



UNRISD

UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Challenging Paradigms and Influencing Policy

UNRISD Research for Social Change
2005–2009

CONTENTS

Setting the Context	3
Research Highlights and Policy Implications	4
Poverty Reduction.....	4
Social Policy.....	6
Gender Equality	8
Corporate Social Responsibility.....	10
Activism and Policy Making.....	12
Outreach Activities and Impacts	14
Crafting an Outreach Strategy.....	14
Research Outputs and Reaching Users	15
The Influence of UNRISD Ideas	16
UNRISD Research Outputs, 2005–2009	17

SETTING THE CONTEXT

UNRISD research during the period 2005–2009 sought to respond to key policy challenges and debates within development thinking that were prominent during the first half of the decade. Poverty reduction and social policies, key elements of efforts to foster equitable social development, were receiving greater attention from national governments and the international development community in response to the United Nations summits of the 1990s, and mobilization around the Millennium Declaration.

However, questions remained about the processes for achieving effective and sustainable poverty reduction and social protection, and the nature of the institutional and governance arrangements that could deliver on objectives, such as the Millennium Development Goals. Issues of inequality and redistribution, and the structural change needed for sustainable development also required attention.

This report highlights key findings of the Institute's 2005–2009 research agenda, which aimed to address some of these neglected issues. The five-year agenda sought to build on the Institute's strengths and track record in areas of social policy, gender and the role of non-state actors and social movements in promoting equitable social development. It included a major inquiry into the dynamics of poverty reduction, culminating in the preparation of the forthcoming UNRISD flagship report *Combating Poverty and Inequality*. During this period, UNRISD also devoted significant effort to designing and implementing a comprehensive dissemination and outreach strategy to ensure that research findings reach key audiences, and are fed effectively into processes for advocacy and policy making.

Among the specific issues and questions that shaped the 2005–2009 research agenda were the following.

- In contrast to the experiences of countries that were successful historically in reducing poverty, contemporary poverty reduction strategies have increasingly focused on “targeting the poor”. How should poverty reduction and social development strategies be better integrated with macroeconomic policy frameworks, universal approaches to social provisioning and an analysis of changes in power relations?
- While many governments were making a renewed commitment to social policy and service provision, it remained unclear how this would be financed under different political-economy conditions. How do changes in, for example, fiscal regimes, commodity prices and remittances from migration affect the relative mix of revenue sources for social policy and protection?
- In recent decades women's presence in public life has grown, including their participation in labour markets. At the same time, they continue to assume the bulk of unpaid care provision in families, households and communities. What needs to be done to distribute unpaid care work more equally between women and men, and to socialize the costs of maintaining households and reproducing the labour force more evenly across society?
- Business enterprises have become important players in the field of social policy, providing basic services, engaging in corporate social responsibility and setting standards related to working and other conditions. How effective are these approaches?
- Civil society organizations have become more adept at networking and campaigning on issues of global justice. Have they also become more influential in reforming national-level government policies towards social justice ends?

This report summarizes key activities and research findings from projects in the thematic areas of poverty reduction, social policy, gender equality, corporate social responsibility, and activism and policy making. It also highlights some of the major outreach activities and impacts.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction is a central feature of the international development agenda. While a number of social development objectives were agreed by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, little consideration was given to the process required to achieve these goals. What accounts for the persistence of poverty when concern for its reduction has been high on the policy agenda? Why have some countries been more successful than others in combating poverty? How should economic and social policies and politics be organized to produce good anti-poverty outcomes?

This project reviewed contemporary approaches to poverty reduction, including those reflected in the MDGs and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The research was motivated by a concern that such approaches tend to treat poverty and inequality as residual outcomes of wider growth processes that can be addressed through discrete and targeted policy interventions. They fail to consider key institutional, policy and political aspects that may be both causes of poverty and inequality, and obstacles to their reduction. Such approaches are contradicted by the experiences of countries that have reduced poverty over relatively short time periods, combining economic development and active social policy in ways that are complementary and synergistic.

The research examined the complex ways poverty outcomes are shaped by the interconnections of ideas, institutions, policies and practices in the social, economic and political spheres. The findings point to the importance of:

- patterns of growth and structural change (in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors) that generate and sustain jobs that are adequately remunerated and accessible to all, regardless of income or class status, gender, ethnicity or location;
- comprehensive social policies that are grounded in universal rights and that support structural change, social cohesion and democratic politics; and
- support for civic rights, activism and political arrangements that ensure states are responsive to the needs of citizens and the poor have influence in how policies are made.

