

IGS thematic training module 2013

Reducing poverty – increasing disparities?

Inequality and justice in a globalising world: challenges for development research

Course description

With the MDG-era drawing to a close in 2015, the world has witnessed a reduction of the share of people living in extreme poverty. Nevertheless, not only does the absolute number of the poor remain fairly unchanged at 800 mio since the 1970s, but also, the most deprived seem to be excluded from the majority of the development achievements of the last decade. In terms of the distribution of social welfare, the gap between the haves and the have-nots has increased.

In this course, we will

- a. map out selected dynamics of disparities in today's world, particularly in the global South
- b. identify important concepts and indicators of poverty and uneven development
- c. address different dimensions of inequality and poverty
- d. work with tools and instruments to measure poverty and unequal development
- e. discuss questions of development and justice
- f. frame these questions in the context of the post-2015 development debate

Learning objectives

Participants of this course will acquire basic knowledge about different concepts of poverty and inequality which are currently being referred to in international development debates, offering them entry points to engage in this debate and to identify important connections to their own research.

1. By appreciating the scope of selected poverty concepts, candidates will identify indicators, assess their aggregation and discuss the research and political implication of working with specific measures.
2. Based on relevant development reports such as from UNDP, the World Bank etc., participants will engage in a debate on how development is assessed, what the positioning of selected countries indicates, and how countries negotiate their interests in terms of these rankings.
3. Special attention will be given to inequalities of class, gender, and ethnicity, their interdependence and how they can be assessed.
4. MDG, post-MDG and SDG debates will be referred to, including North-South disparities and a reflection on the Swiss position within these debates.
5. By way of workshop reports and via individual contributions by their colleagues, participants will gain insights into scientific applications of assessing poverty and inequality and address methodological challenges.
6. The course aims at framing the debate on disparities in the context of development and justice, with a particular focus on the capability approach by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum.
7. A special window will be opened to address the question of poverty and inequality in Switzerland from a scientific and macro-economic perspective as well as from the case-based illustrations on a micro-level.
8. Participants will be invited to contribute by linking the debate to their own work by sharing their theoretical, methodological and practical challenges with the group.

IGS 2013, thematic training module: Reducing poverty – increasing inequality?

Venue: Centre for Development and Environment, Hallerstrasse 10, Room 310

Timetable	Content	Method	Expert / Responsible	Time Frame
Wednesday, 13 November 2013				
09.15-09.45	Introduction Goals and questions for the module General Information on the programme	Input Plenary discussion	Thomas Breu, CDE SB	30'
09.45-10.30	Poverty and inequality in a global perspective: where do we stand at rim of the 2015 MDG countdown	Input Discussion	SB	75'
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break			30'
11.00-13.00	Poverty and development at a global level: – Linkages between poverty, inequality, and growth – Indicators and measurements	Input, discussion and group work	Stefan Bruni, Department of Economics, University of Applied Sciences, Lucerne	120'
13.00-14.00	Lunch break			60'
14.00-15.00	Framing the political debate on poverty, inequality, and growth: Implications for policy	Input, discussion, and group work	Stefan Bruni, Lucerne	60'
15.00-16.00	Market place: Participants briefly introduce their work	“Poster session” Individual conversations	All participants	60'
16.00-16.15	Break			15'
16.15-18.00	Inequality of incomes and wealth in Switzerland: a regional perspective	Input	Ben Jann, Department of Sociology, University of Bern	105'

Thursday, 14 November 2013				
<i>08.15-09.30 or any time beforehand</i>	<i>What is justice: The example of gender justice</i>	<i>Lecture by Stephan Klasen Individual podcasting or collective viewing in the course room</i>	<i>Podcast by Stephan Klasen, University of Göttingen</i>	90'
09.45-12.00	What is justice?	Walk shop Meeting point at Hallerstrasse/Länggassstrasse, in front of the Café Parterre ¹	Participants SB	120'
12.00-13.30	Lunch break	End of walk shop: Brünnen Westside Individual transfer back to Bern Main Station (bring your travel cards)		90'
13.30-15.00	Being poor in a rich country. Poverty and inequality in Switzerland	Input on extent, distribution and effects of poverty, and policy implications for Switzerland	Bettina Fredrich, Programme leader social policy, Caritas Switzerland	90'
15.00-15.15	Break			
15.15-16.15	What is justice: synthesising the debate	Plenary discussion	SB all	60'
16.15-16.30	Break			
16.30-18.00	The post 2015 development agenda and the position of Switzerland	Input	Ambassador Michael Gerber, special emissary for global sustainable development, SDC	90'

¹ Meeting point for all those who join us directly for the walk shop: 09.45 at the corner Länggassstrasse/Hallerstrasse, in front of the "Café Parterre", from where we will walk towards Bremgartenwald, Hintere Länggasse. Please make sure you wear adequate shoes and clothing for a walk through the forest on a November day in Switzerland.

Friday, 15. November 2013				
10.15-12.30	Bypassed by development: Pastoralist societies in Tanzania	Project report Plenary discussion	Udo Hoeggel, CDE University of Bern	135'
12.30-14.00	Brown bag lunch break including market place	"Poster session", part II Individual conversations	All participants	90'
14.00-15.15	Development and inequality in Lao PDR. How to work with household survey data	Workshop report	Christoph Bader, PhD Student, CDE, University of Bern	75'
15.15-15.30	Wrap up	Plenary discussion	Thomas Breu, CDE SB	15'
15.30-16.00	Evaluation of the course Farewell	All participants	SB	30'