

## Development Geographies: Current Debates

### Course Description:

We live in unprecedented times, when ‘normality’, including around development processes, is perforated by the CoVID-19 pandemic. It has also become a moment for reflection on social harms (to people’s lives and livelihoods, for instance) and recompense (the environment) of this pause, with this awkward phase rightfully nudging us to revisit questions on the nature of the global economy and development processes itself. This course is on development geographies. Yet, instead of revisiting the depth and richness of the development paradigm and its contested nature, we use CoVID-19 as a point of departure to focus on current debates around feminism and social reproduction, degrowth, political ecology, and decoloniality. These contemporary discussions will help us disrupt development geography, as we have known it – and hopefully, help craft a tool box that brings to the forefront the need for regenerating state that recognizes the depletion and social harm four decades of market-centric global economy has wrought.

We will organize the course around three pivot points:

- a) depletion, social reproduction and regeneration – to make feminist and gender debates central to contemporary contributions around global development;
- b) political ecology and the calls for degrowth in rebalancing the global economy;
- c) decoloniality and urban life – the calls for disrupting and uprooting the development paradigm from its colonial past and the contested nature of claim-making.

**Credits:** 7.5 ECTS

### Course convenor and contributors:

Convenor: Kanchana N Ruwanpura, Professor – Human Geography, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

Contributors: Lowe Börjeson, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden

Ilda Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden

### Guest speakers:

Özlem Altan-Olcay, Associate Professor, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Beverley Mullings, Professor, Queens University, Canada and Editorial Board member

Peter Hopkins, Professor, Newcastle University, U.K. and (former) Managing Editor, *Gender, Place and Culture*

Maggi Leung, Professor, Amsterdam University, The Netherlands and Editor at *Geoforum*

Amin Kamete, Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow, U.K.

Seema Kulkarni, Senior Fellow, Transformations to Groundwater Sustainability, India,

Shirin Rai, Professor, University of Warwick, UK

Robbie Shalliams, Professor, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Kristin Talbo, ADDA, Sweden

Diana Ojeda, Associate Professor, University of Los Andes, Colombia

### Course Admission:

This course is directed to geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and economic historians who are pursuing research that relates to development geography in some way. The course is conducted as a Swedish national PhD-course in Human Geography, which means that in case

of a large number of applications, priority will be given to PhD-students at member departments, ie human geography departments in Sweden. However, the course is also open to doctoral students in cognate disciplines both from Sweden and beyond; as well as in rare cases to early career researchers.

**Language of instruction/Syllabus:**

English

Approximately 1,000 pages of compulsory readings.

**Course Fees:**

There is no course fee, but participants will have to cover travel, accommodation etc. by own arrangements. PhD candidates from Departments of Human geography in Sweden make the arrangements with their home institutions.

**Location (as per June 2022):**

September: University of Stockholm (with hybrid participation for those requesting this)

November: University of Gothenburg (with hybrid participation for those requesting this)

**Timing of Course:**

September 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2022

November 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Session 1:**

Week 38 (19th-20th Sept) – Come with 3-slide introduction with images and text with details on:

- (a) PhD project);
- (b) what is important in terms of development;
- (c) connections to world outside of academia

Be prepared to speak around an outline of one's PhD project and its connection to development and world outside of academia and reflect on i) What does development geography mean today?; and ii) Where is development geography today?

**Session 1: September (September 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 2022): STOCKHOLM**

Introduction to course, including with guest speakers virtually connecting

D1 (September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022):

12.00 pm: Lunch connection: students and convenors (own costs)

1.30 pm: Introduction: Students and Convenors: Students present 1-page PPT.

3.00 pm: Guest speaker panel: Shirin Rai, Amin Kamate, Seema Kulkarni

5.00 pm: END

D2 (September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022):

10.00 am-12.00 pm: Seminar: Reflections on current debates

12.00 pm: Break for lunch

1.15 pm-3.00 pm: Public Seminar: Robbie Shalliams (ZOOM)

3.30-4.30 pm: Debrief session, if possible with Robbie Shalliams involved

October 31<sup>st</sup> 2022: Draft essay for peer review (at least 2,000 words)

## **Session 2: November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2022: GOTHENBURG**

D1: November 8<sup>th</sup> 2022:

11.00 am: Peer review session in groups

12.30 pm: Lunch

3.00 pm: Guest lectures: Diana Ojeda and Özlem Altan-Olcay

D2: November 9<sup>th</sup> 2022:

10.00 am-1.00 pm: Writing workshop I: Group writing session (self-administered)

1.00-2.00 pm: LUNCH break (own costs)

2.00-4.00 pm: Session with Editors (Maggi Leung and Beverley Mullings; confirmed)

1. Presentation and Q&A for students on editorial expectations and role as an editor for shorter pieces in *GeoJournal*, *Geoforum* and *Gender, Place and Culture* or *Transactions*.
2. Discussion around conceptually based writing; exposing students to other forms of writing.
3. Give insight into the editorial process and the normality of revise and resubmit decisions; the varied forms of editorial guidance.

