



UNRISD NEWS

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development Bulletin

Transformative Social Policy

Social policy is state intervention that directly affects social welfare, social institutions and social relations. It involves overarching concerns with redistribution, production, reproduction and protection, and works in tandem with economic policy in pursuit of national social and economic goals. Social policy does not merely deal with the "causalities" of social changes and processes; it is also a contribution to the welfare of society as a whole.

UNRISD carried out research from 2000 to 2005 under the project, *Social Policy in a Development Context*. The approach was both historical and comparative, involving over 100 researchers worldwide. Studies were carried out in East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, the Nordic countries, and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as on thematic issues related to pro-poor macroeconomics, gender dimensions, democratization, commercialization of health care, water privatization, and public sector reform.

UNRISD research on *Social Policy in a Development Context* highlights the developmental role of social policy, even as it addresses issues of intrinsic value such as social protection, equality and social citizenship, and calls for rescuing social policy from the residual role it was assigned during much of the 1980s and 1990s. Sixteen key lessons emerge from the research.

Lesson 1 — Multiple tasks of social policy

Value-driven arguments for social policy must work in tandem with instrumental ones. Social policy must deal with four major concerns: distribution, protection, production and reproduction.

Lesson 2 — Ideologies matter

Ideologies are important because they determine motives and norms underlying social policy measures, as well as the weights attached to various costs and benefits of social interventions, and the moral entitlements of individuals to social support.

Lesson 3 — Social policy and poverty

Social policy in developing countries is not only about poverty eradication. Indeed, in a number of countries that have successfully dealt with poverty within a relatively short period of time, the relief of poverty was not even the most explicit motive for the introduction of social policies.

Lesson 4 — Late industrialization and social policy

Social policy is not something to engage in only after reaching a certain development threshold; nor is it an exclusive domain of advanced welfare states. Social policy is a key instrument for economic and social development, and many welfare measures can be introduced at fairly low levels of income.

Lesson 5 — The instrumental value of social policy

Social policy is not only an expression of normative values, but can also serve as a major transformative instrument

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in the process of development. The great challenge is to mobilize the instrumental value of social policies without undermining the intrinsic value of the goals being pursued.

Lesson 6 — Labour markets

Labour market policies are an extremely important arena for addressing issues of poverty and development. A common feature of all development “success stories” has been the pursuit of active labour market policy.

Lesson 7 — The gendered nature of social policy

Social policy is always “gendered” because it affects the participation of women and men in both household and non-household economic activities. How social policy addresses the “care economy”, in particular, affects the lives of women by either broadening their capabilities and choices, or by confining them to “traditional roles”.

Lesson 8 — Leaning toward universalism

For poor countries there is a strong case for leaning toward universalistic policies when addressing issues of poverty. Where poverty is widespread, “targeting” is unnecessary and simply too demanding in terms of available skills and administrative capacity.

Lesson 9 — Macroeconomics and social policy

In the successful developmental experiences, macroeconomic policies had social moorings, giving special attention to economic growth and structural changes as instruments for the social objective of eradicating poverty and improving social welfare.

Lesson 10 — The international environment for social policy

Social policy is imperative for strategically opening up economies not only because it provides the human capital necessary for enhancing competitive capacity, but also because it provides the necessary protection for citizens from the vagaries of global markets.

Lesson 11 — Democracy and social policy

There is no simple one-to-one relationship between political regime and social policy. Some far-reaching social policies have been implemented by authoritarian regimes. But democracy provides more space for the social articulation of interests and allows for mobilization in favour of social policies.

Lesson 12 — State capacity

States that are well institutionalized are better able to translate political commitments into effective social policies and delivery systems. State capacity refers not only to the direct provision of social services through public expenditure, but also to the ability to regulate and to build political consensus or “social pacts” for the coordination of initiatives.

Lesson 13 — Financing social policy

The instruments for financing social policy must be fiscally prudent and compatible with other social goals, including equity and efficiency. Successful welfare regimes have also tended to be higher tax regimes.

Lesson 14 — Social movements and social pacts

Social movements and social contestation are important determinants of social policy, both directly (through placing certain issues on the policy agenda) and indirectly (when social reform is driven by efforts to pre-empt or forestall social unrest).

