About IDS

The Institute of Development Studies is a leading global organisation for research, teaching and communications on international development.

IDS was founded in 1966 and enjoys an international reputation based on the quality of its work and its commitment to applying academic skills to real world challenges. Its purpose is to understand and explain the world, and to try to change it – to influence as well as to inform.

IDS hosts five dynamic research programmes, eight popular postgraduate courses, and a family of world-class web-based knowledge services. These three spheres are integrated in a unique combination – as a development knowledge hub, IDS is connected into and is a convenor of networks throughout the world.

The Institute is home to approximately 100 researchers, 70 information staff, 65 support staff and about 150 students at any one time. But the IDS community extends far beyond, encompassing an extensive network of partners, former staff and students across the development community worldwide.
This has been a year of milestones. We are halfway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target date. The number of the world’s people living in extreme poverty dipped below one billion for the first time in recent memory. On climate, all the major emitters have acknowledged that human activity causes climate change. Closer to home, we have had 10 years of working with the UK’s Department for International Development, DFID. More modestly, IDS marked its fortieth anniversary with a series of 46 Roundtables involving 1,300 people in over 30 countries across the world – all asking ‘how does development research have to change to meet the challenges of the next 20 years?’

The messages coming out were clear – people all over the world are increasingly worried about the same things: a greater freedom to ‘find their own way’, a reminder not to conflate development with aid, and worries about the weak accountability of the rich to those they are trying to help. All of these have implications for research.

Some of these common concerns – such as climate change, security and migration – require global or regional action and the case for global action is most credible if motivated and guided by globally constructed knowledge rather than knowledge generated solely by the rich countries. There are other common concerns that do not need global action. For example efforts to identify which public action successfully stimulates private investment; or which mobilise civil society to help achieve policy changes that minimise risks for the most vulnerable; or ways to evolve health and water systems to work for the poorest or just to reduce inequality. These are all common goals and yet different countries have different capacities to address them.

Following on from this there is a greater recognition that different development pathways are possible. The simple dichotomies are fading away – market and state, growth and protection, North and South, open or closed, right versus left – and there is more space for country-specific ideas for both defining and achieving development. There is great potential for learning from experiences across a range of countries and this must be realised by contrasting seemingly different contexts in the hope of generating greater insights. Where is the comparative work on cash transfers between New York City and Mexico City? On participatory budgeting comparing France with Brazil? On public attitudes to vaccination in the UK and the Gambia? On disaster prevention and management in Louisiana and South Africa?

Participants in the Roundtables lamented the tendency to confuse development with aid and some were extremely dismissive of the latter. It is easy to err one way or the other – is aid helping development or simply post-colonial guilt? We know deep down that aid can help and the challenge now is to learn how aid does the most good – as defined by those who choose to receive it. An even bigger challenge is to find how pressure can be placed on the richer countries to make their laws and policies in the areas of security, trade, narcotics, arms and financial transactions more conducive to poverty-reducing development. It is far harder to convince special interest groups in these countries to give up something than it is to convince the general public that some of their taxes should go on aid.

Finally, many attending our Roundtable events remarked on the ‘development industry’s’ weak accountability to the citizens of the countries it is trying to help. Does the need to be accountable to rich-country taxpayers, coupled with the weak ability of developing country governments and citizens to hold donors (and the research institutes they fund) to account, lead to low-risk low-return behaviours and a failure to search for more internally driven solutions and champions?

Is any of this changing the way IDS works? If not I would be very disappointed and, more importantly, so too would the stakeholders involved in the IDS40 process. So how are we responding to these ideas?

IDS must become a centre for ‘360 degree research’, where we see ourselves as the co-creators of knowledge rather than practitioners of detached scholarship. In partnership with others our research should focus on social change in different contexts and from different angles in order to produce a ‘family’ of development stories which can learn from one another.

To approach converging concerns and the links between global action and globally constructed knowledge, we are developing practical tools to link multi-sited knowledge – mainly through the ways we work with our
partners and new networks. To start with these ideas will be explored in our work on climate change and on the capacity to generate, use, share and act on knowledge.

In terms of ‘finding your own way’ and the imperative to learn across different contexts, we recently organised an international learning event with representatives from Brazil, India, Chile, South Africa, Nigeria and many other countries. These delegates met with UK local-government staff, citizen representatives and elected officials to discover how citizens from both the North and South participate in local politics and contribute to decisions that affect their communities.

On resisting the tendency to confuse aid with development we are renewing our commitments to work on private investment, trade and security, and with our Asian Drivers network we are exploring the effects that emerging economies are having on the poorest countries – both in creating new opportunities and shutting them out of others.

For accountability, we continue to challenge our donors. One initiative focused on a group that the MDGs seem to have forgotten – infants. Working with Save the Children UK our research concluded that DFID and the EC need to, and could, do so much more to improve children’s nutritional status. We are also holding ourselves to account and in the coming year we will be seeking resources for an external stakeholder analysis of IDS’ work. We want to hear from our audiences and stakeholders on how well we are fulfilling our mission – to use fresh analysis to inform and influence development ideas, policy and practice. In the coming year we will continue to identify alternative ideas for sustainable development, come and find them with us.

“IDS must become a centre for ‘360 degree research’, where we see ourselves as the co-creators of knowledge rather than practitioners of detached scholarship.”

Professor Lawrence Haddad
Director, August 2007
Influencing the Debate

At IDS we believe that our work is only as useful as the influence it exerts outside our walls and, most importantly, the way it shapes development policy and practice. We want to engage our external stakeholders in a dynamic conversation where we can share our research and knowledge. This dialogue ensures our research is informed by learning from others and can absorb the diversity of perspectives that they offer.

We communicate about our work through a variety of channels, including our extensive publishing programme, the website, events, media work and the alumni network. IDS’ fortieth anniversary provided us with a particular opportunity to communicate with our key stakeholders and to engage them in a discussion about the future of development research. Below are just some examples of influencing and communications work we have done over the past year.

**IDS Fortieth Anniversary Conference**
In September 2006, as part of our fortieth anniversary celebrations, IDS hosted a major international conference on the theme, *Reinventing Development Research*. We welcomed over 120 researchers, activists and practitioners to reflect on 40 years of development research, and looked at the key issues facing our globe in the next 40 years. A conference report has been published and is available at:

[www.ids.ac.uk/ids/aboutids/anniv/docs/confreport_web.pdf](http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/aboutids/anniv/docs/confreport_web.pdf)

**EADI Directors’ Forum**
IDS hosted the 2006 European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes’ Directors’ Forum, with keynote speaker Kemal Dervis. The event, titled *Shaping the Future of Development Research – Key Issues for the Agenda of EADI*, was an opportunity for Lawrence Haddad to speak on *Reinventing Development Research* and the results of the IDS40 Roundtable research.

**DSA Policy Forum**
IDS joined with the Overseas Development Institute to co-ordinate *Africa After the Africa Commission: What Priorities for the German G8?* – a Development Studies Association (DSA)/DFID high-level policy forum. The meeting brought together parliamentarians, policymakers, researchers and NGOs to review the lessons of the Africa Commission, set up by Tony Blair in 2004, and to take them forward to this year’s G8 summit.

**Sussex Development Lectures**
The Sussex Development Lectures are run jointly between IDS and the University of Sussex – including the Centre for Culture, Development and Environment, the Centre for International Education, and the Science and Policy Research Unit (SPRU). This year marked their tenth anniversary and featured lectures by Kemal Dervis, Head of the UN Development Programme, speaking about convergence and divergence in international development; and Kevin Watkins, Lead Author of the Human Development Report, on issues surrounding water scarcity and sanitation – as well as a number of IDS and Sussex academics. Next year speakers will include Andrew Mitchell, Shadow Secretary for International Development, and Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty UK.

“At IDS we believe that our work is only as useful as the influence it exerts outside our walls and, most importantly, the way it shapes development policy and practice.”
STEPS
Researchers from IDS' Knowledge, Technology and Society Team (KNOTS) have joined together with SPRU and a network of partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America to launch the Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS) Centre. STEPS, a global research and policy engagement centre, will bring development studies together with science and technology studies with the aims of linking environmental sustainability with better livelihoods and health, and making science and technology work to reduce poverty and increase social justice. The launch, held at Westminster, included speakers from Greenpeace, Demos and Practical Action.

Dangerous Ideas in Development
IDS brought together local government officials from around the world to share ways of getting citizens more involved in shaping their communities. Forty-five local government and community engagement practitioners from the UK and 14 other countries in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Latin America explored the challenges they face as officers and elected representatives, working within local government, trying to promote citizen engagement, and as citizens working from the outside to try to engage with local governments.

New Centre for Social Protection Launched at IDS
The Centre for Social Protection, based at IDS, was launched with a workshop in November that brought together researchers, policymakers and practitioners from around the globe. The Centre aims to provide a global focus for research, policy analysis, and capacity building on social protection.

Public Affairs
IDS continues to work with UK parliamentarians and policymakers to inform their work. Hilary Standing, IDS Fellow and Director of the Realising Rights Consortium, a major research partnership on sexual and reproductive health rights, contributed evidence to a new All Party Parliamentary Group Report that stresses the need for greater attention to reproductive health rights to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. IDS Fellow Thomas Tanner met with members of the Conservative Party task force on international development to discuss the environmental and climate change aspects of their strategy on international development. Following the issue of a working paper by IDS Fellow Mark Robinson, the World Bank hosted a special panel discussion on Civil Society Impact on Budgetary Priorities, Transparency and Results at its headquarters in Washington, DC.

BRIDGE Gender and Sexuality Publication Nominated for Award
The BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack on Gender and Sexuality was nominated for Publication of the Year 2007 in the Erotic Awards. The Cutting Edge Pack aims to inspire development interventions to focus on how sexuality can bring pleasure, affirmation and joy rather than treating sexuality as a problem to do with violence, ill-health and population control.

