

Programme

Thursday, 25 October 2007

From 17.00 –
Arrival and registration of participants

18.00 –
Official opening of the symposium
Welcome addresses

18.30 – Intellectual trajectories
In this first panel discussion, our invited speakers will introduce themselves and explain how they became the researchers they are today.

Friday, 26 October 2007

9.00 – Questioning development
What is development? A process of social evolution? A set of methods to raise productivity? Specific interventions by governments and NGOs into social and economic processes? These are only some of the many definitions of this highly contested term, which stands at the centre of our intellectual interest. It is therefore worth reflecting on its various meanings in this session.

Speakers: Uma Kothari (University of Manchester) and Aram Ziai (Project International Development)
Discussant: Andreas Novy (Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration/Mattersburg Circle)

10.30 – Tea and coffee break

11.00 –
Purposes of development research

What are the aims of development research? How does it relate to development practices? Is Development Studies capable of setting its own research agenda or is it set by others? These and other questions touching upon the aspirations and limits of Development Studies will be posed during this second session of the day.

Speakers: Henry Bernstein (University of London) and Thomas Lawo (EADI, Bonn)
Discussants: Raina Zimmering (University of Linz), Walter Schicho (Project International Development/Mattersburg Circle)

13.00 – Lunch

14.30 – Doing development research (workshops)

Coordinated by the five invited speakers, the workshops will focus on the institutional and political dimensions of development research, on the disciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approaches used, and on actors and structures. In so doing, they will take up several of the issues formulated at the pre-symposium.

18.30 – Dinner

20.00 – Mattersburg Soiree

Saturday, 27 October 2007

9.00 – Inter, multi, pluri, trans – disciplinarity and beyond
Various disciplines are involved in development research. How are they related? Can we move from a multi-disciplinary to an inter- or even transdisciplinary approach?

Speaker: Frans J. Schuurman (CIDIN, Nijmegen)
Discussants: Discussants: Simron Jit Singh (Institute for Social Ecology/IFF Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies), Ulli Vilsmaier (University of Salzburg) and Johannes Jäger (Mattersburg Circle)

10.30 – Tea and coffee break

11.00 – Development Studies: Work in Progress
In this final session the results of Friday afternoon's workshops will be presented. The invited speakers will then proceed to a concluding panel discussion on the future of Development Studies entitled 'Where do we go from here?'

13.00 – End

Invited speakers

Henry Bernstein
is Professor of Development Studies in the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. His interests include social theory, the political economy of agrarian change, and urban informal economy.

Uma Kothari
is a Reader at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester. Her research interests include histories and theories of development, colonial and postcolonial analyses of development, transnational migration and social development.

Thomas Lawo
is Executive Secretary of EADI (European Association of Development Institutes) in Bonn.

Frans J. Schuurman
is Senior Lecturer at the Centre for International Development Issues, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. His current research focuses on participatory local government, social capital, and development theory.

Aram Ziai
is currently Visiting Professor at the Project International Development, University of Vienna. His areas of interest include North-South relations and development policies, globalization, global governance and global protest as well as theories of development.

Austrian Journal of Development Studies 2/2007
A special issue of the journal will be published prior to the conference. It comprises contributions of our international guests and allows participants to become familiar with their main points in advance.
Please make your order at:
office@mattersburgkreis.at (€ 9.80 plus postage)
<http://www.mattersburgkreis.at/jep/>

17 October 2007, 10 am to 5 pm
This pre-symposium, jointly organised with the Commission for Development Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (KeF), will focus on the political dimensions of development research.
Ministry of European and International Affairs, Großer Sitzungssaal der Sektion VII, Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna

**Pre-Symposium
'Development
Research and
the Shaping
of Development'**

**Symposium:
Perspectives
on
Development
Studies**

**Mattersburg,
25-27 October 2007**

**Thursday, 6 pm –
Saturday, 1 pm**

**Kulturzentrum Mattersburg,
Wulkalände 2,
A-7210 Mattersburg**

**All presentations and discussions
will be held in English.**

<http://entwicklungsforschung.at>

The idea behind the symposium

In contrast to other countries, Austria in recent years has experienced a growing interest in Development Studies. The success of the International Development degree course at the University of Vienna as well as various initiatives in other locations (the restructuring of the Commission for Development Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, a Global Studies programme at the University of Graz, and comparable efforts at the Universities of Linz and Salzburg, to name but a few) give the impression of a prospering academic species.

