

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



University of Antwerp  
IOB | Institute of  
Development Policy





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# INTRODUCTION

## 2020 - A resilient IOB in the corona storm



Too often, the suspension or adjustment of normal activities because of crises is associated with the Global South, whether it's because of hurricanes, political turmoil or an epidemiological crisis. 2020 demonstrated to us all that the 'Global North' is by no means exempt from such calamities: the corona pandemic hit hard and close to home. We have grown unaccustomed to such unexpected disruptions. The pandemic forced us to abruptly adjust our normal activities and find alternatives for established ways of doing things. Yet, looking back at 2020, I am proud to say that once again IOB showed vibrancy and resilience. IOB staff went above and beyond to address this challenge, together.

The most immediate and clearly visible shock was to our education efforts: all classroom teaching was translated into online sessions in a matter of weeks from March onwards. The switch was not easy for lecturers, support staff and students alike (see below for some testimonies), but we were successful in safeguarding the year for our students without lowering our standards. Against all odds, we also managed to bring a new, full batch of students from all continents physically to Antwerp by the end of 2020, starting with an online version of the first module, but ready to switch to live, on-campus teaching for the rest of the year. On a positive note, the digital revolution also opened up more and new opportunities for guest lecturing from our partner institutes in the South in the context of our Going Global initiative. All this would not have been possible without the commitment, skills and extreme versatility of the ICT and education support people at IOB. We were also grateful to the University of Antwerp for the extra financial support that allowed us to temporarily strengthen those teams.

Impact on research was also clear, albeit less immediately visible in the outcomes. We managed to recall and safely repatriate several researchers from the countries where they were doing fieldwork. International travel (and thus our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions deriving from it)

fell significantly, since conferences went online, seminars became webinars, and research and education related travel was reduced (although in DR Congo several IOB scholars still participated in the local research course). Paradoxically, it did not negatively affect the elaboration of research proposals, judging by the strong increase in external research funding. Neither was there a noticeable effect on the upward trend in diverse societal outreach activities of IOB.

Despite the urgency of the immediate crisis, IOB did not stop preparing for the future. After last year's external audit, we prepared and concluded a new five-year policy plan which was submitted and approved by our main funder, the Flemish Ministry of Education. Consolidating our core educational, research and outreach activities, this plan underlines the need to broaden and deepen our academic collaboration with Southern institutes and our alumni network, aiming to further globalise and decolonise our education, research and outreach, while cultivating enhanced interactions between these three dimensions. Recently discovered opportunities for online/blended learning will be integrated in these efforts. We also intend to further enhance our academic links with the broader University of Antwerp, for example through joint research, teaching at the faculties, the Global Minds initiative and the USOS foundation. And given the systemic challenges of the post-corona era, IOB also plans to follow the advice of the audit commission to continue reflecting about 'our role, our identity and our strategies in the current changing and challenging context', while staying true to the fundamental DNA of IOB.

More to follow about this in the coming years... I wish you a pleasant read of our annual report 2020. ■

*Johan Bastiaensen, Chair IOB*

# MASTER PROGRAMMES



## Facts and figures

IOB offers three Advanced Master programmes, each with a high degree of specialisation and a distinct focus:

1. Master of Globalisation and Development
2. Master of Governance and Development
3. Master of Development Evaluation and Management

Within the Master programmes, students can choose from various tracks according to their personal interests and career path.

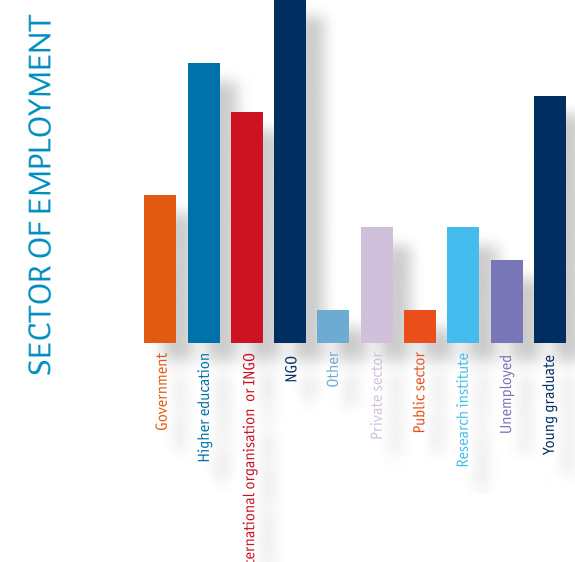
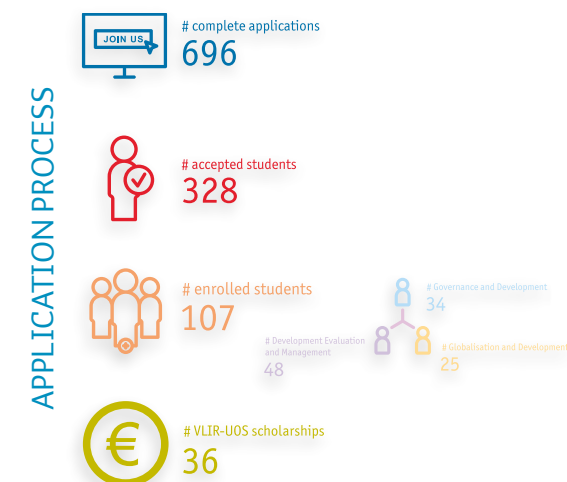
In 2018, we started the “IOB Going Global” project, through which we aim to globalise our education, research and societal outreach activities, by forging long-term structural cooperation with Southern partners and academics.

Our strategy takes the different situations and contexts of our partners into account and is based on the following principles:

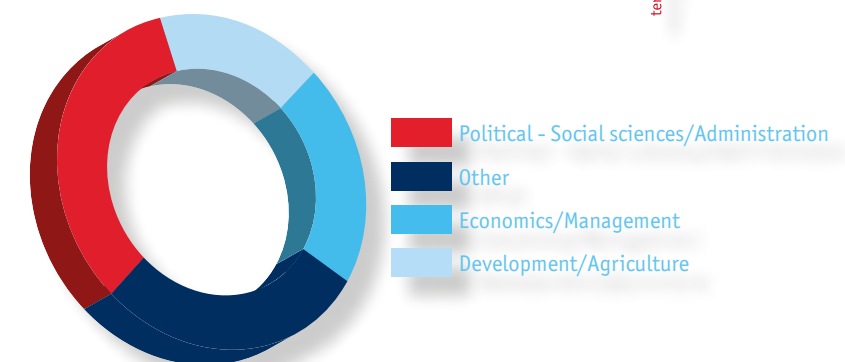
- Build on existing cooperation
- Tailor-made step-by-step approach
- Build synergies between teaching, research and service to society.

Different instruments are used to cooperate: student and staff mobility, research internships (mobility window), dissertation mobility, ....

The Going Global programme enables us to ‘globalise’ and ‘decolonise’ our Master education – addressing the recurrent critique of too few (critical) ‘voices from the South’.



## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND





# The Master programmes: policy-oriented, research-driven, competence-based

A few key features of the Master programmes are their modular structure, their policy-oriented and research-driven character and their focus on student-oriented learning.

In 2019-2020, the following guest lecturers were invited within the Master programmes:

- Andrew Fischer (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)
- Marco Sanfilippo (University of Florence, Italy)
- Sara Kinsbergen (Radboud University, Netherlands)
- Filip Reyniers (International Peace Information Service | IPIS, Belgium)

Our Master programmes are all highly research-driven and policy-oriented. Education at IOB incorporates the latest social-scientific insights relevant to the development challenge. Students learn from each other's experiences and from their exposure to living and working in the North. We use various teaching methods to stimulate student-centred learning, including traditional lectures, individual and group assignments, discussions, literature reviews, case study analyses and simulation games.

IOB also offers a two-week intensive English language course prior to the start of the Master programmes to bring the students' level of English to the admission standards of IOB.

Inspired by the importance of internationalisation at home, we set up a new series of sessions on intercultural communication. In 2019 we continued with an 'everyday diplomacy' workshop. The

purpose of this workshop is to create a common framework based on discussion, interaction and brainstorming. At the end of the workshop, each student acknowledges the framework and a 'Code of Conduct' is drawn up. Students learn to deal with intercultural group dynamics and are aware of diversity.

Besides teaching in our Master programmes, many of our lecturers also engage in teaching elsewhere (see below).

In 2020, no travel grants were awarded due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Students were not allowed to carry out fieldwork in the framework of their dissertation.

We invest heavily in quality assurance throughout the entire Master programme cycle. Daily management is in the hands of the programme director, ensuring consistency and standardisation across the three Master programmes. Internal quality assurance is guaranteed by a set of evaluation instruments, including surveys, focus group discussions, analysis of student and grade statistics, and student workload monitoring. Overall, students are very appreciative regarding the programmes, although a traditional concern revolves around the high workload during the first semester. Additionally, to monitor and follow up on the students well being during the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional buddy system was set up. Finally, students highly appreciate the intensity of the programmes, the content of the courses and the diverse teaching methods. ■



## OTHER IOB STAFF TEACHING ACTIVITIES DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

IOB contributes to teaching at other faculties within the University of Antwerp and with IOB's partners:

### Debating Development

A series of eight lectures was offered to all students of the University of Antwerp. The series, coordinated by Prof. Gert Van Hecken, was financed by the Global Minds programme of VLIR-UOS and co-organised with the University Foundation for Development Cooperation (USOS).

### International Economics and International Economic Organisations

This course was taught by Prof. Danny Cassimon and Prof. Jean-François Maystadt in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### Topics in Development Studies

Students of the Faculty of Business Economics and the Faculty of Social Sciences were able to register for this course, which was taught by a team of IOB-lecturers, coordinated by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten.

### International Finance

This course was taught by Prof. Danny Cassimon within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### Political Economy of Development

This course was jointly taught by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten and Prof. Joachim De Weerd within the Master of Political Science, the Master of International Relations and Diplomacy, and the Master of Social and Economic Sciences.

### Introduction to Rural Development

Prof. Johan Bastiaensen taught this course as part of the European Master in Microfinance, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université de Mons and Université Dauphine Paris.

### Sustainable Development

Prof. Kristof Titeca and Prof. Gert Van Hecken teach within the subject 'Sustainable Development' at UAntwerp, organised by the Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO), for the Bachelor Biology and the transition programme Environmental Sciences.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

This course was taught by dr. Dimitri Renmans as part of the interuniversity master Global Health.

### Global Justice

This course was taught by Prof. Tomaso Ferrando for several Bachelor and Master programmes within the University of Antwerp.



### Gender and Development

Prof. Nathalie Holvoet taught this course in the interuniversity master 'Gender and Diversity'.

### Transitional Justice

Prof. Stef Vandeginste gave a lecture on transitional justice in the short term training programme Sustainable Development and Global Justice.

### Dissertations

Several dissertations at other UAntwerp faculties were supervised by IOB staff.

### Strengthening National Evaluation Systems and Networks

This short-term training programme was organised in collaboration with the Office of the Special Evaluator, coordinated by dr. Sara Dewachter and Prof. Nathalie Holvoet.

### Introduction to rural development

This course was taught by Prof. Johan Bastiaensen and dr. Frédéric Huybrechts at ULB within the European Master in Microfinance.

### Several staff members lectured at partner institutes in the South:

- Advanced course of the governance of natural resources at the Catholic University of Bukavu (DRC), by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten and Prof. Sara Geenen
- Research Design Course at Catholic University of Bukavu (DRC), by prof. Bert Ingelaere, Prof. Sara Geenen and Prof. Tom De Herdt.
- Method Course for the project: "Making Refugee Integration Sustainable: In Search of Durable Relations with Host Populations In Uganda" at Mbarara University (Uganda), by Prof. Kristof Titeca, Prof. Bert Ingelaere, Frank Ahimbisibwe and Sarah Vancluysen.
- Governance of mineral resources: Core Economic Principles at University of Bukavu (DRC) by Prof. Marijke Verpoorten.



# Prizes for Global Research

In line with our emphasis on student-centred learning, we also place an emphasis on the individual research project and Master dissertation. During the graduation ceremony, three students received the Prize for Global Research from the Province of Antwerp for their excellent dissertations.

## Roxana Sofia Gómez Valle (Nicaragua) | "What determines women's intrahousehold decision-making participation in Nicaragua?"

Master of Globalisation and Development  
Promotor: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet



In her research, Ms. Gómez explores in an exemplary way the influence of gender roles in five different areas of household decision-making. Starting from an excellent review of mainstream intrahousehold economic models, Roxana brings in insights from institutional and feminist economics while at the same time also

broadening from nuclear towards extended households. This theoretical blending and expansion of the scope is something which has not often been done before in such a balanced and nuanced way. The dissertation is not only conceptually and analytically innovative, it also goes the extra mile in terms of empirical application. Using data from the 2011/2012 Nicaraguan Demographic and Health Survey, Roxana shows that indeed household decision-making dynamics are highly complex with different factors influencing women's participation differently in different types of decisions. For instance, while gender role attitudes play an important role in non-economic areas of decision-making (such as in physical mobility and reproductive decision-making), this does not necessarily hold for economic decisions. Besides the fact that the dissertation is a masterpiece of in-depth academic research, the policy recommendations listed by Roxana are also highly relevant, particularly in the context of the current COVID-19 crisis and its gendered implications. ■

## Angeline Ndabaningi (Zimbabwe) | A gendered and intersectional conceptualisation of smallholder microfinance and climate adaptation. The case of Zimbabwe.

Master of Governance and Development  
Promotor: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen



In her dissertation, Angeline Ndabaningi makes a compelling case to look at access to finance in relation to climate change adaptation from a novel intersectional lens. Based on an impressive literature review, she creates an original theoretical framework to approach her topic, combining building blocks from assembly

theory, microfinance literature, and gender and intersectionality perspectives. This allows her to argue that the capacity to adapt to climate change and the possibility to gain access to financial support from a variety of institutional actors depends on the interacting mediation by the smallholders' gender, ethnicity, religion, wealth and age. Even when original fieldwork was difficult due to the corona pandemic, Angeline's previous professional experience and telephone interviews allowed her to illustrate the relevance of her intersectional perspective in a grounded analysis of adaptation and microfinance challenges in the department of Chimanimani, Zimbabwe. Her analysis also identifies concrete in-roads for a so-called 'microfinance plus' approach, combining financial services with complementary interventions, to support variegated emerging practices with the potential to challenge some of the power-laden structural processes that constrain effective climate adaptation strategies primarily for particular groups of women smallholder farmers. ■

## Bienvenu Matungulu Tabu (DR Congo): "Education and the intergenerational transmission of income in urban area of Democratic Republic of the Congo"

Master of Development Evaluation and Management  
Promotor: Prof. Tom De Herdt



Matungulu Tabu's dissertation merits to be honoured with the Prize of the Province of Antwerp as it constitutes an original contribution to the existing literature on intergenerational social mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa. To find out about social mobility, you need to link information about two generations, fathers and sons,

or mothers and daughters, and Matungulu realised this by coupling the household surveys carried out by a team led by Joseph Houyoux in 1975 on all major cities in the DRC, with the 2012 nation-wide budget survey. Notwithstanding an almost complete marginalisation of the formal economy and a very limited role of the state in economy and society, intergenerational income mobility is very very low: given that a 100% difference between fathers' income in 1975 would still result in a 75% difference in income in 2012, the DRC compares to world-notorious low-mobility countries like Peru or South Africa. Matungulu further analysed how the current education system rather works to reproduce inequality from one generation to another, instead of working as a social elevator. ■



## 2020: THE SHIFT TOWARDS ONLINE TEACHING

The tools for online teaching (of distance learning) have been available for some time, but it was only in March 2020 that we were forced to switch en masse to this form of teaching. Due to this rapid transition, action had to be taken very quickly.

