

#DIDat10

KING'S
College
LONDON

**DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**10
YEARS**



In 2022, King's Department of International Development celebrates its 10th anniversary

Studying and understanding development through the lens of 'emerging economies' is at the core of what we do.

Since our establishment in 2012, first as an institute and later as a department, our agenda has differed from that of traditional development studies institutions.

Our founders, Peter Kingstone and Andy Sumner recognised that for middle income countries, otherwise known as emerging economies, international development assistance no longer matters due to the growth of domestic resources and productive capacities. Nonetheless, middle-income countries contain large disparities of income and spaces of absolute poverty alongside new wealth, making development in emerging economies an important subject for critical study in scholarship and practice.

Over the past decade we have addressed global change in Brazil, India, China and South Africa, as well as much of Latin America, East and Southeast Asia and parts of Africa and the Middle East. Today, we see that post-pandemic growth is weak in most countries, fuel and food prices are rising due to the war in Ukraine, and populist nationalism



has taken root around the world. Questions have also arisen around fairer or greener types of development, alongside protest and resistance to the persistent inequality within and between countries.

Our team and students represent our global community, and our programmes reflect our multidisciplinary approach to understanding emerging economies and wider development issues. More than 1,000 students have graduated with us, and many have gone on to work in government, NGOs, the private sector and international institutions in the UK and globally – with a significant impact development challenges and achievements.

Professor Sarah Bracking

Head of Department of International Development

300+ 

undergraduate students trained

50/50 

mix local and international students

700+ 

master's students graduated

80+ 

countries sending students

40+ 

PhD students trained or in training

OUR STAFF



Luis Andueza



Ingrid Bleynt



Jelke Boesten



Andrea Cornwall



Devika Dutt



Regina Enjuto Martinez



Alice Evans



Yundan Gong



Charlotte Goodburn



Juan Grigera



Ingrid H Kvangraven



Aiko I Amaral



Nahee Kang



Ewa Karwowski



Jan Knoerich



Sunil Mitra Kumar



Amanda Lenhardt



Ye Liu



Andrés Mejía Acosta



Nithya Natarajan



Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez



Sanchari Roy



Alfredo Saad-Filho



Florian Schaefer



Paul Segal



Sean Starrs



Maysoun Sukarieh



Andy Sumner



Raphael Susewind



Sheba Tejani



Rafeef Ziadah

King's ranked second in the UK for International Relations courses in the Guardian's 'Best UK universities 2023'. This includes our BA and MSc programmes in International Development.

'This excellent ranking is testament to our influence and appeal to students interested in global affairs, international development, economic growth and social justice. After only a short 10 years of existence, our staff deserve appreciation for this achievement, and all the hard work that goes into providing a high-quality programme.'

Professor Sarah Bracking

Head of Department of
International Development

SELECTED RESEARCH

Unpacking conflict and gender-based violence in Peru

Building on the link between conflicted-related and everyday gender-based violence, Professor Jelke Boesten undertook an oral history project that draws upon the life histories of veterans who were stationed in the Ayacucho region during the Internal Armed Conflict in Peru. The project, funded by the British Academy, sought to unpack the ways in which post-conflict remembering can contribute to harmful gender norms – in this case, the extent to which broader structures of inequality influence soldiers' behaviour and their own understanding of that behaviour, especially when it comes to violence against women and girls. The research went on to contribute to the development of adequate post-conflict violence prevention policy and the narratives around the conflict in Peru.

The lasting impact of the One-Child Policy on girls

Since the dramatic end of the One-Child policy in 2015, the children of this generation have become a unique generation of men and women in Chinese history. How has their only-child status affected their life chances? How has this generation transformed Chinese society and culture? Dr Ye Liu's research examines the adult lives of the generation born and raised during the One-Child policy era and the impacts of this historically unprecedented demographic experiment on life chances, family formation, and intergenerational relationships.

The Poverty Paradox: questioning inequality in emerging economies



Analysis of the global poverty data carried out by Professor Andy Sumner found that, contrary to the established understanding, most global poverty is now in middle-income countries. Based on modelling future scenarios as far as 2030, he demonstrated that even on the most favourable assumptions, there was no strongly compelling case for assuming poverty in middle-income countries would easily disappear as countries became better off. More recently, Professor Sumner and Dr Ortiz-Juarez have found the overemphasis on extreme poverty, or the lowest poverty lines, generates a misleading perception of a major reduction in global poverty and they warn how forecasts of growth and levels of poverty ahead are likely to be overly optimistic in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Understanding financial incentives to equalise access to healthcare in India

To understand how to build better awareness of the Indian Government's National Health Insurance Scheme, Dr Sanchari Roy analysed the constraints to information flow in the country. She found that social barriers related to the Indian caste system may be blocking people from enrolling in the scheme. Employing local women to promote the scheme and financially incentivised agents improved beneficiary knowledge and achieved higher subsequent enrolment rates. However, if an agent wasn't incentivised, and was from a different caste than the beneficiary, enrolment rates were lower.

The political economy of the middle-income trap

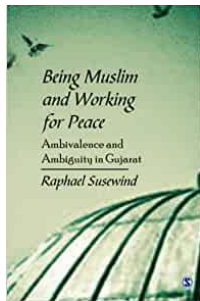
A 2012 World Bank study found that only 13/101 middle-income countries in the 1960s managed to achieve advanced economy status. This jarring finding fueled interest in understanding the causes of the 'middle income trap'. Why have so few countries managed to break through to high-income levels? How do political and economic institutions constrain economic productivity, and ultimately, growth? Dr Nahee Kang researches the political economy determinants of productivity that underpin the middle-income trap.