Lesson 15 — A diversity of instruments

There are no one-size-fits-all approaches, with substantial differences in instruments (e.g., fiscal policy, land reform, social legislation, classical welfare measures, regulation of the private sector, etc.) used and paths traversed over time. The choice of instruments is the result of a complex interplay of forces unique to each country.

Lesson 16 — Policy regimes

Social policy should be formulated within a “policy regime” framework—that is, one that considers the relations among political and institutional contexts, and social and economic policies. Sectoral affinities and institutional complementarities are an important determinant of the success of social policies.

How these lessons are absorbed or translated into national policy will, of course, depend on national contexts. Furthermore, the complex interplay among the various policies suggested by these lessons must be borne in mind, as must the importance of context and the historical circumstances of each country.

Full details at www.unrisd.org/research/social-policy

2007 Research Updates

SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

www.unrisd.org/research/spd

The goal of social policy is to promote universal social protection and equity, while also being instrumental to economic development. UNRISD defines social policy as public policies and institutions that aim to protect citizens from social contingencies and poverty, and ultimately to enable them to strive for their own life goals. In recent decades, such a view has been marginalized by policy approaches that emphasize safety nets and the targeting of vulnerable groups.

Financing Social Policy

Duration: Phase I, 2006–2008; Phase II, 2007–2010

Research coordinator: Katja Hujo

Funding: Ford Foundation; UNRISD core funds

This project explores mechanisms for financing social policies in development contexts while balancing the principles of efficiency and equity. It assesses the extent to which specific revenue sources and instruments for financing social policy ensure sufficient, stable and sustainable funding. The research also identifies institutional arrangements that are conducive to achieving goals of democracy and economic development. Research questions include the following:

- What are the financial options for developing countries that aim to implement social policies in order to move toward societies that are economically productive, democratically anchored and socially inclusive?
- How are financing mechanisms and the fiscal space shaped by market constellations, legacies of the past, and current political and institutional capacities?
- What is the role of external actors, advisors, policy models and ideologies in determining the availability of resources and structures of funding?
- How do different revenue sources and expenditure decisions impact vertical and horizontal inequalities?

Under Phase I, 13 thematic papers were commissioned to weigh the trade-offs associated with particular sources of finance, including taxation, social insurance, pension funds, mineral rents, remittances and aid. Phase II involves in-depth research on each of these revenue sources.

Current status: A project workshop was held on 1–2 March 2007 in Geneva. An edition of UNRISD Conference News on the workshop and a Programme Paper on remittances, migration and social development were published. The project is now entering its second phase, with subprojects involving case studies and the comparative analysis of country experiences in financing social policy through the selected revenue sources.

Social Policy and Migration in Developing Countries

Duration: 2007–2009

Research coordinator: Katja Hujo

Funding: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); UNRISD core funds

This project studies the social dimensions of migration in origin and destination *developing* countries. Because most other research has focused on migration from South to North, the consequences of South-South migration are not well understood. Research questions include the following:

- How does migration affect social policy and service provisioning, and what impact does migration have on poverty, in countries of both origin and destination?
- How applicable are the existing analytical frameworks for studying phenomena like remittances, brain drain, the global care chain, or transnationalism in contexts of South-South migration, and what is their relevance to social policy?
- What organizational and political linkages have a bearing on social policy and service provisioning? Can trends in Southern regional cooperation on migration policy be identified?

Current status: A workshop was held on 22–23 November 2007 in Stockholm, in conjunction with the Institute for Futures Studies (IFS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). UNRISD, IFS and IOM have identified researchers to write six thematic papers and three regional issues papers (on Africa, Asia and Latin America), which address the relevance of phenomena such as remittances, brain drain and transnationalism for migration and social policy in developing countries. In-depth case studies on a selected number of countries are also foreseen.

Social Policy Index

Duration: 2006–2008

Research coordinator: Naren Prasad

Funding: UNRISD core funds

This project is constructing an index that ranks countries according to their social policy orientation. The Social Policy Index (SPI) is an input index measuring each country's priorities and efforts in terms of social policy. The index will be of use to policy makers, scholars and the general public interested in assessing countries' policy efforts and comparing them internationally and over time.

Current status: A dataset on the indicators is being created. An issues paper and one on the determinants of social spending have been written, and a Programme Paper on SPI will be published in 2008.

Social Policies in Small States

Duration: 2007–2009

Research coordinator: Naren Prasad

Funding: Commonwealth Secretariat; UNRISD core funds

Small states can provide valuable insights into how internal dynamics and external pressures interact in social and economic policy making. This project sheds light on the successes of some small states that have formulated social development policies to overcome their chronic vulnerabilities and improve their social indicators. It also investigates why other small countries, with similar or different policies, have not succeeded in improving the welfare of their populations. The research considers different hypotheses that explain such variations in performance, including democracy, social pacts, welfare state, levels of social cohesion/capital, and jurisdictional resourcefulness.

Current status: Thirteen country studies are under way (Barbados, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Lesotho and Swaziland, Malta and Cyprus, Mauritius, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States/OECS, Seychelles, Tonga and Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and Kiribati, and Vanuatu and Solomon Islands). A methodology workshop on the country reports was held in Geneva on 1–2 October 2007.

MARKETS, BUSINESS AND REGULATION

www.unrisd.org/research/mbr

Business-state relations and the role of the market in social development have undergone profound changes in recent decades due to policy and institutional changes related to economic liberalization, privatization, commodification,

and new approaches to regulation and governance. The implications for social well-being, equity and democratic governance are profound and are the focus of research under this programme area.

Organized Business and Social Policy

Duration: 2007–2008

Research coordinator: Peter Utting

Funding: United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID); UNRISD core funds

This project examines the role of organized business interests in shaping public policy, as well as in social pacts and other institutional arrangements for inclusive development. The research identifies and analyses patterns of corporate policy influence, with a particular focus on social and labour market policy and poverty reduction in developing countries. Research questions include the following:

- Under what institutional and political conditions do organized business interests move beyond narrow rent-seeking to support public policies conducive to broad-based development strategies?
- How compatible are lobbying by business interests, and other forms of policy influence, with notions of corporate social responsibility?
- How do today's approaches to engaging business interests in poverty reduction efforts compare with policy approaches and state-business relations that were effective in the past?
- How is the nature of regulatory politics changing? How effective are new modes of civil society organization and mobilization in promoting institutional and policy reform?

Current status: A call for papers was launched in February 2007 for a conference on Business, Social Policy and Corporate Political Influence in Developing Countries that was held on 12–13 November. From the 100 proposals received, 27 were selected. Authors ranged from senior academics to doctoral candidates, and came from both North and South. The papers and conference examined three main sets of issues: changing patterns of state-business relations and their implications for social policy; new forms of collaborative governance and social pacts associated with corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships; and the changing nature of activism that aims to promote corporate accountability. A summary of discussions will be published in an edition of UNRISD Conference News, and selected papers will be revised and published in an edited volume.

Negotiating Alternative Trade Regimes in Latin America

Duration: 2007–2008

Research coordinator: Peter Utting

Funding: Geneva International Academic Network; UNRISD core funds

This project studies the political economy of trade regimes and the role of non-state actors in shaping trade and regional integration policies in four countries where social democratic or Leftist parties are in power: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Nicaragua. Research questions include the following:

- What are the different forms of social contestation and conflict associated with trade issues?
- What roles have civil society activism and business lobbying played in shaping policy and institutional reforms that aim to address the problems associated with trade injustice?
- What types of social pacts, coalitions, alliances and compromises are conducive or resistant to reform?
- What types of policy and governance regimes facilitate or undermine activism and the scope for progressive policy and institutional change?

This is a collaborative project with the University of Geneva and the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED).

Current status: Research is under way and draft reports are expected in mid-2008.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

www.unrisd.org/research/gd

In recent decades women's presence in public life has grown, whether in politics, in the workforce, or in the migrant streams that cross international borders. Yet gender inequalities in power remain a persistent feature of the modern world and its institutions—markets, macroeconomic flows and social policy programmes; states, political parties and social movements; and the intimate sphere of family, household and community. Market-driven development strategies that ignore the unpaid economy of care or social reproduction, and political resistance to women's human rights (sometimes in the name of “culture” or “tradition”) have serious implications for promoting social equity and in particular for redressing inequalities between women and men.

