

IDS DIARY

Thursday 15 to Friday 16 September

Eldis 20th Anniversary Conference, 'From Dial-up to the Data Revolution: Learning from 20 years of Digital Knowledge Sharing for Global Development'. Further details of the programme and registration instructions: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/events/from-dial-up-to-the-data-revolution-learning-from-20-years-of-digital-knowledge-sharing-for-global-development>

Monday 23 to Friday 27 January 2017

Using Participatory Action Research to Improve Development Practice. This five-day course on Participatory Action Research (PAR) will provide participants with the conceptual and practical tools to design and carry out PAR. They will learn about a range of methods and develop their ideas into a detailed plan that they will be able to put into action on returning to their organisation. Register at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/events/using-participatory-action-research-to-improve-development-practice>

CONDOLENCES

George McRobie

George McRobie, who died recently, aged 90, was an Associate of IDS in the 1970s. With Fritz Schumacher, he was a co-founder of Practical Action, then called the Intermediate Technology Development Group, which argued that developing countries were too dominated by large-scale technologies, mostly imported, generating little employment and involving huge costs. Instead, ITDG argued that developing countries should use low cost technologies, more suited for improving the productivity, production and living standards of those with low incomes and those working in the urban informal sector.

At the time, many in IDS tended to think the ITDG approach and Schumacher's best-selling book, *Small is Beautiful* were over-simple, IDS wanting more analysis of broader development issues, such as the links with savings, national strategy and the long-run implications for a country's self-reliance. But George himself and Practical Action moved on, soon more involved with broader issues of development strategy and policy. George became a founding member of the Other Economic Summit and the New Economics Foundation, which has made fundamental critiques of the capitalist-consumer approaches dominating contemporary economic growth while exploring and promoting alternatives such as Buddhist economics and the elements of the good life- where labour is not seen as a necessary evil but a chance for persons to use and develop their faculties, overcome ego-centeredness by joining others in common tasks as well as contribute to the goods and services needed for well-being.

Richard Jolly

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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IDS MEMBERS

Erika Lopez, alongside Jo Howard are in Ghana, (Accra and Ada Foah) from 12 to 19 August, for an accompaniment visit to Radio Ada as part of the activities of Participate's Participatory Monitoring and Accountability of the SDGs initiative.

Patta Scott-Villiers is in Lokichar, Turkana, from 9 to 17 August, for a study on community representation and large-scale economic development intervention.

IDS PUBLICATIONS

McGee, R. and Alfonso Flórez López, J. (2016) *Power, Violence, Citizenship and Agency: A Colombian Case Study*, IDS Working Paper 474, Brighton: IDS <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/power-violence-citizenship-and-agency-a-colombian-case-study>

Mohmand, K., Mihajlovic, S. and Mistic, S. (2016) *Integrating Informal Institutions in Local Governance: Does it Matter?* IDS Working Paper 473, Brighton: IDS <http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/integrating-informal-institutions-in-local-governance-does-it-matter>

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DETAILS

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For further information on IDS vacancies only, please contact the IDS HR Department. Details can be found in the relevant section.

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