

Joint Nordic Conference, 24-25 November, 2011:

The Future of Development Research: Exploring the Nordic Perspective(s)?

Jointly arranged by the Nordic Development Research Associations, institutions and organisations
Venue: Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Copenhagen

Second announcement and call for panels and workshops

The Nordic countries have in different ways impacted on Development Policy, Aid and Research. The Nordic model(s) emphasising social policies, the key role of public governance and the fight against poverty and inequalities are by some seen as prominent perspectives alongside e.g. the Washington Consensus. Nevertheless, the foot prints on global agenda have been modest. Additionally, the complexity and challenges of development issues keep growing, including financial crises, climate and growing inequalities. The need for timely, relevant, critical and stimulating research is as big as ever. What can the Nordic perspective(s) contribute with? First, there is need to take a step back and investigate the Nordic approach(es) more closely. What are the similarities - and what are the differences? Second, there is a need to discuss the Nordic Development Research vis-à-vis global Development Research. What are the trends? Who are setting the directions? Where is the renewal needed to respond to the present challenges?

On the one hand, the field of Development Research has been able to respond continuously to the new challenges over the last 50 years, producing stimulating and thought provoking research (new approaches, new methodologies, new theories, extending both mono- and cross/inter disciplinary areas of study and innovate ways of publication and dissemination). On the other hand, as the field of Development Studies is becoming increasing broader - and more fragmented - (e.g. including studies of youth, climate change and fragile states to mention a few issues) and as funding agencies and publics at large increase their demands for 'relevance' of Development Research, the future is by no means certain. Renewal is pertinent and needed.

We would like to encourage Nordic Development Researchers to engage with each other and with colleagues, practitioners and policy makers. Emphasis should be on exploring what was/is/will be (a) Nordic perspective(s), what common research approaches (whether theoretical, methodological, epistemological, or ethical etc) do exist - if they exist? And do we have common perspectives on development policy and aid - or not? And whether (increased) joint Nordic initiatives have merit in relation to emphasis on EU and Global research environments? How do our Southern research partners perceive the Nordic perspective(s)? We encourage all disciplines whether economic, political, social, geographic, cultural address pertinent topics whether migration, economic development, political culture, labour geography, youth, health, private sector development, poverty reduction etc, etc. The conference seeks to make the 'case' for joint Nordic research in terms of substance areas, methodology, theory,

relevance etc and hereby contribute to further expansion of such collaboration. Accordingly, proposals for joint Nordic panels and workshops are invited. Moreover engagement with colleagues from around the world and in particular the Global South is equally encouraged.

Expression of interest: Send 1/2 - 1 A4 page of text indicating an interest to a) organise a particular workshop and/or panel discussion (in such case, please include the title of the panel/workshop, contact information of the panel/workshop coordinator and a short description of the overall theme or idea), b) take part in a workshop or panel organised by others, c) to write and present a paper, d) suggest (a) key note presenter(s) and/or other international scholars to invite, to the organising committee at the secretariat of FAU: fau@diis.dk

Deadline for expressions of interest (extended): 1st July 2011

A workshop can consist of 1-3 sessions, each of 1 1/2 hours duration, bring together few or many researchers (and practitioners and policy makers, if wished) from each of the Nordic countries, include one or more international research colleagues from Northern and/or Southern research institutions, present papers, use discussants to provide input for discussion, and aim for publication after the conference.

A panel can be a plenary or smaller group discussion, of 1 1/2 hours duration, bring together researchers (or practitioners or policy makers, if wished) from each of the Nordic countries, include one or more international research colleagues from Northern and/or Southern research institutions, present and discuss a pertinent topic within the theme of the conference.

Further information is found at www.fau.dk/NC