

**Project Workshop:
The Nexus of Communities, Knowledge, and Sustainable Change
Prof. Lynn Schler
Tuesdays 10-12 Semester 1 and 2
2022-2023**

Syllabus

Course Description:

This course serves as a preparatory workshop for students to undertake community-based projects in a local community in Africa during the third semester of the MA program, "African Sustainable Communities." The course has three objectives:

1. An introduction to theoretical and practical aspects of community development in African contexts: In order to prepare for student projects, this workshop will examine theoretical interventions on a range of themes and topics, including but not limited to: theories of community development, notions of communalism in African settings, conceptualizing participation and participatory development, defining local knowledge, questions of knowledge production in development interventions in postcolonial Africa, defining and assessing resources, structures and hierarchies in local communities, understanding sustainability, and more. Alongside theoretical perspectives, we will also review many practical and applied aspects of sustainable community development in Africa. This will include examination of issues such as: becoming an agent of change, mobilizing from below, understanding relations of power in community development projects, planning and launching a project, overcoming obstacles, building alliances and networks, accessing and exploiting resources, learning to listen and engage with communities, sustainable planning, and work in conflict zones. Over the course of the year, students will engage with these theoretical and practical approaches through active reading and discussion of texts, group discussions and debates, and through meetings with a wide range of guest lecturers and organizations.

2. Individual preparation for projects: Over the course of the project workshop, students plan and design a project to implement in a local community in Africa. We will begin helping students to identify objectives that align with their individual areas of interest, their skills and professional background, and the specific opportunities in a given setting. The workshop will guide students in formulating objectives and goals, learning about the local context and also the theoretical, historical, political and social background for their project's area of engagement. Students will be guided through the process of identifying an area of interest, applying a holistic approach to the study of the local context, defining objectives, formulating a plan, identifying resources, establishing collaborative relationships, and undertaking various aspects of evaluation, monitoring, accountability, and summation with regards to sustainability. Over the course of first semester, we will review how to write a literature review, and students will submit their own literature review at the end of the semester. By the end of second semester, students will submit a full project proposal that includes various components of themes and topics covered over the course of the year.

3. Learning from the Field: The third aspect of the course will provide opportunities for seeing and experiencing many of the ideas raised in class in local community development initiatives. We will visit and learn from a range of community and economic development projects, particularly in the Negev, while getting acquainted with local socio - development issues and approaches used to address them. We will also host different guest lecturers in the course, and learn from first hand experience and expertise. We will examine various initiatives within diverse local communities, and use these to understand the links between broader political and economic contexts and the possibilities for community development.

This course works in conjunction with other required courses that are part of the ASC program. Specifically, the Development Management Workshop and the course on Research Methods will also provide theoretical and practical skills for helping students to prepare, plan and launch their projects in local communities in Africa.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Students are required to attend classes each week and participate in discussions based on the weekly readings. Students should come to class having reviewed the reading material, and ready to engage in discussion and critique of the readings. Students who miss more than 3 meetings over the course of each semester will not receive credit for the course.
2. **Literature Review:** At the end of first semester, students will submit a literature review of 8 pages relating to the specific issues, themes, questions, and goals of their individual project. Working together with the course instructor as well as the thesis advisor (for those in the thesis track), students will write a literature review that provides the necessary theoretical, historical, political, social and cultural background for planning their project.
3. **Project Slide:** Students will learn to present their ideas and proposals in a concise and clear format. At the end of each semester, students will present one slide outlining ideas and plans for their individual projects.
4. **Project/Thesis Proposal:** At the end of second semester, students will submit a full project or thesis proposal for final approval. This proposal will incorporate the literature review, as well as specific outline of the local context, project objectives, methods, implementation plan and a framework for monitoring, assessment and accountability. The proposal will also include a sustainability plan for the project as well as a theory of change and log frame. The project proposal will be 15-20 pages.

Grading:

1. **Attendance and engaged participation** based on weekly readings: 20%
2. **Literature review** related to personal project - 8 pages (due Mar 5, 2023): 30%
3. **Project Slide:** each student will present one slide on their project at the end of first semester and again at the end of second semester : 10% (5% for each presentation)
4. **Full Project Proposal** (Due June 20, 2023) : 40%

Weekly Meetings: (Subject to Change!!!)