IDS Alumni
IDS Alumni continue to exert a wide influence in the international development community. Our alumni can be found in 14 UN agencies, they represent in the regional development banks, they work in bilateral aid agencies in Canada, Denmark, Japan, Norway, the UK and the US and across some 20 international NGOs. A significant proportion have remained in research and teaching – rising to head up their national development teaching and research institutes or development departments – and in turn encouraging new generations to be concerned about poverty and the problems of development. A small number have become their country’s ambassadors to national governments or international agencies. Through the IDS Alumni Association these development professionals and experts can network with other alumni throughout the world. For more information visit www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni

Brighton Festival Lecture Series
IDS joined in the Brighton Festival Fringe to engage with our local community through Global Development: Small World, Same Difference? a series of events looking at the common challenges faced by ordinary citizens in Brighton and the world over. Topics covered the themes of sexuality, HIV/AIDS, migrant workers’ rights and the influence that individual citizens can have on local and national policy.

News, Commentary and Analysis
Through the IDS website our Fellows regularly contribute short, incisive comments on current news stories and new developments around the world. This year we have posted more than 30 commentaries, web discussions and blogs on subjects including the World Bank leadership crisis, climate change, World Health Day and microfinance. Our Fellows also regularly comment in the media. This year coverage has included Linda Waldman’s research on the social impacts of asbestos exposure in both South Africa and the UK; an IDS report commissioned by the Ethical Trading Initiative, and the launch of the STEPS Centre. Our work has been covered in the UK’s Guardian, Financial Times and The Economist, and internationally in publications including The Times of India, La Vanguardia (Spain) and CartaCapital (Brazil) among many others.

Champions of Participation
IDS brought together local government officials from around the world to share ways of getting citizens more involved in shaping their communities.

For more information visit www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni
The old world order is rapidly changing: global economic integration is growing, the balance of economic and political power in the global economy is shifting and volatility is increasing. These changes have substantial consequences for development prospects, poverty reduction and the aid business. The Globalisation Team’s goal is to understand these changes and to inform policy responses to them in both Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries and developing economies.

Part of the Team’s work characterises the novelty of these changes and the depth of their impact. Ricardo Gottschalk’s work on global banking regulation demonstrates the impact of apparently arcane international banking rules on lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Brazil and India. His work on commodity booms has highlighted the macroeconomic challenges facing countries that have suddenly shifted, from facing declining terms of trade for the commodity exports, to rapidly rising prices and demand. Similarly, Hubert Schmitz is investigating the ways in which the global organisation of innovation activities in manufacturing are opening up new opportunities for developing countries to move up the value chain and compete with OECD countries.

Stephany Griffith-Jones’ work on global financial markets has both explored the world of derivatives and the volatility that they create and also looked at how global financial markets can be harnessed for development objectives. Work on regional integration is looking at the causes of rapid growth in Asia and the potential for regional integration in Africa to promote growth. Work on innovation global economy is exploring how developing countries can upgrade their economies and become global innovators.
Innovation in the Indian IT Software Industry

Will IT firms in India be able to innovate and move up the value chain – increasing their revenues and challenging developed country firms for higher-value business? IDS DPhil candidate Rasmus Lema is investigating the extent and causes of innovation capability-building in Indian IT software companies.

In-depth studies of key ‘innovation events’ in Bangalore firms show that capability building is possible despite the relative weakness of the local innovation system. Capability was primarily based on learning efforts within firms and their insertion in global value chains. The research shows that – although the Indian software industry is still dominated by labour intensive, routine-based tasks – a select group of firms is leading the transition to innovation and India’s emergence as a hot spot for certain skill-sets. This transition is still confined to a limited number of firms and functions but is already changing the basis on which Indian IT firms compete globally.

Meeting EU Food Safety Standards: Production Systems, Market Access and Donor Interventions

Research by John Humphrey on public and private food safety standards in Europe shows how a shift in food safety philosophy towards controlling processes along the whole value chain (the ‘farm to fork’ approach), and placing responsibility on food businesses for food safety, creates new challenges for developing country producers and exporters.

For food of animal origin (meat, fish, dairy, etc.) the EU’s insistence that food safety systems in exporting countries must be equivalent to those in the EU places a considerable burden on the regulatory capacity of governments in developing countries.

For food of non-animal origin, the EU puts responsibility for food safety onto importers and retailers. Retailers have responded by introducing private standards such as the EUREPGAP standard for horticulture. These impose new obligations and costs, with particular challenges for the small farmers that have to meet new requirements for farm-level controls. Donors have been active in supporting certification of small farmers, but they have not fully understood the issues.

IDS and IDS (Sussex and Nairobi) have had strong links since both institutes were established over 40 years ago. Over the last decade or so, common interests between Nairobi researchers and members of the Globalisation Team have strengthened the connections between the two organisations. The earliest work focused on Industrial Clusters, an extremely fruitful line of research that has continued long after the initial project ended in 1998. An IDS workshop on Spreading the Gains from Globalisation in 1999 led us to form the African Clothing and Footwear Research Network in 2001. We have also participated in the current research programmes on Global Value Chains and Asian Drivers.

I strongly believe that this type of collaboration is mutually beneficial. IDS Nairobi benefits from being regularly exposed to the ideas and theories that come from the Globalisation Team. We find ourselves being pulled beyond old theories to explore new, cutting edge notions of how development does and does not happen. At the same time I think that IDS Sussex gains from linking through us to African researchers and research networks, as well as from our immersion in the realities of life on the ground in Africa.
Asian Drivers: China, India and Development

By Professor John Humphrey, IDS Research Fellow

The IDS fortieth anniversary workshops and conference highlighted the dramatic shifts that have taken place in global development and the challenges that this poses for development research. The many reflections on development issues around the world frequently noted the rise of China and India and its implications for development.

The Globalisation Team’s Asian Drivers research programme focuses on this issue, and in so doing it takes up various themes arising from the fortieth anniversary process. The first of these is clearly the move beyond the North-South dichotomy, which has been at the heart of development policy and development research. It informs thinking about issues such as global governance (developing countries need more voice), trade rules (special and differential treatment for developing countries), and aid (this flows from the North – OECD countries – to the South).

The rising global powers challenge this dichotomy as two large and, until recently, poor economies begin to drive economic and political change internationally. There are new and influential actors on the global stage whose interests have to be addressed and incorporated as the world struggles to produce global public goods such as financial stability and responses to climate change and security. These will have consequences for the OECD countries as well as developing countries.

At the same time these rising powers in the global economy affect both development and the aid agenda. Historically much development thinking assumes the superiority of, or at least the dominance of, the West. The rise of Asia shows that new economies are the global success stories and their expansion is shaping global growth and development. Now these countries are becoming more active as trading partners, investors and donors for other developing countries.

New multiple Southern policy agendas – backed up by financial muscle, the credibility that goes with rapid growth and an intellectual and policymaking capacity – are forcing a reinvention of development studies. IDS staff, working through the Asian Drivers research programme, are addressing these issues through new partnerships with researchers in Europe and the developing world. In the past year work on global finance has been taken forward through a major international workshop in Bangkok that brought together researchers and policymakers to address the question of Asian financial stability. In Africa the team has been supporting the African Economic Research Consortium’s work to develop a research programme on the implications for Africa of the rise of Asia. Ricardo Gottschalk has investigated the macroeconomic challenges to Latin American countries facing export commodity booms. Hubert Schmitz, working with collaborators in Germany and Brazil, is exploring whether the growth of manufacturing production in these countries will be followed by an increased capacity for innovation. Finally Jing Gu and John Humphrey are developing a collaboration with Chinese scholars and policymakers to study the motivations and activities of Chinese private sector enterprises investing in Africa.
The worlds of public organisation, aid and development are saturated with partnership labels – partnerships against malaria, the spread of weapons and TB; for African development, biodiversity, ethical tea and a million other things. But while it’s easy to declare a partnership it is far harder to put it into practice. What does it take to build a real partnership in social science research on development? Parts of the answer are obvious, they include mutual respect, clear communication and not making easy assumptions about what others might know, believe or expect. Here is our shortlist of the less obvious points, directed especially at those who might fund or work in such networks.

• Partners have different research strengths. Those located in developing countries have a much better understanding of in-country situations and local policy concerns, and much higher capacity to do in-country research. Organisations like IDS are better placed to connect debates about the international dimensions of development and to stimulate and support comparative studies across different national contexts. But the long-term aim should be to help organisations from developing countries toward that position of relative privilege.

• The main funding problem for most of our participating organisations is not shortage of money to do specific pieces of research but the lack of resources and motivation to develop research capacity in the longer term. This includes training (younger) staff in research methods, statistics, writing and communication skills, helping all research staff inform themselves of the state of research knowledge outside their specialist areas and locations, and to put research staff in a position where they can develop good research proposals.

• Effective partnerships are meant to be challenging. The understanding and trust that they embody require mutual engagement and a certain degree of tension and conflict. We expect to have recurrent disagreements about a number of issues. For example the extent to which research agendas are shaped by funders – and therefore by ‘Northern’ or donor perspectives. Another complicated cause of conflict is the distribution of money between ‘rich’ and ‘poor’ – should researchers in the ‘North’ and ‘South’ be able to enjoy a similar standard of living or receive exactly equal amounts of money?

One of the main justifications of the Development Research Centre for the Future State (CFS) is the provision of the kinds of training and support that will build capacity in our Southern partners. Hopefully in the future we will see organisations from across the world taking roles as central ‘hubs’ for research partnerships currently occupied by IDS and other Northern organisations.

In the meantime we are constantly working to resolve the differences. The political bottom line for the CFS is that all research resources are allocated by the Management Committee and the lion’s share of the research time that we fund goes to researchers in Southern organisations. Today IDS occupies half the seats on the Committee and Southern partners the other half. In the future our Southern partners will have a majority. In the meantime the knowledge that we have to reach agreements, while simultaneously meeting professional standards for research quality and our funders’ goals about policy influence, is a very effective discipline.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

FURTHER INFORMATION
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Governance

'Governance' is a broad concept, encompassing authoritative decision-making by both public and private agencies. At IDS we focus on those aspects of governance that enable development, incorporating government (and explicitly political groups) but also international organisations and conventions, the resolution of intra-national conflict and the facilitation and regulation of activities from health to economic production. While several IDS teams implicitly concern themselves with 'governance' matters, the Governance Team concentrates explicitly on governmental parts of the agenda – particularly on state capacity building and conflict resolution. However, the Team is always conscious of the broader embedded nature of 'governance' and collaboration with other IDS teams reflects this reality. Our largest activity is the Development Research Centre for the Future State (CFS), a research consortium funded by DFID.

