Institute for African Development
Special Topic Seminar Series, Fall 2018

Sustainable Development Goals and the Challenges of Inclusive Growth

CRP 4770 (4751) / CRP 6770 (4752)
Thursdays 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
G-08 Uris Hall
Beginning August 30, 2018
Since its establishment in 1987, the Institute for African Development’s (IAD) central mission has been unwavering: to focus Cornell University’s interests, research, and outreach on the study of Africa and to expand the depth and breadth of teaching on Africa within the University community. The Institute strives to foster a faculty and student constituency that is knowledgeable about issues of African development and governance in the broadest sense and to serve as a base for strengthening the study of Africa. This is done with the primary objective of creating an enabling environment for the University to play a key role in influencing policies that promote the continent’s development.

Each semester IAD 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.

All seminars are in G08 Uris Hall
Thursdays at 2:30 PM
Begins August 30, 2018
Free and open to the public
Also available as a two-credit course
CRP 4770 (5622) / 6770 (5633)
Sustainable Development Goals and the Challenges of Inclusive Growth

At the Millennium Summit in September, 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration. With the declaration came time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions, with a deadline of reaching the goals by 2015. Although progress has been made, it has been uneven. Evaluations of the achievements of the MDGs targets show that there are huge disparities across the world and across the goals.

At the United Nations Development Summit on September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) as a replacement for the MDGs. The new SDGs are broader and attempt to address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all.

Setting goals is but a first step. The SDGs are aspirational; the major challenge is to transform these aspirations into realities. The current poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation is built and sustained on a well-established political and economic structure. That structure will have to be reformed if the goals are to be achieved. To do so we will need good policy designs, adequate financing, and appropriate institutional arrangements that promote development.

While African growth since 2000 has become more inclusive (Africa is the world’s second fastest growing economy after East Asia), it has not been inclusive enough; poverty, inequality, and youth unemployment remain at staggering high levels. The major challenge in Africa remains that of securing inclusive development through the advancement of Africa’s socio-economic transformation agenda.

Sustained economic development depends in large measure upon the development of a receptive environment for trade and investment. The complex and multidimensional issue of sustainable development is at the core of this theme, which raises a number of issues:

- What is the role of industrialization in economic development in Africa?
- What are the various approaches to development?
- How do we define inclusive growth and what are the pathways to inclusive growth?
- How can we better understand the unemployment-inequality nexus?
- Are SDGs attainable? What are the challenges in the implementation of the SDGs?
- What is the role of goals in the fight against poverty and inequality?
• How can approaches to the SDGs help to proactively address potential trade-offs as well as synergies between development, the state of the environment, and public health?
• How can inclusive education (including gender, race and ethnicity) contribute to income inequality?
• What are the structural changes that Africa needs to address to promote inclusive growth?
• What are the challenges in financing African development?
• Will SDGs lead to a structural change in the global economy or a continuation of business as usual?
• Does sustainable development require developed countries to shift their societies and economies to sustainable consumption and lifestyle patterns?
• What role does trade play in boosting growth?
• Is universal health care a possibility in Africa?
• How do the dynamics of gender equality and empowerment interact with political and economic empowerment?
• What is the role of agriculture in the development of Africa?
• What are the contributing factors to the growth-inequality-poverty nexus?
• The seminar series will seek to explore these and other questions and policies relating to the attainment of the SDGs.

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Dr. Judith van Allen  jv43@cornell.edu
Jackie Sayegh, IAD Program Manager  jsb25@cornell.edu
Sustainable Development Goals

Aug 30  *Challenges to the SDGs*
* Muna Ndulo, Director of the Institute for African Development and Professor of Law, Cornell University

Sept 06  *Energy Security and Sustainable Livelihoods*
* Robert B. Richardson, Associate Professor of the Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Sept 13  *Opportunities and Challenges for the African Continent to Finance the SDGs*
* Sarah Hearn, Adjunct Professor. Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