FIRST SEMESTER

25.10 Introduction

Introducing ourselves and course overview

Reading: Kothari, Uma, ed. *A radical history of development studies: Individuals, institutions and ideologies*. Zed Books Ltd., 2019.

Chpt 1 A radical history of development studies: individuals, institutions and ideologies

Chpt 2 Great promise, hubris and recovery: a participant's history of development studies

8.11 Planning for Your Project: What is Important to You?

Values/Identity Workshop

15.11 Whose Knowledge? Indigenous vs Western Knowledge from Project Planning to Implementation

Ika, Lavagnon A. "Project management for development in Africa: Why projects are failing and what can be done about it." *Project Management Journal* 43, no. 4 (2012): 27-41.

Marumo, Phemelo Olifile. "AFRICAN CULTURES AND PHILOSOPHIES AS AN ANSWER TO AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT," in Kamga, Serges Djoyou. *The right to development in the African human rights system*. Routledge, 2018. 303-319

https://www.ted.com/talks/chika_ezeanya_esiobu_how_africa_can_use_its_traditional_knowledge_to_make_progress

22.11 Field Trip: Israel and International Development Assistance

Ramat Rachel MASHAV center

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem: The Africa Desk

29.11 Skills and Strengths Workshop

6.12 Development Practitioners and Decolonizing Knowledge

Msila, Vuyisile. "AFRICAN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT A TIME OF DECOLONIZATION." in Kamga, Serges Djoyou. *The right to development in the African human rights system*. Routledge, 2018

Makuwira, Jonathan. "Water under troubled bridge: The (ir) relevance of development studies pedagogies in African universities." *Inaugural Lecture Presented to the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences, Summerstrand, South Africa*. <https://lectures.mandela.ac.za/lectures/media/Store/documents/Inaugural%20lectures/Inaugural-lecture-Prof-Jonathan-Makuwita-summary.pdf> (2016).

Mawere, Munyaradzi. *Culture, indigenous knowledge and development in Africa: Reviving interconnections for sustainable development*. Langaa Rpcig, 2014. Chapter 2: "Culture, indigenous knowledge, and development in Africa since colonialism: The Silenced Narrative."

Dei, George J. Sefa. "African development: The relevance and implications of 'indigenusness'." *Indigenous knowledges in global contexts: Multiple readings of our world* (2000): 70-86.

Gumede, Vusi. "Exploring thought leadership, thought liberation and critical consciousness for Africa's development." *Africa Development* 40, no. 4 (2015): 91-111.

Masowa, Angeline, and Zvinashe Mamvura. "African philosophy of development as expressed in Shona proverbs." *AFRREV IJAH: An International Journal of Arts and Humanities* 6, no. 2 (2017): 28-40.

Masoga, M. H., and Hassan Kaya. "Building on the indigenous: An appropriate paradigm for sustainable development in Africa." *African philosophy and the future of Africa cultural heritage and contemporary change* 14 (2011): 153-169

13.12 Debating Vocabulary

Mafeje, A. (1971). The Ideology of 'Tribalism'. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 9(2), 253-261.

Mats Hårsmar, "Misconceptions and Poor Understanding – The Debate on Poverty," in *Framing African Development: Challenging Concepts*, Brill 2016. (online Aranne)

Amanda Hammar "The Concept and Paradoxes of Displacement , in *Framing African Development: Challenging Concepts*, Brill 2016. (online Aranne)

Briggs, John. "The use of indigenous knowledge in development: problems and challenges." *Progress in development studies* 5, no. 2 (2005): 99-114. (an alternative view)

20.12 Communalism in Africa: Defining Communities and Communal Values

Hailey, John. "Ubuntu: A literature review." *London: Tutu Foundation* (2008).

Negedu, Isaiah A., and Solomon O. Ojomah. "The question of African communalism and the antithesis of democracy." *Filosofia Theoretica: Journal of African Philosophy, Culture and Religions* 7, no. 3 (2018): 53-71.

