SIID 10th Annual Postgraduate Conference

Decolonising Development? Challenges, Innovations and Practices

Participant Abstracts

Alex Dorgan
Carbon forestry, trade-offs in ecosystem services, and local knowledge: insights from rural Kilombero, Tanzania.

Private investment in re/afforestation in rural communities is often presented as a 'triple-win' example of climate compatible development: working to mitigate climate change, enabling local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and providing an additional source of income and thus helping to alleviate poverty. However, there has been a recent shift towards recognising that there can also be substantial trade-offs associated with these initiatives. This paper looks at two study sites in the Kilombero district of Tanzania, that have recently seen the establishment of large tree plantations by private-sector companies for timber, paper, charcoal making, and carbon-credits. Drawing on household surveys, and participatory methods (including focus group discussions, cause-effect diagramming, historical calendars, participatory mapping, and semi-structured interviews with key-informants), this paper examines the perceived impact of this private sector investment in re/afforestation on natural resources and ecosystem services, including indirect impacts on ecosystem (dis)services and the observed consequent impact on the communities' livelihoods. This paper argues that while the potentially positive impact of private investment in re/afforestation in these rural communities should not be underplayed, there is a need to consider the trade-offs in ecosystem services (and disservices) that may emerge from these activities. It is important to recognise that the impacts felt may vary between different groups within the communities and that there is not necessarily an equitable distribution of costs and benefits. Therefore, care should be taken to ensure particular groups do not carry the weight of negative impact, and local understandings of carbon and related environmental processes should also be recognised.

Anna Colom
ICTs and the citizenship capabilities of women in Kenya: an intersectional approach

The use of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) has come to the forefront of International Development policy and practice. Development practitioners and policymakers are harnessing this potential to empower citizens for better governance but concerns have been raised about their contribution to amplifying existing inequalities. My PhD research seeks to contribute to the evidence on the role that digital technologies can play in women's citizenship capabilities in Kenya, an ICT hub in Africa labelled by some as the Silicon Savannah. In doing so, it will take an intersectional approach to overcome the gender binary in a context of multiple forms of discrimination. The research also seeks to decolonise the study of citizenship as a concept born out of a western political theory that assumes membership (or lack of) to a legal status and a nation-state. This also requires theoretical intersections and the research therefore triangulates critical citizenship studies, feminist and ICT critical theories, and the human capabilities approach. Feminist and postcolonial scholarship has critically explored discourse, narratives and representation in an attempt to decolonise knowledge and this study uses discourse analysis and reflexivity methods to address issues of representation and positionality. This research seeks to: (a) inform an effective use of ICT4D in development policy and practice; (b) make a theoretical

contribution to both citizenship and development studies through exploring political and feminist standpoints in a postcolonial context.

Annette Tony-Fadipe
Oppression in Progress: Looking at Contemporary Colonial Discourse Relating to 'Race' in Development

This paper demonstrates how colonial discourse remains embedded in Development studies and is complicit in reproducing racial inequalities both at an institutional and global level. The institution of International Development encompasses ideals of democracy and philanthropy, and being racist conflicts with these ideals. If accused of racism, according to Vandijk (1992), the institution must protect itself 'cognitively and discursively' against such damaging accusations by either becoming anti-racist or denying racism. The findings of this research show how Development has responded to the Postcolonial critiques of racism by effectively denying its existence, through naturalising racial contentions. In this paper, students from the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia are interviewed and, using Critical Discourse Analysis, the data reveals an alarming necessity for decolonisation at academic level and beyond. Whilst curricula is central to this debate, the data focuses largely on the student perspective as it is very revealing of the problematic ideologies that students are being fed, which ultimately leads to problematic practice in Development. It also shows how the lack of authentic racial engagement and failure to embrace a decolonised pedagogy not only has wider consequences in development practice, but also has more immediate, negative effects within academia, and in the classroom. However, although its historical foundations lend International Development to such problematic discourse, its contemporary positioning in postcolonial matters makes it best positioned to take the lead in challenging and halting the progress of oppression, and dismantling colonial structures.

