

CERES PhD Programme **2022-2023**

September 2022

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INTRODUCTION

CERES is a research school for the field of International Development Studies (or Development Studies for short). Its members include academic staff and their associated PhD researchers in Development Studies or in related disciplines or interdisciplinary fields in the social sciences, such as anthropology, sociology, political science, economics and geography. The School was founded in 1994 by academic institutions in the Netherlands and currently includes six member institutions, including one in Belgium (Flanders). It has established links with many other universities and research institutes in Europe and in the Global South.

CERES currently serves three main functions:

1

Provide educational opportunities specifically tailored to PhD researchers working in the interdisciplinary field of Development Studies or on issues of development (it is the only accredited research school in the Netherlands that offers such specifically tailored research training).

2

Organise and convene lectures and events to promote the field of Development Studies in the Netherlands and Belgium.

3

Provide researchers and research managers in Development Studies and allied fields with a tool to measure and evaluate research output performance in a plural and interdisciplinary manner, but also in a way that is conventionally recognised by formal research quality assessment exercises.



CERES 2022



Regarding the first function of providing educational opportunities, CERES has been expanding its **PhD course offering** since 2019. We are currently offering **eight courses in the 2022-2023 academic year**, along **with six associated courses organised by Institute of Development Studies at the University of Antwerp (IOB)**, which are free for PhDs from CERES members. This has been in response to demand from many PhD researchers and member institutions for more PhD-level teaching tailored to Development Studies, which is the comparative advantage of CERES and where it adds particular value to its members.

CERES also allows the possibility for **PhD candidates from academic research institutions in the Global South that are associated with CERES members** to participate in these courses as CERES members.



In addition to its longstanding **PhD Training Course** oriented towards first-year PhDs, CERES is offering an additional residential **Post-Fieldwork Course** oriented towards PhDs in the later stages of their degree, a course on **Safety and Security during Fieldwork** (offered twice, once online and once in person), a one-day **Workshop on Research Problems** for starting PhDs, and several **thematic/methodology** courses. The course calendar is as follows:

October 2022

Three-day course on Safety and Security in Fieldwork (online, first edition)

November 2022

One-day workshop on research problems/questions for starting PhDs (in person)

November 2022

Six-session course on Survey Methods and Data Collection (in person)

November-December 2022

Five-session course on Decolonizing Scholarship (online)

February 2023

Post-fieldwork Course (residential)

February-March 2023

Ten-lecture course on Ontology (in person)

April 2023

Week-long workshop on Global Commodity Chains (in person)

March-June 2023

The annual PhD Training Course (four residential modules of 4-5 days each)

June 2023

Three-day course on Safety and Security in Fieldwork (in person, second edition, also included as part of PhD Training Course)

The Post-Fieldwork Course and the modules of the PhD Training Course will be held in residential form (retreat settings, including accommodation and food) or at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, with the possibility of some online options. Both courses have a tuition fee. In general, institutions pay, not the individual PhD student. All the other courses are free to CERES members (and associated Global South institutions). PhD researchers not associated with CERES member institutions can also join these courses if there are still vacancies, and upon payment of a non-member fee.

In addition to these CERES-convened courses, we are also offering **six associated courses**, held by the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) at University of Antwerp, with free access for CERES member PhDs. These will be held from January 2023 onwards (precise dates tba).

COURSES

1. Safety and Security for Fieldwork/In-situ Research

Teachers: Dr Rodrigo Mena, Prof Dr Dorothea Hilhorst, and invited trainers

Tuition: free for members; 300 (online) or 400 (in-person) euros for non-members.

ECs: 1.5

Two editions:

1) Online version: 18-20 October 2022 (13h-18h00 each day)

2) In-person version (priority is given to participants of the PhD Training Course):

13-15 June 2023 (9h30 – 18h00 on first two days, half-day in the morning of the third)

Location: International Institute of Social Studies (ISS, The Hague)

Description

When conducting in-situ research or fieldwork, researchers often operate within complex and dynamic socio-political contexts. From criminality, illness, and engagement with authoritarian authorities, to cybersecurity threats and disasters, researchers, research participants and collaborators face a wide range of risks that might affect their safety and security and the quality of the research process itself. This course is designed to assist researchers in conducting their research in complex, remote or hazardous environments as safely, securely and ethically as possible, both for those working within their home country and for foreigners.

