



The Evolution of Development Thinking

**Course Conference on December 8th, 2017
Palais de Nations Geneva, Switzerland**

University of St. Gallen Course AS17 - 7,748,1.00

Context of the Course.....	2
Aims of the Course.....	3
Program	3
Speakers.....	4
Logistics	7

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Context of the Course

When development economics emerged as an independent research field in the post-1945 years, the answer to the question of what development is was rather simple: Development equals GNP growth. On following the current debate, one might suspect that after seven decades of development studies - with rich and varied outputs - we are back to square one: the achievement of economic growth as a development target is omnipresent and any other issue seems to play only a subordinate role.

But what does that mean for the majority of the world's population living in low-income economies? And, what does it mean for those living in prosperous societies? How much do per capita incomes really say about the developmental state of a society? Why is there oftentimes little correlation between per capita income and other relevant factors such as happiness, life expectancy or literacy rates and what is the role of business in development?

Given the apparent limitations of a singular focus on income to accurately describe the developmental state of a society this course takes a step back and reviews the evolution of development thinking and the policy formulation and implementation measures it has led to. This evolution began with the early growth theories that were revised and expanded to form the modernization theory which soon stood competing over the analytical high ground with the dependency movement. This stimulating discourse was then silenced by the Washington Consensus and, soon after, the post-Washington Consensus. In parallel to and in conflict with the latter two, the last chapter in this evolution unfolded: A radically new, a non-utilitarian approach to development emerged, the capability approach.

With best intentions at heart each of these development theories were a product of their time and have led to policy prescriptions and the implementation of programs and projects that root from distinct theoretical positions: Large scale infrastructure projects to trigger self-sustaining growth; urbanization programs to catapult traditional societies into modernity; import substitution policies to break with dependency; privatization programs to unleash the positive power of market forces; or capacity building programs for self-determined entrepreneurial livelihoods are grounded in different theoretical positions but all share the genuine intention to improve the state of the world.

Aims of the Course

The aim of this course is to provide participants with foundational knowledge on the evolution of development thinking, the characteristics of distinct theoretical approaches and the contributions they have made to development efforts. The participants gain an overview of policies and activities that were derived from specific theoretical approaches as well as the impact they have generated.

Following their own research and team presentations at the University of St Gallen the course is going on a one day excursion to Geneva, one of the global hubs for development work. The aim of this excursion is to provide an opportunity to engage with development practitioners and to experience how theory is put into practice.

In addition this course aims to further develop the reflective capacity of its participants and encourages them to mirror their personal aspirations also in light of the challenges we are facing as a global community.

Program

09:30h – 09:45	Welcome
09:45h - 11:30h	Workshop on the Development Impact of Trade
11:45h - 12:45h	Guided Tour of Palais des Nations
12:45h - 13:45h	Lunch
14:00h - 15:00h	Anne Hassberger, Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other International Organizations in Geneva
15:00h - 15:30h	Coffee Break
15:30h - 17:30h	Panel Discussion with Development Practitioners
17:30h - 18:00h	Concluding Reflections, Course Evaluation and Farewell

Speakers

Swiss Representation: **Anne Hassberger**

Anne Hassberger is a Counsellor on Health and Development at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva. She has worked 13 years for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, mostly on health, governance and multilateral issues in different parts of the world. Previously, she worked for UNFPA and the World Bank. She is a graduate from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) and the EPFL.



Workshop Lead: **Emmanuel Barreto**

Emmanuel worked in over 50 countries and spent 20 years developing sustainable, environmentally-conscious business models and anchoring companies' strategic positioning in the tourism sector. He was CEO of Eurofin Hospitality for 3 years and previously headed strategy and operations at the Trade in Services Unit of the International Trade Centre (a joint UN-WTO agency) in Geneva. He earned his bachelor's in International Economics from the University of California Los Angeles, subsequently a Masters in Economic Development from the London School of Economics, and lately an advanced management diploma from IMD in Switzerland.



*Panelist: **Katia Adamo***

Katia is working as Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva (UNECE), at the Innovation Policies for Sustainable Development Section. She is leading the team work on innovation for the circular economy and green growth, as well as on fundraising, with special focus on the Commonwealth of Independent States. She has also worked at UNECE on Public Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development.



Before joining UNECE, Katia worked as Economist at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, the European Commission in Brussels and Her Majesty the Treasury in London.

She holds a Master of Science in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Master of Arts in International Relations at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome.

*Panelist: **Ricardo Murillo***

Ricardo Murillo is Project Manager for the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) Programme at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He has been implementing technical cooperation projects to assist Debt Management Offices (DMOs) of central banks and ministries of finance and was DMFAS focal point for West Africa at UNDP headquarters in Bamako, Mali. Before joining the UN, he was Parliamentary Economic Advisor in the State of Jalisco, Mexico and has studied international affairs and economics at the American University of Paris (AUP), the University of Guadalajara in Mexico (UdG), and the International Institute of Public Administration in France (IIAP).



