Institute for African Development
Special Topic Seminar Series Spring 2018

Dakar, Senegal

African Economies, Development Models, and Structural Transformation

Cornell University
Each semester the Institute for African Development hosts a seminar series on *Issues in African Development* that examines critical issues in contemporary Africa and explores a myriad of ways to address these issues. The seminars provide a forum for experts in African development to discuss and identify characteristics of development and suggest solutions to obstacles in the development process. Additionally, the series serves as a focal activity for participants to explore alternative perspectives and exchange ideas.

The seminar series is organized around a specific theme chosen by the Institute each semester for its pertinence to the times. Past themes have included:

- **China and Africa: Political, Cultural, and Economic Engagement**
- **Governance, Elections, and Nationalism**
- **Sustainable Development Goals: A Path to Inclusive Sustainable Development**
- **Land, Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security**
- **Development, Religious Extremism, Security, and the State in Africa**
- **Natural Resources in Africa: Advancing Economic Development Responsibly**
- **Education and the Development of Human Capital: Outcomes for Development**
- **African Economies: Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development**

All seminars are in G08 Uris Hall  
Thursdays at 2:30 PM  
Begins February 1, 2018  
Free and open to the public  
Also available as a two-credit course  
CRP 4770 (4751) / 6770 (4752)
African Economies, Development Models, and Structural Transformation

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) Outlook Report 2016, Africa’s recent growth has been strong and higher-than-average globally, with growth holding firm amidst global headwinds and regional shock. Remarkably, Africa is the world’s second-fastest growing economy (after East Asia). Yet challenges to Africa’s development remain daunting and persistent, with a low per capita GDP and rapid population growth fueling continually higher numbers of people in poverty.

To overcome these challenges and achieve its potential for growth and development, Africa is in need of a full transformation of the existing colonial-legacy structures of society. Governance must be transformed from the centralized colonial legacy to a more participatory and decentralized system; constitutions must be transformed to support democracy; transportation and production systems must be transformed to support African economies.

The seminar series will seek to explore models of development and policies that can effectively achieve these transformations. The existing challenges require strong policy action to promote faster and more inclusive and sustainable growth. Africa will also need to deepen structural and regulatory reforms in order to address obstacles to the much needed structural transformation of African economies and societies. This must be coupled with investments in energy, infrastructure, education, and social sectors. The AfDB argues that, with the right policies, Africa possesses significant potential for a democratic dividend, spurred by the continent’s young population.

Some of the challenges to achieving the needed transformation include low economic growth rate, stalled industrial development, rapid population growth, urbanization, corruption, and the challenges of climate change.

During the course of the semester we will be discussing a diverse array of topics that attempt to address these challenges, including infrastructure development, agricultural markets and food systems, regional integration as a development strategy, the role of informal governance, and issues around urbanization. On March 22, we will hear from H.E. Babcock Professor Emeritus of Economics at Cornell, Erik Thorbecke, presenting information on new development models being considered in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world.

IAD hopes that this theme will allow participants to discuss the relevant issues while considering practices that will lead to a reduction in poverty and improved livelihoods through a full transformation of the existing structures of African economies and societies.
Issues in African Development

African Economies, Development Models, and Structural Transformation

Feb 1  *The African Infrastructure Deficit and Private/Public Financing*
*Muna Ndulo*, Director, IAD; Professor of Law, Cornell University

Feb 8  *Structural Transformation of the African Seed Sector: Findings from the African Seed Access Index*
*Edward Mabaya*, Senior Research Associate, Emerging Markets Program, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

Feb 15  *African Farmers’ Food Systems: The Future of Food*
*Carol B. Thompson*, Professor Emerita of Political Economy, Northern Arizona University

Feb 22  *The Uneven Transformation of Rural Africa: Myths, Facts, and Pressing Needs*
*Christopher B. Barrett*, Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor, Applied Economics and Management; International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University

Mar 1  *The Vision of Continental Economic Unity: Regional Integration as a Strategy for Sustainable African Development*
*Chantal Thomas*, Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Mar 8  *Informal Governance & State Reconstruction in the D.R. Congo*
*Laura Seay*, Assistant Professor of Government, Colby College

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Seminar Schedule Spring 2018

African Economies, Development Models, and Structural Transformation

Mar 15  The Geography of Poverty and Development Resources: What Do We Know? What Should We Know? And Why Does it Matter?  
Ryan C. Briggs, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Mar 22  Towards a Different Development Model for Africa?  
Erik Thorbecke, H.E. Babcock Professor Emeritus of Economics, Cornell University

Mar 29  The Emergence of New Markets for Agricultural Technologies  
Brian Dillon, Assistant Professor, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance  
University of Washington

Apr 12  Urbanization in Africa: Implications for Economic Transformation and Democratization  
Danielle Resnick, Senior Research Fellow, Development Strategies and Governance Division, IFPRI