The content is organised into three main groups: (a) main frameworks and theories of research safety and security with a focus on risk assessment and research ethics; (b) a review of specific fieldwork-related risks and actions designed to prevent them; and (c) preparedness and contingency planning so the researcher knows what to do if the risks become manifest. The course has a workshop format with a two-fold teaching-learning methodology: one, through lecture sessions; two, through personal and group exercises on fieldwork research methodologies and techniques, risk assessment and risk reduction and safety and security. The course will also feature input from guest experts on mental health and cybersecurity.



2. Developing Research Problems and Questions

10 November 2022, 11h00-13h00 and 14h00-16h00

Teacher: Prof Dr Andrew M Fischer

Location: In person, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS, The Hague)

Tuition: free for members; 50 euros for non-members.

Description

This workshop focuses on the art of asking social scientific research questions by rooting these in the identification and specification of research problems. It is designed for PhDs who have recently started the degrees and as a primer for the full PhD Training Course (see pages 12-13 below).



3. Survey Methods and Data Collection

11, 16, 18, 22, 25 and 30 November 2022, 14h-16h

Teacher: Prof Dr Arjun Bedi

Location: In person, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS, The Hague)

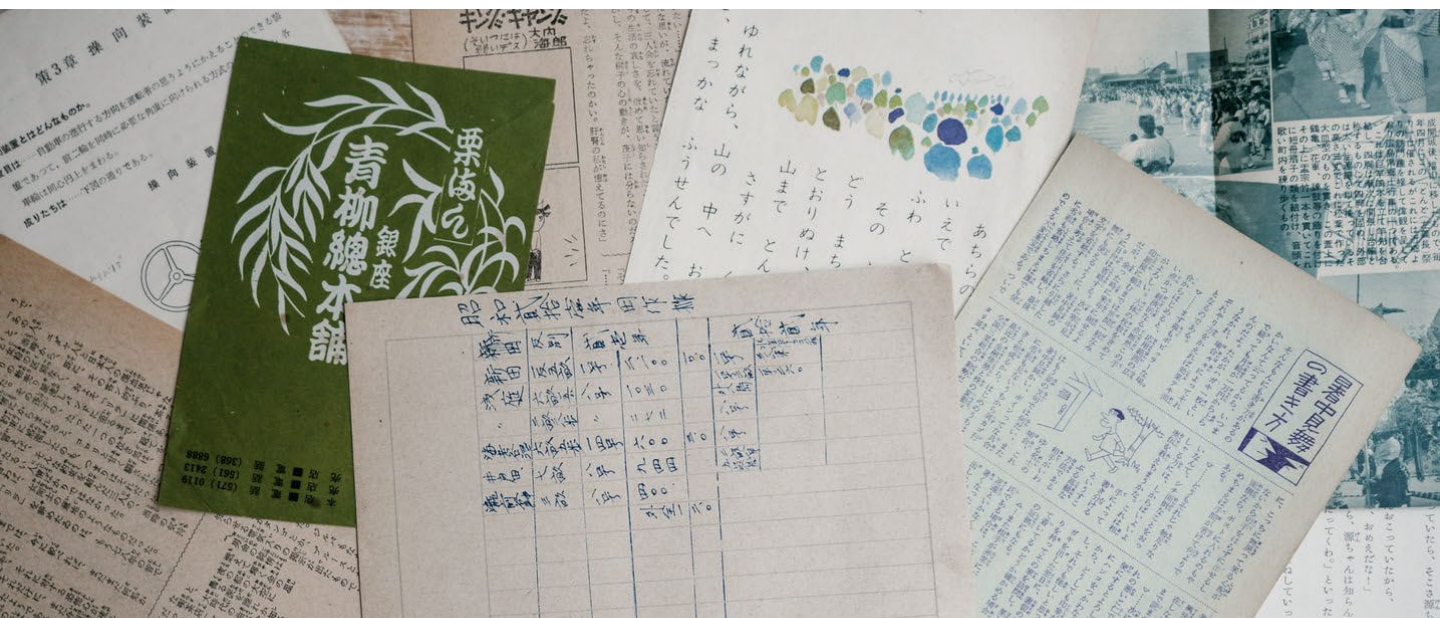
Tuition: free for members; 300 euros for non-members.