Sept 20  *How do the dynamics of gender equality and empowerment interact with political and economic empowerment?*
* Elizabeth Asiedu, Professor of Economics, University of Kansas

Sept 27  *Human Rights and Constitutional Reform*
* Maina Kiai, Kenyan lawyer and human rights activist

Oct 04  *Has African Growth Become More Inclusive?*
* Erik Thorbecke, H.E. Babcock Professor Emeritus of Economics, Cornell University

Oct 11  *Indigenous Land Rights/Conservation*
* Arundha Mittal, Founder and Executive Director, Oakland Institute
Seminar Schedule Fall 2018

Sustainable Development Goals

Oct 18  Gender Dividends from African Fertility Transitions
Sarah Girouox, Lecturer and Research Associate in Development Sociology, Cornell University

Oct 25  Security Sector Reform/Police Reform
Sabrina Karim, Assistant Professor and Caplan Faculty Fellow, Department of Government, Cornell University
Dao Richelieu Freeman, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of Police, Investigator, Crime Services Department, Liberia National Police

Nov 01  Women’s Rights and the African Union Agenda 2063
Josephine Dawuni, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Howard University, Washington D.C.

Nov 08  Transformational Solutions of Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa
Kifle Gebremedhin, International Professor of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

Nov 15  Religious Influences on Political Participation
Gwyneth McClendon, Assistant Professor in the Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University

Nov 29  Student Panel
Muna B. Ndulo is a professor of law at Cornell Law School, and Director of the Institute for African Development. He is an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of constitution making, governance and institution building, international criminal law, African legal systems, human rights, and international law and foreign direct investments. Professor Ndulo has served as a Legal Officer in the International Trade Law Branch of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Political and Legal Adviser with the United Nations Mission Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) and to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General to South Africa, Legal Adviser to the United Nations Assistance Mission to EAST Timor (UNAMET), Legal Expert to the United Nations Mission to Kosovo (UNAMIK), and Legal Expert to the United Nations Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). Professor Ndulo served as legal consultant to the constitutional processes of Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan.

Energy Security and Sustainable Livelihoods

Robert B. Richardson is an Ecological Economist and Associate Professor at the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. Professor Richardson is interested in the study of the environment and development, particularly the contribution of ecosystem services to socioeconomic well-being. His research, teaching, and outreach program focuses primarily on sustainable development, and he uses a variety of methods from the behavioral and social sciences to study decision-making about the use of natural resources and the values of ecosystem services. He has conducted research related to agricultural-environmental linkages, household food and energy security, and tradeoffs in decision-making about environmental management in southern and eastern Africa, Central America, and Southeast Asia. His work has been published in Ecological Economics, Environment and Development Economics, and World Development. He is President-elect of the U.S. Society for Ecological Economics, and a member of the International Society for Ecological Economics. He is an affiliate faculty member with MSU’s Environmental Science and Policy Program, Center for Advanced Study of International Development, Center for Regional Food Systems, African Studies Center, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
Elizabeth Asiedu is a Professor of Economics at the University of Kansas and former Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies of the Economics Department. She is also the President and founder of the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAAWE), editor of the Journal of African Development (JAD) and former President of the African Finance Economic Association (AFEA). She teaches courses in Development and International Economics and has received several teaching/mentoring awards at the University of Kansas, including The Outstanding Woman Educator Award, Kemper Teaching Award, Byron Shutz Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Woman of Distinction Award. Dr. Asiedu’s research focuses on Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Aid and Gender. Her research has received both national and international prominence and has been published in leading scholarly journals. Her work is also cited in several international publications, including The Report of the Commission for Africa (The Tony Blair Report) presented at the G8 Summit in 2005. She has consulted for many international organizations, including The United Nations University/World Institute of Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), International Labor Organization (ILO), The African Development Bank, and The Global Development Network.

