Department of Sociology

Rhodes University

Honours Course: Sociology of Development

Module One: Theory and Concepts

Module Two: China in Africa

Second Semester, Third Term 2012

Course presenters: Professor Monty J. Roodt and Dr Yoon Jung Park

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:30-17:00
Venue: Barratt Lecture Theatre 3

Please note: due to Dr Jung Park’s availability, Module Two (“China in Africa”) will be presented first (i.e. during the first three weeks of Term 3) and Module 1 (“Theory and Concepts”) in the last three weeks of Term 3.
Module Two: China in Africa

Lecturer:
Dr Yoon Jung PARK, Senior Research Associate, Sociology, Rhodes University; Visiting Professor, African Studies, Howard University (Washington, DC)
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Module Description:
In the past, Africa has often been cast as poor, underdeveloped, and in need of the West’s assistance. Headlines used to scream of Africa’s pathetic state. In the past couple years, this has changed; today, Africa is often touted at the place for investment and innovation. Economic growth in many African countries has superseded growth in most European countries and foreign investors are flocking to Africa. China leads this charge and can largely be credited with the change in attitude toward the continent – from basket case to miracle zone. At the same time, China is accused of being predatory and neo-colonial, in search of mineral resources to fuel its own growth; markets to dump its excess, cheap manufactured products, and land to grow food for its growing population. And questions remain about lasting development impacts and perhaps, more importantly, poverty alleviation amongst the African masses.

This module 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 module, the main purpose of the module is to explore in detail the following:
- some of the key myths and rumours about China’s engagement in Africa,
- the role of migration and migrants in Africa’s development, and
- preliminary development impacts of Chinese engagement in African countries

The module aims to provide students the opportunity to critically discuss and analyze China-Africa (or Africa-China) socio-economic relations and their implications for future 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.

Module Requirements:
Given the short length of this module, attendance at seminars is compulsory. Student participants are expected to have read all the assigned readings prior to coming to class. Each session topic is listed below together with required and recommended readings. All students will be expected to give a short analysis and synthesis of ONE of the readings AND pose one or two questions to the class to stimulate discussion; students will be randomly selected at the beginning of each class to ensure that everyone keeps up with all the required readings. Each presentation should be under five minutes and will be marked as part of your participation grade.

Students will be required to write a 3,000-3,500 word essay for this course (excluding the bibliography). You may write on one of the themes designated for a particular
session of the module; alternatively, you may formulate and original essay topic in consultation with the lecturer. Your topic must address a specific issue or a particular country within the broader context of China-Africa relations. In addition to readings suggested in the module outline, you are encouraged to find additional outside readings and resources.

Session 1: Introduction
(Introductions, Housekeeping/Admin, Syllabus review)
Why are China-Africa linkages relevant? What are the key myths & rumours surrounding China’s engagements in Africa?
(Tuesday 24 July)

To watch during class:
http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2012/01/20121484624797945.html

Required readings: (Note: for the first session, you are only required to read ONE of the three readings below; please come to class with questions/comments.)


For further reading:


Session 2: China-Africa relations in historical context
(Thursday 26 July)

Required readings:

For further reading:


Session 3: Chinese “aid”, trade, and investment in Africa or “How China has turned Africa into the next best thing”
(Tuesday 31 July)

Required readings:

Deborah Brautigam, “Africa’s Eastern Promise. What the West Can Learn from Chinese Investment in Africa” January 5, 2010 in Foreign Affairs,
http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65916/deborah-brautigam/africa%E2%80%99s-eastern-promise

“Going abroad. The world in their hands. State capitalism looks outward as well as inward.” The Economist Jan 21st 2012
http://www.economist.com/node/21542930/print together with

Dambisa Moyo, Chapter 7, “The Chinese Are Our Friends” pp. 98-113 and Chapter 8, “Let’s Trade”, pp. 114-125 in Dead Aid. Why Aid is Not Working and how there is a better way forward for Africa.

For further reading:


Session 4: Natural Resource Extraction and Human Rights Concerns (Choose one topic and read accordingly)
(Thursday 2 August)

Required readings (Natural Resource Extraction):


Required readings (Human Rights Concerns)


For further reading (Natural Resource Extraction):


For further reading (Human Rights Concerns):


Session 5: Chinese labor issues and Chinese migrants in Africa (Choose one topic and read accordingly) (Tuesday 7 August)

Required readings (Chinese Migrants in Africa)


Required readings (Chinese Labour Issues in Africa)

For further reading (Chinese Migrants in Africa):


For further reading (Chinese labour issues in Africa):


Required readings:
(Read both the Economist piece & the Brookings Institution piece and then CHOOSE ONE of the articles – i.e. read the Rebol, Harris OR Large).

The Chinese in Africa. Trying to pull together. Africans are asking whether China is making their lunch or eating it.” Apr 20th 2011 | NAIROBI | from the print edition found on http://www.economist.com/node/18586448


For further reading:


Christopher Clapham, “Fitting China In” (Chapter 19), pp. 362-370 in Alden et.al. (see above)


Further information about marking criteria for this half of the course AND for the writing assignment will be provided in due course.

Useful websites & blogs
The Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS) at Stellenbosch University (South Africa) is the first institution devoted to the study of China in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Centre promotes the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences between China and Africa. As Africa’s interaction with China increases, the need for greater analysis and understanding between our two regions and peoples grows. This involves evaluating China’s developmental role in Africa that is felt in various capacities ranging from trade and investment to humanitarian assistance. The Centre seeks to fulfill this role. The Centre conducts analysis of China-related research to stakeholders in Government, business, academia and NGO communities.
http://www.ccs.org.za

The South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) China in Africa Project investigates the emerging relationship between China and Africa, analyses the character and content of China’s trade and foreign policy towards the continent, and studies the implications of this strategic co-operation in the political, military, economic and diplomatic fields.

Pambazuka News – Emerging Powers in Africa Watch
‘Pambazuka’ in Kiswahili means the dawn or to arise as a verb. Pambazuka News is produced by a pan-African community of some 2,600 citizens and organisations - academics, policy makers, social activists, women's organisations, civil society organisations, writers, artists, poets, bloggers, and commentators who together produce insightful, sharp and thoughtful analyses and make it one of the largest and most innovative and influential web forums for social justice in Africa. The Emerging Powers News Round-Up, includes a comprehensive list of news stories and opinion pieces related to China, India and other emerging powers.
http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/africa_china/
Former US ambassador **David Shinn** is an adjunct professor; he’s been looking at US-China-Africa relations for the past 4-5 years.  
http://davidshinn.blogspot.com/

**Deborah Brautigam** is a professor in American University's International Development Program in the School of International Service, currently spending 2011-2012 as a visiting fellow at IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute). She’s lived in Asia and Africa, studied Chinese for years, and done research in more than a dozen countries in Africa. In January 2010 she published The Dragon's Gift, a book on Chinese aid and economic engagement in Africa (Oxford University Press -- revised and updated for the paperback edition, published May/June 2011). This blog takes up where that book left off.  
http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com/