

ESSA Conference 09. – 11.10.2024

## **‘Development’**

### **Alternatives of Envisioning Futures in Academia, Activism and Development Cooperation**

Organized by

Martina Padmanabhan & Judith Ehlert (University of Passau)

Building upon the inspiring ESSA Conference 2023 at the Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna/Austria, we aim to continue the debate on our very subject matter ‘development’. The canon of sociology and social anthropology have ever since played their parts in conceptualizing development, the ‘Other’ and particular pathways to modernity. Despite questioning the universality of classical sociological imaginations and its dire call for socio-historical contextualization, development sociology, nevertheless, remained a child of its time: embedded in the sociological canon and in Western-centric ontologies of world history and future. However, the writing of history and the claims for futures get ever more complex, contested and polycentric. In the context of geopolitical rearmament, climate change and environmental degradation, and overall alarmingly growing global social inequalities, academia, activism and international development cooperation search for alternatives and for new meaningful ways of collaboration. Given the multiple global crisis, the conference will particularly address alternative concepts of development and visions for sustainable and socially just futures. We will discuss what a predominantly sociological lens can contribute to the envisioning of futures and to socio-ecological transformation and critically engage with the epistemological and methodological frameworks and tools with which we operate in our work. Furthermore, how can academic knowledge be meaningfully co-produced in transdisciplinary collaborations with activism and development praxis?

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**Wednesday, 09.10.2024**

*Location: Chair of Critical Development Studies–Southeast Asia  
Dr. Hans-Kapfinger-Str. 14b, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, room 416, 94032 Passau*

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#### **17:30 Arrival & Registration**

#### **18:00 Welcome**

Martina Padmanabhan & Judith Ehlert (University of Passau)

#### **18:15 Keynote I**

#### ***Ethics of Collaboration and Knowledge Co-Production in a Global North-South Context***

Jonathan Nghe & Michaela Pelican & (University of Cologne)

***Reception***

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**Thursday, 10.10.2024**

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**Panel I: (Alternative) Epistemologies? Thinking Development & Futures**

**09:00 - 11:00**

***The Role of North-South STI Research Collaborative Projects for Sustainable Development for Epistemic Injustice in the Global Science System***

Julia Wiethüchter (University of Münster)

***Activism Movement by the Indonesian Academia: #JanganJadiDosen***

Adityo Darmawan Sudagung (University of Vienna & Tanjungpura University) & Ardoanto Satriaawan, (Bandung University & Inha University)

***New Entangled Discourses? Development and Revitalization in Indonesian Cities and Beyond***

Friederike Trotier (University of Passau)

***A Generation in Crisis? Reflections on the Persisting Victimization of Young People in Africa***

Christian Ungruhe (University of Passau)

**Break**

**11:30 – 13:00**

***(Un)Doing Performative Decolonization in the Global Development 'Imaginaries' of Academia***

Julia Schöneberg (University of Kassel)

***Decolonizing Development by Reading Classical Works as a Whole: A geography of Knowledge Perspective on the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Polarization Theories***

Ferenc Gyuris (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

***Rediscovering (Decolonized) Futures Through the Socially Minoritized's Epistemologies***

Gilberto Rescher (University of Hamburg)

**Lunch**

## Panel II: (Alternative) Methodologies? Researching Development & Futures

14:30 – 16:30

***Unearthing the Past, Understanding the Present, Envisioning the Future. Concepts and Methods to Analyze the Plantationcene in Cameroon***

Martina Padmanabhan (University of Passau)

***Encountering China's Discursive Power of 'Development' in Southeast Asia: Methodological Challenges, Ethical Dilemmas, Knowledge Opportunities***

Simon Rowedder (University of Passau)

***Methodological Pitfalls in Analyzing the Future Aspirations of Global Youth Activism***

Fahima Al Farabi (Vienna University/University of Dhaka), Antje Daniel (University of Vienna), Petra Dannecker (University of Vienna) & Nancy Otyang (Vienna University /Makarere University)

***Reflecting on Gender Equality and Female Empowerment with Female Coffee Producers. Learnings from a Photo Voice Project in the Zoma de Los Santos, Costa Rica***

Annelie Maja Gütte, MA (Humboldt University of Berlin)

**Break**

17:00 – 18:00 ESSA General Assembly

**19:30 Dinner: Goldenes Schiff, Passau**

[goldenesschiff.de](http://goldenesschiff.de)

At your own costs

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**Friday, 11.10.2024**

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08:45 Keynote II

***Social Visioning in Development Cooperation: Methodological Practices and Challenges***

Azizur Rahman Khan (Development Consultant & Practitioner, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

**Break**

### Panel III: (Alternative) Interventions? Practicing Development & Futures

**10:15 – 12:15**

***Supervision, Support, or Mentoring? Reflections on a Joint Project on Community Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh***

Eva Gerharz (Fulda University of Applied Sciences)

***From Good Intentions to Implementation: Experiences from Establishing Gender-responsive Collective Learning Approaches Towards Improving Land Management in Africa***

Tina Beuchelt (Bonn University)

***Towards Redressing Institution-Based Access Limitations by Traditional Communities in and around Protected Areas in Amazonia: Rights-Based Access Mechanisms for Leaving no Biodiverse Area nor Anyone Behind?***

Marcelo Inacio da Cunha (German Institute of Development and Sustainability – IDOS, Bonn)

***Storytelling for Climate Justice: Exploring the Incorporation of Traditional Knowledge Systems by Pacific Activists***

Mareike Sophie Hoffmann (University of Passau)

**12:15 – 12:30 Closing**