Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa

Thursdays 2:30 p.m.
G-08 Uris Hall

iad.einaudi.cornell.edu
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 January 31, 2019
Open to the public
Also available as a two-credit course
CRP 4770 (4538) / 6770 (4539)
Emerging Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa

In the book *Making Africa Work: A Handbook of Economic Success* (2017) the authors Mills, Obasanjo, Herbst and Davis argue that Africa faces a difficult, possibly disastrous future unless it acts quickly to consolidate democracy, liberalize its economies, invest in people and infrastructure, and ensure the rule of law. With the continent’s population projected to double to 2 billion within a generation, without decisive actions to encourage long-term investments in industry, agriculture and manufacturing, the continent will be overwhelmed by urban and population growth. As Thorbecke recently observed: “By 2035 Africa labor force will be larger than either that of China or India. By 2050, the African workforce will be larger than the combined labor force of China and India. In addition it will be a much younger, potentially much more productive labor force than the aging and declining Chinese labor force.” (2018) If the right policies and institutional actions are taken, however, they will help to create the conditions for a high-growth demographic dividend.

However, many challenges remain. These include: (1) China’s lending practices in Africa; (2) the maintenance of an environment of peace and security in several parts of the continent including Nigeria, the Congo and the Sahel; (3) integration to overcome the limitations of Africa’s small and fragmented economies and to give the continent a greater voice in the management of international economic processes; (4) strengthening governance institutions and increasing capacity of those institutions to spearhead development.; (5) the need for increased investment in agricultural and food security; (6) access to financing for development; (7) sustainable exploitation of natural resources; (8) infrastructural construction; (9) the crisis in the management of cities in view of rapid urbanization. By 2035 half of all Africans will probably live in cities: and (10) corruption continues to undermine development in the African state, and (11) good governance and environmental sustainability and climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from serious environmental problems, including deforestation, soil erosion, desertification, and degradation. These issues call for their critical examination in order to understand the challenges to development and come up with policies that seek to address them.

The seminar series will seek to explore viable policy responses that can effectively address Africa’s developmental challenges. Recent policy debates suggest that industrialization might not be the appropriate model for development in Africa. 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, agriculture, infrastructure, education and social sectors. Several
development agencies including the African Development Bank argue that with the right policies, Africa possesses significant potential for a demographic dividend, spurred by the continent’s young population. Sub-topics will include the following:

- Role of foreign investment in African development
- Regional Integration and Development
- Large scale land acquisitions, and food security in Africa;
- Rural Women, agriculture and access to land
- Climate change and Its Impact on African Development;
- Education and Development
- Growth, poverty alleviation and natural resources
- Financing the construction of Africa’s, infrastructure deficit
- The challenges of meeting Africa’s Energy needs.
- Industrialization as a model of development revisited
- Demographic dividend and African Development.
- Climate change and poverty alleviation.

Professor Muna Ndulo, IAD Director mbn5@cornell.edu
Dr. Judith Van Allen jv43@cornell.edu
Jackie Sayegh, IAD Program Manager jsb25@cornell.edu
Margaret Ross-Martin, Course TA mjr445@cornell.edu
Seminar Schedule Spring 2019

Jan. 31  
*Poverty and Challenges of Growth in Africa*

**Judith Van Allen,** Senior Visiting Fellow, Institute for African Development, Cornell University

Feb. 07  
*Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa*

**Muna Ndulo,** Professor, Cornell Law School, and Director, Institute for African Development, Cornell University

Feb. 14  
*Beyond Fences: Policy Options for Wildlife, Livelihoods and Transboundary Animal Disease Management in Southern Africa*

**Steve Osofsky,** Jay Hyman Professor of Wildlife Health and Health Policy, Cornell University

Feb. 21  
*“Wasting Away:” Diabetes, Food and Medical Insecurity in the Somali Region of Ethiopia*

**Lauren Carruth,** Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University

Feb. 28  
*Searching for Win-Win Strategies to Manage Food, Energy, Water and Infectious Disease Challenges in Africa*

**Jason Rohr,** Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame, and Department of Integrative Biology, University of South Florida

Mar. 07  
*Is Sustainable Development Possible without Environmental Conflict Management?*

**A. H. Peter Castro,** Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Syracuse University
Issues in African Development

Seminar Schedule Spring 2019

Mar. 14  Sustainable Energy, Forest Management and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa
         Johanne Pelletier, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, and Dyson School, Cornell University

Mar. 21  Youth in Africa: Political Headache or Demographic Dividend?
         Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, Independent Consultant, and former Acting Chief Economist and Vice President, African Development Bank

Mar. 28  Old Ports, New Ports: Development, Security and Infrastructure in Lamu, Kenya
         Bilal Butt, Associate Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan

