



THE MIAMI-FLORIDA JEAN MONNET CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The European Year of Development: approaches, issues & results

A Conference of the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence

**Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street – Miami, FL 33199 - MARC International Pavilion**

Conference Participants: Abstracts

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Olufemi Babarinde

Associate Professor, Global Studies

Thunderbird University

Title: EU-Africa Development Initiatives

Abstract

The development policies of the European Union (EU) toward Africa can be traced back to the inception of the European Economic Community (EEC) Treaty of Rome in 1958. Since then, the nature of the EU's relationship with Africa has evolved from the traditional tools of aid and trade for the development of the continent, and now includes relatively new or re-defined terrains like conflict prevention, post-conflict reconciliation, rehabilitation, and re-integration, terrorism and insurgencies, human/labor rights, and a host of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, including, but not limited to, poverty and hunger eradication, capacity building, inclusive growth, security, environmental protection, and climate change. Current development policies of the EU in Africa draw from three broad strands of the EU's global foreign policy and external relations as a global actor. First, it relies on relics of the age-old EU-ACP relations, particularly the on-going Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) the EU has been negotiating with groups (and individual) of African countries. Second, it draws from the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which informs the EU's relationship with *Maghreb* Africa. Third, it relies on the new millennium Joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership.

This discourse will discuss the evolution of the EU's development policies in Africa, focusing, inter-alia, on the approaches, the emphases, the issues, and the results. It will illustrate how endogenous and exogenous forces have contributed to the dynamics of EU-Africa relations. Inter-alia, the discourse will include implications of the widening and the deepening of EU integration for EU-Africa relations. For example, in addition to the entering to force of new treaties, such as the 1986 Single European Act (which introduced the concept of European Political Cooperation for harnessing EU external relations decision-making) and the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht (which introduced the Common Foreign and Security Policy concept), just to mention a couple, the discourse will also examine how the end of the Cold War, the inception of the World Trade Organization, the adoption of the MDGs/SDGs, the events of September 2001, and globalization have informed EU-Africa relations to date.

Sarah Beringer
Lecturer
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Title: “Development, Energy and Climate Change: EU Third Country Programs for Energy Security and Renewable Energy”

Abstract

Energy is among the focus sectors of the European Union’s development programs due to the direct correlation between access to energy and development. With a package of initiatives, the EU is aiming to support developing nations in their efforts to gain better access to sustainable energy and consequently lift 500 million out of poverty until 2030. By differentiating country-specific, regional and global initiatives, this presentation analyzes the tools used by the European Union for supporting the development of the energy sector in partner countries and regions. In doing so, the presentation will specifically focus on programs for renewable energy and their role in the fight against climate change.

Bibek Chand
PhD Student, Department of Politics & International Relations
Florida International University

Title: The EU in the Himalayas: Analyzing the European Union’s Role in post-conflict Nepal

Abstract:

Ever since the establishment of official ties between the European Union and Nepal in 1973, the EU has actively participated in the country’s development. Emphasizing on peace, stability, democracy, human rights, and prosperity, the EU has been the largest provider of aid to Nepal and it continues to hold that title. The Nepalese Civil War (1996-2006) produced numerous developmental challenges due to the deteriorating security situation. During the conflict period, the EU continued to pressure both conflicting parties to maintain constrain. After the signing of the peace agreement and the inclusion of the warring Maoist party in mainstream Nepalese politics, the EU has facilitated the post-war reconstruction and political reconciliation in Nepal and has actively promoted the need for an inclusive constitution. Thus, this paper seeks to analyze the EU’s role in Nepal’s post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, with a special emphasis on the inclusion of marginalized communities. It also seeks to decipher whether there have been changes to the EU’s development policies towards Nepal since the transition of the country from a monarchy to a republic in 2008.

Lukas K. Danner
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Florida International University

Title: China and the EU: Development Competitors or Partners?

