WORKSHOP

Tracking International Aid and Investment from Developing and Emerging Economies

September 22-23, 2017, Heidelberg University, Germany

Call for Proposals

Dear colleagues,

We invite your submissions of one-page proposals for papers to be presented at our workshop "Tracking International Aid and Investment from Developing and Emerging Economies," at Heidelberg University in Germany (September 22-23, 2017).

Academic research on international aid and investment has largely focused on OECD countries as primary providers of such financing. In recent years, however, aid-like financial flows and foreign direct investments originating from developing and emerging economies, such as China and India, have become sizable. Proposals may either answer novel questions in economics, political science or other social sciences, or propose methodological advances related to the challenge of tracking developing and emerging countries' aid and investments. Potential research questions include, but are not limited to:

- What are the factors influencing emerging donors' aid and investment flows?
- What are their economic, political, social and environmental effects?
- What are the methodological shortcomings of existing datasets and how can these be addressed?
- Are the datasets made available by AidData and/or Heidelberg University reliable? How does the reliability of these data compare to alternative methods to estimate aid or investment flows from developing and emerging economies?

Proposals are expected to engage with new datasets on emerging donors' aid and investments around the world, including but not limited to those listed in Table 1. Authors of accepted proposals will get pre-publication access to unpublished databases so that they can present a draft paper at the workshop. The aim is to have a (first) public release of these papers as AidData working papers in October 2017. Early access to datasets will be granted under the condition that the dataset(s) and resulting working papers will not be shared outside the group of workshop participants prior to the official release of the respective datasets by AidData and/or Heidelberg University during the fall/autumn of 2017.

We have the pleasure of welcoming three distinguished scholars as keynote speakers: **David Dollar** (Brookings Institution), **Helen Milner** (Princeton University), and **Nancy Qian** (Northwestern University). They have agreed to share their thoughts on the topic of the workshop.

The workshop is sponsored by AidData, Heidelberg University's "Field of Focus 4: Self-Regulation and Regulation: Individuals and Organisations," and the German Research Foundation (DFG), which will allow us to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for 12 participants. The workshop will take place at the International Academic Forum (IWH) in the picturesque Old Town of Heidelberg. Heidelberg University is one of Germany's Universities of Excellence and is the country's oldest university, founded in 1386. The city of Heidelberg is considered one of the most beautiful in Germany and is located a short train ride from Frankfurt Airport.

The deadline for the submission of a one-page proposal is **May 1, 2017**. The proposal should briefly describe the research question, the planned methodological approach and the dataset(s) required to answer the research question. Please submit your proposal at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=tiaidee2017. Decisions will be sent out on May 4 and, if required for the proposed research question, access to the required datasets will be given.

We look forward to your submissions.

Axel Dreher and Andreas Fuchs
(for the Organization Committee)

Table 1: List of available datasets

Name	Short Description	Links
Tracking Chinese Development Finance worldwide*	This dataset will contain project-level information on Chinese official development finance to Africa, Asia and Latin America from 2000-2014. The dataset, **currently being coded at AidData**, is close to completion.	*Forthcoming* ([click here for the earlier 1.2 Africa version](#))
Chinese Official Finance to Africa (georeferenced)	This is a sub-nationally georeferenced dataset of Chinese official finance activities that spans 50 African countries over the 2000-2012 period. It includes 1,952 Chinese development finance projects across 3,545 physical locations. In order to build this dataset, AidData applied its double-blind geocoding methodology to the 1.1 (static research release) version of its Chinese Official Finance to Africa Dataset.	[Documentation](#)
		[Download data](#)
Chinese Official Finance in Three Ecologically Sensitive Areas (georeferenced)	This is the 1.0.1 version of the Level 1 product of a sub-nationally georeferenced dataset of Chinese official finance activities between 2000 and 2014 in three ecologically sensitive regions – the Tropical Andes in South America, the Great Lakes of Africa, and the Mekong Delta in Southeast Asia.	[Documentation](#)
		[Download data](#)
Official Indian Aid worldwide (georeferenced)*	This dataset offers project-level information on Indian development cooperation (provided through India's Ministry of External Affairs and EXIM bank) spanning 108 countries from 2006-2014. It contains 1,207 unique projects often with multiple locations for each project. The dataset, **currently being coded at Heidelberg University**, is close to completion.	*Forthcoming* (click here for sample data)
Liberia Concessions (georeferenced)	This geocoded dataset release represents all concession licenses sourced, as of June 15, 2016, from the Liberian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), the Mining Cadastre Administration System (MCAS), and the Liberia National Concessions Portal (LNCP), along with additional information collected using AidData's "TUFF" open-source data collection methodology.	[Documentation](#)
		[Download data](#)
New Donors Database*	This dataset offers information on 120 countries from 1945-2015 on key milestones in their transition to becoming a donor of development aid. In particular, the dataset incorporates the year of a country's first outgoing aid project, the name and year of its current governmental institution responsible for aid provision, the name and year of establishment of its first aid-providing institution, and the name and year of its first aid legislation. The dataset, **currently being coded at Heidelberg University**, is close to completion.	*Forthcoming* ([click here for sample data](#))

AidData's Core Research Release 3.0	AidData's Core Research Release 3.0 is a snapshot of the AidData's entire project-level database from April 2016. This database includes commitment information for over 1.5 million development finance activities funded between 1947 and 2013. The dataset covers 96 donors and includes ODA, OOF flows, Equity Investments, and Export Credits where available.	Documentation
		Download data
Other donor datasets	Other datasets on emerging donors provided by AidData include:	
	- Brazil's South-South Cooperation, 2005-2011	Documentation
		Download data
	- Israel's Technical cooperation, 2002-2009	Documentation
		Download data
	- Liechtenstein's Cooperation Projects, 1981-2008	Documentation
		Download data
	- Lithuanian Development Cooperation, 2009	Documentation
		Download data
	- Taiwan's Lending and Investment Projects, 1991-2011	Documentation
		Download data
Other open-source data collection (TUFF) datasets	- Saudi Arabian Official Finance	Documentation
		Download data
	- Qatari Official Finance	Documentation
		Download data
Listening to Leaders Survey	AidData's Listening to Leaders program collects 360-degree feedback on development priorities, progress, and performance from the perspective of leaders in low- and middle-income countries.	Documentation
		Download data

* These datasets have not yet been made publicly available. We will grant early access to workshop participants under the condition that the datasets and resulting working papers will not be shared outside the group of workshop participants prior to their respective official release by AidData and/or Heidelberg University in the course of fall 2017.

Note: The beta release of AidData's new data extraction tool, Geo(query), helps researchers to more easily access and use geospatial data. Link: http://geo.aiddata.org/query/#!/