

CALL FOR WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS

Development Days Conference 2022: Infrastructures, technologies, and vulnerabilities in global development

17-18th February 2022, Helsinki

Infrastructure and (new) technologies unquestionably play a central role in (and for) development, as highlighted by the current sustainable development goals and revealed by the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. The extractive development pathways putting liveable environments at risk are closely intertwined with infrastructural politics. Perhaps more than ever, the creation, maintenance, and distribution of infrastructures and technologies are crucial for virtually every aspect of development, including: the environment; health care; food supply; climate responses; education; trade; transportation and traffic; employment and work; economic stability and growth; information and communication; and, not least, social activities and well-being.

However, not only are access to and control over infrastructures and technologies drastically uneven; they also generate power inequalities and vulnerabilities in global development. With the notion of politics of vulnerability, we draw attention to power-ridden and complex socio-technical, gender, ethnic, and political-ecological relations. These relations shape the production of differentiated vulnerabilities to infrastructural, social, and environmental harms and adversities. It is urgent to think of and explore infrastructures critically because of their power to define futures by locking-in certain social, political, economic, and environmental relations while simultaneously locking-out other modes of relations for long periods of time. To avoid the looming socio-environmental catastrophe, we need to consider how the current infrastructural formations can be rearranged, retrofitted, or even decommissioned, as well as how to create future infrastructures that support and generate more just and sustainable futures.

In light of the urgent need to tackle climate change, inequality, and unsustainable forms of development, DD 2022 discusses the complex relations between infrastructures, technologies, and vulnerabilities in global development. We welcome proposals for Working Groups from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, both theoretical and policy-oriented, to examine how political, economic, and social advantages and disadvantages become distributed through the deployment of infrastructures and technologies, in both the global North and South. We are also interested in Working Groups exploring alternatives and resistance to violent infrastructures and oppressive uses of technologies, as well as how these alternatives help strengthen dissenting or previously marginalized voices. Participation beyond academic actors such as those representing civil society or arts is also welcome. Not all Working Group proposals need to be tightly connected to the specific conference theme as long as they address key contemporary topics in global development. The conference is organised by [Finnish Society for Development Research](#) in collaboration with the University of Helsinki, Hanken School of Economics and Finnish University Partnership for International Development – UniPID.

Keynote speakers incl. [Tania Li](#) (University of Toronto), [Timothy Oakes](#) (University of Colorado) and [Marcus Taylor](#) (Queens University, TBC)

Proposal for Working Groups (300 words max, including name/email address of working group chair(s)) should be sent to info.developmentdays@gmail.com by 8 October 2021.

The conference is currently planned as on-site event, but online participation will also be possible if needed.

For more information on the conference, please visit <http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference/>

Conference timeline:

June 21: Save the date – DD 2022 announced

13 September 21: Call for working groups opens

8 October 21: Submission DL for working group proposals

15 October 21: Acceptance of working groups

18 October 21: Call for papers opens

19 November 21: Submission DL for paper abstracts

6 December 21: Acceptance of paper abstracts

10 January 22: Registration opens

17-18 February 22: DD Conference in Helsinki

For information on previous Development Days Conferences, please visit <http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference/past-conferences>

For information on the Finnish Society for Development Research, please visit <http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/>