

## Development Issues in sub-Saharan Africa

**Dr. Shailaja Fennell and Mr. Richard Sidebottom (Centre of Development Studies)**

*Contact Hours: 16 lectures supplemented by bi-weekly open discussion seminars*

This option course has been developed for the MPhil in Development Studies, but places are available for MPhil in African Studies students. The main lecturers are Dr. Shailaja Fennell and Mr. Richard Sidebottom (based in the Centre of Development Studies), although the course format allows for the possibility of guest lecturers from academic, business and other backgrounds.

### Objectives of the Course

Though extremely heterogeneous, countries in sub-Saharan Africa remain among the most underdeveloped and poverty stricken countries in the world. This option course combines historical and economic theoretical perspectives with an updated evaluation of current political, institutional, business and social dynamics. The objective is to provide an appreciation of the wide variation in historical, political, social and economic sources of the development paradigm(s) in sub-Saharan Africa and to thoroughly investigate the prevailing discourse of problem diagnosis and policy prescription. By explicitly linking practical examples and case studies to broader themes such as globalisation and institutional development, this course aims to illustrate concepts and facilitate understanding of key development concepts without duplicating content.

### Select Bibliography

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- Chabal P., & Daloz, J.P., 1999, *Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument* (James Currey: Oxford)
- Collier, P., 2008, *The Bottom Billion* (OUP: Oxford)
- Easterly, W., 2006, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill & So Little Good* (OUP: Oxford)
- Juma, C., 2011, *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa* (OUP: Oxford)
- Meredith, M., 2006, *The State of Africa* (Free Press: London)
- Moyo, D., 2009, *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa* (Penguin: London)
- Ndulu, B.J., O'Connell, S.A., Bates, R.H., Collier, P., & Soludo, C., 2009, *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa 1960-2000* (OUP: Oxford)

Noman, A., Botchwey, K., Stein, H., & Stiglitz, J., 2012 *Good Growth and Governance in Africa: Rethinking Development Strategies* (OUP: Oxford)

Stein, H, 2003 'Rethinking African Development' in *Rethinking Development Economics*, ed. Chang, H-J (Anthem Press: London)

Westbury, A., Page, J., & Assan, J. 2013, [Is Africa Rising or Not? A discussion of economic opportunities and development challenges in Africa](#) (Brookings Africa Growth Initiative: Washington)

## Lecture Outline

### 1. The current development & growth picture

This lecture will introduce different means by which policy makers seek to measure African development: (Employment; Manufacturing Value-added; MDGs; GDP composition; Poverty and HDI; Health and education; Institutions; Corruption indices; infrastructure) and compare the development picture each of these paint along with policy implications.

### 2. Historical legacies

This lecture will put the current development and political picture into historic context both in terms of the colonial era and 'structural adjustment' policies during the 1980s. We will examine the continuing legacies in terms of political governance, social conflict, legal structures, international relations and notions of nationhood.

### 3. International relations in the South-South world

To complete these introductory lectures, we will evaluate the role of China, India and Brazil in current development as well as try to understand the complexities of intra-Africa regional politics and economic zones.

### 4. & 5. State and society in sub-Saharan Africa

These two lectures provide a basis on which students can begin to evaluate the economic and political capacity of the state to be 'Developmental' and for the existence of a binding Development 'Social contract' as a foundation for a Development focused Industrial policy. This will be achieved by examining core institutional concepts such as governance, the notion of 'corruption', the meaning of Democracy (including the role of NGOs and Civil society) and the power of ethnicity, identity and nationhood as sources of conflict and means of co-operation. We will also examine the state's ability to finance its development independently of donor or other external funding or whether fiscal weakness leaves governments beholden to particular interests or policy paradigms.

### 6. & 7. Development models in sub-Saharan Africa & the absence of manufacturing

Having established a platform of economic, political and historical knowledge as well as introducing the relationship between state and society, the course now moves to investigate the drivers behind sub-Saharan Africa's growth paradigm. These two lectures explore different growth trajectories such as resource driven growth (and the associated issues of governance and the 'resource curse') and examine the poor performance of the manufacturing sector. Lessons for industrial policy from Asia will be explored through a focus on particular sectors, such as textile manufacturing.

### 8. & 9. The role of agriculture in development

Given the continuing central role that agriculture plays in the economic growth of sub-Saharan Africa, it is a key topic in this course. The first two lectures on agriculture will focus on rural institutions, property rights, land reform, irrigation and rural markets; and the current and future role of information and computing technology. The second lecture incorporates climate change and food security into a broad discussion of sustainable development and examines how development in sub-Saharan Africa may or may not be enhanced by genetically modified crops, better linkages with global value chains, or alternatives paths such as Fairtrade or organic farming. These debates will be illustrated using numerous case studies for discussion including cotton, cocoa and fruit and vegetables.

#### 10. Human capital

The next series of lectures examines different forms of capital as drivers of development and growth: human, physical and financial. This initial lecture explores issues in all levels of education and training, as well as population growth, gender and migration, to assess the impact on skill shortages or research and development capacity, thereby inhibiting policy attempts to enhance productivity or value-added output. We will also examine social dynamics, and traditional social and patronage networks that affect the potential for collective action and coordination.

#### 11. Physical capital: the infrastructure deficit

Though sub-Saharan Africa has been able to 'leap frog' certain telecommunication obstacles faced by previous developing countries, continuing energy, transport and water shortages continue to restrict many development projects. Despite most trade in sub-Saharan Africa being externally focussed, only a handful of ports can cater for large container ships used by global shipping lines. Over half of countries have regular power outages, as utilities struggle to cater for a rapidly urbanising population. This lecture will examine projects designed to overcome this 'Infrastructure deficit'.

#### 12. Financial capital

Despite impressive economic growth in recent years, such are the continued levels of domestic capital outflows and the size of investments required, that sub-Saharan Africa remains dependent on external funding. This lecture will examine the sources, form and sector allocation of these funds, and examine policy and development implications. The lecture will discuss different forms of finance – private or government; debt or equity; foreign direct investment or portfolio investment. This will be illustrated with specific impact case studies of International Private Equity projects and those of domestic entrepreneurs.

#### 13. Globalisation and business in sub-Saharan Africa

These lectures will examine whether sub-Saharan Africa has become marginalised by the forces of globalisation and discuss how the region can join global value chains as a possible springboard to development. This will be examined by looking at specific industrial sectors. We will also assess the domestic market: is there potential for sub-Saharan Africa to focus on its own one billion customers? This will be illustrated by examining companies such as Unilever; Fastjet; Celltel and Shoprite.

#### 14, 15. & 16. Country case studies

These lectures will examine the implications of what we have covered in the course. The case of the 2002-7 conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, enables us to examine the socio-political impact of a particular development paradigm in terms of institutions, property

rights, migration, social conflict, the resource curse and dependency upon a particular social contract and external finance from an ex-colonial power. The cases of South Africa and Rwanda will examine how sub-Saharan African countries have attempted to redefine development after social conflict.