



INSTEP-WFU Cambridge

## THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The course will introduce you to international development as an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary subject. It will focus on the intellectual history of development; unpack the relevance of neoliberalism as the dominant economic doctrine and deliberate on the paradigm shifts and internal conflicts within the discipline. The course will deliberate on the 'good policies' prescribed by the Washington consensus. It will unpack the 'good institutions' which are essentially found in developed countries, and debate if these are appropriate for the newly emerging economies like BRICS and developing countries.

The course will deliberate on the many facets of economic development ranging from the economic growth to human development approach with a focus on the capability approach. The course will also offer a practitioner's perspective to development and will deliberate on the contemporary relevance of research to development policy and practice.

This course will provide a set of eleven lectures, ranging from the history to the politics of development. The lectures will have an interdisciplinary approach and be cognizant that economic development will require an in-depth examination of themes relation to but not limiting to governance, institutions, politics, democracy, human rights, gender, poverty and inequality. The course will be buttressed by all these themes and be constantly updated with any new contemporary development phenomenon. Artificial intelligence and human rights, and gender being one.

### Topics

1. What is development? A history of development paradigms.
2. Rethinking development economics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
3. The politics of development, or the kicking away the Ladder?
4. Development economics and Behaviour economics. A match made in heaven.
5. The politics of Globalization?
6. Institutions and development. Causation or correlation?
7. The politics of development, a case study.
8. Gender equality. What works?
9. Poverty and what works?

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- 10. Artificial intelligence and development.
- 11. Happiness and development.

## **Assessment**

Weekly readings in preparation for class discussion and presentation (25%).

A minimum of one 4000-word essay, midterm (50%).

Final presentation at the end of term on a chosen research topic (25%).