Wintersemester 2010/11
Bachelorseminar “Development Aid”

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First Meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 14.15-16.00h, 00.28. This is where topics will be allocated.

Seminar: Friday, January 20, 09.00-18.00h, Bibliotheks-Seminarraum
Saturday, January 21, 09.00-18.00h, Bibliotheks-Seminarraum

Deadline for enrollment: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Deadline for papers: Sunday, January 14, 2011, 23:59

Please send an electronic version of your seminar paper (preferably pdf, otherwise Word) to Hannes Öhler (hannes.oehler@awi.uni-heidelberg.de).

If you fail to meet this deadline, you fail the course!

After the deadline you will receive one of the papers written by another student as a paper for discussion. Please prepare a short critical review of this paper for the seminar meeting.

Grading will be based on: Your seminar paper (60 percent)
Your presentation and Q&A session (15+10 minutes, 30 percent)
Your discussion of another paper (5 minutes, 10 percent)
Your participation during discussions (at the margin)
(You will only be graded when present during all presentations!)

Language: Papers have to be written in German or English.
Seminar meetings and all presentations will take place in English.

Note: This Syllabus is preliminary
Topics for “Development Aid”

I. Theories of Development Aid

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II. Aid Allocation

2. What determines the allocation of bilateral aid?


3. Are ‘new’ donors different?


4. What determines the allocation of multilateral aid?


5. What determines the allocation of NGO aid?


III. Conditionality

6. A critical assessment of aid conditionality


IV. Debt relief as a form of development aid?

7. How did heavily indebted poor countries become heavily indebted?

8. Does debt relief work?

Cordella, Tito; Giovanni Dell’Ariccia and Kenneth M. Kletzer, 2003, Conditional Aid, Sovereign Debt, and Debt Relief, IMF, mimeo.


Hepp, Ralf, 2005, Health Expenditures under the HIPC Debt Initiative, University of California, Davis, mimeo.


Morrissey, Oliver, 2001, Pro-Poor Conditionality for Aid and Debt Relief in East Africa, CREDIT Research Paper 01, 15.

Sturzenegger, Federico and Jeromin Zettelmeyer, 2006, Creditors Losses Versus Debt Relief: Results from a Decade of Sovereign Debt Crises, mimeo.

V. Easterly vs. Sachs: Alternative Routes for Development?

9. Easterly vs. Sachs – A critical assessment of Sachs’s proposals to save the world from poverty

10. Easterly vs. Sachs – A critical assessment of Easterly’s critique of Sachs’s proposals


VI. Aid effectiveness

11. Does the effectiveness of bilateral aid depend on “good” policies?


12. Choosing the right outcome. Is bilateral aid effective after all?


Clemens, Michael; Steven Radelet and Rikhil Bhavnani, 2004, Counting chickens when they hatch: The short term effect of aid on growth, Center for Global Development Working Paper Number 44.


13. Is multilateral aid effective?


VII. Reasons for the ineffectiveness of aid

14. Why is aid so ineffective? Commercial interests of donors

15. Why is aid so ineffective? Political interests of donors

16. Why is aid so ineffective? Aid and side effects

17. Why is aid so ineffective? Aid and Fungibility


18. Can poor countries absorb more aid?
Collier, Paul, 2005, Is Aid Oil? An analysis of whether Africa can absorb more aid, Oxford University, mimeo.

VIII. Reform proposals for a more effective delivery of aid

19. Can selectivity make aid more effective?

Hagen, Rune J., 2004, Foreign Aid and Domestic Politics Implications for Aid Selectivity, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, mimeo.

20. Aid or trade – alternatives for poverty reduction?

IMF and World Bank, 2005, Doha Development Agenda and Aid for Trade, Washington, DC.
Guideline for Seminar Papers

Editing
You may use any word processing software that you feel comfortable with. Preferentially make use of LaTeX in case you decide to use a lot of formulas in your paper. Papers have to be submitted by Email in PDF format.

Style
- Font Size: 12 pt
- Line Spread: 1.5pt
- Alignment: justified
- border: 2.5cm

Length
The seminar papers should not exceed 12 pages excluding references, tables and title page.

Organization
- Cover (Include name, student number, title)
- Table of Contents: Number headings in the table of contents and the text identically.
- Table of Figures: List all figures (if any) with number and heading.
- List of Tables: List all tables with number and heading.
- (Table of Symbols: List all symbols and variables (if any) with their definitions.)
- Content: The introduction leads to and defines the subject, the body deals with the subject and the summary sums up the results in a critical manner. Number content, table of contents, table of figures, the list of tables, and the table of symbols. Reduce the number of footnotes to a minimum. Abbreviations have to be explained. Number only important equations that you refer to. Within the text argue in economic terms and not with variables. Orthography, grammar, and style are taken into account. Refrain from excessive bulleting and numbering.
- References
- (Appendix)

Quotations, References and Plagiarism

Quotations: use Harvard style, i.e. quote within the text and not in footnotes (e.g., as has been shown by Sturm (2006)…).

References: all studies that you have quoted in the text have to appear in the reference list. Anything that you have only read, but that is not quoted in the text, must NOT appear in the list of references. There are no restrictions on the reference style. However, consistency is required.

Plagiarism: any text parts (of more than two words) or ideas that are not strictly your own have to be marked. That means that the text has to be phrased in a way that makes unambiguously clear which parts are your own thoughts and which part repeats ideas from other persons. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your paper, i.e., you fail the course, and possible further disciplinary measures by the Ruprecht-Karl University of Heidelberg. Don’t even think about copy/pasting your paper from the internet. Each paper will be tested in that respect.
Finding Literature

The references that you get from us are only a starting point (and we will not provide these articles). You are supposed to do your own literature research. The first step in the search for relevant literature is to check the reference lists of the literature that we gave you. Good sources for economic literature, among others, are:

- http://ideas.repec.org
- http://www.jstor.org
- Business Source Premier and EconLit (via the university library website)
- http://www.nber.org
- http://www.cepr.org

A rule of thumb is that the list of references should have about as many entries as there are pages in the seminar paper, e.g., 20 pages, 15-25 references. Be prepared to read about the double amount of papers that finally make it into the list of references. Wikipedia is not a scientific source.

Deadlines

Make sure that you hand in your paper exactly on time. If you miss the deadline, the rules are strict and you will not pass the course.

Interaction with your supervisor

It is recommended that you meet your supervisor (at least once, but better twice) in order to discuss the progress of your paper. The first meeting should happen within about two weeks after you started working on the paper.