

DPHIL SUMMARIES from 2000

Samer Mehdi AL-SAMARRAI , 2001, *Educational Inequality in Tanzania*

Tanzania is unusual among Sub-Saharan African countries, having achieved universal primary education as early as 1981. The thesis focuses on the conditions of educational access and performance in mid-1990s Tanzania, when, in the context of economic crisis and reform, primary enrolments had declined from their 1981 peak, but post-primary opportunities had expanded dramatically. Three papers analyse inequalities in educational access and performance in this context: the relationship between household demand and primary education fees; the causes of the rural-urban disparity in primary school enrolment; and assessing the reasons for persistent gender gaps in performance at secondary level.

Comparing the main approaches taken to modelling demand for primary education, the thesis finds the determinants of demand are broadly similar, independent of the model used. The effect of fees on demand was less consistent, and in Tanzania, demand was found to be unresponsive to fees. From these findings, the validity of fee elasticities calculated from cross-sectional data was questioned; these may not provide a sufficiently strong basis for policy decisions.

Evidence of growing disparities in primary attendance between rural and urban areas is explored. Methods of decomposition analysis conventionally applied to the study of labour markets were used to compare empirical estimates for the determinants of primary school demand. A large part of the attendance differential was found to be due to differences in observed characteristics, particularly to rural-urban differences in household income.

The thesis also explores the causes of gender gaps in performance of secondary school students. A strong finding was the determinants of academic achievement differ widely according to gender. The causes of the gender gap in achievement tended to be centred around school level factors. The thesis concludes by comparing the research findings of the thesis against current thinking about educational participation guiding policy.

Enrique ALDAZ-CARROLL, 2003, *Getting Things in Proportion: essays on the development and application of Heckscher-Ohlin trade theory*

This thesis develops and applies a new variant of the Heckscher-Ohlin (HO) trade theory, whose novel feature is that it relates proportional differences in the composition of exports to proportional differences in the composition of factor endowments.

The thesis is divided into three essays. The first develops the theoretical basis for a HO model based on proportional differences. This specification was found by Wood and Berge (1997) to fit the data well, but its theoretical underpinnings have not previously been explored. The model, named HO-Wood (HOW), is based on more plausible assumptions than the HO-Vanek (HOV) model: two-way trade in each sector, factor-price-non-equalisation, sectorally-neutral technological differences across countries, and imperfect substitution between foreign and domestic goods. These features are incorporated through constant elasticity export and import share functions, of the sort used in CGE models.

The second essay takes empirical work on trade one step further by testing this new model against the HOV and HO-Leamer (1995) [HOL] models in a search for the best performing one. The models are tested using different numbers of goods and factors. Seven performance criteria are employed: economic sense, explanatory power, predictive power, robustness, specification test, plausibility of assumptions, and normality and functional form tests. The results suggest that HOW usually outperforms the HOV and HOL models. It is also simpler to apply than the HOL alternative to HOV.

The third essay uses the HOW model to examine the relationship between Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries' export and factor compositions between 1988 and 2000. This relationship is found to have become closer over time as a result of trade policy liberalisation. LAC's specialisation in primary products is largely explained by its high ratio of land to labour endowments, coupled with its low share of professional workers and low capital per worker.

Edward ANDERSON, 2001, *Globalisation and Wage Inequalities, past and present*

The thesis is concerned with the impact of globalisation - defined as falling barriers to trade and related movements of capital, technology and people - on wage inequality between workers with different levels of skill. It consists of three articles and related appendices. The first article analyses the effects of globalisation on wage inequality in eight now-developed countries during the century prior to 1970, using the same methodology as research on the impact of globalisation since 1970. The results suggest that the impact was confined largely to the effects of the pre-1914 mass migrations in the United States and Canada. Powerful domestic forces - expanding native supplies of skilled labour, the growth of new skill-intensive industries, and fluctuations in aggregate demand - were the main influences on wage inequality during this period. The second article tests the hypothesis that falling travel and communication costs increase wage inequality in developed countries, by raising the earnings of a small group of highly-skilled workers. Time-series analysis reveals that both the relative number and the relative incomes of international business travellers rose between 1986 and 1997. Cross-section analysis reveals that business travellers earn substantially more than other workers, controlling for observable human capital characteristics. These findings are consistent with the hypothesis, and suggest that the effect has been large. The third article studies the apparent slowdown, during the 1990s, of the rise in wage and unemployment inequality between skilled and unskilled workers in developed countries. Such a trend could be explained by a slower decline in the relative demand for unskilled labour, a faster decline in the relative supply of unskilled labour, or a shift in labour market institutions. The results suggest that the slowdown almost always reflected a slower decline in relative demand. Further research will be required to discover why the decline in demand for unskilled labour decelerated.

Patrick BELSER, 2001, *Four Essays on Trade and Labour Standards*

The thesis consists of four distinct essays. The first essay is called "Globalisation and Labour Policies: A Review of the Issues". It discusses the literature on labour market regulations in open economies. We first review the question of whether openness to trade makes it more difficult for countries to maintain a stringent net of labour regulations. Secondly, we discuss whether some form of international harmonisation of fundamental labour standards can be justified. The second essay is a theoretical analysis called "Trade, Labour Standards and Income Distribution: a Reappraisal". The analysis is based on a Heckscher-Ohlin trade model and looks at the impact of international diversity in union rights and child labour laws on North-South trade and income distribution. We develop a three-country model that challenges the conventional wisdom that neither the ability to adopt, nor the benefits of adopting, labour standards depend on whether other countries do the same. The third essay is called "The Links between Trade and Labour Standards: an empirical investigation". By using econometric tools, we find that union rights - but not other standards - increase labour costs relative to productivity and affect both the composition and the volume of trade. The essay also explores the hypothesis that labour standards are "normal goods" which improve with income per capita. We find that the link between prosperity and labour standards depends on a country's political regime. The fourth essay is a case study called "Economic Reforms, State Ownership and Labour Redundancy: Estimates Based on Enterprise-Level Data from Vietnam". We model State-owned enterprises as a hybrid between profit-maximising enterprises and labour-managed enterprises which provide higher labour standards. We then estimate the impact of trade and product market liberalisation on labour redundancy in the State sector, by comparing employment levels across enterprises with different degrees of State ownership.

Warren A. BENFIELD, 2006, *Identifying and Targeting the Poor in Jamaica: a comparative study of objective and subjective well-being*

This research provides an explanation of what is different about objective and subjective approaches to poverty measurement using data from the 1993, 1997 and 1999 Jamaica Living Standard Measurement Study (LSMS). The results suggest that there are differences between the headcount index based on the objective approach and the number of households (HHs) self-classified as poor. However, this difference is largely eliminated when the definition of subjective poor is based on a threshold set at the mean consumption of HHs self-classified as poor. Nonetheless, there are differences in the reasons for HHs classifying themselves as poor and the determinants of objectively defined poverty. The explanations seem to rest on HH's perception of their vulnerability, adaptive expectations, educational attainment, labour market experiences, region or area of residence, industry and sector of employment and the involvement of children and the elderly in the labour market.

The results also point to a paradox of wealth and vulnerability, showing that single female headed households (SFHHs) are more likely to 'incorrectly' classify themselves as poor, even though their average level of consumption expenditure is above that of other households. This is due to the multiple sources from which SFHHs derive their income with significant reliance on friends and family for financial support. As a result, while their average consumption is higher, SFHHs' well-being is also more vulnerable to economic and social shocks. On the other hand, objectively poor SFHHs, in receipt of a larger share of their consumption from remittances and who reside in homes with four or more rooms, are more likely to classify themselves as not poor and also have the lowest rate of participation in social safety net programmes. Clearly, efforts to target objectively poor FHHs are likely to lead to large targeting errors since SFHHs who have classified themselves as poor may seek to register and participate in such programmes.

The results also point to a small group of indicators that can facilitate the optimal targeting of the poor. It is also demonstrated that as targeting improves, the share of the budget used for administrative costs increases. The optimum share of administrative cost varies up to 11 percent, depending on the weights assigned to the targeting errors, with a larger share associated with increased weight to the type I error. Housing quality and ownership of consumer durable indicators performed best in targeting poor HHs, giving lower targeting errors. This is also the case relative to the current indicators used by the Food Stamps Programme (FSP). On the other hand, the type I (E_1) and type II (E_2) errors that result from the use of housing quality and ownership of consumer durables do not improve when these indicators are pooled with household demographic characteristics, thus supporting the use of the restricted set of indicators. The cost of targeting is also influenced by the procedures, systems and administrative machinery used in implementing the programme, but selecting the targeting indicators that minimise the possible errors is the first step towards optimising the share of administrative cost.

