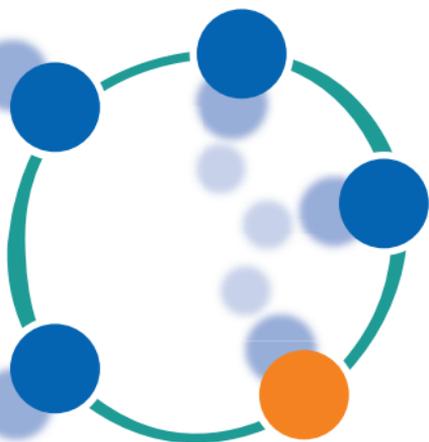


14th EADI General Conference
23-26 June 2014, Bonn · www.gc2014.org



Responsible Development in a Polycentric World

Inequality, Citizenship and the Middle Classes

Développement Responsable dans un Monde Polycentrique

Inégalité, citoyenneté et classes moyennes

European Association of Development Research
and Training Institutes





The Conference in a Nutshell

When? 23-26 June 2014

Where? Gustav-Stresemann-Institute in Bonn, Germany

Who? More than 400 development researchers, experts, scholars and professionals

What? 3 plenary sessions, 1 Dudley Seers Lecture, more than 55 panels and working groups

Key Dates and Deadlines

Submission of abstracts: 15 December 2013

Submission of papers: March 2014

Submission of final papers: May 2014

Registration opens: January 2014

Conference: 23-26 June 2014

Venue

Gustav-Stresemann-Institute (GSI), Bonn, Germany

Langer Grabenweg 68, D-53175 Bonn

+49 (0)228 81070, <http://www.gsi-bonn.de/>

Accommodation is available at and near to the conference venue. The full conference booking procedure will be made available from the beginning of January 2014 when the registrations opens. For more information, please check the website www.gc2014.org regularly or subscribe to the conference e-newsletter.



Responsible Development in a Polycentric World

The global scenery has been changing rapidly since the start of the millennium. Some of the largest developing countries have become the 'rising stars' of the world economy, and their dynamic economic development has contributed to achieving some of the most important Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet, many other developing countries have not reached the MDGs, their economies are stagnating or dependent on a few commodities and volatile world market prices. These countries are being marginalized in the global race for world market shares. It is the population of these countries that is affected most by the lack of common goods.

As development scholars, political activists and policy makers it is necessary to investigate and understand how the emerging middle class groups will change the policy environment for development processes, and what new forms of development cooperation ought to be anticipated. How will they mobilize and for what reasons? What are the consequences of the rising numbers of people who choose to migrate to different parts of a country or to other states? Can education play a key role in raising awareness and stimulating social change, especially when teaching stimulates critical thinking and equips people with the skills, values and knowledge to become active global citizens striving for social justice and more sustainable life styles?

In this emerging polycentric world, poverty, inequality and sustainability continue to be the world's major development challenges and the 14th EADI General Conference in Bonn will delve into these issues with a focus on those groups in society who can potentially contribute to responsible development in a polycentric world.

Plenary middle classes

Global middle classes as development actors in a polycentric world (24 June 2014)

Since the beginning of the new millennium, the global system has been changing rapidly. Some of the largest developing countries have experienced unprecedented economic growth for two and even three decades. With the spectacular rise of the emerging economies, the old North-South divide has become blurred and the traditional rationale for official development assistance between countries has been questioned. Even if the gap between the rich and the poorest countries is still very large and even widening, the most pressing inequality problem may no longer be inequality between countries, but inequality within countries. This may be especially true for the 'rising stars' of the world economy. Even though they have achieved some of the most important MDGs, the majority of extremely poor people are now living in some of the emerging economies, India in particular. At the same time, one of the striking aspects of the rising middle income countries is the development of a middle class of several hundred million Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and others who are aspiring to life-styles comparable to those of affluent consumers in the OECD countries.

Even if this 'new' middle class in the Global South will be less wealthy for some time compared to the European middle class consumers, as a group, they already have considerable purchasing power. However, the middle classes in the newly emerging economies are not only relevant as consumers, but their aspirations extend towards playing a stronger political role in their countries. In fact, the governments of these countries tend to respond to (perceived) needs and priorities of these middle class segments.

This plenary will look at the role of the global middle classes as development actors in a world with multiple poles of power;

how will the values and practices of the global middle classes influence future perspectives on development as well as shape their home countries' development objectives? How do the old middle classes in the OECD countries perceive the rise of the new middle classes in the emerging economies? As a threat to their own status that is already being eroded from unemployment and rising inequality of wealth and incomes, or do they see them as potential allies with shared values and a common interest in 'making the world safer for democracy' and in more effective protection and management of the global commons?

Plenary Inequality

Tackling inequality through 'responsible development' (25 June 2014)

The current poverty statistics highlight a shift in poverty from lower-income countries (LICs) to middle-income countries (MICs) with contested future trends. However, global patterns of inequality also reveal that in Europe and in other high income countries, middle class incomes have been stagnating or even declining over the last two decades whereas the incomes of the top decile (ten percent) of the population have risen fast. Globally, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening as well as the gap between the super-rich and the middle classes. The impact of global inequality on the politics of both the developed and developing countries will manifest itself in different ways.