Many changes have taken place in the Governance Team this year. Three members have left but five more have now been appointed – substantially expanding our research experience and capacity across both sectors and regions of the world. Andres Mejia Acosta (from Ecuador) has taken over responsibility for the Capacity Building project, through the CFS. David Leonard – a long-time student of development administration in Africa, including agriculture, health and veterinary medicine – joined us from the University of California, Berkeley and has been the interim Team Leader. Niagalé Bagayoko (of France) is working closely with Robin Luckham on a new project, the Global Consortium on Security Transformation – Niagalé has written extensively on military strategies and peace-keeping in West Africa. Further new recruits include Marc Berenson (US) – who will extend his work on tax collection and service delivery in Poland, Russia and the Ukraine to other parts of the former Soviet Union – and Eun Choi (Korea) who previously researched local tax collection in China and now plans to study health services and municipal governance in that country.

Moulsecoomb Community Participation Research Project

In both rich and poor countries an increasing dissatisfaction with traditional forms of representative democracy has led to efforts to develop more direct and participatory ways for citizens to engage in local decision-making. This concept is known as 'deepening democracy'.

Moulsecoomb Community Participation Research Project (MCRP) looks at the ways in which citizens are participating in local development in Moulsecoomb, one of Brighton’s more deprived neighbourhoods. Its objectives are to:

- enable Moulsecoomb residents to record their experiences and ‘be heard’;
- provide lessons for local, national and international policy on community participation;
- provide practical learning experience for IDS students, who are assisting in data collection as part of their course.

MCRP is being undertaken jointly by IDS Research Officer Diana Conyers, the University of Brighton, local organisations and residents between January 2007 and March 2008. It is funded by a grant from the Brighton and Sussex Community Knowledge Exchange.
Development in Fragile States

IDS Fellow James Manor led a team of researchers investigating the factors that made aid effective in post-conflict reconstruction of fragile states. The resulting book, *Aid That Works* (The World Bank, 2007) provides case studies from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique, Timor Leste and Uganda. Key findings include:

- While prolonged domestic conflict can be debilitating for central state capacity, the local level (although also often damaged) preserves a greater ability to undertake constructive activity.
- Although local authorities are often flawed and usually need support from higher levels to make development headway, they are generally a more effective route for reconstruction, even than NGOs – which are often weak and unevenly spread in fragile states.
- Tapping local capacity requires meaningful consultation with local citizens.
- Programmes that promote interaction between government actors, civil society organisations and local people have unusual promise.
- While central governments in these states feel their authority is precarious, they generally gain in legitimacy from decentralising key activities to local authorities.

New Challenges for Governance

I began working with IDS Fellows in the field in East Africa more than 35 years ago and have always admired their work. Over the ensuing years those interactions increased in number and depth – with Robert Chambers in the PPSC Team, Mick Moore in Governance and Gerry Bloom in KNOTS, to name a few. So when the opportunity came for me to leave Berkeley after 30 years and join IDS I did not hesitate.

The things I deeply value about IDS include its interdisciplinarity, genuinely international staff and its commitment to the highest quality research. I am also impressed by IDS’ application of the latest and best academic tools to the solution of practical problems with burning consequence for poor people.

In the last two years the Governance Team has been able to recruit a group of extraordinarily talented young scholars. The challenge for the senior members of our team, including myself, is to mentor them into meeting the hard-driving but immensely satisfying challenges we face. These include responsiveness to the needs of both the world’s poor and our donors for first class, policy-relevant research; communicated to the wider development community through publications in peer-reviewed journals and presses as well as electronic media. At the same time winning grants to carry out this mandate.

David K. Leonard joined the Governance Team as a Professorial Fellow in September and has been interim Team Leader.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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The influence of donor agendas on research was a major concern to come out of the IDS40 Roundtables. As researchers become more linked to the aid industry their research is increasingly subject to policymakers’ rapidly changing agendas and buzzwords. As their capacity to produce reflective knowledge is eroded we are left with policy themes without theory, when the discipline of development studies ought to be providing a more comparative, interpretive approach, which explores and negotiates interdisciplinarity.

How can we maximise independence from donors’ agendas in order to rediscover the theory behind our work? One solution is to create larger and longer research programmes that allow us to do something more ambitious and long-term, and which therefore provide space for theory development. MICROCON, or ‘A Micro Level Analysis of Violent Conflict’, is one such programme. Its five-year funding will involve 22 different research institutes working together to carry out 30 research projects in over 40 different countries. It is based on the recognition that, at a fundamental level, conflict originates from individuals’ behaviour – from ‘micro’ foundations – but that most conflict policy focuses on ‘macro’ perspectives.

The scope of the programme allows us to involve over 50 researchers from 13 different disciplines in building an interdisciplinary micro level conceptual framework for conflict analysis. MICROCON formally began in January of this year, and the long time frame will allow us to dedicate time in the first year to building this framework and then to refining it over the course of the project.

The framework seeks to provide answers to the following questions:

- What does violent mass conflict mean at the micro level?
- Who are the actors involved in violent mass conflicts?
- Why do violent mass conflicts take place?
- How do they impact on individuals, their families and their social groups?
- How can we build conceptual linkages between micro level perspectives on violent mass conflicts and policymaking processes?

The orientation of this framework goes beyond a reactive theorisation of conflict (e.g. the dilemma ‘greed or grievance’ or the issue of group polarisation and ethnic fragmentation) to look at the complete dynamics (across intensities, actors, triggers and effects) of violent mass conflicts. The framework will contribute to the work of the entire project by shedding light on the ‘critical dynamics’ necessary for the outbreak of violent conflict and ‘critical changes’ resulting from processes of mass violence.

The wide range of disciplinary perspectives within MICROCON presents some important challenges: setting up a coherent and systematic understanding of terminology and concepts; defining the adequacy of combining qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis; and how to tackle and ensure comparability of analysis.

The MICROCON consortium came together for a kick-off workshop at IDS on 28–29 March this year to discuss how to meet these challenges, as well as to receive feedback from external academics, NGO staff and policymakers. A preliminary report from these discussions will be produced by senior researchers later this year for review by all consortium members and selected external advisers. A final version will be published next year.

It is hoped that the theoretical foundations laid by MICROCON’s conceptual framework will provide the basis for a new research agenda in conflict analysis and policy that places individuals and groups at the centre of interventions – it will also help to reinforce the role of IDS as a leader in supplying innovative, interdisciplinary analysis of major development issues.
There are many programmes that are working to improve knowledge sharing across the development community: through the internet, at conferences and workshops, in policy debates and journals and, of course, libraries. But do these information, communication and knowledge interventions really contribute to development and social change, and, if so, how? What is the role of these programmes in situations of poverty and injustice? As leaders in the field, the IDS Knowledge Services are developing a new academic research strand to improve understanding of the roles information, communication and knowledge play in positive social change – globally, locally and institutionally.

By looking critically at information services and programmes as strategic interventions in a complex social system of 'development knowledge', we hope to understand how information, communication and knowledge shape, and are shaped by, power relationships – how they affect the ways in which groups and individuals know, express and engage with development ideas. Individual development agents are embedded in a range of communicative relationships: interpersonal, mediated by institutions and structures, and involving transmission or exchange. This huge diversity of ideas, and ways of knowing, shapes the potential for agents to effect positive social change.

Our research is at a very early stage. Building on a literature review, we have embarked on a case-study based research project laying the groundwork for the research programme. The project will produce new learning and discussions about the role of information, communication and knowledge programmes in development by:

• building experience of conducting research and applying findings among our own staff;
• identifying and developing theory that helps makes sense of these complicated processes;
• developing improved questions for further investigation.

There is a vast sea of theories and framings associated with this area, from how people use research in policy decisions to how they are effected by and affect broadcast media. To help us navigate our way we have created a framework to map and relate theoretical work directly addressing information, communication and knowledge of development agents with its relationship to social change processes. As our framework addresses people’s behaviours, environments, personal characteristics, and positions in systems and institutions all related to information, communications and knowledge – we have called it ‘Information, Communication and Knowledge Ecology’.

Through individual case studies we will look at how this ‘ecology’ relates to the work of selected development agents working in different contexts and in different development processes. Five sub-projects will provide a diversity of insights on the role of information, communication and knowledge in:

• the formation of policy narratives around Economic Partnership Agreements between Ghana and the EU;
• the programme design of an Information Communication Technology for Rural Development project in India
• the role media actors play in creating freedom in Northern Uganda;
• how gender-based violence is prioritised as a development issue in Southern Sudan;
• advocacy and activism of people with marginalised sexuality in Indian HIV/ AIDS programming and policy.

Our first data is now being analysed to create five thematic papers on each sub-project. An overall synthesis paper will relate the findings to the Information, Communications and Knowledge Ecology framework and reflect on the lessons of the research process.

So far the project has brought together diverse bodies of theory into a coherent framework, providing empirical data on information, communication and knowledge ecology in real-world development. These findings will generate the themes and questions for the next stage of our research programme. They will also be used in our collaborative work with partners and peers as we improve our collective understanding of how information and communication programmes can better contribute to positive social change.
Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction

Is the true nature of poverty and vulnerability being hidden in our rapidly changing world? Research in the Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction (VPR) Team is highlighting invisibility as an important barrier to ending poverty and social injustice. If a problem is unseen how can it be addressed?

By focusing on changing forms of poverty at a micro level, our research is helping to reveal hidden dimensions of vulnerability. Informal women workers who have no access to legal rights or social protection; migrant workers hired through illicit labour contractors who disguise their identity to avoid detection; pastoralists ignored by government resettlement policies that sever traditional livelihoods; households caught up in other people’s conflicts; ethnic hill tribes experiencing deprivation through government discrimination; the displaced seeking refuge from climate change or disasters. These are all examples of the invisible groups, whose struggles our research addresses.

The challenge is to make the invisible dimensions of poverty and vulnerability visible. Can our current research and statistical tools reveal the deprivation and exploitation of the unseen? Do our academic models and conceptual frameworks increase understanding of the complexities of their situation? Are our institutional frameworks and governance systems able to include those who are systematically shut out?