The project comprised two sets of activities. The first involved in-depth case-study research on Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa and Taiwan Province of China. Country overview papers were commissioned on China, Finland, Ireland, Korea, Mozambique, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and the former Soviet Union. The second involved the preparation of a flagship report, *Combating Poverty and Inequality*, which drew on the case study research, 41 background papers and other UNRISD research.

Several key messages of the research can be highlighted.

- The interconnections of policies and institutions in the social, economic and political spheres must be recognized if poverty is to be fought effectively. Poverty reduction is not just about having the right economic policies; it is also about pursuing appropriate social policies and types of politics that elevate the interests of the poor in public policy.
- Structural change can have multiple trajectories, involving different types of industrialization, primary sector or service-led development. Countries that reduced poverty used industrial, agricultural and active social policies to facilitate

employment-centred structural transformations. Conversely, development trajectories that are stalled in low-productivity activities in agriculture, mineral extraction or services tend to produce highly segmented and unequal labour markets, generate limited employment opportunities and offer little in the way of social protection.

- Equality and redistribution matter for poverty reduction. The MDGs and PRSPs do not directly address inequality. It is often assumed that what matters is absolute poverty or the level of income of the poor, and not distribution. However, high levels of inequality make it difficult to reduce poverty even if economies are growing; and poor countries are generally more unequal than rich countries. Poverty and inequality are part of the same problem. Inequality manifests itself in relation to wealth and income status, health and education outcomes, gender and ethnicity, as well as access to employment and social services. There is a strong case for redistributive policies to address these dimensions.
- Social policy has been an integral part of the development strategies of countries that have transformed their economies and reduced poverty relatively quickly. A number of welfare policies can be introduced and are affordable at fairly low levels of income as countries develop. For social policy to be effective as a transformative instrument against poverty and inequality, it must transcend its residual role of safety nets and deal with broad public policy issues of distribution, protection, production and reproduction. Successful countries have tended to invest substantially in education and skills development, as well as in health and social protection schemes. Social policies must also address the unpaid care that goes into sustaining families, households and societies by investing in infrastructure and basic services, and reducing the amount of unpaid care work done by women.
- Politics matters for poverty reduction. The protection of civic rights, active and organized citizens, well-organized and representative political parties, and effective states with redistributive agendas are all important for sustained progress towards poverty reduction. The participatory framework of the PRSPs (involving “consultation” without the power to effect real change or oblige policy makers to deliver) is of limited effectiveness in the absence of these conditions. Strategies to reduce poverty and inequality require institutionalized rights that allow citizens to organize and contest public policies as autonomous actors; political parties that are embedded in broad social coalitions; social pacts that give a broad range of groups voice and influence in shaping development policies and outcomes; and democratic regimes that are sufficiently competitive to allow for periodic alternations in power and prevent ruling parties from becoming complacent.

Selected Publications

UNRISD. Forthcoming 2010. *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics*.

UNRISD. 2007. *Poverty Reduction and Policy Regimes*. Report of the UNRISD Methodology Workshop (Geneva, 21–23 February).

Case study reports, country overviews and background papers are online at www.unrisd.org/poverty.

Social Policy

A social policy approach grounded in principles of human rights and universalism, with the state assuming key financial, administrative and regulatory responsibilities, is essential for the achievement of wider social development goals such as social justice, social inclusion and democratization. How is “transformative social policy” to be financed? And how do states—and developing countries in particular—address the new challenges and opportunities raised by migration?

Mobilizing resources can be a major obstacle for implementing a transformative social policy agenda, but it does not have to be. UNRISD research shows that financing questions must be considered as an integral part of social policy strategies, both in order to design sustainable and equitable systems and to strengthen a social contract based on redistribution, equity and accountability.

Social policy has important implications for migrants’ well-being and the broader development impact of migration in sending and receiving countries. UNRISD research developed a conceptual framework to analyse the linkages between social policy, social development and migration in a South-South context, which will guide future empirical research in this area.

Financing Social Policy

One of the main challenges for developing countries is to mobilize sufficient financial resources for social policy, and to build social programmes based on financial arrangements that are sustainable, equitable and conducive to economic development. Work in this area sought to fill in an important gap in research on social policy by studying options and constraints for financing in diverse country settings in contexts of globalization and changing policy models.

The research examined different types of resources (such as taxation, social insurance contributions, mineral rents, remittances and aid) with regard to their impact on development, social inclusion and distribution. In doing so, it questioned efficiency approaches which effectively foreclose discussion on alternative possibilities for expanding and diversifying the existing resource base.

The following research findings and policy implications can be highlighted.

