

PO5004 Graduate Seminar in Development

Dr. Ingrid Samset, room no. F1024, email address: ingrid.samset@ul.ie

Aims and Objectives

As a student of this course, you will be trained in thinking critically about the meanings and goals of economic, political, and social development. By actively taking part in the seminars and exploring the topics addressed, by the end of the course you should be able to:

- Identify different meanings of development,
- Discuss development as a historical process of change and as a contemporary project associated with certain practices and policies,
- Account for major historical trends in thinking about development,
- Outline different theories about the causes of poverty and economic inequality,
- Discuss dominant ideas about what might promote and hinder development, and
- Evaluate key components of contemporary international development policy.



Photo: Ituri, DR Congo © Ingrid Samset

Contents

This course will introduce students to the various meanings and goals of development. We will discuss development as a process of historical change, addressing questions such as why industrialization happened first in the West, how colonialism shaped economic differences across regions, how conflict and development may be linked, and why mass poverty and major inequalities exist in the world today. We will look at what scholars have argued promotes economic development, and how these theories have worked when applied in practice. The module will further discuss development as a set of policies and practices in the contemporary world, addressing questions related to foreign aid, social movements, and the role of the state. We will look at how the landscape of development is changing, with the emergence of a multipolar world and debates about democracy versus the developmental state. The idea of economic growth as intrinsic to development runs through many of these debates; an idea we also will discuss in light of thinking about post-development and the challenge of climate change.

Core Readings

- Burnell, P., Randall, V. and Rakner, L., eds. (2014) *Politics in the Developing World*, 4th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Haslam, P., Schafer, J. and Beaudet, P., eds. (2012) *Introduction to International Development: Approches, Actors, and Issues*, 2nd ed., Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mac Ginty, R. and Williams, A. (2009) *Conflict and Development*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Peet, R. and Hartwick, E. (2009) *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*, London: Guildford.