Invisible groups and people can be found in many different situations and contexts. They are often fragmented, mobile and insecure. They lack the power to change their situation, or voice their concerns. If policymakers, development agencies and governments continue in their failure to address these problems, they will never properly achieve poverty reduction.

Our research uncovers innovative strategies to support the most vulnerable in society. We work with diverse actors – including donors, governments, civil society organisations and the private sector – to address vulnerability wherever it is found. We seek to uncover invisible groups and people, because only then can we begin to address their plight and achieve effective poverty reduction.

"We seek to uncover invisible groups and people, because only then can we begin to address their plight and achieve effective poverty reduction."
Linking Climate Change and Social Protection

‘As climate change effects consolidate, significantly increasing the risk and vulnerability of poor people, future capacity and response will need to be more robust’ – Mark Davies, Department for International Development

Social protection has an important role to play in rural communities – it builds resilience to climate induced shocks and enables growth to occur by reducing risk and vulnerability. By developing links between social protection, climate change and disaster risk reduction, VPR are examining how social protection responses may need to change in response to climate change and how climate change will affect the viability and effectiveness of current measures.

Climate change is adversely affecting many of the world’s poor – those who are least responsible for the problem and most overlooked in policy debates. Finding ways to help them adapt is a question of justice. The IDS Climate Change and Disasters Group is researching how donors can protect their development projects from climate risks and how governments and development NGOs can act effectively to minimise the problem and support adaptation measures tailored to the poor.

One dimension is how social protection can support the most vulnerable. While crop insurance, cash transfers and microcredit schemes have been trialled on a limited basis in a climate and disasters context, our work is among the first to link conceptual and practical understandings of climate adaptation and social protection approaches.

Social protection has rapidly climbed up the policy agenda of many governments, donors and NGOs and this has led us to establish the Centre for Social Protection. The Centre brings VPR researchers together with partners from across the world, forming an international network focused on social protection. The Centre provides a global focus for research, advocacy, policy analysis and capacity building on social protection by:

• providing evidence on what works where, when and why;
• clarifying conceptual frameworks, definitions and theories;
• building partnerships, seizing opportunities to pool resources and expertise;
• sharing experiences and encouraging debate through open, independent and critical networks.

IDS Research and Codes of Practice

The Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) – an alliance of companies, trade unions and NGOs – was established in 1998 on the principle that companies selling goods have a responsibility to promote national and international labour laws by requiring suppliers to implement codes of practice.

Have the new codes really made any difference to workers? Do some approaches to implementation work better? How can we improve positive impacts on workers? In 2003, ETI commissioned IDS to conduct a three-year study to answer these questions. Published in October 2006, it is the most comprehensive assessment available of the impact of voluntary codes.

The widely debated conclusions add weight to a growing policy consensus on how these voluntary private mechanisms can be of more lasting benefit to more poor people. While important benefits have been achieved in areas such as safety and health, awareness of minimum labour standards, reduction of child labour and hours of work, new approaches are needed. Companies must ensure their core business practices help, rather than hinder, suppliers’ abilities to respect labour standards. Implementation must focus on the right of workers to organise – improving wage rates and on contract workers. Closer collaboration between large numbers of retailers, employers’ associations, governments, trade unions and NGOs is needed to address systemic labour problems and achieve the scale of change required.

Dan Rees is Director of the Ethical Trading Initiative

KEY PUBLICATIONS
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Global and Local Policy Engagements in Agriculture

By John Thompson, IDS Research Fellow

African agriculture is back on the policy agenda after more than 20 years. Major commitments of donor and philanthropic resources are being pumped into attempts to address Africa’s problems, but without linking global, national and local engagements in policy dialogue such efforts may well falter and fail as they have so often before.

The Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC), coordinated by IDS and involving partnerships with both UK and African research institutes, aims to promote dialogue and debate about the future of African agriculture in both global and local fora. This year the FAC has engaged in discussions around the 2008 World Development Report: Agriculture for Development (WDR) as well as convening a series of policy dialogues on the future of agriculture across Ethiopia’s regions. This combination of global and local engagements – bringing together researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss key policy issues in agriculture and rural development – provides a unique opportunity for linking debates too often kept separate.

In January 2007, IDS hosted a meeting on Politics and Policy Processes in Agriculture, involving FAC partners, other leading researchers, members of DFID’s Renewable Natural Resources and Agriculture team and lead authors of the forthcoming WDR. The Consortium had identified a key gap in the early drafts of the report: by emphasising the economics of ‘ideal solutions’ it failed to focus on politics, policy processes and governance issues which influence policy and practice in the ‘real world’, frequently in ways that work against poor people’s interests. How were all these new – and not so new – ideas going to be implemented in the real contexts of Africa?

FAC members from Africa, working on the policy research and implementation frontline, offered some important lessons. Blessings Chinsinga from the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Chancellor College, University of Malawi, showed how inconsistent donor policies around input subsidies had run up against government political commitments to do something about low agricultural productivity and continue reliance on food aid. Rosemary Atieno from the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi explained how the politics of policy failed at implementation because of political, administrative and governance issues, despite recommendations from numerous consultancy teams.

Coordinating Unit in Kenya described how, in the case of the Strategy for Restabilising Agriculture, the policy failed at implementation because of political, administrative and governance issues, despite recommendations from numerous consultancy teams.

A central objective of the Consortium is to use locally-engaged research and dialogue to bring these local perspectives to the attention of wider policy debates. In Ethiopia a highly innovative process of regional policy dialogue, led by Amdisa Teshome of A-Z Consulting, has resulted in the convening of inclusive and wide-ranging regional debates about the future of agriculture-based livelihoods. The aim is to contribute to addressing the seemingly intractable problems in Ethiopia’s agricultural sector through a combination of empirical analysis and an innovative participatory methodology that allows diverse voices to be heard in policy debates.

From community level discussions in the villages, representatives are selected to attend a further dialogue in the regional capital with key government officials, development professionals and other actors. These findings are, in turn, documented and reported at national level. In June 2007, FAC hosted a workshop in Addis Ababa to share regional findings with a national audience, including H.E. Dr Abera Deressa, the State Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. Strikingly, it was often the local specifics that mattered most. Overarching strategies like Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, influenced by the World Bank and other donors offer only one lens on the situation. When questions are framed in a more open-ended way – such as ‘What is the future for agriculture in your area?’ – all sorts of different perspectives emerge. As Dr Deressa observed, ‘The Future Agricultures Consortium may not claim to have mapped out the future of agriculture and pastoralism [in Ethiopia] once and for all. But it has certainly started a process that we can all build on.’

Providing links, offering exchanges and fostering critical reflection and dialogue are essential in the emerging debate about the future of agriculture in Africa. Too often overarching perspectives and grand narratives – informed by particular disciplinary perspectives and ideological commitments – ignore context, complexity and the dynamics of change. Local lessons for global policy are vital for the framing of influential documents like the World Development Report. By addressing not only the technical issues but also the complex political contexts that influence policy processes, the emerging FAC network in Africa offers one small, but significant, initiative that aims to overcome some of these challenges.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Uncertainty and Social Justice
By Professor Melissa Leach, IDS Research Fellow

Addressing inequalities and promoting social justice in an increasingly dynamic and uncertain age is a central challenge of our times. Seeking theory and practice to help address this challenge is a central concern of the new STEPS Centre (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability).

Today evidence shows that in many domains changes are occurring more rapidly – including climate change, science and technology, or rapid flows of capital, people or information. Dynamic systems are, of course, not a new phenomenon. Ecologists have long shown how non-linear interactions in very simple systems will, over time, result in highly dynamic patterns. Recent research in a number of areas, from studies of macroeconomies to molecular biology, have revealed that dynamic systems – characterised by complexity, uncertainty, non-equilibrium and sometimes chaotic dynamics – are the norm, rather than the exception.

These dynamic systems and contexts are unpredictable in very different ways. Some involve risk, where the range of possible outcomes and probabilities amongst them are known. Others involve uncertainty, where the possible outcomes are known but there is no basis for assigning probabilities, here judgement must prevail. Others still involve ambiguity, where there is disagreement over the nature of the outcomes, or different groups prioritise different concerns. Finally, some social, technological and ecological dynamics involve ignorance, where we don’t know what we don’t know and the possibility of surprise is ever-present.

Despite these uncertainties, many strands of development studies and the social, economic and natural sciences that inform them are grounded in models that assume the world to be knowable and predictable. Development policy flowing from such assumptions, is based on the view that policy can be straightforwardly informed by facts and evidence, and that policy will ‘work out’ in practice in relatively predictable ways. Yet the failures of these approaches to intervention and policy can be seen everywhere. Standard approaches all too often fail their intended beneficiaries, and in many cases have led to increased inequalities even when the opposite was intended. While conventional, expert-led approaches to analysis and policy are able to handle risk, they are inadequate in the increasingly common situations in which these other kinds of uncertainty prevail.

If uncertainty is taken as a starting point, it becomes necessary to use quite different approaches to understanding an action. The STEPS Centre is working with others to develop these, drawing together thinking in a variety of arenas which offer useful ways forward. Different arenas include perspectives on networked, adaptive and reflexive governance; on deliberative democracy and organisational learning, and on complexity theory and resilience. The Centre is linking research on how dynamic, uncertain systems are unfolding and how different people understand or ‘frame’ these, with the development of new institutional approaches and appraisal methods. STEPS is seeking to identify and support development pathways by exploring what works where, and why, in research-action projects addressing agricultural, health and environmental issues. Our research will enable poorer and marginalised people to live with and negotiate uncertainties in ways that improve their livelihoods – and that, more broadly, promote social justice.

**Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS)**

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as a joint initiative between IDS and SPRU (Science and Technology Policy Research Unit) and partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the STEPS Centre is a global research and policy engagement hub aiming to link technology and environmental sustainability with poverty reduction and social justice.

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Knowledge, Technology and Society

Science and technology, more than ever, are being promoted as solutions to development problems, and this year has seen a further increase in interest and investment from a variety of public and private donors. Yet often – including in the health, agriculture and environment arenas on which the Knowledge, Technology and Society (KNOTS) Team focuses – such ‘silver bullets’ for poverty reduction miss their mark. Ensuring that science and technology work for the poor and promote social justice requires engaged, action-oriented research to understand and influence the institutions, knowledge and power relations that link technology, ecology and society. Working closely with partners around the world, this is the core focus of the KNOTS Team.

