

Researcher-training course on

Globalisation and the impact of outsourcing on firms, industries and labour in developing countries

- Time:** May 31 - June 2, 2006
- Place:** Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Denmark
- Participants:** Open to all PhD-students. Maximum number of participants: 20
- Format:** Lectures by invited speakers and academic staff from CBS/Roskilde University as well as intensive workshops with PhD-researchers presentations
- Organisers:** Director, Associate Professor, Henrik Schaumburg-Müller
Centre for Business and Development Studies, CBS.
- Professor Laurids S. Lauridsen
International Development Studies, Roskilde University
- Research Associate, Rasmus Lema
International Development Studies, Roskilde University
- And other colleagues from Centre for Business and Development Studies, CBS and International Development Studies, Roskilde University.
- Administrative support CBDS and IU
- ETCS:** 4 points

Invited speakers (to be confirmed):

- Neil Coe (University of Manchester)
- Peter Gibbon (Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen)
- Rajah Rasiah (University of Malaya)
- Stephanie Barrientos (IDS Sussex)

Objectives of the course:

The aim of the course is to present and discuss selected theoretical approaches to understand globalisation and the impact of outsourcing on firms, industries and labour in developing countries, discuss associated methodological issues and identify strategies and policies at firm, sector, national and international level. The discussion will take place in plenum as well as in workshops.

Issue:

The business sector has in many developing countries increasingly been seen as an important actor in the overall development and in poverty alleviation in particular. As most developing countries have opened their economies and are increasingly becoming integrated in the global economy, international actors set opportunities and limitations for national firms to develop, be it transnational firms or international organisations. National and international political economy, including trade organizations (the WTO) and agreements thereby continue to play a role. National development and support policies to the sector have been formulated, increased attention has been paid to firm opportunities and strategies and much donor funding has been made available for private sector development.

Particular challenges to developing countries, be it governments, firms or labour organizations are the increasing importance of participating in global value or commodity chains and the implications of increasing outsourcing products and services from the developed countries. The development initiatives and programmes have targeted conditions like firm internal aspects (upgrading of resources, capabilities and strategies) as well as external institutional context factors (enabling environment, linkage-programmes, upgrading of service providers, business and labour organisations)

Specific themes included in the course will be:

Upgrading in global value chains and outsourcing relations: Trends and changes in the configuration of global value chains as they relate to developing countries; Outsourcing and its implications for firms and industries in developing countries; Public policy initiatives to promote upgrading of local industries within global value chains

FDI-Linkages and firm level upgrading: Learning-processes and knowledge transfer in cross border business collaborations; Competitiveness effects of linkages from local perspectives; Firm strategies in response to private sector programmes; and the effectiveness of private sector assistance in promoting development objectives

Labour and upgrading: Labour-market relations in foreign business partnerships; CSR & decent jobs; role of trade unions; competence development, training and upgrading;

Workshop principles:

The aim of the course is to discuss ways to actually study and analyze globalisation and private sector development in developing countries. The basis for this is each participant's empirical research, be they invited speakers, academic staff from Copenhagen Business School and Roskilde University, or PhD-researchers. This makes the paper to be presented by each participant an important part of the preparation for the course. A small number of key texts will be selected by the invited speakers in coordination with the organizers of the course, as a common minimum background for the discussions during the three-day course. The participants are expected to read these texts before the course starts in order for all participants to have a common frame of reference. The texts will be made available at a special webpage. As mentioned above, each PhD-researcher has to prepare and present a paper related to the overall theme of the course and to read and comment on the paper of another PhD-researcher (see below).

The role of the lecturers will be twofold: Partly present their own work with and reflections on globalisation and private sector development, and the implications for their research and methodology; and partly serve as discussants and advisors to the PhD-researchers on how to move along in their analysis of globalisation and private sector development.

Structure of the course:

The training course is structured around two elements, 1) the presentations of the invited speakers and some of the academic staff, and 2) the presentation of PhD-papers. The latter will take place in smaller groups where each paper is discussed by a PhD-researcher and one of the lecturers. There will be made plenty of time in the programme for discussion, in plenum as well as in the small working groups. It is intended that all speakers and academic staff is present during the entire course, in order to obtain continuity and allow for more informal discussions to emerge.

Requirements:

The course is open for all PhD-researchers, but with a maximum of 20 participants.

Application for the course is to be sent to (bsr.ikl@cbs.dk) by February 1st, 2006, including an abstract for the PhD-paper of a maximum of 500 words.

Participants will be selected on the basis of their abstract, as themes are expected to relate to the overall theme of this PhD-course. Notice of acceptance will be sent by February 15th, 2006. Deadline for the PhD-paper, of a maximum of 6000 words, is April 1st. The paper is to be sent to the same address. The paper should contain the following sections; a) a half to one page description of one's research project in general, b) current working elements/problem, c) considerations on empirical research, theoretical and methodological issues related to one of the main themes of the course.

The abstract and the paper will be available to all course participants on the same webpage as the texts.

Fee:

Fee for the participation in the course is Euro 570, payable after the notice of acceptance. The fee is not refundable. The fee includes access to course materials, lunches at CBS, course dinner, coffee, tea and cakes and final reception. The participants have to cover transportation, lodging and meals apart from the mentioned.

Participants from other universities in Denmark (and selected Nordic university):

Participants from other universities in Denmark (except from CBS) and from CBS Nordic university partner¹ get the teaching and supervision part of the fee covered under the Danish inter-university phd-course expenditure settlement agreement and therefore have only to pay a fee of Euro 200 for materials and consumption directly to the course organisers.

Participants from abroad:

Participants from abroad may apply for a fee subsidy. Subsidies will be granted on the basis of relevance of the paper to the seminar theme and the number of applications.

¹ Nordic CBS cooperation partner is Nord-Trøndelag University College in Steinkjer, Norway.

Participants from abroad are strongly advised to make their hotel arrangements as soon as possible. You may contact the organising team for suggestions for suitable accommodation. Applications or enquiries regarding the above matter may be sent to rnl@ruc.dk.

Credits:

Participation in the Researcher Training Course earns the PhD-researcher 4 ECTS points