



**BRITISH
ACADEMY**

for the humanities and social sciences

After 2015: Development and its Alternatives

The British Academy, 10 and 11 September 2014

Convenor: Dr Clive Gabay, Queen Mary University of London

Day 1 – 10 September 2014

9.30 *Registration & refreshments*

10.00 **Welcome and Introduction**

Dr Clive Gabay, Queen Mary University of London

10.15 **Session 1: Development Landscapes 2000-2015**

Chair: Dr Carl Death, University of Manchester

Main purpose/theme of session:

This session will consider the significance of the Millennium Development Goals as a developmental paradigm, how they have framed development, and how the experience of them has informed current debates about what should follow them. In terms of 'Development and its Alternatives' the session will explicitly focus on the 'Development' end of that equation, establishing the ideological parameters of the development project since 2000, and the subsequent political economy and operationalisation of development policy.

Roundtable: The end of the MDGs: How we got to where we're going

Professor David Hulme, University of Manchester

Professor Frances Stewart, University of Oxford

Professor Ashwani Saith, International Institute for Social Studies

Jan Vandemoortele, Independent researcher, Director of United Nations

Development Programme Poverty Group 2001-2005

12.15 *Lunch*

13.30 **Session 2: Development and its Subjects**

Chair: Dr Clive Gabay

Main purpose/theme of session:

Critical development research often focusses on the actors, institutions and ideologies which produce and operationalise development policy. This is valuable as it helps to identify logics and ideological continuity and contestation within the development project and between this project and broader political processes. However, equally as important is a focus on the subjects of development themselves, for whether development fails or succeeds, and for whom, it does not do so in the air-conditioned offices of international organisations, but within the communities and habitats of people living with poverty. This session will seek to foreground the subjects of development, how they are constructed by and through development policy, but also how such subjectivities are incorporated, resisted or outright rejected by the subjects of development policy: people living with and in poverty.

In conversation with Professor James C. Scott, Yale University: Why Development Fails

15.15 *Refreshments*

15.45 Constructing Development Subjects I

Development, Sexuality, and Law: Unpacking the Nexus.

Dr Kate Bedford, University of Kent

Amplifying the voices of the subjects of development: an experiment in participatory story-telling in the Peruvian Andes

Dr Karen Tucker, University of Bristol

17.00 *Refreshments and close of first day*

18.00 **New Frontlines of Development: Private Security Companies and Corporate Extraction**

This interactive exhibition, held in collaboration with War on Want, will explore issues of conflict, militarisation, human rights abuses, destruction of livelihoods, and displacement in resource-rich developing countries, and the relationship between these issues and the extractive industries. Featuring a new documentary on the Glencore-Xstrata Tampakan mining project in Southern Philippines, live performances and the stories of local communities and their efforts to affect alternative forms of development to those offered them by extractive industries, this exhibition will directly address themes of corporate accountability and developmental alternatives in the build-up to 2015.

(This event is free, but separate registration is required)

19.30 *Drinks reception*

Day 2 – 11 September 2014

10.00 *Refreshments*

10.15 **Session 2: Development and its Subjects (cont'd)**
Chair: Dr Clive Gabay

Constructing Development Subjects II

Contesting Political Relations of Development
Dr Heloise Weber, University of Queensland

Doing biopolitics differently? Radical potential in the post-2015 MDG debates
Dr Carl Death, University of Manchester and Dr Clive Gabay, Queen Mary University of London

11.30 **Session 3: Excluded Voices**
Chair: Dr Sophie Harman, Queen Mary University of London

Whose voices? Civil society, excluded groups, and the post-MDG debate

The Global Call to Action against Poverty and the post MDGs debate
Amitabh Behar, co-chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty

What happens when global policy space opens up to social movements? The reformed Committee on World Food Security
Dr Nora Mckeeon, Terra Nuova, Rome 3 University, formerly director of civil society relations at the Food and Agriculture Organization

The land question and knowledge politics
Professor Philip McMichael, Cornell University

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 **Session 4: Alternatives**
Chair: Dr Heloise Weber, University of Queensland

Directly addressing the second half of the conference 'prompt' (Development and its Alternatives), this session will bring the conference to a close by considering the variety of ways in which people seek to develop their own societies and communities under the gaze of and often in resistance to mainstream development thinking, and what this has to teach us about ideological and programmatic alternatives to the mainstream development project embodied by the MDGs and the post-2015 development debates.

Roundtable: Lived Developmental Alternatives
Dr Wendy Harcourt, International Institute for Social Studies
Professor Philip McMichael, Cornell University
Bob Thomson, Degrowth/Decroissance Canada
Dr Aram Ziai, University of Kassel
Carlos Zorrilla, Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag

16.15 Final remarks and thanks: Dr Clive Gabay

16.30 *Refreshments and close of conference*