Much of our research engages critically with mainstream development perspectives, seeking to make space for alternative development pathways including those building on the knowledges and priorities of poorer and marginalised women and men. Our work within the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS) Centre, on future agricultures, on community-led sanitation, and on HIV/AIDS and development, all share this emphasis.

The team is also working to develop new theory and analytical approaches – for instance around knowledge, power and policy processes, science-society relations, and institutions and governance. Understanding and influencing the institutions that shape people’s access to, and control over, technologies and their benefits has been a particular focus of our work on water, on conservation, and on health systems and reproductive health and rights this year.

Much of our work cross-cuts North-South boundaries. Our research on citizen engagement with science has involved movements across the world, while projects on vaccines and on asbestos disease have involved focused research with communities in the UK, as well as in African settings.

Ensuring that science and technology work for the poor and promote social justice requires engaged, action-oriented research.
Asbestos Diseases: Scientific Definitions and Gendered Identities

Linda Waldman’s research into asbestos-related diseases (ARDs) compares Northern and Southern experiences, working with unemployed asbestos mine workers in South Africa and working-class thermal insulation engineers (laggers) in the UK. The research shows how authoritative accounts of disease and governmental conceptualisations of risk downplay people’s own understandings of danger, of bodily symptoms and of suffering. ARDs are officially categorised into different, often non-progressive, types of disease – with corresponding legal action, state compensation and degrees of bodily harm (pleural plaques – benign, asbestosis – serious, mesothelioma – life threatening). However, both laggers and former mine workers argue strongly that ARDs are progressive and that they experience physical symptoms even from ‘benign’ diseases. ARDs also affect men’s and women’s identities and citizenship in gendered ways. In both countries, the disease demoralises men by undermining their masculinity and authority – while bolstering women’s caretaker roles within the household. Disseminated through local forums, these similarities between South African and UK experiences have generated media interest and discussion.

From Wilderness Vision to Farm Invasions

Will Wolmer’s book From Wilderness Vision to Farm Invasions: Conservation and Development in Zimbabwe’s South-east Lowveld (James Currey) explores the physical and conceptual construction of a Zimbabwean landscape. The research traces how development and conservation programmes in Zimbabwe’s south-east ‘lowveld’ have been rooted in a particular view of landscape as wilderness. It is either a place to be tamed into a productive landscape by ‘pioneers’, or a pristine natural landscape to be preserved, rehabilitated or consciously manufactured. The book explores how policies derived from this ‘wilderness vision’ ignore the uses and perceptions of African people. Dryland agriculture has been regularly dismissed as inappropriate, rather than a key livelihood strategy. Irrigation and livestock projects have been biased towards large-scale commercial sector initiatives; and wildlife conservation initiatives have imposed coercive regulations on resource use, deepening antagonism over land. However the recent farm invasions and subsequent land reform have realigned the wilderness, revealing starkly contrasting ways of seeing and understanding this landscape, which have radically different implications for conservation and development policy.

Research Partnership Supports Capacity Development

Sexual rights are an important but under-developed emerging issue in Bangladesh. As part of ongoing efforts to build awareness, capacity and advocacy, the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka recently held a one-day workshop on Sexuality and Rights. The workshop aimed to exchange learning on sexuality and rights in Bangladesh, and build a network to push this agenda into mainstream development. Academics, researchers, students, NGO staff, human rights activists and donors attended the event.

The push for the event came from an IDS hosted workshop on Sexuality and Development in 2005, which I attended as a member of the IDS led Research Programme Consortium on Realising Rights. This was a turning point for me – sexuality and rights are a neglected theme in many countries’ development agendas and the subject sparked critical reflection. The research partnership’s strength is the opportunity it gives to share and learn from diverse perspectives of experts from around the world, and raise the profile on overlooked issues. The IDS workshop led to technical and financial support for further capacity building on sexuality and rights issues in Bangladesh, including a workshop. Enthusiastic responses and cries for more capacity building mean that the school will host a second workshop in Dhaka on Gender and Sexuality, this time with international participation, with plans to develop a module/reader on sexuality and rights to encourage the mainstreaming of gender and sexuality issues in Bangladesh.

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid is Assistant Professor at BRAC University, Bangladesh

KEY PUBLICATIONS


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Governments are facing pressure to do something about disease and its negative consequences for households, communities and societies. Aid agencies of some of the richer countries and several charitable foundations have committed a lot of money to improve health services in low-income countries; opportunities for major health initiatives are opening up. An important objective of the POVILL and Future Health Systems research consortia is to contribute to strategies for making the best use of these opportunities.

The POVILL consortium is studying how households cope with major illness in China, Cambodia and Lao PDR and how government interventions affect coping strategies. The Future Health Systems Research Programme Consortium (RPC), led by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with partners in China, India, Bangladesh, Uganda and Nigeria, is developing interventions for meeting health-related needs of the poor. Both consortia have designed their research in close consultation with potential users and both are studying the policy process itself.

These countries are experiencing rapid social, economic and institutional change. Their health systems have blurred boundaries between public and private sectors and varying degrees of regulation. Governments are neither the principal source of health finance, nor the major provider of services, giving them limited influence over health system performance. Poor people seek much of their health care from private providers or by paying public employees for services.

All this means that governments need to use their limited financial and regulatory powers carefully. This might include new ways of managing public services, alternative forms of contracting for services, participation in regulatory partnerships and the strategic use of the media. Both consortia are studying how policies are formulated and translated into changes in health system performance. This research is addressing issues such as how effective partnerships are created and whose interests they represent; whether stakeholders with different perspectives and interests can work together for a common goal; how citizen groups influence health system performance and how governments can more effectively influence pluralistic health systems to address the health-related needs of the poor.

Both consortia were designed to have an impact on policy and have given a lot of attention to influencing strategies from the start. Each partner has a national advisory body, with representatives from government and key stakeholders. These bodies influence the design of studies and interventions and will be involved in each stage of the research to ensure that findings are made available to decision makers quickly and efficiently.

The consortia are encouraging regional exchanges of knowledge and experience. One example is the China Health Development Forum, which is building links between researchers and policymakers in China and other Asian transitional economies. Both consortia plan to influence policy debates by publishing academic articles, contributing to web-based knowledge systems and participating in policy networks. These four-to-five year projects do not provide enough time or resources to address serious health-related challenges. Both consortia have decided that a partnership approach to research is the best way to make long-term contributions to the construction of effective systems for meeting health-related needs of the poor. They are working to build consortia – supported by more than one agency – which will become increasingly important sources of knowledge to policymakers and other stakeholders.

**POVILL**

POVILL is a four-year European Union funded project whose aim is to generate knowledge on the impact of different types of illness on different kinds of households and the contribution of governments’ policy initiatives to household coping strategies. It is a consortium of ten partner organisations in China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sweden and the UK.

**Future Health Systems**

The Future Health Systems (FHS) Research Consortium was initiated in October 2005 with a five-year grant from the Department for International Development (DFID). The overall purpose of the FHS consortium is to use knowledge generated from FHS research to shape policy and programmes on health systems in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Nigeria, and Uganda.

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


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Poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a source of enormous suffering for millions of the world’s poorest people and compromises efforts to reduce poverty. Yet these issues often remain invisible and taboo. This is because they may involve challenging areas such as sexuality and gender, stigmatised conditions such as sexually transmitted infections, or marginalised populations such as sex workers and sexual minorities. It also reflects the low policy priority given in particular to women’s health and the health of adolescents. IDS is working with partners in a number of countries to research and highlight the invisible burdens posed by SRH and to develop approaches that build rights and entitlement in SRH.

IDS is the lead partner in the DFID funded Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium (RPC) – a six partner consortium focusing on more neglected areas of SRH and rights. IDS based research on the theme of SRH and rights also includes work on sexuality, sexual rights and development and on HIV and AIDS and development; all areas where invisibility poses a major challenge to research methodologies, communicating research and reaching policymakers.

The challenges of invisibility are evident in several of the priority themes of the Realising Rights RPC. This year, with funding from the Hewlett Foundation, IDS facilitated a technical review of data on the economic costs of unsafe-abortion related morbidity and mortality in developing countries. This is a major public health problem but one which is not easy to quantify. Economists and unsafe abortion experts were brought together to find new ways of dealing with the data limitations and work towards a technically robust global estimate. BRAC Bangladesh is a Realising Rights partner. Researchers at BRAC University School of Public Health are leading a research project, with collaboration from IDS researchers, to uncover the role of informal providers in SRH services in a rural area of Bangladesh. These providers – who do not have formal medical qualifications – are used extensively for a wide range of SRH conditions, but little is known about the reality of these transactions.

Communicating research about these topics is a high priority. IDS researchers and communications specialists in the Realising Rights RPC have been collaborating with the PANOS RELAY project. The project works with journalists in the South to strengthen reporting of development issues and this initiative focuses on capacity strengthening for reporting of SRH issues. A peer-reviewed report of key issues in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights was turned into a media resource pack for journalists in PANOS-linked countries in Africa and South Asia. A Bengali version is now being prepared to support national journalists already trained by BRAC partners.

A key component of RPC linked research is to identify opportunities and constraints and use them to get neglected or contested SRH issues onto national policy agendas. Studies in this area include an international review of experience with fistula and abortion, national case studies of family planning and policy process in Kenya, and legal and policy frameworks regulating reproductive health in Ghana. The aim is to identify processes which have been successful in moving such issues up policy agendas and what learning can be taken forward for use in other contexts.

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


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Participation, Power and Social Change

Focusing on research, innovation and learning in rights-based and participatory approaches, the Participation, Power and Social Change (PPSC) Team works in partnership with diverse collaborators from around the world to generate ideas and action for social change. We host two international research consortia – Citizenship, Participation and Accountability; and Pathways of Women’s Empowerment.

We emphasise internal learning and reflection together with respect for voice and diversity and take a citizen’s perspective on development. One of our major research themes is theoretical and practical work on power and change at systemic, organisational and personal levels of experience – including how knowledge and learning contribute to social change.

