5 hours

Scope of Self-Study Activities:

120 hours

Total Workload:

135 hours

Prerequisites: None

- can apply knowledge to new areas within the academic fields of RaD and Poverty Research

Skills

The student

- can analyze and deal critically with various sources of information on religion, development and poverty and use them to structure and formulate scholarly arguments
- can analyze existing theories, methods and interpretations in the fields and work independently on practical and theoretical problems
- can use relevant methods for research and scholarly development work in an independent manner in the academic fields of RaD and Poverty Research

General competence

The student

- can apply his/her knowledge and skills in the subject fields in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects
- can communicate extensive independent work and master language and terminology of the academic fields
- can communicate about academic issues, analyses and conclusions in the fields, both with specialists and the general public
- can contribute to new thinking and innovation processes

Work and Teaching Methods

- Lectures
- Group work
- Panel discussion

Compulsory Activities

- Course attendance (80%)
- Assignment relating to religion, development and poverty research

Assessment

Form of Assessment	Duration	Grade
Home Exam	One semester	A-F

Additional Information about Assessment:

The home exam consists of an essay of 2000 words (+/- 10 %). The students will prepare a draft as assignment before they submit the final exam on a topic agreed with the lecturers. The lecturers will comment on the draft before final submission.

Reading List

A: Compulsory reading

Books:

Nussbaum, Martha 2000/2012. *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (300 pp.).

Eskelinen, Teppo 2009. *Putting Global Poverty in Context*. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä,
<https://jyx.jyu.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/20276/9789513936006.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> (Chap. 1-3 = 111 pp.)

Tomalin, Emma 2018. *Religions, poverty reduction and global development institutions*. Palgrave Communications 4/132: 1-12. (12 pp.)

B: Complementary reading (not compulsory)

Books:

Midgley, James & Manohar Pawar (eds.) 2017. *Future Directions in Social Development*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Other:

Afshar, Farokh 2005. Exploring the frontiers of international development: Countries of the North, well-being, spirituality, and contemplation. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 26(3):527-546.

Beyer, Peter 2006. Globalization, in H. R. Ebaugh (ed.) 2006. *Handbook of Religion and Social Institutions*. Springer, pp. 411-429.

Beyers, Jaco 2014. The effect of religion on poverty. *HTS Teologiese Studies/ Theological Studies* 70(1), Art. #2614, 8 pages. [http:// dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts. v70i1.2614](http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v70i1.2614)

Bompani, Barbara 2019. "Religion and development: Tracing the trajectories of an evolving sub-discipline. *Progress in Development Studies* (2019). Published Online.

Esping-Andersen, G: "Untying the Gordian Knot of Social Inheritance". *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 21, 115–138, 2004.

Feener, R. Michael & Fountain, Philip 2018. Religion in the age of development. *Religions* 9(12):1-23.

Haughton, Jonathan & Khandker, Shahidur R. 2009. *The Handbook on Poverty and Inequality*. <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821376133>,

Haushofer, J. & Fehr, E. (2014). On the psychology of poverty. *Science* 344, 862–867.

Myers, Bryant L 2019. Mission and Development: Two new opportunities and a continuing challenge. *Mission Studies* 36(1):11-37.

Nithiya Guna Saigarana, Premalatha Karupiahb & Parthiban S. Gopal 2015. *The Capability Approach: Comparing Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum*. USM International Conference on Social Sciences (USM-ICOSS), 27-28 AUGUST 2015. eISBN 978-967-11473-3-7.

Nitsche, Ulrich & Gabriel, Bennet 2016. The International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development/PaRD: A global and inclusive partnership to harness the positive impact on religion in development in humanitarian assistance. *The Ecumenical Review* 68(4):378-386.

Oluwu, Dele 2011. Faith-based organisations and development: An African indigenous organisation in perspective, in G. Ter Haar (ed.), *Religion and Development: Ways of Transforming the World*, 55-80, New York: Columbia University Press.

Sidibé, Michel 2016. Religion and sustainable development. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* 14(3): 1-4.

Swart, Ignatius & Nell, Elsabé 2016. Swart, I. & Nell, E., 2016, Religion and development: The rise of a bibliography, HTS Teologiese Studies/ Theological Studies 72(4), a3862. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v72i4.3862>

United Nations n.d. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/Res/70/1, from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

Werner, Dietrich & Van der Ven, Corrie 2016. Editorial: Religion and Sustainable Development. *The Ecumenical Review* 68(4):359-364.