Caitlin Brown
Sharing the Pie: Undernutrition, Intra-household Allocation, and Poverty." Joint with Rossella Calvi and Jacob Penglase

It is often assumed that female headed households (FHHs) are poorer than male-headed households (MHHs). However, the objective evidence is mixed and incomplete. This paper revisits the issue for sub-Saharan Africa, addressing key conceptual problems in meaningfully comparing living standards between FHHs and MHHs. Three issues confound measurement: (i) demographic heterogeneity, in particular economies of scale; ii) the head's marital status; and iii) access to productive assets. Overall, FHHs have higher household per capita expenditures than MHHs, but there is substantial variation both within and across regions. Accounting even slightly for economies of scale changes the poverty comparisons, with FHHs faring significantly worse overall in East, Central, and Southern Africa. Among households with a married head, those headed by women have lower poverty rates. Yet, FHHs with heads in all other marital status categories are worse off than MHHs in those same categories. On average, FHHs are much more reliant on remittances, have fewer and smaller livestock, less land, and less household and hired labor.

Denisse Rodriguez Olivari
Fighting Corruption in the 'Global South' and the 'Global North': General Assumptions and Unintended Consequence

The Lava Jato case provides a compelling background for analysing the promises and perils of the fight against corruption. It presents an exemplary use of punitive actions by prosecuting corrupt politicians and business leaders – frying the 'biggest fish' – which reveal that malfeasances are being sanctioned, and thus reducing impunity. However, evidence suggests that holding corrupt elites accountable may have unforeseen consequences. By presenting the Peruvian case – which acted promptly launching a national referendum, removing politically-motivated members of the judiciary and indicting four former presidents, the leader of the opposition party and various businesspeople – I argue that these actions are not merely technical and apolitical as the international anti-corruption advances. It could severely hinder its legitimacy or even have adverse consequences. To some extent, it may reach a sort of 'tipping point' in which cynical attitudes and the perceived abuse of punitive populism may undermine vertical accountability, and eventually leading to elect populist candidates such as Berlusconi after Mani Pulite in Italy or Bolsonaro during Lava Jato in Brazil. This paper sheds light on the ownership and instrumentality of anti-corruption by political elites and the international community in order to reflect on which actors shape the agenda and who measures what. Understanding the dynamics of this emblematic case in the 'Global South' critically examines the universal applicability of policy prescriptions which will result in more context-sensitive, politically engaged anti-corruption initiatives.

Diana Jimenez Thomas
Soybeans, Violence, and Justice: the Environmental Resistance of Mayan women and men in Hopelchen, Mexico

Mexico's model of industrial agriculture began to incorporate genetically modified (GM) soybean in the late 1990s. It was part of a strategy to reduce the country's soybean imports, which were skyrocketing because of the increased use of soy by national agri-food industries, and a development agenda to put 'idle land' to use and strengthen the regional economy. However, in Hopelchen, in the southern state of Campeche, Mayan indigenous communities have been organising against GM soybean since 2010 on grounds of its environmental and social consequences. Drawing on interview-based qualitative fieldwork, and a feminist political ecology approach, this paper examines the harms related to GM soybeans that were narrated by Mayan men and women, and the opposition they articulated in response. It finds that their experiences motivate a re-working of how we understand 'structural violence' and 'environmental justice', which the paper discusses in detail. In reworking these concepts, the paper aims to strengthen our theorisation of what violence may entail in socio-environmental scenarios, expand our understanding of the plural conceptualisations of justice held and demanded by environmental movements, and ultimately allow for a more thorough understanding of the power dynamics behind environmental conflicts and the way environmental justice seeks to contest power in all of its complexity. Through these contributions, the paper emphasizes the need to decolonize development agendas by showing how environmental justice and just sustainabilities require ontologically, epistemologically and politically recognizing and incorporating marginalized groups, critically questioning dominant development imaginaries and practices, and thinking creatively about alternatives to development.

