



Aid Power and Politics

16-17 October 2018

Elcano Royal Institute, Madrid, Spain

Aims

Development Studies have traditionally approached development cooperation policy from the viewpoint of its impact on partner countries. To a lesser extent, aid policy has also been approached from the perspective of donor countries. The bulk of such analyses have been devoted to exploring the extent to which countries contribute aid according to 'good', altruistic motives (recipient needs and/or merits) or for 'bad', selfish reasons (donors' national interests).

However, the political construction of aid policy (Why is aid policy institutionalised in the first place, and to what extent does this respond to domestic lobbies or to pressures/incentives from the international community?), as well as its political use (Is aid used as an exertion of regional or global power, and is this the path to a relevant role in global governance?) are two topics that have been somewhat neglected by recent research into development studies. This current situation contrasts with early studies on aid policy, which emphasized the political component of international assistance, and also with recent studies on the so-called emerging donors. For some reason, works on the latter topic seem to escape the dominant technical approach to studies of development cooperation, instead delving (for instance) into the role of aid in the exertion of regional power. In short, apart from early studies on international assistance and more recent work on emerging donors, the 'politics' of aid are an under-studied topic in the academic realm, from the theoretical as well as the empirical point of view. More specifically, although the political grounds for aid are present in many academic studies on development cooperation, those grounds are frequently assumed rather than explored.

Aid Power and Politics is a collective book that aims at filling this void by **analysing the domestic political roots of aid policy** as well as **its use as an international relation** from a theoretical and empirical point of view – taking into account the **evolving role** of those roots and uses. This book reconsiders aid policy as part of international relations. It assumes that the domestic-foreign/international/global nexus (through development policy) works in both directions: countries have the capacity to shape global norms but, at the same time, global norms have the capacity to shape the political behaviour of countries.

The **aim of this workshop** is to discuss the book's contents and **engage in a conversation on the politics of aid both among scholars and with practitioners in the fields of foreign policy and global aid.**

Aid Power and Politics

16-17 October 2018

Elcano Royal Institute, Madrid, Spain

Programme

Tuesday, 16 October

9.30-10.00 **Welcome and introduction**

Emilio Lamo de Espinosa, Chairman, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

10.00-11.45 **Session 1: The narratives and norms of international aid**

(1) Contending or evolving narratives of EU aid?

Solidarity and security in the development cooperation discourse

Speakers: **Iliana Olivé & Aitor Pérez**, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Commentator: **Olav Stokke**, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway

(2) The International Politics of Aid: Good Governance and Democracy Promotion

Speaker: **David Williams**, University Queen Mary of London, United Kingdom

Commentator: **Marie Söderberg**, The European Institute of Japanese Studies at Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden

Feedback from practitioners: **Pablo Bustinduy**, Member of Parliament, Podemos, Spain

11.45-12.15 Coffee break

12.15-14.30 **Session 2: Aid as an international relation: a country-based approach (1)**

(1) The determinants of foreign aid: Theoretical arguments and empirical evidence

Speaker: **Gino Pauselli**, University of Pennsylvania, United States

Commentator: **Aitor Pérez**, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

(2) The UK: A history and case-study of an aid super-power at a crossroads

Theoretical Perspectives and Research Agendas

Speaker: **Myles Wickstead**, King's College, United Kingdom

Commentator: **Henry de Cazotte**, former Director at the Agence Française de Développement, France

(3) The US Elites' Consensus on Aid

Speaker: **Henry de Cazotte**, former Director at the Agence Française de Développement, France

Commentator: **Balazs Szent-Ivanyi**, Aston University, United Kingdom

Feedback from practitioners: **Gonzalo Fanjul**, Director, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain

14.30-15.45 Lunch

.../...

15.45-17.30 **Session 3: Global aid and global norms**

(1) Donorship in a state of flux

Speaker: **Liam Swiss**, Memorial University, Canada (*via Skype*)

Commentator: **Myles Wickstead**, King's College, United Kingdom

(2) Development assistance in health: the aid influence framework

Speaker: **Eduardo Missoni**, Bocconi University, Italy (*via Skype*)

Commentator: **Gino Pauselli**, University of Pennsylvania, United States

Feedback from practitioners: **Carlos Iturgaiz**, Member of the European Parliament and Party's Cooperation Secretary, People's Party, Spain

20.30 Dinner

Cristina Gallach, High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, Spain

Charles Powell, Director, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Wednesday, 17 October

09.30-11.45 **Session 4. Aid as an international relation: a country-based approach (1)**

(1) The Scandinavians: Aid policy determinants and performances

Speaker: **Olav Stokke**, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway

Commentator: **David Williams**, University Queen Mary of London, United Kingdom

(2) Spain: the rise and fall of a compliant donor

Speakers: **Iliana Olivíe & Aitor Pérez**, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Commentator: **Krisztina Szabó**, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

(3) While the cat's away, the mice will play? Government-NGO relations and the politics of aid in Hungary

Speakers:

Balazs Szent-Ivanyi, Aston University, United Kingdom

Krisztina Szabo, Central European University, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

Commentator: **Iliana Olivíe**, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

Feedback from practitioners: **Félix Fernández-Shaw**, Director in Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission (*via Skype*)

11.45-12.15 Coffee break

12.15-12.45 **Wrap up, conclusions and next steps**

Iliana Olivíe & Aitor Pérez, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain