

**Graduate School of International Development Studies,
Roskilde University
Denmark**

Intensive researcher training seminar

in

Global Governance and Development

2-4th June 2003

Venue: Hotel Strandhotellet, Allinge-Sandvig, Bornholm, Denmark

**Organised by International Development Studies, Roskilde University
in collaboration with Institute of Development Studies, Helsinki University; Centre
for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo; Centre for Development
Studies, University of Bergen; and Department of Sociology, Lund University.**

Organisers: Henrik Secher Marcussen and Laurids S. Lauridsen

Globalisation, Governance and Development

Development as a field of study has been marked by three important characteristics; it is inter-disciplinary, has taken the nation state as point of departure and has been concerned, directly or indirectly, with policy. As the nature and challenge of poverty and inequality have altered over time, so too have the concerns of development studies. And as certain kinds of globalising tendencies gain ground, so the national focus of development studies has increasingly been questioned and undermined.

In the new millennium, issues of governance have come to take a central place in development discourse. This is raising problems of definition and association. On the research side, there is a danger that meanings attached to governance become increasingly broad and ill-defined. In our view, governance encompasses the ways in which 'public' business is conducted and managed by state and non-state authorities working at different scales. At heart, it is a relational term, for practices of governance involve the interactive relations existing between governing bodies and society. With respect to global political agendas, governance has been vested with associations and implications that are highly problematic. *First*, despite the recent emphasis on globalisation, governance has been regarded by the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and UN agencies, primarily as an issue involving national governments. *Second*, governance has been treated largely as technical and apolitical. *Third*, the relevant actors in global governance are defined narrowly, as states and international agencies. But states and international agencies are not the only, or the most important, actors at a global level. The private sector (particularly transnational corporations) and civil society (sometimes narrowly interpreted as non-governmental organisations) have come to play an increasingly important role in international development. An important challenge for development studies is therefore to critically analyse the changing power relations and roles of these three interacting 'sectors' – at global, national and local levels.

The role of *multilateral institutions* varies considerably. The United Nations and its specialised agencies have only just begun to address the need to extend mechanisms of democratic oversight and accountability to transnational corporations, trusts and foundations. Although strong on legitimacy, they are weak in terms of resources and effective power to play a significant role in global governance. The International Monetary Fund, by contrast, is less legitimate but more powerful. Other multilateral institutions, notably the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, occupy an intermediate position.

The influence of *transnational corporations* on political processes and economic structures has increased considerably in the wake of the Cold War. The capacity of democratically elected national governments to monitor, let alone regulate, these entities is limited. Indeed, the largest multinational corporations control assets that far exceed those of most countries and their flexible, network-like, organizational structures allow them to bypass national governments.

In response to the challenge of global governance, many concerned scholars and activists have looked to emerging structures of '*civil society*' to exercise critical oversight over both transnational companies and multilateral organizations. Coalitions of diverse activist groups have joined under the 'anti-globalisation' banner to protest against meetings of WTO, G7 and other international bodies. Many transnational not-for-profit agencies – often speaking for 'global civil society' – have expanded their influence on national policy processes as well as on the development and humanitarian policies and operations of the major multilateral organizations.

This 'associational revolution' is undoubtedly one of the major contemporary agents of change in the global system. Nevertheless, the notion of 'global civil society' remains under-theorized and weak on empirical description. Recent scholarship has raised critical questions concerning the capacity of transnational private networks to exercise democratic governance. Indeed, the largest transnational not-for-profit agencies, viewed by many as a cornerstone of global civil society, are in many respects quite similar to other private transnational actors. Such organisations work only to promote a mandate of their own choosing; NGOs, particularly from 'the North' act as brokers and advocates, with little formal legitimacy, resulting in a clear 'democratic deficit'.

Themes

- Contending approaches to the study of global civil society and global governance; different conceptualisations found in political science/international relations and in sociology; anthropology; global civil society in a world system perspective.
- Clarification of concepts of global civil society and global governance.
- Methodological challenges in the study of 'global' policy consensus.
- Global civil society – actors, capacity, obstacles and legitimacy? The rise of a global public sphere?
- Is a revitalisation of local democracy possible through transnational civil society?
- How are global civil society and global political economy inter-related?

Lecturers and discussants

Professor Jan Aart Scholte CSGR, Warwick University (not yet confirmed)

Professor Mary Kaldor CsGG, LSE (not yet confirmed)

Research Fellow Anne Marie Goetz, Governance Group, IDS (not yet confirmed)

Professor Jonathan Friedman, Lund University

Professor Staffan Lindberg, Lund University

Professor Desmond McNeill, University of Oslo
Professor Terje Tvedt, University of Bergen
Docent Jeremy Gould, , Helsinki University.
Professor Henrik Secher Marcussen, Roskilde University
Professor Laurids S. Lauridsen, Roskilde University
Visiting Professor Fiona Wilson, Roskilde University

Note for the Participants

The seminar will run for three days and count for 4 ECTS points.

Presentations of papers by the invited speakers will interchange with presentations by PhD researchers in thematic workshops with the invited lecturers as discussants.

Ph.D. researchers are invited to present workshop papers on theory or empirical work related to the theme of the seminar. It is possible to participate without a paper, but paper presenters will be preferred in case too many people sign up for the seminar (limited to 20 PhD students). The deadline for paper submission is 12th May2003.

Participation is free. The seminar will take place at Hotel Strandhotellet, Allinge-Sandvig, Bornholm, Denmark.

Deadline for application 1th April 2003.

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Reading List

(to be prepared)