Panelist: **Dunja Kovac**

Dunja is currently the HR in Emergencies Project Coordinator at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. She is leading a project which is redesigning the way the IFRC, including its 190 member National Societies, respond to disasters worldwide. Dunja has been working in Human Resources at the IFRC Secretariat for 4 years and has supported large operations. Most recently, she was deployed for a long-term surge mission to Kabul, Afghanistan. She did her Masters in International Employment Relations and Human Resource Management at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Course Faculty: **Ernst von Kimakowitz**

Ernst von Kimakowitz is Director of the *Humanistic Management Center*, an independent think tank, learning institution and advisory firm and of the executive education provider *Ethics First*. He is also a lecturer in leadership skills at the University of St Gallen, Switzerland and the University of Tübingen, Germany and was visiting professor at Soka University's Business Department in Tokyo, Japan in 2016. He holds several board member, editorial and reviewer positions and frequently gives talks to audiences ranging from student groups to senior executive teams around the globe.



Logistics

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Date: 08.12.2017

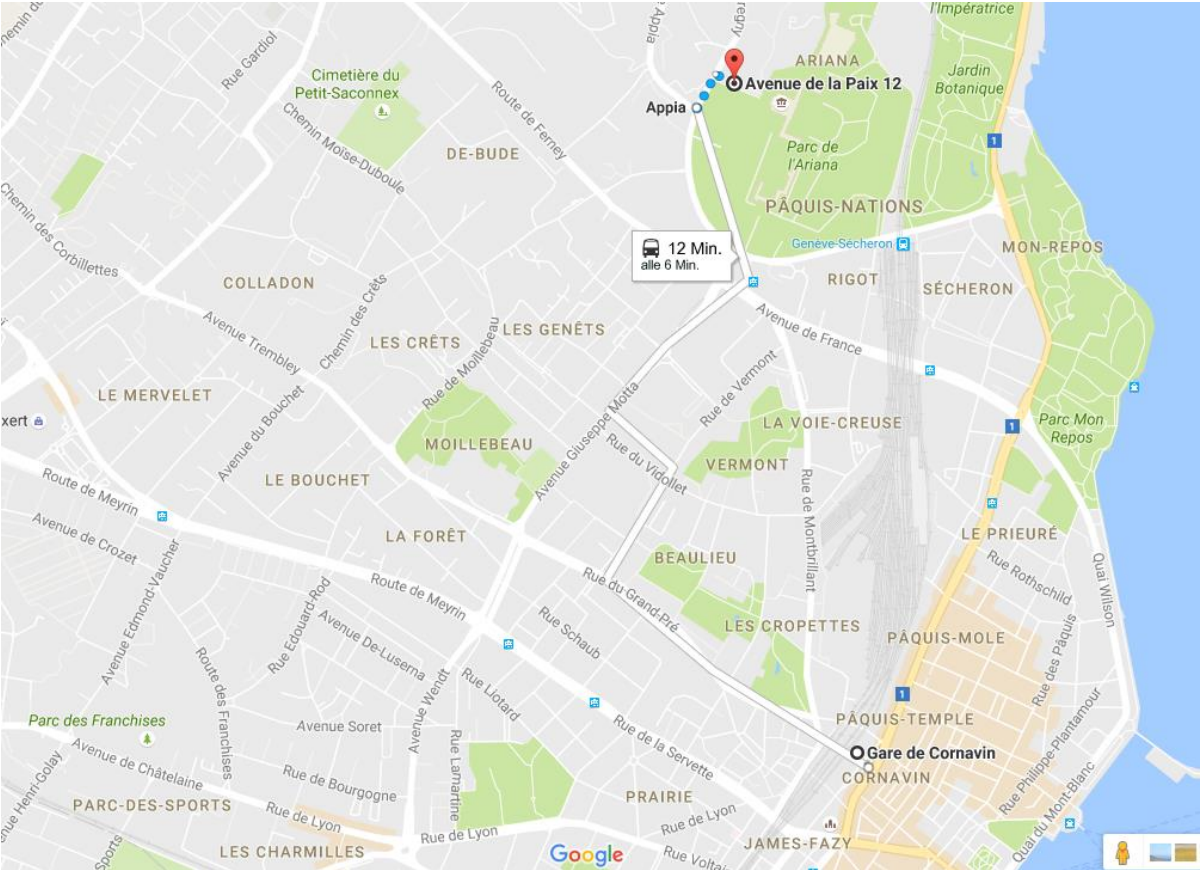
Time: 09:10h - 18:00h

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

[Link to map](#)

Getting there: From Cornavin Train Station use the Tram to “Nations” and walk up Avenue de la Paix or take the Bus to “Appia” and the Pregny Gate is on the other side of Avenue de la Paix.

Meeting Point: We will meet at 09:10h at the Pregny Gate, Palais des Nations, Geneva to jointly pass the security screening for entering United Nations Grounds.



Support

We wish to thank the Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other International Organizations in Geneva very much for their most generous support.



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