

## Development and the Emerging Economies: Looking backwards, looking forward

*10-Years anniversary of the Department of International Development, King's College London  
and the Annual Directors' Meeting of European Association of Development Research and  
Training Institutes*

Great Hall (K0.64), King's College London, November 3-4, 2022

### **About the conference**

Since establishment in 2012 the institute and later the department of International Development at King's has focused on studying and understanding development through the lens of the 'Emerging Economies'.

Emerging Economies are typically middle income though this feature may mask wide disparities of income and even absolute poverty. The defining characteristic of Emerging Economies is of developing countries where traditional aid no longer matters due to the growth of domestic resources and productive capacities. Emerging Economies include thus not only large countries such as Brazil, India, China, and South Africa but also much of Latin America and much of East and Southeast Asia and some dynamic African countries.

In the early 2010s there was fast growth and much discussion of the 'catching up' of Emerging Economies with the richer countries. Fast forward to the early 2020s and post-pandemic growth is weak in most countries, fuel and food prices are rising as a result of the war in the Ukraine, populist nationalism has taken root around the world. At the same time questions of fairer or greener types of development have come to the fore alongside protest and resistance to the persistent inequality within and between countries.

The golden era of reasonable growth and stability may well be replaced by a set of inter-connected crises. The pandemic may be passing. Or is it? Even this isn't certain. And the reverberations post-pandemic suggests a continuing long crisis in terms of the economic consequences of higher debt service and higher fuel and food prices, to highlight just three longstanding issues that have been exacerbated. Intermingled with these crises are longer crises of democracy, the rise of authoritarian nationalism/populism and the climate crisis.

This conference focuses on shifts in politics and economics and other areas of the last decade, and their drivers and consequences. We will also look forward to the next decade of multiple crises. Inevitably we can't cover everything, so we focus on areas where the department has some expertise to convene.

Our conference will focus on a specific set of questions: How have the Emerging Economies fared in the last decade since we set up our institute/department? How will the Emerging Economies fare in the next decade? What does the study of countries where aid is irrelevant tell us about the study of development? Is a focus on Emerging Economies part of a decolonisation agenda (by stepping away from aid-related issues) or does a focus on Emerging Economies invoke other/different forms of colonisation in its framing?

#DIDat10

10  
YEARS

## Conference programme

### Throughout the conference

Exhibition by PhD Students of Dept of International Development

### Thursday 3 November

6-6.15pm	<b>Welcome</b> Cathy Mcllwaine, Vice Dean (Research), Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London
6.15-7:30pm	<b>Keynote: Emergence and multipolarity: 'Southern' nodes in the post-1990s world order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keynote speaker: C.P. Chandrasekhar, Professor of Centre for Economic Studies &amp; Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</li><li>• Chair: Andrea Cornwall, King's College London</li><li>• Discussant: Anisa Muzaffar, King's College London</li></ul>
7:30pm	<b>Drinks reception</b>

## Friday 4 November

9-9:30am	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Sarah Bracking, King's College London and Andy Sumner, King's College London</p>
9:30-11am	<p><b>Keynote: Global Development trends this century: looking backwards, looking forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Frances Stewart, Professor Emeritus, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Chair: Alfredo Saad-Filho, King's College London</li> <li>• Discussant: Arief Yusuf, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia</li> </ul>
11-11:30am	Coffee
11:30am-1pm	<p><b>The Future of Emerging Democracies in the age of long crises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Boone, LSE</li> <li>• Louise Tillin, King's India Institute</li> <li>• Néstor Castañeda, UCL</li> <li>• Discussant: Peter Kingstone, Montclair State University</li> <li>• Chair: Linette Lim, University College Dublin &amp; DID alumni</li> </ul>
1-2pm	Lunch
2-3:30pm	<p><b>Protest and Resistance to a Politics of Crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maha Abdelrahman, University of Cambridge</li> <li>• Andrea Espinoza Carvajal, University of Exeter &amp; DID alumni</li> <li>• Luis Andueza, King's College London</li> <li>• Chair: Jelke Boesten, King's College London</li> </ul>
3:30-4pm	Tea
4-5:30pm	<p><b>EADI &amp; DSA Panel: Development in Crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger Few, University of East Anglia</li> <li>• Christof Hartmann, University of Duisburg Essen, Germany</li> <li>• Pamela Mondliwa, Special Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, South Africa</li> <li>• Chair: Susanne von Itter, Executive Director, EADI</li> </ul>
5:30-7:30pm	Close, thanks and drinks reception

## About the sessions

### Thursday 3 November

#### **6.15–7:30pm: Keynote: Emergence and multipolarity: 'Southern' nodes in the post-1990s world order**

*C.P. Chandrasekhar, Professor of Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.*

Implicit in recent discussions on the international economic order is an understanding that as opposed to traditional "multipolarity" that consists of more than one historically developed nation sharing positions of dominance in the world order, some developing countries (especially China and, to a lesser extent, India) have strengthened their position in the world system since the 1990s. These Southern nodes in multipolarity are seen as reshaping the world order in an altogether different way. It has also been suggested that this reflects a more generalised tendency towards "emergence" and Southern empowerment, strengthened by the need to win Southern support for efforts to address global problems such as climate change.