ECs: 3

Description

This course responds to the increasing demand for primary (micro-) data collection. Typically, courses on statistics and econometrics focus on estimation and model specification and do not pay much attention to issues such as how the data used for the analysis have been collected, and/or the quality (coverage, accuracy) of the data. This course is designed to deal with such blind spots and addresses three main issues: 1) survey design and sampling strategies and implications of the survey design for data analysis; 2) sample size and power calculations; 3) dealing with non-response and measurement error. The course is practice-oriented and will rely on numerous examples to illustrate key ideas and approaches to data collection and discuss implementation issues such as questionnaire design and different methods of data collection (online, face to-face).

Even if you are not interested in collecting your own data but plan to use secondary data, the course will encourage you to interrogate the features of the data set and to evaluate how the data were collected and the consequences of the data collection strategy for your analysis. Although quantitative in orientation, it is also open to students interested in conducting qualitative surveys given that many of the principles apply and help to improve survey quality.



4. Decolonizing Scholarship: Writing against Epistemicides

15, 22 and 29 November, 6 and 13 December 2022 (9am – 12pm)

Teacher: Dr. Nadira Omarjee

Location: Online

Tuition: free for members; 250 euros for non-members.

ECs: 2.5

Description

The course will address alternative, critical and social justice pedagogies together with research methodologies that speak to the scholarly project of critical and decolonial feminist perspectives. The pedagogical approach is based on Freirian perspectives of learning through sharing; with participating scholars developing the weekly sessions through consultations based on the group requirements. However, a course outline will be offered to the group with a comprehensive reading list which will then be open to further negotiation and readings, including social media sites such as blogs and vlogs, etc. More importantly, the course sessions will rely on blurring the lines between art/activism/scholarship in order to address the importance of intersecting ontology and epistemology. Moreover, the participation of all the scholars in the classroom is required for making this course an inclusive process.

The workshops will be spread across five sessions whereby scholars will participate in and reflect on theory, history and praxis. The key readings speak to decolonial feminist scholarship with a critique of literature, theory, methodology and practices on social justice; literature on feminist and intersectional decolonisation; scholarly work on performative activism; literature on engaged scholarship, new materialism, critical and feminist pedagogical practices and participatory and post-qualitative research methodologies.



5. Post-Fieldwork PhD Course

6-10 February 2023

Teacher: Dr Raúl Pacheco-Vega (see <http://www.raulpacheco.org>)

Location: In person, residential at Buitengoed De Uylenburg (<https://uylenburg.nl/en/>)

Tuition: members: 650 euros; non-members: 1000 euros (including room and board)

ECs: 3

Description

This course is designed for post-fieldwork PhDs who are in the writing-up phase of their degrees, including the processing and analysing of data. It has now been offered twice, starting in 2021 – the idea came from consultation with PhDs, who noted that they generally do not have any courses offered for this later phase of their degree.

The course focuses on topics such as: 1) moving from proposing research to presenting what you researched; 2) Writing up fieldwork results (writing analytically, linking theory with evidence, and triangulating results); 3) Presenting qualitative and quantitative data in written output; and 4) developing a writing practice.



6. Social Ontology and Political Economy

28 February, 7, 14, 21 and 28 March 2023 (two lectures per day)

Teacher: Dr Karim Knio

Location: In person, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS, The Hague)

Tuition: free for members; 500 euros for non-members

ECs: 4

Description

This course aims to emphasize the necessity and desirability of embedding thematic and empirical research within ontological debates to produce rigorous scholarly research. It introduces students to fundamental debates in social ontology and highlights their subsequent implications on political economy analysis. Namely, the course focuses on two important ontological debates in their own right before it develops a cartography which charts their intersection, then this cartography is subsequently situated within the classic debate on neoliberalism in critical political economy literatures. In so doing, the course not only demonstrates how different approaches interpret and articulate neoliberalism, but it also reflects on the making of theoretical approaches in their own right. This should provide doctoral students with various analytical skills to help them in appropriately navigating through various academic literatures as well as situating their own research.



7. Global Commodity Chains

10-14 April 2023

Teacher: Dr Ben Radley

Location: In person, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS, The Hague)

