

The materiality of/in development – new critical perspectives

Conveners:

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The emergence of poststructuralist and postcolonial thinking has inspired and deepened analytical insights within the field of critical development studies, political science and international relations. Besides, feminist, queer and post-developmental approaches have contributed to the pressing questions of poverty, global inequality and stratified gender and sexual relations. However, while those approaches increased analytical awareness for the role of discourses and the constitutive power of framing, the complex and concrete interplay between materiality and language, between norms and embodiment, between structures and agency, between policies and subjectivities remains an under-researched topic within critical development studies.

Thus, this panel aims to shed light on these entangled and interdependent “sites” and manifestations of development and to explore the material dimensions of development dispositifs from a more synchronic or integrated perspective. By focusing on concrete development “encounters” our panel tries to create productive interlinkages between neo-marxist analysis of the international division of labour, queer studies, postcolonial feminism and poststructuralist approaches. In particular we want to include insights from the field of new materialism that offers innovative perspectives on human and non-human actors, the changing relationship between nature-culture (i.e. in climate change, water, food and energy crises) and new ways to look at gendered political strategies, sexual economies and embodied subjectivities within the field of critical development research. We explicitly encourage early career scholars to submit papers to the panel.