



February 2009

Welcome to R4D's monthly e-newsletter
Bringing you information about DFID-funded research

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Join two of DFID's research programmes for public presentations of their work

'A Vida Politica' & 'Thorns and Silk'

Monday 9 March, 2009 6.45pm ICA Cinema 2, London

Pathways of Women's Empowerment and Screen South invite you to the World Premiere of these films at the Bird's Eye View Film Festival.

'A Vida Politica' is a series of creative films exploring the activism of four Brazilian women, as they demonstrate innovative ways of bringing hidden issues into the political public domain. Each film has activism as its key driving element. Stylistically, the films capture the point of view and reality for our shape-shifting activists.

'Thorns and Silk' tells four unusual stories from Palestine, featuring women who work in jobs that are conventionally associated with men in their society. All four of them have the courage to break traditional rules, though not without challenges. The films feature a wedding filmmaker who films women-only weddings in the most conservative part of Palestine, a taxi driver who works in the Israeli parts of Jerusalem, a young police trainee at the Palestinian Police Academy, and a mother in occupied Nablus keeping her family's factory going.

The Growth Game: The institutions of development and the development of institutions in Africa and South Asia

Wednesday 4 March, 2009 5.30 – 7.00pm CPA Room, Off Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, London

Findings and policy lessons from the DFID-funded research consortium on Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth (IPPG), will be presented at a meeting of the Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group and the All-Party Group on Overseas Development. The IPPG research programme is investigating the creation, change, and reform of institutions for promoting economic growth and inclusive development in Africa and South Asia.

Participants at the meeting will be Ivan Lewis MP (Minister for Africa, Department for International Development), Dr Adrian Leftwich (University of York, Co-director IPPG), Professor Kunal Sen (University of Manchester, Co-director IPPG), and Dr Blessings Chinsinga (University of Malawi). The meeting will be chaired by Hugh Bayley MP.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to odonoghuea@parliament.uk

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New Projects

Development in the 'raw': What livelihood trajectories and poverty outcomes tell us about welfare regimes and resilience in Afghanistan

This study examines livelihood trajectories and poverty outcomes among rural Afghan households, examining change from a 2002–03 panel set of household data. The study examines how households in rural Afghanistan have formed their livelihoods between 2002–03 and 2008–09 and what evidence there is of resilience and agency and of constraints imposed by the various institutional contexts in which the households function, generating understanding of what changes have occurred, for whom, how, and why.

Transforming livelihoods: Work, migration and poverty in the Tiruppur garment cluster, India

The international market in clothes has undergone radical transformations with the removal of trade barriers, a process that has had highly varied and unexpected consequences for workers' livelihoods. This project will use an interdisciplinary approach to critically examine the changing livelihood strategies of both rural and urban populations who are increasingly dependent on, or affected by, export industries. It will document the highly differentiated impacts of enhanced integration in the global economy on urban and rural families in a region that is marked by rapid industrialisation.

Mining, social networks and rural livelihoods in Bangladesh

Mining has become an explosive political issue in Bangladesh. For the most vulnerable – who sharecrop, labour or 'gather' on affected land and who rarely, if ever, receive compensation – informal social protection provided by local networks and relationships is often a crucial safety net. Here, it would seem, the development of mining may boost national growth statistics but lead directly to impoverishment. This research will focus on the relationship between mining and the disruption of social networks and rural livelihoods in Bangladesh.

Development discourses: Higher education and poverty reduction in South Africa

This 18-month project will investigate the equity trajectory of higher education in South Africa. The research addresses three gaps: (i) higher education, professional education and knowledge economies; (ii) professional education as a measure of equity transformation trajectories in universities; and (iii) the capability approach in relation to professional education and human development. By innovatively bringing these literatures together, how higher education is contributing to poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is then creatively addressed.

Building a brighter future: A randomised evaluation of slum-housing upgrading

Un Techo Para Mi País (UTPMP) is a youth-led programme which provides basic pre-fabricated houses to extremely poor people in Latin America. UTPMP targets households in sub-standard housing and provides basic housing as part of a dynamic package of social services designed to help lift households out of extreme poverty. This project will evaluate the impact of slum-housing upgrading by UTPMP on the health and welfare of the target population, as well as potential spill-over effects on the informal settlement community at large.

Avon in Africa: Reducing poverty through global exchange

If glowing accounts of the wealth that poor women can earn selling Avon in unlikely places are representative and not anomalies, then such schemes may be an important poverty reduction tool. Our study will assess the size and sustainability of the income Avon representatives earn in South Africa, as well as the financial and social risks they must take to be in this system. We will study the way this selling system affects the communities, to determine whether the Avon scheme generates new wealth for impoverished communities or simply redistributes scarce resources among the poor.