Political and Social Economy of Care

Duration: 2006–2009

Research coordinator: Shahra Razavi

Funding: International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; United Nations Development Programme (Japan/WID Fund); UNRISD core funds

Human beings receive care from a range of institutions (households and families; states; markets; and the not-for-profit sector). Such care is an important dimension of economic and social development; how and where its provision is organized has direct implications for human welfare and gender equality. This project explores gender inequalities and power dynamics within these different institutions, and the implications of different care arrangements for those who provide care (on a paid or unpaid basis) in terms of poverty and access to social rights. Research questions include the following:

- How does the responsibility to provide unpaid care shape women's and men's access to paid work and social protection?
- How do universal and apparently gender-neutral policies (cash transfer programmes, family and child allowances, social pensions) affect the burden of care?
- What role do social care programmes (early childhood and school meal programmes, home-based care services for the elderly and ill) play in easing the burden of care-givers?
- Who provides paid care services in different institutional settings? What are their working conditions (wages, access to social protection, levels of unionization)? How do they meet their own care needs and those of their dependents?
- How does the size of the unpaid care economy relative to GDP (and relative to government expenditure on care) vary across countries at different levels of (economic and social) development?
- Which actors drive policy change in the area of social care? Do questions of gender equality figure in their agendas and programmes? How and where are women's interests represented and debated?
- How do broader economic and social policy frameworks, and political arrangements, shape policy responsiveness to care issues?

Cross-country comparative research is being carried out in Argentina, India, Japan, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland and Tanzania.

Current status: Two of the five research reports planned in each country were completed and discussed at a research workshop organized by UNRISD on 8–10 August 2007 in Geneva, and were subsequently revised and submitted to UNRISD by the end of November. A desk study on Switzerland has also been commissioned, and researchers are being identified for the case study of Japan, as well as for a number of thematic papers. Two of the background studies were published as Programme Papers.

Religion, Politics and Gender Equality

Duration: 2007–2009

Research coordinator: Shahra Razavi

Funding: Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe; UNRISD core funds

Religion has left the place assigned to it (by theories of modernity) in the private sphere, thrusting itself into the public arena and confounding the prediction that secularism would sweep the world. The way religion enters the political and policy space is likely to have significant implications for social equality, citizenship, democratic accountability, and women's rights to equality. This project addresses the following conceptual and policy questions.

- How do religion and politics intertwine? Are there distinct modes of insertion in different settings (or *varieties* of the religion-politics nexus)?
- It has been hypothesized that religion can “go public” at three different levels: at the state level; at the level of political society; and at the more amorphous level of civil society. Does this provide an adequate typology for analysing the role of religion in modern societies, both “developing” and “developed”? And is it a useful typology for analysing the impact of religion on gender equality?
- In many countries the interface between the “customary” sphere and formal religion constitutes a critical juncture where religious precepts are selectively applied or totally disregarded. How can this interface be better understood through comparative research?
- What are the social and political effects, for gender equality, of the blending of religion and politics?
- Analysis of mainly European and American experiences has led to the hypothesis that only public religions at

the level of civil society are consistent with modern universalistic principles and modern differentiated structures. Does this hypothesis hold for other contexts? What evidence supports it, as far as gender equality is concerned?

Current status: Three European case studies (Poland, Serbia and Turkey), eight additional country studies (Chile, India, Iran, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States) and two conceptual papers are planned. Researchers are being identified for the eight additional country studies.

Identities, Conflict and Cohesion

www.unrisd.org/research/icc

This programme assesses how development, social change and public policies shape identities, inequalities, marginality and conflicts. With three research projects concerned with identity formation and transformation among citizens of multiethnic countries, this programme focuses on the links between identities, rights and democracy. It aims to provide insights for conceiving inclusive and just public policies that contribute to social cohesion.