4.30 pm: Follow up after the journal review and peer review

D3: November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022:

9.00 am-12.00 pm: Research Ethics Course: Doing Research in the Global South (Quantitative and qualitative research methods)

2.00-4.00 pm: Kristin Talbo: ADDA – Labour and human rights across the supply chain

5.00 pm: END OF COURSE MEAL

**November 25<sup>th</sup> 2022:** Submit revised essay 3,000-4,000, inclusive of references. This can take the form of a critical review, research note, Q&A session, blog entries (circa 1k each) – with a view to possibly submitting these to different publishing forums.

### **Course Assessments:**

The course assessments will consist of continuous evaluation on class participation and engagement, along with an obligatory 4,000 word essay framed alongside of viewpoints, critical reviews, research notes (including references). The assessment details will be distributed and discussed in further detail on the first meeting point (September 2022).

We anticipate students to use the readings we provide as a starting place but also to develop their own relevant readings to write commentaries or critical reviews, which they may also consider submitting to a number of possible journals. The course organizers and contributors will offer comments with a view to this possibility.

### **Course literature (further readings may be added):**

#### **Required Readings:**

Ali, Tariq, Mirza Hassan and Naomi Hossain (2021) “The moral and political economy of the pandemic: Weak states and strong societies during COVID-19” *World Development* 137(January): 105-216

Kabeer, Naila, Shahra Razavi and Yana van der Muelen Rodgers (2021) “Feminist Perspectives on the CoVID-19 Pandemic” *Feminist Economics* 27(1-2): 1-29

Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Sabelo J (2020) “Geopolitics of power and knowledge in the CoVID-19 Pandemic: Decolonial Reflections on a Global Crisis” *Journal of Developing Societies*36(4): 366-389

Shilliam, Robbie (2022) *The New Apartheid* Forthcoming

### **TOPIC I: Feminism and gender: Depletion, social reproduction and regeneration**

Ojeda, Diana (2021) “Social reproduction, dispossession and the gendered workings of agrarian extractivism in Colombia” in *Agrarian Extractivism in Latin America* Ben M McKay, Alberto Alonso-Fradejas and Arturo Ezquerro- Cañete London and New York: Routledge, pp 85-98

Rai, Shirin, Benjamin Brown and Kanchana N Ruwanpura (2019) “SDG8: Decent work and economic growth – A gendered analysis” *World Development* 113(C): 368-380

Rai, Shirin M, Jacqui True and Maria Tanyang (2019) “From depletion to regeneration: Addressing structural and physical violence in post-conflict economies” *Social Politics*26(4): 561-585

Sultana, Farhana (2021) “Climate change, CoVID-19 and the co-production of injustices: A feminist reading of overlapping crises” *Social and Cultural Geography*

### **TOPIC II: Political ecology and degrowth**

Clapp, J., & Moseley, W. G. (2020). This food crisis is different: COVID-19 and the fragility of the neoliberal food security order. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(7), 1393-1417.

Head, Leslie (2020) “Transformative change requires resisting a new normal” *Nature Climate Change* 10(3), 173-174.

Hickel, Jason (2020) “What does degrowth mean? A few points of clarification” *Globalizations*, 1-7.

Kulkarni, Seema, Sneha Bhat, Pallavi Harsge, Swati Satpute (2021) ) “Locked out of livelihoods: Impact of CoVID-19 on single women farmers in Maharashtra, India” *Economica Politica*

Ojeda, Diana, Jade S Sasser and Elizabeth Lunstrum (2019) “Malthus’s specter and the Anthropocene” *Gender, Place and Culture* 27(3): 316-332

Underhill et al (2022). Colonial Circularities of California’s Hydraulic Frontiers: A Beacon and a Warning. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.

Zwarteveen et al. (2022) “Transformations to Groundwater Sustainability: from individuals and pumps to communities and aquifers” *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. 49(30): 88-97

### **TOPIC III: Decoloniality and urban life**

Akyelken, Nihan (2020) "Living with urban floods in Metro Manila: A gendered approach to mobilities, work and climactic events" *Gender, Place and Culture* 27(11) 1580-1601

McIlwaine Cathy and Yara Evans (2020) Urban Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in transnational perspective: Reflections from Brazilian women in London *International Development Planning Review* 42:93-112

Myers, Garth (2020) *Rethinking urbanism: Lessons for postcolonialism and the Global South*. Policy Press

Altan-Olcay Ozlem and Evren Balta (2020) *The American Passport in Turkey* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press (Chapter 1)