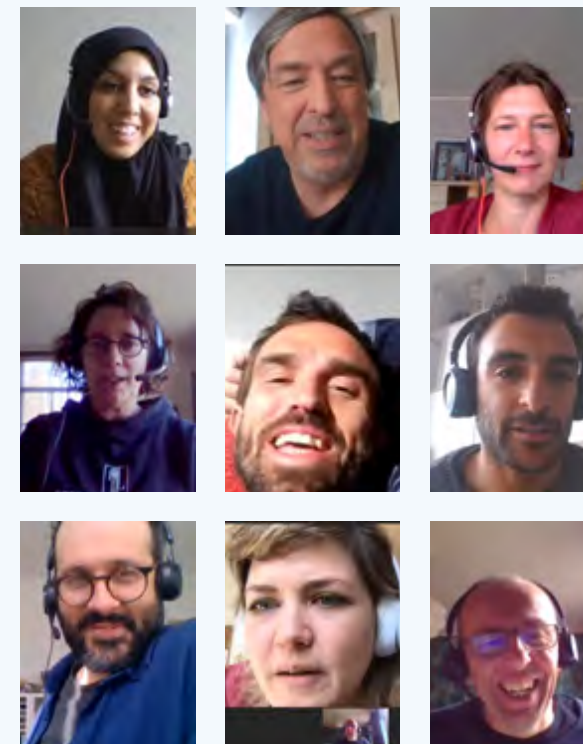
Given this abrupt change, many teachers were struggling to take the step towards the creative and diverse use of digital resources in their teaching. Many were forced to rapidly catch up with new ICT developments, which required time and energy, particularly to master all their possibilities.

With the support of the digital team at IOB, we have helped the teaching staff cross this threshold. Staff are now much more confident in using these new applications, and there is a great deal of commitment and willingness to digitise courses.

At the beginning of the crisis, we mainly continued using our 'normal' methods, just in digital form. But with the start of the new academic year, we opted for a different approach. We really started to transform the courses into the 'new digital education', looking for the most adequate and versatile forms of interaction in the digital age.

However this year also showed the disadvantages of online education: the lack of personal interaction during classes, the lack of a sense of community and the lack of classroom 'chemistry'. Above all, I hope this crisis has paved the way to a blended way of teaching, in which ICT applications are sustainably integrated into education. ■

Joëlle Dhondt



Working in a digital team can feel like being a sorcerer, at times. And sometimes like I'm a stalker! A sorcerer, because it feels like I'm somewhere out there in space doing something on Blackboard – our online platform – which in the end will facilitate better online learning for students. A stalker, because one of my tasks was to monitor the online activity and performance of students.

My role in the digital team is to ensure that the course materials and assessments are available on Blackboard in a timely manner. This work also involves selecting the appropriate assessment type for the end-of-chapter tests. As such, Blackboard was of my go-to friend whenever I wear my sorcerer and stalker hats. When things get a little more complicated, I call another friend, Joëlle, to help me navigate through the more sophisticated aspects of the online environment. ■

Loresel Abainza

At first I thought, "Well, this is just a phase, it'll soon be over, so instead of teaching live, we'll just teach online... no biggie". How wrong could I be... More than 8 months later it is clear that things will never be the same again. With or without lockdowns, we cannot undo the discovery and practice of blended learning, where we combine on- and offline teaching. The lockdowns forced us to dive in and rethink our courses and our approach to teaching.

As with many new things, initially, I felt anxious outside my comfort zone. The massive amount of tools and platforms that exist out there made me feel lost and out of control. "Will I ever be able to actually work my way through this jungle," I thought. But eventually anxiety transformed into curiosity and creativity, allowing me to substantially enrich my teaching toolkit. Admittedly there were many negative effects of the lockdown on our teaching, such as minimal interaction with students, and some sense of isolation and disconnect, but the positive, long term effects need to be recognised as well. COVID-19 forced us to go off the beaten track. And that is a good thing. ■

Nadia Molenaers



## IOB's alumni policy

Of course, 2020 was an unusual year. The corona pandemic interfered with many of the scheduled alumni activities such as the South African alumni seminar, the start-up of an alumni chapter in the DR Congo and of the North chapter in Belgium. However, where possible, IOB did try to continue as much as possible with its alumni policy.

As such, IOB still offered its 'Life after IOB' track to prepare students during their Master for the opportunities and challenges after graduation, even though several sessions were offered online. The trajectory consists of a general information session about opportunities for the transition (back into) the professional development sector, as well as a number of skills & application workshops (CV screening session, creating a professional LinkedIn profile, network event, how to write a policy brief, make a video about your research, how to write a PhD proposal...). Interested students can get support in finding a meaningful internship after graduation.



We continue to invest in our students after their graduation. Acknowledging the value of sustaining networks with alumni, we invested in a clear alumni policy. As such, we aim to facilitate networks amongst alumni themselves, between IOB and its alumni and even to act as a broker between our alumni and other (Belgian) development actors. These networks are conducive in promoting South-South cooperation and generating spill-over effects on education, research and service to society... and to enable IOB alumni to become 'change agents'.

Our alumni policy builds on several communication channels (alumni spaces) and a whole array of alumni activities. Based on a needs assessment, we created various alumni 'spaces': an IOB Facebook alumni group (including national and graduation subgroups), LinkedIn groups, IOB newsletter (monthly), alumni magazine 'Exchange to Change' (3/year), online alumni platform, WhatsApp groups.

A variety of different alumni activities were organised to reach our

North and South audiences, while also differentiating in the type of activity, ranging from informal networking to (joint) knowledge sharing and creation.

In AY 2019-20, we organised an alumni seminar in Uganda (September 2019) and a meet-and-greet session in Tanzania (March 2020). These alumni events offered opportunities to attend short refresher seminars and share information about the ongoing and new projects at IOB, while at the same time facilitating networking among IOB alumni.

Moreover, to allow for more structural alumni networks and to stimulate alumni ownership, we have started to set up formal IOB alumni chapters in some of the 'core' countries. After having established alumni chapters in Tanzania, the Philippines, Ugan-



da, Nicaragua and Ethiopia, plans were made to start new alumni chapters in the DRC and in Belgium. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, these activities were postponed to 2021.

Overall, IOB aims to broaden and deepen its alumni policy over the coming years, with the former hoping to expand the reach of IOB towards its alumni community. The deepening relates to nurturing collaboration between IOB and alumni even more towards co-creation of new research, education and outreach with our alumni, building on the enormous wealth of knowledge, skills, experience and creativity of the alumni community.

Two examples of collaboration among IOB and the alumni community are the collaborative research on COVID effects around the world and the input on how to decolonise IOB education and research. ■

## Debating Development: reflecting on decolonial perspectives

Demands for decolonisation have become something of a clarion call across various aspects of society and around the world in recent years. The Black Lives Matter movement in the US and its resonance around the world, the dismantling of public statues of glorified colonial oppressors, mobilisations of Indigenous land defenders, and increasing worldwide civil unrest against global inequality and the consequences of neoliberal economic policy highlight the importance of varying interpretations of what decolonisation means.

Decolonisation is a process, not an end in itself. It refers to unlearning and deconstructing hegemonic knowledge systems that characterise the Western "modern" world, and instead recognises and replenishes the plurality of alternative ways of seeing, thinking, and being in the world.

You can re-watch all the debates on the USOS website: <http://bit.ly/debdev-2020>. ■

### Post-development and decolonial perspectives

**Keynote:** Achille Mbembe  
**Discussant:** Els Hertogen  
**Moderator:** Gert Van Hecken



In the opening debate, we focused on some of the main insights on decolonisation that social movements and academics from different parts of the world have constructed during the past two decades, and how they are relevant to contemporary debates. Non-Western perspectives such as 'alternatives to development', 'post-development', 'ethno-development' and 'neo-colonialism', which gained momentum in the 1990's as a critique to the rising neoliberal development model in Asia, Africa and Latin-America were discussed, and put in conversation with what these concepts mean for global engagement and the potential role of 'development' NGOs for advocating systemic change. ■

### Decolonising Ecological Relations

**Keynote:** Diana Raquel Vela Almeida  
**Discussant:** Daniel Ribeiro  
**Moderator:** Vijay Kolinjivadi



The debate on decolonisation has also extended to ecological matters and conservation. For example, there are demands by Indigenous people to return to ancestral lands they were evicted from by colonial administrations for protected area establishment.

Diana Raquel Vela Almeida argued for the need to dismantle hierarchies/structures that have been historically imposed and permanently reinforced upon people. By dismantling race, class and patriarchal hierarchies that have been permanently reinforced upon us and confronting the process of violations and dispossession that happened and continue to happen.

Concretely, decolonizing ecological relations would take the form of confronting processes of dispossession, violence and death that continue to happen, engaging in sustained conversations on what restoration, restitution, reparation would constitute rather than generating more obstacles, rejecting dichotomies that create differences among people and desisting romanticising the past but rather address structural injustices. The discussant on his part raised several issues but the stand-out quote was that 'there is nothing to fix in the current system – it is working the way it was designed'. ■



## Feminist ecologies & coloniality of the body

Keynote: Brigitte Baptiste  
Discussant: Iris Verschaeve  
Moderator: Juan Sebastian Velez Triana



The deconstruction of ‘naturalised’ normative understandings of the human body and thus of gender and sexuality that some scientific knowledge and moral beliefs have traditionally positioned as objective, is a fundamental endeavor to pursue broader understandings of gender and sexuality that contribute to build progressive and just environments for the difference in contemporary society.

For the debate on ‘Feminist ecologies and coloniality of the body’, the keynote speaker, Dr. Brigitte Baptiste, focused on the intersection of activism, feminism and ecology to reflect on how to strengthen decolonial perspectives on the human body, with a particular emphasis on feminist struggles in rural contexts of the Global South, specifically in Colombia. Our discussant, Iris Verschaeve, related Baptiste’s arguments to the case of feminist and environmental social movements in Europe and Belgium, focusing on the importance of intersectionality and self-reflexivity to overcome colonial legacies in Northern activists. ■

## A decolonial turn for development studies?

Keynote: Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni  
Discussant: Johan Bastiaensen  
Moderator: Mark M. Kadigo

To discuss decolonisation, we need to discuss what it means for development studies. Broadly, development studies are a major vehicle for narratives on development. The doctrine which takes centre in development studies eventually shapes the development we see in the world.

Knowledge is a creator of reality. The development predicament of the Global South arises not from choice but from a historical situation framed by empire. This ‘cognitive empire’ rides along the wave of development studies, invading the mental universe of the

## Decolonisation and military interventions

Keynote: Yannick Quéau  
Discussant: Jean Eudes Biem  
Moderator: Denis A. Samnick



From the outset, the two guest speakers highlighted the historical and epistemological link between the concepts of coloniality and ‘militarity’. According to them, military operations, without which the colonial enterprise would never have been possible, are still useful today for political domination across the world. Yannick Quéau stressed (to deplore it), the propensity of a state such as France to be always at war, especially in its former African colonies. As for Jean Eudes Biem, he stressed the internationalisation of liberal democracy that accompanies American military operations, but also the political willingness of a state like China to use military interventions to support illiberal democracies.

Drawing inspiration from opinions against the death of Western soldiers abroad, the debate also highlighted the new trend towards subsidiarity (replacement of Western soldiers by the locals), in the theatre of war. The new military dominance is meant to be technological, logistical, strategic and as far removed as possible from the deadly risks of war. It goes without saying at the end of this debate that the field of military operations still remains highly dependent on the strategic, logistical, political and economic domination of powerful states such as the USA, France, China... ■

people and determining thinking. This is because of epistemic hegemony, a situation where whichever knowledge establishes and naturalises starts to block the emergence of other knowledge. A decolonial turn for development studies would therefore start with the establishment of epistemic freedom to allow for a diversity of knowledge to prevail, forming a mosaic of epistemologies.

To decolonise would not mean to replace the currently dominant Western canon of knowledge with another or other canons but rather to get rid of the canons. To overcome cognitive empire, what matters is people’s consciousness, rather than where they are located. It is erroneous to assume that being located in the Global South automatically ascribes to one a decolonial perspective and being located in the Global North a colonial perspective. ■

## Colonial spatialities and contestation in the city

Keynote: Christina M. Jimenez  
Discussant: Aaron Vansintjan  
Moderator: Hanne Van Cappellen



In this debate, we challenged some of the dominant narratives on development, Western civilisation and modernisation underlying current debates of urban transformation, and what we ourselves can learn from them to be more aware of current neo-colonial patterns of inequality.

Our keynote speaker, Christina M. Jimenez (UCCS), enlightened us on the historical colonial roots of thinking and theorizing about city development. By focusing on Latin America and especially Mexico, she zoomed in on the formal/informal dichotomy (among others) and showed us that these dualisms are often much more complex and political than orthodox urbanism studies would suggest. Aaron Vansintjan showed us how awareness of these theoretical critiques and a decolonial way of thinking about the ‘city’ can be put into practice. By taking us through his PhD research on gentrification in Hanoi and Montreal, he shared with us his challenges and reflections of doing research on a current form of urban inequality.

The presentations of the speakers sparked a lively discussion on how new challenges and trends in the current urbanisation era are at risk of producing neo-colonial patterns of inequality, how to become aware of them and most importantly, how to fight them! ■

## A decolonial critique of state building interventions

Keynote: Philipp Lottholz  
Discussant: Abiosseh Davis  
Moderator: Réginas Ndayiragije



The Debating Development session on the link between state building interventions and colonial matrix of power brought together two highly knowledgeable persons with different backgrounds—Abiosseh Davis and Philipp Lottholz.

Abiosseh Davis, drawing on her positionality as a peacebuilding practitioner and a Gambian woman deeply immersed in American culture through her education, discussed the matrix of power at the heart of state-building interventions. Philipp Lottholz, a German scholar who has been researching on state building in the Balkans, questioned the modernist project underlying state building interventions and points to the colonial violence that it conveys.

