



# Globalisation at the Crossroads

## Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries

### EADI NORDIC 2017

20-23 August in Bergen, Norway

[www.eadi-nordic2017.org](http://www.eadi-nordic2017.org)



#### The Conference in a Nutshell

- When? 20-23 August 2017  
Where? Scandic Bergen City, Norway  
Who? More than 400 development researchers, experts, scholars and professionals.  
What? Plenary sessions, Dudley Seers Lecture, panels and working group sessions.

#### More Information

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Website: [www.eadi-nordic2017.org](http://www.eadi-nordic2017.org)

#### Key Dates and Deadlines

- Submissions for abstracts: 16 January 2017  
Submissions for papers: 31 May 2017  
Submissions for final papers: 17 July 2017  
Conference: 20-23 August 2017

Registration is open:  
<http://eadi-nordic2017.org/registration/>

#### Venue

Scandic Bergen City  
Håkonsgaten 2-7  
5015 Bergen

**Accommodation** is available at and near to the conference venue. For more information please check the website [www.eadi-nordic2017.org](http://www.eadi-nordic2017.org) or subscribe to the conference e-newsletter.



#### Partners

European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)

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# The End of Globalisation?

*Globalisation* has been the buzzword of the last quarter century. After the end of the Cold War, capitalism spread to countries that had been delinked from world market influence for decades. Historians and policy makers envisaged that global growth through peaceful competition and cooperation, more efficient utilisation of resources and mass consumption by the global middle class would bring peace and democracy to every country (Francis Fukuyama: 'The end of history'). Neo-liberal economists saw their gospel of free markets, restraint of government's intervention in the economy and international trade liberalisation vindicated.

However, a number of least developed countries were left behind, and income and wealth inequalities within countries grew stronger. The new surge in globalisation was accompanied by rising criticism from developing countries, from academia and global civil society. The main beneficiaries of globalisation were transnational corporations, the outward-looking new middle classes in China and other newly emerging economies. In contrast, the poor in all countries were further marginalized by cut-throat competition, rising unemployment and the cutback of social protection that debt-ridden countries implemented through various structural adjustment programmes.

When the financial crisis of 2008 brought the world economy close to a depression similar to the *Great Depression* of the 1930s, governments decided to bail out failing banks even though this operation invalidated the neo-liberal confidence in the automatic adjustment of private enterprises (including banks) to market signals. Bailing out major banks without complementary public works programmes to ease the burden of the recession on the working classes exposed capitalist globalisation as uneven and unjust, even in the Global North.

## Increasing Inequalities through Increasing Financialisation

However, globalisation alone is not responsible for increasing inequalities. One further root cause is seen in the progressing *financialisation* of capitalist economies. Over several decades, the share of banks and other financial intermediaries in GDP has been increasing in the USA, UK, other European countries and Japan. Increasing *financialisation* is accompanied by rising public and private debts. These are becom-

ing unbearable burdens on the recovery of these countries from the waves of recession since 2008. The impacts on private households and governments have been massive across the world, with insufficient changes in policies to ensure that such systemic risks are reduced in the future. These risks are compounded by unjust taxation systems and extensive tax evasion across the world exercised by multinational companies and wealthy individuals.

Globalisation is not only contested by the rising tide of anti-globalisation movements and populist political parties. It is also challenged by old and new 'contradictions' of capitalist development. The lack of growth and rising inequalities in the Global North resulting from risky *financialisation*, indebtedness of households, enterprises and governments is amplified by China's declining growth. Both are impacting world markets and commodity-exporting developing countries likewise.

## The Need for a New Social Compact

People are taking more initiative in improving their lives across the globe. This is reflected in high levels of urbanisation and in transnational migration patterns, which are increasingly used by population groups with sufficient assets and rising expectations as a means to improve their lives. International migration is one of the most diverse and multifaceted themes of global development that requires interdisciplinarity to come to grips with its diverse aspects. It is also a challenge for development cooperation and its claim to alleviate poverty in recipient countries.

These trends all imply that a new social compact is required in both high- and lower-income countries. It is needed to prevent high-income countries from being torn politically apart. Deep divides have appeared between beneficiaries of new technologies and globalisation enjoying rising incomes and affluent lifestyles, and poorer income groups with increasingly precarious employment perspectives. These disadvantaged groups either raise their voices and support populist or fundamentalist movements/political parties or withdraw from exercising meaningful forms of citizenship in their communities. Likewise, a new and more secure social contract is needed in lower-income countries. Some countries are already developing their own development models, albeit with many pitfalls and uneven successes.