- Domestic financing instruments (taxation and social insurance contributions) are best suited both to creating synergies between economic and social policies, and to strengthening relationships of social solidarity and democratic governance. However, external resources (aid, remittances, mineral rents) are considered necessary complements, especially for low-income countries characterized by large informal sectors, low tax takes and low coverage of social insurance schemes.
- Pension funds can be a source of finance for economic development as well as social protection, as the examples of Finland and Norway demonstrate.
- Mineral rents, aid or remittances create more challenges in both economic and political terms (“Dutch disease” effects, policy conditionality, the private character of flows, volatility, etc.). Nonetheless, some countries have managed to tap them successfully for social development. Resource-rich countries such as Botswana, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia and Norway managed the challenge of Dutch disease reasonably well, and mineral revenues have contributed to social development.
- Remittances can be used to finance expenditures on health and education, as in Guatemala. Most importantly, they can also lead to higher tax receipts, which, in turn, contribute to the financing of public policies.

- It is clear that poverty reduction requires greater investment in universal social policies, especially in low-income countries. However, more research is needed on the processes and institutions through which resources are translated into development outcomes, as well as on the political economy of budget policies and political coalitions to sustain financing regimes in the longer term.

Social Policy and Migration in Developing Countries

Migration is a central policy challenge in today's globalized and interconnected world, and it is set to remain so looking towards the future. Migration is increasingly important for securing livelihoods, offering new economic opportunities and providing income support and protection for migrants and their families. However, the changing global context also impacts on the quality of migration experiences, with the number of irregular and vulnerable migrants increasing. Despite the wealth of research on migration, the social policy–migration nexus has received little attention, especially with regard to developing countries. Similarly, the consequences of South-South migration—which accounts for half of global migration flows—are under-researched.

The following research findings and policy implications can be highlighted.

- The impact of migration on development goes beyond migrants' financial contribution to their home countries; it also includes social and political remittances in terms of transfer of knowledge, skills and ideas through diaspora or other networks, changing gender and family roles (especially independent female and child migration), and political mobilization of migrants in receiving and sending countries.
- Migration needs to be an integral part of social policy making, and vice versa, in order to foster synergies with regard to development, equity, social integration and the well-being of migrants and their families.
- Stronger regional partnerships and increased cooperation among governments and non-governmental organizations are necessary to address social issues via policies that span not only borders and people, but also social equity and solidarity.
- More research is needed on South-South migration and its impact on social development and social policy in order to strengthen the evidence base for improvements in national, regional and global migration-development debates and policy.

Selected Publications

Katja Hujo and Nicola Piper (eds.). Forthcoming 2010. *South-South Migration: Implications for Social Policy and Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Leonith Hinojosa, Anthony Bebbington, Armando Barrientos and Tony Addison. Forthcoming 2010. *Social Policy and State Revenues in Mineral-Rich Contexts*. Social Policy and Development Programme Paper, UNRISD, Geneva.

Katja Hujo and Shea McClanahan (eds.). 2009. *Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Conference News No. 23. *Social Policy in Mineral-Rich Countries* (Report of the UNRISD International Workshop, 24–25 April 2008, Geneva), 2009. UNRISD, Geneva.

Fred Hendricks. 2008. *The Private Affairs of Public Pensions in South Africa: Debt, Development and Corporatization*. Programme Paper SPD 38, UNRISD, Geneva.

Gender Equality

Despite women's increased presence in public life, gender inequalities in power continue to be a persistent feature of the modern world and its institutions, both "public" and "private". Transformative agendas of social change are constrained not only by the continued dominance of market orthodoxy in some critical arenas of policy making, but also by new forms of cultural politics that are being played out at multiple levels.

Gender analysis challenges the limited view of "the economy" offered by mainstream economic thinking, and seeks to make visible the unpaid work that sustains people and societies. With the consolidation of a market-led development model, public provisioning of infrastructure and welfare services has been eroded. Social responsibilities have shifted back to families, with women and girls often acting as the safety net of last resort. There are, however, serious limits to how far burdens can be shifted without damaging human capabilities. In this context UNRISD research analysed care arrangements in six developing countries, and scrutinized the policies that are in place to address social needs.

Where the state in its modern and secular guise has failed to deliver physical security, welfare provisioning or a sense of national belonging, traditionalist and religious-based scripts and organizations/actors have enjoyed a revival. In contexts of state weakness or in opposition to global inequalities, elites may find recourse to religion attractive as a legitimizing force. UNRISD cross-country research on religion, politics and gender equality has addressed the question of whether the dramatic growth of politicized religion has made it harder for women to pursue equality with men.

Political and Social Economy of Care

Care work includes activities and relations involved in meeting the physical and emotional needs of dependent children and adults. While this work contributes to well-being, social development and economic growth, the costs of its provision are unequally borne across gender and class.

