



School of Development Studies Newsletter

Special Announcement

In conjunction with the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE), the School of Development Studies is hosting a special series of seminars on aspects of economic development and the financial crisis.

← See the left-hand column for details.

Research and Teaching Roundup

Warwick Junction

The School of Development Studies recently published the book: ***Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans***. Written by Richard Dobson and Caroline Skinner together with Jillian Nicholson, it documents the Warwick Junction Urban Renewal Project and aims to demonstrate the benefits for local authorities and citizens of integrating street traders into urban planning. It offers a fresh look at street traders' lives, the role they play in city life and their contribution to its economy. For book orders, visit book@aet.org.za.

Caroline and Glen Robbins have lately been engaged in debate over the City's plans to redevelop parts of Warwick junction where trader's livelihoods are threatened by the creation of a shopping mall in the area.

New Project: Transforming the Apartheid City

Richard Ballard, together with a team of six students, is conducting the qualitative component in Durban of a larger study on urban transformation of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. The larger study, funded by the US National Science Foundation, is being led by Patrick Heller at Brown University. The quantitative analysis was conducted using the 1996 and 2001 censuses and GIS techniques are now being used to detect changes in the populations of neighbourhoods (whether income, race or other variables). The qualitative study in Durban will attempt to explain the story behind the statistics in six case study areas, namely the CBD, Montclair, Crossmoor (Chatsworth), Clayfields (Phoenix), and parts of KwaMashu. In each site, key informants are being interviewed about the racial and economic make-up of the community along with local political dynamics.

Transformation in Small Towns in South Africa

Richard Ballard and Jessie Knott are participating in a study led by Melissa Steyn at UCT's Intercultural and Diversity Studies Unit (INCUDISA) and funded by SANPAD and the NRF. The project attempts to fill a gap created by the intense focus on the transformation of major urban centres in South Africa resulting in a relative lack of interest in small towns. While we know much about the endurance of, and changes to the apartheid city, we know less about changes in race and class in small towns. Jessie will be contributing with a study of a town in the Eastern Cape.

03/09

SDS Seminar

19:00 – 20:30
Howard College Theatre

Nicolas Meisel

On risk and institutions:
Development as structural change

07/09

SDS Seminar

19:00 – 20:30
Howard College Theatre

Jacques Sapir

The financial crisis:
Implications for developed countries and the BRIC countries

09/09

SDS Seminar

19:00 – 20:30
Howard College Theatre

Ben Fine

Neoliberalism and the crisis

15/09

SDS Seminar

12:30 – 14:00
Seminar Room

Carlos Oya

Towards a 'Beijing Consensus' in Africa?
Realities, exaggerations and hypocrisy about Chinese aid to Africa

Notice Board

COLLOQUIUM NOTICE

The School of Development Studies in conjunction with APORDE and the French Development Agency is organizing a colloquium titled:

The search for new sources of growth in Africa

Wednesday
16 September

14:00 – 17:00

GSB Auditorium
Westville
Campus

Papers by:

- Chris Cramer
- Mwangi wa Githinji

Discussants:

- Ha-Joon Chang
- Bill Freund

Dinner will be served afterwards

All welcome

Occupational Health and Safety, and Informal Workers

Francie Lund has started a three-year research project about occupational health and safety (OHS) for informal workers. OHS does not usually cover informal workers, but focuses on formal workplaces and not on where the majority of workers really work – on the streets, in their own homes, on garbage dumps or landfills, for example. OHS defines health problems very narrowly, and does not see the worker in the context of family, living and working in very poor conditions. In this project, she aims explore how to develop OHS in a way that can better meet the needs of informal workers.

The project will take place in six countries. Work has started in Brazil as well as in Ghana where there is close collaboration with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana in Accra, the Ghana Trade Union Congress, and the Ghana Streetnet Alliance. In 2010 research will commence in Tanzania.

Francie Lund is assisted by researcher Laura Alfors who has been awarded a Ford Foundation doctoral fellowship within the School.

Congratulations

- UKZN's National Research Foundation (NRF) Chair in Applied Poverty Reduction Assessment has been awarded to **Julian May** for research which profoundly addresses poverty and inequality in South Africa.
- Staff members who featured prominently in the recently launched 2006/7 University Research report included:
 - **Patrick Bond, Julian May and Sanya Osha** who featured in the 'Most Prolific Researchers' category
 - **Dori Posel** was noted in the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) as the recipient of a Research Chair in Economic Development, awarded in late-2007
 - **Pranitha Maharaj** appeared in the category of the 'University's Featured Researchers'
 - **Vishnu Padayachee** was recognised in the Report as having led the Economic Development Strategic Research Initiative, and as a Fellow of the University.

Appointments

- The School welcomes **Kerry Vermaak** who has been appointed to the post of Lecturer tasked with teaching Research Methods. Kerry's current research involves surveillance of HIV infection rates among infants attending all public primary health care facilities in six districts in KwaZulu-Natal.

Brightest Young Minds

The school salutes **Tasmi Quasi** (Development Studies 2008) who was accepted for the 2009 Brightest Young Minds Summit held in July in Stellenbosch. Considered a premier youth summit which seeks to inspire and showcase young talented students as future leaders, one hundred delegates were selected from 14 universities across South Africa who show an aptitude for leadership, innovative initiatives and active involvement within their local communities. The theme for this year's summit was 'Opportunity in Crisis' and after being briefed on financial, socio-political and environmental crises currently facing society, delegates were challenged to develop solutions and projects in response.