Reflecting on what should be done to change the current state of affairs, one student said: “The interventions, as we know them now, will not be effective in order to build independent states in the Global South that can be self-sustaining in the long term and not just passive recipients of short-term aid. We need to allow more local contexts, perspectives and discourses at the stages of shaping and development of state building interventions in order to develop self-sustaining states based on the perspective of local assets and not only needs.” ■



## Closing event: The role of the diaspora in memory of the colonial past

Keynote: Nadia Nsayi, political scientist, author of the book "Dochter van de Dekolonisatie" and co-curator of the MAS exhibition '100 x Congo. A century of Congolese art in Antwerp'

Interventions and performances by slam poet Seckou Ouologuem (Antwerps stadsdichter) and hip-hop artist PASI.

Moderator: Tom De Herdt



# IOB GOING GLOBAL



IOB has developed a vision of its future as a Northern-based development studies institute with strong global partnerships. Through the 'IOB Going Global' programme, we aim to globalise our education, research and societal outreach activities, by forging long-term structural cooperation with Southern partners and academics. The globalisation of our Master programmes involves organizing

modules of our programmes in different regional hubs. In this 'Going Global' framework, IOB partners with universities in the DRC, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Tanzania. In this chapter, we outline the educational component of this effort. In the next chapter you will find how these global partnerships inform and shape much of our research and outreach work as an institute.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

**I**n the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB) and IOB have teamed up in developing a Master programme in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. IOB and UCB have been working together for a decade, both within and outside the Going Global project. We spoke to Dr. Kamala Kaghoma, coordinator of the Going Global project at UCB.

Dr. Kamala Kaghoma: "UCB and IOB have a very long-standing tradition of cooperation. When we started Going Global, the idea was to build on that pre-existing relationship, on that joint experience, and extend it into the future."

"Initially, the plan was to organise a full Master programme on natural resource management. We ran into a few obstacles, so in order to circumvent those, we decided to start out by offering 'summer schools' of about ten days on the management of natural resources. We've been able to do this for two years now, including in 2020. We've also started offering a module on research design and methodology."

"We've received very favorable reactions, and the full support of the new rector of the Université Catholique de Bukavu, professor Mubagwa. This has opened up space for us to hopefully start the Master programme – as we had initially planned – in 2021."

"The Master won't just focus on

natural resource management. It will be a bit broader, a MSc in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. The current summer school on natural resource management will be integrated into the Master programme as one module."

**When will the Master programme begin?**

"Registrations have already started. Of course, we are currently under 'lockdown', with many group activities forbidden. Hopefully by the beginning of 2021 the lockdown will be lifted and we will be able to launch the Master programme. But we already have many candidates for the programme."

**Will the programme be focused mostly on the DRC?**

"The idea is not to focus on DRC students only, but to build a hub for Eastern and Central Africa, with students coming in from all over the region. That is also why, in terms of teaching staff, we're making sure to bring in people from other institutions from across

the region. Now that we're back on track with the Master programme, we want to become the African hub for expertise on natural resource management, and particularly the extractive sector, for anyone working on that subject, whether as academics or as professionals."

**So you're also including people from outside traditional 'academic' circles?**

"Yes, we're also aiming at people from NGOs, from ministries, from research centers. Not just academics. The idea is to gather people from different professional sectors, to train them in

the required competences for natural resource management. We're already doing this today, with the summer school."

**Will the modules in future only be open to Master students? Or will they remain open for others who just want to take that one module?**

"We've had discussions about this, and we've decided that the two modules – natural resource management and research design and methodology – should remain open to people who don't fulfill the academic Master requirement."





# Nicaragua

We're planning to start, in parallel, a professional Master programme, which will be interdisciplinary and will be called 'Socio-economics of Natural Resources'."

"Those who only want to do the two modules we've already been offering, will be able to do so in the frame of that professional Master programme."

## Why natural resource management and research design and methodology?

"We wanted to respond to what people here needed. And it's been an overwhelming success, when we look at the number of applications we receive: over 120 for only 20 places for research design. We ended up expanding to 30 places."

"The research design course doesn't only focus on issues of natural resources, but applies to social sciences in general. We noticed that researchers from the Global South in general, and DRC in particular, don't publish as much as you would expect. That's why we started the research design module: to

see how much they know about the research process, what they know about the requirements for good publications, and to give them tools on how to design and conduct research."

"We want to get more people publishing. That's why we're also incentivizing researchers in the module with a small grant. When participants finish the course, they write research proposals, which we evaluate. The best one or two will receive a small grant, to give them the space to delve into that research and convert it into publications. So far, we've given grants to a few people, one of whom wrote a Master dissertation. A second one, from Kisangani, is preparing a paper. We're following up with him on submitting it to a journal."

## What is the value of the cooperation between IOB and UCB, between North and South?

"Well, first there is of course the financial aspect. The reality is that without the financial support we're getting, it would

be very difficult to establish these kinds of programmes. That's why it wasn't happening before."

"Secondly, there is the exchange of experience between staff. Some of the classes in the module are taught by staff from the South, others from the North. We interact within that module, exchanging experiences, in real life."

"And then thirdly of course, there's the interaction with students and prospective researchers. Not only does it give insights to the people teaching, it also creates confidence among the students and prospective researchers."

## Does the colonial relationship between Belgium and DRC complicate the cooperation?

"Without the colonial background, perhaps we wouldn't have been able to partner as easily with IOB. History facilitated that partnership, there's no discussion about that."

"What does it mean to decolonise relationships? It means to be able to discuss on the same level. So far, I don't think that's quite possible yet. Why? Because of the financial aspect. We have many ideas, but we can't mobilise sufficient resources to realise them. For that, we need support from the North. It's a form of 'colonisation' from which it is difficult to get free. So it's a very tricky question. There is no simple answer."

"What would true academic decolonisation look like? If for instance we can establish an

academic forum – a journal, a blog, conferences, ... – that involves scholars from both South and North, where we can push people to freely develop their ideas and publish them, without that financial influence that I mentioned..."

"Can we create an open access journal online – a little like the Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale – and make it available to all? With an editorial board with people from the North and South, working together on the same level. I think that would be a good starting point for decolonisation."

## What's next for Going Global?

"One of the best ways to go is to have more South-South cooperation, with the other partners in the Going Global network and more broadly. That's why we want to build UCB into a hub, to facilitate those kinds of South-South exchange."

"South experiences are very diverse, so if we can exchange with others from the South, that can create hope. Too often people from the South think that their experience is necessarily a bad one. They don't realise that their experiences can inspire others, or that they can get inspiration from others from the South." ■

The Instituto Nitlapán at the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in Nicaragua and IOB have been cooperating for over three decades. There are collaborative research projects such as the Norface-BELMONT Forum project, publications, PhDs, and even a spin-off: Fondo Desarrollo Local, a microfinance institution which was nominated for the European Microfinance Award in 2019. Nitlapán-UCA has joined in the Going Global project with IOB, to co-develop a joint education programme. We spoke with Pierre Merlet, who coordinates Going Global at Nitlapán-UCA.

Pierre Merlet: "Going Global is the follow-up of long-term processes of cooperation between us and IOB. We've been cooperating academically for over three decades. We've had students from Nicaragua doing their Masters at IOB, we've had Nicaraguan PhD students at IOB, we've implemented several research projects together."

"We wanted to take this cooperation to another level, which became the Going Global project: the development of a shared education programme between a group of Central American teachers and researchers and IOB. And then there's the 'Mobility Window' of course, which allows students and staff to exchange between Belgium and Nicaragua."

## How far has that implementation of a joint

## programme gone?

"We've decided to organise three modules, including the LIPR module (Local Institutions and Poverty Reduction) in Nicaragua, which is open to students and researchers from Central America as well as IOB students from Belgium. We had planned to implement this in 2020, but then of course COVID-19 came along. Now we're planning to start it in 2021 as blended learning."

"The LIPR module will be one hundred percent virtual. Then we also have two smaller modules. The second module is a short-term, practical research module to be organised in the field. We'll spend ten or fifteen days in the field, implementing a research process together with people from the communities, with the students and

teachers. That way, we hope to co-produce knowledge in a different way than what we're used to in research. This has to be done face-to-face."

"The last module is also a practical module. It's a research project implemented by the students, with the support of the researchers."

## What do you mean by 'co-producing' knowledge?

"We had a first test of this in 2019, in Rio Blanco, with great results. It's a process in which we try to do development research in a different way. Rather than 'extracting' information from the communities, we're aiming to come to an understanding of what the problems are, together with the communities and other stakeholders, and what the solutions can be."

"It's a very participative process, in which we include a range of different actors. All of us are at the same level in the co-production of knowledge. We create spaces to produce something together, rather than just do interviews or extract information."

"In 2019, we didn't go to the field with a clear research question already pre-determined in our minds. We brought people together to try to understand the dynamics within the community. We implemented research processes to create a forum where people felt they could bring their ideas and

their opinions. We really tried to build something together."

"It was really a formative experience for the researchers, getting acquainted with new kinds of research methods. Without having a predefined outcome or expected result."

"This process has made us reflect on how to do research in a different way, about what knowledge is valued, by whom, and what it implies for development research processes. And what it implies for decolonizing our work."

## The Going Global programme isn't just between IOB and Nitlapán-UCA. Who else are you involving?

"Nitlapán is part of UCA, which is a Jesuit university, so we're definitely involving others within those Jesuit networks. But we're also involving others who work in the field, not just academic partners. So for example local NGOs, think tanks, associations of farmers and indigenous people, etc. People who are more involved in the 'action', rather than only academics."

## Now that COVID-19 has pushed many things online, do you see that becoming a permanent part of these kinds of cooperations?

"I think the 'virtuality' could be interesting to have people participate from different parts of the world, at a lower





cost. Part of the original plan was to bring people from Central America and Europe to Nicaragua, to follow the LIPR module here. But of course that's quite expensive. Doing it digitally makes things easier and less expensive."

"But we've also learned that we lose things that way, particularly in terms of interaction. We want to bring this 'co-production' not just to our research, but also to our education efforts. In order to do that, we need physical presence, to feel what the other feels. We really need to keep these face-to-face moments, even though it can be difficult sometimes, with both the pandemic and socio-political problems."

#### How do you see Going Global 2.0?

"Going Global 1.0 finishes next year, so of course we first want to fully implement

this module in 2021. But the past year, we've also spent a lot of time designing the next phase. We're thinking about sustainability of the project, of course. We're thinking about the themes we want to work on, whom we can work with, etc. With whom can we build these kinds of long-term action research processes, in which the education effort is embedded? How will the socio-political and economic context in Central America and worldwide impact us? All of these things, we have to consider."

#### Do you have a relationship with the other Going Global partners, in the DRC, Tanzania and the Philippines?

"Not really, but I think this has to happen in the future. We've had some multilateral conversations that were facilitated by IOB, where we felt we needed to build these relationships. That is something in which we

ourselves have to take the lead. But the lack of operational space and time makes it difficult sometimes."

"It would be very interesting though. We're working a lot on issues of decoloniality, on co-producing knowledge, on the relationship with actors from the North, etc. It would be very interesting to know how actors from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, ... view these issues, how they are developing these kinds of ideas and concepts."

"Right now, IOB is still in the center of the network, with the different partners around it. It would be good if that develops into a more decentralised network, a 'galaxy' of partners."

#### What have Nitlapán-UCA and IOB learned from this cooperation?

"It's not what we have learned

from each other. We have 'co-learned'. For more than thirty years, we have learned together, we've built capacities together. We've developed together a concept of development pathways that we use to understand the realities in which we work."

"This building together happens at all levels. At the conceptual and theoretical level, at the methodological level, at how we work together. We feel that we are talking on the same level. That's only possible because of this long-term relationship, which has created a lot of confidence in each other. It's that long-term process that allows us to build something together." ■

## Philippines

The Going Global cooperation between the School of Economics (SOE) at De La Salle University (DLSU) in the Philippines and IOB started in 2018. Alellie Sobreviñas did her Advanced Master of Development Evaluation and Management and PhD in Applied Economics at the University of Antwerp under the supervision of professor Germán Calfat. They felt that it would be good to have a partner in the Philippines, similar to IOB's partnership with DR Congo, Tanzania and Nicaragua. We spoke to Alellie, who now coordinates the Going Global project at DLSU.

Alellie Sobreviñas: "We noticed that there were a lot of Asian students doing the Master programmes at IOB, but there was no existing partnership yet in Asia. As my research often took me back to the Philippines, I used that opportunity to explore potential partnerships. I finished my PhD in 2017 and professor Calfat retired, so professor Nathalie Holvoet stepped in to make these initial ideas more concrete. The

vised. That was a great first experience for us, to see how that cooperation could go."

"Guest lectures and staff exchange are also a crucial element of the cooperation. I returned to Antwerp, for example, to teach classes at IOB. The feedback on this has been very good. Students were very happy to get a South perspective on community-based monitoring, which is my subject."

terms of travel, of protocols. Currently, DLSU doesn't allow travel until at least February 2021 and it is likely to be extended until December 2021. Getting and administering the vaccines for about 80 percent of more than 100 million people on more than 7000 islands in the Philippines will also take time and so face-to-face classes are less likely to happen soon."

#### What do you feel are some of the challenges in establishing these kinds of cooperations?

"Well, first you need to find shared areas of interest between us and IOB, or the other partners, of course. And then there's always a financial challenge, to get the resources to organise these kinds of partnerships."

"We want to establish and co-fund these kinds of partnerships, but of course now, with the pandemic, there are additional challenges, both practical and financial."

#### Why do these kinds of international cooperation matter, internationally, between North and South?

"It benefits both parties. For example, when I deliver guest lectures and courses to IOB students, I gain experience teaching and handling students from different socio-economic, cultural, national backgrounds. DLSU encourages multicultural experiences, which is why

we also have a lot of foreign students, mostly from other Asian countries. So getting those multicultural skills at IOB definitely improves how I handle those multicultural experiences at home."

"Of course, for IOB students, it's important to have teaching staff from developing countries. That way, they can learn from someone who really experiences development. As most IOB students are from developing countries themselves, it's important that they learn from someone with that kind of experience. They can relate to the examples and the challenges. Of course, some things are different, but there are parallels."

"DLSU is really invested in internationalizing, for example, through its 'Global Enrichment Programme'. That's part of our undergraduate curricula which gives students the opportunity to experience a multicultural environment. It could be a short course outside of the Philippines, for example, where they can learn life skills and experience different cultures. That reflects how serious DLSU is in terms of internationalisation. Of course, in 2020, much of that got put on hold."

#### How would you describe the relationship between IOB and De La Salle?

"What's particularly striking is how close the cooperation is. We're constantly in contact



first major activity under the partnership was a seminar in March 2018, where Filipino IOB alumni, a faculty member of SOE and IOB were given the opportunity to make a presentation of their development-related research."

