Thinking on Development – Resource List

The Politics of Giving: Philanthropy, Aid and Humanitarian Action in Global Development

These reading materials and discussion questions are designed for colleagues who would like to explore development related issues in the classroom. These resources have been collated to accompany the IGD’s podcast series, Thinking on Development.

Overview

Who funds development projects and how do development donors interact with local organisations? This module is focused on exploring some of the questions we are faced with how development is funded. There are significant political and ethical implications for different types of funding, the types of relationships underpinning funded development programs and the changing relationships between donors and recipients. In particular, the impact of COVID-19 on both development programs, the opportunity for localisation and the financial impact to donors is considered.

Podcast Episode

The podcast episode ‘The Politics of Giving: Philanthropy, Aid and Humanitarian Action in Global Development’ is a core basis for exploring these issues in detail. It is suggested that students listen to this podcast prior to the lesson and come to class with 1-2 reflections or questions about the content. The podcast can be accessed here.

Suggested Reading and Listening

The readings supplement some of the issues raised in the podcast episode above.

Academic Articles


Media Articles and Blog Posts


Discussion Questions
The following questions have been developed to explore some of the issues from the podcast and the readings in more detail.

• What types of organisations fund development and what might their interests be?
• Philanthropy is often considered a form of altruistic giving. How is philanthrocapitalism different?
• Drawing on the podcast episode, the readings and your own thoughts, what might be some critiques of “top-down” development funding? How might this affect development outcomes?
• In the podcast, we heard about the role of philanthropic donors, state-based donors and grassroots engagement in development programming. What are the challenges and benefits associated with each? What do you think is the most effective way of funding development?
• How might COVID-19 affect what resourcing is available for development programming? How do you think development can respond flexibly to these changes?
• Do you think it is important that donors are transparent and accountable when funding development programs? Why/why not?
• How might philanthrocapitalism relate to humanitarian responses such as vaccine rollouts or infrastructure development in developing countries?