

## AN INTRODUCTION TO KEY ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

### *What is this course about?*

This course is intended to provide a friendly but solid and comprehensive introduction to the field of Development Studies. In this course we will see the way in which Development Studies explores the complex interrelations between society, the economy and the environment by adopting a highly multidisciplinary approach to topics such as poverty, education, literacy, media, gender, climate change, inequality, economic growth, cosmopolitan justice, media, evaluation of development programs, etc. We consider the importance of understanding the historical context when trying to make sense of current development challenges and review major themes which are relevant for development

### *Course Aims*

- ✓ To introduce a range of social, economic, historical, environmental, political, and geographical themes that are key to understand international development within the context of contemporary global change.
- ✓ To review different explanations for the origins and persistence of poverty, inequality, illiteracy, gender discrimination, etc.
- ✓ To explore the complexity of current development debates by adopting a critical approach to the most salient issues in international development.

### *Course Learning Objectives*

- ✓ Students will be able to understand the concept of international development and identify the long-term processes which hindered progress in many regions of the world.
- ✓ Students will develop an awareness of the main theoretical as well as pragmatic approaches to international development which have been proposed and adopted since the post-war period.
- ✓ Students will gain valuable knowledge of the causes and of the recent trends in the major issues which affect the developing regions, ranging from poverty to illiteracy, gender gaps, global epidemics, international aid, environmental challenges and role of media.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with concrete case studies of problems affecting developing areas and will be supported in evaluating possible strategies to overcome these problems.
- ✓ Students' critical thinking about development issues will be encouraged, and enhanced by insider perspectives on the lecturer's own research findings, in particular in the areas of poverty, inequality, education, literacy, gender, health and social justice.

### *Course Structure*

The course will be over 3 days, with 6 contact hours per day which will include lectures, seminars, interactive sessions and practical exercises. On the first day students will be provided with the material to be used during the course, so that they will be able to familiarise with the content in advance.

# An Introduction to Key Issues in Development Studies

## ***Course Program***

### **Day 1**

#### *International Development Theories, Poverty and role of Economic Growth*

- Introduction
  - What is 'Development Studies'?
  - What does 'Development' mean?
- First Development Theories
  - Modernisation Theory
  - Dependency Theory
- The Political Economy of Development-the State vs Market Debate
  - The Washington Consensus
  - The Post-Washington Consensus and other 'Consensuses'
  - The current context and open debates
- Poverty and Economic Growth
  - Income poverty: concepts and figures
  - The concept of pro-poor growth
  - Multidimensional and intertemporal poverty
- Multidisciplinary Approaches to International Development
  - The Basic Needs Approach
  - The Human Development Approach
  - The Capability Approach
  - The Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights
  - The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

### **Day 2**

#### *Key Topics in International Development: Education, Health, Gender and Media*

- Education and International Development
  - Importance of education for development
  - What are the main challenges?
  - Quality of education and educational outcomes
  - Literacy and illiteracy
  - Current debates in education and development
- Health and International Development
  - Health as a key component of development indicators
  - Major public health challenges: HIV-Aids, malaria and ebola
- Gender and International Development
  - Gender gaps, empowerment and development
  - Where and why do gender gaps persist?
  - Different approaches to study gender
- Media and International Development
  - Media and behavioural change
  - Fundraising, participatory communication and freedom of speech

### Day 3

#### *Social Inequalities, the Environment, Justice and Development Assessment*

- Economic Inequality and Human Development
  - Economic inequality: concepts and figures
  - Economic inequality and economic growth: a ‘big trade-off’?
  - Inequality, equity and opportunities
  - Inequality, education and health
- International Development and the Environment
  - Overuse of resources and depletion
  - Scarcity of resources and the economy
  - Resources and economic growth: the so-called ‘Resource Curse’
  - Environmental degradation
  - The problem of climate change
- Intergenerational and Cosmopolitan Justice
  - Population ethics and intergenerational justice: do we have an obligation towards future generations?
  - Cosmopolitan justice: do rich countries have an obligation towards the world’s poor?
- What Works in Development?
  - Assessing development
  - Monitoring and Evaluation vs Impact Evaluation

Dr Lucio Esposito is Associate Professor in the School of International Development, University of East Anglia. His ground-breaking research spans the fields of International and Sustainable Development, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, Psychology, Politics and Anthropology. His expertise covers a number of themes such as economic development, education, literacy, gender, economic inequality, welfare, international poverty, distributive justice, comparative cross-country studies, quality of life, sustainable growth and health. He has been advisor for the UK Economic and Social Research Council, the UK Department for International Development, Research Foundation Flanders and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and has collaborated with a number of publishers including Routledge, Palgrave MacMillan and around 40 leading International Academic Journals in the areas of International Development, Economics, Business, Econometrics, Philosophy and Human Geography. He carries out both theoretical and empirical research employing quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods and using secondary and primary data collected in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. He is Director of the MA in International Development and of the BA in International Development with Economics.