#### COVID-19 has changed many things, including pushing many things into the online sphere. Do you expect that this will now become a more permanent part of these kinds of cooperation?

"Possibly, yes. If we still cannot travel in 2021, we could use it for online lectures, instead of having face-to-face lectures at IOB as we normally would. At DLSU right now, all classes are online, so we're getting used to it."

"There are a lot of uncertainties because of COVID-19, in

"In 2018, I engaged an IOB student in my research for the first time through the Mobility Window. Instead of taking a research course at IOB, students can come here to be involved directly in a research project. That student actually then came back to do her own research for her dissertation, which I super-





with each other, designing courses together, determining what outputs we want from students on exchange, what the content should be for the community-based monitoring course, etc. In terms of the exchange of ideas, it's definitely a very balanced relationship."

"Financially, of course, the majority of funds come from the University of Antwerp, so perhaps in that sense it's not as equal."

"But then, when it comes to student mobility, again we're really on equal footing. IOB doesn't just send over students. We interview them ourselves, to see whether they are qualified, whether we would accept working with them. The final decision is entirely ours."

#### How are your contacts with the other partners in the Going Global network?

"South-South partnerships is definitely something we want to explore further. There are some initial contacts with Tanzania, for example, where

they are also working on community-based monitoring. So there are definitely opportunities there."

"More broadly, even beyond Going Global, we've discussed involving Tanzania in DLSU's Global Enrichment Programme. IOB is one channel to organise cooperation, a gateway, but in the future we can also organise these directly. I think that's important for institutions in developing countries, to have these kinds of direct relationships. Not that we don't want IOB involved, of course, but perhaps in the future that will be in a different capacity. That's definitely something we hope to explore."

"I've met with people from Nicaragua as well, to discuss in detail how to develop a partnership. They were at that time also looking at integrating community-based monitoring. But I believe there were some political problems in Nicaragua then that caused some uncertainties. So that was put on hold, but we did discuss working together on

community-based monitoring. Of course, there is a language barrier with Nicaragua. But if there are English-language courses, of course I'd love to contribute."

#### How do you see the future of Going Global?

"Excluding COVID-19? I think we both – IOB and DLSU through SOE – want a deeper engagement with each other, as our interests do align quite well. We can certainly learn more from each other. Of course there are challenges right now, but I think we can work around those. We can think creatively

on how to continue this partnership, even in these difficult times."

"Hopefully we'll be able to host more staff from IOB at least digitally in the near future, and face-to-face further down the line, as part of seminars, guest lectures, etc. Perhaps in the future, we can also develop a joint programme similar to what the other partners within Going Global have been doing. We can definitely learn from how Tanzania, the DRC and Nicaragua have been developing these." ■



## Tanzania

In Tanzania, IOB's Going Global partners with Mzumbe University in Morogoro. Going Global assists Mzumbe University in the development of a Master programme in Development Evaluation. The programme supports the Fuatilia Maji project, which organises community-based monitoring of water resources in the region.

We spoke to Dr. Mursali Mulanzi, who coordinates the Master programme development at Mzumbe, and Doreen Kyan-do, who helps coordinate the Fuatilia Maji project and is also a PhD student at IOB.

#### First of all, the elephant in the room... has CoViD-19 significantly impacted Going Global this past year?

Dr. Mulanzi: "Yes, there have of course been negative effects. We expected to have students last year, in June and November. These visits are part of the Going Global project, so there hasn't been student 'output', if you will. We'd also planned staff mobility that we didn't manage to do. Nathalie Holvoet and Sara Dewachter did come here in February, before the crisis began, but the follow-up meeting we had planned in June couldn't take place. That had to be shifted online."

"Digital cooperation will become more important in the future, no doubt. We've learned that it's possible to do certain things virtually which we would have done in person in the past. That's one lesson from CoViD-19."

#### How are the plans for the Master programme developing?

"We started a few years ago by developing a curriculum. We could build on IOB's experience, because they already have their own Master programme in Development Evaluation and Management. We also

organised capacity building for Mzumbe staff."

"The development of the Master programme has gone through many steps, including a meeting with stakeholders from different sectors, both private, public and non-governmental. They are the ones who need the expertise that we are building."

"By April 2020, we were ready, but then everything shut down because of COVID-19. However, we did manage to submit the programme to the University Senate for approval. The Senate asked us, in light of the pandemic, to integrate more blended learning in the curriculum, which we've done. Now we're waiting for final approval from the Senate. Then it can go to the government for accreditation."

#### When will the programme start?

"We think we'll be able to start teaching in November 2021. Senate approval should be in soon, and then the Tanzanian government can give its final approval. Hopefully by June we'll start promoting the programme, so we can start teaching in November."

#### Why develop a programme focused on Monitoring & Evaluation?

"One of the challenges Tanzania faces is a lack of capacity in M&E, to evaluate how and why development interventions are successful or not. Mzumbe already has programmes on project management, but without an emphasis on M&E. We add value by creating an additional programme that does

have that focus."

#### What has been the added value of doing this in partnership with IOB?

"By developing this programme jointly with IOB, we can use IOB's experience in this domain. We've gotten advice, we've exchanged ideas. All of which makes our programme more complete, more 'attractive' than it might otherwise have been."

"Also important is that, by including IOB staff in teaching at Mzumbe, we give the programme a more international perspective."

#### Are there challenges in cooperating across borders?

"IOB isn't the first or only international partner we've worked





with of course. What we appreciate about the cooperation with IOB is how intense it is. It's a much closer cooperation than is often the case. In terms of knowledge sharing, Going Global is very beneficial. We're constantly in touch with each other, exchanging ideas."

"Working together with people from different cultural backgrounds is enriching, also for IOB. I'm sure they have picked up some valuable lessons from us too, these past five years. Otherwise they wouldn't want to continue the cooperation, right?" (laughs)

"Of course an institution in Belgium has a different cultural background than one in Tanzania. But we've learned from each other, we've managed to come together and bridge those differences, without having to give up our own cultures. The fact that we work well together shows that we accept each other as partners, even with our differences."

"Are we perfectly equal? No, but I believe the relationship is balanced. If it wasn't, we wouldn't work well together. Nobody's perfect, but we are sensitive to each other's needs, and that's what matters."

### How do you see the future? What do you expect for Going Global 2.0?

"One of the things all the 'South' partners noticed is that there isn't really any cooperation among ourselves, with the partners in DRC, Nicaragua, the Philippines. We're all cooperating with IOB, but not necessarily with each other. All of us identified that gap as something to address in the future. In phase 2 of Going Global, that's something we feel we need to achieve."

"It's very important for sustainability as well, to have these

international connections. For example, to exchange staff and students not just with IOB, but with each other too. For example, on the subject of community-based monitoring, there's a lot of expertise in the Philippines. So why not have them teach in our programme too, either in person or virtually? That would be very valuable."

"The cooperation with IOB has always had a long-term perspective. We hope Going Global will expand further in future, to include even more partners. With more people involved, there are even more ideas being exchanged." ■



## FUATILIA MAJI

Doreen Kyando: "The Fuatilia Maji project uses a mobile app to monitor rural water sources. We train members of the community to monitor the functionality and accessibility of the water sources, as well as the water quality. The community monitors do the work in five villages, the other five are being monitored by our students, whom we call our 'experts'. That way, we can compare the two systems."

"We've started training student monitors as well as community members in September 2019. We taught them how to use the app, how to do the monitoring, etc. We also teach them how to do 'prevention talks': the monitors give feedback to the communities where they do their work on the results of the monitoring, on how to prevent using unsafe water, etc."

"In 2020, we had to enroll some new local students, as some had graduated by then, and we used the opportunity to do a 'refresher training' for the remaining student monitors, in March and September. The community monitors haven't changed of course: they remain the same, to make sure the project is sustainable."

"Through Going Global, IOB students have the chance to take part in the project. Of course, travel wasn't possible this year. But in December 2019, we had two IOB students who were twinned with a Mzumbe student. They went to the communities with their partner, did data collection, network analysis, etc. We'd had student mobility during the baseline survey in March 2019 as well, and in September 2019 too."

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/fuatiliamaji>

"We're hoping the pandemic will recede, so that the exchange with IOB, in particular for students, can start up again. The twinning of IOB students with Mzumbe students doesn't just involve the exchange of skills and knowledge, but also a cultural exchange, an exchange of how we perceive things."

"Once the Master programme kicks off at Mzumbe, which has been developed with assistance from Going Global, those students will be closely involved in the Fuatilia Maji project. The project will be an 'action lab', where Master students can practice their knowledge on community-based monitoring. This will strengthen the sustainability of the project, having more students involved. We hope to upscale, to reach more communities in the region, in cooperation with the governmental duty bearers as well." ■





# RESEARCH AND OUTREACH



2020 has been an odd year in terms of doing research in general, but particularly at IOB, where we stress the importance of doing on-the-ground research. Conferences that would normally require us to travel were moved online, as were seminars and meetings with stakeholders, research partners, local communities, etc. While we've had to transform some of the ways we do research for the time being, this doesn't mean we were less productive. Still, while modern technology has allowed us to continue working, we hope that over the course of 2021, travel once again will become possible.

We recognise and value the academic pluralism that is typical of development studies, because of the intrinsic complexity of real-world policy problems and their politically contested nature. This is why we embrace many different (mainly social) scientific disciplines and a diversified 'mixed-methods' approach.

Researchers focus on different levels and actors, refer to other disciplines and use their preferred research methods, while having their fundamental philosophical convictions defining the ontological-epistemological nature of their research as well as their values and normative frameworks. But we want to go further than simple diversity, by cultivating the articulation of multi-disciplinary

nary theoretical frameworks and mixed quantitative-qualitative-participatory research designs.

To quote Prof. Jennifer C. Greene: "By definition, then, mixed-methods social inquiry involves a plurality of philosophical paradigms, theoretical assumptions, methodological traditions, data gathering and analysis techniques, and personalised understandings and value commitments, because these are the stuff of mental models."

This matches our understanding of the socially negotiated nature of development processes, almost by definition requiring an encounter and mediation of different 'knowledges' of relevant stakeholders.

For us, the multi-disciplinary nature of development studies is not a challenge to be overcome, but the very heart of our discipline. We embrace and encourage the conversation between the varied philosophies, backgrounds and methodologies of our researchers, students, and stakeholders.

As the Ghanaian Ewe proverb goes: 'Wisdom is like a baobab tree: no one individual can embrace it.' ■

In line with its vision, IOB strives to help build a more just and sustainable world through multidisciplinary academic research in close connection with academic education and political engagement, as well as by forming alliances with a variety of partners.

We have a strong preference for policy-oriented research as well as a desire to contribute to real (policy) change through the generation, dissemination and application of our knowledge. We think that, as a development studies institute located in the Global North, we have a comparative advantage in situating development processes in a multi-level and multi-actor governance perspective.

Each of our research lines combines a thematic cluster (environment, global governance, and state formation) with our vision of a just and sustainable world. All three research lines also give concrete shape to the multi-level governance perspective we want to cultivate at IOB, reaching from the global to the local and vice versa. And each of the research lines also combines empirical work with an explicit focus on Central Africa with work carried out elsewhere.



# State formation and resilient societies

We examine situations of state underreach (fragile or failed states), state reach (developmental states) or state overreach (such as in state crime or structural violence). All these are situated against a background of processes of state formation and the evolving roles of states in the post-colony form. We aim to understand how state attributes such as government, territory, law, nation or power are articulated or not, and how state actions such as legitimization, economic accumulation or security and services take shape or not.

We take into account a wide spectrum of actors (formal and informal) and factors (ideational, institutional, structural) at different levels (local, national, international). This focus on the changing patterns of tightening and loosening state reach across space and time implies attention to societal resilience. This is the ability of societies to resist, adapt to or recover from (the consequences of) a lack of state presence and/or performance, sudden man-made or natural shocks or long term social exclusion and adverse incorporation. We particularly pay attention to these issues in connection with the cycle of violent conflict, peace-making and efforts to achieve state reconstruction and renegotiate the social contract. ■

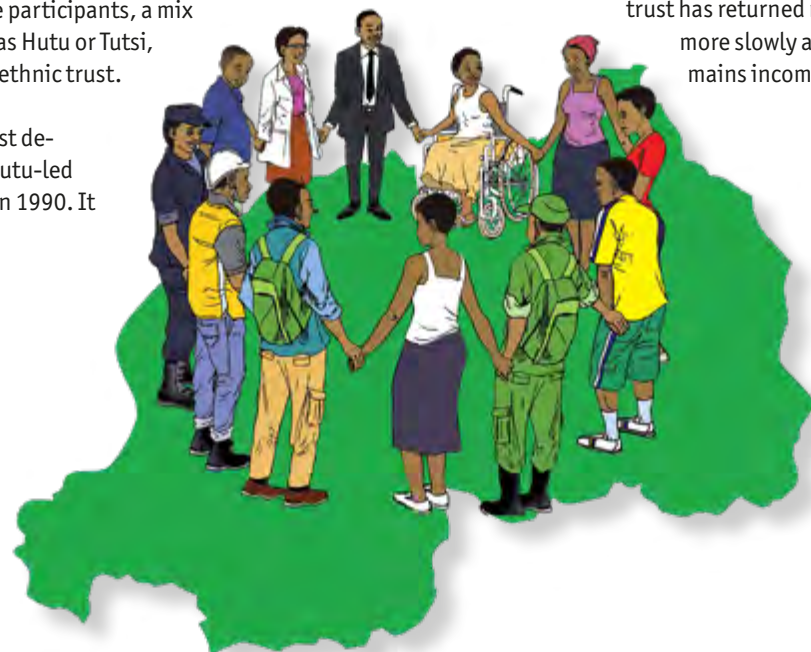
## How trust returned to Rwanda, for most but not all (African Arguments)

Violent conflict always leads to a wide array of devastation. People are killed, infrastructure is destroyed, and lives are changed forever. It also, however, damages less tangible things such as trust. Trust is essential in societies. Its presence is a strong predictor of cooperation, functional government and economic growth. Its absence between groups can feed hostilities, potentially leading to vicious cycles of conflict.

Marijke Verpoorten en Bert Ingelaere studied the impact of the 1994 genocide on trust in Rwanda. They analysed more than 400 life history interviews, spanning from before the genocide up to 17 years after it. For each year, the participants, a mix of people that explicitly self-identified as Hutu or Tutsi, indicated their level of inter- and intra-ethnic trust.