Diogo Maia
Paradoxes regarding Mozambique´s land policy and development strategy

This paper intends to shed some light in the recent developments regarding land policy and rural populations' rights in Mozambique. First, an overview of land policy is presented. Afterwards, an overview of the country's development strategy in the last 20 years is shown. The goal is to integrate the country in global markets, mainly in the sectors in which it presents comparative advantages (agriculture and mining). With the presentation of several examples of how this strategy is put into practice in the field, the paper concludes that the expropriation of land in Mozambique is a paradoxical reality: by one hand, Mozambique's law declares that all land is property of the state and protects the land rights of the rural communities; by the other hand, the country has been suffering a massive land grabbing process through national and foreign direct investment. This process is facilitated not only by the law, but mainly by the state's procedures and conduct. This reality in Mozambique can be analysed through different political-economic frameworks: it can be considered primitive accumulation of capital by an elite that uses the state to promote its economic interests; it can be considered accumulation by dispossession; it can also be considered as commodification of land, a concept of Polanyi. Or it can also be considered development, economic growth and creation of jobs. In the end, the "right" narrative depends on which side one sits.

Elizabeth Goolden
Global Period Poverty - more in common than divides us.

'Menstrual Hygiene/Health Management' (MHM) is used within academic literature to express menstrual-related needs of women and girls among Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) but neglects to investigate any similar concerns within Higher Income Countries (HICs). Recently however, grey literature reports suggest women and girls in HICs experience 'Period Poverty'. Both literature citing 'Period Poverty' and 'inadequate MHM' appear to encompass similar issues, yet 'Period Poverty' is exclusively almost used in HIC contexts, whilst 'MHM' is almost exclusively adopted within LMICs. This seems to reflect a wider misconception that the world is divided into 'us' and 'them', 'HICs' and 'LMICs', 'Global North' and 'Global South'. The current research therefore investigates menstrual-related challenges across both HIC and LMIC contexts, using the UK and Uganda as case studies. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants to gather adolescent girl's menstrual narratives, with a specific focus on taboos. Findings gained through thematic review reveal several key similarities between UK and Ugandan narratives, suggesting girls' experiences of menstruation across HICs and LMICs may be more similar than previously assumed, likely due to common taboos. It establishes the need to think more holistically about the nature of menstrual health concerns if we are to achieve SDGs 5 and 6. By demonstrating to people living in HICs that issues surrounding menstrual health exist within 'Western society' in ways that are similar to LMICs, we can challenge the tendency to think about 'us' and 'them' in ways that break down barriers and build learning across societies.

Ella Foggitt
Potential for coalitions to improve sanitation governance in Africa's low-income urban settlements: A study in Accra, Ghana

Sustainable Development Goal target 6.2 calls for "adequate and equitable sanitation for all". Top-down approaches to sanitation provision are failing to meet the needs of many of the urban poor. Community-led initiatives may help to provide sanitation in the informal urban settlements which are currently underserved, especially when working collaboratively with public and private institutions. However, in this context, limited research has been conducted into the effectiveness of alternative approaches, such as collective action and coproduction. To address this gap, I am conducting research into urban sanitation governance, with a focus on collective action and coproduction. The study design features a mixed-methods approach, with fieldwork due to begin in the coming months. The study will explore the current status of sanitation governance in informal settlements in Accra, Ghana, as well as the social, institutional and technical opportunities and challenges to increasing safely managed sanitation through collective action and coproduction. The results of this research will help to inform policy-makers and practitioners on the potential for changes in governance to address urban sanitation's many challenges. The poster will present a review of current literature on the topic of collective action and coproduction in the context of water, sanitation and hygiene and outline the problems of current approaches to urban sanitation provision. The study design will also be presented, along with the findings of any exploratory studies.

Henry Staples
Exploring experiences of political reintegration in 'post-conflict' Colombia.

Nearly two years have passed since the peace accord between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC) was ratified. Since that time, over 7,000 former guerrilla fighters have begun the complex process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Researchers and peace practitioners have adopted a variety of methods to attempt to understand and operationalize the political dimension of reintegration. These attempts often incorporate some measure of an individual's willingness to participate in non-violent forms of political activity. In exploring this, it is vital to consider that FARC ex-combatants are now living in diverse socio-spatial contexts, with just 30-40% now residing in the transit zones where they underwent demobilization. Although the relationship between spatiality and the dynamics of political participation has been explored in prior research (McAdam 1986; Klandermans et al. 2008), the mechanisms involved have not always been well-specified. Specifically, studies often do not fully account for how a demobilized individual becomes embedded in a particular socio-spatial structure, what kinds of (daily) practices are relevant for becoming embedded, and how this process serves to shape political attitudes and behaviour. Drawing on recent fieldwork in the Caqueta and Valle de Cauca regions of Colombia, my work address some of these key questions through contrasting experiences in different socio-spatial contexts: the urban, and the rural 'transition zone'.