Linking migration, reproduction and wellbeing: Exploring the reproductive strategies of low-income rural-urban migrants in Vietnam

This study will focus on the reproductive strategies of low-income rural-urban migrants and their implications for wellbeing in Vietnam. It will ask: 'How do the reproductive aspirations of poor male and female migrants fit into their migratory strategies for building a life?' 'What are the strategies that poor male and female migrants use for managing their reproductive lives?' and 'How do institutional conditions enable and constrain the gendered strategies of poor male and female migrants for managing reproductive life?'

Enforcing transparency: Enhancing poor people's access to information in India

One important aspect of poverty in less developed countries is poor people's lack of access to information about processes which can assist or injure them. This exposes them to exploitation, and limits their capabilities, opportunities and liberties. Numerous governments have enacted (or are considering) laws and programmes to give poor people greater access to information. This project will study the impact at the grassroots level of such initiatives, and the efforts by poor people and their allies in civil society to make use of them.

Water Research Into Use (RIU) scoping study

This is a scoping study to consider the potential for a DFID programme in water, sanitation and hygiene research for developing countries. The programme will enable the promotion and adoption of outputs from DFID's EngKaR programme and wider DFID experience where there are specific issues of policy relevance.

Sanitation scoping study

This is a scoping study to consider the potential for a CRD/DFID programme to improve the health and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people by increasing access to sanitation for urban and rural communities, thus improving health and stimulating pro-poor growth. It is envisaged that this will be achieved by disseminating and mainstreaming best practice in policy and appropriate technology whilst improving knowledge and research capacity.

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New Research Documents

Vulnerability of national economies to the impacts of climate change on fisheries

E.H. Allison, A.L. Perry, M.C. Badjeck, W.N. Adger, K. Brown, D. Conway, S. Halls, G.M. Pilling, J.D. Reynolds, N.L. Andrew, and N.K. Dulvy, *Fish and Fisheries*, 2009, 24 pages

Global warming has significantly influenced physical and biological processes. The observed and anticipated changes present significant opportunities and challenges for societies and economies. We compared the vulnerability of 132 national economies to potential climate change impacts on their capture fisheries using an indicator-based approach, and countries in Central and Western Africa (e.g. Malawi, Guinea, Senegal, and Uganda), Peru and Colombia in South America, and four tropical Asian countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, and Yemen) were identified as most vulnerable.

Sikhism and Development: A review

D.S. Tatla, Working Paper No.21, Religions and Development Research Programme, University of Birmingham, 2008, 87 pages

A review of literature on the relationship between Sikhism and development looking at the role of the Sikh religion in the economic and social domains, in particular in the Indian Punjab. The review raises

the question of whether Sikhism is compatible with or hinders development, as understood in the mainstream 'development discourse'. The teachings of Sikhism on key development concepts and practices, such as wealth, poverty and inequality, are discussed along with the related topics of debt, credit, and usury.

Migration and Education Linkages: Lessons from India and Bangladesh

J. Sward and N. Ra, Migration, Globalisation and Poverty Briefing Paper 16, 2009, 4 pages

In development debates, education and migration are both seen as playing an integral role in development outcomes. This briefing explores the linkages between migration and education in four villages in India and Bangladesh. Although migrant remittances were not widely invested in education in these contexts, education nonetheless helped shape the migration trajectories for local villagers.

Civil Society, Democratisation and Foreign Aid in Africa

M. Robinson and S. Friedman, IDS Research Summary, 2008, 2 pages

How is civil society contributing to democratisation in Africa and what is the impact of foreign aid upon this process? This summary highlights the conclusions of a comparative research project based on empirical case studies of 12 leading civil society organisations (CSOs) in South Africa and Uganda, and related material from Ghana. The study's implications and recommendations are far-reaching for both donors and CSOs. Examples of effective advocacy in specific contexts are given, but the findings also emphasise the limited overall influence of CSOs upon policy and downplay the role of foreign aid.