Rudolf van den BOOGAARD, 2003, *Food Insecurity and Entitlements Among Turkana Pastoralists, Northern Kenya*

This study focuses on the linkage between environment, livestock production, assets and market exchanges in the analysis of food insecurity of pastoralists in Turkana District, Kenya. Turkana is an arid to semi-arid district, with highly variable rainfall and production levels, and recurrent periods of food insecurity.

The research examines levels of environmental and livestock production, linkages to the pastoral economy and levels of food security. It also looks at customary and institutional responses to food insecurity. This is done using a variety of methods, mostly derived from the entitlement theory. A major source for this research comes from data collected by the Turkana Drought Contingency Planning Unit between 1988 and 1994, although several other sources were also used.

In protecting entitlements, Turkana pastoralists have developed significant customary practices of herd management and nutrition. However, these practices have not prevented high levels of food insecurity, mostly as a result of drought. Responses by government and donors have thus far only had marginal results in the protection of entitlements.

The study confirms the interaction and linkages between the processes of environmental and livestock production as well as market exchanges and the impact on food security, but there is also evidence that ill-designed economic policies may contribute drastically to increasing levels of food insecurity. The high variability of the ecosystem causes highly variable production rates which in turn have an impact on markets and food security. A main conclusion is the existence of a time lag between the decline of production and the drastic decline of entitlements.

The study confirms the possibility of entitlement protection by utilising early mitigation interventions during situations of food insecurity. Thus far, only food aid distribution has received attention on large scale.

Sally BROOKS, 2008, *Global Science, Public Goods? Tracing international science policy processes in rice biofortification*

This thesis explores initiatives in ‘biofortification’, a term referring to the enhancement of micronutrient levels of staple crops through biological processes, such as plant breeding and transgenics. It traces developments in *rice* biofortification; from two early initiatives, in iron rice research and ‘Golden Rice’, to the HarvestPlus ‘Challenge Programme’, launched by the CGIAR in 2003, with substantial support from the Gates Foundation. It highlights a series of transformations that have punctuated the journey of biofortification research, from its modest beginnings at the outer margins of international crop research, to its re-branding as an exemplar of a new way forward identified for the CGIAR, as ‘broker’ in heterogeneous, global research networks, able to guarantee the ‘public goods’ status of the agendas and outputs of such networks.

International biofortification initiatives such as HarvestPlus emphasise three, inter-related themes: managing research collaboration through multi-organisational *partnerships*; tackling complex problems through *interdisciplinary* research; and achieving greater *impact*, as understood within the MDG framework that now dominates international development thinking. This research asks if these evolving modes of organisation, styles of science and framings of impact are indicative of future directions in international agricultural research. These questions have been followed through a multi-sited, ethnographic tracing of science policy processes and institutionalised practices, from the United States to the Philippines and China.

Biofortification provides a lens through which to question the idea of ‘global science’, and the notion, built into the fabric of the CGIAR system, that it can generate generic research outputs as widely applicable, international public goods. This is particularly relevant at a time when donor attention has returned to agriculture, and to the potential of investments in science and technology to stimulate agricultural development. In practice, as biofortification research has become increasingly ‘global’, attention has shifted upstream, relocating the locus of decision making ever further from the beneficiary groups in whose name such substantial investments are made. These dynamics implicitly sanction a return to top down development; while restricting the space for actors located further downstream to debate unresolved technical and policy uncertainties.

Jonathan CASELEY, 2003, *Bringing Citizens Back In: public sector reform, service delivery performance and accountability in an Indian state*

The aim of this study is to understand the conditions that enable public sector organizations delivering services in less developed countries to improve their performance and deliver better services to citizens. This thesis compares two public sector organizations in Andhra Pradesh State, Southern India - the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metro Water) and the Department of Registration and Stamps - which undertook a series of customer-focused service delivery reforms at the end of the 1990s. How is such service-based reform undertaken? What are the organizational and service delivery impacts of reform? What are the factors that explain changes in service delivery performance? And how are changes in performance sustained and deepened over time?

In order to address these questions in this thesis I attempt two tasks. First, I ascertain whether the reforms in the two organizations have resulted in improved service delivery performance. Although both organizations have claimed that the reforms they have undertaken have been 'successful', I found this only to be the case at Metro Water. Second, I ask the question, what explains this difference in performance? I argue that a combination of external, organization, and individual factors have collectively contributed to organizational change and improved service delivery performance in the Metro Water case. Furthermore, multiple effective accountability relationships operating between external actors and Metro Water staff (both senior managers and 'front-line' workers) have sustained organizational change and strengthened Metro Water's viability as a semi-autonomous service provider. This has led to opportunities to impact more intractable services, such as water supply and the sewerage disposal, over the long term. One of the most important findings of this research is that sustained service delivery performance is contingent upon effective accountability relationships operating between citizens, senior managers, and 'front-line' workers. This external-internal tripartite accountability dynamic is the axis around which all other external actors contribute to improved service delivery performance. A key lesson from the Metro Water case is that transparent, cost-effective, and accessible citizen-based accountability mechanisms can lead to long-term organisational transformation and performance improvement across a range of services.

Gian Paolo CHIARI, 2003, *Land Tenure and Livelihood Security in Tigray, Ethiopia*

This thesis presents research findings on the relationships between land tenure and livelihood security in rural Tigray, Ethiopia. The field research, undertaken in rural Tigray, was intended to explore and analyse the different values and meanings access and control over land assume in the economic, political and cultural contexts. The academic interest behind the research stemmed from the fact that most of the existing literature on land tenure and land reform deals with the productive efficiency of land, while its extra-economic values are generally not considered.

This research investigated the impact that the land reform implemented by the Tigray People's Liberation Front had on the Tigrayan society and how subsequent changes in land use and meanings affected and are affecting people's livelihood. On this issue, the thesis analyses the Tigrayan land reform's political and cultural meanings and consequences; the socio-economic impact of the land reform in terms of access to and control over land at household and intra-household level; and finally the extent to which the land reform contributed in expanding livelihood capabilities and opportunities.

The thesis argues that an holistic perspective is needed in order to understand the material and non-material values of land. It shows, in fact, how access to land has a high potential of affecting power structures, by increasing political participation and reducing social inequalities. It also shows how land tenure in Tigray represents an efficient way of equitable resource redistribution and works as a safety net, which particularly benefits the aged, disabled, sick or otherwise vulnerable part of the population using economic differentiation as a means to finance a "social security" system.

Xavier CIRERA, 2004, *Essays on Exchange Rate Regimes and Macroeconomic Stability in Central and Eastern European and Baltic Countries*

This thesis aims to deepen the understanding of the nature and effects of exchange rate regimes in Central and Eastern European and Baltic (CEEB) countries. The debate about exchange rate regimes in these countries has been very important in the context of the process engaged in by these countries of transition to market economy and EU/EMU integration. This research contributes to the existing literature in various ways. First, it incorporates as an essential part of the analysis on exchange rate regimes the analysis of the degree of capital account openness and monetary policy framework. Second, it constructs an index of capital account liberalisation and a new methodology for classifying de facto regimes. Finally, it establishes a new approach for studying the nature of official and de facto regimes, based on complementing the analysis with the determinants of regime transitions, discrepancies between official and de facto regimes and the determinants of monetary frameworks.

This thesis is an empirical analysis elaborated with three different but interconnected papers. The first paper researches and explains the nature of regimes, official and de facto, in CEEB countries. The second paper analyses the effect of exchange rate regimes and the degree of capital account liberalisation on output volatility. It finds that more rigid regimes and more open capital accounts have increased output volatility in these countries. The last paper analyses the different exchange rate and monetary policy options for acceding to the EMU. It argues that the design established by the European Commission involves significant risks of output volatility, especially since these countries still require a longer period of economic convergence to the EU. We propose a strategy based on keeping monetary and exchange rate autonomy to foster convergence, supported by temporary restrictions on capital mobility to enhance policy effectiveness and to reduce capital flows and exchange rate instability. The findings of this thesis can also help to improve the design of exchange rate and monetary policies in other transition and developing countries.

María José A. CORTIJO, 2002, *Rural Poverty in Bangladesh: a comparative study of determinants of economic well-being and inequality*

The thesis explores policy-relevant issues within poverty debates with reference to Bangladesh. The core questions addressed include: what are the determinants of (income) poverty and income levels? Do these determinants vary according to the degree of poverty? Why is poverty reduced at different rates in different areas? What are the determinants of income inequality? What role has inequality had in the decline of poverty? These are addressed using a 1995 census survey in two sets of villages. These villages have experienced drastic declines in (income) poverty, but to very different degrees. The thesis aims to understand the underlying reasons and dynamics behind this difference.