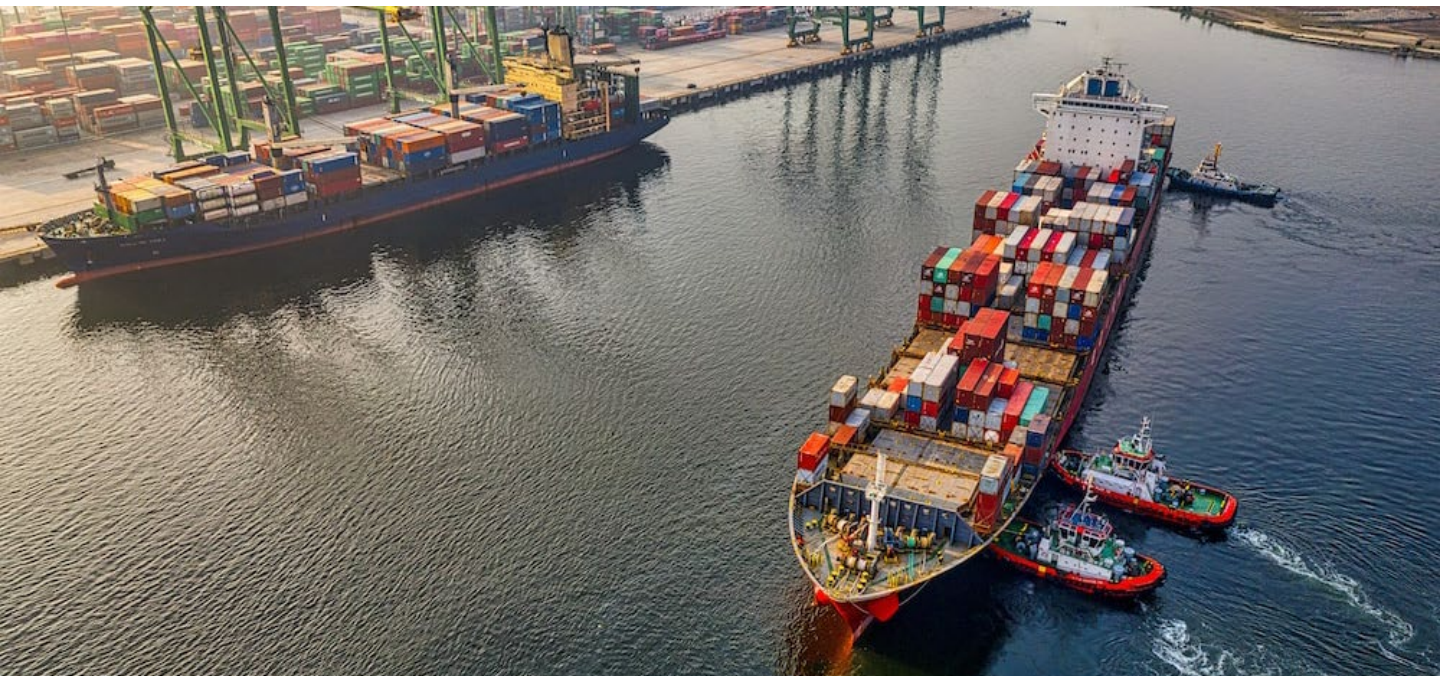
Tuition: free for members; 500 euros for non-members.

ECs: 2

Description

The organisation and governance of production within global commodity chains holds critical implications for local, national, and international processes of social and economic development. The 1980s to the 2010s was characterised by the offshoring of production from the global North to the global South. In recent years, supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the Russo-Ukrainian war have led to calls in certain quarters of the global North for the reshoring of production in the interests of national and regional security.

Located in this shifting context, this course will: 1) equip students with a critical, theoretically-informed understanding of the various approaches that have emerged over the last three decades to study and understand labour, firm, and state dynamics within and between commodity chains; 2) provide detailed empirical case studies of Southern efforts to integrate into and develop productive employment and capabilities within global commodity chains; 3) familiarise students with different methodological approaches to researching global commodity chains, and the associated ethical considerations and implementation challenges. For this, the course teacher will draw extensively (but not exclusively) on his decade of experience researching global mining and renewable energy commodity chains in Central Africa.



8. The CERES PhD Training Course

March – June 2022 (precise dates to be confirmed)

Course leaders: Prof Dr Andrew M Fischer and TBA

Teachers: to be confirmed (see the outline for 2021-22 for an idea of the likely teachers)

Location: In-person (residential, including accommodation and food), with some potential activities online

ECs: 16 (full course) or 4 (3rd module)

Tuition (to be revised if fully or partially online):

Full Tuition

PhDs from member institutions: € 2500

PhDs from non-member institutions: € 5000

Tuition for Module 3 only

PhDs from member institutions: € 600

PhDs from non-member institutions: € 1200

Description

The PhD Training Course is the classic centrepiece of the CERES offering, designed for PhDs in their first year from member institutions across the Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders), although PhDs from non-member institutions are also welcome. The course provides them with a unique learning experience and is specifically tailored to support PhDs in preparation for the defence of their research proposals at the end of their first year, or for Research Masters students who wish to gain insight into this stage of doing a PhD or to prepare a research proposal for a PhD application. A range of issues is considered, relating to epistemology and ontology, positionality and subjectivity, philosophy of science, and an overview of the spectrum of interdisciplinary methodologies and methods that researchers commonly draw from in Development Studies, both quantitative and qualitative.