Sarah Hearn is an Adjunct Professor of Public Service at New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, where she teaches a course on Globalization and Global Governance. Sarah is a senior consultant to international organizations on multilateral reform, peacebuilding and aid policy and development. Over her career, Sarah has advised the British Government, G7, NATO, OECD, UN and World Bank. She previously worked at the NYU Center on International Cooperation as Associate Director and Senior Fellow for Global Development, and prior to joining NYU in 2013, she worked for over a decade in the British Government (DFID, FCO and Stabilization Unit) in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, London and New York. Sarah has published extensively on global development. Her work includes the OECD’s report on States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions, the 2016 Independent Review of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and an edited volume on International Norms and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Sarah holds an M.Phil. from the University of Oxford and a B.A. Hons from University College London. In 2012, she was awarded the OBE for services to international development.
Maina Kiai is a Kenyan lawyer and human rights activist who formerly served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. As a lawyer trained at Nairobi and Harvard Universities, Mr. Kiai has spent the last twenty years campaigning for human rights and constitutional reform in Kenya – notably as founder and Executive Director of the unofficial Kenya Human Rights Commission, and then as Chairman of Kenya’s National Human Rights Commission (2003-2008), where he won a national reputation for his courageous and effective advocacy against official corruption, in support of political reform, and against impunity following the violence that convulsed Kenya in 2008. Mr. Kiai was the Executive Director of the International Council on Human Rights Policy (July 2010 to April 2011), a Geneva-based think-tank which used to produce research reports and briefing papers with policy recommendations. Mr. Kiai was also the Director of Amnesty International’s Africa Programme (1999-2001), and the Africa Director of the International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights, 2001-2003). He held research fellowships at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Copenhagen), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington), and the TransAfrica Forum (Washington). He has received the Freedom House’s Freedom Award (2014), United Nations Foundation’s Leo Nevas Award (2016), and the AFL-CIO George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award (2016).

Has African Growth Become More Inclusive?

Erik Thorbecke is the H.E. Babcock Professor Emeritus of Economics and Graduate School and International Professor at Cornell and former Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development. 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. Since the early nineties, he has been closely associated with the African Economic Research Consortium and also serves as the Chairman of the Thematic Research Group on “Poverty, Income Distribution and Food Security”. From 2005-2010, Professor Thorbecke has been co-directing (with Machiko Nissanke) 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 is the author/co-author of over fifty books and two hundred articles. The Foster-Greer-Thorbecke poverty measure (Econometrica, 1984) that he developed (with James Foster and Joel Greer) has been adopted as the standard poverty measure by the World Bank and many UN agencies and is widely used by researchers doing empirical work on poverty.
Indigenous Land Rights/Conservation  

**Anuradha Mittal** serves as a Director of Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, Inc. Ms. Mittal is an internationally renowned expert on trade, development, human rights, and agriculture issues. After working as the codirector of Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, she established the Oakland Institute, a progressive policy think tank, in 2004. She is the author and editor of numerous articles and books including (mis) Investment in America Needs Human Rights; The Future in the Balance: Essays on Globalization and Resistance; Sahel: A Prisoner of Starvation; and Voices from Africa: African Farmers and Environmentalists Speak out Against a New Green Revolution; and The Great Land Grab: Rush for World’s Farmland Threatens Food Security for the Poor. Her articles and opinion pieces have been published in widely circulated newspapers including the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Bangkok Post, Houston Chronicle, and the Nation. She has given several hundred keynote addresses including invitational events from governments and universities, and has appeared on television and radio shows around the world. Named as the 2008 Most Valuable Progressive Thinker by the Nation magazine, she was awarded the 2007 Global Citizen Award by the UNA-USA East Bay and KPFA Peace Award in 2006. She is on the board and advisory committees of several non-profit organizations including the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) and is a member of the independent board of Ben & Jerry’s which focuses on providing leadership for Ben & Jerry’s social mission and brand integrity.

