

FAU CONFERENCE 2009

Bringing the State back in: New roles and responsibilities for the 21th Century State

This year's conference includes workshops on:

1. The (Asian) Developmental State: Still relevant?
2. The Decentralised State: A contradiction in terms?
3. States in Transition and in Fragility
4. State and Citizens in multilevel governance
5. The Bureaucratic State and Implementation

12th – 13th of May 2009

Location:

Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
Dalgas Have 15 & Solbjerg Plads 3
2000 Frederiksberg (Copenhagen)

**Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere (FAU) -
The Association of Development Researchers in Denmark**
c/o DIIS, Strandgade 56, 1401 Kbh. K
Phone: +45 32 69 86 90 - Fax: + 45 32 69 88 00
E-mail: fau@diis.dk - IBAN Account no: DK1430000001651161
www.fau.dk

BACKGROUND AND SUBJECT OF THE CONFERENCE:

Since 1990 FAU has hosted an annual conference with the primary aim of making a contribution to contemporary concerns through interdisciplinary debate. Thus it is our hope that also this year the conference will bring together Danish, Nordic and International researchers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds with development practitioners (from donor agencies, consultancies and NGOs) and advanced students in order to present and discuss important contemporary issues within Danish and international development research and shed light on important processes of development.

The theme of the conference is 'Bringing the State back in: New roles and Responsibilities for the 21st Century State.' The global financial crises have led to a questioning of the reliance on the market forces and a renewed interest in the state. Yet few aspire to return to the situation in the 1960s and much has been learned about the potential role and responsibilities of the state since. Accordingly, the FAU Conference 2009 finds it pertinent to address the changing situation between the public and the private and how lessons from the past can be fruitfully utilised to inform the shaping of the roles and responsibilities of the state in 21st Century - given the many development challenges still present.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: (further information at the FAU website)

Adrian Leftwich is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, University of York. He has published widely on state building and development, including on 'States of Development' and 'Changing Configurations of the Developmental State'. His recent publications include: 2008. 'Developmental states, effective states and poverty reduction: the primacy of politics', United Nations Research Institute for Social development (UNRISD), Geneva, and 2005. 'Politics in Command: Development Studies and the Rediscovery of Social Science', *New Political Economy*, Vol. 10, 4.

Bernard Weimer is currently a lecture at University of Eduardo Mondlane and independent consultant. He is an Economist and political scientist by training, and author of books and articles (including on Mozambique), he has worked in Mozambique since 1992, as an advisor, project manager, practitioner, consultant and lecturer, focusing on matters of decentralization, local government and governance. His latest research project is titled: "The Political Economy of Decentralization in Mozambique: 15 years of struggle for democracy, resources and wealth creation."

Peter Uvin (to be confirmed – tbc) is the Academic Dean and The Henry J. Leir Professor of International Humanitarian Studies, the Fletcher School, Tufts University, Boston, US. He has worked on a series of issues regarding conflict and fragile studies, human rights, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts, in particular on Africa. His recent and known publications include: 'Human rights and Development', 2004 and 'The Development/Peacebuilding Nexus: A Typology and History of Changing Paradigms' *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* 2002.

Ben Kerkvliet is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University. His research has focused on agrarian politics in Southeast Asia and interactions between ordinary people and authorities or other elites. His recent publications include: 2005. 'The Power of Everyday Politics. How Vietnamese Peasants Transformed National Policy.' Cornell University Press, Ithaca, and 2004. 'Beyond Hanoi: Local Government in Vietnam.' co-edited with David G. Marr. Singapore and Copenhagen: ISEAS Publications and NIAS Press.

Sue Unsworth is a Research Associate in the Governance Team, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex. She has extensive experience in designing and managing international aid programme and has been extensively involved in the Governance work, at DFID and now at IDS, including the Centre for the Future State. Her recent publications include: 2007. 'Focusing aid on good governance. Can it work?' in Welsh & Woods (eds.) *Exporting Good Governance*. CIGI and Wilfrid Laurier University Press, and 2003. 'Better Government for Poverty Reduction: More effective partnerships for change.' DFID.