The role of finance in emerging economies

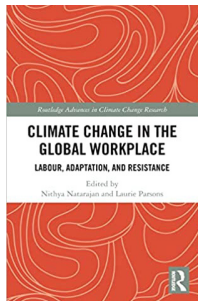
Over the past four decades, finance has become increasingly influential in societies around the globe. This phenomenon, known as financialisation, has detrimental consequences including rising inequality and the hollowing-out of democratic processes. Emerging economies are particularly affected since they tend to be well integrated into global financial structures. Dr Ewa Karwowski's research looks at how the socio-economic outcomes in emerging economies are shaped by the interaction of external financial pressures and domestic factors. Her work has found that regionally specific political economies needed to be accounted for, to ensure policies can effectively tackle the negative consequences of financialisation.



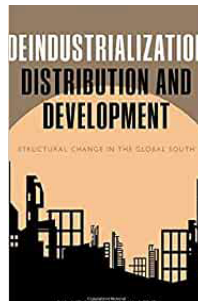
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



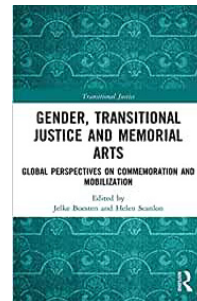
Raphael Susewind (2013)



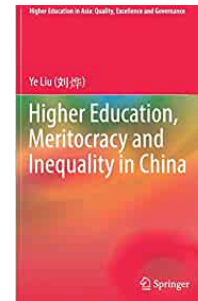
Co-edited by Nithya Natarajan (2021)



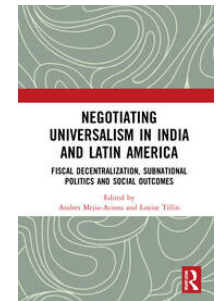
Andy Sumner (2021)



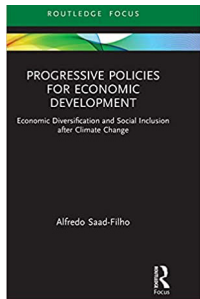
Co-edited by Jelke Boesten (2021)



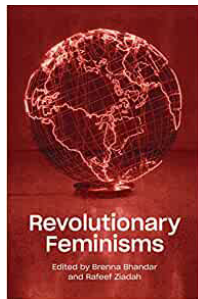
Ye Liu (2016)



Co-edited by Andrés Mejía Acosta (2021)



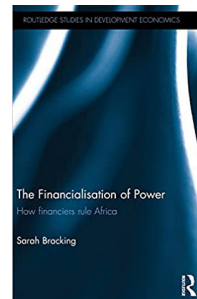
Alfredo Saad-Filho (2021)



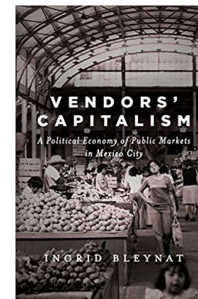
Co-edited by Rafeef Ziadah (2020)



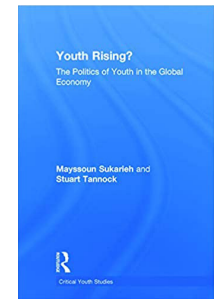
Co-edited by Juan Grigera (2020)



Sarah Bracking (2016)



Ingrid Bleyнат (2021)



Maysoun Sukarieh and others (2014)

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

Francis Thomas Aubee

Emerging Economies and International Development MSc, 2020



'Studying at King's provided me with technical and theoretical skills, and knowledge and understanding of

issues affecting emerging economies, by providing a historical political economy background and then going on to provide solutions to these issues.

It allowed me to see the bigger picture of development and then delve into the little details concerning what works and what doesn't. More so, I was able to research on topics, issues and countries that were of particular interest to me.'

Francis is an Economic Development Consultant for research think tanks.

Diding Sakri

Development Studies with Reference to Emerging Economies PhD, 2020



'One thing that exceeded my expectations at King's was the flexibility in approaches. For example, I mainly

looked at international development through the lens of economics, but another student took a much more sociological approach in understanding development and proposing solutions.

That kind of variety and multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and tackling the problem of development is something I found very interesting across the department.'

Diding is an Independent Commissioner of Bank bjb.

Elena Camilletti

Emerging Economies and International Development MSc, 2014



'The department really gives a broader overview on some of the development issues that different countries are facing.

When I studied in 2013-14, there was lots of emphasis on the BRICS but it's still so relevant today as more countries are moving up the income ladder.

There's a lot of focus on institutions which is something that sometimes we forget when we work in the international development sector.'

Elena is a Research Officer at UNICEF Innocenti.

Victoria Noya-Vargas

International Development BA, 2018



'The medley of studies and ideas that are available at DID, and the enthusiasm in sharing and exploring these, is unparalleled.'

Victoria is a Research Analyst at Globality, Inc.

Study with us

- **International Development BA**
- **Emerging Economies & International Development MSc**
- **Political Economy of Emerging Markets MSc**
- **Development Studies PhD** (with reference to Emerging Economies).

To learn more visit our website: kcl.ac.uk/did

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