Identity, Power and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Duration: 2006–2008

Research coordinator: Terence Gomez

Funding: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); The Christensen Fund; UNRISD core funds

The outlook and preferences of many indigenous peoples may differ markedly from mainstream conceptions of development. Such clashes with popular notions of progress may lead to conflict between different groups within society, severe marginalization of tribal communities or to the infringement of their rights by their own governments and international financial institutions.

This research draws attention to such consequences, with the aim of fostering collaboration between states, multinational institutions and indigenous communities in the identification and implementation of sustainable models of development. It aims to raise awareness of the rights and the capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development path, and of the need for states and international agencies to create inclusive consultative platforms where these groups participate in decisions that affect their way of life.

Case studies on indigenous peoples in eight countries have been carried out: Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chad (and Cameroon), India, Nigeria, Peru and the Philippines.

Current status: The second and final workshop was held on 2–3 April 2007 in Geneva. The publication of two Programme Papers, one edited volume and one policy brief is planned for 2008. A publisher in Bolivia will also consider publishing a Spanish language edition of a short volume, which will include the project overview/introduction and the case studies on Bolivia and Peru. In addition, contributors to this project have published extensively over the year on themes related to the project, including articles and op-eds in *The Guardian Weekly*, *Economic and Political Weekly* and the *International Herald Tribune*.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

www.unrisd.org/research/cssm

Work in this programme area focuses on transnational activism, as global movements and networks increasingly combine their advocacy campaigns with alternative policy proposals. Research also examines how this international activism filters through to impact popular mobilization and initiatives at national and local levels. The nature and diversity of selected transnational movements are studied, as are their networking via various means and forums. Influence and effectiveness are evaluated in terms of emerging policy responses on the part of the political and development establishment.

UN World Summits and Civil Society Engagement

Duration: 2003–2007

Research coordinator: Kléber Chimire

Funding: Ford Foundation; UNRISD core funds

The increasing engagement of civil society activism with mainstream development institutions is particularly apparent in relation to the United Nations summits and conferences on global development issues that have been taking place since the early 1990s. These forums have provided civil society organizations and social movements with new spaces and opportunities for advocacy. This research addressed the following questions:

- Did the UN summits contribute to the creation of a favourable political space for increased civil society density and activism?
- What was the range and quality of civil society activities—planning, implementing and monitoring the principal agenda and agreed programmes—subsequent to the world summits?

- Did the UN summits stimulate more and stronger linkages among civil society organizations, both horizontally and vertically?

Case studies were carried out in Brazil, Chile, China, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to examine how the different summit processes affected civil society organizations, their networking and advocacy capacities.

Current status: A book was published in Chinese, summarizing the findings of the China national case study; national volumes have been translated into English for wider international readership; and a Research and Policy Brief was published in English, French and Spanish. A meeting was sponsored by the Ford Foundation on 19 March 2007 in New York to disseminate the principal research findings to representatives from UN bodies, NGOs, foundations and academia. Preparation of the final synthesis volume is under way.

Global Civil Society Movements: Dynamics in International Campaigns and National Implementation

Duration: 2003–2008

Research coordinator: Kléber Chimire

Funding: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; UNRISD core funds

This project studied social movements related to debt relief, international trade rules, global taxation, anti-corruption and fair trade. The research examined two sets of issues.

- First, the structure, institutional values and modus operandi of the selected global civil society movements, indicating how these have helped or hindered the emergence of robust transnational movements of citizens and civil society organizations.
- Second, how global civil society movements are actually faring in national and local contexts. A key question examined in the research was how citizens and national social movements were able to articulate their concerns and propose concrete suggestions within these movements.

Background and thematic papers were commissioned, and country case studies were carried out in Argentina, Bolivia, the Philippines, Senegal and Turkey.

Current status: National volumes were finalized on Argentina, Bolivia, the Philippines and Turkey, and the one on Senegal is being completed. The national reports on Argentina, Bolivia and Turkey are being translated into English, and the translation of the Senegalese report will begin as soon as it is finalized. The third and final issues of national newsletters were received from the five case study

countries. National stakeholder meetings were held in all countries to disseminate the preliminary research results. A workshop was held at the World Social Forum on 22 January 2007 in Nairobi (see 2007 Event Highlights, below).

