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.
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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 Olivié & 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

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**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 Olivié & 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 Olivié**, 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 Olivié & Aitor Pérez, Elcano Royal Institute, Spain