These villages are not representative of the country as a whole, but the conclusions are of interest in that they highlight issues pertinent to poverty reduction strategies in Bangladesh. Outcomes of the various analyses undertaken consistently point to certain conclusions as to why these sets of villages have evolved so differently. For the first, richer, group, non-agricultural opportunities have boosted the economy and reduced poverty, despite widespread landlessness. The development of the agricultural sector (through irrigation and the use of High Yielding Varieties) has stimulated the emergence of a vibrant non-agricultural sector. Lower levels of irrigated land and High Yielding Varieties adoption and the resulting lower agricultural productivity in part explain the less impressive performance on poverty reduction of the second group of villages. The thesis also makes a contribution to poverty analysis by applying a very diverse range of techniques, the outcomes of which together provide a fuller picture of the processes at work.

Luka Biong DENG, 2003, *Confronting Civil War: a comparative study of household livelihood strategies in Southern Sudan*

Civil wars have become endemic to many African countries since the end of the Cold War. The risk of civil wars in much of Africa stands now as the leading contributory cause of vulnerability. This upsurge of civil wars has posed a compelling need to improve understanding for better policy direction. Most of the current studies on civil wars tend to focus on macro issues with limited relevance and conceptualisation at micro level. The dearth of understanding of household livelihood strategies in the 'war zone' has made the existing studies in risk and livelihood literature unwittingly equating these strategies with those in the context of other risk events, or even ruled out any rational household risk management behaviour. In this regard, this study is an attempt to gain a nuanced understanding of the subtle household livelihood strategies in the context of civil war.

In an attempt to unravel and better understand household risk-related behaviours in the context of civil war, this thesis sets out a framework called the *Risk-Livelihood Approach* that links risk events in a systematic way to household livelihood strategies and their outcomes. The framework provides the basis for formulating the main four hypotheses of the thesis, which are related to characteristics of risk events, livelihood strategies and diversification, social capital and vulnerability. In an attempt to provide a better understanding of these hypotheses, comparative empirical inquiries were undertaken at household level in Bahr el Ghazal region in southern Sudan, which has been exposed to a protracted civil war. The major empirical findings from a general case study of Sudan's civil war and three specific case studies of households exposed to different types of counter-insurgency warfare and drought all point to complexity and context-specificity.

The thesis clearly shows the significance of specific characteristics of counter-insurgency warfare in understanding household livelihood strategies and vulnerability. In particular, the thesis demonstrates that the 'standard' pattern of vulnerability and household responses to drought is similar to that in the context of exogenous counter-insurgency warfare, while a different pattern of vulnerability and household responses to endogenous shocks, such as endogenous counter-insurgency warfare, is identified. Specifically, the thesis surprisingly finds a positive link between level of vulnerability and initial high level of household wealth in the context of endogenous counter-insurgency warfare. A future research agenda in the area of vulnerability might need to focus on developing a greater understanding of the nature and characteristics of risk events such as endogenous shocks.

Marc FIEDRICH, 2003, *Domesticating Modernity: understanding women's aspirations in participatory literacy programmes in Uganda*

Adult education programmes in East Africa have historically combined literacy training with a range of efforts to shape the way African women expressed their femininity and sexuality. Early missionaries believed that literacy together with Victorian ideals of feminine propriety, housewifery and mothering would engender 'civilisation' in African women. Today, assisting women to undergo a process of self-realisation is more likely an aim of literacy programmes and reported impacts are more readily attributed to the use of participatory methods than to literacy learning. My first aim is to show that participatory approaches to adult learning are vulnerable to prescriptive manipulations in the way conventional literacy programmes have long been.

This ethnographic study focuses on two NGO literacy programmes in Uganda, one urban, one rural; to explore how women learners construct knowledge during the learning process; how they and others around them perceive this effort and its outcomes, and how this tallies with the expectations development practitioners invest in adult education. Women's ambitions are analysed both with regard to those themes of study that have been popular since colonial times (i.e. health and hygiene) and with regard to more recent concerns for women's empowerment (gender equality in the domestic and public domain). Regardless of their own intentions, programme makers are found to exercise only limited influence over the outcomes of literacy programmes. My second objective is then to illustrate how women learners and facilitators selectively interpret and internalise learning themes and use the messages received or construed to advance their own position in their social contexts. To this end women may prize externally visible health and hygiene practices as symbols of their own conversion to modern ways of living, showing less interest in benefits to physical well-being that may ensure. The desire to be recognised as a 'proper' woman also takes priority over attempts to overtly challenge prevailing norms of gender relations, not because of women's conservatism, but on the contrary, because gender relations already are subject to much overt and covert tension outside of the classes. In conclusion, the aspirations women develop from within their cultural context are seen to mould literacy programmes and their outcomes more significantly than the degree to which participatory methods are followed.

Marzia FONTANA, 2004, *The Gender Impact of Trade Liberalisation in Developing Countries*

To understand the impact of trade on women requires a comprehensive framework, to track how the effects in specific sectors percolate through the rest of the market economy, and to analyse how effects in the market economy interact with behaviour in the unpaid household economy, where women are the main workers. The thesis provides this framework by constructing a gendered social accounting matrix (SAM) and computable general equilibrium (CGE) model which distinguish female from male labour and treat social reproduction (or household work) and leisure as sectors. Employment in the SAM is measured in hours and time spent on social reproduction and leisure is valued at the average market wage. The two non-market sectors behave qualitatively like market sectors, but differ quantitatively from them, with reproduction employing mainly women and being less responsive to price changes. The model is applied to data for Bangladesh and Zambia. Bangladesh and Zambia have different resource endowments, with abundant labour in Bangladesh and abundant natural resources in Zambia. Gender relations in each country are shaped by different socio-cultural norms, thus making comparison interesting. Simulations include a decline in garment exports and a rise in the world price of grains in Bangladesh, a rise in the world price of copper and an increase in non-traditional agricultural exports in Zambia, and tariff liberalisation in both countries. The effects of trade liberalisation appear to be more favourable in Bangladesh than in Zambia because of the higher female intensity of the export-oriented sector in the former country. Experiments are run with alternative parameter values to test the sensitivity of the results to different degrees of responsiveness of gendered aspects of the division of labour to economic change. The thesis concludes by comparing simulation results to other approaches in the gender-and-economics literature and discussing strengths and limitations of the CGE methodology.

Dominic GLOVER, 2007, *The Role of the Private Sector in Modern Biotechnology and Rural Development: the case of the Monsanto Smallholder Programme*

This thesis examines why and how the US-based transnational agricultural biotechnology firm Monsanto implemented a quasi-philanthropic agricultural extension initiative called the Smallholder Programme (SHP). The thesis seeks to understand the potential and limits of 'corporate social responsibility' as a means of harnessing the capabilities of firms to contribute to development, and secondly to consider the implications for small farmers of a model of technological innovation that is commercially oriented and led by the private sector.

This thesis adopts a conceptual framework that views the business enterprise as a socially embedded network and apprehends strategy, technology and organisation as mutually shaped, emergent and historically contingent features. The SHP is examined across material, organisational and discursive dimensions, three phases of time and three hierarchical levels of the firm. The methods used are primarily qualitative and historiographical.

Monsanto created the SHP in response to criticism from environmentalists and development activists, as part of the company's efforts to assemble a network of support to ensure the successful commercialisation of its genetically modified (GM) crop technologies, both in particular countries and globally. Specifically, the SHP was designed to generate evidence to demonstrate the efficacy and appropriateness of GM crops for poor farmers, so as to counter criticism and draw key actors such as consumers, policy makers and financial investors to support GM technology and Monsanto's business strategy.

Smallholders were implicated in this process as potential customers in their own right, but also as symbols designed to attract the support or secure the acquiescence of other actors. Accordingly, the needs and priorities of smallholders themselves were not at the heart of the SHP and were unable to influence Monsanto's upstream research and development process. Hence, smallholders' role was to be passive consumers of modern farming technology rather than shapers of the innovation processes producing that technology.

Cielito C. GOÑO, 2008, *Commercial Farms After Land Reform: Contractual relations between agribusiness companies and agrarian reform beneficiaries in the Philippines*

This thesis analyses the structure and implementation of contracts between land reform beneficiaries and agribusiness companies in the Philippines. Its main argument is that the pressures of transaction cost efficiency and of embeddedness in the wider social structure are inextricably linked, and together shape the structure and implementation of these contracts.