Divide and rule: State penetration in Hazarajat (Afghanistan) from monarchy to the Taliban

Niamatullah Ibrahim, Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper No.42 (series 2), 2009, 23 pages

This is a comparative analysis of state building in Afghanistan by the monarchy in the 1890s and the Taliban in the 1990s. The author identifies remarkable historical trends and dynamics of state building that reveal deep faultlines through the political and inter-ethnic relations within Afghanistan. The role of the Afghan Hazara war of the 19th century deeply influenced the course and tactics of the 20th century conflict, and through this clear lessons can be learned. One of the major weaknesses of Afghan governments, for example, is the lack of capacity or political will to accommodate the opposition through political settlement. As a result, political manipulation and social segmentation endure.

id21 Insights 75. Rethinking sexuality and policy

IDS, University of Sussex, 2008, 6 pages

This issue of *id21 Insights* includes brief articles on Sexual rights in Muslim societies; US trade policy and HIV treatment; Sexual pleasure and safer sex; Bodily integrity in Argentine law; China's policies on sexuality; and The World Bank's failure to address sexuality.

id21 Natural Resources Highlights 7. Agriculture

IDS, University of Sussex, 2008, 4 pages

This issue includes the following short articles: Why do rice farmers in Bangladesh ignore recommendations on pesticide use?; Exchanging seeds and conserving biodiversity in Mexico; Could agriculture help to prevent further climate change?; Improved accessibility and livestock management in Pakistan; and Shaping scientific excellence in agricultural research.

id21 Insights Education 7. Building sustainable higher education

IDS, University of Sussex, 2008, 6 pages

The lead article in this issue is concerned with the importance of higher education as an element of national development in developing countries. Short related articles include: Private providers in Brazil; World-class Chinese universities; The World Bank and the knowledge revolution; Achieving equity and quality in South Africa; Reversing the brain drain from African universities; Universities in Latin America support development; Gender equity; and India's response to GATS.

id21 Health Highlights 23. Disease and disability

IDS, University of Sussex, 2008, 2 pages

This issue of *id21 Health Highlights* contains the following short articles: Worm control for school children in Burkina Faso; Washing hands with soap in Ghana; Widening the net: Supplying insecticide-treated bed nets in Kenya; and Burdened by care: HIV and AIDS in Namibia.

id21 health insights 12. Financing primary health care

IDS, University of Sussex, 2008, 6 pages

This issue of *id21 Health Insights* explores the challenges facing donors and national governments in providing and financing primary health care for all. Topics considered in the brief articles include: Skilled delivery care in Indonesia; The story of primary health care; Contracting out health services; Better access to effective antimalarials; Efficiency and equity through a sector-wide approach in Uganda; and Tackling Malawi's human resources crisis.

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Recent News Stories

Using Art for Social Change

Working with photography, music, film and storytelling, the DFID-funded Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme is putting the arts at the centre of their research and communications work, including photography in Bangladesh and Brazil, musicians in Ghana, and story telling in Egypt. An awards scheme for young British film-makers, in association with film industry partners, resulted in a series of exquisite short films from Palestine and Brazil that illustrate everyday struggles for rights and recognition, due to be launched at the ICA in London in March.

What is Democracy?

From Venezuela's Communal Councils, to Brazil's Participatory Budgeting, from Constitutional Assemblies to grassroots movements, recuperated factories to cooperatives across the hemisphere, *Beyond Elections: Redefining Democracy in the Americas* is a new documentary which takes us across the Americas to attempt to answer the question: What is Democracy? The feature length documentary by Michael Fox and Sílvia Leindecker, features John Gaventa, director of the DFID-funded Citizenship DRC, and can be viewed on-line.

New Phase 1 clinical trial in the search for an AIDS vaccine

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently announced plans for a new clinical trial in India to test a combination of two vaccine candidates. The trial will be conducted in collaboration with the not-for-profit International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), and carried out by ICMR institutions, the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) at Pune, and the Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC) in Chennai.

Gender and Care

How can we move towards a world in which individuals and society recognise and value the importance of different forms of care, but without reinforcing care work as something that only women can or should do? The latest Cutting Edge Pack from BRIDGE hopes to inspire thinking on this fundamental question – with an Overview Report outlining why care is important and exploring which approaches offer the best prospects for change, a Supporting Resources Collection providing summaries of key texts, tools, case studies and contacts of organisations in this field.

Many Poor Countries Will Suffer as Climate Change Damages Fisheries

A new DFID-funded study is the first to identify national economies that are likely to suffer most as climate change imperils fisheries. Research on fisheries worldwide warns that climate change combined with fisheries dependency and limited capacity to adapt pose a dangerous triple threat to countries in Africa, South America, and Asia.

The Know Zone

It is not uncommon for children around the world to rush home from school in time to watch their favourite television show. Children in Kenya will now be watching a DFID-funded programme that is not only enjoyable but educational.