Two additional objectives of the course are to cultivate a general and shared understanding about what it means to do a PhD degree in the field of Development Studies, from the perspective of both theory as well as empirical research, and to cultivate a support network among the annual cohort of first-year PhD peers, which participants can continue to rely on throughout their PhD trajectory. The course also provides a safe space for PhDs, where they can discuss their research openly and creatively with their peers and senior researchers who are not (necessarily) in their supervision team.

The course begins in mid-March with an opening day at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague (or online if not possible), followed by four modules of four to five days, ending in June. The June edition of the Safety and Security for Fieldwork Research course is also included as part of the PhD Training course package.

Participants are expected to be resident during these modules (unless online). Three of the modules will be in a residential retreat setting and one at the ISS, where participants will be accommodated at the ISS residences. At the fourth and last module, PhDs present their proposals and receive feedback from their peers and teachers. Participants are expected to attend all four modules, in addition to the opening day at ISS and one ‘come-back’ day in June. However, an exception is made for the third module at ISS, which is focused on methods. PhDs not involved in other parts of the course can participate in this module as a stand-alone.

Member institutions recognise the Training Course as contributing 16 ECTS towards those required for a PhD degree (the 3rd module, if taken alone, is worth 4 ECTS).

Module	Topic	Date
Introduction Day		Mid-March
1st Module	Proposing Research in Development Studies	End of March
2nd Module	Moving from Questions to Methodology	Mid-April
3rd Module	Overview of Methods in Development Studies Research	Mid-May
‘Come-back’ Day		Early June
Safety and Security Course		13-15 June
4th Module	Presentation Tutorials	Mid-late June

A detailed programme with confirmed dates will be released in November.

Associated Courses (with IOB Antwerp, free access for CERES PhDs)

Besides the traditional offering of CERES courses, this year one of CERES member institutions - the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) at the University of Antwerp - is offering free access to a limited number of CERES member PhDs for six of their courses. These are advanced MA courses that are also intended for PhD students at IOB, with specific assessment procedures for PhD students.

The courses offer general content in the form of lectures and (mainly) self-study of theoretical and empirical literature, relevant to the research agenda of the IOB Research Lines and the student's own doctoral research project. The lectures coincide with the Master Modules at IOB. The first three courses start in the second half of January 2023. The last three courses start towards the end of March 2023 (precise dates will be confirmed in November-December 2022).

In the doctoral version of these courses, assessment will be based on an academic paper of a topic of choice (relevant for your doctoral research), including review of relevant theoretical literature, in the range of 10.000-15.000 words.

The paper should meet the following criteria:

1. The paper should have sufficient intrinsic quality
2. The paper should be potentially publishable, as a book chapter or as a stand-alone paper
3. There should be a clear link with the module
4. There should be a clear link with the topic of the student's PhD project

IOB considers each of these courses to be worth 12 credits within their doctoral programme.



Associated Courses (with IOB Antwerp, free access for CERES PhDs)

IOB1. Globalisation and Development

The course examines the main channels through which financial globalization and/or international trade affects poverty/well-being, including a variety of analytical approaches to identify the important channels of effect and the possible outcomes of globalization shocks and policy responses. Students will be able to review and understand the state of the art of the academic literature in the field, both theoretical as well as empirical.

Course Content

Unit 1: Globalisation: the basic issues

Unit 2: Subunits on different globalisation topics:

- subunit 2a: Trade Policy: Poverty Impact and Policy implications
- subunit 2b: Financial Globalisation and the poor
- subunit 2c: Global organization of production: value chains and labour
- subunit 2d: Global environment-development nexus

IOB2. Governance for Development

This course examines how the distribution of power and wealth at the societal level impacts upon national development processes. Students will analyze the particular nature of the state and the impact its characteristics have on (under)development, acknowledging that the state has no monopoly of norm production, and they will be able to recognize situations of legal pluralism, as well as its impact on state-engineered social change. They will be able to understand the political economy of governance and development through an analysis of the role of actors and factors that operate at and beyond the national level. Thematic approaches are enriched with in-depth illustrations from selected spheres of governance and development