Theme 1: The (Asian) Development State: Still relevant?

Why are some states more capable and supportive of development than others? The development state paradigm points at elite commitment to a national development agenda, concentration of political power, competent and coherent bureaucracies and institutionalised cooperation between state and business (shared projects). The East Asian developmental states were able to transform into dynamic economies and improve social conditions within a condensed period of time. Moreover, China seems to follow. According to several scholars the 1997-98 Asian financial crises was either due to the developmental state model or it led to the end of that model.

This raises a number of questions: Has globalisation undermined the efficacy and legitimacy of the developmental states in East Asia? To what extent is the developmental state area- and time bound? Is the international environment still permissive enough to allow other states to follow a developmental state model? Is there such thing as a blue print model of 'a developmental state'? Can developmental states be democratic? Why has corruption not impeded economic growth and transformation in East Asia? What does the recent economic and social development in large countries such as Brazil and India tell us about the developmental state? Can African countries learn from the East Asian NICs?

Convenors: Jørgen Dige Pedersen (Aarhus University - AU), Peter Wad (Copenhagen Business School - CBS) and Søren Jeppesen (CBS)

Resource persons: Laurids Lauridsen (Roskilde University - RUC), Peter Kragelund, (RUC - tbc), Niels Fold (University of Copenhagen – UC, tbc).

Keynote Presenter: Prof. Andrian Leftwich, University of York, York, UK.

Theme 2: The Decentralised State: A contradiction in terms?

Since the 1990s much hope has been invested in decentralising state governance and in devolving authority to locally elected governments in the global South. It is hoped that decentralising top-down state governance can improve service delivery and development efforts because: it brings government closer to citizens; makes the state more accountable and legitimate; and enables local democratisation and bottom-up participatory development. Simultaneously, modernistic central state-building exercises, circulating around the MDGs, PRSPs and Budget Support, are now supported to the extent that state-building apparently overrules drives towards decentralisation.

This panel asks what the relationship is between the two apparently contradictory processes of state-building and decentralisation. Is the decentralised state a contradiction in terms? Or is decentralisation also a means to consolidate central state authority by expanding governance institutions across space and by enrolling local actors under the ambit of state control? Various country-cases illustrate that devolution of authority to locally elected governments or to community consultative councils within a deconcentrated state system are often accompanied by central ministers and the President trying to increase their control of resources, benefits and privileges. Decentralisation can be a tool to consolidate power across space, even as it opens up spaces for civil society actors to influence and challenge central state power.

Convenors: Lars Buur and Helene Kyed (Danish Institute for International Studies – DIIS).

Resource persons: Mark Robinson (DFID).

Keynote Presenter: Bernhard Weimer, Mozambique

Theme 3: States in Transition and in Fragility

The workshop will look to research that has addressed states undergoing some form of democratisation and states categorised as fragile states. In the case of the former, this might be a reform process facilitated from above (e.g. Bhutan), by civil war (e.g. Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Uganda), by donors (e.g. Bangladesh, Mozambique), by military returning to the barracks (e.g. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina, Chile, Ghana, Nigeria); but a complex and multi-faceted process in each case. Democratising states and so-called fragile states have potential similarities, but are not one and the same. The fragile condition factors that give rise to and characterise a fragile state are diverse and complex and each case needs to be explored for its specificities and peculiarities. The inclusion of fragile states in the framework of the workshop lies in their fragility being either a cause for or an effect of democratic transition. For the workshop therefore, the interest lies in the potential of democratisation to strengthen a state.

Questions that the workshop will address include: What are the different forms and processes of democratic transition? Under which conditions does a democratic transition lead to social and institutional stability? In which situations have donors contributed positively to democratic transition? Under which circumstances may processes of democratisation prove dangerous for states in fragility?

Convenors: Neil Webster (DIIS) and Irene Nørlund (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies – NIAS, UC).

Resource persons: Lars Engberg Pedersen (DIIS) and Peter Albrecht (DIIS/CBS).