Nevertheless, current success stories should not distract us from carefully charting the ground we are treading on; neither should they lead to complacency, but, rather, to careful self-reflection. Can Development Studies be regarded as a new academic discipline or is it rather a loosely-knit combination of traditional disciplines centered around a specific subject? What is this subject? How shall we approach it? And to what end? Or, should development issues rather continue to form an integrated part of traditional academic disciplines?

Development research is often dedicated to a moral purpose. Therefore, there have always been tensions between the demands of and for theoretical knowledge on the one hand, and applied knowledge in the design and implementation of policies and interventions on the other. This uneasy relationship between academic research and development practice will be a major talking point at the symposium.

In order to find new answers to these old questions we looked abroad for additional inspiration and have invited a carefully selected group of internationally renowned scholars. They will join us in Mattersburg and share their ideas with us.

The symposium aims to

- foster an international dialogue on the current state of Development Studies
- provide the Austrian development research community with an opportunity to meet and to formulate common concerns and goals
- initiate a constructive and open debate on vital theoretical and methodological issues
- critically reflect upon the production of development knowledge and its role within Austrian/European/global society
- map out the foreseeable trajectory of Development Studies within academia

The symposium aims to attract

- academics whose research interests include or touch upon development issues
- advanced students reading International Development or comparable university courses
- anybody working in the field and interested in a more theoretical discussion

The invited speakers and discussants are from a wide range of disciplines within the social sciences. Nevertheless, we would also like to encourage natural scientists to participate in the symposium.

Development Studies has always been the Robin Hood of the social sciences.

Frans J. Schuurman

The ‘true meaning’ of ‘development’ is always a matter of controversy, and knowledge claims concerning this question are political claims.

Aram Ziai

I remain uncomfortable with the persistent belief that Western academia has the answers for the rest of the world.

Uma Kothari

The drive for ‘win-win solutions’ is a route to intellectual restriction in a world of contradictions.

Henry Bernstein

Development, simultaneously challenging both rich and poor countries, implies that the paths that proved successful for industrialised countries can no longer serve as the model for development.

Thomas Lawo

The symposium is jointly organised by

- Mattersburg Circle for Development Policies at Austrian Universities (Mattersburger Kreis für Entwicklungspolitik an den österreichischen Universitäten)
- Austrian Research Foundation for International Development (ÖFSE – Österreichische Forschungsförderung für Internationale Entwicklung)
- Project International Development, University of Vienna (Projekt Internationale Entwicklung an der Universität Wien)
- Paulo Freire Centre for Transdisciplinary Development Research and Education (Paulo Freire Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Entwicklungsforschung und -bildung)
- Mattersburg Cultural Centre (Kulturzentrum Mattersburg)

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für Entwicklungspolitik

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- Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF – Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung)
- Vienna City Council, Cultural Division (MA 7 – Kulturabteilung der Gemeinde Wien)
- Federal State of Burgenland

Österreichische
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

BMWF^a
Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung

WIEN
KULTUR



Conference fee: 40 €
Students and unwaged: 20 €

All presentations and discussions will be held in English.

For further details on the venue, accommodation and registration (from September onwards), please consult our website: <http://entwicklungsforschung.at>

Impressum

Paulo Freire Zentrum/
Mattersburger Kreis/ÖFSE
Berggasse 7, A-1090 Wien
T: ++43/1/317 40 17
Fax: ++43/1/317 40 15
E-mail: office@pfz.at