Apr 19  Can Countries Develop? Implications for Africa  
Michael H. Allen, Harvey Wexler Chair, Political Science; Co-Chair of International Studies  
Bryn Mawr College

May 3  Student Panel

Issues in African Development, a weekly seminar series sponsored by the Institute for African Development, has become a key introductory course on Africa and African development at Cornell University. The seminars examine critical issues in contemporary Africa and provide a forum that engages experts and new students of development alike in critical thinking and reflection on some of the most difficult issues of our time.
Muna Ndulo is Director, Institute for African Development; Professor, Cornell Law School; and Elizabeth and Arthur Reich Director, Berger International Legal Studies Program. He is an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of constitution-making, governance, human rights, and foreign direct investment. Early in his career he was a Professor of Law and later Dean of the Law School at the University of Zambia. In 1986 he joined the UN as a Legal Officer for the Commission on International Trade Law and subsequently served in many capacities, including Senior Political Advisor to the Secretary General’s Special Representative to South Africa and Senior Legal Advisor on missions to East Timor, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. He has consulted on constitution-making in Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Somalia; he has also been a consultant for international organizations including the African Development Bank; the ECA; the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. He recently established the Southern African Institute for Public Policy and Research, and he is a member of the Advisory Committee, Human Rights Watch (Africa). He has published well over 100 journal articles and 14 books.

Edward Mabaya, Senior Research Associate, Emerging Markets Program, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, is a scholar and a development practitioner with more than two decades of experience working on agricultural development and food security issues in Africa. He is the Principal Investigator of The African Seed Access Index. He conducts applied research on agriculture and agribusiness value chains in developing countries with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. His research focuses on three interrelated themes: agribusiness in developing countries, seed systems, and agricultural input and output markets serving smallholder farmers. He has published widely on these topics. Mabaya earned his MSc and PhD degrees in agricultural economics at Cornell University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Zimbabwe. He is the current President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists. Mabaya was recently profiled as “2016 Top African Innovators to Watch” by the Ventures Africa magazine. He was a 2007 Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellow and 2016 Aspen Global Voices Fellow.
February 15, 2018

African Farmers’ Food Systems: The Future of Food

Carol B. Thompson, Professor Emerita of Political Economy at Northern Arizona University, has worked on issues of food sovereignty in Southern Africa for over three decades. She has taught at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the University of Zimbabwe, in the fields of international environmental policy and trade. Author of several books and many articles, she has most recently published on issues of philanthro-capitalist interventions in food policies. Her consultancies range from UNICEF, the EU Commission, and the Southern Africa Development Community to the Zapatistas in Chiapas and Costa Rica. Working with the Community Technology Development Trust in Zimbabwe, she is a continuous student of smallholder farmers who practice impressive biodiversity, growing thirty crops on a single hectare of land.

February 22, 2018

The Uneven Transformation of Rural Africa: Myths, Facts, and Pressing Needs

Chris Barrett is Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and an International Professor of Agriculture, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, as well as a Professor in the Department of Economics and a Fellow of the David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future and Dean of Academic Affairs at the College of Business, all at Cornell University. He has won international awards for teaching, research and public outreach, and he is an elected Fellow of both the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the African Association of Agricultural Economists. He holds degrees from Princeton (A.B. 1984), Oxford (M.S. 1985) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (dual Ph.D. 1994). Prof. Barrett’s research investigates poverty, hunger, food security, economic policy, and the structural transformation of low-income societies; as well as the interrelationship between these issues and environmental stress in developing countries. He has published ten books and more than 200 journal articles and book chapters. He has been principal investigator or co-PI on research grants from the National Science Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID and other sponsors. He has served as editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and presently serves in an editorial capacity for the African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the Egerton (Kenya) Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, the Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Studies, and World Development.
The Vision of Continental Economic Unity: Regional Integration as a Strategy for Sustainable African Development

Chantal Thomas is Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, where she also directs the Clarke Initiative for Law and Development in the Middle East and North Africa. She teaches in the areas of Law and Development and International Economic Law. Prior to joining Cornell, she chaired the Law Department of the American University in Cairo and also served on the University of Minnesota and Fordham University law faculties. She has been a Visiting Professor teaching international economic law at institutions such as Harvard Law School, Stanford Law School, the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London, and Soochow University in China. She has consulted for the USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Affairs, and she has served on the the U.S. State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Law, and as Vice President of the American Society of International Law. She has published in journals including Law & History Review, Cornell Law Review, and the American Journal of Comparative Law, and she has a chapter in Shaping the Definition of Trafficking in the Palermo Protocol, ed. Prabha Kotiswaran (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Informal Governance & State Reconstruction in the D.R. Congo

Laura Seay is an Assistant Professor of Government at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Her research centers on the study of community responses to conflict and U.S. foreign policy in Africa’s Great Lakes region. She is currently finishing a book, Substituting for the State, about the role of non-state actors play in governing the eastern DRC. She is also engaged in a project on the effects of U.S. legislation to mitigate conflict in central Africa. She has worked with the World Bank in Nigeria on efforts to improve the national primary health care system through evaluating the implementation of a results-based finance system. She writes a blog about African politics, development, and security at Texas in Africa and contributes to the Christian Science Monitor’s Africa Monitor blog and The Atlantic.com.
The Geography of Poverty and Development Resources: What Do We Know? What Should We Know? And Why Does it Matter?

