

**Project Workshop:
The Nexus of Communities, Knowledge, and Sustainable Change
Prof. Lynn Schler
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: The first semester of the course offers a review of epistemological questions regarding the production of knowledge in postcolonial Africa, and then reviews theoretical and empirical research on questions of community, communalism and community development in Africa. This is essential theoretical background for the next part of the course, which will be more focused on practical approaches to community development in Africa. During the second semester, we will relate directly to issues relating to community development project planning and implementation. Students will get acquainted with practices and methods of planning, budgeting, implementing, and assessing projects in community development and coping with difficulties and failures. We will also engage with concepts such as participation, power, alliances, networking, engagement, and conflict.

2. Individual preparation for projects: Over the course of the two semesters, students will plan and design a project to implement in a local community in Africa. They will formulate objectives and goals, study the relevant historical, theoretical, and contextual background for their project, write a literature review, and submit a full project proposal at the end of the course. 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 writing up a proposal that includes processes for evaluation, monitoring, accountability, and summation with regards to sustainability.

3. Drawing upon local inspiration: 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 in the Negev while getting acquainted with major socio - development issues in the region. We will examine various initiatives within the diverse communities of the Negev, and use these to understand the links between broader political and economic contexts and the possibilities for community development.

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 the year will not receive credit for the course.

2. Weekly Forums on Moodle: Throughout the year, students will be required to periodically submit written responses to questions or assignments in the course website on Moodle. These assignments will either relate to individual project planning or will ask for responses to weekly readings. Questions for Moodle Forums appear in the syllabus for each week.

3. Literature Review: At the end of first semester, students will submit a literature review of 7-8 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.

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 project objectives, methods, implementation plan and a framework for monitoring, assessment and accountability. The proposal will also include a discussion of how the question of sustainability has shaped the ways that the project will be planned, implemented and evaluated. The project proposal will be 18-20 pages.

Grading:

1. Attendance and engaged participation based on weekly readings: 20%
2. Literature review related to personal project 7-8 pages (due Mar 1, 2022): 30%
3. Full Project Proposal (Due July 31, 2022) : 50%

Weekly Meetings: (Subject to Change!!!)

FIRST SEMESTER

19.10. Introduction

- Course Overview
- Introducing ourselves

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

Terje Oestigaard, "Developing the 'Other': Perceptions of Africans and change," in *Framing African Development: Challenging Concepts*, Brill 2016.

26.10 Planning Individual Projects: Defining Visions, Setting Goals, Working towards a Proposal

- Identity Workshop
- Finding your project
- Overview of Planning Stages: From the Literature Review to the Final Proposal

UNIT ONE: DECOLONIZING KNOWLEDGE

2.11 Decolonizing Knowledge – Academia and Beyond

Ndofirepi, Amasa Philip. "Africanisation of epistemology in the 21st century university in Africa." In *Remapping Africa in the Global Space*, pp. 151-165. Brill Sense, 2014.

Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Sabelo J. "Decoloniality as the future of Africa." *History Compass* 13, no. 10 (2015): 485-496.

Chisani Doyle-Wood, "Contesting 'Development'", in Sefa Dei, George J.; Jajj, Mandeep, eds. *Knowledge and Decolonial Politics: A Critical Reader Book*, Brill Academic Publishers, Inc 2018.

Moodle Forum: What role does the decolonization of knowledge play in the broader process of decolonization? What are the challenges associated with the decolonization of knowledge? Why is it important for development practitioners to understand the politics of knowledge?

9.11 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)

Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to write about Africa," <https://granta.com/how-to-write-about-africa>

Moodle Forum: Should westerners use the term "tribe" in Africa? Explain your position.

16.11. Field Trip: Israel and International Development Assistance

Shefayim Center for Agricultural Training
Ramat Rachel MASHAV center
Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem: The Africa Desk

23.11 Indigenous Knowledge

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

Indigenous Knowledge Definitions, Concepts and Applications (World Bank Publication).

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 'indigenesness'." *Indigenous knowledges in global contexts: Multiple readings of our world* (2000): 70-86.

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

Moodle Forum: With regard to "development," what are the gaps between "indigenous" conceptualizations and western definitions? How can these differences pose challenges for development projects?

30.11 WORKSHOP ON WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

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.

14:00-16:00 Library Visit to Meet with Librarian on Literature Review Searches

7.12 New Paradigms for the Future

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

Pius Adesanmi, 2020. *Who Owns the Problem? Africa and the Struggle for Agency*. East Lansing, Michigan: Michigan State University Press. Part 1: Crossfire, pp. 3-60.

Lutz, David W. "African Ubuntu philosophy and global management." *Journal of Business Ethics* 84, no. 3 (2009): 313-328.

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

Moodle Forum: Following this week's readings, what role are intellectuals and philosophers playing in shaping the future in Africa? Give some examples from this week's readings to demonstrate the contribution they are making.

UNIT TWO: THEORIZING COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

14.12 Theorizing Community Development

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

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.

Groundswell, *Strengthening Endogenous Development in Africa*, 2010. Part One: Understanding Endogenous Development AND Part Two: A methodological framework for strengthening Endogenous Development (pp. 10-31)

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.

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

21.12 African Communalism

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.

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

28.12 African Rural Communities and Development Paradigms

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.

Moodle Forum: How do “traditional” authorities impact community development initiatives in rural communities? How do development initiatives unsettle or challenge traditional authority? How can development reinforce hierarchies of power in rural settings?

4.1 African Urban Communities

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

Moodle Forum: What are the specific challenges of initiating community development in urban contexts in Africa? What are the most pressing development needs? How would you define community life in the city as opposed to rural areas?

11.1 Communities in the Shadow of Migration

Field Trip to South Tel Aviv : Visit Local NGOs, Meet Asylum Seekers, Visit Community Centers, Group Dinner and Debate

Desai, Vandana, and Robert B. Potter. *The companion to development studies*. Routledge, 2013. Chapter 3.10: Migration and Transnationalism

SECOND SEMESTER

UNIT THREE: COMMUNITIES, INTERVENTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

1.3 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 1

8.3 Promoting Community Change

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.

Groundswell, *Strengthening Endogenous Development in Africa*, 2010. (Selections to be announced)

15. 3 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 2

22. 3 Power and Becoming Agents 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*

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://nowhitesaviors.org/blog/> :

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

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

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

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

29.3 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 3

5.4 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 4

12.4 Empowering Through Participation

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.

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

26.4. Identifying Stakeholders and Building Coalitions

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.

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.

3.5. Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 5

10.5 Communities, Conflict Resolution and Resiliency

Field Trip to AJEEC and local initiatives in Bedouin communities

17.5 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 6

24.5. ASSETS BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ABCD)

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

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

Nyong, A., F. Adesina, and B. Osman Elasha. "The Value of Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies in the African Sahel." *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 12, no. 5 (2007): 787–97.

7.6 Development Management Workshop with Dr. Dr. Aliza Belman Inbal - Part 7

14.6 Failures and What We Can Learn from Them

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

Ted Talk: David Damberger

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_damberger_what_happens_when_an_ngo_admits_failure?utm_campaign=tedspread&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.

21.6 Sustainable Community Development in Action : Field Trip to PROJECT WADI ATIR