UNRISD research in Africa, Latin America and Asia has shed light on care arrangements in some developing countries, about which little was known previously. Across economies and cultures, significant amounts of time are spent on unpaid care. In addition, paid care services constitute a growing part of the economy. Whether paid or unpaid, care work is highly feminized and often undervalued.

The following research findings and policy implications can be highlighted.

- Policies that support unpaid caregivers and improve the status and working conditions of paid care workers should be grounded in three key principles: recognize and guarantee the rights of care-givers and care-receivers; distribute the costs more evenly across society; and support professional, decently paid and compassionate forms of care.
- UNRISD findings challenge the view that only more developed countries can afford specialized care provision by the state and market, while poorer countries have to rely on unpaid family and community solutions. Infrastructure development, social service provisioning and social protection programmes can go a long way in facilitating the supply of care.
- Explicit care policies should entail a balanced mix of cash and time for family care as well as services that give unpaid carers the option of engaging in other activities, while ensuring a level of care and safety for their dependents.

Religion, Politics and Gender Equality

Most observers would agree that the liberal ideal of a “wall of separation” between religion and politics is not being realized. Rather, religions are actively invoked in political life. Given the seemingly close association between secularism and gender equality, how is this increasing public visibility and political assertiveness of religion to be understood? Was religion ever a purely “private” matter?

The following research findings can be highlighted.

- Few secularist states were willing to risk their political survival by radically interfering in matters of the family, marriage and personal laws, which were widely seen as the domain of religious authorities. The price paid for this non-interference on the part of the state was official endorsement of formal gender inequality in family/personal status (and criminal) laws.
- The nationalist thrust underpinning the use of religion in recent years has had exclusionary and divisive outcomes. It has marginalized ethnic and religious minorities and rescinded women’s rights across communities, given how religious norms and identities are often expressed in ways that deeply impinge on women’s roles and freedoms.
- There is historical evidence of religious forces taking an oppositional stance against authoritarian states, sometimes in defence of subaltern groups. Yet there is unmistakably a recent culturalist turn and narrowing of agendas that is producing highly inegalitarian outcomes. The areas of contestation between religious actors and women’s rights advocates include sexual and reproductive rights, personal status laws, women’s deportment (dress code), women’s economic autonomy, and women’s political participation.

Selected Publications

UNRISD. 2010. *Why Care Matters for Social Development*. Research and Policy Brief No. 9, UNRISD, Geneva.

Mariz Tadros. Forthcoming 2010. *Gender Conundrums for Faith-Based Organizations Delivering Welfare Services*, Gender and Development Programme Paper, UNRISD, Geneva.

Shahra Razavi and Silke Staab. Forthcoming 2010. *Care Workers in the Global Economy*. Special Issue with International Labour Review, Vol. 149, No. 4.

Debbie Budlender. 2008. *The Statistical Evidence on Care and Non-Care Work across Six Countries*. Programme Paper GD 4, UNRISD, Geneva.

José Casanova and Anne Phillips. 2009. *A Debate on the Public Role of Religion and Its Social and Gender Implications*. Programme Paper GD 5, UNRISD, Geneva.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Business-state relations and the role of transnational corporations in social development have undergone major changes in recent decades. What are the implications of these developments for social well-being and democratic governance?

Business organizations are increasingly adopting principles and practices associated with corporate social responsibility (CSR) and public-private partnership (PPP). Furthermore, business actors are increasingly assuming responsibilities for standard-setting and business regulation. UNRISD research examined the potential and limits of CSR, PPPs and “private regulation” from the perspective of social development. Trends reveal a very mixed balance sheet. They have raised awareness within the business community of environmental, social and human rights issues; gone some way towards filling regulatory and institutional gaps that have been a feature of globalization; and achieved tangible results in some areas, such as child labour, environmental management systems, working conditions in the affiliates of transnational corporations, and compliance with minimum wage legislation. But the number of companies proactively engaged in CSR initiatives is still very small; the quality of CSR interventions is often poor; and some key issues have been sidelined, such as corporate lobbying, “regulatory capture”, skewed power relations within value chains and governance structures, and the importance of binding legal regulation.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Public-Private Partnerships

CSR and PPPs have given rise to various institutional innovations with the potential to improve corporate social and environmental performance and contribute to poverty reduction. But UNRISD research has found that CSR rhetoric tends to outpace reality by far.

This not only yields a mixed balance sheet (highlighted above), but also points to four key weaknesses in the intellectual foundations of CSR.

