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International Development and Humanitarianism

The course offers an introduction to the field of international development and humanitarianism. It does so by exploring the institutional architecture of international aid (governments, international organizations, donors, NGOs) and by critically examining the theoretical foundations of this field of study. We will also explore some prominent concepts of international aid. When were notions such as "development," "poverty," or "fragile states" construed? By whom? What are the assumptions and central arguments underlying international development and humanitarianism? We will also examine the current debate about unequal power relations (class, gender, race) in this sector. A particular attention will be paid to the practical and ethical challenges faced by both researchers and practitioners in the field.

Course requirements and evaluation

The success of the course depends on the commitment and involvement of all participants. You are expected to complete the readings, and arrive in class prepared to participate in the discussions. You are also expected to limit your laptop use to consultation of readings. The seminar is taught in English. One of the objectives is to help you acquire skills that will be crucial for your future career -- whether you pursue a PhD or not. Therefore, students who are not fluent in English are encouraged to enroll in the class. I will help you express your opinions and thoughts.

For students enrolled in the Political Sociology - International Political Sociology program:
The course is one of your compulsory classes. It ends with a written exam. You are encouraged to review the contents of the course as well as the required readings. You will have to answer one short question in English and to write an essay in either French or English.

For students enrolled in the MICO program:
You write an essay on an issue inspired by the readings and in line with your own interests and experience. You can find a list of ideas at the end of the syllabus. The essay should be between 1500 and 2000 words (bibliography not included) in French or English.

<u>**Sessions of the seminar**</u>

Unit 1. International aid: A contested terrain

   1) **Introduction to the field of international development**

Atlani-Duault Laëtitia, Vidal Laurent (eds.), *Anthropologie de l'aide humanitaire et du développement*, Paris, Armand Colin, 2009.
De Lauri Antonio (ed.), *Humanitarianism: Keyword*s, Leiden, Brill, 2020.
Dimier Véronique, *Recycling Empire*: *The Invention of a European Development Aid Bureaucracy,* Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
Fresia Marion, Lavigne Delville Philippe (eds.), *Au cœur des mondes de l'aide : Regards et postures ethnographiques*, Paris, Karthala-IRD-APAD, 2018.
Kothari Ashish, Salleh Ariel, Escobar Arturo, Demaria Federico, Acosta Alberto (eds.), *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*, Tulika Book, 2019.

   2) **The humanitarian government**

<u>Required reading:</u>
Fassin Didier, *Humanitarian Reason: A Moral History of the Present*, University of California Press, 2011, introduction.
(or in French : Fassin Didier, *La Raison humanitaire : Une histoire morale du temps présent*, Paris, Gallimard Le Seuil, 2010, introduction).

<u>Recommended readings:</u>
Boltanski Luc, *La souffrance à distance : Morale humanitaire, médias et politique*, Paris, Métailié, 1993
Collovald Annie (ed.), *L'Humanitaire ou le management des dévouements*, Rennes, PUR, 2002.
Dauvin Pascal, Siméant Johanna, *Le travail humanitaire : Les acteurs des ONG, du siège au terrain*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2002.
De Lauri Antonio (ed.), *The Politics of Humanitarianism: Power, Ideology and Aid*, London, I.B. Tauris, 2016.

Unit 2. Democracy Promotion and Electoral Assistance

   3) **Democracy assistance as disciplining**

<u>Required reading:</u>
Abrahamsen Rita, "Discourses of Democracy, Practices of Autocracy: Shifting meanings of democracy in the aid-authoritarianism nexus", in Hagmann Tobias & Reyntjens Filip (eds.), *Aid and Authoritarianism in Africa: Development without Democracy*, London, Zed Books, 2016, pp. 21-43.

<u>Recommended readings:</u>
Abrahamsen Rita, *Disciplining Democracy: Development Discourse and Good Governance in Africa*, London, Zed Books, 2000.

Abrahamsen Rita, "African democracy – still disciplined after all these years?", *International Relations*, Vol. 27, n°2, 2013, pp. 241-246.
Bridoux Jeff, Kurki Milja, *Democracy Promotion: A Critical Introduction*, London, Routledge, 2014.
Bush Sarah S., *The Taming of Democracy Assistance: Why Democracy Promotion Does Not Confront Dictators*, Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press, 2015.
Cheeseman Nic, Klaas Brian, *How to Rig an Election,* Yale University Press, 2018.
Guilhot Nicolas, *The Democracy Makers: Human Rights and the Politics of Global Order*, Columbia University Press, 2005.
Petric Boris (ed.), *Democracy at Large: NGOs, Political Foundations, Think Tanks and International Organizations*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

4) Election technologies: A silver bullet?