## The Global Green New Deal for Meeting the SDGs

Finally, the *planetary boundaries* to the use of our ecosystems require a fundamental rethinking of future economic development. A change of course is necessary, away from excessive consumption of raw materials and energy, environmental pollution with effluents and emissions of production and consumption, towards frugal innovations and more circular economies. Addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges reflected in poverty and inequalities in both the Global South and North, requires major rethinking. This needs to comprise of existing globalisation processes, population and urbanisation trends, forms of mobilisation and civic agency, education and training, existing ways of promoting international development, and the emerging development models being put forward by countries in the Global South.

Earlier programmes on sustainable development were propagated in 2008/9 by UN agencies under the title *Global Green New Deal* for climate, energy, and development. However, governments have mainly paid lip service to green economy goals rather than taking action for more fundamental transitions to *sustainable development* in all countries. Falling energy prices and the cutting of subsidies for clean energy research and development are currently producing long-term negative effects on the development of renewable energy technologies required for greater sustainability. The *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) are framed as universal agenda for action in all coun-

tries, North and South, and all actors, governments, private business, civil society, the media, universities, and religious institutions. The question is whether the adoption of this agenda will help change the course of the generators of greenhouse gas emissions, so that effective adaptations to climate change and resulting disasters can be developed?

20 years after *Sustainable development* has been adopted by the international community at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the agenda was re-introduced at the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The main outcome was a list of 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) with 169 targets that replaced the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) for the next phase of global development until 2030. The major shift is that the SDGs are emphasised as universal in scope; all governments have to implement green economy strategies in order to meet the goals for their countries and regions and address the three dimensions of sustainability: social, economic and environmental. This fundamental disruption should be recognised as a wake-up call to finally rethink current inequalities and boundaries in innovative and inclusive ways. Although there are, inevitably, multiple challenges to peaceful, inclusive, just and sustainable global development, the moment is ripe for taking them up.

The EADI NORDIC Conference 2017 in Bergen, aims to address this series of challenges in development (policy, research, practices) in a multi-polar world.

# Dudley Seers Lecture and Plenary Sessions

## Dudley Seers Lecture: Inequality and Financial Power: A Macroeconomic and Comparative View

Since 2008, the Dudley Seers Lecture has been an inherent part of the EADI General Conferences. Remembering one of the founding members and the first EADI president, this lecture is meant to allow a renowned speaker to formally set the tone for the debates at and around the conference. This year James K. Galbraith from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs will talk about "Inequality and Financial Power: A Macroeconomic and Comparative View".

### Speaker:

- James K. Galbraith

James K. Galbraith holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and a professorship in Government at The University of Texas at Austin. His research focusses on global inequalities and economic development.

## Plenary I: Globalisation at the Crossroads: Economy and Inequality

The gains from globalisation are divided unequally. The poor have fallen behind in most countries posing a moral challenge for the world community. The rising disparity in income, wealth and the access to basic services such as health and education also creates social tensions within and across countries and impede prosperity. When economic inequality is accompanied by political inequality and a lack of voice, prospects for inclusive growth are low, opening up for populist policies and nationalism.

The aim of the plenary panel is to present and discuss basic research on globalisation and inequality. How can rising inequality be understood and explained and what type of policies could address it? In particular, the panel seeks to address the following questions: What are the current trajectories of global economic inequality and do they differ across countries and regions? What are the key drivers? Why should we care about inequality and what type of inequality should development related research and policies emphasise? Should we not care about inequality as long as people are getting out of poverty? What policies can improve performance and lead to more social justice? And, how can they be implemented? Finally, what are the implications for developing countries, development studies and development cooperation, given the current backlash and accordingly new configurations of globalisation and inequality?

### Speakers:

- Professor Bertil Tungodden,  
Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
- Professor Karl Ove Moene,  
University of Oslo (UiO)

### Chair:

- Professor Lise Rakner,  
University of Bergen (UiB) and  
Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)

20 August

**Dudley Seers Lecture:** Inequality and Financial Power: A Macroeconomic and Comparative View

21 August

**Plenary I:** Globalisation at the Crossroads: Economy and Inequality

## Plenary II: Contesting Reconfigured Boundaries: Migration and Crisis

Development policies promote interventions in different socio-political contexts to generate social, economical and sometimes political change. Migration is an intrinsic part of the broader processes in which development interventions take place. As recent political and social tensions around migration and refugee issues in Europe has proven, international migration is still a poorly understood issue. An interdisciplinary lens is required to come to grips with its diverse aspects, and to more precisely understand how migration and migration policies relate to development and development policies.

This plenary session uses theoretical, empirical and historical analyses to understand and explain the migration and development nexus. It aims at critically examining the broader linkages and processes between migration and development in different countries and at various scales. In doing so, it challenges the current narratives on migration and deconstructs myths related to migration and development. How are refugee and migration policies currently changing? In which ways are development policies and migration policies intertwined at the EU level and in third countries? How can we understand the interconnection between development, development policies and migration?