- CSR literature is empirically weak, paying more attention to process and impacts on corporate financial performance than the concrete effects on people’s lives.
- There is a tendency to ignore the lessons of history regarding contexts that resulted in business-state-society relations conducive to social development. These generally included some combination of relatively strong states, social pacts with tangible benefits for all parties involved, cohesive labour movements, and corporate elites that were “socially embedded”. Contemporary drivers of CSR appear weak in comparison.
- Analysis of CSR draws narrowly on certain theoretical perspectives and ignores others which are crucial for understanding its potential and limits. This helps to explain why the CSR agenda is framed the way it is; how costs and benefits of CSR are negotiated and distributed within value chains; how CSR and PPPs can play an important legitimizing role for corporate elites; and the key role of contestation and activism in promoting socially responsible business.
- The analysis of institutional reform is often politically and institutionally naïve, ignoring power relations and institutional complementarities. It is important to move beyond corporate “voluntarism” and reconnect CSR with public policy, voluntary initiatives with binding legal regulation, and policy reform with contestation.

UNRISD research recommended the approach of “corporate accountability”—with its emphasis on obliging corporations to answer to stakeholders, penalties in cases of non-compliance, grievance procedures and redress—as an alternative to CSR.

Business Influence on Public Policy

To understand the changing role of business in social development, it is important also to understand how business interests influence public policy. This research examined instances where business influence has been “regressive”, “progressive” or “neutral” in Brazil, Chile, India, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Russia and South Africa.

The following research findings and policy implications can be highlighted.

- While governments often prioritize policies perceived as conducive to national competitiveness and foreign direct investment, this may stifle the design and implementation of policies more amenable to broader segments of business and society.
- Active and organized citizens, electoral competition and broad-based business associations all have an important role to play in fostering institutional and political contexts that moderate rent seeking and institutional capture.
- It is important to strengthen the organizational capacity of business segments that support inclusive social policies, and promote deliberative institutions that both generate the expertise required to craft innovative policies and facilitate interest representation and bargaining.

State-business-society relations were also the focus of UNRISD research on the situation of indigenous populations in energy and mining projects in Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chad, India, Nigeria, Peru and the Philippines. This research addressed a central paradox: despite the rise of CSR and the burgeoning number of charters, constitutions and laws that assert the rights of indigenous peoples, these rights continue to be violated and communities marginalized. This paradox does not simply reflect a gap between the law and its implementation; it reveals insights into the regimes of power at play.

The following research findings can be highlighted.

- Injustices have led to mounting protests by various groups and institutions that have increasingly adopted the concept of “indigeneity” to define the struggle and contest the violation of territory, knowledge and culture. But the research cautions against neat depictions of “indigenous peoples” versus “big business”, as well as overemphasizing the potential of grassroots struggle or CSR.
- Struggles tend to be more effective when they extend beyond indigenous-rights concerns to encompass those of a broad-based subaltern coalition (Bolivia) and/or when indigenous people themselves own and control resource-based corporations (Canada).

Selected Publications

Peter Utting and José Carlos Marques (eds.), 2010. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Regulatory Governance: Towards Inclusive Development?* UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

José Carlos Marques and Peter Utting (eds.). Forthcoming 2010. *Business, Politics and Public Policy: Implications for Inclusive Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Terence Gomez and Suzana Sawyer. 2008. *Transnational Governmentality and Resource Extraction: Indigenous Peoples, Multinational Corporations, Multilateral Institutions and the State*. Programme Paper ICC 13, UNRISD, Geneva.

David Fig. 2007. *Staking Their Claims: Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility in South Africa*. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, Scottsville.

Uwafiokun Idemudia. 2007. *Corporate Partnerships and Community Development in the Nigerian Oil Industry*. Programme Paper MBR 2, UNRISD, Geneva.

Activism and Policy Making

Globalization and liberalization have prompted new patterns of contestation and mobilization around issues of global justice. How are social movements and civil society organizations mobilizing to voice their concerns and influence the policy process? And how are policy makers responding?

The rise of transnational activist networks and the growing participation of advocacy NGOs in knowledge networks and governance arrangements have altered the nature of activism and how it relates to the policy process. UNRISD research examined the potential and limits of various campaigns and networks in terms of their capacity to enhance the voice of subaltern groups, bring different civil society actors together in a common cause and influence policy.

Case studies revealed that advocacy networks were often more successful in raising awareness and framing agendas than in bringing about concrete reforms. Nevertheless, in contexts where broad-based coalitions were constructed, and NGOs participated actively in “epistemic communities” and could find the right entry points in the policy process, various reforms were apparent. But the research also cautioned against exaggerating the role of civil society as a change agent. Major obstacles remain, including problems of fragmentation, lack of resources, sustaining campaigns, finding allies within government and elites, and institutional and political resistance to change.