Keynote Presenter: Peter Uvin, (tbc).

Theme 4: State and citizens in multilevel governance

In a developing country context, the notion of multilevel governance refers to the recent trend towards the upward diffusion of power to regional and international organizations, the downward diffusion of power to various sub-national governments, and sideways away from central states. One aspect of multi-level governance is the

emerging new forms of law or law-based regulation working across national and international, public and private systems of law and challenging traditional divisions and notions of law. Law is increasingly politicized and politics increasingly legalized, in order to act to implement political objectives and to promote these from international to national and sub-national levels.

The aims of this workshop are to discuss the role of the state in multi-level governance emphasizing the role of the state in new forms of law and law-based regulation, and the relationship between state and citizens. The workshop is open to presentations and participants representing various approaches and research cases illuminating the workshop theme.

Convenors: Karin Buhmann (UC-Life) and Iben Nathan (UC-Life),

Resource persons: Håkan Hyden (University of Lund)

Keynote Presenter: Ben Kerkvliet, Professor Emeritus, Australia.

Theme 5: The Bureaucratic state and implementation

A paradigm shift from a consumption- and exchange-oriented approach to poverty reduction towards a production- and employment oriented approach is, perhaps, emerging. Development of domestic productive capacities and associated growth in productive employment opportunities is central to this approach. The core processes through which productive capacities grow are: capital accumulation, technological progress and structural change. Indeed, there is a need for “structural transformation” and “developmental governance” rather than merely “strengthening markets” and pushing for “good governance” according to UNCTAD, but there are many variations on these themes floating around in academic communities, international organizations and government offices.

Nevertheless this identifies in very broad terms the capabilities that the public sector should have to increase the productive capacities in poor countries. However, how policies and reforms should be implemented to achieve administrative and productive capacities is a different and challenging question. This workshop focuses, therefore, on implementation issues; that is, implementation of public sector reforms and of general and specific productive sector policies. Such issues are generally neglected by development research. The literature is overwhelmingly occupied with processes and outcomes of policy making.

Convenor(s): Ole Therkildsen (DIIS) and Mette Kjær (AU).

Resource persons: Søren Winther (SFI), and James Jougin (Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda).

Keynote Presenter: Sue Unsworth, IDS, Sussex.

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Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere I Danmark (FAU)

c/o DIIS

Strandgade 56

1401 København K

PRACTICALITIES:

The conference will take place at the Copenhagen Business School, Dalgas Have 15, Frederiksberg/Copenhagen. You will be registered by turn in accordance to the time of your payment. However, please note that the number of participants per workshop is limited, which means that the final selection of participants will be based on an assessment of relevance by the convenors, and that the number of students' seats is limited.

Time: Tuesday 12 May 9.00 am. – Wednesday 13 May 5.00 pm.
Location: Copenhagen Business School, Dalgas Have 15 & Solbjerg Plads 3, 2000 Frederiksberg. The venue is close to the Lindevang & Frederiksberg Metro stations. The venue can also be reached by different buses (for information, ask the FAU secretariat)

Conference fee: Price for non-members of FAU: 1200 Kr.
Price for FAU-members:

- Regular members: 900 Kr.
- Student- members/Unemployed members: 200 Kr.

The fee includes conference materials, coffee/tea and cakes and lunch both days. It does, however, not include lodging which is to be handled by the participants, nor the conference dinner Wednesday evening, which has to be paid separately upon registration.

Conference dinner: 200 Kr. (a nice three course meal, including wine – venue to be announced)

For further information, please contact the FAU secretariat (Steffen Randahl). Phone: +45 3269 8690. E-mail: fau@diis.dk. The secretariat is open Mondays from 12.30 to 16. You can find further information about the conference, in particular the workshops and about FAU on our website at: www.fau.dk. The electronic version of the registration form seen below can also be found at the website.