Will the 'middle class squeeze' and the tight budgets in most OECD countries erode their governments' preparedness to maintain their ODA volumes, especially if populist parties thrive on xenophobia and anti-islamism? Will this make the rising middle classes in emerging economies step in and accept more responsibility for the poorest in their own countries? Or will there be a time-lag of one or even several decades before international re-

distribution through foreign aid will be replaced by redistribution within each of the newly emerging economies? What would that mean for the poorest billion of the world?

Such a time lag may also become a fundamental challenge to the environment. The environmental Kuznets curve signifies the usual trend in industrialising countries: For some time the negative externalities from industrialisation and mass consumerism will increase before the threats to the health of many and to the environment have become manifest enough to create the political will to implement effective environmental policies, and before the rising average incomes allow to apply less polluting, but more expensive technologies both in industries, and in cars and household appliances. Even if this mechanism is plausible for those environmental damages and health threats that affect neighbouring communities of polluting industries and entire countries, there is no guarantee that the environmental Kuznets curve will be effective with respect to the number one global externality: the climate. Will the rising middle classes in the newly industrialising countries perceive the impact on climate change of the new life-styles they are copying from the affluent OECD consumers early enough to feel compelled to both change their individual behaviour and demand from their governments to play a more constructive role in global climate diplomacy?

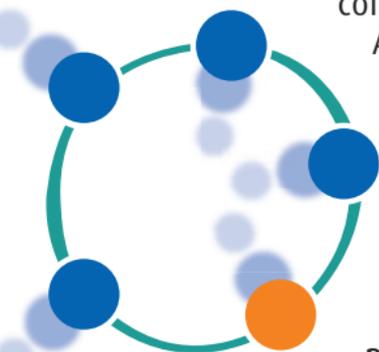
This plenary will explore what the rising inequality worldwide means for the political orientation of the middle classes in the OECD countries, where they feel the threat of being squeezed from both sides, the rich in their own countries and the middle classes in the emerging economies competing for world market shares and a rising share in global income? How do the rising middle classes in the emerging economies perceive their political role both in their own countries and in the global arena, i.e. in view of the impact of their newly gained consumption levels and life styles on the global commons?

Plenary Citizenship

Re-defining citizenship in contemporary development discourse (26 June 2014)

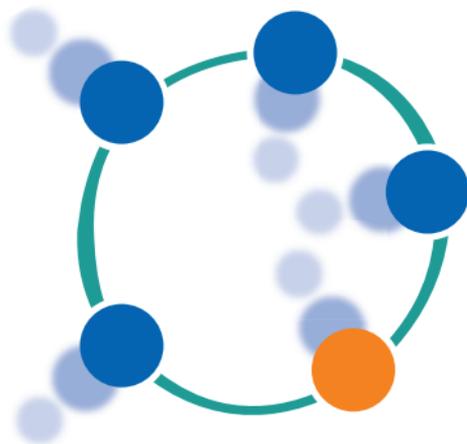
Early discussions on citizenship in the late 1980s – 90s shaped by the strong social movements then, focused more on socio-economic dimensions, social mobilization and relations between marginalized social groups and the state. In recent years, the neo-liberal discourse and privatization initiatives have led middle class groups to believe that their citizenship rights are being hollowed out and reduced to consumer rights only by privatization and globalization. Several middle class reactions have been noted, such as migration to larger cities, emigration to more developed countries, gentrification of urban areas, the expansion of gated communities and other forms of local and

community based policing. The North African and Arab ‘Springs’ as well as the mass demonstrations in Brazil and Turkey, reveal the new assertiveness of the new middle classes previously assumed to be apolitical citizens.



This plenary will examine the emerging forms of citizenship in the present development sphere; the emerging forms of social and political injustices which were neglected in the sustainable development debate; the role of migration, diasporas and remittances with regard to responsible development i.e. looking for ways to convert ‘brain drain’ into ‘brain gain’; how experiences from highly skilled citizens in the diaspora is being translated into beneficial development back in their countries of origin.

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Call for Papers

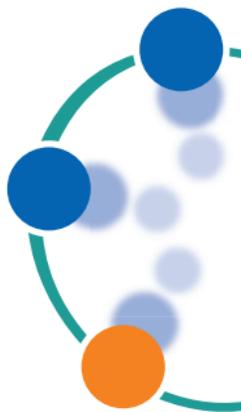
Researchers on development issues are invited to present papers for the EADI General Conference

Prerequisites

- Papers should be related to one of the Working Group Sessions of the conference
- Papers can be submitted in English or French

Procedure

- Register on the conference website www.gc2014.org
- Submit your abstract by 15 December 2013
- Wait for a reply from the EADI Secretariat
- After the acceptance, upload your full paper by March 2014



For more information

please refer to the full Call for Papers on www.gc2014.org
or contact team@gc2014.org for further questions.

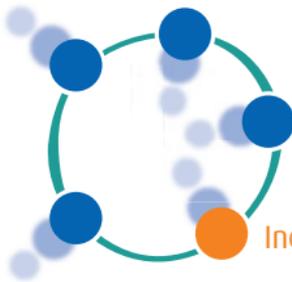
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Conference Website: www.gc2014.org



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