### Speakers:

- Professor Uma Kothari, University of Manchester
- Professor Cathrine Brun, Oxford Brookes University

### Chair:

- Dr Arne Strand, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)

## Plenary III: Globalisation and International Tax Justice: Challenges and Innovations for Domestic Revenue Mobilisation in Developing Countries

States need money to foster economic development, to provide security and meet the basic needs of their citizens. Traditionally, governments collect taxes from individuals and businesses to generate public revenue. However, globalisation has challenged many of the traditional instruments of revenue extraction. Global tax competition has made it more difficult to levy taxes on mobile capital as it might simply flow to low tax areas. Consequently, the tax burden has been shifted towards less mobile factors of production. The emerging 'tax justice' movement argues that unfair international tax rules have undermined the public finances of low-income countries by facilitating tax evasion and avoidance by wealthy companies and individuals. Existing international tax rules have created, either by accident or by design, a system characterised by extensive secrecy, excessive complexity and widespread loopholes and may also have contributed to deepening existing inequalities. In other words, globalisation has to some extent undermined the fiscal capacity of the nation state. The same rules have generated new opportunities for corruption, through the complex structures of transnational enterprises, tax havens, secret bank accounts, and secretive legal arrangements to obscure the real ownership of assets.

The aim of the plenary panel is to present and discuss the research frontier on tax havens, international taxation and elite behaviour. The main emphasis is on how international tax rules affect developing countries, including effects on domestic revenue mobilisation and income distribution, and possible ways the current challenges can be mitigated. In particular, the panel seeks to address the following questions: How can states meet their spending requirements in times of integrated global markets? Have some revenue instruments become obsolete, been replaced or simply lost their significance? How do international interdependencies affect the spread of new tax policy instruments in developing countries and how national preconditions mitigate such effects? And how do structural and institutional factors drive or hinder tax policy changes at both international and national levels?

22 August

**Plenary II:** Contesting Reconfigured Boundaries: Migration and Crisis

**Plenary III:** Globalisation and international tax justice: challenges and innovations for domestic revenue mobilisation in developing countries

23 August

**Plenary IV:** Sustainability and the Green Shift in an Era of Disruptions

#### Speakers:

- Professor Mick Moore, University of Sussex (US)
- Associate Professor Brooke Harrington, Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
- Associate Director Catherine Ngina Mutava, Strathmore Tax Research Centre (STRC), Nairobi

#### Chair:

- Research Professor Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) and African Tax Institute, University of Pretoria (UP)

### Plenary IV: Sustainability and the Green Shift in an Era of Disruptions

At the end of this conference let us take a cautious look at the future. What major trends can be detected? What can we hope for, and what should be done? What can be taken for granted already is that we are entering an era of disruptions:

- **Socio-economic disruptions:** The financial crisis of 2000 may not be the last one of this kind. Its root causes, excessive speculation of a deregulated financial sector and growing inequalities of incomes and wealth, have not been cured and remain a threat to political stability.
- **Political disruptions:** Populist politicians take up the frustration of those left behind and turn it into an onslaught on globalisation and the foundations of the post-war world order. Their *Orwellian* menace to the media, to science and experts tend to undermine the institutional foundations of democratic societies and the lifeblood of civility: trust.
- **Ecological disruptions:** Climate change, loss of bio-diversity, soil erosion are the most threatening *planetary boundaries* to sustainable development and even survival of humanity. Survival will soon become difficult in regions exposed to extreme weather events so that *climate refugees* will add to wave of international migration that has already triggered off the populist blowback in many countries.

- **Technological disruptions/ revolutions:** A host of new technologies is in the making, some of which may change the course toward ecological sustainability (photovoltaic energy, improved batteries, energy saving devices, etc.), while others (robotisation, artificial intelligence, etc.) will replace human labour on a scale that threatens the cohesion of today's industrial societies.

How will these disruptive trends interact with each other? And how will the green shift needed for reaching the SDGs by 2030 evolve from these disruptions? Will the green shift shape and impact the global development agenda and relationships between the North and the South?

It seems that the ongoing processes of urbanisation will have a major impact on the green shift. More and more cities around the world take up the challenge and become laboratories for green architecture and design, for climate-friendly transport systems and infrastructure, for sustainable life-styles and even as sanctuaries for species endangered by pollution, sprawl and industrial agriculture. Are green cities the forerunners of the green shift, especially when governments pay only lip service to the SDGs?

What role do emerging economies play both in the political arena and at the technology frontier? Will their aspirations to adopt the living standards of the OECD countries add to the global disruptions or will they be able to contribute to global sustainability? What role will the decision makers play in governments, municipalities, business and civil society in changing the course? And, finally, what does all this mean for development cooperation and development studies.

#### Speakers:

- Professor Achim Steiner, Oxford Martin School
- Professor Susan Parnell, University of Cape Town (UCT)

#### Chair:

- Professor Joyeeta Gupta, University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Co-Chair of UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6)