DFID seeks Service Provider for the Centre for Climate and Development

There is a pressing need for better access for developing country governments, civil society and other stakeholders to high quality, reliable and policy-relevant information on climate change and development. DFID wishes to engage a Service Provider to establish and manage a major new Centre for Climate and Development to deliver a set of knowledge management, research and tailored advisory services for developing countries and other stakeholders. This will support policymaking and practice on adaptation and low carbon development. **The deadline for EOI is 23 March, 2009.**

Funding of neglected disease research is dependent on a few major donors

The first survey of global public and private investment into R&D for new products for neglected diseases has found that funding was over US\$2.5 billion in 2007. Almost 80% was spent on HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. Many significant diseases responsible for killing millions of people in developing countries – including pneumonia and diarrhoeal diseases – remain underfunded and collectively received less than 6% of total funding.

DFID helps make UK Development Research stand out from the crowd

For the first time Development Studies research in the UK has been assessed as a separate discipline. The result of this exercise has illustrated some impressive findings regarding both the quality of the research being done by UK institutions and DFID's funding of this. The Research Assessment Exercise is an exercise that examines the quality of research in British institutions, and findings for the 2008 Exercise are now available.

Identity crisis for Liberian plague insect

Joined-up action by FAO, IITA and CABI's Global Plant Clinic (GPC) has been instrumental in identifying the insect devouring crops and contaminating water supplies in Liberia. Originally mis-identified as *Spodoptera* sp, a preliminary IITA identification says the insect is from the genus *Achaea*, which behaves and feeds differently. 'Correct taxonomic identification of this insect is crucial for managing this worrying problem', said Eric Boa, head of the GPC. 'The wrong control programme can waste millions of dollars and cause new problems. Now efforts can be focused in the right direction.'

Better plans are needed to anticipate food crisis in Kenya

Ten million people could go hungry in Kenya after harvests failed because of drought. The government has declared a national emergency. Amid the crisis a University of Nairobi researcher, Professor Richard Odingo, has suggested that this could have been averted with better planning. Odingo, speaking at the launch of the DFID and DANIDA-backed study on the economic impact of climate change in Kenya, said despite having efficient warning mechanisms successive governments had failed to heed warnings and prepare for disastrous droughts which appear to occur about every five years.

Improving Institutional Learning and Change

The Institutional Learning and Change (ILAC) Initiative has launched its new interactive website. This CGIAR-backed resource contains more than 1,200 references on how researchers can monitor and evaluate projects and assess research impacts, including through participatory research, monitoring

and evaluation, impact assessment, and organisational learning. ILAC hopes the site will help strengthen the capacity of collaborative research – especially in agriculture – to help develop innovative research that involves poor people and produces more effective researcher.

More funding for Young Lives

Following a tendering competition the University of Oxford's Department of International Development is to be awarded Phase 4 of the Young Lives research programme, which is due to start in July 2009. Young Lives is a long-term research and advocacy project to generate evidence on the causes and consequences of childhood poverty and inequality. It aims to shape policy debate and programme design in the study countries and globally. It was established in 2001 to track the lives of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India, Vietnam and Peru.

All new GDNNet website

A totally re-engineered and redesigned Global Development Network (GDNNet) website brings a host of new functionality and services that will increase Southern research outreach, social networking and knowledge sharing. The new website links to a range of online services including free access journals for Southern researchers, details of funding opportunities, and access to the World Development Indicators (WDI) database, one of most extensive collections of data about development available.

New malaria medicine for children

A child dies every 30 seconds from malaria in Africa. A newly launched antimalarial medicine for children, Coartem Dispersible, is the result of a unique collaboration between the Swiss not-for-profit organisation, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), and Novartis. Until now children have often been treated with the bitter-tasting tablets used to treat adults. The new, sweet-tasting formulation disperses quickly in small amounts of water, making administration easier and ensuring effective dosing for children. This new medicine will be provided at cost to the public sector in malaria-endemic countries.

Future Foods – Is genetic modification the answer?

A new 'Future Foods Exhibition' at the Science Museum in London until 31 May, 2009 explores the science and technology that could boost crop yields, including arguments for and against genetic modification and other possible options. A debate on GM crops based included speakers Bob Watson (Defra Chief Scientific Adviser), Tim Lang (Professor of Food Policy, City University, London) and Rodomiro Ortiz (Director of Resources, Mobilisation, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre). Ian Sample (Science Correspondent for the *Guardian*), who chaired the debate, commented on the event in his science blog.

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R4D contains a searchable database of more than 5,000 project records and the details of more than 20,000 outputs from research funded by DFID's Central Research Department during the past 10 years. It also includes research activities prior to 2005 in Rural Livelihoods, Health, Social Sciences, Education, and Infrastructure and Urban Development. Every month we add new projects, documents, and outputs.

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