

INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR OUTLINE

- **THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVENTURE: AN OVERVIEW**
- **THE ANATOMY OF WORLD POVERTY**
- **OVER AND UNDER CONSUMPTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- **FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION: THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS APPROACH**
- **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS: EVOLUTION AND PRACTICE**

SEMINAR OUTLINE CINTINUED

- HOLISM, INTERDISCIPLINARITY AND COMPLEX ADAPTIVE SYSTEMS
- MAKING POLICY IN THE FACE OF COMPLEXITY(POLICY FOR SL)
- GOVERNANCE FOR SL
- INVESTING FOR SL
- TECHNOLOGY FOR SL
- SL APPROACH IN CANADA
- BUILDING A CASL AT MCGILL

THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVENTURE: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the historical evolution of international development paradigms and the overall experience of the adventure over last 50 years.
- Understand failures and successes and their reasons
- Appreciate context for current challenge.
- Readings: 1) From extreme poverty to sustainable livelihoods-Part B. 2) The development dictionary

THE ANATOMY OF WORLD POVERTY: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the situation of world poverty
- Learn definitions, measures, complexity etc
- Appreciate the reasons for hope
- Readings: 1) From extreme poverty to SL: Part A. 2) Human Development Report 1997.

Over and under consumption and sustainable development

- Understand the concept of sustainable development and the fundamental challenges of over- and under-consumption and their linkages
- Appreciate the practical and theoretical challenges to sustainable development
- Readings 1) Our common future 2) Human Development Report

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach: Learning Objectives

- Understand the concepts and principles behind the SL approach as practical way to address the challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- Readings: Sustainable livelihoods: Building on the Wealth of the Poor. (Helmore and Singh.)

SL : Evolution and practice

- Appreciate the origins of the ideas behind SL and understand through case examples how the approach can be applied in a wide range of contexts
- Readings 1) Helmore and Singh 2)
Website:www.livelihoods.org

Holism, Interdisciplinarity and Complex Adaptive Systems

- Understand the basic ideas behind these concepts and appreciate their importance to reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.
- Be able to use these ideas to show how some of the limitations of current international development practice could be improved.
- Readings: 1) Rethinking the fifth discipline (R.L Flood) 2) SL as a complex adaptive system; Singh and Gilman: U of Guelph website.

Making Policy in the face of Complexity(Policy for SL)

- The complex nature of SL and SD
- Use of multiple (orthogonal) tools e.g. CBA
Critical Theory, Girardian Economics,
Local Justice
- Readings:1) Policy formulation for SL;
2) Taking Complexity Seriously; E.Roe

Governance for SL

- The fundamental challenges of poverty reduction and SL
- Distributive vs Constitutive Politics
- Transforming Power Relationships
- Readings: 1) Governance for SL: Operational Issues ; G Hyden. 2) Helmore and Singh

Investing for SL

- Pro's and Con's of Microfinance
- Investment led Structural Adjustment
- Macro-micro linkages
- Releasing Dead Capital
- Readings: 1) World Development Report (A. Rahman) 2) Investment led adjustment (K. Griffin) 3) Mystery of Capital (H. de Soto) 4) Helmore and Singh

Technology for SL

- Building synergy between local and outside knowledge and technology
- Using technology to conserve assets and improve their productivity
- Move from linear to cyclical production and distribution systems
- Readings: Helmore and Singh, UNDP paper

SL IN CANADA

- Become familiar with the work on SL at Universities of Guelph, Waterloo and York and at institutes such as IISD and Coady.
- Readings: Publications of Anthony Fuller and colleagues at Guelph. Websites of these institutions.

BUILDING A CASL AT McGILL

- Students will critically consider the institutional and resource challenges to establish a center for the advancement of sustainable livelihoods at McGill by building on the assets of the institution
- They will use the opportunity to develop a proposal for such a center drawing on what they learned during the course.

Approach to the Seminar

- The instructor will use approx. 1hr.20 mins for presentation on a given theme.
- Students in teams of 2 or 3 will use 1hr 20 mins for presentation and discussion of a critical appreciation of the previous week's theme which will include a summary of the main points and a critical assessment including literature references and views beyond those used in the class. They will finalise their presentation in the form of a paper of 3 to 5 pages.