Required reading: Cheeseman Nic, Lynch Gabrielle, Willis Justin, "Digital dilemmas: the unintended consequences of election technology", *Democratization*, 2018, pp. 1-22.

Recommended readings:
Bertrand Romain, Pels Peter, Briquet Jean-Louis (eds.), *Cultures of Voting: The Hidden History of the Secret Ballot*, Hurst, 2007.
Cheeseman Nic, Klaas Brian, *How to Rig an Election*, Yale University Press, 2018.
Debos Marielle, « La biométrie électorale au Tchad. Controverses technopolitiques et imaginaires de la modernité », *Politique africaine*, n° 151, 2018, pp. 101-120.
Jacobsen Katja L., "Biometric voter registration: A new modality of democracy assistance?", *Cooperation and Conflict*, Vol. 55, n°1, 2019, p. 127-148.
Nyabola Nanjala, *Digital Democracy, Analog Politics: How the Internet Era is Transforming Politics in Kenya*, London, Zed Books, 2018.

Unit 3. Capitalism and Poverty

5) "Poverty capital"

Required reading:
Roy Ananya, *Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the Making of Development*, Routledge, 2010: Chapter 1. "Small Worlds: The Democratization of Capital and Development"

Recommended readings:
Escobar, Arturo, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton studies in culture/power/history. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1995.
Ferguson James, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, Duke University Press, 2006, introduction.
Goldman Michael, *Imperial Nature : The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*, Yale University Press, 2005.
Guérin Isabelle, *La microfinance et ses derives: Emanciper, discipliner ou exploiter ?,* Demopolis, 2015.
Ferguson James, *Give Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution*, Duke University Press, 2015.
McGoey Linsey, *Philanthro-capitalism: How charity became big business*, Verso, 2016.

Rodney, Walter, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1972.

6) Philanthrocapitalism

Required reading: McGoey Linsey, *No Such Thing as a Free Gift: The Gates Foundation and the Price of Philanthropy*, Verso, 2016, introduction.

Recommended readings:
Birn Anne-Emanuelle, "Philanthrocapitalism, past and present: The Rockefeller Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the setting(s) of the international/global health agenda", *Hypothesis*, vol. 12, n°1, 2014.
Depecker Thomas, Déplaude Marc-Olivier, Larchet Nicolas, dossier « Entreprises philanthropiques », *Politix*, n° 121, 2018.
Guilbaud Auriane, *Business Partners: Firmes privées et gouvernance mondiale de la santé,* Presses de Sciences Po, 2016.
Marten Robert, Witte Jan Martin, "Transforming Development? The role of philanthropic foundations in international development cooperation", GPPI Research Paper Series, n°10, 2008.

Unit 4. Aid in conflict zones

7) "Failed states" and the trouble with the rankings

Required reading: Hill Jonathan, "Beyond the other? A postcolonial critique of the failed state thesis", *African Identities,* n°3, 2005, pp. 139-54.

Recommended readings:
Debos Marielle, *Living by the Gun in Chad: Combatants, Impunity and State Formation*, Londres, Zed Books, 2016: Chapter 6.
Grimm Sonja, Lemay-Hébert Nicolas, Nay Olivier (eds.), *The Political Invention of Fragile States: The Power of Ideas*, London: Routledge, 2014.
Hagmann Tobias, Péclard Didier (eds), *Negotiating Statehood: Dynamics of Power and Domination in Africa*, Malden MA, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

8) "Peaceland" and the "peace-kept" world

Required reading: Autesserre Séverine, *Peaceland : Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention*, Cambridge University Press, 2014, introduction.

Recommended readings:
Daho Grégory, Duclos Nathalie, Jouhanneau Cécile, "Political Sociology of International Interventions: Peacebuilders and the Ground", *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, Vol. 13 n°3, 2019, pp. 249-262.
Lefranc Sandrine, « Convertir le grand nombre à la paix... Une ingénierie internationale de pacification », *Politix* , n°80, 2007, pp. 7-29.
Lombard Louisa, *State of Rebellion : Violence and intervention in the Central African Republic*, London, Zed Books, 2016: Chapter 1 "Conflict and the state in the peace-kept world".

Mosse David (ed.), *Adventures in Aidland: The Anthropology of Professionals in International Development,* New York/Oxford, Berghahn Books, 2011.

Revet Sandrine, *Les coulisses du monde des catastrophes « naturelles »*, Paris, Maison des sciences de l'Homme, 2018.

Williams Paul, Bellamy Alex, *Understanding Peacekeeping*, Polity, 3rd edition, 2020.

Bliesemann de Guevara Berit, Kostić Roland, *Knowledge, Peace and International Intervention*, Routledge, 2018.

