

Specialization Economic Development (Joachim Becker)

Comparative Development Research

The course will provide an overview on development theories focusing on comparing different development trajectories. Based on paradigmatic theoretical texts, the course will deal with Varieties of Capitalism (VoC), dependency and regulationist approaches in a more profound way. The ecological perspective will be integrated into these debates. These theories provide different analytical frameworks for analyzing production structures, process of financialisation, external trade specialization and more generally of asymmetrical international insertion. They explicitly theorize the role of the state in development processes. Thus, the analysis of different forms of the state is part of the comparative analysis. The analytical frameworks will be applied to case studies in Eastern Europe. Drawing on East European case studies, different forms of specialization – dependent industrialization, raw material exports, dependent financialisation – will be analyzed and discussed.

Goal of the Course

In this seminar, students will become familiar with different development theories with a special focus on comparative development research. They will learn to analyze theoretical texts and to apply different analytical frameworks to concrete case studies.

Method

An overview on different development theories will be provided. In a second phase, students will prepare presentations on different theoretical approaches taking selected texts as a key reference. In a third phase, students will present specific cases taking specific theoretical frameworks as a reference. A reader with the selected texts will be provided.

Presentation will be prepared by small groups. Essays have to be written individually.

Research and Policy Seminar Economic Development (Gabriele Tondl)

Theme of the Course:

Trade and Development – Environmental Effects and Sustainability of Trade Specialization in Developing Countries

In this course we will regard the typical export specialization of DC in either the primary sector or low wage manufacturing with respect to its environmental consequences and sustainability. To dig into this field we will analyze several product cases, like e.g. palm oil and coffee production, shrimp aquaculture, copper and gold mining, rare earths extraction, textile and leather industry, steel industry. We will look at the production structure, the role of multinationals in production and marketing of products and major worldwide supplier and demand patterns. All these productions are accompanied by often serious environmental effects and social consequences which question that those exports sectors can contribute to long term sustainable development. The goal of the seminar is to discuss practices how those productions can become more environmentally and socially sustainable. Among others we will discuss the fairtrade concept. Political actors, national governments, NGOs, but also trade partners, like the EU with its specific trade policy concepts for DC play an important role to promote sustainable strategies.

Goal of the course:

In this seminar, students should become familiar with the critical environmental and social conditions under which many well-known export products from DC are produced. They will develop and understanding what measures can be taken by national governments, NGOs, and trade policy makers to promote better practices and assure a better sustainability.

Method:

The course will start with an introductory reading list for all students which will be discussed during the first 3 lectures. Thereafter, students have to prepare individual seminar papers in teamwork and present them during class.