Course Content

Unit 1: The political economy of governance and development

Unit 2: The state, governmentality, and development

Unit 3: Law and development

Associated Courses (with IOB Antwerp, free access for CERES PhDs)

IOB3. Evaluating Development Effectiveness

Participants will become familiar with the debate on development effectiveness. Participants will be introduced to different theoretical frameworks for gaining an understanding of and analyzing actors and outcomes. They will understand the underlying theories of development linked to intervention models (projects, programmes). Participants will be familiar with different methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of development interventions. They will be able to apply relevant scientific methods of process and impact evaluation and to analyse these critically

Course Content

Unit 1: Development Effectiveness: Unpacking the Concept

Unit 2: Development Monitoring and Evaluation: Introducing the Landscape and Approaches

Unit 3: Selected Approaches to Development Evaluation

- subunit 3a : Qualitative Development Monitoring and Evaluation
- subunit 3b: Quantitative Development Evaluation
(prerequisite: knowledge regression analysis)
- subunit 3c : Political (Economy) Analysis

IOB4. From Violent Conflict to Peace and State Reconstruction

Students will be able to analyse the dynamics, drivers, and dimensions of conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa and (under)development within such a context. They will acquire a deeper understanding of the role of state, non-governmental and intergovernmental actors in peace processes, in conflict mediation and resolution, and in post-conflict reconstruction. They will become familiar with policies of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. They will receive analytical as well as policy and practice-oriented tools that prepare them for knowledge-based interventions, in particular in conflict affected professional environments.

Course Content

Unit 1: Analysis of violent conflict

Unit 2: Conflict resolution and the peace process

Unit 3: State-building after violent conflict

Associated Courses (with IOB Antwerp, free access for CERES PhDs)

IOB5. Local Institutions and Poverty Reduction

Participants will be able to understand and apply actor-oriented and institutional development theories to the analysis of the social processes that generate and reproduce poverty and exclusion. They will understand that the durable reduction of poverty and exclusion requires a fundamental change in the way societal institutions function and they are aware of the difficulties of such a change, given the inevitable path-dependency of all social change processes. They will be able to creatively apply these theoretical approaches to a specific topic of their own choice related to their doctoral research.

Course Content

Unit 1: Theory and Concepts

Unit 2: Introduction to specific topics (access to public services, access to natural resources, access to markets, access to financial services, gender & development, local governance, access to land and security of tenure, assessing the impact of trade policies, international migration and development)

IOB6. National Institutions, Poverty Reduction Strategies & Aid

Participants will be able to understand and apply actor-oriented and institutional development theories to the analysis of the development aid chain. The students will also become familiar with basics of monitoring and evaluation (definition, objectives, criteria, location in cycle, basic principles, policy & organisational issues), with particular reference to M&E issues and challenges in the context of the new aid modalities. Specific in-depth knowledge relating to the new aid approach regarding 'governance', 'gender', or 'macro economic and fiscal challenges' are part of the programme.

Course Content

Unit 1: Aid and (global) public goods : a political economy perspective

Unit 2: Monitoring and Evaluation

Unit 3: Selected Topics

- Subunit 3a: Governing for Development
- Subunit 3b: Sustainable Development, Climate Finance and the Greening of Aid
- Subunit 3c: Engendering Development

Registration

The CERES website is temporarily under reconstruction. We will announce in mailing lists as soon as it is back on air. **For now, we ask that you register directly through the Google Form link below.** When registering, please be careful to fill in all the required details, including updated contact information and institutional affiliation. PhD researchers should also check the protocols of their own institutes in order to have their course credits recognized or to have eventual course costs covered by their institutions (e.g. please verify if you need to include these courses in your Training and Supervision Plan or if you need approval from your research department/PhD Office before or after registering).

<https://forms.gle/BDVjWrJSZmezDpd59>

Possibility of registration usually closes one week before the start of each course. For further questions and information not found on this programme, you can reach out to the CERES email:

ceres@ceresresearchschool.nl

If you have registered and can no longer attend the course, please send a cancellation email to the CERES mail address above. If you do not cancel in time, you may still be obliged to pay the course fee.

Pre-registration for the IOB associated courses can also be done through the registration form in the CERES website, although exact dates for these courses will still be confirmed and interested participants should note that there will be a limited number of vacancies. Please stay tuned to the CERES website for more information also on these courses.



CERES 2019