Apr. 11  Gendered Insecurities and the Uncertain Promise of Urban Renewal
         Grace Adeniyi Ogunyankin, Professor, Pauline Jewett Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies, Carleton University

Apr. 18  ‘An Ill Wind that Blows No Girl Any Good:’ The Impacts of Climate-Induced Disease on Gender Inequality
         Belinda Archibong, Assistant Professor, Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University

Apr. 26-27 IAD Annual Symposium
         Restricted Spaces: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Africa

May 02  Perspectives on the Emerging Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa
         Student Panel
Judith Van Allen is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for African Development and a long-time activist-scholar. She has been writing about African women for 40 years, starting with “Sitting on a Man,” her article about the 1929 Igbo Women’s War against the British. In the late 1980s she lived in Botswana, doing liberation support work and studying the emerging Botswana women’s movement. She is the author of “Bad Future Things” and Liberatory Moments: Capitalism, Gender and the State in Botswana. In addition to numerous articles on African women and politics, she has written Marxist-feminist analyses of the feminization of poverty and of reproductive rights in the U.S., and of capitalism and gendered “development” in Africa. She is currently working on a book on the history of the Botswana women’s organization, Emang Basadi! (Stand Up, Women!), with co-author Athaliah Molokomme and other founding members of EB. She has taught at the University of California at Berkeley, California State University at San Francisco, Ithaca College, and Wells College. She is currently Co-convenor of the African Studies Association’s Women’s Caucus, of which she was a founding member, a board member of the Association of Concerned African Scholars, and a member of the Editorial Board of African Studies Review. Her current research focuses on the problematics of using women’s rights discourses to address gender violence and women’s poverty in Southern Africa. She earned her PhD from the University of Berkeley.

Challenges to Sustainable Development in Africa

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 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.
Lauren Carruth is a medical anthropologist specializing in humanitarian assistance, global health, food security, refugees, and the Horn of Africa. Professor Carruth leads the Environmental Sustainability and Global Health Thematic Area within SIS. Most of her continuing ethnographic work focuses on the lasting social and health system effects of episodic humanitarian interventions in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. She focuses on four research areas: (1) the lives and livelihoods of persons who form the local staffs and research subjects of health and humanitarian relief programs, (2) global health diplomacy and the social and political work of clinical care in emergencies, (3) the relationship between food insecurity, medical insecurity, and chronic diseases among displaced populations in Ethiopia, and (4) emerging zoonotic diseases in the Horn of Africa. Her research has been published in the journals BMJ, The Lancet, Social Science & Medicine, Disasters, Medical Anthropology Quarterly, Culture Medicine & Psychiatry, The Lancet Infectious Diseases, and Global Public Health. Between 2002 and 2007 she worked for the UN World Food Program in Ethiopia, UNICEF in Ethiopia, and the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University.
**Searching for Win-Win Strategies to Manage Food, Energy, Water, and Infectious Disease Challenges in Africa**

**February 28, 2019**

**Jason Rohr** is the Ludmilla F., Stephen J., and Robert T. Galla College Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. He previously served as professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Integrative Biology and Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Ecology Research (CIDER) at the University of South Florida. Dr. Rohr attempts to improve understanding of natural systems by integrating experiments, field data, and mathematical models. His research aims to develop solutions to environmental problems facing both humans and wildlife through interdisciplinary research on interactions among multiple natural and anthropogenic stressors. More specifically, his research interests involve understanding drivers of human schistosomiasis, how to feed the projected 11 billion people on the planet sustainably, disease-food security challenges, sustainable development of low and middle income countries, the impacts of climate change on vector-borne and other zoonotic diseases, wildlife diseases, and the effects of biodiversity on disease risk. His work in Africa has occurred predominantly in Senegal. Professor Rohr earned his PhD in Ecology from Binghamton University.