Unit 5. Gender, Race, and Power in the Aid Industry

9) "Do Muslim women need saving?"

Required reading: Abu-Lughod, Lila, *Do Muslim women need saving?*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 2013, introduction.

Recommended readings:

Abu-Lughod, Lila, "Writing against Culture," in Fox Richard G. (ed.), *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, School of American Research Press, 1996, pp. 137-162.

McEwan, Cheryl, "Postcolonialism, feminism and development: intersections and dilemmas." *Progress in Development Studies,* Vol. 1, n°2, 2001, pp. 93-111.

Mohanty Chandra Talpade, "Under Western eyes: feminist scholarship and colonial discourses", *boundary,* Vol. 2, n°12/13, 1984, pp. 333-358.

Yuval-Davis Nira, "Situated Intersectionality and Social Inequality", *Raisons politiques*, 2015/2 (N° 58), pp. 91-100.

10) Doing more harm than good?

A documentary: Pollack Ricardo "*The Trouble with Aid*", 119 min, 2012.

A short video by an NGO, SAIH Norway & Radi-aid, "How To Get More Likes On Social Media", 2017: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c9mwY31iMI

Recommended readings:

Duffield Mark, Hewitt Vernon, *Empire, Development & Colonialism: The Past in the Present,* Rochester, NY: Boydell & Brewer Ltd, 2013.

Galonnier Juliette, Simon Patrick, Ringelheim Julie (eds.), dossier « Petits arrangements avec la race dans les organisations internationales (1945-2019) », *Critique Internationale*, n°86, 2020.

Matasci Damiano, Desgrandchamps Marie-Luce, « "Civiliser, développer, aider" : Croiser l'histoire du colonialisme, du développement et de l'humanitaire », *Histoire@Politique*, n°41, 2020.

Unit 6. Technological solutionism

11) Biometrics, a tool for development?

<u>Required reading</u>: Donovan Kevin, "The Biometric Imaginary: Bureaucratic Technopolitics in Post-Apartheid Welfare", *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 41, n°4, 2015, pp. 815-833.

<u>Recommended readings:</u>
Awenengo Dalberto Séverine, Banégas Richard, Cutolo Armando, « (Bio)maîtriser les identités ? État documentaire et citoyenneté au tournant biométrique », dossier spécial de *Politique Africaine*, n°152, 2018.
Breckenridge Keith, *Biometric State: The Global Politics of Identification and Surveillance in South Africa, 1850 to the Present*, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
Magnet Soshana Amielle, *When biometrics fails: Gender, Race and the Technology of Identity*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2011.
Marko Ferenc David, "'We are not a failed state, we make the best passports' : South Sudan and Biometric modernity", *African Studies Review*, Vol. 59, n. 2, 2016, pp. 113-132

12) Technology and humanitarianism

<u>Required reading:</u> Samer Abdelnour, Akbar M. Saeed, "Technologizing Humanitarian Space: Darfur Advocacy and the Rape-Stove Panacea", *International Political Sociology*, Vol. 8, n°2, 2014, pp. 145-163.

<u>Recommended readings:</u>
Al Dahdah Marine, "From evidence-based to market-based mHealth: itinerary of a mobile (for) development project", *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 2019.
Jacobsen Katja L, "Experimentation in humanitarian locations: UNHCR and biometric registration of Afghan refugees", *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 46, no. 2, 2015, pp. 144-164.
Linnet Taylor ,Schroeder Ralph, "Is Bigger Better? The Emergence of Big Data as a Tool for International Development Policy", *GeoJournal*, Vol. 80, n°4, 2015, pp. 503-18
Sandvik Kristin Bergtora, Gabrielsen Jumbert Maria (eds.), *The Good Drone*, Oxon, New York, Routledge, 2016.

<u>Ideas of topics for your essay (students enrolled in the MICO program only):</u>
Sexual violence in the aid industry: beyond the case of Oxfam
The controversy over the World Bank "Doing business" report.
Humanitarian drones
Blockchains
The SDG and their critiques
Mobile health
Mobile money
IATI: International Aid Transparency Initiative
Is cash transfer the future of aid?
Mobile money
Fintech
Are blockchains the future of aid?
Is cash transfer the future of aid?
IATI: International Aid Transparency Initiative
Why are elections in Afghanistan so costly?
How to measure the cost of an election?
"Aid for trade"

"empathy washing"
"business for peace"
What is "conflict risk assessment"?
Case study of a philanthropic foundation (Gates foundations, Open Society Foundations, Omidyar, etc.)
The "digital savior complex"
Digital colonialism
The voting machines in the DRC
Biometric identification in the Global South
Aadhaar in India: a model?