P02 / Politics of Development Cooperation: From North to South

Topic : POLICY, POLITICS AND POLITICAL REGIME

Chair : Xiaoye She (California State University San Marcos)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The United Nations defines development cooperation as activities specifically aimed at supporting national or international development goals, carried out on a non-profit basis, with a focus on developing countries, and grounded in cooperative relationships that encourage local ownership (UNECOSOC, 2015). Since the end of the Cold War, foreign aid from countries in the global North, typically in the form of official development assistance (ODA), as well as grants and loans from multilateral development finance institutions (DFIs) such as the World Bank and regional development banks, have dominated global development cooperation. However, recent shifts are challenging the longstanding dominance of the global North. These shifts include the rise of the BRICS nations and other emerging powers, the establishment of new DFIs like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB), the resurgence of South-South Cooperation (SSC) strategies among countries in the Global South, and new forms of triangular development cooperation (TDC) among global North and South partners.

This panel proposes an analysis of the expanding and increasingly diverse landscape of development cooperation, focusing on bilateral, triangular, and multilateral partnerships involving the global North, emerging donors, and the Global South. At the international level, the analysis will explore how state and non-state actors are navigating the growing complexity of development cooperation, including shifting power dynamics within these partnerships. Drawing from the concept of regime complexity in international relations, this panel builds on the idea that a regime complex is “an array of partially overlapping and non-hierarchical institutions governing a particular issue area” (Raustiala & Victor, 2004). Contributing factors to regime complexity may include misaligned power structures in existing global governance frameworks and the proliferation of new institutions in response to these imbalances (Pratt, 2018). In this context, states and non-state actors often employ strategies such as forum shopping, regime shifting, and contested multilateralism to respond to these complexities (Alter & Raustiala, 2018; Morse & Keohane, 2014). The expansion of new development cooperation partnerships provides opportunities to explore how these strategies are being applied in practice.

Domestically, we propose to examine the domestic context of state and non-state actors, focusing on factors such as political regimes, economic and social transformations, and prevailing development norms and discourses. While much of the existing literature has focused on the domestic politics of foreign aid in developed democracies and countries of the global North (Breuning, 1999; Dadabaev, 2016; de Felice, 2015; Faust & Koch, 2014; Gibson et al., 2005; Molenaers et al., 2015; Tingley, 2010), a growing body of work is also emerging on the domestic processes shaping bilateral development cooperation in more powerful countries in the Global South, including China, Brazil, Turkey, and others(Farias, 2019; Huang, 2014; Kavakli, 2018; Scoones et al., 2016; Shi & Hoebink, 2019; van der Westhuizen & Milani, 2019; Varrall, 2016). This panel seeks to extend these analyses beyond the traditional North-South aid framework and case studies of emerging powers, exploring the domestic political dynamics that drive development cooperation in increasingly complex and multi-actor partnerships across the North and the South.

This panel seeks to address the following research questions:

1. How can we conceptualize the increasing diversity and complexity of development cooperation partnerships among the North, emerging powers, and the broader Global South?

2. What underlying determinants lead states or non-state actors to prioritize particular development cooperation policies and partnership modalities over others?

3. Which structural and agency-driven factors contribute to the observed proliferation and diversification of these policies and partnerships, particularly new forms of SSC and TDC?

Empirically, we invite papers that use comparative or case study methodologies to identify the conditions, actors, and strategies that influence the proliferation and variation of development cooperation policies and partnerships. To encourage cross-regional comparisons and potential collaborations, we welcome submissions that explore the different actors, conditions, and strategies shaping development cooperation

across various regions of the world.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The landscape of development cooperation—including traditional North-South aid, South-South Cooperation (SSC), and Triangular Development Cooperation (TDC)—has grown increasingly complex. This complexity arises from a proliferation of state and non-state actors, intensifying geopolitical rivalries, and the dynamic and expanding roles of Global South countries, often driven by a combination of strategic self-interest and solidarity. This panel proposes an analysis of the expanding and increasingly diverse landscape of development cooperation, focusing on structures, agencies, and strategies of states and non-state actors in bilateral, triangular, and multilateral partnerships involving the global North, emerging donors, and the

Global South.

We seek to address the following research questions:

1. How can we conceptualize the increasing diversity and complexity of development cooperation partnerships among the North, emerging powers, and the broader Global South?

2. What underlying determinants lead states or non-state actors to prioritize particular development cooperation policies and partnership modalities over others?

3. Which structural and agency-driven factors contribute to the observed proliferation and diversification of these policies and partnerships, particularly new forms of SSC and TDC?

Drawing on case studies from countries and regions around the world, the panel examines how states and non-state actors navigate the intensifying complexity of development cooperation, shaped by factors including but not limited to domestic political considerations, economic imperatives, foreign policy objectives, and prevailing development norms and discourses.

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Chair : Xiaoye She (California State University San Marcos)

Session 1Agency and Alignment: Southeast Asia in Shifting Politics of Development Cooperation

Thursday, July 3rd 10:15 to 12:15 (B1)

Discussants

Anissa Bougrea (Universiteit Gent)

Jan Orbie (Ghent University)

Donors and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Insights from Indonesia

Andrew Rosser (University of Melbourne)

Development Cooperation for the Circular Economy in the Agri-Food Sector: Perspectives from India and VietNam

Camelia Adriana Bucatariu (University of Bucharest)

Triangular Cooperation in Southeast Asia: Juggling between North and South

Xiaoye She (California State University San Marcos)

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Chair : Xiaoye She (California State University San Marcos)

Session 2Decolonizing Development Cooperation: Narratives, Institutions, and Resistance in North-South Relations

Thursday, July 3rd 16:00 to 18:00 (B1)

Discussants

Andrew Rosser (University of Melbourne)

Xiaoye She (California State University San Marcos)

EU-Africa Relations and the Coloniality of Money: Analysing funding and financing

Anissa Bougrea (Universiteit Gent)

Why Do Collaborative Arrangements Fail? A Multi-Method Analysis of Public-Private Partnerships in Development Cooperation

Angela Samuel (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

RETHINKING THE EUROPEAN PROJECT THROUGH PAN-AFRICAN NARRATIVES

Jan Orbie (Ghent University)

Situating the Public in Public Policies: The UNDP’s Role in Humanizing Development

vipul verma (Jawaharlal Nehru University)