The “Crisis Caravan”: Health and Humanitarian Aid in Africa
13-5-260
Fall Semester 2012 (From 22.10.12 to 17.12.12)
Monday, 18:00-20:15

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Office hours: Monday, 17:15-18:00

Course Description:
The pros and cons of health and humanitarian aid in Africa are questioned in a series of recent publications, based on observational and case studies. They carry forward a debate of over several decades. The number of humanitarian organizations competing with each other on huge capital share of about $ 120 billion per year is estimated at 40,000 globally, with a large proportion focusing on Africa. These funding and new interests of donors and implementers raise several questions such as:

- Are donor countries are taking advantage of the appearance of neutrality of humanitarian organizations and the use of funneling funds to promote their foreign affairs interests?
- What is the role of the media and its effect on resource mobilization in emergencies is gaining more attention?
- What drives individuals to volunteer in time of humanitarian crisis and how could students be more effective in such situations?
- How does Israel participate in the “Crisis caravan”?

The course will follow these questions and will present frameworks for analysis through case studies and publications. We shall also critic the findings of Linda Polman’s on what she names “the painful consequences caused by the good intentions of aid workers in crisis” and discuss the moral dilemmas in sending aid to Africa she presents in her book.

Course Objectives:
Analysing the results of collective research with specific inputs from selected case studies across time and countries, students will be able to:

- Explain basic concepts in health and humanitarian aid for Africa
- Relate the course focus to their broader learning on the history and contemporary Africa
- Evaluate several theoretical and historical perspectives from which arguments are made about the role of health and humanitarian aid in development and global health
- Critic views on the effectiveness of health humanitarian aid
• Explore ways for their individual participation in aid to Africa

Main Disciplines: Global Health, Anthropology, Sociology

Course Structure:

Lectures and Students' Lead Discussions  Total # of Credits: 2
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 3

Teaching Method:
A combination of formal lectures and class discussions lead by the students, based on weekly reading assignments. Students will also develop and present an individual project related to the content of the course. Compulsory book for the course: Polman L (2010) The Crisis Caravan: What's Wrong With Humanitarian Aid?. Metropolotan Books, NY.

Course Requirements
Compulsory attendance, student-lead discussions on assigned papers, and end of the course Seminar Paper with class presentation

Structure of Final Course Grad

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Participation</th>
<th>20%</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Presentation of paper and discussion</td>
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<td>3. Written Project (Seminar Paper)</td>
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Note:
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Language of instruction is English

Course Schedule Layout:

First week

Readings:

Second week
Policy-makers at Global and Intra-Organizational Level: Who Decides

Readings:

Third week
The Role of Donors: Countries, Foundations and Individuals

Readings:

Forth week
Case Study: Rwanda Genocide

Readings (and video):
- Film Viewing: TBC
- Poffley R (2012) The dilemma of neutrality: to what extent can humanitarian assistance be combined with efforts to promote development? Medicine, Conflict and Survival Vol. 28, Iss. 2.

Fifth week
Case Study: Sierra Leon

Readings:

Sixth week
The Role of the Media

Readings:

Seventh Week
Case Study: South Africa

Readings:

Eighth Week
Israeli Humanitarian Aid for Africa

Readings:
Ninth Week
Class Presentations of Students’ Seminar Papers