Social Responses to Inequalities and Policy Changes

Duration: 2006–2008

Research coordinators: Kléber Chimire and Peter Utting

Funding: European Commission, under the Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 7—Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge Based Society; UNRISD core funds

As part of a research network of seven European universities (INEQ) and jointly carried out by two of the Institute's research programmes (*Civil Society and Social Movements*; and *Markets, Business and Regulation*), this project examines the nature of social contestation, activism and policy change related to North-South inequality. Particular attention is focused on five areas of macroeconomic policy and institutional reform: development aid; debt relief; international taxation; trade and subsidy policy; and corporate accountability and responsible finance. Country case studies are being carried out in France and the United Kingdom.

Current status: Three draft thematic papers, and seven research papers on debt (United Kingdom and France), international taxation (United Kingdom and France), trade, corporate accountability (France) and aid (France), were received. A synthesis report will be prepared by mid-2008. UNRISD participated in the organization of a summer school on Inequality: Mechanisms, Effects and Policies, held in Siena, Italy on 17–23 June 2007, which formed part of the activities of the consortium of European-based research centres with which this project is affiliated. A meeting was held in Paris on 11 October 2007 to consider the preliminary findings of the Institute's research. UNRISD also participated in a meeting organized by the consortium in Porto on 4 November 2007.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND POLICY REGIMES PROJECT

www.unrisd.org/research/poverty

Duration: 2007–2008 (Comparative Case Study Research and Thematic Papers); 2007–2009 (Flagship Report on Poverty)

Research coordinator: Yusuf Bangura

Funding: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland; UNRISD core funds

This research engages with current policy debates on poverty reduction from a developmental and social policy perspective. It aims to contribute to policy coherence and to an understanding of how “policy regimes”—political and institutional contexts, social and economic policies—affect poverty reduction. The project sheds light on the institutions, policies and politics that work in synergy to promote inclusive and equitable development, and that have made some countries more successful than others in reducing poverty. The project comprises three sets of activities: Comparative Case Study Research; Thematic Papers and the Flagship Report on Poverty.

Six broad themes structure the cross-country comparative research: development strategies and poverty reduction; wealth and income inequality and poverty; welfare regimes and social security; welfare regimes and the provision of social services; organized interests; and developmental state capacity and institutional reform. In-depth field studies by teams of six researchers are being carried out in Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa and Taiwan Province of China. There will be overview papers on China, Finland, Ireland, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the USSR and Viet Nam.

Five thematic papers look at some of the key topics being addressed in the case study research: developmental state capacity, institutional reform and poverty reduction; problems of data, methods and outcomes in tracking world poverty and inequality; institutional complementarities, growth strategies and poverty reduction; functional and personal income distribution and poverty; and welfare regimes and poverty reduction.

Current status: A methodology workshop was held in Geneva on 21–23 February 2007, which was attended by case study coordinators, experts working on poverty and policy regimes, and staff from United Nations agencies. The first part of the workshop was thematic, covering issues of institutional complementarities, growth strategies and poverty; welfare regimes and poverty; and inequality and poverty. The second part reviewed the research plans for the in-depth case studies. A report on the workshop was published as an edition of UNRISD Conference News. National workshops were also held in Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Malaysia and Taiwan Province of China.

The project will culminate with the publication, in 2009, of an UNRISD Flagship Report on Poverty that is expected to provide an important input to global debates on policy approaches to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction.

2007 Event Highlights

UNRISD was present at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, held on 20–25 January 2007. The Institute hosted a *Colloquium on Global Civil Society Movements: Dynamics in International Campaigns and National Implementation* on 22 January. This public meeting was well attended, and the UNRISD stand at the forum also attracted large numbers of visitors. UNRISD took advantage of the forum to discuss its research on civil society and social movements with civil society actors, and to gauge the relevance of the research for the issues that grassroots activists deal with on a daily basis. Three potential research topics emerged from these discussions: the question of youth engagement; the participation of intellectuals and academics in social movements; and the issue of funding and its impact on the shaping of social movement agendas.