Agrarian reform beneficiaries in commercial farms in the Philippines were put at a definite disadvantage from the outset, when the 1988 land reform law left them with no clear access to specific assets other than the land. Former landowners and agribusiness companies retained control of these other assets, and used them to bind farmworker-beneficiaries to contracts they may not have accepted otherwise. Of the implications for future land reform policies that the Philippine case highlights, among the most crucial is that the rules must be calibrated early enough to protect intended beneficiaries from the predatory behaviour of more powerful agribusiness interests.

The first chapter discusses the research questions and objectives, the significance and main argument of the study, and the structure of the thesis. The second reviews institutionalist explanations of organisational structure. Chapter III puts forth the institutionalist conceptual framework and methodology employed. The first of three empirical chapters, Chapter IV examines how asset specificity led to pre-contractual opportunism and hold-up problems in contracts between land reform beneficiaries and agribusiness companies. Chapter V presents two logit regressions, with lease and contract growing agreements as discrete dependent variables. The first used data from a random sample survey of land reform beneficiaries in commercial farms. The second used plantation-level data. Results show significant coefficients for indicators of asset specificity. Chapter VI argues that the post-reform contracts are socially constructed, focusing on the influence of norms and power. A final chapter summarises the findings and their implications on development policy.

Kate HAMILTON, 2004, *Producing Civil Society: Development intervention and its consequences in post-Soviet Georgia*

This thesis is a study of civil society development in post-Soviet Georgia. It explores the processes and impacts of development interventions, carried out in the name of building civil society, in order to analyse their consequences in Georgia and contribute to wider debates. It builds on existing critiques of civil society development, developing an innovative approach which pays attention to a wider range of development interventions and highlights the importance of how these are enacted in practice and in context, constructing a detailed and contextualised analysis of civil society development in practice. The thesis draws on data gathered through semi-structured interviews and participant observation, conducted amongst donor, intermediary and recipient organisations in three locations within Georgia.

The main output of civil society development is an NGO sector, which is described as civil society. The analysis investigates three critical issues shared across this civil society: NGOs' dependency relationship with donors; NGOs' political role; and their role in engaging with the Georgian public. Exploring each issue amongst the various research subjects, the research reveals complex patterns, some of which correspond with expectations in the literature, based on global experience, and some of which do not. The thesis argues that civil society development in Georgia has produced a set of organisations, narratives and practices, which are circumscribed by the process of development intervention, but also shaped by the Georgian context and the ways in which development intervention has interacted with it. It concludes that the production of NGOs is significant in shaping the organisational domain in Georgia, promoting democratic ideas and fostering new state-society relationships. However, NGOs have limited capacity to impact on government and engage the wider public. Further, different groups have been empowered to different extents, with an elite group of NGOs gaining more power and resources than other NGOs. Thus, civil society development in Georgia has produced uneven impacts with ambiguous democratic consequences.

Naomi Thérèse HOSSAIN, 2003, *Elites and Poverty in Bangladesh*

This thesis is a study of elite attitudes to poverty in Bangladesh. It is based on analysis of findings from semi-structured interviews with 195 members of the Bangladeshi national and local elites, which attempted to elicit their attitudes to poverty. This research was motivated by historical literature which documented how elite perceptions of poverty had influenced poverty policy in the now-developed countries, particularly under conditions when the elite perceived poverty or the poor could affect their own wellbeing negatively.

The research found that the Bangladeshi elites did not view poverty as a priority, and the thesis attempts to explain this finding. Most members of the elite appeared to have some awareness of poverty, to be sympathetic towards the poor, and to believe they had good relations with the poor. They also seemed to believe that tackling poverty was in their own interests, broadly conceived, as tackling poverty was seen as part of the strategy of national economic development more generally. Yet their preferred solutions to poverty suggested that poverty was not a priority concern: the problems of the poor competed for their attention - often unsuccessfully - with more prominent concerns; and urgent, immediate action to tackle poverty was not deemed necessary.

The interpretation of why Bangladeshi elites do not perceive poverty as a priority has three parts. First, it seems that poverty presents no current or imminent threat to the elite through, for example, crime or the potential for insurrection. Second, the elite lack faith in the state, which discourages them from supporting stronger state intervention on behalf of the poor. And third, the elite appear to believe that some appropriate action is already being taken on poverty, including through NGO interventions and private charity. The thesis concludes with some discussion of the implications of these findings for developing countries beyond Bangladesh.

Paul Washington HOWE, 2003, *Contesting 'Famine': a study of conceptual ambiguities and their implications for response and accountability in southern Sudan, 1998*

Using the crisis in southern Sudan in 1998 as a case study, this thesis explores the conceptual ambiguities in the term 'famine' and their implications for response and accountability. In examining the ambiguities associated with 'famine', it identifies three areas of contestation and debate related to the temporal, scale, and sectoral dimensions of these crises. Drawing on the famine literature as well as on field research from southern Sudan, it asks (and attempts to answer) the following questions about these dimensions: When does a famine start and end? How many people must be affected, to what degree and within what area, for a crisis to qualify as a famine? To what extent can a crisis involve sectors other than food and still be considered a famine?

In assessing the practical implications of these ambiguities for response and accountability, the thesis finds that the debate surrounding the use of the term in southern Sudan in 1998 resulted from genuine confusion over what the word meant as well as from complex political manoeuvring by different stakeholders with varied agendas. It argues that the ambiguities, while serving useful functions for some stakeholders, contributed to delays in declaring the crisis a famine, led to misjudgements about its scale, and resulted in a response that disproportionately privileged food over non-food items. The analysis also demonstrates that accountability was extremely limited for this crisis, in which an estimated 70,000 people died.

Based on these findings, the thesis offers both conceptual conclusions and practical recommendations. It argues that while it is reasonable to classify a certain recurrent set of human experiences with the term 'famine', the precise demarcation of the temporal, scale and sectoral boundaries of these crises will always, to some extent, represent a choice. It suggests that, on balance, it would be beneficial to decide on a clear-cut, widely accepted definition of famine that addresses these ambiguities in order to improve response and accountability. It concludes by outlining an original approach to defining famine based on intensity and magnitude scales.

Jennifer JALAL, 2002, *Voice, Responsiveness and Collaboration: democratic decentralisation and service delivery in two Indian cities*

This thesis explores state-civil society relations with respect to urban services in the context of democratic decentralisation. These issues are analysed through a comparative case study of approaches to improved services in the Indian cities of Bangalore and Calcutta. Three main areas of focus in the thesis are a) relationships between citizens' voice and local government responsiveness; b) the implications of collaboration and partnership in urban service delivery; and c) the impact of broader socio-political factors on relations between service users and service providers.

At the national level, legislation attempting to revitalise local government through democratic decentralisation has had a range of consequences for urban service provision. These consequences are examined through three paths towards improving service provision. The first, led by service users, is through traditional modes of political engagement and direct involvement in local community action groups. The second path, led by the local government service providers, is through internal reforms adopted to boost responsiveness. The third path is led by the collaborative efforts of service users and service providers.

The consequences of national legislative attempts at decentralisation have been markedly different in the two cities. Comparing the experience of approaches to improved service delivery in each, the thesis isolates the impact of local socio-political factors on municipal local governance. Demographic characteristics, the nature of political and administrative leadership, the character of local government institutions and the status of civil society, all prove to be important determinants of the quality of service delivery.

Neither Bangalore nor Calcutta has enjoyed dramatic improvements in urban services as a direct result of democratic decentralisation. The thesis argues, however, that the decentralisation process has created an environment more conducive for dialogue between service users and providers, in which users have the space to express their voice, and state actors are encouraged to listen, acknowledge and respond.

Fang JING, 2006, *Tailoring a Western Coat for a Chinese body: understanding the accountability of a health system in transition*

Accountability occupies a key place in current debates about health sector reform. Mainly using qualitative methods, this thesis examines a health system in a poor county in Guizhou Province, China, by employing a framework tailored from the concept of accountability as defined by most western development scholars. The findings reveal alternative forms of accountability based on both state's regulation and villagers' influence.

The Chinese state has used a hybrid approach comprising new and old institutions to manage a market economy, including health services, which is determined by the incremental reform strategy, "crossing the river by feeling stones". A regulatory framework has been gradually taking shape that has the potential to move towards a new accountability arrangement. However, this framework has been profoundly influenced by political and institutional arrangements such as the non-independence of oversight bodies and fiscal decentralization, as well as by strong informal institutions such as "*guanxi*" and "*renqing*".