Hoda Elhalaby
The Village Project; Intentions and Interventions

57.5 % of the Egyptian population live in rural areas (CAPMAS* 2017). While poverty alleviation is a major governmental goal, Nevertheless the actions of governments can sometimes make life worse for the unfortunate, through inappropriate and oppressive policies and interventions. Yet, much of what affects the poor lies beyond the control of governments, influenced by the private sector, or by the collective voluntary actions of the civil society (Devas 2004). A project geographically targeting the poor villages was launched by the government in 2010 and developed by NGOs aiming to help the poorest, however after 9 years of the project the changes are minor. The aim of the study is to trace the process and deconstruct it to understand the different entry points, the various implementation organizations in addition to questioning the alignment of the visions of the government, NGOs and the beneficiaries. Finally comparing the primary intentions with the actual interventions of the project. Through a series of semi-structured interviews with policy makers, NGO managers, field workers and beneficiaries. Thus based on theories of development, the aim is filing a knowledge gap of understanding.

* Egyptian central agency for public mobilization and statistics Devas, N., 2014. Urban governance voice and poverty in the developing world. Routledge.

Jess Jones
Challenging ethnocentric assumptions about female agency and natural resources: An ethnographic study in three villages in the north of Sierra Leone

The relationship between women, nature and natural resources is assumed to subordinate women and act as a barrier to gender equality (MacCormack and Strathern, 1980; Cleaver, 2007). As a result of this, the social value of natural resources and how female agents respond to a change in these has received limited attention (Jackson, 1998; Harcourt, 2009; Rochealeau and Nirmal, 2014). This paper examines how being relocated for large-scale mining has resulted in a loss of natural resources and how women have reacted to this. The findings are based on ethnographic data from three rural villages in the north of Sierra Leone that have been relocated for large-scale mining. This paper contributes to feminist political ecology, by demonstrating the social value of natural resources, how a loss or change in resources caused by mining as a development strategy has threatened to colonise women's lifeworlds and how women have resisted this. For example, as a result of being relocated for mining, people have been provided with 'modern' houses. The loss of 'natural' mud-thatch houses threatens to colonise women's lifeworlds because these are built inline with women's lives and cultural identity. Women have resisted the new houses by refusing to live in them and/or abide by the modern way of life they represent. This demonstrates how development strategies can inadvertently cause inequities and how women have resisted this. This highlights the need for further research into cultural values, so as to decolonise views about the role of resources in economic and sustainable development.

Julie Balen (Panel)
Participants: Kerry Parris, Megan Cavanagh, Shumona Salaam, Siobhan Gillespie

The Sheffield University Faculty of Medicine has a group of researchers working on the prevention and management of pre-term birth (PTB) in the Global South, with a specific focus on Bangladesh and South Africa (PRIME; see https://www.primeglobalhealth.co.uk/index.php). PRIME is an interdisciplinary global health research group funded by NIHR as part of the UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). It includes field, clinic and lab-based research within and across each setting, with sub-studies led by molecular biologists, social scientists and research midwives, among others. There are currently four post-graduate research (PGR) students, three pre-doctoral researchers and eight post-doctoral researchers across several interconnected Work Packages. PTB affects 15 million babies annually and is the leading cause of under-5 deaths in LMICs. However, there is a paucity of primary research on PTB in these settings - instead there is an overarching assumption of generalisabilty of findings from high income country contexts. Reducing neonatal deaths from PTB (50% of cases) by 2030 is a key target of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will require significant evidence to be generated, in order to inform relevant policies and programmes. This, in turn, requires large-scale collaborative, interdisciplinary and contextually relevant research on PTB challenges, as well as opportunities for cross-learning and sustainable capacity development. The PRIME panel will follow a question time format in which PhD students will give a pitch of their proposal. The Chair will then have a guided critical discussion with questions from the audience. This interactive panel will explore and debate the extent to which GCRF-funded groups such as PRIME can contribute towards generating locally relevant data and capacity in order to reduce inequalities (in PTB and more generally), in the Global South.

Kajenje Magessa
Does Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania achieve real devolution or perpetuate existing power relations?