Ted K. Bradshaw (2008) "The Post-Place Community: Contributions to the Debate about the Definition of Community," *Community Development*, 39:1, 5-16, DOI: 10.1080/15575330809489738

Kochalumchuvattil, Thomas. "The crisis of identity in Africa: A call for subjectivity." *Kritike* 4, no. 1 (2010): 108-122.

Optional: Neequaye, George Kotei. "Personhood in Africa." In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Social Ethics*, pp. 103-127. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2020.

27.12 African Rural Communities VS Urban Communities – Commonalities and Differences?

Desai, Vandana, and Robert B. Potter. *The companion to development studies*. Routledge, 2013. Part 5: Urbanization and Development

Dobson, Skye, Hellen Nyamweru, and David Dodman. "Local and participatory approaches to building resilience in informal settlements in Uganda." *Environment and Urbanization* 27, no. 2 (2015): 605-620. (maybe)

Meagher, Kate (2010) *The tangled web of associational life*, WIDER Working Paper, No. 2010/50, ISBN 978-92-9230-287-0, The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki

Desai, Vandana, and Robert B. Potter. *The companion to development studies*. Routledge, 2013. Part 4: Rural Development

Mongbo, Roch L. "Stakeholders in the field of rural development at local level: Theoretical perspectives," in *The appropriation and dismembering of development intervention: policy, discourse and practice in the field of rural development in Benin*. Wageningen University and Research, 1995. Pp. 23-52

Bierschenk, Thomas, Jean-Pierre Chauveau, and Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan. "Local development brokers in Africa. The rise of a new social category." *Department of Anthropology and African Studies Working Papers* 13 (2002).

Zadawa, Abdullahi Nafiu, and Abdelnaser Omran. "Rural development in Africa: Challenges and opportunities." In *Sustaining our Environment for Better Future*, pp. 33-42. Springer, Singapore, 2020.

3.1 Workshop on Writing a Literature Review

10.1. FIELD TRIP: Women's Organizations, Empowerment and Community Development A Visit to Rahat

17.1 Library Visit to Meet with Librarian on Literature Review Searches

Oliver, Paul. 2012. *Succeeding with Your Literature Review a Handbook for Students* Berkshire, England: McGraw-Hill.

Hempel, Susanne. 2020. *Conducting Your Literature Review*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

SECOND SEMESTER – Weekly Topics

14.3 Can we really make a difference? Individual Agency and Community Empowerment in the Era of Capitalism and Global Inequality

Selected Chapters from: DeFilippis, James, Fisher, Robert and Shragge, Eric. *Contesting Community: The Limits and Potential of Local Organizing*, Ithaca, NY: Rutgers University Press, 2010. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.bgu.ac.il/10.36019/9780813549743>

Toomey, Anne H. "Empowerment and disempowerment in community development practice: eight roles practitioners play." *Community Development Journal* 46, no. 2 (2011): 181-195.

Christens, Brian D. "Targeting empowerment in community development: A community psychology approach to enhancing local power and well-being." *Community Development Journal* 47, no. 4 (2012): 538-554.

Rosalind Eyben, "Debating Empowerment: A Case Study of Knowledge Practices in the Development Assistance Committee," in *Framing African Development: Challenging Concepts*, Brill 2016.

Rosalind Eyben, Naila Kabeer and Andrea Cornwall, *Conceptualising empowerment and the implications for pro poor growth*, A paper for the DAC Poverty Network.

21.3 How do you become an agent of change?

Homan, M.S. (2004). *Promoting community change: making it happen in the real world*. (Third edition). Pacific Grove, Ca.: Brooks/Cole.
Chpt. 7 *Power* and Chpt. 8 *Powerful planning*

Homan, M.S. (2004). *Promoting community change: making it happen in the real world*. (Third edition). Pacific Grove, Ca.: Brooks/Cole.
Chpt 2 *Theoretical Frameworks for Community Change*
Chpt 4 *Putting yourself in the picture*, pp. 85-101.