Villagers have little participation in the formal planning, monitoring and evaluation of health facilities. However, they do use a variety of mechanisms, formal and informal, to exert influence over health workers, which put some restriction on power abuses by health workers.

The "standard" accountability mechanisms as acknowledged by most western scholars, such as participation, transparency, voice and punishment, are not very significant but not entirely absent in both state's regulation and villagers' influence over health facilities.

The thesis argues that it is misleading to use dichotomies such as "strong and weak" or "exist and absent" to describe accountability in the health system. A range of elements drawn from older means of redressing grievances, existing social relations and new institutional checks and balances can be seen to operate. This thesis proposes the use of the term "alternative accountability" to conceptualize the whole set of mechanisms that form a functioning though far from perfect but apparently distinct form of accountability.

Emma Louise JONES, 2006, *Locating Citizenship within Everyday Life: perceptions and experience from Kwoi, southern Kaduna State, northern Nigeria*.

As ‘active citizenship’ is increasingly promoted as a potential route to poverty reduction, time seems ripe to explore what the concept may actually mean. How has ‘citizenship’ been addressed within development debates and policies, and what does it come to signify in particular people’s everyday lives? My exploration in this thesis takes an ethnographic approach. It responds to calls for ‘cognitive justice’ in citizenship analysis (Visvanathan 2005), and ‘the right to narrate’ what gives value to life as it is lived in a particular place (Bhabha 2003). Diverging from the tendency of the literature to objectify citizenship should be seen as articulated moments *within* the dynamics of everyday life. As theorists such as Lefebvre (1991) and Moran (2005) argue, if we want to transform our lives for the better, we need to start by thinking about how we represent them: to see the everyday not as ‘what is left over’ or in relation to the theme of focus, but as the real spaces in which we live our actual lives.

My analysis is based on eighteen months of research in Kwoi. I present a learning journey through the research, and locate moments of citizenship within a thick description of the ebbs and flows of everyday life. I explore how the different dimensions of citizenship – identities, belongings, institutional relations, rights and duties – come to be embodied with meaning in people’s daily lives, and how they are articulated within moments of citizenship practice. Bringing particular people’s everyday lives to the forefront of analysis, I explore how perceptions and experiences of citizenship in Kwoi relate with formulations of ‘active citizenship’ in development discourse.

Chikashi KISHIMOTO, 2002, *The Taiwanese Personal Computer Cluster: trajectory of its production and knowledge systems*

The recent literature on industrial development has emphasised that the clustering of enterprises contributes to their competitiveness and to the economic growth of their respective regions. Research on developing countries in particular has shown that small and medium enterprises, on the basis of their collective efficiency, have been able to overcome growth constraints and reach distant markets. Surprisingly, the relevance of the collective efficiency approach has not been tested in Taiwan, probably the most conspicuous success story of industrial growth based on home-grown small and medium-sized producers.

The main challenge taken up in this thesis is to examine the role of clustering in the development of the Taiwanese personal computer (PC) industry. In order to carry out this task, three distinctions are made: a) between the production and knowledge systems, b) between the early and late stages in the cluster development, and c) between mature and less mature sub-sectors. Among them, the distinction between the production and knowledge systems is central. The main conclusion of the empirical chapters is that the role of clustering has decreased in the production system and increased in the knowledge system. This conclusion emerges both from historical research and from the comparison of sub-sectors. The latter shows that the share of offshore production increases with the maturity of the product.

The main conclusion, however, requires a critical qualification. Even though a significant amount of PC production takes place outside Taiwan, within the cluster there remain the high-end production of the mature sub-sectors, the entire production of the non-mature sub-sector, and all knowledge changing activities. This is what can be concluded in a quantitative and spatial sense. This thesis goes beyond this and examines the quality of inter-firm linkages of those activities which remain in the Taiwanese cluster, because they are critical for the technological upgrading of the cluster and the competitiveness of the entire Taiwanese industry on and offshore. This focus on the quality of inter-firm linkages within Taiwan is not, however, attained at the cost of neglecting external linkages. On the contrary, the thesis pays more explicit attention to external linkages than most previous studies.

The thesis also examines how the quality of inter-firm linkages has changed over time. The need for a dynamic approach has been recognised in recent cluster studies which focus on turning points and use the collective efficiency approach. This thesis goes further and examines the long-term development trajectory of the Taiwanese PC cluster from the early 1980s to the late 1990s. Although the analysis is not conclusive due to a shortage of data, it offers more than a mere description of its history.

Gilles KLEITZ, 2003, *Ruling by Nature: Analysing the implementation of nature conservation projects in rural areas (a case study in Northern Zimbabwe)*

Biodiversity conservation projects in rural areas have most often proposed very reductive representations of rural livelihoods. Such projects mobilise particular notions of space, economy, and rural society to construct elaborate models of ecological sustainability, but leave out the political dimensions of accessing natural resources. A case study in the Zambezi valley looks at how such political dimensions come back to the forefront during project implementation.

Documenting the interface between villagers, conservationists, and local administrators, implementation dynamics showed that local decisions about nature were not based on consensus or negotiation, as the intervention expected. Rather, they were politically mediated and reproduced existing patterns of privilege, domination, resistance and opportunities for change. An unequal argumentative process defined what biodiversity was practically about, allowing dominant actors to act, while silencing others. Land planning and its participatory technologies were an attempt to impose a particular ecological ordering of the rural environment, which was resisted both by villagers and the local administration. While negotiating the management of wildlife reproduced the means to maintain the privileged position of local administrators, it offered opportunities for change, when alliances, financial resources, and new discourses could be mobilised.

Such results recast biodiversity conservation in inhabited areas under a horizon of pluralism, political interaction, and social change. Rather than a mechanical deployment and application of ecological science through rural institutions, environmental change is socially and politically mediated. It is an understanding of such interactions between contrasting representations and practices of natures that need to become the foundation of biodiversity conservation policies, if their visions are ever to influence what takes place in developing rural areas.

Sakura KOJIMA, 2001, *The Transferability of the Lean Production System to an Emerging Economy: the case of the South African auto components industry*

The auto components industry in an emerging economy is required to strengthen their international competitiveness to survive in an impending 'mega-competition era'. 'Becoming lean' or adopting a waste-less production system has increased its importance in a rapidly changing business world requiring 'speed', although the focus is on a firm-level renovation having a limitation for strengthening an overall competitiveness.

The major purpose of this thesis is to determine the mechanism of how the 'best practices' (lean production system; LPS) can be disseminated to the components manufacturers in an emerging country, and specifically to identify the influential explanatory variables for enhancing the LPS transfer, taking the South African auto components industry as a case. For this purpose, the author firstly raised the eight hypotheses on enhancing factors of LPS dissemination which were deductively drawn from a literature review. The hypotheses are: capital ownership of supplier firms; influence of top customer; availability of technology licence; export orientation; intensity of in-house training and educational levels of employee; size of firm; awareness of top management; and closeness and cooperative relations with major customers.

Secondly, to determine the degree of adoption of LPS (as a dependent variable in my analysis) at the 50 supplier firms sampled, the Comprehensive Index was created by the author. Statistical analysis clarified the three variables combined - capital ownership, top customer and degree of in-house training for employees - became most influential over the LPS transferability to the supplier firms. This numerical analysis was endorsed and complemented by detailed case studies.

Finally, this thesis, at the same time, revealed an overall limitation of the LPS dissemination to them. This was mainly because the emerging buyer-supplier relation in South Africa was not functioning as an effective channel of dissemination. Other external bottlenecks were also identified to draw appropriate policy implications.

Saverio KRÄTLI, 2007, *Cows Who Choose Domestication: generation and management of domestic animal diversity by WoDaaBe pastoralists (Niger)*

International concern for the loss of domestic animal biodiversity (DAD) highlights the irreplaceable role of locally adapted breeds in low-input settings and recommends their conservation ‘in the surroundings where they were developed’. However, a critical lack of knowledge about livestock breeding in these settings has so far hindered the move from policy to implementation. This research takes up this challenge, looking at cattle breeding amongst a highly specialised group of producers operating with low external input under conditions of structural unpredictability.

The data were produced during three months of archival work in France and twenty months of fieldwork in central Niger, combining a broadly socio-anthropological approach with an innovative semi-structured exercise for the genealogical analysis of the herd (an elaboration from a range of participatory techniques). Theory wise, the research draws from post-Foucaultian reflections on knowledge/power, systemic views in biology, non-equilibrium approaches to nature and resource management (following the recent High Reliability Pastoralism model) and Science and Technology Studies perspectives on science in practice. These strands of theory are considered particularly for their diverse contribution to a critical revision of either or both the balance-of-nature paradigm and the nature-culture divide.