Throughout the global south colonial regimes enclosed forests, excluding local people. Post-independence, states retained de jure control over forests, although their capacity to manage them often declined. International agencies promoted Participatory Forest Management (PFM) as a way to improve management while devolving power to local communities, partially reversing colonial-era centralisation. However, despite considerable investment, PFM has often failed to enable meaningful devolution to local people. This paper reports on 55 key informant interviews with stakeholders involved in developing and implementing PFM policy in Tanzania. We found that the process of PFM policy formulation was dominated by foreign donors and NGOs, with a lack of wider stakeholder engagement. This contributed to weak policy design that failed to meet key criteria for meaningful devolution. Key personnel in the government actively disagreed with the rationale for PFM. This led to PFM policy being weakened at the design stage, and then further stymied during implementation, with government reluctant to devolve appropriate powers to local communities. Constraints to PFM implementation then arose from a subsequent lack of capacity to support the approach, in terms of financial, human, and physical resources, as well as policy knowledge of local communities and forest staff. Successful implementation of PFM has been dependent on donor and NGO support, which has not been sustained. Despite initial promise and good intentions, the success

of PFM has been limited by existing power structures both nationally and internationally and by the very lack of capacity it was supposed to address.

Kuat Akizhanov
How financialisation creates upward income distribution: Income inequality in finance capitalism

Research to date has not yet determined the underlying causal factors of the finance capitalism era (started circa since the 1980s) leading to rising income inequality in both low- and high-income nations. This research answers the question whether financialisation facilitates uneven capital accumulation and generates conditions that increase income inequality. The results of this study indicate that there are causal relations between upward income distribution and financialisation of the national economy developed after neoliberal restructuring. New institutions of neoliberal financialisation regressively affect the functional distribution of income. After financial liberalisation, profits and rents in financial sector are increasing while labour's share is decreasing, exacerbating the level of private/public debt. In USA, South Korea, and Argentina the hypothesis was confirmed while in Sweden neoliberal restructuring was not achieved and the national model was not transformed to regressively affect income distribution. This research has identified components of upward distribution in finance capitalism and causal links in the financialisation-induced income inequality nexus. Institutionalised generative mechanism of regressive income redistribution is an effect of finance capitalism, which transforms national distributional trajectories.

Manuel Heckel
Decolonial development under financial globalisation?

'Maximizing Finance for Development', the World Bank's seemingly simple idea of bringing together global private finance with worldwide infrastructure development aspirations, offers a compelling win-win narrative of escaping poverty through private investment "not just … in infrastructure projects but in people" (World Bank 2018). At the same time, a roadmap by the G8 and recently G20 seeks to establish infrastructure as an asset-class, driven by efforts to open up and standardise financial markets worldwide and establish market-based finance modelled after the US globally. The effort to ramp up private investment to reduce infrastructure backlogs and drive development aligns well with this larger ongoing process of financial globalisation. From this perspective, development agencies and banks appear as facilitators and brokers that lubricate infrastructure development (making projects 'bankable') to supply much needed assets for private financial actors. As a 'side-effect', however, governance is re-scaled and re-configured: decisions that directly affect poor communities are made in board rooms in the few global cities, fixed through internationally standardised norms and commercial law. This paper explores the link between financial globalisation, governance transformations and local resistance. It furthermore examines the role of development agencies and banks in this and argues that potential decolonisation efforts may be crucially undermined by larger agendas of financial globalisation. The connected research project aims at unpacking and scrutinising how these three elements (financial globalisation, governance transformations and local resistance) come together and interact in rapidly urbanising contexts in sub-Saharan Africa.

World Bank. 2018. "Maximizing Finance for Development." 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdzttzJphsE.