The analysis found that inter-ethnic trust declined when the civil war between the Hutu-led government and Tutsi rebels broke out in 1990. It

reached a low point at the time of the 1994 genocide in which the government and ordinary Hutu citizens targeted Tutsis, killing an estimated 600,000 people or 75% of Rwanda's Tutsi population at the time. In the following years, trust began to rebuild. 17 years after the genocide, inter-ethnic trust for both Hutu and Tutsi was experienced as positive. This was a remarkably fast recovery given the nature and intimacy of the violence our research participants experienced. This change, however, was not universal. For Tutsi exiles who returned to Rwanda after the genocide, trust grew steeply. For Tutsis who were already in Rwanda and who directly survived the violence, trust has returned much more slowly and remains incomplete. ■



## AIPRIL Seminar 'Oral Democracy': Governance with Unequal Voices

What happens to 'deliberative democracy' in contexts of social inequalities? What happens to citizens who are allowed a civic space to exercise voice in governance? What happens to the state as it invites citizens to participate in governance? These questions are fundamental to understanding how political institutions operate in real-world social contexts, transforming citizens and being transformed by them.

*Oral Democracy: Deliberation in Indian Village Assemblies* (Sanyal and Rao, 2018, Cambridge University Press) tackles these questions by studying public discussions in India's village assemblies (gram sabha). These assemblies are grassroots institutions of participatory democracy and the largest deliberative institution in human history.

On 10 December 2020, Paromita Sanyal presented a talk featuring the unique 'talk-centered' large-N qualitative analysis of three

hundred Indian village assemblies from four South Indian states. The presentation showcased the typology of citizens' performances and state enactments across the four states, offering a new analytical vantage into state-citizen interactions. It will introduce the concepts of 'oral competence' and 'oral democracy' to help understand deliberative systems in low and middle-income countries and touch upon the role of state policy and literacy in promoting participatory governance.

IOB participates in the research consortium AIPRIL with the Centre for Urban History and the Centre for Social Policy, to work on inequality, covering both low- and high-income countries, and both the past and the present. The overall goal of the project is to push forward our understanding of how socioeconomic inequalities are changing, what is driving such trends and what, if anything, can be done. ■



## Research-Policy Dialogue on DDR

The Research-Policy Dialogue aims to provide research perspectives and scientific evidence on the intersection of 'Disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration' (DDR) and politics as well as concrete reflections on how DDR can contribute to broader peace processes, with a particular emphasis on the transformative dynamics of armed groups and combatants in such contexts. Apart from identifying implications and deriving considerations for DDR practitioners, the dialogue also aims to strengthen and sustain linkages between the research community and DDR policymakers/practitioners in view of enhancing the evidence base for UN engagement on DDR from a political perspective.

Eliane Giezendanner and Bert Ingelaere participated in the Research-Policy Dialogue and presented a paper on the nature and factors structuring political participation of ex-combatants against the backdrop of rebel-to-party transformations. The work is part of Eliane's Phd project on political participation of rank-and-file ex-combatants in Burundi and is part of Bert's ongoing research on the legacy of mass violence. The Dialogue was organised by the Politics After War Research Network and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO)/Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)/DDR Section. ■



## Whose conflict minerals? Artisanal versus industrial mining in DR Congo

Tensions between artisanal miners and industrial mining companies in DR Congo regularly spill over into violence. The majority of artisanal miners operate illegally within concessions granted to industrial mining companies. When these companies move into the production stage, they evict the artisanal miners and the population from their concessions, often leading to violence. Marijke Verpoorten and Nik Stoop asked 469 soon-to-be-evicted artisanal gold miners if they would violently oppose their eviction.

Would-be fighters tended to be younger and heavily dependent on artisanal mining for their livelihoods. Those willing to fight were also more likely to have been exposed to violent conflict and to have access to a rebel network. Miners who were positive about Banro's contribution to the well-being of Kamituga's population, and those who hoped to go on to work for Banro, were much less likely to report an intention to fight. Miners who faced fewer restrictions in carrying out their activities within Banro's concession were also less likely to say they would fight an eviction.

The research, published in 2020 in the Journal of Conflict Resolution, suggests scope for at least three policies that could help reduce tensions between industrial mining companies and artisanal miners: credible Corporate Social Responsibility programs that effectively provide benefits to the local community; 'local content' policies that provide company jobs for artisanal miners; and setting up 'artisanal-tolerant zones' within the company's concession.

State-building is a *conditio sine qua non*. Without effective and honest institutions that can peacefully mediate a social contract, communities will feel they need to take their protection in their own hands. ■

Marijke Verpoorten gave a Spectrum lecture on 'Whose conflict minerals? Artisanal versus industrial mining in DR Congo' (in Dutch). Watch it here: <http://bit.ly/verpoorten-lezing-conflictmineralen>

## Ugandan elections: providing context to international media

In the run-up to the January 2021 presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda, Kristof Titeca appeared extensively in national and international media to provide context to the struggle between incumbent president Yoweri Museveni and musician-turned-politician Robert Kyagulanyi, aka Bobi Wine. In his analyses, he highlighted the most important issues underlying these elections, such as its generational struggle, the role of donor aid, and the use of state violence. He authored opinion articles for [The Washington Post](#), [African Arguments](#), [Democracy in Africa](#), and [Knack](#). He was also interviewed on television by Al Jazeera English; gave radio interviews for the [Belgian](#) and [Dutch](#) radio; and interviews for newspaper outlets such as Le Monde, [The East African](#), [TV5](#), [The Citizen](#), [Volkskrant](#), [De Standaard](#), [RFI](#) and [Jeune Afrique](#).



## Global governance and inclusive development

The apparent limits of (hyper)globalisation are being revealed in growing inequalities, social exclusion and adverse incorporation. The global economy is increasingly concentrated at the top and fragmented at the bottom. That is why we focus on the poorest countries, as well as on people who are excluded from global development processes or who are adversely incorporated in them.

However, rather than treat them as victims of globalisation, our research studies small-scale producers and workers as agents navigating local-to-global dynamics. We pay special attention to women, migrants, children and people with disabilities. They are the human faces of the globalisation paradox of simultaneous inclusion and exclusion.

Global governance (both public and private) should – in theory – be able to solve part of that paradox. Not only should it facilitate market transactions, but it should also regulate negative externalities and compensate for unequal outcomes. Failures to do so warrant a more critical study of the political processes and the normativity underlying the current global governance and aid architecture.

Our research focuses on how policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities, at promoting gender equality, equity and decent work, first of all reflect political struggles in the policy arenas they emanate from, and second, interact with socio-political dynamics at the local level. ■

## COVID-19 vs. Ebola: High stakes for Eastern DRC

In April 2020, the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo was facing two major infectious disease outbreaks: COVID-19 and Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). To study the socioeconomic impact of both diseases, Elie Lunanga, Nik Stoop and Marijke Verpoorten conducted a phone survey with 637 households and 363 small firms from a megacity (Goma) and two rural communes (Mutwanga and Rutshuru) in the province of North Kivu. The data were collected in the period May-July 2020.

While 3,470 EVD cases and 2,287 EVD deaths were confirmed since August 2018, self-reported impacts of EVD on revenues, access to food and behavior were limited. In contrast, only 251 COVID-19

cases were reported as of 22 July but respondents reported sizable effects on livelihoods, especially in the large urban hub, in part driven by substantial job losses.

The results show that different infectious disease outbreaks can have very different effects, largely unrelated to case numbers of the disease. Moderately lethal but highly transmissible viruses such as CoViD-19 can trigger a steep economic downturn, especially in areas with high economic interconnectedness, reflecting both national and international policies to contain the pandemic. Our findings are published on [the IOB blog](#), as an IOB Working Paper and are forthcoming in World Development. ■





## The impact of COVID-19 around the world: IOB collective research

Which measures have been taken around the world to contain the spread of COVID-19? What is the level of popular support for these measures in different countries? How are they enforced? How did different countries make the decisions on which measures to take? We asked our 1158 IOB alumni and our 77 current IOB students. Collectively we researched these topics. Additionally, we asked them about the economic, socio-political and gendered impact of the pandemic and the containment measures.

This global survey, set up by IOB's Sahawal Alidou, Marijke Verpoorten, Dimitri Renmans and Sara Dewachter, resulted in a blog post on IOB's Sustainable Global Society: Policies and Partnerships blog. Additionally, we also published a blog post based on the same survey, looking at the gendered aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alumna Sonya Ochaney published a blog post on the short- and

long-term effects of the pandemic on doing remote monitoring. And alumnus Gersán Vásquez Gutiérrez wrote about the impact on migration from and within Central America. ■

- [The impact of COVID-19 around the world: IOB collective research](#)
- [COVID through a gender lens](#)
- [A dangerous turn: How will COVID-19 reshape migration for Central America?](#)
- [Remote monitoring during a pandemic: notes from the field](#)

## Action lab on quantitative development evaluation

In February 2020, Joachim De Weerd and Nik Stoop organised a one-week action lab on quantitative development evaluation for students from the Advanced Master of Development Evaluation and Management. The students conceptualised their own randomised control trial on Monday, piloted it on Tuesday, implemented it on Wednesday, analyzed the data on Thursday to present the results on Friday. All students collected data electronically. Some interviewing face-to-face in Antwerp on handheld devices, while others collected information on-line tapping into their extensive global networks. Topics were related to people's attitudes and choices with respect to insurance, investment and employment – and how these could be manipulated by framing the questions slightly differently. In total 390 interviews were conducted with people from 15 countries and 4 continents. All groups of students managed to complete the research cycle, finishing the week tired and rightly proud about what they achieved. ■



## Next generation tracking in Tanzania

Early in 2020, Joachim De Weerd conducted fieldwork in Tanzania to test whether it was possible to find adults who participated in a survey 30 years ago, when they were children. Together with a local team they randomly sampled 230 original survey respondents and were able to trace 94% of them. The purpose of this proof-of-concept exercise was to show that the endeavor is feasible, despite the 30-year time gap. The pilot data are now being used to prepare project proposals to implement a complete resurvey of all 3000 original respondents 0-15 years at baseline and their 9000 children in order to investigate whether and how poverty, inequality and health are transmitted across generations. ■

## 'The super-natural is super-rational'

Nik Stoop and Marijke Verpoorten studied witchcraft beliefs and the role they play in the lives of artisanal miners in Kamituga, a town in the Eastern DRC. Our survey respondents generally understood it as 'the practice whereby certain persons can launch a curse or spell that can provoke bad events'. With a mixed method approach, they set out to understand the 'rationale' of witchcraft beliefs. As Peter Leeson puts it: 'Practices that make people worse off aren't likely to survive'. They argue that the 'do-or-die', 'zero-sum' and 'caught-in-the-middle' context of artisanal mining in the Eastern DRC provides fertile ground for witchcraft beliefs and accusations. ■

[Read the blog post.](#)



## Contribution to Belgium's exit strategy from the pandemic

Researchers from all over Belgium collaborated to elaborate a series of analyses and recommendations addressed to the GEES (Group of Experts for an Exit Strategy), in an important example of dialogue between academia and policy makers.

Antea Paviotti, FWO PhD Fellow at IOB, co-authored a section on understanding how and why conspiracy theories arise during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. They recommended clear and

transparent communication and to include an interdisciplinary approach. Moreover, they warned against communicating prematurely, to avoid contradictory statements that may feed into conspiracy theories. The authors also warned not to underestimate the importance of rumours: if left unchecked, they begin to constitute their own 'reality'.

The collection of analyses is [freely available online](#). ■



Antea Paviotti conducted a workshop on 'Identity on social media: Emergence, radicalization, manipulation' at the Belgian School (Ecole Belge) in Bujumbura (18 March 2020). Together with the students, she discussed identity (what it 'is', if/why we need it, etc.) and then analysed boundary making on social media (the division of the world into 'us' and 'them' in the comments in YouTube for example).



# Environment and sustainable development

Environmental/climate change and poverty/inequality concerns are occupying an ever-more central position on the international policy agenda. The urgency of the challenges we face has also provoked heated debates on the appropriate (multi-level) governance structures to secure both poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development is increasingly being framed in terms of a 'green economy', and a reliance on market-based conservation mechanisms and conditional finance instruments, such as (voluntary) carbon markets, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity derivatives, and payments for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

We focus our research on actors, policies and instruments which aim to tackle climate change and ensure the provision of 'global public goods', and the kind of socio-political dynamics and interactions they trigger at and between multiple levels.

- At the global level we analyse the main trends, actors and factors in the evolving and evermore complex environment and climate governance landscape.
- At the national level we analyse the dynamics of the policy cycle (identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) surrounding the translation of global commitments into national policies.
- At the local level we analyse the (non-) implementation of the environmental/climate change agenda and how it inter-relates with local dynamics and struggles of (unequal) access to natural resources. ■

## Special issue of Development and Change

As part of a collective of scholars around the world we published [a special issue](#) on 'Beyond market logics: Payments for Ecosystem Services as alternative development practices in the Global South' in the journal Development and Change.

The special issue is the end result of years of collective work on this topic, many meetings and organizing special sessions at international conferences. The special issue takes stock of more than two decades of research on PES, and advocates for and demonstrates a more grounded and historically situated approach for understanding the conformation and outcomes of PES in actual practice. It proposes a framework for examining individual PES initiatives as shaped by dynamic interactions between imposed structure and the development pathways and situated agency of actors in the territories in which they are implemented. ■

## FLARE Conference on Twitter

The 2020 FLARE conference (Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement) took place online through Twitter, in an interesting attempt to find new ways to connect in this year of the pandemic. It provided an opportunity to distill some research findings in a very accessible and condensed way. ■



## SBO IOF grant

Tomaso Ferrando obtained a 200,000 euros grant from the SBO IOF internal research fund to collaborate with the Fair Trade Advocacy Office, World Fair Trade Organization EU, ENABEL, Flanders' Food, Belgian Fair Trade Association and Fairtrade Belgium on a 2-year project concerning the establishment and strengthening of North-North fair trade food chains. ■

## Uneven Earth: Planet of the dehumanized

On the occasion of 'Earth Day' 2020, Michael Moore and Jeff Gibbs released a new documentary, 'Planet of the Humans'. The film rightly questions capitalism's 'addiction to growth', as well as corporate quests for profitable opportunities made available through greenwashing, and exposes the 'renewable energy scam' as an unsettling co-optation of environmentalism by fossil-fuel driven interests.

Gert Van Hecken and Vijay Kolinjivadi, in [an article on Uneven Earth](#), however are concerned with how the film superficially points to environmental problems being caused by an abstract capitalism without centering the analysis on the historical and structural inequalities of capital accumulation. The film bypasses historically ingrained privileges and structural inequalities along class, gender, and racial lines that lie at the heart of environmental crises. ■

## Online European Microfinance Week 2020

At the online European Microfinance Week 2020, a large conference bringing together hundreds of microfinance institutions, funders and researchers, Frédéric Huybrechts had the opportunity to engage in several activities and presentations about the links between financial inclusion and resilience to climate change. During a 'fireside chat' session, he gave a retrospective of last year's European Microfinance Award on strengthening resilience to climate change, together with Sam Mendelson.