**Is Sustainable Development Possible Without Environmental Conflict Management?**

**March 7, 2019**

**A. H. Peter Castro** is an Associate professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University. A cultural anthropologist, his research interests is in development planning and policy, environmental conflicts, natural resource management (especially community forestry), climate change, agriculture, rural social change, and the history of applied anthropology. Most of his fieldwork and research experience is in East Africa - Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and most recently, Darfur, Sudan, where he has served as a consultant for the Near East Foundation. With Dan Taylor and David Brokensha, Professor Castro recently co-edited *Climate Change and Threatened Communities: Vulnerability, Capacity, and Action*, published by Practical Action. This book presents 15 case studies by 29 authors documenting the capacities and constraints encountered among communities facing climate change in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. From 1999 to 2007, Professor Castro was part of the BASIS Greater Horn of Africa Collaborative Research Support Program’s project on food security and livelihoods in South Wollo and Oromiya Zones of Amhara Region in Ethiopia. He has worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on natural resource conflict management, including developing training materials and editing case studies. Professor Castro earned his doctorate degree from UC Santa Barbara.
Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa is an independent consultant who most recently worked in the Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF. Former Acting Chief Economist and Vice-President at the African Development Bank. He has a long and extensive experience in economic and development research garnered at the University of Gothenburg, where he received his PhD in 1988 and later became Associate Professor. He has undertaken research collaboration at many universities, including Makerere, Nairobi, Lusaka, Helsinki and Cornell. He has been external examiner at University of Cape Town, Stockholm’s Handelshogskolan, Lund University and Dar es Salaam. Dr. Kayizzi-Mugerwa served as Senior Economist at the IMF and a Fellow and Project Director at the World Institute of Development Economics Research of the UN University, based in Helsinki. He is currently part of an expert panel retained by the Government of Uganda to evaluate the country’s first and second national development plans, covering the period 2010-2020.

Johanne Pelletier is a quantitative ecologist working on forests and woodlands in the context of global change, interested in role of human activities on woody ecosystems and its link to climate change. She is currently a TNC NatureNet postdoctoral fellow at the Atkinson Center for a sustainable future at Cornell University and academically resides in the Department of Applied Economics at Cornell and collaborating with The Nature Conservancy. The goal of her research contribution is to improve our understanding of the impacts of human interactions with terrestrial ecosystems through land-use/cover change, with the goal of mitigating climate change, sustaining ecosystem services and improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. Previously, Dr. Pelletier worked on a NASA SERVIR project for Eastern and Southern Africa and on the REDD+ pilot project in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the Woods Hole Research Center. She earned her PhD at McGill University (Canada) and with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama).

Youth in Africa: Political Headache or Demographic Dividend?

March 21, 2019
Gendered Insecurities and the Uncertain Promise of Urban Renewal

Grace Adeniyi Ogunyankin is an Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. She is a feminist scholar who is interested in place-making and subjectivity through the study of African urbanisms and popular culture. In her study of African urbanisms, she is primarily intrigued by how local engagements with the Africa Rising rhetoric and global aspects of the political economy work together to (re)produce spatial and social inequalities and provoke resistance in African cities. Her research focus on popular culture explores the issues of subjectivity and belonging and the use of Afrofuturism and Afropolitan Imagineering in geographic projects that address the colonial politics of difference. She is currently a co-investigator on a $2.5 million SSHRC funded (2017-2023) collaborative transnational research project which examines gendered insecurities and women’s community activism in seven cities of the global south (Ibadan, Georgetown [Guyana], Mumbai, Cairo, Cochabamba, Ramallah, and Shanghai). This research aims to make counterhegemonic interventions into dominant masculinist theories about the urban. Professor Adeniyi Ogunyankin earned her PhD from York University.

Old Ports, New Ports: Development, Security and Infrastructure

Bilal Butt is an Associate Professor at the School for Environment and Sustainability and a faculty affiliate of the African Studies Center and the Science, Technology and Public Policy Program. Dr. Butt is a people-environment geographer with regional specialization in sub-Saharan Africa and technical expertise in geospatial technologies (GPS, GIS & Remote Sensing), ecological monitoring and social-scientific appraisals. His general research interests lie at the intersection of the natural and social sciences to answer questions of how people and wildlife are coping with, and adapting to changing climates, politics, livelihoods and ecologies in arid and semi-arid regions of sub-Saharan Africa. His current projects investigate: (1) the spatiality of livelihood strategies (resource access and utilization) among pastoral peoples under regimes of increasing climatic variability and uncertainty; (2) the nature of the relationships between wildlife and livestock in dry land pastoral ecosystems of East Africa - examining questions of wildlife-livestock competition; (3) violent and non-violent conflicts over natural resources, and; (4) how mobile technologies influence resource access, use and control. Professor Butt earned his masters and PhD from Michigan State University.
Belinda Archibong is Assistant Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University. Her research areas include development economics, political economy, economic history and environmental economics with an African regional focus. She investigates the role of institutions and environment in inequality of access to public services and the development of human capital. Some current research studies the impact of climate-induced health shocks on the gender gap in human capital investment, and the impact of air pollution from gas flaring on health outcomes. Other work studies the links between domestic labor coercion, fiscal policy and public infrastructure construction in British colonial Africa, the effects of taxation on public service provision in Nigeria, and the role of ethnic and gender bias in hiring. She is a faculty affiliate at Columbia University’s Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), The Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Institute of African Studies, the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, and the Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC). Professor Archibong earned her Masters and PhD from Columbia University.