Megnaa Mehtta
Forest Rights or Respecting the Forest: A Tale of Two Claims in the Sundarbans Forests of West Bengal, India

This paper, based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in the Sundarbans mangrove forest of West Bengal, centers on a moral code referred to as jongoler niyam, literally 'rules or moral observances of the jungle', followed by the fishing community whose livelihoods depend on the forests. This moral code is derived from religious beliefs around the forest goddess Bonbibi who preaches specific conduct centered around an ethic of restraint where one should take no more than one needs. This paper proposes that these 'rules of the jungle' are an alternative form of vernacular forest governance. In doing so, it is a project toward decolonizing current paradigms of forest governance. First, I contrast the prevailing political paradigms that seek to represent or control the fishing community, namely the Forest Department, emboldened by a powerful lobby of conservationists and secondly rights-based camps, with the everyday ethics inherent in 'rules of the jungle'. I show how the 'rules of the jungle' are antithetical to the surveillance, fines and fear enshrined in the State's conservation laws, but simultaneously also eschew the idea of universal entitlement advanced by forest rights activists. The 'rules of the jungle' have been largely ignored, in both language and imagination, by the prevailing political movements, which instead relegate them to a depoliticized sphere of religion and ritual. I contend that these beliefs, if understood holistically, propose an alternative politics that hinge on governing the self. By extension, these beliefs provide a model for organizing

social relations and protecting the environmental commons. By exploring the different political visions that forests allow for, I argue for anthropological research's potential to contribute to new bases for political organization latent in peoples' everyday moralities.

Minju Jung
The public's participation in global health governance (GHG)

People are generally seen as 'acted upon' rather than actors in GHG literature. This study refutes this understanding of the public and introduces a case where the public engages in politics at the grassroots level and does seem to have made a change - e.g. 'bottom up'. The public expresses their opinion using a variety of ways including voting, petition, social media, and even riot. Social movements are one type of public action. Candlelight vigils in 2002 and 2008, mobilized for national security and for health issues, are monumental to social movement history in South Korea. The candlelight vigil in 2008, especially, was more successful than the vigil in 2002 in terms of the scale and outcome of the social movement. The vigil in 2008 shows how the public reacts to and involves in global health issues. The public, here, refers to the group of individuals scattered and independent from a formal group. By using framing theory, this study explains the success of the vigil in 2008 and its influence on foreign policy. After that, it discusses the role of the public in global health governance that global health governance studies have largely neglected. This study argues that the public is not merely an object of global health governance. Rather, when the public regards a global health issue as threats to their daily life, they respond and attempt to act in global health governance. This study sheds a light on the contribution of the public to global health governance.

Owasim Akram
Affording Ignorance: A Tale of the Extreme Poor Rural Elderly People of Bangladesh

Relying on a qualitative panel dataset this research aimed to explore the experience of exploitation, exclusion and marginalization of elderly extreme poor (EP) of Bangladesh. Findings indicated that the EP elderly people are not only asset/income poor but also vulnerably relation poor. Fractured inter-generational relation/bargain and absence of state led support forced them to go for labor intensive manual jobs. Most of them lived either through begging or working as a domestic help. Access to social safety nets depended on their political loyalty and strength of social connections thus most of them were denied. All the respondents were virtually landless and reported severe housing problem. Living in their own land found to be the most important empowerment indicators. The lived experiences of the extreme poor elderly people in such destitution, marginalization and vulnerability are tantamount to gross ignorance of their rights and entitlements which would be too costly for a nation to afford.

Ruth W. John
Power relations in conservation partnerships: experience from Tanzania's wildlife sector

Many African countries have witnessed the emergence of different kinds of wildlife protection partnerships since the 1980s. In Tanzania, protection of wildlife outside core-protected areas has seen the development of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) as an important form of partnership between the government, local communities, private businesses, conservation organizations and development partners. WMAs are central to many debates about conservation and development. Conceptually, this paper builds on the political ecology literature to explore the power dynamics that determine who benefits and who loses in WMA partnerships. Drawing from fieldwork in Rufiji district, I show that a few powerful partners determine access to wildlife by local communities, control funds and make most decisions about the use of land, sometimes without villagers' consent. Rather than promoting local development, conservation partnerships have had unequal social impacts due to continued restrictions on wildlife utilization, thus fostering different kinds of livelihood insecurities. I set these changes within broader economic dynamics which have seen the rise of new cash crops which are less vulnerable to wildlife damage. These could alter the economic and political costs and benefits associated with new wildlife partnerships.

Sanjib Sherpa
Regulation and Social Performance of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Emerging Markets.