Abstract

With the rise of China in the recent past, the tectonic shifts in international relations were not just limited to trade and the economic ascendance of the Chinese market. China left the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and 2010 Eurozone Crisis relatively healthy and, thus, emboldened with (mis-) perceptions of rising political and military power, too. Several developments in the past decade or so have led most of IR scholars to believe that—counterintuitive to what classical balance-of-power theory would predict about U.S. hegemony—the EU perceives China increasingly as competitor on the world stage. “For instance, in the face of China’s growing energy consumption, EU policymakers are just as concerned as their colleagues in Washington about potential rivalry over access to oil and gas. As a ‘civilian power’ based largely on trade, aid, and diplomacy, the EU has perceived China’s increased presence in Africa as competition. One could even argue that the geographical reach of the EU’s ‘normative power’ has been curtailed by the emergence of an alternative ‘China Model’” (Dessein 2014, 272). Especially the latter has gained significant momentum as ‘Beijing Consensus’ and a challenge to the U.S.-led ‘Washington Consensus’ in development, with Europe subscribing to the latter. However, recent examples—especially also in global governance concerning sustainable development—have shown a more ambivalent picture of EU-China relations, as well as singular European states’ bilateral relations with China. In China’s recent diplomatic and economic development initiatives—the OBOR/‘One Belt, One Road’ (Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road) and the AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank)—European nations have played a determining cooperative role, whereas the United States stayed out. This paper will take a closer look at such development cooperation in Sino-European relations (OBOR & AIIB) and ask whether or not recent cooperation between China and European nations could warrant a re-evaluation of Europe’s behavior from competition to partnership with China.

Wendy Grenade
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Title: North-South ‘Partnerships’ in a Complex World: The Caribbean and EU

Abstract

The twenty-first century is characterized by a multiplicity of complexities, which exacerbate development challenges for countries in the Global South. Consequently, global and regional partnerships and other forms of development cooperation are critical strategies to promote security and sustainability, particularly for small island developing states, such as those in the Caribbean. Within this context, this paper utilizes an International Relations perspective to critique the tensions and possibilities which shape North-South partnerships, using the case of the Caribbean and the EU. The central questions are: how has the EU’s approach to development cooperation in the Caribbean changed over time? What are the implications of those changes for Caribbean-EU relations? What future scenarios are possible? The paper calls for a multi-disciplinary research agenda to explore such questions to advance Caribbean and European Studies scholarship and praxis.

Percy C. Hinzen

Professor, Global and Socio-Cultural Studies

Florida International University

Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley

Title: The EU, CARIFORUM, AND CELAC: and the new multilateral alliance: the respecification and reconsolidation of old colonial ties in the era U.S. hegemonic decline.

Abstract

This paper will examine the relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, established through development initiatives, economic cooperation, research collaboration and security initiatives, in the effort by the region to address the historical failures of the United States to produce integrated development. This failure has led to the loss of “absolute power” by the U.S. Through multilateral collaboration with CARIFORUM and CELAC, the EU is harnessing the former and current colonial ties of Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, and Holland to cultivate a singular regional grouping in the Caribbean and Latin America that circumvents relations with the United States and Canada. These efforts are meant to accomplish sustained regional development to redress the unfulfilled promise of the United States as the economic hegemon. The presence of Brazil and Mexico—the region’s two economic superpowers — provides the unprecedented potential for this integrated regional bloc to position itself, alongside East Asia, as one of the world’s centers of economic and political power. This represents a significant respecification of colonial and neocolonial relations with Europe as a collaborating, and even dependent, partner that no longer possesses the capacity to exercise colonial commandment

Sylvia Maier

Clinical Assistant Professor, Center for Global Affairs

New York University

Title: Sustainable Empowerment: An Assessment of EU Women’s Capacity-Building Programs in Afghanistan in the Context of UNSR Resolution 1325

Abstract

Gender equality, one of the core values of the European Union and embedded in its legal and political framework, is the foundation of stable, peaceful and prosperous societies. The EU, recognizing the moral imperative as well as practical benefits of supporting the formation of more gender-equal societies, has long been making gender equality and women’s capacity-building an integral part of its foreign and development policies, particularly in the wider MENA region, and, more critically, in Afghanistan, as part of its commitment to sustainable social development and peace-building. Collectively, the EU is the biggest provider of official development assistance, and indeed, globally as well as in Afghanistan, enormous progress has been made in reducing women’s illiteracy rates, eliminating the gender gap in access to primary education, and improving infant and maternal health care. Yet much remains to be done in the region as women’s rights remain under siege, especially with the resurgent Taliban, civil war and displacement, spiking gender-based violence, and women generally remaining marginalized in the public sphere and post-conflict and peace negotiations.

In recognition of this fact, in September 2015, marking the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UNSR Resolution 1325, the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the adoption of the SDGs, which, for the first time, in SGD 5, make gender equality its own free-standing goal, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy adopted a working document, *Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women Through EU External Relations 2016-2020*, that builds on the achievements of the *Gender Action*

Plan 2010-2015 and serves as a new framework for more effective EEAS programming and support of women's empowerment in the public and private spheres.