Current scientific characterisation of the Bororo zebu (WoDaaBe’s main cattle breed) is based on a century old tradition of unfounded information. The genealogical analysis of WoDaaBe herds shows that cattle reproduction is strictly controlled. Mating is systematically selective, discerningly matching bulls and cows. Out-selection through marketing targets most males and poorly performing female lines. The WoDaaBe’s production strategy (exploiting ecological unpredictability as a key resource) relies on their animals’ operating capacity as feeders and their peculiar ‘co-operative’ disposition towards their herders. These assets are complex, rooted in cognitive variables, and depend largely on extra-genetic inheritance. The WoDaaBe gain and maintain them through a ‘persuasive’ management approach (integrating cattle-specific behavioural patterns), and large breeding networks geared towards ensuring the continuity of critical social structures and feeding-related competence within the breeding population.

Overall, the findings indicate that the model of animal science currently informing the science/policy debate on DAD (looking at diversity exclusively through the lenses of genetics and ignoring animal behaviour) falls dramatically short of representing those breeding systems that are supposed to be the policy’s core concern.

Fidelx KULIPOSSA, 2003, *Democratic Decentralization and Local Development in Mozambique: lessons from Vilankulo municipality*

In a substantial shift in its position on the role of local governments in development, the central government in Mozambique devolved, in 1998, functions and responsibilities to 33 local governments. Local governments were empowered to tax, plan, budget, and acquire and administer resources. By devolving these functions and responsibilities, the central government aims to enable them to organise the participation of local communities in the solution of their problems, promote local development, and deepen and consolidate democracy at local levels. Local governments now have to provide equitable services and goods through local accountability and better use of local resources and knowledge.

This study begins with an examination of concepts of power, around which debates over democratic decentralization, local development, legitimacy, accountability, local government, local governance, and central and local administrations revolve. The debate over concepts of power is grounded in a critical interdisciplinary framework. The study then examines the municipality of Vilankulo to determine the extent to which the local government is performing its functions and responsibilities under democratic decentralization and the effects of this change on local economic development (LED). The main contention of the study is that the municipal government in Vilankulo fares relatively well when weighed against most justifications for elected local government. It is building and articulating community identity, emphasising diversity, providing political education and training, promoting citizenship and participation, fostering innovation and learning, and responding swiftly and appropriately to some local problems, despite many difficulties it faces.

In the promotion of LED, the municipal government plays the role of a mediator by coordinating, facilitating, and stimulating LED. Drawing on the experiences of other municipalities, the study argues that there is scope in Mozambique for the design of democratic local governments that shape locally-led governance and development. Particularly, the institutional innovations that are taking place in Vilankulo are making the local government more legitimate, accountable, responsive, and sensitive to problems of poverty, social welfare, local economic development, and equity in the municipality. Therefore, the municipality of Vilankulo can be seen as a local building block for the construction of a developmental democratic state in Mozambique.

Kattie LUSSIER, 2008, *The Learning Challenges of Capacity Development in Vietnam*

In recent years, the concept of *capacity development* (CD) has gained ascendancy in development programmes. However, the understandings and practices of CD vary considerably. Moreover, the learning dimension of processes utilised to develop capacities is often under-explored. This thesis critically examines the CD discourses and practices taking place in Thua Thien Hue province in Vietnam. Specifically, it explores the relationships between adult learning and CD, as perceived and defined by Vietnamese stakeholders. The research looks at the forms and understandings of CD taking place, the challenges they represent and the activities that are perceived to contribute to change. By doing so, it hopes to bring the perspectives of actors whose voices are seldom heard in the CD discourse to the fore, and to help narrow the perceived gap between understandings and practices of CD. It also aims to contribute to the growing body of theory around CD processes and approaches.

Using an approach inspired by grounded theory, the research has identified three main learning challenges regularly faced by people involved in CD. These are: applying and transferring knowledge, skills and attitudes; engaging learners; and dealing with different mindsets and interests. These challenges, as well as other cross-cutting ones, influence each other in a systemic manner and add to the complexity of the processes aiming to develop capacities for development.

In order to explore these challenges, the thesis looks at four approaches to CD: the farmer field school, the training and model approach, training of trainers and action based education. It inquires, in a particular context, into the ways these approaches deal with challenges and identifies processes that appear to address them. Finally, the thesis draws together a range of theoretical components from different fields – particularly that of adult learning – in an attempt to make sense of what can be done to reconcile CD practices and discourses in the research area, while also providing evidence to advance global discussion on the relationships between CD, learning and change.

Katsuhiko MASAKI, 2003, *The Politics of the Policy Process: 'Participatory' River Control in Nepal*

To cope with flooding, the Nepalese government constructs small-scale river control structures. This paper focuses on the 'participatory' river control policy, promulgated in 1992, that stipulates that flood control projects should be executed with the participation of beneficiaries, under the leadership of local elected leaders. In the late 1990s, the 'participatory' policy came to be increasingly ignored by the central government. The central government that had restricted the scope of 'participation' to labour contributions by beneficiaries to construct river control structures, instead started imposing the use of contractors. The main purpose of this study is to elucidate the power dynamics behind the decline of the 'participatory' policy.

This downward trend of the 'participatory' policy can be attributed to rivalries between the political parties in power at the centre, and those dominant at the district, which thus caused the policy to lose its value as a means of distributing patronage. However, such a 'descending' approach to examine which actors possess power and what strategies they pursue to exercise power over others reveals but one aspect of the political dynamics of the policy. The two case studies presented in this paper suggest that the policy decline was a reflection of the growing difficulty for elites to pre-empt 'participatory' processes at the local level. In particular, this was because of the dynamic and intricate nature of local power relations that opened up political opportunities for marginal groups to challenge the existing social order.

This study points out the importance of an 'ascending' perspective, which starts by examining micro-power experienced at the village level, so as to make sense of a more general, overarching picture of the policy process. Furthermore, it underlines the need for analysts to avoid reducing the interface of the top-down policy directive and local villagers to a simple process of assimilation and resistance. It is crucial, instead, to make a careful empirical inquiry into specific situations, and therefore refrain from deducing the policy process from actors' assumed structural positions in society.

Frank Munyaradzi MATOSE, 2002, *Local People and Reserved Forests in Zimbabwe: what prospects for co-management?*

Many attempts have been made worldwide to find ways of solving problems in the relationship between the State and local people around national parks and protected forests through co-management or joint management. This study focused on Zimbabwean attempts around two reserved forests that this study explored. Simplistic notions of co-management have not solved problematic relations between different local people and the State as they are a manifestation of much more complex socio-political issues and power relations between the different players involved. The study examined and analysed the highly differentiated histories, resource values and practices of the actors around protected forests. These give rise to four types of relations: conflictual, those characterised by resistance, those based on each set of actors carrying on their "business as usual" and collaborative. The type of relations are influenced by specific contexts and the embedded power relations of the different actors that in turn offer challenges for the development of co-management around State forests. These findings make it imperative for forest managers to be more adaptive and dynamic in developing joint management schemes. Four options for forest managers include: complete exclusion of local people from forest management, resource sharing, local people-based forest management and co-management.

Keiju MITSUHASHI, 2005, *The Furniture Value Chain from Thailand to Japan: Upgrading and the roles of buyers*

This study examines the circumstances in which the participation in the global value chain is conducive to the upgrading of producers in developing countries. Upgrading is a key strategy to garner competitiveness in this era of globalisation. This study takes the global value chain perspective, and uses a historical approach, a cross chain qualitative approach, and a comparative quantitative approach, in order to investigate the relevance of various kinds of external buyers and their functions in the value chain. It is an empirical analysis of the wooden furniture industry in Thailand and its links to the global markets, especially its major export market, Japan, based on in-depth interview and questionnaire survey at the firm level.

The result indicates that the differences in buyer types have an important impact on upgrading. In the buyer-driven chain, buyers' core competences and functional roles determine the roles of producers and the kind of knowledge and opportunity that are available to producers. Other important factors that are found to affect upgrading include producer experience, market segment, and product technology.

In the case of the wooden furniture value chain from Thailand to Japan, the presence of a large number and different types of buyers, which can be attributed to the low degree of market concentration and multiple distribution channels in Japan, has provided an enabling environment in which many Thai furniture producers acquire the design function. Brand development is difficult as it requires acquisition of functions that buyers intend to retain. Some cases for brand development are found among producers targeting the domestic market or the neighbouring countries, in contrast to those exporting to advanced industrialised countries. Building competences using local designs and skills that are unique to the locality is an important aspect of upgrading that facilitates developing own brand.