In the last decade, microfinance institutions (MFIs) have grown rapidly in developing countries. Traditionally, the aim of MFIs was to reduce poverty by providing financial services to poor households. However, in recent years, there has been an increasing trend of commercialisation of MFIs whereby more emphasis is placed on the financial performance of MFIs. In line with this emerging trend, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of commercialisation on the financial and social performance of MFIs in developing and emerging countries. Taking

full advantage of comprehensive data between 2002 to 2016 from the Mix Market MFIs indices, World Bank and Heritage Foundation database, this study analyses MFIs in developing and emerging countries using unbalanced panel data regression methods. The results show that whereas the commercialisation of MFIs has no significant impact on financial performance there is a significant positive impact on social performance. Furthermore, this paper also highlights the impact of macroeconomic factors and institutional quality on MFIs performance.

Shizhil Zhang
Historical foundation of China's economic rise in the modern era

China's success in economic transformation has drawn the wide attentions over the world in the last decades. As a mainstream school, liberalists assert that the success of China economic transformation utterly endorses the function of western liberalism. With the process of further liberalisation, China will eventually join the western liberal bloc. Nonetheless, China demonstrates little interests in further liberalisation, nor does it reveal any attempt to be 'westernised', both in politically and economically. The liberal understanding misperceives and obscures China's economic rise in many aspects, Hence, it is important to provide an alternative understanding on the case of China's rise. This research argues that the process of China's liberalising economy designed by Deng Xiaoping since 1978 is not following western liberalism, instead, it has a strong historical foundation which can be traced back to 1684 when Kangxi emperor initiated and institutionalised the 'Open – door' policy. In this sense, Deng's 'Opening and Reform' since 1978 is reminiscent of Kangxi's opening in 1684. Both of their opening put virtual ends to the old systems, and established a 'managed liberal' economy which can be manifested in the transformation of foreign trade. By scrutinising historical archives and official documents, this research consists of three parts. The first part aims to critique why and how the liberal understandings fail to explain China's rise. The second part focuses on analysis of the 'historical foundation', namely, the 'Open – door' policy initiated by Kangxi emperor in 1684. The third part reveals how this historical foundation provides an alternative understanding on China's economic transformation in the modern era.

Teklehaymanot Weldemichel
"A 60 years long experiment that failed": Multiple land use model and the process of accumulation through "unfreedom" in Ngorongoro, Tanzania

It has been sixty years since the establishment of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) as a multiple land use system in 1959. The official aim of the NCAA was to protect wildlife, safeguard interests of the Maasai residents and to promote tourism. Through a multiple land use model, pastoralists were meant to coexist with vast number and diversity of wildlife and tourism activities that depends on both the wildlife and 'authentic' cultural experiences, which the Maasai provide. Sixty years later, authorities now claim that the idea of mixed land use was an experiment, it has failed, and they blame population growth, increasing livestock numbers, changes in the Maasai culture for its failure. On the other hand, local communities argue that the problem emanates from the way Tanzanian authorities conceptualized traditional-ness in the first place and the ways tourism benefits are distributed. This paper is based on an extended fieldwork in Ngorongoro, Tanzania, and analysis of documents including management plans, legal Acts, reports, websites and other relevant sources. The main argument is that authorities' claims about the failure rather show the deep-seated interest of the Tanzanian state to empty land for conservation and conservation based tourism. The state refused investments in basic social services and infrastructures that could have improved the lives of the residents. The Maasai were allowed to stay in Ngorongoro so long as they remain 'traditional', which means as objects of tourism and any alteration to this narrowly defined traditional-ness leads to eviction.

Yin Zhang
A Typology of Community-based Co-management in China's Protected Areas

Abstract: Due to the lack of systematic analysis of community-based co-management (CBCM) in protected areas in China and the demanding for establishing CBCM system in China's National Park, this paper intends to introduce a typology framework of CBCM and explore the emerging reasons behind. After completions of literature review, expert interviews, field research and in-depth interview of 16 typical cases, a typology framework is proposed consequently based on the dominant party as well as the primary direction. This framework divides the co-management cases of protected areas in China into four types, that are Community-dominant Conservation Type, Agency-dominant Conservation Type, Community-dominant Development Type and Agency-dominant Development Type, and compares their preconditions and potential issues. By analyzing these, this research also reveals six emerging reasons contributing to the CBCM in China, that are cultural belief, exterior threats, profit incentive, poverty alleviation, conservation requirements, NGOs' involvement.