National-Level Impacts of Global Activist Campaigns

This project examined the strengths and weaknesses of transnational movements and campaigns concerned with debt relief, international trade rules and barriers, global taxation, anti-corruption and fair trade. By their very nature, such contemporary global justice movements are spontaneous and informal networks, yet there is an increasing need for recognition from, and interaction with, national governments and international organizations. Case studies examined how global movements interacted with and impacted national-level civil society actors and policy processes in Argentina, Bolivia, the Philippines, Senegal and Turkey.

While impacts varied depending on at least three elements—the specific national context, the nature of coalitions and relations between local and international actors, and relations between the state and civil society—the following research findings and policy implications can be highlighted.

- Civil society actors achieved greater political visibility, more professionalized organizations and operations, and enhanced public and media influence. There were growing numbers of alliances with national elites, and some evidence of scaling-up campaigns initiated by local and national movements.
- As far as donor agencies, the UN and national governments are concerned, there is considerable scope for collaborating with social movements. Common platforms of operation exist in such areas as debt reduction, corruption control and fair trade. Their demands for change are increasingly accompanied by a range of alternative proposals, and social movements can be an important source of expertise for public institutions.
- There are many tensions as well. For example, the lack of a clear organizational setting means that social movements may not be able to engage in formal negotiations with public authorities. At times, movements have been excessively cautious of possible political cooptation, missing occasions to work with governments to bring about desirable policy changes. Similarly, governments, donor agencies and UN bodies still show a large dose of scepticism when it comes to movements’ accountability to their social base, and capacity to participate in policy change.

Activism and Policy Reform in Europe

As part of a broader EU-funded project on “Inequality: Mechanisms, Effects and Policies”, which involved a network of seven European-based research institutes, UNRISD examined evolving patterns of contestation and mobilization concerned with global injustice, and their implications for policy and institutional reform in three European countries: France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The research examined the dynamics of policy influence in five main issue areas: overseas development assistance, debt relief, international taxation, North-South trade relations, and corporate accountability. A range of policy reforms were apparent, including

- new legislation (debt cancellation in Italy; company reporting in the UK);
- policy reforms that modify traditional patterns of government spending or accounting (debt relief and increased levels of ODA in France and the UK);
- introducing ethical considerations into government policy (Export Credits and CSR in the UK, or slowing the pace of trade liberalization in Italy); and
- limited or no change in policy (trade justice in France and the Tobin tax initiative in the UK).

The research found that networks and campaigns often had more success in framing public and policy agendas, notably in areas associated with debt relief and, to a lesser extent, development aid, corporate accountability and international taxation.

The following policy and strategic implications of the research can be highlighted.

- NGOs should not let their roles in service delivery and in consultative processes overwhelm their efforts related to advocacy, framing agendas, critical inquiry and oversight.
- NGO–donor relations, conditionality and performance standards should not stifle critical inquiry into alternatives that may challenge the policies and practices of mainstream institutions.
- NGOs need to reconnect with social movements, as well as with political parties committed to redistributive justice.
- The delivery of basic services and the regulation of transnational corporations are fundamentally the responsibility of the state and not NGOs. Greater state capacity in these areas would allow NGOs to concentrate their resources and energies on other activities.

Selected Publications

J. Bendell and A. Ellerskiek. 2009. *Noble Networks? Advocacy for Global Justice and the “Network Effect”*, Programme Paper CSSM 31, UNRISD, Geneva.

Nora McKeon. 2009. *The United Nations and Civil Society: Legitimizing Global Governance—Whose Voice?* UNRISD/Zed Books, London.

Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem (ed.). 2009. *Localizing and Transnationalizing Contentious Politics: Global Civil Society Movements in the Philippines*. Lexington Books, Lanham, MD.

Fernando Mayorga and Eduardo Córdova. 2008. *El movimiento antiglobalización en Bolivia: Procesos globales e iniciativas locales en tiempo de crisis y cambio*. Plural, La Paz.

Wendy Harcourt. 2006. *The Global Women’s Rights Movement: Power Politics around the United Nations and the World Social Forum*. Programme Paper CSSM 25, UNRISD, Geneva.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS

Crafting an Outreach Strategy

In 2005–2009, UNRISD outreach was driven by four strategic goals.¹

- Ensure the widest possible dissemination—awareness, availability, affordability and access—of UNRISD research findings among actors engaged in development policy debates, decision making and practice, in the United Nations and beyond, through printed publications, electronic products and outreach initiatives.
- Raise the profile and visibility of UNRISD work through effective, targeted outreach initiatives. Track the use of UNRISD work in order to gain insight into its influence on development ideas, processes, policies and practice.
- Position UNRISD as an independent source of knowledge and information on social development issues.
- Provide publication and dissemination services of the highest quality to UNRISD staff, collaborating researchers and constituencies of users.

The Institute continued to take advantage of its unique position—at the interface of international organizations, civil society and the academic community—to create spaces for alternative thinking and dialogue, and to encourage sharing of knowledge and ideas in the international development community.