Compendium and digital links:

Cohrane, James 2016. Religion in Sustainable Development. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* 14(3): 89-94. (5 pp.)

De Jong, Eelke 2011. Religious values and economic growth: A review and assessment of recent studies, in Gerrie Ter Haar (ed.), *Religion and Development: Ways of Transforming the World*, 111-140, New York: Columbia University Press. (29 pp.)

Donnelly, Gabrielle 2013. Reading the “signs of the times”: “centering” religion and development. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 34(2):189-202. (13 pp.)

Freeman, Dena. 2015. “Pentecostalism and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Religions and Global Development*, edited by Emma Tomalin, 114-126, London: Routledge. (12 pp.)

Gooren, Henri 2011. Religion and development revisited: Some lessons from Guatemalan micro-entrepreneurs, in Gerrie Ter Haar (ed.), *Religion and Development: Ways of Transforming the World*, 141-158, New York: Columbia University Press. (17 pp.)

Hiilamo, H. and Kangas, O. (2014) Cherry picking: How sensitive is the relationship between inequality and social problems to country samples? *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 31(11/12): 771–792. (22 pp.)

Hiilamo, Heikki. (2021). Church Poverty Relief during a Time of Crisis? Experiences of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, *Journal of Church and State*, 2021;, csab005, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/csab005>

Holte, B. H., Swart, I. & Hiilamo, H. 2019. The NEET concept in comparative youth research: The Nordic countries and South Africa. *Journal of Youth Studies* 22(2): 256-272. Published online 16 July 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2018.1496406>. (16 pp.)

James Midgley & Michael Sherraden 2009. “The social development perspective in social policy”, in James Midgley & Michelle Livermore (eds.), *The Handbook of Social Policy*, 211-221, Los Angeles / London: SAGE. (10 pp.)

Jones, Ben & Juul Petersen, Marie 2011. Instrumental, narrow, normative? Reviewing recent work on religion and development. *Third World Quarterly* 32(7):1291-1306. (15 pp.)

Kabeer, Naila 2015. Gender, poverty, and inequality: a brief history of feminist contributions in the field of international development. *Gender & Development* 2015:23(2): 189-205, DOI: 10.1080/13552074.2015.1062300 (16 pp.)

Karam, Azza 2016. The role of religious actors in implementing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. *The Ecumenical Review* 68(4):365-377. (12 pp.)

Occhipinti, Laura A. 2015. Faith-based organizations and development, in Tomalin, E. (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Religions and Global Development*, 331-345, London: Routledge. (14 pp.)

Offutt, Stephen, Probasco, Lierin & Viadyanathan, Brandon. 2016. Religion, Poverty, and Development. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(2): 207-215. (8 pp.)

Rakodi, C. 2012. A framework for analysing the links between religion and development. *Development in Practice* 22(5-6):634-650. (16 pp.)

Rakodi, Carole 2015. Development, religion and modernity, in Tomalin, E. (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Religions and Global Development*, 17-35, London: Routledge. (17 pp.)

Rakotoarison, Z. R., Dietrich, S., & Hiilamo, H. (2021). Faith as an asset in a community development project: The case of Madagascar. *Hervormde Teologiese Studies*, 77(4), [a6470]. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v77i4.6470>, <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v77i4.6470>

Rakotoarison, Z. R., Dietrich, S., & Hiilamo, H. (2019). Tackling Poverty with Local Assets: A Case Study on Congregational Asset-Based Community Development in a Lutheran Church in Madagascar. *Diaconia. The Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice* , 10(2), 119-140. <https://doi.org/10.13109/diac.2019.10.2.119>

Swart, Ignatius 2016. Relating to the poor: Conceptualizations of Christian diaconal practice considered through the lens of human dignity. *Diaconia: Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice* 7(1):3-26. (23 pp.)

Swart, Ignatius, Marlize Rabe & Stephan de Beer (forthcoming) n.d. "Eish! It is tough living here": Marginalised young people and FBOs in Pretoria Central, South Africa, in Ignatius Swart et al., *Stuck in the Margins? Young people and faith-based organisations in South African and Nordic localities*. Prospective publisher Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Research in Contemporary Religion Series, Göttingen. (15 pp.)

Tomalin, Emma 2013. Gender, religion and development, in Clarke. M. (ed.), *Handbook of Research on Development and Religion*, 183-200, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. (17 pp.)