Lizbeth NAVAS-ALEMÁN, 2006, *Opportunities and Obstacles for Industrial Upgrading of Brazilian Footwear and Furniture Firms: a comparison of global and national value chains*

This thesis analyses whether firms in the southern Brazilian clusters of the Sinos Valley (footwear) and the Serra Guacha (furniture) show different patterns of industrial upgrading according to the governance patterns in the value chains they feed into: global and national value chains. The “learning by exporting” paradigm suggests that, for developing countries, exporting provides a superior way to upgrade. This might hold for product and process upgrading but recent dissenting research indicates that functional upgrading (design, marketing and branding) might be hindered by exporting under certain conditions.

To investigate these issues, this thesis combines quantitative and qualitative methods to conduct a systematic comparison of the different types of value chains and corresponding types of upgrading in the footwear and furniture clusters.

Firms in both clusters operate in value chains serving the US, European, Latin American and domestic markets. The governance in these chains varies from quasi-hierarchical to market-based. Firms operating in quasi-hierarchical value chains experience extensive product and process upgrading but very little functional upgrading. In contrast, functional upgrading for firms operating in market-based chains is high and processed in a product upgrading moderate. Functional upgrading capabilities are acquired in the national market and transferred to exporting activities.

However, many firms operate in several value chains simultaneously (‘multi-chain’) and are exposed to different patterns of governance and upgrading concurrently. Multi-chain firms show the highest attainment in all types of upgrading, indicating that this strategy might offer the best upgrading opportunities. This thesis shows that the repositioning of clusters along the value chain is hindered by dominant quasi-hierarchical chain governance but there are opportunities for collective functional upgrading strategies.

Policy implications stress the importance of domestic markets for functional upgrading and the role of branding, marketing and design as ‘strategic options’ that may add value and decrease vulnerability of firms operating in GVCs.

Sohela NAZNEEN, 2007, *Gender Sensitive Accountability of Service Delivery NGOs: BRAC and Proshika in Bangladesh*

This thesis brings in the relatively unexplored dimension of gender in analysing accountability relations between clients and service delivery NGOs. It builds on existing literature on NGO accountability and feminist critique of organisations to develop the concept of gender sensitive accountability. The thesis explores the questions: a) are large service delivery NGOs accountable to poor women, and b) do they promote gender equity? It is a comparative study of two large credit delivery NGOs in Bangladesh. The thesis investigates the worker's and client's perceptions of each organisation on the following two areas: a) whether various organisational mechanisms (assessment, training, monitoring, and feedback systems) elicit gender-responsive behaviour on the part of the workers; b) if spaces are available for the female clients to renegotiate accountability relations.

It argues that whether gender equity concerns are addressed by the workers is arbitrary despite strong gender equity rhetoric from the top management and provision of gender training for the workers. The high risk and competitive nature of the credit market within which both NGOs operate provide a strong incentive for both organisations to design their assessment and monitoring systems that ensure the delivery of a standardised service package in a predictable manner. However, this inadvertently distorts the gender-related agency of the workers. In certain contexts the workers do act as 'principled agents', being influenced by non-monetary incentives and loyalty towards the clients. However, the use of individual discretion for addressing gender equity concerns is not a systematic response. Moreover, the female clients have very limited space for negotiating demands given the nature of participatory channels, and group formation strategies used by the NGOs, and the overall context of their lives. The presence of external actors and increased NGO competition do positively affect the client's negotiation position. However, the impact of these external variables is highly individualistic and short-term, leading to limited voice and exit incidents and not long-term changes at the collective wheel.

Maria Beatriz RODRIGUES, 2000, *Labour Relations and the Extent of Adoption of Japanese Manufacturing Techniques in 'Brazilian Companies*

Since the mid-1980s Brazilian industry has been searching for new forms of work organisation to improve the performance of industry. Further impetus for these changes came at the beginning of the 1990s with economic liberalisation and a government programme for improvements in quality and productivity. This programme aimed to close the gap in quality and productivity standards between Brazil and advanced industrial countries.

Studies on new forms of production organisation and work in Brazil have argued that companies are not only adopting Japanese management techniques but also modernising labour relations through improvements in workforce stability, flattening management hierarchies, training, participation, etc. These findings have led to a broad discussion about the extent of such changes, and in particular about whether they are restricted to technologically advanced companies.

This thesis examines whether systemic adoption of Japanese manufacturing techniques is associated with changes in labour relations in Brazilian industry. Research was carried out in six companies to examine whether the nature and depth of adoption of these techniques are associated with the modernisation of labour relations. The six firms fell into two groups: three were more advanced adopters of Japanese manufacturing techniques and three were less advanced.

The thesis has three key elements. The first is a distinction between, on the one hand, the extensive and systematic adoption of Japanese manufacturing techniques with wide-ranging implications for company practices, and, on the other, the adoption of a limited range of specific techniques. The second is related to the consequences this distinction has for work organisation and labour relations, both within companies, and for trade unions. Finally, the thesis gives particular attention to the experiences and opinions of workers. The study is based on interviews and extensive observations made on the shop floor.

The labour process and labour relations impacts of the two types of adoption are discussed at length. The findings show that the main hypothesis that systemic adoption of JMT should modernise labour relations is not substantiated. It is shown that work organisation was transformed in certain significant respects, but wages, stability of employment and labour relations were not better than in other firms.

Iokiñe RODRÍGUEZ, 2002, *The Transformative Role of Conflicts: beyond conflict management in national parks*

This thesis is a critique of the dominant participatory paradigm in protected area management as a route for solving conflicts. It argues that present approaches used to solve conflicts in protected areas have been ineffective in their aim because they fail to address the very root causes of conflicts as well as to understand their complex, diverse and dynamic nature. The thesis thus calls for a shift away from instrumental forms of participation that put the control over the participatory process on conservationist and protected area managers, towards collaborative processes that would help to address the underlying issues in dispute. Although seldom acknowledged, conflicts in protected areas generally include struggles over complex issues such as modernity, identity, authority, ownership, knowledge systems and different cultural notions of nature and land use, among others. The long-term transformation of conflicts requires that these issues are adequately understood and addressed.

A shift away from the dominant participatory paradigm also requires breaking away from a managerial conflict resolution approach that treats conflicts as static, negative and undifferentiated phenomena. In its place an approach that emphasises the dynamic, differentiated nature of conflicts and their transformative power in forcing necessary social changes in protected area management is advocated. Special attention is paid here to analysing the dynamics of power relations among actors and the history of their interactions in order to determine the factors that limit or offer opportunities for a productive engagement among actors in addressing the root cause of conflicts.

In order to demonstrate the complex, dynamic and diverse nature of conflicts in protected areas this thesis studies three difference types of conflicts currently taking place in Canaima National Park, Venezuela: conflicts over the use of fire, tourism management and the building of a high voltage power-line. Through this differentiated analysis this thesis concludes with a discussion of the types of collaborative processes that could help address and discuss the core issues in dispute in each case but also the factors that limit and offer opportunities for such engagement.

Meena M. SHIVDAS, 2003, *Resisting Stigma and Interventions: Situating trafficked Nepali women's struggles for self-respect, safety and security in Mumbai and Nepal*

This thesis examines the marginality and stigma experienced by trafficked Nepali women sex workers in Mumbai and returnees in Nepal. It offers insights into the women's survival strategies and their capacity to challenge unequal power relations in Mumbai brothels and to manipulate the politics of control in governmental and non-governmental interventions. As foreign women engaged in work that is considered immoral and on the fringes of legality in Mumbai, Nepali women are vulnerable to prejudice and are often denied protection normally accorded to citizens. While their Indian counterparts also face disdain and discrimination, Nepali women are doubly disadvantaged as foreigners and sex workers. As returnees in Nepal, the women are treated as victims under the law but face social exclusion when they attempt to reintegrate into natal communities. Because these women are perceived as either 'whores' in need of moral guidance or as 'victims' in need of saving, constructions that identify them as either criminals or deviants, the interpretation of their needs by official and non-governmental agencies is often limited to a welfare, rehabilitation or reform framework. In contrast, my concern is to examine the women's self-representations and struggles for self-respect as these aspects of their lives are often obscured through their stereotyped representation in public discourses. I also focus on the conflicting constructions of women's agency in state and non-governmental representations and interventions given that they can lead to damaging laws and policies.