28.3 Beyond Saviourism

Ramón-Hidalgo, Ana-Elia, Howard W. Harshaw, Robert A. Kozak, and David B. Tindall. "What a Small Group of People Can ('t) Do: An Analysis of Capable Agents for the Mobilization of Social Capital in Two Ghanaian Ecotourism Projects." *Sociology of Development* 6, no. 3 (2020): 338-367.

Cole, Teju. "The white-savior industrial complex." *The Atlantic* 21, no. March (2012).

<https://nowwhitesaviors.org/blog/> :

<https://nowwhitesaviors.org/who-we-are/purpose/>

<https://nowwhitesaviors.org/what-we-can-all-learn-from-stacey-dooleys-white-savior-row-her-refusal-to-do-better/>

<https://nowwhitesaviors.org/the-ethics-of-volunteering-and-voluntourism/>

<https://nowwhitesaviors.org/how-to-be-an-advocate-without-perpetuating-the-white-savior-complex/>

4.4 Knowing the Community: Strategies for Identifying Local Problems and Needs

Review suggested activities in : Wates, Nick, *The Community Planning Handbook : How People Can Shape Their Cities, Towns and Villages in Any Part of the World / Compiled and Earthscan, London. 2006.*

18.4 Assessing and mobilizing resources

Green, G. P. & Haines, A. (2016). *Asset Building and Community Development*, 4th ed. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc. Chapter

Hanna Nel (2018) *Community leadership: A comparison between asset-based community-led development (ABCD) and the traditional needs-based approach*, *Development Southern Africa*, 35:6, 839-851, DOI: 10.1080/0376835X.2018.1502075

2.5 Culture and Engagement: A Workshop

USEFUL TOOLS FOR ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION (UNICEF)

9.5 Visit to Communities in Negev: Unrecognized Villages and Community Advocacy from the Margins

16.5 Working with elites

Hemmati, M., Rogers, F. 2015. Multi-stakeholder engagement and communication for sustainability: Beyond sweet-talk and blanket criticism – towards successful implementation. CATALYSD: Sustainability- Communications. 25 p.

Hemmati, M. Multi-stakeholder processes <http://www.minuhemmati.net/msp.html>

M. Hemmati devotes her professional career to tasks related to the design, implementation and M&E of multi-stakeholder processes. This is her website.

23.5 Building networks and mobilizing participation

What If You Controlled the Budget? An Experiment in Democracy. The Atlantic.

Link: <https://youtu.be/DHhm6W0sD7M>

Abiona, A. & Bello, W.N. (2013). "Grassroots Participation in Decision-Making Process and Development Programmes as Correlate of Sustainability of Community Development Programmes in Nigeria." *Journal of Sustainable Development*; Vol. 6, No. 3; 2013.

Bappi, U., D. Singh, and K. Dahiru. "The effect of community participation on community development in Nigeria." *International Journal of Advances in Arts, Science and Engineering (IJOAASE)*, vol. 6, no. 13 (2018): 48-60.

Onyenemezu, C.E, (2014) The imperative of citizens participation in community development. *Academic Research International*, Vol. 5 No. 1 January 2014

30.5 Communities in the Shadow of Migration : Visit to South Tel Aviv

6.6 Learning to Listen: A Workshop in Active Listening

13.6 Defining and Evaluating Success

Njoh, A. J. (2006). "Determinants of success in community self-help projects: the case of the Kumbo water supply scheme in Cameroon." *International Development Planning Review*, 28(3), 381.

Diallo, Amadou, and Denis Thuillier. "The success of international development projects, trust and communication: an African perspective." *International journal of project management* 23, no. 3 (2005): 237-252.

Roberts, Hayden. *Community Development: Learning and Action*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019. Chapter 9: Evaluation in Community development
<https://doi-org.ezproxy.bgu.ac.il/10.3138/9781487575151>

20.6 Failures and Disappointments

<https://www.admittingfailure.org/>

Ted Talk: David Damberger

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_damberger_what_happens_when_an_ngo_admits_failure?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

Ika, Lavagnon, and Jan Saint-Macary. "Why do projects fail in Africa?." *Journal of African Business* 15, no. 3 (2014): 151-155.