

Development Geographies: Current Debates

Course Description:

We live in unprecedented times, when 'normality', including around development processes, is perforated by the CoVID-19 pandemic. It has also become a moment for reflection on the harms (to people's livelihoods, for instance) and recompense (the environment) of this pause, with this awkward phase rightfully nudging us to revisit questions on the nature of the global economy and development processes itself. This course is on development geographies. Yet, instead of revisiting the depth and richness of the development paradigm and its contested nature, we use CoVID-19 as a point of departure to focus on current debates around feminism and social reproduction, degrowth, political ecology, and decoloniality. These contemporary discussions will help us disrupt development geography, as we have known it – and hopefully, help craft a tool box that brings to the forefront the need for regenerating state that recognizes the depletion and social harm four decades of market-centric global economy has wrought.

We will organize the course around three pivot points:

- a) depletion, social reproduction and regeneration – to make feminist and gender debates central to contemporary contributions around global development;
- b) political ecology and the calls for degrowth in rebalancing the global economy;
- c) decoloniality and urban life – the calls for disrupting and uprooting the development paradigm from its colonial past and the contested nature of claim-making.

Course convenor and contributors:

Convenor: Kanchana N Ruwanpura, Professor – Human Geography, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

Contributors: Lowe Börjeson, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden

Ilda Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden

Guest speakers (confirmed to date): Beverley Mullings (Queens University, Canada), Shirin Rai (Warwick, UK), Barney Wharf, USA (GeoJournal & Kentucky State University), Maggi Leung (Geoforum & Utrecht)

Guest speakers (others to be confirmed): To be announced later.

Course Admission:

This course is directed to geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and economic historians who are pursuing research that relates to development geography in some way. The course is conducted as a Swedish national PhD-course in Human Geography, which means that in case of a large number of applications, priority will be given to PhD-students at member departments, ie human geography departments in Sweden. However, the course is also open to doctoral students in cognate disciplines both from Sweden and beyond; as well as in rare cases to early career researchers.

Language of instruction/Syllabus:

English

Approximately 1,000 pages of compulsory readings.

Course Fees:

There is no course fee, but participants will have to cover travel, accommodation etc. by own arrangements. PhD candidates from Departments of Human geography in Sweden make the arrangements with their home institutions.

Location/Timing of Course:

The course will be held via two on-line sessions and a final one together as a group. Our anticipated time-lines are: September, October and early November 2022, as below – with the last session in ideal circumstances in person at Gothenburg.

Session 1: Week 38 (20-24 Sept)

Session 2: Week 41 (11-15 Oct)

Session 3: Week 45 (8-12 Nov)

Session 1: September – Introduction to course, including with guest speakers virtually connecting for each theme

D1: Introduction, including a guest speaker such .

D1: Theme 1, including guest speaker Shirin Rai (confirmed)

D2: Theme 2

D3: Theme 3

Session 2: October

D1: Session with Editors (Barney Wharf, Maggi Leung and Beverley Mullings; confirmed)

1. Presentation and Q&A for students on editorial expectations and role as an editor for shorter pieces in *GeoJournal*, *Geoforum* and *Gender, Place and Culture* or *Transactions*.
2. Discussion around conceptually based writing; exposing students to other forms of writing.
3. Give insight into the editorial process and the normality of revise and resubmit decisions; the varied forms of editorial guidance.
4. Ensure that students bring extended abstracts for the day and discuss this (TBC);

Session 3: November

This five-day period in Gothenburg will also consist of an interview-cum-interaction panel with one of the guest lecturers, which will be facilitated by the students in a round table format. Guest speakers for final session will be confirmed in the coming academic year (2021/22); there will also be a dinner social paid for by NDC course institutions.

December (deadline to be confirmed): Participating students to submit their written essays on a pass/fail basis. Their essays will be written on one of the themes that make up the course, and will take the form of a critical summary review and/or a short essay format as per discussions provided by editors for Session 2.

Course Assessments:

The course assessments will consist of continuous evaluation on class participation and engagement, along with an obligatory 4,000 word essay framed alongside of viewpoints, critical reviews, research notes (including references). The assessment details will be distributed and discussed in further detail on the first meeting point (September 2022).

We anticipate students to use the readings we provide as a starting place but also to develop their own relevant readings to write commentaries or critical reviews, which they may also consider submitting to a number of possible journals. The course organizers and contributors will offer comments with a view to this possibility.

Course literature (Tentative):

General background

Required Readings:

Ali, Tariq, Mirza Hassan and Naomi Hossain (2021) "The moral and political economy of the pandemic: Weak states and strong societies during CoVID-19" *World Development* 137(January): 105-216

Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Sabelo J (2020) "Geopolitics of power and knowledge in the CoVID-19 Pandemic: Decolonial Reflections on a Global Crisis" *Journal of Developing Societies* 36(4): 366-389

Optional book McEwan, Cheryl (2019). *Postcolonialism, Decoloniality and Development*. Second edition Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Feminism and gender: Depletion, social reproduction and regeneration

Brickell, Kathrine et al (2020) "Compounding crises of social reproduction: Microfinance, over-indebtedness and the CoVID-19 pandemic" *World Development* 136 (December 2020): 105087

Kabeer, Naila, Shahra Razavi and Yana van der Muelen Rodgers (2021) "Feminist Perspectives on the CoVID-19 Pandemic" *Feminist Economics* 27(1-2): 1-29

Rai, Shirin M, Jacqui True and Maria Tanyang (2019) "From depletion to regeneration: Addressing structural and physical violence in post-conflict economies" *Social Politics* 26(4): 561-585

Sultana, Farhana (2021) "Climate change, CoVID-19 and the co-production of injustices: A feminist reading of overlapping crises" *Social and Cultural Geography* <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2021.1910994>

Political ecology and degrowth

Clapp, J., & Moseley, W. G. (2020). This food crisis is different: COVID-19 and the fragility of the neoliberal food security order. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(7), 1393-1417.

Head, L. (2020) "Transformative change requires resisting a new normal" *Nature Climate Change* 10(3), 173-174.

Hickel, J. (2020). "What does degrowth mean? A few points of clarification" *Globalizations*, 1-7.

Leonardelli, I., Bossenbroek, L., Ftouhi, H., Kadiri, Z., Bhat, S., Kulkarni, S., ... & Kemerink-Seyoum, J. S. (2021) "COVID-19 in Rural India, Algeria, and Morocco: A Feminist Analysis of Small-Scale Farmers' and Agricultural Laborers' Experiences and Inventive Practices" *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 3, 17.

Underhill et al. Colonial Circularities of California's Hydraulic Frontiers: A Beacon and a Warning. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

Zwarteveen et al. In Press "Transformations to Groundwater Sustainability: from individuals and pumps to communities and aquifers" *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*.

Decoloniality and urban life

Dixon, Carol A (2020) "Four women, for women: Caribbean diaspora artists reimage(in)ing the fine art canon" *African and Black Diaspora* 13(2): 161-176

McIlwaine Cathy and Yara Evans (2020) Urban Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in transnational perspective: Reflections from Brazilian women in London *International Development Planning Review* 42:93-112

Myers, Garth (2020) *Rethinking urbanism: Lessons for postcolonialism and the Global South*. Policy Press