Ryan C. Briggs is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Virginia Tech’s College of Liberal Arts. His research interests include international development, political economy, foreign aid, and African politics. He is a former Affiliate Scholar at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi; and he won the Hessel Yntema Prize for best article in the American Journal of Comparative Law by authors under 40. His publications include articles in World Development; “Does Foreign Aid Target the Poorest?” in International Organization; and “Legal Families Without the Laws: The fading of colonial law in French West Africa,” in American Journal of Comparative Law.

Towards a Different Development Model for Africa?

Erik Thorbecke is the H.E. Babcock Professor of Economics Emeritus and former Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development at Cornell University. His past positions include chairman of the Department of Economics at Cornell, a professorship at Iowa State University, and associate assistant administrator for program policy at the Agency for International Development. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Ghent in 1981. He has made contributions in the areas of economic and agricultural development, the measurement and analysis of poverty and malnutrition, the Social Accounting Matrix and general equilibrium modeling, and international economic policy. The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke poverty measure, which he developed with James Foster and Joel Greer, has been adopted as the standard poverty measure by the World Bank and practically all UN agencies and is used almost universally by researchers doing empirical work on poverty. Over the past several years he has co-directed a large scale research project on “The Impact of Globalization on the World’s Poor” under the auspices of the United Nations University’s World Institute for Development Economics Research. He has also continued his research on multidimensional poverty. He is the author or co-author of more than 23 books and over 150 articles.
March 29, 2018

The Emergence of New Markets for Agricultural Technologies

Brian Dillon, Assistant Professor, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, is a development economist who studies poverty and food security in low-income countries, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent projects have focused on the effects of a seasonal diet on long-run health outcomes; the emergence of new markets for agricultural technologies; links between food and energy markets; rural labor markets; and information services to complement mobile phones in rural Tanzania. Dillon received his PhD in economics from Cornell University in 2011. He earned a BS in Mathematics and a BA in Philosophy from Loyola University Chicago, and an M.Phil. in Economics as a Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge. Prior to joining the Evans School he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. Brian has received research funding from the National Science Foundation, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, DFID, Amazon Catalyst, and the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative.

April 12, 2018

Urbanization in Africa: Implications for Economic Transformation and Democratization

Danielle Resnick is a Senior Research Fellow in IFPRI’s Development Strategies and Governance Division. Previously she worked as a Research Fellow at the UNU-WIDER in Helsinki, Finland, where she managed projects on the political economy of food price policy, foreign aid and democracy, decentralization and urban service delivery, and Africa’s emerging middle class. Her work has appeared in African Affairs, Comparative Political Studies, Democratization, Development Policy Review, Journal of Modern African Studies, Party Politics, and World Development. She is a contributor and co-editor of Democratic Trajectories in Africa: Unraveling the Impact of Foreign Aid (Oxford University Press, 2013) and author of Urban Poverty and Party Populism in African Democracies (Cambridge University Press, 2013). She has received fellowships from the Social Science Research Council, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, and the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell University. She has a PhD in political science from Cornell University.
Can Countries Develop? Implications for Africa

Michael H. Allen holds the Harvey Wexler Chair in Political Science and serves as Co-Chair of International Studies at Bryn Mawr College. He has been an International Relations Consultant at the Overseas Development Institute in London, a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, Lecturer in the Department of Government at the University of the West Indies, and a Trade Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica. He studied at the University of the West Indies and later at the London School of Economics as a Rhodes Scholar from Jamaica. His research and publications have focused on the international political economy of African and Caribbean regions, as well as the challenges of governance at both national and multilateral institutional levels. An ongoing question in his research is the implications of the expanding global mode of production in manufactures, services and knowledge. He is the author of Globalization, Negotiation, and the Failure of Transformation in South Africa (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2006) and Bargaining in Theory and Economy: Jamaica, Crisis and World Aluminium (Saarbrucken: Scholar’s Press, 2016).

Student Panel Reflection and Discussion

The student wrap-up features a panel of students presenting on topics of their choice related to the seminar theme. This has become a popular feature of the seminar series. As one student put it, “I found the [final week’s] discussion to be especially useful. The questions posed by my peers were thoughtful, stimulating, and relevant. They inspired me to think critically on the issues, reflect on the themes presented in the lectures, and take a new direction in thinking about development in Africa.”
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