UNRISD used a range of research communication approaches to reach different audiences (a broad spectrum of policy actors—international, regional and national; governmental and non-governmental) and raise the visibility of its work.

- Translation of research into more accessible formats, including Research and Policy Briefs, and bringing results to users through speaking engagements, conference presentations and cross-constituency events.
- Participation in high-profile activities within and under the auspices of the UN system, including the UNESCO Forums of Ministers, UNESCWA Forums, UNDESA Expert Groups on Social Integration and on Equal Sharing of Work Between Women and Men, and the MDG Gap Task Force.
- A comprehensive website strategy that integrated new technologies and expanded the use of electronic communication channels (while balancing the fact that many potential users may not have access to the latest tools).
- Communication via “knowledge multipliers”, including radio, print media and web portals.
- Academic channels, including workshop and seminar presentations, journal articles and academic books, and building networks of researchers.
- Publishing through traditional Northern academic publishers, while expanding the range of partners to include new publishers in North and South, more paperback editions, and publishing in association with professional journals to achieve wider circulation and recognition.

UNRISD worked collaboratively with many UN departments, agencies and initiatives in 2005–2009, including:

IFAD	UNDESA	UNFPA
ILO	DAW	UNICEF
IOM	DSPD	Innocenti Centre
IPU	UNECLAC	Pacific Office
MDG Gap Task Force	UNEP	South Asia Office
OHCHR	UNESCAP	UNIFEM
UNCTAD	UNESCO	UNITAR
UNDP	UNESCWA	WHO

¹ UNRISD developed a new outreach strategy in 2005–2006, taking on board feedback from a wide range of constituents as well as the recommendations of an external evaluation by donors. (Deepak Nayyar, Signe Arnfred, Sten Johansson and Tapio Salonen. November 2006. *Too Good To Be True?: UNRISD 1996–2005* [Sida Evaluation 06/46]. Sida, Department for Research Cooperation, Stockholm.)

Research Outputs and Reaching Users

Publishing cutting-edge research

UNRISD maintained a high level and quality of research outputs (see table below). The majority of publications are peer reviewed or published through leading academic publishers, indicating their high academic standard, and the generation and sharing of knowledge in cutting-edge and strategic areas for poverty reduction and social development.

Bringing results to users

In 2005–2009, UNRISD staff engaged in advisory and consultancy work for the UN system, other multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society organizations and developing country governments, and participated in academic conferences, on over 350 occasions. This is one way that UNRISD engages directly with research users.

Technology at the service of outreach

In August 2006 UNRISD launched a redeveloped website. Regular development work was carried out subsequently to ensure that the site is put to optimum use and includes the most appropriate technical features.

UNRISD work is present on many research portals and specialist websites that pool research from different sources.

- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
- CIVICUS
- EADI
- Eldis
- GDN
- ICSW
- iKNOW Politics
- ISN
- NCCR North-South
- ODI
- R4D
- RePEc
- SARP
- Women in Politics Bibliographic Database
- WomenWatch

The Institute's website delivered an average of 270,000 full-text downloads per year (reaching a high of nearly 340,000 in 2008), including formats that ensure accessibility for low-bandwidth users. By the end of 2009 there were over 35,000 regular subscribers to the myUNRISD facility through which users receive Email Alerts and download research documents.

UNRISD experimented with a range of Web 2.0 tools, including the introduction of an RSS feed in 2006, the production of podcasts and contributions to social networking sites such as XING, Idealist, Eldis Community, Siryanda, DG Community, You Tube, Facebook and Twitter.

UNRISD produced three CD-Rom Libraries of publications, which, as a complement to print and web-based publication, aid accessibility of research publications in countries with poor Internet access. The CDs are

being used in UNRISD depository libraries², and have been disseminated to other university libraries in 137 developing countries.³

UNRISD in the media

BBC World Service, Kigali Radio and World Radio Switzerland. *Los Tiempos* (Bolivia); *Guang Ming Daily* (China); *Addis Admass* and *The Daily Monitor* (Ethiopia); *Süddeutsche Zeitung*; *Daily Express* and *Public Agenda* (Ghana); *The Hindu*; *Jordan Times*; *New Straits Times* (Malaysia); *Norway Post*; *Enfoque* and *El Sol de Cusco* (Peru); *Mail and Guardian* (South Africa).

² Participants in the UNRISD depository library programme receive all of the Institute's non-commercial publications. There are currently 236 UNRISD depository libraries, 75% in developing countries. Libraries that serve numerous users are one of the most effective channels for the sharing of knowledge and information.

³ In collaboration with the Tufts University GDAE Social Science Library.

