



SUOMEN KEHITYSTUTKIMUKSEN SEURA  
FÖRENINGEN FÖR UTVECKLINGSFORSKNING  
FINNISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

## *Development Day 2015*

### Rethinking Responsibility in Development: Contested Relations between Citizens, States and Corporations

12 – 13 February 2015 University of Helsinki, Finland

organized by the Finnish Society for Development Research, in cooperation with HUGS (University of Helsinki), LYY Institute (University of Eastern Finland), the Department of Political and Economic Studies/Development Studies and UNIPID

---

The aim of Development Day 2015 is to bring together researchers, students and development professionals to discuss new ways in which responsibilities are conceptualised and negotiated between citizens, states and corporations. How is responsibility redistributed and relegated in current discourse and practice? Who takes responsibility – and for what?

Development Day provides a space to present and debate research that looks at the question of responsibility over key areas in society. These include, for instance, work, education, research, health, culture, security, trade, property and the environment. Relatedly, the conference invites critical scrutiny of the role of different actors, such as the state and development agencies, NGOs, corporations as well as international organisations. The Development Day conference welcomes contributions that engage in both theoretical and policy-oriented research relating to the interaction between communities, states and corporations in development. Besides ethical and legal aspects of responsibility, the conference also looks at political responsiveness in these contexts. We also welcome multidisciplinary conceptualizations of the professional and technical, every day aspects of changing divisions of responsibility in political struggles across the globe.

Our keynote speakers include Dr. Dinah Rajak, author of "In Good Company: An Anatomy of Corporate Social Responsibility", University of Sussex and Prof Bernadeta Killian, author of "The Women's Land Rights Movement, Customary Law and Religion in Tanzania", University of Dar es Salaam.

## REGISTRATION

Acceptance of abstracts will be announced in mid-December. Conference papers of 9000 words (maximum) and Master's contributions of 5000 words (maximum) should be completed and sent to the thematic working group session coordinators or to the Master's workshop organizing committee ([FSDR2015@gmail.com](mailto:FSDR2015@gmail.com)) by 2 February 2015.

You may register from 20.12.2014 onwards at the conference website: [www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference/registration](http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference/registration)

The conference is free for all Finnish Society for Development Research members. For non-members, the conference fee is €20 for researchers and €10 for Master's students. By paying the fee, you will also become a member of the Finnish Society for Development Research. For membership fee payment, please visit [www.kehitystutkimus.fi/?page\\_id=31](http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/?page_id=31)

For updated information, please visit: [www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference](http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference)

## Development Day Conference Programme 12 February 2015

Registration 8.30 – 9.15

Plenary 9.15 – 11.45

### Rethinking Responsibility in Development

---

*Venue: University main building, Small Festive Hall, Fabianinkatu 33*

9.15 – *Opening words* by Dr. Marikki Stocchetti, Chair of the Finnish Society for Development Research & Secretary General of the Finnish Development Policy Committee

*Finnish Academy Award to Dr. Irmeli Mustalahti, Academy Research Fellow, LYY Institute, University of Eastern Finland / Development Studies*

9.30 – 10.00 *Corporate Social Responsibility and the Ethical Frontier of Development*

- Keynote speech by Dr. Dinah Rajak, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Development, University of Sussex, the UK

10.00 – 10.30 *Responsibility in Global Governance: Citizens' Response in Tanzania*

- Keynote speech by Prof. Bernadetta Killian, Department of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

10.30 - 10.45 *Commenting Remarks* by Prof. Barry Gills University of Helsinki

10.45 – 11.45 *Open Discussion and Working Group practicalities*

11.45 – 12.45 Lunch

### Working Groups

*Venue: University Main Building seminar rooms, Fabianinkatu 33*

13.00 - 17.00 Working groups 1-5 parallel sessions (with coffee break)

18.00 – 20.00 Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR) Annual Meeting

Open for old and new members (University Main Building, room tbc)

20.00 – Informal Conference Dinner (tbc)

## Development Day Masters Workshop Programme 13 February 2015

---

*Venue: University Main Building seminar rooms, Fabianinkatu 33*

Workshop sessions for Master students presentations and feedback by our speakers and senior scholars.

9.15 – 11.45 working group sessions and optional joint lunch at 12.00 onwards

## WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

### WORKING GROUP 1

#### Corporations and communities

*Coordinator Liina-Maija Quist, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Helsinki/Development Studies  
(liina-maija.quist[at]helsinki.fi)*

*Chairs: Dr. Dinah Rajak, Senior Lecturer, University of Sussex and Dr. Anja Nygren, Adjunct Professor in Development Studies, Research Colloquium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki*

Today, the relations between corporations and communities are the object of careful strategic work performed by companies and communities, as well as by a variety of other actors such as states and NGOs. This working group invites you to explore the mechanisms (the 'whats') and processes (the 'hows') of corporations and communities meeting in the context of the former's operations. In other words, we are broadly interested in the discursive and political practices through which relations between corporations and communities are construed. Possible themes can revolve around shifting conceptualizations, politics, resource access and livelihoods that are connected to changing engagements between corporations and communities. The working group also invites contributions that examine the relationship between corporations and communities from the perspective of the politics of corporate social responsibility (CSR). We look forward to inspiring conversations and interesting theoretical and empirical insights into these issues.