This was also an opportunity to present a more critical view on the current priorities in green finance, based on views that Johan Bastiaensen and Frédéric had previously developed in a blogpost ([Urgent action on climate change must go beyond microfinance 'business as usual'](#)). As part of the European Microfinance Platform action group on green and inclusive finance, Frédéric was also part of a session bringing together MFIs and funders to talk about challenges to green finance. ■

## FWO Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded to Vijay Kolinjivadi

Vijay will explore the uneven development of 'green economy' initiatives in South Asia. The project will adopt a critical lens to growing debates on the differentiated racialised, gendered, and class consequences of the so-called 'Anthropocene', characteristic of biospheric and geological conditions thoroughly influenced by humanity.

The project offers an innovative conceptual and methodological approach that explores the spatial and temporal dimensions influencing the potential success or failure of 'greening' development, whether in agriculture, urban development, or ecosystem conservation. It will also aim to bring grounded theoretical and empirical contributions from the Indian subcontinent, which is a region that has thus far been understudied at IOB. ■

## Global gold production touching ground: online book presentation

In recent decades, gold mining has moved into increasingly remote corners of the globe. Aside from the expansion of industrial gold mining, many countries have simultaneously witnessed an expansion of labor-intensive and predominantly informal artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Both trends are usually studied in isolation, which contributes to a dominant image of a dual gold mining economy.

Counteracting this dominant view, this volume adopts a global perspective, and demonstrates that both industrial gold mining and artisanal and small-scale gold mining are functionally integrated into a global gold production system. It couples an analysis of structural trends in global gold production (expansion, informalisation, and technological innovation) to twelve country case studies that detail how global gold production becomes embedded in institutional and ecological structures.

Sara Geenen and Boris Verbrugge edited the volume *Global gold production touching ground: expansion, informalization, and technological innovation*. A summary of the different case studies is available on the IOB Blog. ■

## Opinion article Al Jazeera: The coronavirus outbreak is part of the climate change crisis

In an article for Al Jazeera, Vijay Kolinjivadi lays out the parallel processes that have led to the climate change crisis and to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Industrial production processes have led to a depletion of the environment's capacity to balance itself, rupturing ecological cycles and putting out high levels of pollution that are at the root of the climate change crisis. This same process has led humans to encroach further and further into various natural habitats, exposing ourselves to as yet unknown pathogens. At the same time, we have created large-scale farms, which have created the perfect environment for the mutation and emergence of new diseases such as hepatitis E, Nipah virus, Q fever, and others.

Vijay: "The origin of the virus makes it a perfect example of how the way capitalism commodifies life to turn it into profit can directly endanger human life. In this sense, the ongoing pandemic is the product of unrestrained capitalist production and consumption patterns and is very much part of the deleterious environmental changes it is causing." ■





# Great Lakes of Africa Centre

## Conjonctures & Political Chronicles 2020

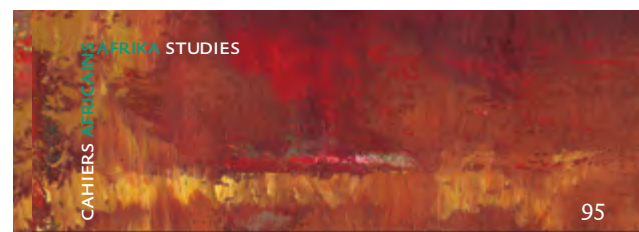
Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale is the yearly publication of the Belgian Centre for Expertise on Central Africa (CRE-AC), of the Great Lakes of Africa Centre (GLAC) at IOB, and of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (MRAC), in collaboration with the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL). It is published in MRAC's series Cahiers Africains by L'Harmattan (Paris). Each edition is coordinated by a team of three editors of IOB, UCL and CRE-AC respectively.

The 2020 volume was edited by Sahawal Alidou, Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka and Sara Geenen. It contains fourteen chapters on Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. These chapters explore the nature of political power at a central level, the challenges of reconstruction in fragile and post-conflict contexts, agricultural stakes locally and globally, and the governance of natural resources. By analyzing the political, economic, security and social structures, as well as the practices of different actors – from presidents to farmers – the Conjonctures wants to contribute to a better understanding of the current situation in Central Africa. It moreover situates these contemporary evolutions within a historical perspective and frames

them within the international academic literature. A system of small research grants allows junior scholars based in Central Africa to engage in fieldwork. Three chapters in this volume, by [Christella Niyonzima](#), [Jacques Fikiri Zirhumana](#), and [Fridolin Kimonge](#), have benefited from such financial support.

The various articles are currently available for purchase online on [the website of L'Harmattan](#) and they will be published as open access from April 2021 onwards on [the website of ECA-CREAC](#).

Next to the Conjonctures, IOB also publishes the Political Chronicles of the African Great Lakes Region as a companion volume. The Chronicles offer a systematic survey of political developments in Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda over the last year, as well as a number of reviews of recent books published on the Great Lakes of Africa Region. The Political Chronicles are available as a free, open access download from the IOB website: <http://bit.ly/pol-chronicles-2019>. ■



### Conjonctures de l'Afrique centrale 2020

Sous la direction de  
Sahawal ALIDOU, Aymar NYENYEZI BISOKA et Sara GEENEN



AFRICA

ECA - CRE-AC  
Expertise for Central Africa

البحر المتوسط



## Research Design and Governance of Natural Resources in Bukavu

For the second year, the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB), IOB and CEGEMI organised an Advanced Training Course on the governance of natural resources, as part of the Going Global project (see p 17). For the first time, the Going Global project also financed the Advanced Course on research design and methodology. We spoke to Sara Geenen, professor at IOB, director of CEGEMI and one of the driving forces in the cooperation between UCB and IOB.

Sara Geenen: "In October Going Global supported the Advanced Course Research Design and Methodology in Bukavu for the first time. Four years ago, our partners at UCB had noted that local researchers have difficulty publishing in research journals, particularly internationally. The Course was initially financed by USOS (the University Foundation for Development Cooperation at the University of Antwerp). But as it will become part of the Master programme that UCB is setting up with Going Global, it made sense to make it part of the Going Global project."

"There's certainly high demand for it. As the Course had been organised a few times before by USOS, we thought we would have pretty much reached our 'audience' by now, but each year – including in 2020 – the number of applications keeps going up."

**Walk us through the programme of the Research Design and Methodology Course?**

"It's a fairly intense course. On the first day, they learn about 'research paradigms': heavy-duty epistemology and ontology (laughs). This tends to be pretty new for many participants. Most have had methodological courses before, learning the operational skills of doing research. But this more 'philosophical' aspect is new for most."

"On the second day, we talk about ethical aspects of doing research. And we ask participants to come up with a research proposal of their own. Throughout the week, they continue to develop this proposal, applying what we've discussed."

"The third, fourth and fifth day are dedicated to research methodologies. So we spend one day talking about qualitative methods, another about quantitative methods, and finally a day about mixed methods."

"On the final day, participants present their research design, which they've been working on throughout the week. Their 'exam' is then to write a research proposal. As I said, it's an intense course!"

**Let's talk about the Advanced Course in Governance of Natural Resources. That started in 2019. Did you do it again in 2020?**

"Yes, we managed to organise it for the second time. This Course will also become part of the Master programme of course, and was part of the Going Global project from the start. We organised it in February 2020 for the second time."

"The Advanced Course has different sub-units. One is about the 'resource curse' and the 'tragedy of the commons' – economic theories about the link between natural resources and development. I myself teach a unit on a 'global value chain approach to mineral resources'. We've had units in 2019 on governance of land access, and on governance of forestry resources. This year, prof. Marie-Rose Bashwira taught a unit on gender and natural resources management. And prof. Janvier Kilosho taught a unit on conflict minerals and traceability."

**The Course on Governance of Natural Resources is newer than the Research Design and Methodology Course. Is it equally successful?**

"Yes, it's quite popular. We have people coming from across DRC, including from Kinshasa, Kisangani, Boma, Butembo, ... In 2020 we ended up with 33 participants, so similar to the 30 participants for the Research Design and Methodology Course. We had 90 people apply for this one, and about 100 for Research Design."

**It seems we were lucky with the timing, considering the pandemic?**

"The Course on Governance of Natural Resources was held in February, when CoViD-19 still appeared relatively contained. For Research Design and Methodology, the original plan was to do it in September, but that didn't prove possible. We did manage to do it in November though."

"UCB was the first Congolese university to shift to online teaching in May. In person teaching resumed in August. Of course with all necessary safety precautions, such as distancing, and masks. Actually, the most noticeable impact in Bukavu seems to have been the socio-economic impact. The city depends for most imports of food on Rwanda, which closed the borders to contain the pandemic, resulting in higher food prices for example. When we were there in November, however, it seemed the situation had stabilised somewhat." ■



## Rebel Lives around the world

After a highly successful opening at the Fotomuseum in Antwerp, Kristof Titeca's photo exhibition Rebel Lives travelled around the world in 2020, thanks to the Belgian government, which chaired the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict at the United Nations. In January of 2020, the photographs of members of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda were exhibited at UN Headquarters in New York, where they were visited by His Royal Majesty King Philippe of Belgium and Belgian Foreign Minister Philippe Goffin. After a week at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Rebel Lives moved to the Palais des Nations in Geneva in February 2020, where it was opened by, Virginia Gamba, the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. ■



## Central Africa PhD Days (25 May – 1 June 2020)

After a successful first edition in 2019, IOB co-organised a second edition of the 'PhD Days' for PhD students with a focus on Central Africa, both from Belgium and internationally. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the conference days were turned into an asynchronous forum allowing PhD students working on Central Africa to receive feedback on their work in progress. Presenters posted their papers and, optionally, a video presentation on their work. They then received feedback (written and/or video) from an esta-

blished scholar, as well as from their peers, which at times kicked off a wider debate among the online participants in the comments section. This new formula allowed us to also include PhD students from the Great Lakes region itself. As it worked quite well, we plan to repeat it, even in a post-corona future. ■



## GLAC researchers weigh in on decolonisation debate

In 2020, in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement and after years of activism from among others the Central African diaspora in Belgium, the Belgian Parliament established a parliamentary commission to investigate Belgium's colonial past, its impact and lasting consequences. Several experts at the Great Lakes of Africa Centre contributed to the public debate on different aspects of the establishment and work of the commission.

Before the commission was officially established, Stef Vandeginste wrote in [De Standaard](#) that the importance of a parliamentary commission does not lie in simply establishing facts, but in the process of publicly qualifying these facts. He also cautioned against thinking that such a commission will be the end point, the final period in the book of colonial history. In [an interview with De Standaard](#), Vandeginste also expressed a concern about the fact that – unlike truth and reconciliation commissions – the Belgian commission is composed of politicians.

Denis Augustin Samnick and Tom De Herdt [argued in MO\\*](#) for a shared remembering – a true commemorating – of colonial history. Not just among Belgians of different backgrounds, but with those living in the countries that were once colonised by Belgium. Samnick and De Herdt also argue that while looking at the past, we should also look at our present time. Colonial structures and modes of thinking live on in many aspects of contemporary society.

Stefaan Marysse in an [IOB Policy Brief](#) argues that apologies for the brutality and violence during Leopold II's reign, moments of remembrance and compulsory knowledge about the colonisation in history teaching, are certainly appropriate and relatively easy to realise. Tackling discrimination against Afro-descendants in the labor market is more important and more difficult. Marysse, however, is particularly concerned that the current situation in

the DRC is not taken into account in the debate on decolonisation in Belgium. While history never repeats itself, echoes of it can be seen in the pattern of exploitation by foreign (business) interests and a small domestic elite.

Inevitably, when discussing the colonial past and its consequences for today, the topic of reparations will come up. For Albert Malukisa Nkuku, Kristof Titeca and Tom De Herdt, the moral case for reparations is clear, but many practical obstacles remain. In articles in [De Standaard](#) and [La Libre](#) they ask to whom reparations should go. The consensus appears to be: not the current elites. But how would reparation funds reach the common citizens? There is no democratically representative organisation below the level of the state. Nkuku, Titeca and De Herdt asked the commission to take these issues into account in preparing their recommendations.

Still on the issue of reparations, [Stef Vandeginste in MO\\*](#) called on the commission to learn from how the Burundian Senate sees the issue. It has defined 'reparations' far broader than simply financial compensation. Concretely, the Burundian Senate has asked that Belgium formally recognises its colonial past and offers its apologies; that colonial archives are repatriated and the assassination of Rwagasore be investigated; that Belgium contributes financially to Burundi's education efforts on colonial history; that Belgium, Germany and Burundi jointly investigate the impact of colonialism on ethnic divisions in Burundi; and that Belgium assists in mapping which colonial laws are still on the books in Burundi, so they can be changed. Vandeginste argues for a well-thought-out cooperation between Belgium and Burundi, while also taking into account the needs and concerns of the diaspora. He also cautions against outlandish financial claims, such as made by the Burundian Senate, which may preclude such cooperation. ■



The Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba in Brussels, 26 January 1960.