IAD Annual Symposium

Restricted Spaces: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Africa

Student Panel Reflection and Discussion

The student wrap-up features a panel of students presenting on individual topics related to the seminar’s theme. The students give their perspectives on various issues and has become a popular feature of the seminar series.
The rise of authoritarianism and the resulting restriction of space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) create fertile ground for violence and conflict. In some parts of the world, such as in the Sahara-Sahel region, militarization and fragmentation of societies is intensifying (Metelits, 2016) and destroying already fragile local economic infrastructures, causing massive displacements and insecurity.

The seeming retreat of the international community in promoting and defending democratic values has brought about a rise in populism. The pushback against so-called external interference and CSOs has become the order of the day and nationalism is emerging as an alternative to globalization.

Against this background, the Institute for African Development in collaboration with the SAHEL Consortium will host a symposium on Restricted Spaces: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Africa. Sub themes will include:

- International NGOs and Local Government Relationships
- Nature, Role and Importance of Civil Society in a Democracy
- Weaknesses of Civil Society in African Countries
- Civil Society, and a Free Society
- Governance and Constitutional Restraint
- NGOs and Public Interest litigation
- NGOs and Gender Rights
- NGOs Role in Elections and Election Monitoring
- Backsliding Democracy in Africa and NGOs
- The International Community, Humanitarian Responses and NGOs
- Civil Society, Displacement and Security
- The Right to Health and Civil Society
Institute for African Development Occasional Paper, Fall 2017

The Institute for African Development is pleased to announce the newest publication under the IAD Publication Series. “Triggers of Election Violence in sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Perspective” by Andreu Sola-Martin examines the triggers of election violence in sub-Saharan Africa countries in comparative terms. The research presented in the book contributes to the scarce literature on electoral violence by presenting a normative dimension and helping to prevent conflict, and thereby helping to prevent conflict, bridging the gap between data analysis and actual policy responses to electoral violence.

About the Author:

Andreu Sala-Martin holds a PhD in Peace Studies from Bradford University. He has worked as Associate Research Fellow in the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University, lecturer in international politics at the University of Manchester and teaching fellow at the University of Birmingham. He currently lectures at Blanguerna School of Communications and International Relations, Raman Llull University, Barcelona and on conflict management with the Open University of Catalonia, Spain. He has served as election observer with several election observer missions in sub Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America.
Institute for African Development (IAD) Distinguished Africanist Scholar

Each year the IAD, in collaboration with an academic department, sponsors a Distinguished Africanist Scholar visit to Cornell University. The invited Scholar—in support of IAD’s mission to expand the depth and quality of teaching on Africa within the University community—brings to Cornell an unusual depth of knowledge and experience in an academic field specifically related to development in Africa.

IAD Summer Africa Internship program

Provides students with academically related and practical fieldwork experience. Students with an interest in African development who would like to engage in personalized learning not available in the traditional classroom setting are welcome to apply. IAD views the 8-week internship program as an integral part of a student’s education, offering experiential learning that provide students with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in a real world context. Visit the IAD website for more details. Deadline: February 20th, 2019 - email at jsb25@cornell.edu (scanned applications/pdfs are acceptable).

IAD Graduate Student Project Grant

Supports innovative community-initiated projects in rural communities in Africa. The grant seeks to foster hands-on experience for Cornell students’ in projects that will positively impact the well being of the community where the project is placed. The grant does not fund startups.

IAD Michael Latham Graduate Student Conference Travel

Michael C. Latham, M.D., served as professor emeritus and graduate school professor of nutritional sciences at Cornell University and as director of Cornell’s Program in International Nutrition for 25 years. The Michael C. Latham Travel Award provides Cornell graduate students enrolled in a development-related field with travel support for conferences within the continental United States. Masters’ and Ph.D. students enrolled at Cornell who have been invited to present papers at professional conferences may apply for grants to help cover expenses related to conference participation (travel, lodging, conference fees, etc.). Topics should be relevant to African development. Awards are made on a case-by-case basis with a rolling deadline.

International Travel Grants

The Institute for African Development, in conjunction with the Einaudi Center for International Studies, offers travel grant awards to Graduate students who wish to carry out research in Africa. Students in good academic standing pursuing an MS, MA or PhD degree are eligible. For more information, visit the Einaudi Center website einaudi.cornell.edu/international-research-travel-grants

The Savannah Dialogues Platform (SDP) is an Institute for African Development (IAD) digital platform. Its aim is to provide an online platform where academics, researchers, and policy makers exchange views on current political, economic, legal and social issues on African development in line with IAD’s mandate of strengthening and expanding the depth and breadth of African development studies.