Another major theme explores identities, rights and social justice – including issues of violent conflict. This theme covers race, sexualities and development, children and gender identities. Our third major theme is inclusive citizenship and governance, which includes citizen participation in local governance, citizen engagements in a globalising world and civil society mobilisation and engagement for policy change and for claiming rights.

In all these themes our work addresses some cross-cutting issues:

- Knowledge as power – how we understand and describe the world is dependent on the relations of power that shape our lives.
- Linking theory and action – exploring and developing theory both for explaining change and for contributing to making change happen.
- Learning and teaching for reflective practice – we need to question the source and relevance of the questions we are asking and explore our own world views.
- Communicating for change – sharing and understanding between people and networks of organisations about alternative methods of knowledge creation, learning and action.
- Challenging orthodoxies – asking ‘why should things be thought or done the way they usually are?’
- Strengthening organisations and alliances – developing the global capacity to address the issues of power and knowledge in research, communications and learning.
**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

**Children’s Citizenship**

Joy Moncrieffe and Joanna Wheeler are studying children’s citizenship experiences in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and select garrison constituencies in Kingston, Jamaica. Joanna’s research in Brazil focuses on how violence and insecurity influence prospects for active citizenship and rights. It examines the ways that organised violence affects the spaces for social mobilisation around issues of inclusion and access to urban services. Joy’s work in Jamaica involves children from 8 to 17 years, across differing social classes, communities and schools. It studies the transmission of violence between generations and the relationships between labelling, violence and citizenship. Both projects use participatory and actor-orientated approaches in order to cross the social barriers generated by violence and stigma. Cross-country analyses of the work in Brazil and Jamaica provide insights into how democracies can breed illegitimate and violence-based regimes of authority, which generate perverse personal and social outcomes but also open unpredictable spaces for change.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

**Champions of Participation – an International Learning Experience**

At the end of May, the Participation Team in association with the Citizenship research consortium and LogoLink – a global network working to deepen democracy – helped organise an international learning event on citizen participation in local governance. Local government staff, elected officials, citizen representatives and NGO workers from 15 countries including Brazil, India, Chile, South Africa, Nigeria and the UK met for a week in the UK. They shared experiences of how citizens can participate in local politics and practical strategies for championing such participation.

Delegates found that they faced very similar challenges. These included sustaining citizen participation, managing resistance, handling power differences, engaging hard-to-reach community members and securing the necessary political will. Olivio Dutra, the former Mayor of Porto Alegre, Brazil said, ‘I will leave with a strong care and respect for the participatory process which enables the individual to build solidarity and enables communities to strengthen and deepen democracy.’

**Contributing to Social Change**

For the past six years I have been working in IDS with the Participation Power and Social Change Team – participating in many collaborative participatory-action research and learning projects with Southern partners. I have worked to build relations with Southern partners (civil society organisations, grassroots movements and networks) and facilitate sharing and learning events aiming to strengthen their ability to work for social justice. This has provided opportunities to build partnerships with grassroots groups engaged in different social justice struggles.

The biggest challenge now is how we can effectively contribute to social justice while our collaboration with partners remains so project focused. Questions remain unanswered: Is it enough to research and comment on the margins? Can IDS build partnerships beyond research projects? While the production of articles and books may appear sufficient for research and communication purposes, we should also be deliberately and actively demonstrating our solidarity with partners’ social justice goals.

At IDS we are exploring ways of building partnerships based on mutually shared social justice goals. In the Participation Team we have found it necessary to ask questions about what we do, why we do it and who we partner with, and whether, through our partnerships, we are making a significant contribution to social change.

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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**Sammy Musyoki has recently taken leave of absence from IDS to work for Plan International in Kenya**
Diversity of Pathways of Development

By Andrea Cornwall, IDS Research Fellow

‘Empowerment’ has come to be regarded by aid agencies as a destination that can be reached through the development equivalent of a motorway – fast-track programmes which can be rolled out over any terrain. But by looking at routes to empowerment as journeys along diverse and meandering pathways – trails that sometimes double back or reach dead ends – our focus shifts to the travellers themselves, their experiences and the lessons and warnings they can give to others. The focus of the Pathways of Women’s Empowerment Research Programme Consortium (Pathways RPC) is on the pathways that women travel to bring about positive changes in their own and others’ lives, and to understand what helps and hinders them along the way.

Across the world, women’s lives are changing in ways that development agencies have barely begun to grasp. Understanding the diversity of pathways of empowerment means looking critically at what development interventions aimed at ‘empowering’ women actually offer them. It also means looking beyond planned intervention to the ways in which struggles for justice, equality and more diffuse social, economic and political changes are affecting women’s lives.

Pathways RPC researchers have spent the last year in intensive enquiry and reflection, engaging activists, academics and development practitioners in exploring the enabling conditions and limiting factors for women’s empowerment in very different contexts in the Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, West Africa and the world of international aid policy. Through ongoing ‘dialogues on empowerment’ the RPC is opening up space to debate what ‘empowerment’ means as a term and as a process. In July an international conference Reclaiming Feminism: Gender and Neo-Liberalism was held at IDS in collaboration with colleagues at Birkbeck College, University of London, to explore the conceptual and political implications of the adoption of empowerment language by powerful development actors.

Key Publications

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Delicate Equilibrium: Building Coalitions Between Academics and Practitioners

By Joanna Wheeler, IDS Research Manager

Collaborative research between academics and practitioners is important in making research matter. Practitioners in the field bring perspectives on real life concerns and experiences that help make our research more relevant to people’s daily lives. These help to challenge and develop new approaches to complex problems. The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC) works to develop these alliances from the start of the research process by involving practitioners when we shape our research agendas. Some of our projects also include ongoing opportunities for practitioners to reflect on their own experiences and contribute to actual research about citizenship, participation and accountability. Importantly we work together to communicate to a range of audiences what our research is trying to achieve, how we have gone about it and the key findings and implications. Below are just a couple of examples of how this works in practice.

ADRA (Ação para Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente), a Citizenship DRC partner, has been working in Angola to build civil society coalitions that help to deepen democracy through greater participation at the local level in a post-war context. They are now leading research on the impact of their work. Idaci Ferreira, lead researcher for ADRA and IDS masters student, says, ‘At IDS there is a high level of reflection about transformation and positive social change, and we are looking at how to make this happen in Angola. My role is to bring these reflections to bear on ADRA’s work, but also to feedback our experience in the field to IDS. This coalition is a two-way street. It strengthens ADRA’s capacity in research methods and analysis, but it also brings insights from experience in the field to IDS. We shape our research agendas. Some of our projects also include ongoing opportunities for practitioners to reflect on their own experiences and contribute to actual research about citizenship, participation and accountability. Importantly we work together to communicate to a range of audiences what our research is trying to achieve, how we have gone about it and the key findings and implications. Below are just a couple of examples of how this works in practice.

In Brazil, IDS DPhil student, Alex Shankland is working with local NGO Associação Saúde Sem Limites (SSL) to support indigenous leaders’ decades-long struggle to influence health policy. His research focuses on understanding how indigenous perspectives are represented through participatory processes in health policy in Brazil. Through close engagement with the leaders, Shankland and his colleagues have helped focus on which strategies have worked, and why, in their fight for health rights and accountability. The team will now convene a workshop bringing together indigenous leaders and government officials in the Amazonian state of Acre, to explore ways of strengthening existing mechanisms for indigenous participation in health policy.

Developing coalitions between researchers and practitioners has great advantages but is a complex and sometimes difficult process. Recent work by the Citizenship DRC looks at the tensions that arise between theory and practice. Carlos Cortez, a researcher at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, a Citizenship DRC partner, is very engaged with practitioners in Mexico. ‘When I was involved as an activist I thought we needed to be more analytical. When I started my academic career I became worried that this was very abstract and not related to reality. I have the privilege of being part of both groups – working with people that combine theory and practice and are very creative. But balancing all their competing interests calls for “delicate equilibrium”.

Finding that equilibrium between research and practice raises critical questions. Does action-orientated research necessarily mean prioritising local action at the expense of analytical rigour? Should research lead to targeted and strategic action or be inspired in response to action and practice? Effective research programmes aiming to link research with action, and researchers with practitioners – at local, national and global levels – need to understand how contradictory the results of action research can be.

Practitioners in the field bring perspectives ... and experiences that help make our research more relevant to people’s daily lives.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

FURTHER INFORMATION
drcinfo@ids.ac.uk
www.drc-citizenship.org

Since 2001, the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability has been working through international partnerships with research institutes and civil society groups in 12 countries, exploring new forms of citizenship that will help make rights real. This research focus has the potential to affect policy debates and practice at local, national and global levels.
Teaching

The teaching programme at IDS is known for its academic excellence. It is strongly research-led, drawing the active research of IDS Fellows and research staff into the classroom. With the introduction of the MA in Globalisation and Development in October 2008, each of the five research teams at IDS will have an MA programme based around their research theme.

Every programme attracts a diverse group of students, each with their own relevant experience in development. They bring depth and maturity of knowledge from a range of work situations as well as being grounded in the social sciences.

Creating a space where teaching and research live side-by-side, IDS fosters opportunities for students and researchers to learn and share their knowledge and ideas. Students are given room to develop their thinking in an informal yet challenging environment. By the time they complete their programmes students are fully equipped with the latest theory, practical knowledge and skills to further their careers in the world of development and beyond.

MA Gender and Development
The MA in Gender and Development is run jointly with the University of Sussex. It situates the study of gender and development within an academic social science framework, as well as in the context of policymaking and implementation. Most of the students have considerable work experience and use their time at IDS to reflect upon the ways gender-equity concerns could be made more central to development practice in the future.

MA Governance and Development
Students from a great diversity of countries come to IDS to study our MA in Governance and Development. Nearly all have extensive experience in civil society organisations, governments or development agencies. Issues they explore during the course include international governance, public sector management, political economy and empowering society.

MA Participation, Power and Social Change
The MA in Participation, Power and Social Change is an innovative programme designed for students who wish to focus on the development of participatory concepts and methods. Run over 18 months, the course combines intensive study periods with a twelve-month placement using approaches that emphasise individual and group reflection and encourage the linking of conceptual knowledge to practical experience.