On 14 February 2007 at United Nations headquarters in New York, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and UNRISD co-hosted *Building National Social Policies: Progress and Lessons Learned*, a side event during the 45th session of the Commission for Social Development. Speakers highlighted opportunities to enhance equity through the implementation of inclusive, transformative social policies in national development strategies. The issue is particularly relevant in view of the re-emerging consensus about the key role of social policy.

UNRISD participated in the Civil Society and Development Forum, A Platform for Development: Countdown to 2015, held on 28–30 June 2007 in Geneva by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO). As part of the forum, UNRISD organized a workshop on 28 June on *Development and Poverty Reduction: What Role for Social Policy?* The workshop concentrated on the legitimate role of the state in social policy, particularly for poverty reduction, and was attended by NGO activists from around the world. Conclusions from the workshop discussion were presented to the General Rapporteur for the CONGO event to be included in a statement to ECOSOC.

UNRISD and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development co-hosted a seminar at the Central American University, Managua, on 24 August 2007. A panel of national experts associated with government, civil society

and the United Nations discussed an UNRISD research report on *The Political Economy of CAFTA-DR: Lessons for Other Trade and Regional Integration Agreements*.

Seminar series on *Identity, Power and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*—The first of these seminars was convened on 18 August 2007 in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and co-hosted by the Universidad Superior de San Simón. The symposium was held at the Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia (CEDIB) to disseminate and discuss the research results and to secure feedback from academics, NGOs, government policy actors and indigenous peoples about the project's research findings and policy recommendations. Seminars are planned for 2008 in the Philippines (University of the Philippines, Baguio); Peru (Instituto De Derechos Humanos, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima and Centro Bartolomé de las Casas, Cusco); New Zealand (Auckland University); and Nigeria (UNDP Nigeria, Abuja).

Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World was the theme of a joint event in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Arab Women's Organization (AWO) and Cairo University in Cairo on 27–28 March 2007. A seminar on this theme was also co-hosted by the University of Panteion and the League for Women's Rights, Athens, Greece, on 31 May 2007.

Full details on all events at www.unrisd.org/events

2007 Staff Notes

UNRISD staff members undertake a range of advisory roles—for United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations, governments, NGOs, research institutes and universities. In 2007, UNRISD staff carried out advisory and consultancy work on over 90 occasions. Staff Notes provides a selection of their activities.

Yusuf Bangura

- Acted as panellist at a session on The Contemporary World System: Research Questions and Research Responsibilities, CODESRIA Strategic Planning Meeting, organized by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Cairo, Egypt, 17 November.
- Acted as a member of the MDG [Millennium Development Goals] Gap Task Force and provided comments on the draft of the methodology to monitor MDG-8 Gaps, for the meeting of the MDG Task Force in New York on 28 November.

K.B. Ghimire

- Gave an interview for Noticias do Inesc on Reforma da ONU: Uma Antiga Agenda que Permanece Urgente, 23 January.
- Made a presentation on Historical Dynamics in Social Development Thought at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 27 March.
- Gave an interview for Guang Min Daily on Evolving Social Inequalities and the Civil Society Sector in China, 4 August.

Terence Gomez

- Presented a paper on Ethnicity, Democracy and Rights at an international workshop on Human Security in Asia, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, 24–25 February.
- Member of the newly created Europe-Asia Working Group of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Switzerland; attended first meeting on 14 October.

Katja Hujo

- Gave a two-day training session on Financing Social Policy, including presentations and discussions with the division staff, at the Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon, 20–22 June.
- External advisor in a research project on L'émigration clandestine de jeunes d'Afrique subsaharienne en Europe: Approches dynamiques d'un phénomène complexe: Le Cameroun, la Mauritanie et le Sénégal, with Haute Ecole de Travail Social (HETS), Geneva, and the University of Geneva.

Thandika Mkandawire

- Participated in a roundtable during the African Film Festival (FCAT), organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Tarifa, Spain, 27–28 April.
- Gave a keynote speech at the conference on Poverty Challenge 2007, organized by the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD), Durban, South Africa, 26–30 June.
- Participated at a task force meeting on Africa, hosted by Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), Manchester, United Kingdom, 11–12 August.

