



# **Building Development Studies in the New Millennium**

**Paradigms, Knowledges, Impact, Voices**

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# 2005-2015: EADI visioning on DS

- 2005 EADI Vision paper dealt with Bologna agreement on higher education, danger of mono-disciplinary accreditation processes
- 2015: Major changes led EADI to discuss renewed vision on DS
  - Changes in world development
  - Changes in theory and practice of development research
  - Changes in publication landscape

# Changes in world development

- Globalization, the Anthropocene, and climate change
- New geography of global poverty and modes of inequality
- Emergence of BRICS as regional powers
- Changes in aid system
  - UN campaigns
  - New actors: DAC countries, non-DAC countries, CSOs
- Changing nature of migration
- Future changes in post-globalization era

# Changes in theory and practice of development research

- Increasing importance of new topics
  - Climate change
  - Migration
  - Inequalities
  - Poverty in high-income and middle-income countries
  - Variety of capitalisms
- New voices and narratives: increasing participation of scholars and students from the global South:
- Inadequacy of existing analytical categories
  - North/South
  - Industrialized/developing
  - Donor/recipient
- Conceptually North/South divide inadequate as development issues become more universal

# Changes in publication landscape

- The range of topics in DS evolved
- DS combined in approaches with other disciplines
- Increasing importance of impact factors as quality criteria impacting on development research
  - Books vs. journal articles
  - Critical participatory analysis vs. scientific rigour
- Limiting context for DS scholarly community to engage with development issues in policies and practice

# Challenges to DS as research field

- Complexity and urgency of development processes require engagement with other fields of research and practice
- Ontological, epistemological changes in DS
- DS beyond multi- and inter-disciplinarity?
  - multiple sources of knowledge?
  - Links between knowledge production and power relations?
  - Aims of DS?
  - Engaging with the world for necessary changes?

## EADI discussions: two papers and edited book

- EADI 2016 Vision paper study commissioned by ExCo to Graduate Institute, Norrag (Geneva), ISS (The Hague)
- Paper commissioned through REEDES on Spanish-language/Latin American contributions to DS debates
- Discussions in ExCo and conferences led to collaborative effort from within EADI
- Result edited volume *Building DS in the new Millennium* (eds. Baud, Basile, Kontinen, von Itter; publisher Palgrave MacMillan, 2018)



# *Building DS in the new Millennium: engaging with global change*

- **Four sections:**
  - Narratives and Paradigms
  - Perspectives on Knowledges
  - Scientific Impact and Methodologies
  - Southern (Challenging) Voices and Themes in Development Studies



# Section I: New narratives and Paradigms

- **Into the Anthropocene era; inclusive development for the future**
  - Research approaches require interactive and reflexive thinking;
  - multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary approaches to research necessary
  - DS requires trans-disciplinary, transnational and post-normal engaging with other fields and with hard sciences
  - ‘Othering’ of knowledge from global South in theory-making needs to be recognized, reduced
- **Traditions reflect different theoretical and empirical approaches**
  - Spanish-language traditions, including dependency theory
  - Francophone tradition; intensive empirical fieldwork as basis for theorization; strong inter-disciplinary links
  - Post-colonial studies: narratives essential to reduce bias and recognize unequal power relations

## Section II: Perspectives on Knowledges

- Knowledge and research as social construction
  - **engaged excellence**: delivering high quality research, co-constructing knowledge, mobilising impact-orientated evidence, and building enduring partnerships, emphasising mutual interdependence
- Transformation studies:
  - Inter- and trans-disciplinary conceptualisation; dynamic social interaction in area-based knowledge production; **future studies**
- **Multiple knowledges**: whose knowledge, framing issues, and defining concepts to recognize bias and identify blind spots in analytical frameworks
- Epistemological biases in analytical frameworks due to **unequal power**: North - South researchers, societal partners and researchers

## Section III: Methodologies and Scientific impact

- **Publication scores** increasingly demanding criterion to assess researcher quality
  - Scientific impact assessment ignores diversity in disciplinary fields;
  - DS researchers should challenge this to produce scores reflecting actual practices
- **New Perceptions of DS**; review and consultations for a new vision
- **Mixed research methods** essential to explore complex issues in contemporary world development
  - Participatory and spatial methodologies produce allow knowledge of marginalized groups to be recognized and included; spatial inequalities and relational issues
  - However, reliability and validity of such databases essential for meaningful results; increasing rigour in current contexts of Dev. research

## Section IV: including new voices and themes from global South

- DS includes new areas of concern voiced by Southern academic traditions; but inequalities in research partnerships limit truly joint efforts
- Producing shared visions on DS India-Netherlands: Tanzanian history of DS and future visions
- **Environmental studies, gender perspectives and research on global urbanization**, provide important lenses to explore development problems in the new Millennium.
- These themes setting future research agendas for next generation of DS researchers and practitioners

**Thank you!**