In this paper I will focus on Afghanistan, a key target country for EU development assistance, and offer a critical assessment of the effectiveness of EU women's empowerment programs in the context of UNSR Resolution 1325. How effective have EU support and funding for women's empowerment programs been in advancing the objectives of UNSR 1325? Which programs have been identified as the most effective and, most important, why? For example, have programs such as Afghan women leadership programs, actually led to greater capacity-building and a greater inclusion of women in peace negotiations? What can we learn from the implementation, both in terms of substance and process, of these successful programs as Afghanistan enters a critical period, with a resurgent Taliban and the Ghani government under increasing pressure to come to an accommodation with the insurgents? I will conclude with thoughts on the future of women's rights in Afghanistan and the role the European Union can and should play in their protection.

Alexandre Met-Domestici

Associate Professor – Maitre de Conferences

Jean Monnet Chair, "EUs' Role in the Fight against Economic Crime"

Science Po Aix en Provence

Title: Fostering Development through the Fight against Corruption and Money Laundering in the EU's Neighborhood Policy

Abstract

A presentation dealing with the European Neighborhood Policy –ENP- might seem surprising in a conference devoted to Development.

However, development is nowadays not everywhere a matter of food security and eradicating epidemics in a context of absolute poverty. The current approach to development does not necessarily address industrialization as it did in the first decades of development policies –i.e. the 1960s and the 1970s-, neither are the expected results today limited to macroeconomic figures.

With its new multi-faceted features, development has to be human and sustainable. Thus, it is a goal whose achievement can never be taken for granted. Middle-income countries and emerging ones are still on their way to full development. Even the traditionally so-called "industrialized" ones are at risk of slipping backward. No wonder if former soviet republics such as Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia and Mediterranean countries cannot be considered as fully developed countries.

The path to development is furthermore no longer conceived as consisting in pouring fluxes of money upon countries which, then, make use of them in the full exercise of their sovereignty. Since 1986, the right to development has belonged to each individual as well as to the State -UNGA resolution 86/128-. In 1989, the World Bank has introduced the criterion of good governance. And, since the 1990s, in the view of the main donors –the US, the UN, the EU and its member States, Japan and Norway-, no efficient action toward development has been carried out without an institutional dimension. It is a condition for the proper use of funds, and a condition for political security, one of the seven aspects of human security consistently put forward by the UNDP since its 1994 Report.

In this setting, the European Union, which accounts –together with its Member States- for some 50 percent of the global amount spent on development, has set up a wide range of development-oriented legal tools in the different areas of its External action. One of the most popular is aimed at developing ACP –Africa, Caribbean, Pacific- countries, through the Lomé and then Cotonou Conventions and the more recent Economic Partnership Agreements. However, the European developmental network is much broader. It encompasses Latin America through specific agreements, all Less Advanced Countries through specific tools -e.g. the "Everything but weapons"

mechanism- and many other countries are covered by its General Preferences tariff list. Some countries involved in the Neighborhood policy are also on the General Preferences list.

This presentation will focus upon the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering provisions enshrined in some Association agreements between the EU and its partner countries. The ENP encompasses two geographical areas, namely the EU's Eastern and Southern neighborhoods.

Such association agreements provide a twofold contribution to development. They obviously aim at preventing any attempt to misuse public funds. At the EU level, the fight against corruption especially aims at protecting the EU's budget. Apart from this positive effect, it has *per se* a true value: it contributes to good governance, transparency and is an unavoidable aspect of the rule of law.

Moreover, anti-corruptions tools are *per se* pivotal to the rule of law, good governance and institutional development. Hence, the Neighborhood policy provides for specific tools which help foster some of the wide-ranging goals pursued by development policies.

Analyzing association agreements between the EU and partner countries will lead us to discover provisions aimed at fighting corruption and money laundering. The EU demands that partner countries update their institutional and legislative frameworks in order to combat corruption and money laundering more effectively.

Operationalization of such agreements is a trickier issue and Implementation shortcomings are likely.

Joaquín Roy

Jean Monnet Chair "ad personam"

Director, European Union Center of Excellence

University of Miami

Title: "The EU's frustration over Cuba's insertion in the ACP development programs"

Abstract

In contrast with the US policy towards Cuba, based on the strategy of the embargo and subsequent legislation (Helms-Burton, among other), the European Union and its member states (most especially Spain) have opted for a modified attitude that, under different names, is pictured as "constructive engagement". It has composed of the steady maintenance of diplomatic relations by the European states and a set of conditioned offers by the European Union institutions as such though a variety of programs. Among them are the project to insert Cuba in the ACP structure of development aid and the establishment of the Common Position, in expectation of a modification of Cuban policies regarding human rights, legal reform and international cooperation. This presentation will offer a summary of the development of European policies and Cuban responses, parallel to the US path of normalization.