However, underlying the evidence supporting such projections are two different relocations: the relocation of manufacturing and services production from the North to the South; and, the relocation of finance from the North to the South. Unlike during the import-substitution years, these relocations are substantially driven by changes in the metropolitan core of capitalism, rather than responses to inequality from the South. The consequences of both are an increase in vulnerability and growing divisions within the South with attendant implications for any reshaping of the current unequal global order.

### Friday 4 November

#### **9:30–11am: Keynote: Global Development trends this century: looking backwards, looking forward**

*Frances Stewart, Professor Emeritus, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford*

The presentation will start with a brief account of the framework of thought about development that underlay the agreement on the SDGs in 2015 – the multidimensionality of objectives, the importance of reducing poverty and inequality, and of building sustainability into objectives and policies.

Little in the framework explicit about the economy but a general assumption that the market/capitalist system would continue to be dominant, and that it would be the most effective way of achieving the development objectives. Likewise, there was an implicit view that the advance of democracy would continue, and this too would be essential for enlarging human freedoms.

The talk will then review major economic, social, and political development trends from 2000-2020, and briefly assess whether they have succeeded in realising the objectives laid out in the framework. It will then consider some important factors underlying the observed trends and consider whether they are likely to continue with implications for future

developments. Reaching a mixed but overall pessimistic conclusion, I will review grounds for hoping for change in the underlying trends.

Finally, we will conclude with some reflections on deficiencies in the initial framework; and the belief that the realities of climate change will eventually force radical policy change but not by 2030.

### **11:30am-1pm: The Future of Emerging Democracies in the age of long crises**

A decade earlier there was a considerable optimism about the possibilities for equitable growth and deepening democracy, at least in part embedded in the rapid decline of poverty and accompanying expansion of 'middle classes' in a large number of middle-income countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Yet, the current period is much more discouraging (and even before covid).

The rise of authoritarian states and populist-nationalist parties and political mobilisations now threatens global security and environment, and reverses the progress made on the rights of the vulnerable and marginalised groups. Either we saw the warning signs and underestimated them, or we were not asking the right questions.

What can we learn about democracy and democratization reflecting backwards on what we got right and what we got wrong about the emerging economies and what sorts of questions we should be asking going forward?

### **2-3:30pm: Protest and Resistance to a Politics of Crisis**

The multiple intersecting crises the world is living through has created responses that affect some more than others. Covid measures, price hikes, and climate change hit the poor first and hardest, but are not addressed with them in mind. Economic growth models continue to focus on damaging extractive industries and the corresponding harmful socio-political orders, and democratic deficits and illiberal democracies have punitive effects on the rights and lives of women, LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities and majorities, small farmers and informal labourers, and those with progressive ideas.

Those under direct fire from contemporary politics of crises do not undergo the infringement of their rights silently. With long traditions in labour organising, feminist activism, and ecological protest, there are powerful examples of contemporary protest and resistance movements who not only push back against the violation of rights, but they provide a mirror to the world reflecting different approaches to addressing crises and imagining the future.

Questions: What mobilising strategies do activists employ, and how successful, or precarious, are these movements? What might be specific and new about today's protest movements? What futures are embedded in contemporary protest and resistance, and to what extent do they form a rupture with previous eras of development?

### **4-5:30pm: EADI & DSA Panel: Development in Crisis**

Building on previous panels on emerging economies, democracies, and resistance movements, we take a holistic look at the long-lasting impacts on development processes and governance of international crises (economic, medical, or (geo)political).

From the perspective of countries in the Global South, what do these crises entail at the policy level? What are the possible levers of action for policy makers, and the potential impacts of these for the most marginalised? And finally, how can development analysis inform their decision making?

This panel will explore how development studies can contribute to the understanding of policy and governance challenges in the Global South in the face of multiple crises. Speakers will talk to the effect of an unprecedented combination of factors (climate, protectionism, fuel prices, disease, war...) on global food security, the impact of the Ukraine war on the Global South (with a particular focus on geopolitical and international relations), and the policy responses available to governments of low- and middle-income countries (with a particular focus on economic policy in South Africa).