The Influence of UNRISD Ideas

It is extremely difficult to track the uptake of ideas and influence, or to necessarily attribute ideas directly to UNRISD research. Nonetheless, UNRISD researchers have been key participants in numerous events and processes, through which research ideas and findings make major contributions to discussions that lead to important policy documents. Most recently, this has been acknowledged in the summary volume of the *UN Intellectual History Project*, with UNRISD contributions mentioned on several occasions.

The following examples highlight selected events and processes where UNRISD research has played an important role.

Engaging with policy makers

UNRISD co-hosted several events during the *International Forum on the Social Science–Policy Nexus* in Buenos Aires, Argentina (February 2006), providing a space for rich exchange between researchers and policy makers (including 14 Ministers of Social Development), on the role of social policy in promoting equality.

In 2007, participants in the UNESCO Roundtable of Social Development Ministers recognized UNRISD’s “tremendous expertise and experience in social development policy” and called for UNRISD to be effectively integrated in the research-policy networks being fostered by UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformation (MOST) programme.

Since then, UNRISD has engaged in several activities.

- The *9th Intergovernmental Council* at UNESCO (September 2009, Paris), with a presentation on The Social Policy Implications and Responses to the Financial Crisis.
- The *Forum of Social Affairs and Development Ministers for the Arab Region* (November 2008, Amman, Jordan), with a keynote address on CSR from a Development Perspective.
- Ongoing collaboration in order to strengthen research-policy linkages through the *Forums of Ministers of Social Development*, as recognized in the UNESCO Approved Programme and Budget 2008-2009 (34/C/5).

The Jordan Minister of Social Development acknowledged the work of the Institute on social policy in general, and in the Middle East region in particular, which, she said, would assist the country in its analysis of social policy.

Researchers also engaged with national policy makers in numerous other forums, including the UNICEF–ROSA Regional Policy Makers’ Symposium on *Social Protection as a Strategy in Transformative Social Policy* (April 2008, Dhaka, Bangladesh); the Commonwealth Secretariat/Organization of American States High-Level Seminar on *Economic Resilience of Small States in Transition*; the NORAD Conference on *Comprehensive Social Policies: Fighting Poverty through Investing in Social Protection*; and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Conference on *Women’s Rights and Masculinity*.

UNRISD research on social policy served as the basis for a report and policy note on *Comprehensive Social and Employment Policies for Development in a Globalizing World* (Stakes, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland). In addition to this uptake at the national level, these documents served as an input for discussion at the 45th Session of the Commission for Social Development (February 2007).

Influencing UN ideas, processes and outcomes

The importance of the Institute's longstanding contributions to thinking and policy practice in the area of social integration was recognized in 2009 with the participation of UNRISD researchers in Expert Group meetings on *Practical Strategies to Promote Social Integration* organized by UNDESA. These consultations resulted in the preparation of a resolution on promoting social integration adopted by the 48th Session of the Commission for Social Development (February 2010).

UNRISD research on gender and development has been taken up in many UN forums and documents. At the request of the Division for the Advancement of Women, a background paper was prepared for the Expert Group meeting (October 2008) in preparation for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2009), with many passages included in the Report of the Secretary-General, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS*. Research findings were also presented at panels during the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2008). UNRISD contributed to two Reports of the Secretary-General for the 60th Session of the General Assembly (2005/2006): *Women in Development* and *Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas*.

UNRISD research on poverty reduction has been taken up in a number of ongoing processes, including the drafting of the 2010 *World Economic and Social Survey* on policy coherence (UNDESA), and activities in the run-up to the 2010 MDG Summit. UNRISD participation in the latter discussions resulted in the highlighting of universal approaches to social protection in the Report of the Secretary-General to the High Level Plenary Meeting, *Keeping the Promise of 2015: A forward-looking review leading to concrete strategies for action to achieve the MDGs by 2015*.

UNRISD Research Outputs, 2005–2009

Year	Books, reports, journal issues ^a	Chapters in books ^b	Articles in peer-reviewed journals ^c	Other articles	Policy briefs ^d	Papers ^e	Other ^f
2005	8	16	3	4	6	40	5
2006	11	22	15	5	4	22	6
2007	10	17	9	4	6	15	3
2008	6	14	5	3	2	6	11
2009	5	6	7	1	3	9	5
Total	40	75	39	17	21	92	30

a Includes Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish editions (Gender Report)

b Counting contributions by in-house RCs and RAs, as well as external RCs contributions to UNRISD volumes

c RCs, RAs, and Fellows in-house

d Includes French and Spanish editions

e PPs and OPGPs

f Conference News/UNRISD News/2005–2009 Research Agenda/CDs; Includes French and Spanish editions