MA Development Studies (New for 2007)
This one-year programme is designed to examine thinking, policy and practice on vulnerability and poverty. It provides students with the knowledge and skills to engage profession-
ally with the design, implementation and assessment of national and international efforts to reduce poverty. Specialist options available in the third term include courses on climate change and disasters, conflict and the political economy of aid.

**MA Poverty and Development (New for 2007)**

This one-year programme is designed to examine thinking, policy and practice on vulnerability and poverty. It provides students with the knowledge and skills to engage professionally with the design, implementation and assessment of national and international efforts to reduce poverty. Specialist options available in the third term include courses on climate change and disasters, conflict and the political economy of aid.

**MA Science, Society and Development (New for 2007)**

Focusing on practical and policy questions in health, environment and agriculture, this programme provides students with a solid grounding in development concepts and theories, in combination with an understanding of the politics and governance of scientific knowledge and policy processes. Through exploring both theoretical and practical perspectives, the course asks how science and technology can contribute to poverty reduction, social justice and environmental sustainability in the developing world.

**MA in Globalisation and Development (New for 2008)**

This programme will offer a fresh perspective on globalisation issues with emphasis on the shift of power from West to East. It will provide students with the analytical and practical skills needed to understand globalisation processes and their main drivers. A trip to China, to include meetings with public officials, representatives from the private sector, trade unions, academics and other organisations, is planned in the second part of the summer term.

**MPhil Development Studies (New for 2007)**

The revised MPhil degree is a two-year course designed for students who combine high academic potential with first-hand developing country experience. The programme is structured to link closely with other MA courses offered at IDS, allowing students to develop some degree of focus on a specific issue or theme. A substantial portion of the MPhil is dedicated to desk-based or field-based research, using a variety of research methods. The programme aims to develop and enhance students’ career opportunities in social science research, policy and practice related to international development issues.

**DPhil Completions Since Annual Report 2005–06**

*Asha George*

*The Outrageous as Ordinary: Health Workers’ Perspectives on Accountability in Primary Health Care in Koppal District, Karnataka State, India.*

*Emma Jones*

*Locating Citizenship in Everyday Life: Perceptions and Experiences from Kwoi, Northern Nigeria.*

**IDS TEACHING**

Joining the IDS Community

“I found IDS to be a welcoming and supportive teaching and learning environment. I integrated within the IDS community faster than I expected and feel that administrators and Fellows are always there to lend support. Lectures and seminars are nothing short of thought-provoking and robust debates on issues of development. There is also close interaction between the Director of the Institute, Fellows and students, which facilitates mutual learning. I will certainly recommend studying at IDS to friends.”

*Ayanda Ignita Mbayakulu, MA Gender and Development*

Leaving with a Broader Toolkit for Tackling Poverty

“I leave IDS with both new friends and an invaluable network of professional contacts.”

*Pietro Calice, MP29*
Balancing Impartiality and Influence

By presenting many different perspectives and avoiding an explicit advocacy role, the IDS Knowledge Services have worked hard to establish our reputation as a trusted source of information on development. Our aim is to present a balanced and impartial view, while remembering that ‘balance’ and ‘impartiality’ are, in themselves, questionable concepts. As IDS works to ‘reinvent development research’, we have been thinking hard about our role as knowledge and information intermediaries and how we can maximise our influence without compromising our reputation for impartiality.

We have two important roles to play – to be a champion of underreported or newly-emerging development issues and a beacon for promoting more creative and effective approaches to sharing development knowledge. The first is demonstrated by our work over the past year on palliative care and on gender and sexuality. Our efforts to promote better research communication and raise awareness of the distinctive role of knowledge and information intermediaries, such as ourselves, highlight the second.

Getting Issues onto the Platform

Palliative care, the care of those suffering from incurable sicknesses, is vitally important to wellbeing, but receives very little attention and rarely hits the headlines. An edition of id21 insights Health on this subject helped to address this problem by providing an easy-to-read summary of palliative care policy and practice in developing countries – the first time the issues had been laid out in a credible and accessible format.

Contributors, all members of an international network, were able to use insights as an advocacy tool as they campaigned for a palliative care strand at the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto. After successfully securing plenary and other sessions at the conference, they funded its translation into French and Spanish and it became the palliative care strand’s official briefing document. Since Toronto, the international palliative care community has continued to use insights at events and meetings worldwide, including a seminar hosted by IDS featuring two of the original contributors.

Reporting from the Cutting Edge

Taking a steer from its International Advisory Committee, BRIDGE chose gender, sexuality and sexual rights as the focus for its latest Cutting Edge Pack. The packs target policymakers, practitioners and activists in the North and South and present the latest thinking on topical gendered issues. They provide an overview of the main issues and debates, innovative case studies and recommendations for action, alongside additional resources and contacts.

With the Gender and Sexuality Cutting Edge Pack, the team sought to raise the profile of this controversial issue to promote a more inclusive, gendered and empowering approach to sexuality. To stimulate debate on these issues among leading development actors, BRIDGE organised launches at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the Asia Regional Sexuality Resource Centre in New Delhi and the UK’s DFID. Distribution of the Cutting Edge Pack has reached a record 1,700 copies so far.

‘The Cutting Edge Pack … is genuinely cutting edge.’ – Senior UN gender advisor commenting on the BRIDGE Gender and Sexuality Cutting Edge Pack.

Championing Research Communications

How much of the international development research carried out each year gets to make a difference? Most would agree that the answer is ‘not enough’. Too much research stays within the confines of the academic community or is locked away in reports and articles accessed only by a small number of specialists. IDS hosted a workshop in October 2006 to ask how research funders can address this problem. Organised jointly with the DFID and Canada’s International Development Research Centre, it brought together leading research funders, research organisations and knowledge intermediaries.
work. But there is a clear sense that funders are waking up to this issue as a vital way to ensure that the funds they spend on research aren’t wasted.

**Convening Intermediaries**

In May 2007 IDS organised a meeting of information and knowledge intermediaries, people who, like us, are part of a new generation working to increase access to development research through portals, gateways or reporting services. Participants from 10 countries joined staff from across the IDS Knowledge Services for lively debate and exchange of ideas. We believe this was the first meeting of its kind – focusing exclusively on our kind of work.

Together we looked at how our work contributes to achieving development objectives and began to map our different approaches and roles. As well as pushing their conceptual thinking, participants appreciated the opportunity to reflect on their work, compare it with others, share practical challenges and explore ideas for overcoming them.

A new I-K-Mediaries Working Group was formed to build on the momentum of the workshop and the new sense of shared identity it has created. IDS has been asked to take on a facilitation role and this will become a central part of our capacity development work over the next few years.

**The New Generation of Information and Knowledge Intermediaries**

IDS Knowledge Services are part of a new generation of ‘information and knowledge intermediaries’ that has emerged in the last decade, working particularly – though not exclusively – with development research. Simply put, we are part of the supply chain that enhances and enables links between consumers and suppliers of research knowledge. We help to make the connections – with our overall aim being to support more informed decision making by those in a position to influence change.

Intermediary roles are not new in development; agricultural extension workers, librarians and others have long played a brokerage function. But technological advances combined with increasing interest in research communication are driving this new generation of intermediaries, ones that don’t quite fit existing definitions or professional networks. As part of this new generation we are interested in understanding more about it and connecting with others who share similar approaches and objectives.

The conclusion was that funders can and should be doing more. As well as providing financial backing and practical support – such as training – funders should play a crucial role by changing incentive structures. If an effective communication strategy were seen as a prerequisite for a successful grant application, it would send a strong signal to researchers that communication needs to be taken seriously and is integral to the research process – not just an end-of-project afterthought. There are challenges involved in gearing up communication efforts, not least for the funders who must develop their own capacity to assess and support communication.
Knowledge Services

BLDS
The British Library for Development Studies (BLDS) is Europe’s largest research collection on economic and social change in developing countries, with a unique collection of material built up over 40 years. BLDS supports teaching and research and operates a number of services specifically designed to provide remote users, particularly in developing countries, with access to its collection, much of which is unavailable anywhere else.

www.blds.org
www.blds.ac.uk

BRIDGE
BRIDGE support gender advocacy and mainstreaming efforts by bridging the gaps between research, policy and practice with accessible and diverse information in various languages. Its sister website Siyanda is a comprehensive database of gender materials from all regions of the world, and includes a searchable database of gender consultants.

www.bridge.ids.ac.uk
www.bridge.ac.uk
www.siyanda.org

Eldis
One of the most highly respected sources of online information on development, Eldis filters, structures and presents a broad spectrum of relevant, high-quality content, reflecting a diversity of viewpoints and covering a wide variety of development issues and debates.

www.eldis.org
www.eldis.ac.uk

Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC)
IDS is a partner in the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre which provides access to the best thinking and skills on governance, social development and conflict.

www.gsdrc.org
enquiries@gsdrc.org

Health and Development Information Team (HDI)
The HDI Team provides high-quality accessible information from a diversity of sources, in order to support informed decision-making by policymakers and practitioners. The team produces id21 Health and the Health, Health Systems, and HIV and AIDS Resource Guides on Eldis, and works with the DFID Health Resource Centre, the IDS KNOTS Team and others to support knowledge sharing in health and development.

hdi@ids.ac.uk
www.ids.ac.uk/ids/info/health.html

id21
id21 is a free international development research reporting service. Funded by DFID, it reports on UK-resourced development research. id21’s editorial team produces research highlights and other outputs such as thematic e-mail newsletters and the publication id21 insights which reports the latest thinking on particular development topics.

id21@ids.ac.uk
www.id21.org

The Information Systems Unit
ISU is responsible for the IDS Knowledge Services’ shared technical platform. They have now launched the first version of Oryx, a new content and information management system, which will enable IDS Knowledge Services to continue to be at the leading edge of development information provision.

