

TFK programme, funded projects 2022

<p>Project title: New Directions In Development Studies and Sustainability: Reconsidering global challenges and local realities</p>	
<p>Coordinator</p> <p>University of Helsinki</p> <p>Barry Gills barry.gills@helsinki.fi</p>	<p>The project consists of collaboratively designed and delivered intensive research skills-building courses, entailing exchange of PhD students and staff. It focuses on theoretical knowledge, writing and research skills, and curriculum design collaboration, which will provide significant long-term benefits to all the partner institutions.</p> <p>Development Studies (DS) is an academic discipline that has traditionally engaged with the dynamics of social and economic change in ‘developing countries’ in the global South. However, current paradigms and curricula in DS around the world have become outdated and detached from local realities. This is especially clear when considering the United Nations’ global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focus on environmentally sustainable social and economic development. The analysis and understanding of the relationship between global challenges and localities is more relevant than ever. During the intensive courses, the participants will address a range of topics proposed by the partner HEIs in Africa, including: localization of SDGs; multilateralism and recolonisation of Africa; corruption and debt crises; climate change and agriculture; China’s role >1 in African development; North/South relations in a globalized context; economic partnerships, trade, and international cooperation; decolonisation of development studies; and the role of history in development.</p>
<p>Partners</p> <p>University of Jyväskylä (JYU), University of Dar Es Salaam (UDSM), University of Zambia (UNZA), The University of Dodoma (UDOD),</p>	<p>The project is designed on a foundation of equal voice and exchange to address the desires of all partners. The proposed project structure is: 2 in-person intensive course exchanges, hosted by UNZA and UH; 2 virtual exchanges hosted by UDOM and UDSM; 2 virtual seminars hosted by JYU to open and close the project and assess outcomes; and frequent virtual team collaboration on curriculum development/coordination, joint research, and publication. The in-person exchanges will include 13 students and 8 staff. The in-person intensive exchanges will include space for participation by additional PhD and MA students, researchers, and staff at the host HEIs. The virtual exchanges will include students and staff from all 5 partner HEIs. The staff of all universities will hold monthly meetings to collaborate on curriculum planning as well as exploring joint research and publication.</p>

	<p>In the short term, the project will: foster skills development for students at all institutions; provide a platform for young researchers to build connections and international experience; develop curriculum that melds practical knowledge with critical examinations of how systems of development work; and enable collaboration on joint research and publication. In the long term, it will: enhance and ensure the long-term quality of DS teaching and research at the partner institutions; provide a foundation for future ground-breaking and practical collaboration; and provide a useful methodological model for how to build and revise curriculum as the field of DS evolves.</p>
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