My aim at the analytical level is to assess whether Nepali women's struggles to insulate themselves from the exploitation and abuse of madams, the police and clients, and the often well-meaning but damaging, actions of non-government organisations can be labelled as 'resistance'. I ask if we can discern positive agency in the women's struggles to challenge the dominant power relations in the confines of the brothel and push back the boundaries of conformity within their social relations when they return. Or are their struggles only tactics that offer the women some leeway to negotiate self-respect without addressing the unequal power relations they encounter in sex work and social relations? By answering these questions, I make a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge about the needs of trafficked women sex workers and returnees and inform assumptions made about the women's perceived victim-hood and/or agency in feminist positions on sex work which guide state and non-governmental interventions.

My research suggests that the women resist being treated as objects of intervention. As sex workers and returnees, trafficked Nepali women present themselves as having desires like many other women and aspire to love and marriage and have children. They wish to have the means to meet obligations to their families. They want to be treated with respect and be enabled to find spaces for self-respect. I demonstrate that trafficked Nepali women sex workers and returnees engage in a range of tactics to recover their agency and their hopes for a respectable life. In Mumbai they attempt to be 'good madams', forge relationships with lovers and clients, support natal families, bring up their children well and work with NGOs. In Nepal, they pursue other livelihood options outside of sex work and try to meet familial duties and obligations.

I conclude that Nepali women have learnt to live by their wits as sex workers in Mumbai and are able to reconcile their conflicting subjective identities in the transgressive environment of brothels to achieve social power, income and security. In Nepal, as returnees they have to live within the imperatives of reintegration which means that they have to conform to the norms of gender relations which bring them a sense of security and social acceptance but at the same time restrict their personal freedoms. I therefore assert that a more nuanced understanding of trafficked Nepali women sex workers' and returnees' struggles and choices would help to formulate interventions that acknowledge the socio-economic context of the women's lives.

Colette SOLOMON, 2003, Giving Women Choices? Development Interfaces: women and credit in Tamale, Northern Ghana

Employing an actor-oriented and multi-sited approach, this thesis analyses the policy interfaces between the multiple actors involved in ActionAid's Savings and Credit programme in Tamale, Northern Ghana. It takes as its starting point an interface approach to development interventions, viewing them as mediated by various actors who invariably have different interests and priorities, dissonances and discontinuities inevitably arise between projected and actual outcomes. Interface analysis problematises the notion that development interventions are implemented according to linear blueprints which culminate in projected outcomes, highlighting the agency of actors that transform, undermine and subvert policy and give rise to the host of unacknowledged and unplanned outcomes.

Tracking the genesis and implementation of the programme, this study demonstrates how the assumptions which underpinned ActionAid's Savings and Credit programme had little resonance in the specific social relations, because they developed and evolved from international development discourses which inevitably neglected context specificity. Through the ethnography of local social relations, the uncertainties and contingencies of everyday life are highlighted, as well as the dynamic ways in which relationships and social obligations were being (re)negotiated.

A central concern of this thesis is to analyse the 'interlocking' of the ActionAid Savings and Credit programme with the different 'projects' of the female programme participants and local fieldworkers in Tamale. Savings and Credit participants integrated the Savings and Credit programme into their lives to produce outcomes that met their particular circumstances, but challenged its assumptions. The way in which fieldworkers undermined and subverted aspects of ActionAid policy was a reflection of their different realities. Thus, through the agency of the actors involved, ActionAid policy was effectively reconstituted, albeit in unintended and unacknowledged ways.

Identifying and analysing the implications of the social and intellectual distance among actors involved in the policy process, the thesis argues for the need for situated ethnographies to set the policy agenda and inform development interventions such as microcredit programmes.

Isatou TOURAY, 2003, *Gender and Environment, Land and Livelihoods: policy perspectives and local dynamics in a Gambian community*

This thesis focuses on gender and environmental resource management in the Gambia and examines the relationships, both complementary and contradictory, between environmental policies and local dynamics in a Gambian community. Environmental policy perspectives in the Gambia, as echoed in different natural resource sectors, have been shaped both by particular colonial and post-independent histories and by dominant international discourses, especially around desertification. At the same time, the Gambia's current development emphasis is on private investment and tourism. These have a range of implications for the management of environmental resources and in particular have justified the 1990 State Land Act to 'rationalise' land use in the supposed interests of environment, economy and gender equality. The thesis reveals how, when implemented, such policy initiatives produce gender imbalances and inequalities, and contradictory environmental outcomes.

The research was undertaken in Gunjur community situated in the Kombo South District of the Western Division of the Gambia. Gunjur is a fast growing community and by virtue of its location, has been a centre of attraction to the government and urban entrepreneurs for the country's future development plans. The study employed a feminist political ecology approach and anthropological and feminist research methods to understand local conceptions of environmental resources and their significance for people's livelihoods. These show Gunjur's environment to comprise overlapping spiritual, political and material landscapes which hold different values for women and men, youth and elders. Despite the recent changes and new opportunities provided by tourism and private sector development, land remains a critical environmental resource that both men and women depend on for their livelihoods and production strategies.

People access land in many ways through multiple institutions. Many of these embody gender imbalances, while gendered power relations and women's sexuality mediate their land access opportunities. The implementation of the State Land Act has intersected with existing institutional dynamics in ways that reduce women's land access. In particular, land which was hitherto under the tenure of patrilineal descent groups, to which women had usufructuary rights, is now being removed from the control of village heads and elders. This has various ramifications for rural households, particularly women and other non-landowners who depend on this 'traditional' tenure system. Nevertheless, some women are struggling against these developments and using their agency to access land in new ways. In the light of these dynamics, the thesis concludes by raising critical gender and development issues which need to be taken into account if Gambia is to achieve sustainable and participatory development to alleviate poverty.

Nik Rosnah WAN ABDULLAH, 2002, *The Private Health Sector in Malaysia: an assessment of government regulation*

This thesis assesses the degree to which the Malaysian government exerts influence over the activities of private providers in health. The government's stated objective in its mid-term Review of the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) and Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000) is to gradually reduce its role in the provision of health services and increase its regulatory and enforcement functions.

The thesis examines the functioning of the regulatory system. It investigates the role of local government in licensing new hospitals and the Malaysian Medical Council and Malaysian Medical Association in regulating doctors.

The study focuses on the issues of management and analysis of information, and the principal-agent relationship. The study demonstrates that many of the Government's objectives for regulating the private health sector are not realized due to lack of legal framework as well as fragmentation and lack of coordination among the relevant agencies. This is compounded by insufficient funding for a personnel policy that would increase its capacity. The study also demonstrates that the regulatory bodies of the medical profession do not reflect the interest of the users adequately. Their composition mostly represents medical practitioners and medical organisations. Their regulatory processes do not provide clear channels through which users can voice complaints. There are few sanctions for behaviour that harms patients.

William Lewis WOLMER, 2001, *Lowveld landscapes: conservation, development and the wilderness vision in south-eastern Zimbabwe*

Landscapes, as well as being physical spaces, are imagined and invested with meaning. The way they are thought about influences what is done to them. Conservation and development programmes in Zimbabwe's south-east 'lowveld' have been rooted in a particular conceptualisation of landscape - as wilderness. This derives from the experiences and priorities of colonial settlers and has had two facets. On the one hand the landscape came to be constituted as one of adventure, mystique and danger - a fearful place that 'pioneers' sought to tame into a productive landscape through cattle ranching or irrigation. On the other hand it has been viewed as a pristine natural landscape that must be preserved, rehabilitated or consciously manufactured.

In both these manifestations African people were written out of the landscape. Their uses, perceptions and experiences of this landscape have been ignored in policies deriving from this 'wilderness vision'. Dryland agriculture in the lowveld has been regularly dismissed as inappropriate, rather than a key livelihood strategy. Irrigation developments have been biased towards large-scale initiatives in the commercial sector. Livestock management strategies, other than those recommended for commercial ranching, have been discouraged. Wildlife utilisation schemes have delivered minimal returns to communities and imposed coercive regulations on resource use, deepening antagonism over land; but conservation initiatives such as a transfrontier national park are going ahead - bolstered by economic imperatives, global environmental agendas and donor priorities. Land reform has failed to take account of the way the landscape is bound up with identity through its embodiment of ancestral spirits and function as a repository of social memories.

The turbulent dynamics around the ongoing farm invasions in Zimbabwe may open space for previously silenced constructions of landscape to influence policy. An awareness of the flexible and multiple nature of livelihood strategies and further debate on the restitution of ancestral lands would go a long way towards improving livelihoods in the lowveld.