Knowledge Partnerships
IDS Knowledge Partnerships seeks solutions to knowledge and communications challenges in international development by conducting analysis, providing advice and developing capacity.

knowledge-partnerships@ids.ac.uk
www.ids.ac.uk/ids/knowledgepartnerships

Livelihoods Connect
Livelihoods Connect facilitates knowledge sharing and networking between practitioners, policymakers and researchers around comparative international ideas and experience of implementing sustainable livelihoods approaches.

livelihoods-connect@ids.ac.uk
www.livelihoods.org

Participation Resource Centre
The Participation Resource Centre, comprising the joint collection of the IDS Participation, Power and Social Change Team and the International Institute for Environment and Development, provides public access to over 5,000 books, documents, journals and videos. The Centre’s database can be searched online, providing links and sources, and the centre operates a limited document delivery service for requests from the South. The centre opens every weekday and visitors are welcome.

ppsc@ids.ac.uk
www.ids.ac.uk/ppsc

The Strategic Learning Initiative (SLI)
SLI works collaboratively with IDS Knowledge Services, peers and partner organisations. It aims to strengthen their capacity and commitment to implement information-based interventions that are strategic and accountable for their contribution to increasing social justice and reducing poverty. Its goal is to generate greater understanding of IDS Knowledge Services as information intermediaries in development processes, in order to help them make a more effective contribution.

sli@ids.ac.uk
www.ids.ac.uk/ids/info/sli.html
Publications

IDS Publications
The IDS publishing programme produces high quality, relevant and timely publications tailored to the needs of our key audiences. We produce over 50 outputs every year, including Policy Briefings with concise policy recommendations; Working Papers documenting work in progress; and Discussion Papers and Research Reports covering research in more depth. Our flagship journal, the IDS Bulletin goes from strength to strength, and is now issued six times a year. The new Research Summaries make it easier for busy policymakers and practitioners to access the information they need from recently produced Working Papers.

The diverse themes of the whole publishing programme are brought together with our new visual identity. The global ellipse branding represents our aim to look at the world from a different angle and brings consistency to all our work.

IDS40 Publications
Following the successful IDS fortieth anniversary conference in September 2006, two IDS Bulletins were published to capture the spirit of the event. ‘Challenging Orthodoxies, Influencing Debates’ (37.4, edited by Stephen Devereux and Caroline Knowles) looked at the ingredients necessary to make a classic IDS Bulletin article, and reproduced some of the most important in the journal’s history. ‘Reinventing Development Research’ (38.2, edited by Lawrence Haddad and Caroline Knowles) addressed some of the questions raised at the conference – Does development research need reinventing? And if it does, why now and it what ways?

As part of the programme of events for the anniversary the IDS Classics archive was set up online (www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/) and this stands as a record of innovative IDS research in its own right. This eclectic range of over 50 publications showcases the various challenging and lively contributions of IDS members to development thinking and practice over its first 40 years. The list continues to evolve.

The IDS40 Anniversary Conference Report covers the participants’ views of the conference, and includes summaries of the discussions which took place during the three-day event. It also reports on the worldwide IDS40 Roundtable events which took place over the year.

The innovative IDS40 Conference News reported back daily on the highlights of the events in a simple newsletter format, popular amongst both the participants and those unable to attend every session. Other exciting media formats developed for the conference included video clips, podcasts and blogs.

Research Summaries
These two-page summaries concisely present the key points of each Working Paper published. Saving time in both downloading and reading, while quickly disseminating IDS research, enables this new resource to reach a wider audience than the full Working Paper. In a similar format, IDS In Focus explores research and analysis from different research teams, bringing together collections of short pieces looking at complex issues from different angles.

IDS Bulletin
Reflecting increasing subscriber demand, we now publish six issues of the IDS Bulletin a year. The themes both respond to and lead development agendas, and have included financial vulnerability in Asia; science, participation and development; and collective action around service delivery.

IDS Policy Briefings
Distilling specific areas of new research into succinct and policy-relevant findings aimed at policymakers, donors and practitioners, IDS Policy Briefings have this year covered themes such as corporate codes of labour practice, how taxation affects the quality of governance, and making accountability count. These three briefings were published to coincide with conferences, debates and public lectures by their authors.

CD-Roms
Increasingly, CD-Roms are used to provide access to large collections of related publications. The lightweight format works well at conferences, and can showcase a body of work on subjects such as climate change or Asian Drivers. They are invaluable to southern users who may have an unreliable internet connection.

Publications Catalogue
Our six-page catalogue published twice a year highlights new work by IDS authors, whether produced in-house or by development publishers. This excellent guide covers new books, IDS Bulletins, IDS series papers, Policy Briefings, and the subscription service offered.
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Fellow

Lizbeth Navas-Aleman
Fellow

Professor Sherman Robinson
Fellow

Professor Hubert Schmitz
Fellow

Chris Stevens*
Fellow

Dirk Wullenbockel
Fellow

* retired during the year

** appointed during the year

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(ex officio)
Director, IDS

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Labour MP for Lewisham, Deptford

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Fellow

Professor Sherman Robinson
Fellow

Professor Hubert Schmitz
Fellow

Chris Stevens*
Fellow

Dirk Wullenbockel
Fellow

* retired during the year

** appointed during the year
Hille Cook
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Louise Daniel
Senior Research Editor
Dick Douglass
Programme Assistant
Shanti Mahendra
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Research Editor – Infrastructure
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Library Cataloguer
Alison Broun*
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Molly Chasseaud
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Janet Cooper
Senior Library Assistant – User Services
Janet Doe*
Online Services Librarian
Lisa Jolliffe
Marketing Coordinator
Helen Rehin
Deputy Librarian
Henry Roussel
Acquisitions Librarian
Kirstin Stride*
Senior Library Assistant – Serials
Amy Taylor
Senior Library Assistant – Acquisitions
Stephanie Watson
Teaching Services Librarian
Strategic Learning Initiative
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Marketing Coordinator
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Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
Catherine Fisher
Capacity Development Coordinator
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Cleaning Assistant
Santhosh Mathew
Resident Warden
Linda Miller
Cook
Martin Neuson
Porter/Maintenance
John Philpot
Facilities Officer
Bev Roue
Facilities Assistant
Sheila Saunter
Cleaning Assistant
Pat Ullatts
Senior Bar Assistant
Daun Uldigerry
Facilities Assistant
Finance
Harvey Coates
Finance Assistant
Angela Boyne-Cross*
Assistant Project Accountant
Simon Dixon
Project Accountant
Selina Meuett
Project Accountant
Katy Miller
Assistant Project Accountant
Sarah Ollershaw
Assistant Project Accountant
Connie Rafferty
Project Accountant
Andrea Rudge
Financial Accountant
Carrie Stapleton
Finance Assistant
Sharon Ward
Assistant Project Accountant
Sophie Whittaker
Finance Manager
Human Resources
Sarah Clarke*
Human Resources Officer
Samantha Lunn
Training and Recruitment Administrator
Jo O'Reilly
Human Resources Officer
Isobel Pearce
Human Resources Manager
Terry Pearce*
Administrator
Nicola Port
Human Resources Officer
Paula Rich
Human Resources Manager
Emma Vernon
Human Resources Manager
Rosa Woodhouse
Human Resources Officer
Teaching and Training Unit
Julia Broun
Programme Administrator
Angela Douman
Programme Administrator
Felicity Harrison*
Programme Administrator
Julie McWilliam
Administrator
Sue Ong
Teaching Manager
James Prescott
Programme Administrator

Key
* Left or retired during the period 31 March 2006–15 July 2007
LoA: Currently on Leave of Absence
Financial Review of the Year

For the financial year ending March 2007 IDS recorded a deficit of £161,000, compared with a surplus in 2006 of £432,000. Research income grew by £1.1m to £8.8m, reflecting growth in the Fellowship and success in winning new research contracts. Teaching income reduced from £937,000 to £844,000 due to a temporary loss of income as a result of the transition to the new MPhil programme. Income for Information Management increased by £600,000, moving from £3.1m in 2006 to £3.7m in 2007 due to a planned increase in Department for International Development (DFID) funded programmes. Total income at £14m was up £1.7m over the previous year. DFID was the largest funder providing 52 per cent of the total income. Other leading funders were the European Union, Ford Foundation, The Economic and Social Research Council, the Swedish International Development Agency, Rockefeller Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Total expenditure was £14.1m, compared with £11.9m in 2006. Expenditure on Research was £8.6m (2006 – £7.0m), Information Management £3.9m (2006 – £3.4m) and Teaching £1m (2006 – £0.9m).

Current assets totalled £7.1m with £4.3m held as Current Asset Investments. Total reserves were £6.5m consisting of £6.1m (2006 – £6.4m) unrestricted and £0.4m (2006 – £0.3m) restricted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Statement of Financial Activities (all figures £000s)</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming resources</strong></td>
<td>£13,954</td>
<td>£12,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrealised gains/(losses)</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>(11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources expended</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned studies and research</td>
<td>8,594</td>
<td>6,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information management</td>
<td>3,858</td>
<td>3,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching costs</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications, catering and accommodation</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>(14,133)</td>
<td>(11,881)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Balance Sheet (all figures £000s)</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tangible assets</strong></td>
<td>£2,098</td>
<td>£2,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>7,117</td>
<td>7,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due within one year</td>
<td>(2,677)</td>
<td>(3,267)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>(4,440)</td>
<td>4,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>6,538</td>
<td>6,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>6,141</td>
<td>6,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>6,538</td>
<td>6,699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The summary financial information contained on pages 36 and 37 is taken from the Institute of Development Studies full audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2007 which were approved by the Trustees on 7 June 2007. These extracts show summary information relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet and provide an overview of the financial affairs of the Institute. For further information the full audited financial statements containing the Trustees’ and Auditors’ reports should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from the Institute of Development Studies Finance Department.

The financial statements have been audited by Buzzacott, registered auditors, and received an unqualified opinion. All accounts for prior years have been submitted to both the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies; those for 2006–07 will be submitted during the year 2007.

Malcolm Barter
Company Secretary
June 2007

Statement of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of the Institute of Development Studies

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Institute of Development Studies for the year ended 31 March 2007 which comprises the Summary Statement of Financial Activities and the Summary Balance Sheet. This report is made solely to the Trustees. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report on summary financial statements and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trustees for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditors

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2005. Our responsibility is to report our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees’ Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 ‘The Auditors’ Statement on the Summary Financial Statement’ issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees’ Annual Report of the Institute of Development Studies for the year ended 31 March 2007.

Buzzacott
Chartered Accountants and
Registered Auditors
12 New Fetter Lane
London
EC4A 1AG
9 July 2007