ABOUT FAU:

The Association of Development Researchers in Denmark (FAU) was formed in 1982, and its overall purposes are: 1) to promote research regarding the Third World in general, and within social sciences in particular, 2) to strengthen the network between development researchers and practitioners in Denmark, 3) to support the communication of the results of the research. The membership prices are as follows: Regular members: 250 Kr., Students/Unemployed: 175 Kr., Spouses: 300 Kr. and Institutions: 750 Kr. FAUs Bank/Postal Account number: 0274 - 000 1 65 11 61.

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REGISTRATION FORMAT (**DEADLINE APRIL 14th 2009** – Note: Deadline for abstracts is 15th March! See details on the workshops at the FAU website)
PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS (Street & Postal code): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMPLOYMENT: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP NO. (IN PRIORITY): _____

FAU MEMBER: YES _____ NO _____
CONFERENCE DINNER (200 Kr.): YES _____ NO _____

REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE THROUGH MAILING THIS FORMULAR TO FAU AND BY PAYING THE CONFERENCE FEE USING AN POSTAL CHEQUE PAYING-IN FORM OR VIA A NET BANKING TRANSFER. BANK/Postal Account no: 0274-0001651161
REMEMBER: REGISTRATION NO LATER THAN: **April 14th 2009**
FAU, c/o DIIS, Strandgade 56, 1401 Copenhagen K.

Preliminary Programme:**Tuesday May 12:**

- 09.00-09.30: Welcome session (FAU and representative from organising committee)
09.30-10.15: 1st Plenary session, by Adrian Leftwich (plus comments from opponent/discussant)
10.15-10.45: Comments and discussion, moderated by (to be decided)
10.45-11.15: Break (coffee and tea)
11.15-12.30: Workshops (1st session – 5 in parallel)
12.30-13.30: Lunch
13.30-15.00: 2nd Plenary session – panel debate with 2 keynotes (Peter Uvin and Bernhard Weimar) + DK-researchers and policy makers
15.00-15.30: Break
15.30-17.00: Workshops (2nd session – 5 in parallel)

19.30-???: Conference dinner

Wednesday May 13:

- 09.00-09.15: Introduction to day 2
09.15-10.15: 3rd plenary session, keynote by Sue Unsworth, plus opponent/discussant
10.15-10.45: Comments and discussion, moderated by (to be decided)
10.45-11.15: Break (coffee and tea)
11.15-12.30: Workshops (3rd session – 5 in parallel)
12.30-13.30: Lunch
13.30-14.45: 4th plenary session, keynote with Ben Kerkvliet plus opponent & moderation
14.45-15.15: Break
15.15-16.30: 5th Plenary – all keynote presenters: How can we bring the State back into Development & what are the key roles and responsibilities?
16.30-17.00: Closing remarks

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE:

The conference will be organised around five workshops which are planned around a set of criteria: 1) to reflect key challenges, and possible policy approaches, 2) to include cross-disciplinary approaches and contributions of a variety of academic fields, 3) to take stock of present strong holds in the Danish Development Research environment and discuss pertinent views with input from key Nordic and international researchers in the fields. The plenary presentations aim at presenting overall issues of concern for all the participants and discuss linkages between research and practice, whereas the workshops deal with specific subjects and allow a more in-depth assessment of these themes based on paper presentations and discussions.

WORKSHOPS:

The workshops are being organised by one or more convenors assisted by one or several of the resource persons who are also invited speakers. The format of the sessions in the workshops will be (short) presentations, followed by comments by discussants, and by discussions among all participants. Apart from the invited presenters, the participants are encouraged to submit abstracts for further papers to be presented in the workshops. Abstracts of approx. 500 words are to be submitted to FAU no later than 15th March, and if accepted, a full paper is submitted no later than 15th April (the format and length of the paper will be communicated by the convenors). Further information on the content and programme of the workshops can be found at the workshop pages at www.fau.dk. Most workshops intend to submit the best papers to Danish and/or international journals for publication afterwards. An anthology of selected papers at an international publishing house is also considered. Written materials, including the papers for presentation and more elaborated descriptions of the workshops, will be made available to the participants prior to the conference.

The Conference is funded by the Research Council for Development Research (FFU), the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), and the Centre for Business & Development Studies, CBS.