### WORKING GROUP 2

#### Civil Society and Responsibilities Re-negotiated

*Coordinator and Chair: Dr. Tiina Kontinen, Senior Lecturer, University of Jyväskylä  
(tiina.t.kontinen[at]jyu.fi)*

Civil society provides a significant space for re-negotiation responsibilities in societies and at the global level. Associations, social movements, and activist networks provide a wide variety of opportunities to present claims and mobilise for change in regard to responsibility. Paralleling the renegotiation of responsibilities, the identities and roles of civil society itself are redefined. At the organizational level, there are increasing hybrids of organizational logic. For example, aspirations traditionally attached to civil society are articulated in the private sector, the private sector efficiency-imperative in turn enters civil society, and public policy-making then employs the practices of citizenship engagement. Moreover, trends such as "responsibilization" of

individual citizens call for a redefinition of the roles and contributions of civil society. The working group invites both theoretical and empirical contributions that analyse the changing forms of civil society in general and specifically with regard to the re-negotiation of responsibilities.

## WORKING GROUP 3

### Responsive and Deliberative Environmental Governance

*Coordinator Dr. Irmeli Mustalahti, Academy Research Fellow, LYY Institute, University of Eastern Finland (irmeli.mustalahti[at]uef.fi)*

*Chairs: Dr. Bernadeta Killian, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam and Dr. Kaisa Matschoss, Senior Researcher, National Consumer Research Centre, University of Helsinki*

The responsive and deliberative approach in various environmental governance actions and interventions aims to empower local citizens to influence the development of their immediate surroundings. This approach argues for development and social change that is primarily driven by the local population interacting with the authorities or other relevant actors. The goal of responsive environmental governance is to include as many actors and differing visions as possible in local and regional environmental management and conservation. In this approach, citizens are seen to influence society via voting and other civic actions, but also as consumers who can influence their environment through their choice of commercial products and services. The concept of the citizen-consumer is increasingly used by scholars in an attempt to establish a wider understanding of what has been termed green, ecological, sustainable or responsible consumption.

In this working group, we aim to discuss the possibilities and constraints of these types of approaches in environmental governance: what are some cases in which the deliberation over rights and responsibilities in environmental governance take place? And how/under what circumstances do various actors in the exercise of public authority and responsive governance emerge? We also welcome discussions on the role of citizen-consumers in the context of responsive governance and how this might strengthen or weaken local environmental governance. This working group seeks to bring together research that addresses the issues of responsive and deliberative governance of natural resource management and conservation, and studying environmental conflicts and various environmental planning interventions. We also encourage contributions that address the choices of consumer-citizens and how these relate to developing countries.

## WORKING GROUP 4

### Rethinking Responsibility in Global Governance

*Coordinator: Dr. Marikki Stocchetti, Visiting Research Fellow in Development Studies, University of Helsinki and Secretary General of the Finnish Development Policy Committee (marikki.stocchetti [at] formin.fi)*

*Chair: Professor Barry Gills, University of Helsinki/Development Studies*

This working group is concerned with the different aspects of responsibility in global governance. Global governance refers here to collective action to address the causes and consequences of adverse supranational, transnational, or national problems related to sustainable development. In particular, we are interested in the role and contribution of different actors (citizens, governments both in the global South/North and international organisations) in the understanding, framing and tackling of global problems. Relatedly, the question of responsibility in this context may refer to normative responsibility, which includes the moral and legal aspects of responsibility. 'Responsibility' may also include political accountability, legitimacy as well as assessments of responses. While we invite contributions that focus on responsibility and governance at different cross-cutting levels, the thematic scope of the papers may touch upon the different dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental and security). In particular, we welcome academic papers that deal with the post-2015 UN sustainable development agenda process and universal development goals, which are founded on reframed conceptualisations of responsibility.

## WORKING GROUP 5

### Epistemic and Methodological Responsibility

*Coordinators: Emily Höckert, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Lapland/Tourism Studies (emily.hockert[at]helsinki.fi) and Eija Ranta (eija.ranta[at]helsinki.fi) Postdoctoral researcher, University of Helsinki/Development Studies*

Rather than merely exploring the responsibility or ethics of development per se, this thematic session focuses on the responsibilities linked to the production of knowledge within development studies and practices. That is, instead of highlighting what we know, the emphasis here is on *how we know it*. While epistemology can be understood as the relations between the knower and the known, methodology provides an approach which guides the practices of collecting and analysing empirical data and weaving together the outcomes into more complete/inclusive constructions of knowledge. The search for responsible epistemologies and methodologies requires a heightened sense of self-reflexivity about our positioning as researchers and about the context in which research is planned and conducted. What is more, responsible epistemologies and methodologies encourage open discussion about the purposes

of our studies, but also about the ethical and political implications of research on those directly or indirectly involved in it.

For this session, we look forward to receiving papers which address the issues of epistemologies and methodologies. Possible themes include, but are not limited to, the processes of decolonizing epistemologies, discussion and disruption of unequal power relations in fieldwork settings, and responsibilities and ethics of representation – of speaking for, and speaking about the Other. While hoping for a frank discussion about the ethical challenges we face as students, researchers and development practitioners, we wish to encourage participants of this session to envision possibilities for opening up new spaces for alternative ways of knowing to thrive.