Department of Sociology

Honours Module:
China/Chinese in Africa’s Development
2011

Time: Wednesdays 11-1pm
Venue: St Peters Cathedral

Lecturers:

Dr Tu Huynh, Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Rhodes University (course coordinator contact: t.huynh@ru.ac.za)

Dr Maitseo Bolaane, Faculty of Humanities, University of Botswana

Professor Antoine Kernen, Faculty of Social and Political Science, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Course Description:

This course is designed to examine the links between China and Africa from the beginning of their historical and political relationship through to present times. While larger issues of China’s foreign policy, development aid, and trade in Africa frame this course, it explores in detail themes like historical linkages between China and Africa, shifts in the nature of the ties between the two, the role of migration and migrants in Africa’s development, and the relationship between Chinese merchants and Africans in particular African countries. Countries covered in the readings will include Botswana, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Lectures, however, will mainly highlight the experiences of Botswana, Cameroon, Mali, and South Africa in the China-Africa relationship.

The course aims to provide students the opportunity to critically discuss and analyze China-Africa (or Africa-China) socio-economic relations and their implications for future political relations between the country and the continent. It also aims to allow students the opportunity to examine a number of inter-related topics that shed light on China’s (possible) influences and impacts on the economies, polities, and societies of individual African countries.

Some questions to consider during the six-week course, include, but are not limited to:

- What are the dominant perceptions of China’s politico-economic agendas towards the African continent, and what do those, in turn, suggest about the perceptions of Africa?
• Is there only one Chinese actor in Africa or are there multiple actors? And if there are multiple actors in Africa, who are they?
• How do foreign aid, investment, and trade interconnect in the relationship between China and Africa?
• What does China’s new wave of aid and economic cooperation mean for African development?
• Will China catalyze or crush African manufacturing and agriculture? Similarly, does the importation of Chinese products help or hinder Africans? Along the same line, are Chinese traders underselling or out-competing African traders, thus, worsening their livelihood?
• What kinds of employment opportunities do China’s state-owned-enterprises create in Africa, if any?
• Is China an appropriate economic development model for Africa?

Course Requirements:

Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Student participants are expected to have read all the assigned readings prior to coming to class. The required readings are indicated with an asterisk (*). The non-asterisk readings are only suggestions for further reading. Furthermore, you are expected to give an oral presentation once during the six-week course. Students will be randomly selected during class to give a short analysis and synthesis of the readings as well as to pose one question to the class to stimulate discussion. Overall, the presentation should be under five minutes.

Students will be required to write an eight- to ten-page essay for this course. The eight to ten pages exclude the bibliography. You may write on one of the themes designated for a particular week of the course. Alternatively, you may formulate the essay topic in consultation with one of the three lecturers. Your topic must address a specific issue within the broader context of China-Africa relations. You are not limited to using the readings from the course outline.

Week 1: Introduction


Deborah Bräutigam, “China, Africa and the International Aid Architecture,” African


**Week 2: China in Transformation and Going Global**


**Week 3: China’s Historical and Economic Relationship with Africa and…Vice Versa?**


**Week 4: One China Strategy Toward Africa or Multiple China Strategies in Africa, Part I: Background to and the Role of China’s State-Own-Enterprises**


Week 5: One China Strategy Toward Africa or Multiple China Strategies in Africa, Part II: Chinese Traders and Small Private Investors


Week 6: Some Conclusions