# Facts and figures on research and outreach

FIGURE 1: IOB PUBLICATIONS FOR ACADEMIC AUDIENCE \*

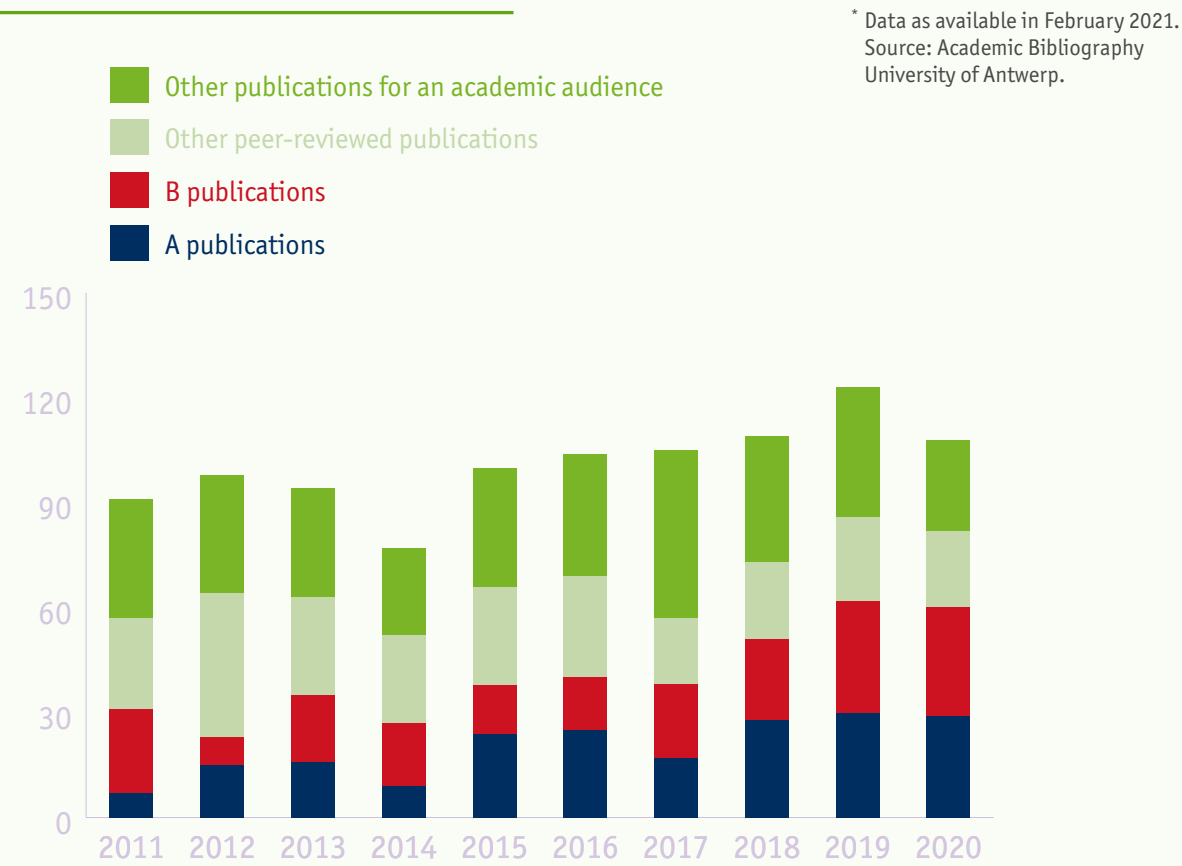
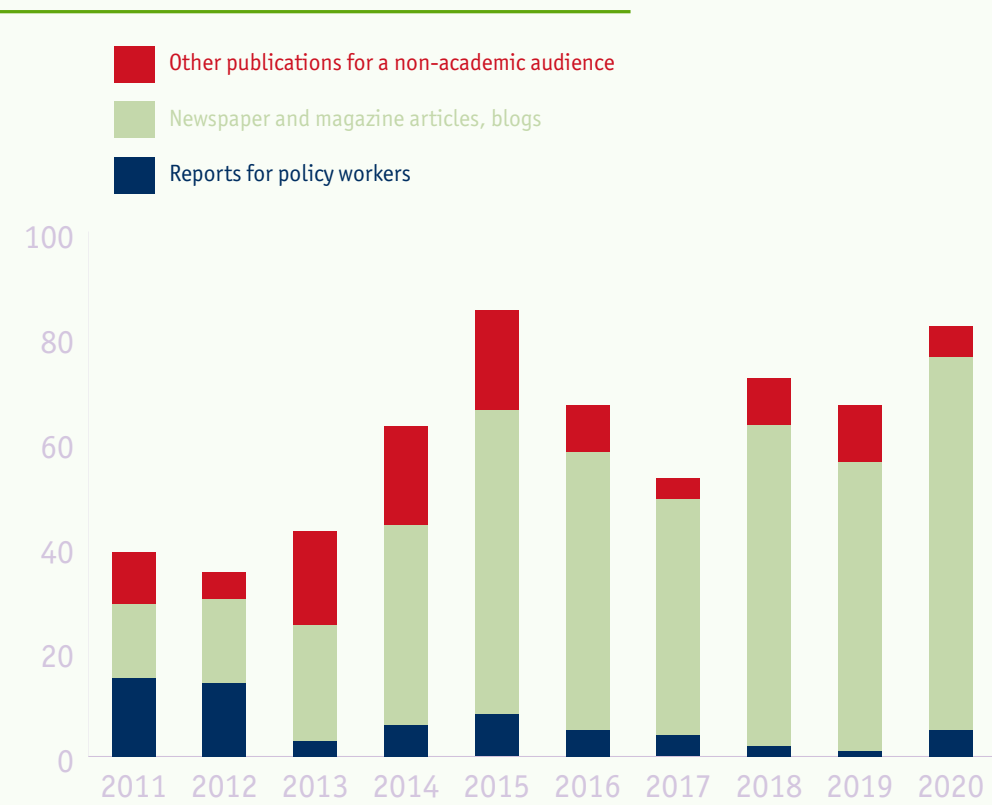


FIGURE 2: PUBLICATIONS FOR NON-ACADEMIC AUDIENCE \*



## 2021 Human Development and Capability Association Conference

Throughout the year, we have been keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, as well as on the early stages of the vaccination campaign. While the quick development of vaccines is a cause for optimism, the realities of deploying them around the world are complicated.

In light of this, it is unlikely we would be able to hold a conference in 2021 in which participants from around the globe would be able to gather in person at the University of Antwerp, even in combination with online events and streaming. Rather than having an ‘online-only’ conference, we feel it is worth postponing the conference, to enable us to offer the fullest possible conference experience for all. That is why we have decided to postpone the Antwerp conference to 19-22 September 2022, when we expect there will be far fewer restrictions on travel and in-person gatherings.

### 2021 Human Development and Capability Association Conference

Institutions, social arrangements, or the structures which emerge from our social living, have been conceived in different ways in the variety of disciplines that engage with the capability approach.

September  
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# POSTPONED

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[www.hdca2021.org](http://www.hdca2021.org)



# PhD training at IOB

As part of the Antwerp Doctoral School, IOB offers a multidisciplinary doctoral programme related to its institutional research agenda which leads to a PhD in Development Studies. The institute also cooperates with its sister faculties of Business and Economics and Social Sciences for disciplinary PhDs on development issues.

During 2020, a total of 46 students were preparing a PhD dissertation on topics linked to IOB's research agenda.

Forty-one were pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD in Development Studies at IOB (ten of them IOB junior researchers), while four were working towards disciplinary PhDs at the Faculty of Business and Economics (two of them IOB junior researchers) and one at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

During 2020, twelve new PhD students were admitted, eleven will pursue a PhD in Development Studies while one will pursue a PhD at the Faculty of Business and Economics. Three IOB PhD students dropped out.

Four of the PhDs in progress are joint or double PhDs: two with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), one with Maastricht

University and one with ISS (International Institute of Social Studies) in The Hague.

In 2020, three students successfully concluded and defended their PhD in Development Studies and one student successfully defended his PhD in Applied Economics.

### Catherine Windey

*"From geocoded to entangled landscape: forests, REDD+ environmental rule and everyday practices in DR Congo"*

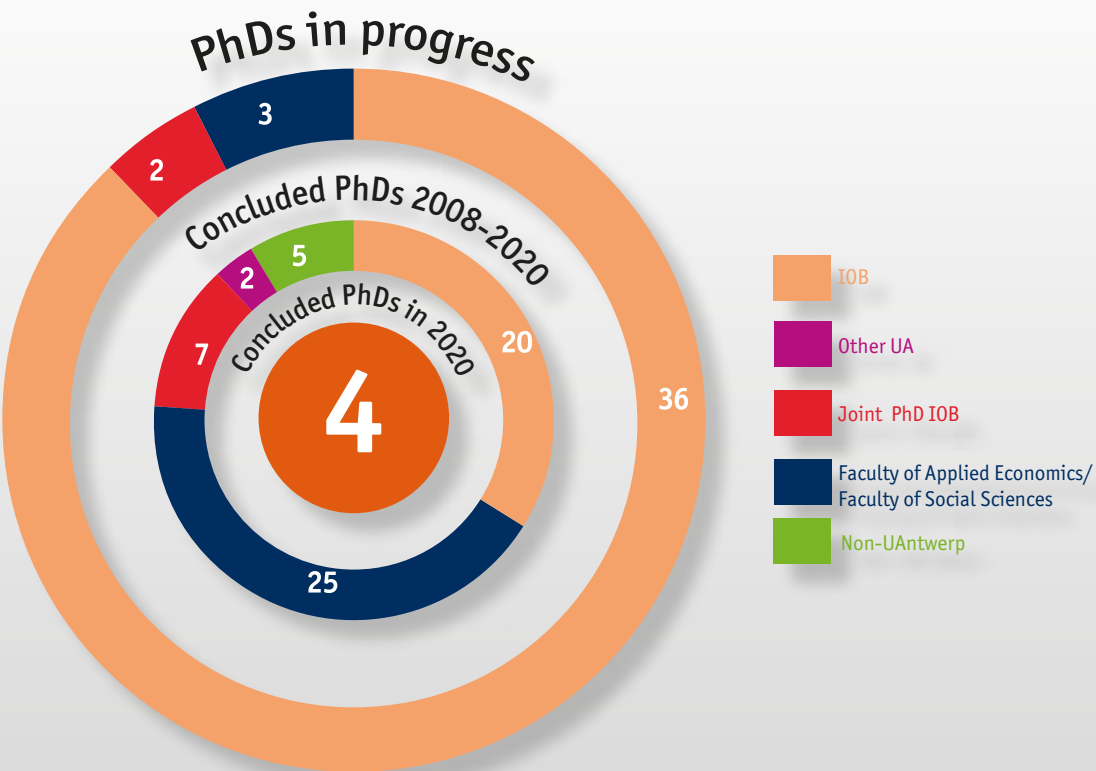
Supervisors: Prof. Gert Van Hecken (IOB, University of Antwerp) and Prof. Johan Bastiaensen (IOB, University of Antwerp).

### Micha Wiebusch

*"Constitution building in the African Union: law, policy and practice"*

Supervisors: Prof. Stef Vandeginste (IOB, University of Antwerp) and Prof. Koen De Feyter – (FRECH, University of Antwerp)

FIGURE 3. CONCLUDED PHDS 2008-20 (INNER CIRCLES) AND PHDS IN PROGRESS (OUTER CIRCLE)



## PHD MICHA WIEBUSCH

A continental consensus has emerged in Africa about the importance of democratic constitutional governance for peace and development. This consensus is increasingly translated into normative, institutional and procedural frameworks that offer a growing number of opportunities for the African Union (AU) to intervene in constitution building processes of its member states. This thesis explains why and how the AU resorts to international legal engineering to promote and protect constitutional rule in African states. It investigates the most salient contextual factors that shape the nature and the authority of the legal instruments and institutions associated with the AU's constitutional agenda. Through a detailed analysis of a range of AU interventions, including in presidential term limits debates, the human rights field and the province of democratic governance monitoring and enforcement, the thesis unravels a shifting continental rhetoric on constitutionalism. ■

### Tobias Gandrup

*"Making schools: primary education, governance and the state in Somaliland"*

Supervisors: Prof. Kristof Titeca (IOB, University of Antwerp) and Prof. Tom De Herdt – (IOB, University of Antwerp)

### Sahawal Alidou (joint PhD with KU Leuven)

*"Essays on household economics in Sub Saharan Africa"*

Supervisors: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten (IOB, University of Antwerp) and Prof. Johan Swinnen (KU Leuven)



## PHD CATHERINE WINDEY

This PhD thesis explores Congolese forested landscapes as constituted both by (renewed) planning attempts to reorganise forests and livelihoods into a 'green plantation economy' and by everyday lived practices that draw humans and nonhumans together. The basic premise of this thesis is that how we understand and conceptualise landscapes and their environmental changes play an active role in shaping them. Integrating approaches in political ecology, critical cartography and anthropology, and using qualitative data from multi-sited fieldwork, the thesis engages with two ways of framing and attending forests and deforestation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The first empirical part examines the representational politics of landscapes embedded in the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) policy scheme adopted by the DRC to end the loss of its natural forests and become an emerging economy by 2030.

The thesis' second empirical part moves away from REDD+ abstract landscapes and takes the reader on a journey in Kisangani's forested hinterland, which has been identified as a deforestation hotspot. ■





ONGOING PHD PROJECTS IN 2020

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| ABAINZA Loresel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Return migration and entrepreneurship: an investigation of the success of failure of return migrants’ entrepreneurial activities<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet - Prof. Germán Calfat (em.)</i>                                                                               |
| ASHABA Ivan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Environmental crime as transnational organized crime: a case of wildlife trade in Uganda<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>                                                                                                                                                      |
| COLLADO Carmen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Social innovation in land initiatives as a basis for inclusive rural development<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen - Prof. Pieter Van den Broeck (KU Leuven) - Prof. Constanza Parra (KU Leuven)</i>                                                                            |
| DA COSTA Shaun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Development for the poor: evaluating the multidimensional impact of development interventions with respect for the preferences of the poor<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Koen Decanq - Prof. Joachim De Weerd</i>                                                                             |
| DE MAESSCHALCK Filip                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Statebuilding support to fragile states: a temporal analysis of the interplay between European legitimation and internal legitimacy in post-conflict states<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Nadia Molenaers - Prof. Stef Vandeginste</i>                                                        |
| EPOUNDË Adolphe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Achieving the 2030 international development policy in a predominantly self interest globalised world: digging into the stakes of donor countries policy (in) coherence for development from an international political economy perspective.<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Nadia Molenaers</i> |
| GIEZENDANNER Eliane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| From combatant to loyal party member or disillusioned defector? A case study on CNDD-FDD ex-combatants in Burundi<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>                                                                                                                             |
| GLEIBERMAN Mollie                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Predict and control: mobilizing the past and future to shape development policy, planning, and scholarship<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Sara Geenen</i>                                                                                                                                       |
| GRISOLIA Filippo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| One for all and all for cash? An inquiry into social network and collective action effects of cash transfers in rural Uganda<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet and Dr. Sara Dewachter</i>                                                                                        |
| HERRERA Héctor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Green City Bonds for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in Latin America and Africa: a comparative analysis of processes, regulations, and implications<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Tomaso Ferrando</i>                                                                       |

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| INNOCENTI Demetrio                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Evaluation of climate change investments in international finance: achieving the climate paradigm shift through effective resource allocations<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet</i>                                                                          |
| IRAGI Francine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Artisanal mining and local food markets: analyzing the linkages<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten - Prof. Nene Morisho (Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB))</i>                                                                                         |
| KADIGO Mark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Policy responses and coping strategies in refugee-hosting populations in Africa: a multidisciplinary and multidimensional study on the refugees and their hosts in Sub-Saharan Africa<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Joachim De Weerd</i>                                   |
| KYANDO Doreen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Community and service delivery: analysing the potentiality of Mobile Community Based Monitoring systems (MCBM’S) in water service delivery in rural Tanzania<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet - Dr. Christina M. Shitima, (Mzumbe University, Tanzania)</i> |
| LUNANGA Elie                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Powering development, stabilization and conservation? The impact of electricity roll-out by Virunga Alliance in Eastern Congo<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Marijke Verpoorten - Dr. Nik Stoop</i>                                                                        |
| MANGUNI Grachel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pantawid conditional cash transfer and intimate partner violence in Filipino households<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet</i>                                                                                                                                 |
| MARIJSSE Simon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Knowledge production and technology adoption in ASM in the DRC<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Dr. Boris Verbrugge</i>                                                                                                                                        |
| MERLET Pierre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Revisiting the agrarian question: family farming and political arenas around land and natural resources in the context of climate change and changing global food chains. Evidence from Nicaragua<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen</i>                      |
| MUHOZA Benjamin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Drivers of unequal development in the Democratic Republic of Congo<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Tom De Herdt - Prof. Christian Kamala Kaghoma (Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB))</i>                                                                                |

