

ANTH 320/DEVS 321 People and Development
Small assignment: Seventeenth Annual Global Issues Forum
Fall 2018

DUE: In class October 3.

TOPIC: Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, all member countries of the United Nations signed an agreement to work towards achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. These goals replace the 8 Millennium Development Goals, named in honour of the transition into the third millennium, and that outlined targets that were to have been met by 2015. The SDGs prioritize measures to address poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice, and are intended to apply to all countries. They were developed through a working group of 30 members representing 70 member countries and through consultation with civil society groups. In contrast, the MDGs addressed only the Global South, and were developed by a committee of experts.*

PREPARATION:

Pro: two videos on the UNSDGs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53LtVwXNui0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-xdy1Jr2eg>

CON: this opinion piece from the New Internationalist: <https://newint.org/blog/2015/09/25/un-sdgs-miss-point>

ATTEND THE FORUM:

DATE: 3:45-5:00 Monday 1 October 2018

PLACE: Marie Desmond and Dennis Halls in the Coady International Institute

NOTE: On entry you will be given a number that indicates the group to which you are assigned for discussion.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) In what ways might the SDGs provide a promising path to end global poverty and inequality, and to address climate change?
- 2) In what ways might they veil historical power imbalances, and thus perpetuate these for the future?

Explanation of logistics for the forum:

Students will sit in groups of eight, reflecting the different disciplines present.

Part 1: Students will locate their groups and watch the video excerpt (15 minutes).

Part 2. Each small group will examine the questions (45 minutes).

Part 3. A collective discussion, in which students and faculty raise key points and questions raised in small groups, follows the group discussions (15 minutes).

Submit: a 150- 250 word response to the topic questions, summarizing your opinion AFTER you have attended the forum. Refer specifically to insights from at least two other forum attendees, as well as the videos.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE FORUM AND HAVE EXPLAINED YOUR SITUATION TO ME IN ADVANCE, submit the following assignment: a 150-250 word response to the topic questions, including references both to the preparatory material for the forum and to Kimanthi, H., and P. Hebinck (2018). 'Castle in the sky': The anomaly of the millennium villages project fixing food and markets in Sauri, western Kenya. **Journal of Rural Studies**, 57, 157-170

During and following the Forum we will enjoy some Fair Trade coffee, tea and cookies. Special thanks to the Academic Vice-President, Dr. Kevin Wamsley, the Dean of Business, Dr. Time Hynes and the Dean of Business, Dr. Karen Brebner, as well as the Development Studies Program for their generous support of this important event.

Additional reading:

Easterley, William (2015) The SDGs should stand for Senseless, Dreamy, Garbled. **Foreign Policy**.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/28/the-sdgs-are-utopian-and-worthless-mdgs-development-rise-of-the-rest/>

Fletcher, Robert and Crelis Rammelt (2017) Decoupling: A Key Fantasy of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. **Globalizations**, 14:3, 450-467

Freistein, Katja and Bettina Mahler (2016) The potential for tackling inequality in the Sustainable Development Goals. **Third World Quarterly**, 37:12, 2139-2155

Kimanthi, H., and P. Hebinck (2018). 'Castle in the sky': The anomaly of the millennium villages project fixing food and markets in Sauri, western Kenya. **Journal of Rural Studies**, 57, 157-170.

Spann, Michael (2017) Politics of Poverty: The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Business of Agriculture. **Globalizations**, 14:3, 360-378

Weber, Heloise (2017) Politics of 'Leaving No One Behind': Contesting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, **Globalizations**, 14:3, 399-414

* Sources:

Wikipedia (2018) "Sustainable Development Goals."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_Development_Goals

WikiProgress (2016) "How do the SDGs differ from the MDGs?"

<http://wikiprogress.org/articles/poverty-development/how-do-the-sdgs-differ-from-the-mdgs/>

United Nations (n.d.) Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>