Naren Prasad

- Presented a paper on Current Issues for Private Sector Participation in Water Reform at a workshop on Legal Aspects of Water Sector Reforms, organized by the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC), Geneva, 20–21 April.
- Attended the Consultation on Human Rights Obligations Related to Access to Water and Sanitation, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva, 11 May.
- Presented a paper on Socio-Economic Policies in Small States for Resilience Building, at the High-Level Seminar on Economic Resilience of Small States in Transition: From Vulnerability to Resilience, organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization of American States, Washington, DC, 18 September.

Shahra Razavi

- Made a presentation on Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World at the University of Panteion and League for Women's Rights, Athens, Greece, 31 May.
- Made a presentation on Gender and Social Policy at the Conference on Comprehensive Social Policies: Fighting Poverty through Investing in Social Protection, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Oslo, Norway, 20 November.
- Made a presentation on Women and Access to Social Protection and mediated a panel on the same topic at the Conference on Women and Work, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)/ILO, Geneva, 8 December.

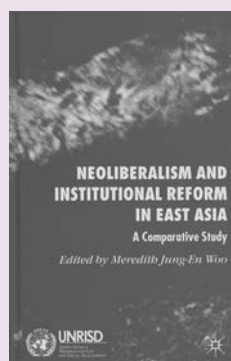
Peter Utting

- Held consultations with senior officials of the Nicaraguan government about poverty reduction and environmental protection strategies, Managua, 5 January.
- As member, participated in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Consultative Group on Corporate Responsibility Reporting, 15 March.

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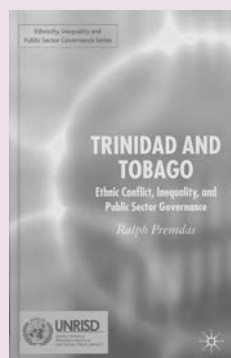
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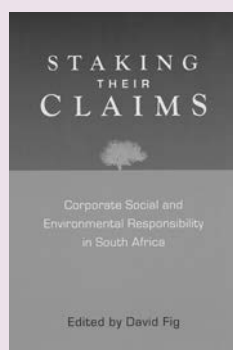
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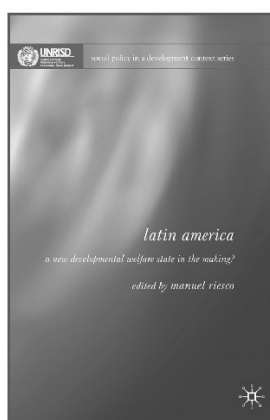
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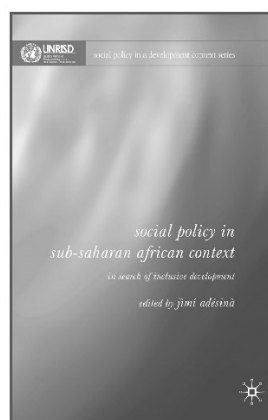
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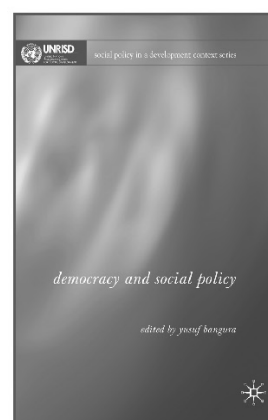
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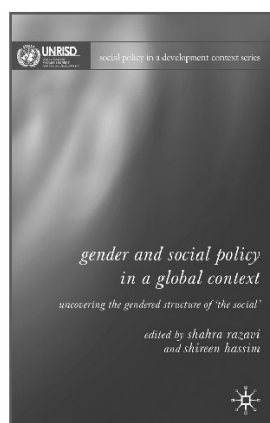


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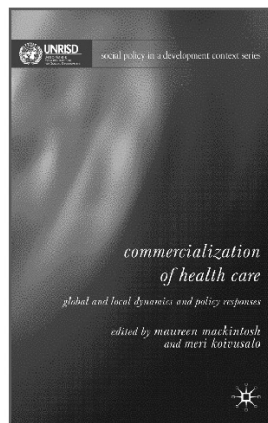
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