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| MUKENA Jacques                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The hydrocarbon sector in the DRC: a political settlement analysis of the sector’s role in development and conflict<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>                                                                                                       |
| NADAR Danya                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| When global threats meet localized practices: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) vs. recognition and regeneration of ecosystem knowledge in Nicaragua and Guatemala<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>                                                    |
| NDAYIRAGIJE Réginas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Institutional engineering in divided societies: power-sharing and political representation in Burundi<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Stef Vandeginste - Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>                                                                                           |
| PAVIOTTI Antea                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Perceptions of the self and the other in contemporary Burundi: the salience of ethnicity in everyday interactions in a post-transition context<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Bert Ingelaere - Prof. Stef Vandeginste</i>                                                  |
| POPELIER Lisa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Uncovering pathways to foster disability-sensitive development: from participatory M&E to disability-inclusive development<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Nathalie Holvoet</i>                                                                                             |
| ROBLES MENGUA Eugenia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Research project for PhD: InForMining? An in-depth study of informalization processes in global gold production<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Dr. Boris Verbrugge</i>                                                                                       |
| RODRIGUEZ FABILENA René                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Towards a power-sensitive and socially-informed analysis of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES): comparative case studies in Nicaragua and Guatemala<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Gert Van Hecken - Prof. Jennifer Casolo (Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala)</i> |
| ROMERO Milagros                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Heterogeneities of farmers rationalities and territorial development pathways: perspectives for ‘microfinance plus’ models in Nicaragua<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Johan Bastiaensen - Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>                                                       |
| SAMNICK Denis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Social actions and interactions around the daily public governance of prisons in Africa: a comparative ethnography between Cameroon and the DRC<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Tom De Herdt - Prof. Sara Liwerant (Université Paris Nanterre/ UNIKIN Kinshasa)</i>         |
| SEBU Baudouin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Power, religion, and the resurgence of customary authority in Haut-Uele (1999-2020)<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>                                                                                                                                       |

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| SIMPSON Fergus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Socio-ecological resilience: a new perspective for ASM?<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Sara Geenen - Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| SSENNYONJO Aloysius                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Coordination of multisectoral action for health in Uganda: mechanisms, actor experiences, motivations and implications for policy and practice<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Kristof Titeca - Prof. Bart Criel (Institute of Tropical Medicine) - Prof. Sara Van Belle (Institute of Tropical Medicine) - Dr. Freddie Ssengooba (Makerere University, Uganda)</i> |
| VAN CAPPELLEN Hanne                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| The city is not that far: urbanisation, social change and rural labour patterns in sub-Saharan Africa<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Joachim De Weerd - Prof. Bert Ingelaere</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VANCLUYSEN Sarah                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Towards a durable relationship: case-study of South-Sudanese refugees and their host in Northern Uganda<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Bert Ingelaere - Prof. Kristof Titeca</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VELEZ TRIANA Juan Sebastian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Neoliberal conservation and hybrid resistances in Colombia: A scalar political ecology of environmental governance and social-ecological change in the Andean-Amazonian conservation corridor<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Gert Van Hecken</i>                                                                                                                    |
| VET Cassandra                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| The architecture of profit-shifting: state-power and interest for collective action. An analysis in the production and articulation for global governance<br><i>Supervisors: Prof. Danny Cassimon - Prof. Anne Van de Vijver (Faculty of Law UAntwerp)</i>                                                                                                   |
| WATERLOOS Evert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| ‘Development Local Government’ and rural development in South Africa: brokering integrated rural development across spheres<br><i>Supervisor: Prof. Nadia Molenaers</i>                                                                                                                                                                                      |



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



As external research funding is not integrated in the regular budget, the overview of IOB's financial and budgetary performance addresses the two items separately.

The table below provides an overview of the regular budget outturn for 2020, compared to previous year's results. The basic annual endowment from the Flemish Government provides the lion's share

of the regular budget, and amounted to €2.26 million in 2020. The University of Antwerp structurally adds a fixed matching annual endowment of €220,000. Other miscellaneous regular income sources add about €375,000. As a result, actual regular 2020 income of about €2.86 million slightly exceeded the budget. ■

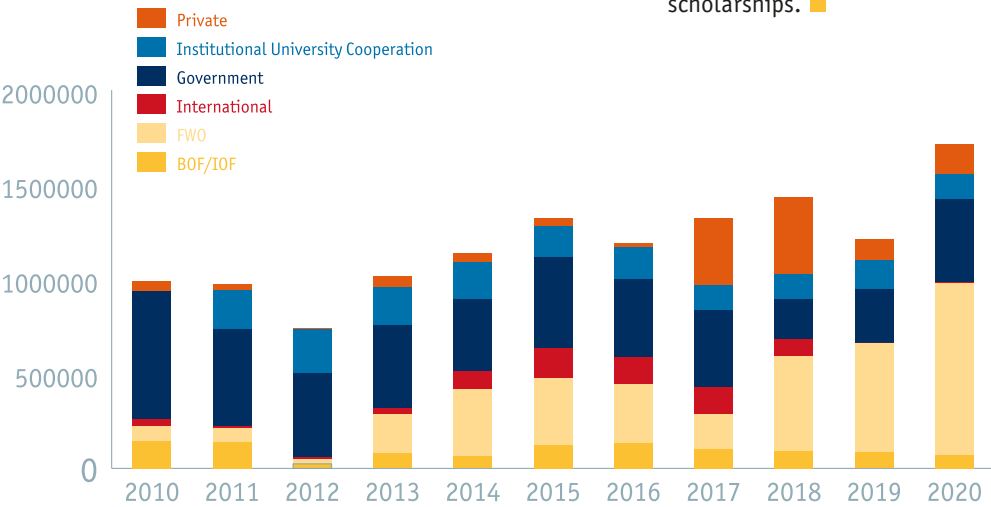
TABLE 1. BUDGETARY IMPLEMENTATION IN 2019 AND 2020 (IN EUR)

|                                 | 2019             |                  | 2020             |                  |             |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                 | Budgeted         | Actual           | Budgeted         | Actual           | %           |
| <b>Income:</b>                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Core funding Flemish Government | 2,248,000        | 2,248,000        | 2,285,000        | 2,262,387        | 99%         |
| UAntwerp funding                | 220,000          | 220,000          | 220,000          | 220,000          | 100%        |
| Other miscellaneous income      | 294,000          | 291,211          | 324,000          | 375,610          | 116%        |
| o/w exempted payroll taxes      | 65,000           | 77,669           | 65,000           | 82,294           | 127%        |
| scholarship administration fee  | 95,000           | 108,671          | 95,000           | 110,225          | 116%        |
| <b>Total income</b>             | <b>2,762,000</b> | <b>2,759,211</b> | <b>2,829,000</b> | <b>2,857,997</b> | <b>101%</b> |
| <b>Expenditure:</b>             |                  |                  |                  |                  |             |
| Personnel costs                 | 2,540,000        | 2,474,682        | 2,568,000        | 2,582,602        | 101%        |
| Tenured academic staff          | 1,170,000        | 1,131,374        | 1,184,000        | 1,187,987        | 100%        |
| Other academic staff            | 894,000          | 870,415          | 892,000          | 903,389          | 101%        |
| Support staff                   | 476,000          | 472,893          | 492,000          | 491,226          | 100%        |
| Operating expenses              | 442,000          | 440,119          | 446,000          | 378,039          | 85%         |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>        | <b>2,982,000</b> | <b>2,914,801</b> | <b>3,014,000</b> | <b>2,960,641</b> | <b>98%</b>  |
| <b>Net result</b>               | <b>- 220,000</b> | <b>-155,590</b>  | <b>- 185,000</b> | <b>-102,644</b>  |             |

Total realised expenditures amounted to €2.96 million. Of that total, personnel costs represented about €2.6 million in 2020, slightly higher than budgeted, while operating expenses added about €380,000, somewhat lower than budgeted. Overall, the net budgetary outturn leads to a deficit of about €103,000 in 2020, somewhat less than budgeted, partly using the earmarked institutional reserve funds, which now stand at about €2.3 million at the end of 2020.

Apart from its regular income, IOB also attracts additional income from a broad range of external sources. Figure 4 combines the data on external research funding registered by the University of Antwerp's Research Coordination and Administration Department with the research component of IUC projects, where IOB staff participate as project leaders. As figure 4 highlights, total additional external finance amounted to about €1.7 million in 2020, a substantial increase compared to the last two years. Recent years also show a much more diversified portfolio, including also a substantial, and still growing part coming from Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO) in the form of pre-doc and post-doc scholarships. ■

FIGURE 4. EVOLUTION OF EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND SERVICE DELIVERY





# PEOPLE AT IOB

## Bureau

Chair: Johan Bastiaensen

- Chair Education Commission: Nathalie Holvoet
- Chair Research Commission: Marijke Verpoorten
- Representative Research Staff: Hanne Van Cappellen
- Representative Support Staff: Vicky Verlinden

## Commissions and chair persons

- PhD Commission: Marijke Verpoorten
- Social Committee: Nadia Molenaers
- Library Committee: Danny Cassimon

## Master programmes

- Student secretariat: Greet Annaert, Nicole Dierckx
- Social service: Greet Annaert
- Quality assurance: Elfje Godderis
- Alumni and promotion: Sara Dewachter
- Librarian: Hans De Backer

## Secretariats

- Institute coordinator: Vicky Verlinden
- Research secretariat: Joëlle Dhondt, Katleen Van pellicom
- Financial secretariat: An Vermeesch
- Communication: Michael Domen, Joëlle Dhondt
- Flemish interuniversity cooperation: Marjan Vermeiren

## Scientific advisory board

- Hannelore Beerlandt - CEO AgriCord, chair Board Enabel
- Leo de Haan - Professor emeritus
- Geske Dijkstra – Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Kate Meagher – Associate professor, LSE
- Jan Vandemoortele – Independent researcher
- Geof Wood – Professor emeritus, University of Bath





# IOB PUBLICATIONS



IOB has been publishing its own series of open access research: peer-reviewed Discussion Papers (since 2010), Working Papers and Analyses and Policy Briefs (since 2013). On our website you will find these publications freely available.

Other open access publications on the IOB website include *Political Chronicles of the African Great Lakes Region* and the archive of the *Yearbook of the Great Lakes Region* (1996 until 2016).

IOB's own blog 'Sustainable Global Society: Policies and Partnerships' offers easy access to research from IOB and its global partners.

Many of our researchers also offer 'ungated preprints' on their ResearchGate profiles. The University of Antwerp library also makes available author copies of articles if and when available.

Finally, IOB researchers often publish on blogs, in newspapers and take part in other media outlets, making their expertise available to a wider audience.

## Articles in peer-reviewed journals

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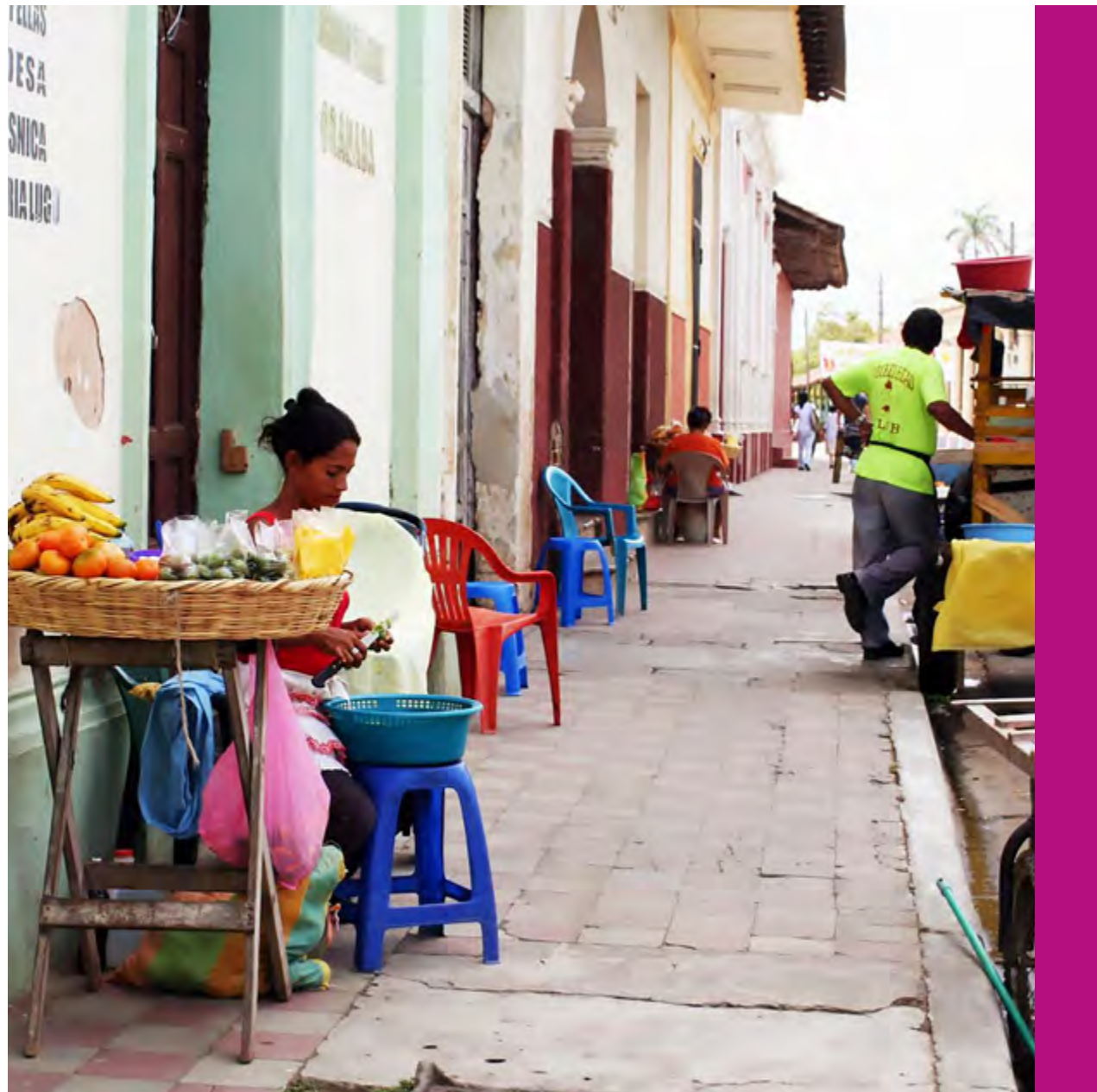
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