Gender Dividends from African Fertility Transitions  

**Sarah Giroux** is a Lecturer and Research Associate in Development Sociology at Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She hold a Doctorate and Master’s of Science in Development Sociology from Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Her primary area of research interest is the intersection of demography and inequality in the modern world, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. This work examines how formal demographic processes relate to broader socioeconomic inequalities. She has been published in Studies in Family Planning, the Journal of Children and Poverty, and the Population Development Review. Currently she is co-authoring a book manuscript entitled Understanding Social Change: Using Decomposition Methods. Giroux teaches courses on research methods, comparative social development, and international agriculture and rural development.
Sabrina Karim is Assistant Professor and Caplan Faculty Fellow in the Department of Government, at Cornell University. Her research focuses on intra-state conflict, state building, security sector reform, gender, and peacekeeping. Her first book Equal Opportunity Peacekeeping (Oxford University Press, co-authored with Kyle Beardsley), winner of the Conflict Research Society Best Book Prize for 2017, examines the role of gender in international peacekeeping. Her second book explores failure in international security assistance programs, both unilateral and bilateral, in rebuilding the security forces of weak, post-conflict countries. Professor Karim’s research has been published in International Organization, the British Journal of Political Science, the Journal of Peace Research, International Interactions, and International Peacekeeping. Before starting her Ph.D. at Emory University, Karim was a Fulbright Scholar in Lima, Peru, where she conducted research on women in the Peruvian National Police. She also helped organize women in one of Lima’s poorest communities to create a women’s cooperative. She has done extensive fieldwork in both Liberia and Peru.

Professor Karim will be presenting with Dao Richelieu Freeman, Jr, Deputy Commissioner of Police, and Investigator, Crime Services Department, Liberia National Police.

Women’s Rights and the African Union Agenda 2063

Josephine J. Dawuni is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Howard University, Washington D.C. She is a qualified Barrister-at-Law before the Ghana Superior Courts of Judicature. She holds a Doctorate in Political Science from Georgia State University. Her primary areas of research include judicial politics, women in the legal professions, gender and the law, international human rights, women’s civil society organizing and democratization. She is the editor (with Judge Akua Kuenyehia) of International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Unveiled Narratives (Routledge, 2018). Her first edited book (with Gretchen Bauer) Gender and the Judiciary in Africa: From Obscurity to Parity? was published in 2016 by Routledge. In 2018 she was a Fulbright Specialist to Ghana where she designed a Center for Research in African Union Law. In 2016, she was awarded the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship to undertake a project on graduate student mentoring and research at the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana. She is the founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Institute for African Women in Law which focuses on enhancing the capacity of women in the legal professions in Africa and the Diaspora. She is a Global Scholar at the Wilson Center Women in Public Service Project and sits on board of the West Africa Research Association (WARA) and the African Research Academies for Women (ARA-W). In 2016, she received the White House Presidential Award for her service on the Board of ARA-W.
Kifle Gebremedhin is an International Professor of Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. He is an elected Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) and a member of ASCE, National Frame Building Association, Institute of Biological Engineering, and various honor societies. He is the recipient of numerous awards for teaching, research, advising, service and leadership. Professor Gebremedhin has published over 200-refereed journal articles and research technical publications. His research focuses on animal thermal stress physiology, modeling animal bio-energetics (heat and mass transfer), engineering livestock thermal environments, and design and analysis of post-frame buildings, and diaphragm action in metal-clad wood-frame buildings. Professor Gebremedhin earned his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Gebremedhin serves as chairman of the Advisory Board of the Institute for African Development.

Religious Influences on Political Participation

November 15, 2018

Gwyneth McClendon is Assistant Professor in the Wilf Family Department of Politics at New York University. Former positions include Assistant Professor of Government at Harvard University and Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer at Yale University’s Program of Democracy in The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center. She holds a PhD and an M.A. in Politics from Princeton University. Her primary research interests are in comparative political behavior, religious and ethnic politics, and political participation. She has done research in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and in the United States. Her first book, Envy in Politics (Princeton University Press, 2018), examines how people’s desires for high within-group status can influence their political behavior. Her second book, tentatively titled Pew to Politics (co-authored with Rachel Riedl), examines how exposure to religious teachings can influence whether and how people participate in politics. She teaches courses on comparative politics, contemporary African politics, political behavior, and the psychology of inequality.
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.”