



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

IDS, UoN@50 Essay Competition

Rethinking Development and Development Studies in the Post-2015 Era

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi was established in 1965 as part of the then University of East Africa. Since its inception, IDS has carried out research on issues of development concern to Kenya and Africa, collaborating with partners globally to produce knowledge, and to influence policy and practice. Several objectives have guided the conduct of research at the IDS: policy relevance, need to generate interdisciplinary knowledge, desire to establish collaborative networks, demand for academic publications and the need to produce teaching materials.

IDS is a leading site of development thinking and planning through the debates on national development priorities, dependency and underdevelopment, rural development, industrialization, labour and the informal economy. The Institute has deliberately worked through political economy analysis seeking in the process to understand how class and gender relations interface with core aspects of development. At least five core thematic areas within the broad rubric of development studies have easily emerged. They include development thinking and practice; African democracy and development dilemmas; mobility, access and urbanization processes in Africa; security and peace building in Africa and Africa's changing economies and demography. The importance of these thematic areas in the national, regional and international development arena marks out IDS as a key contributor to development thinking. Yet, the nature of knowledge produced and its implication still demand that we address the question of its relevance to policy initiatives geared towards addressing the pressing needs of ordinary people.

Several activities have been lined up to mark the Institute's 50th anniversary. Key among these is an international conference from November 18th to 21st at the University of Nairobi on *Rethinking Development and Development Studies in the Post 2015 Era*. The idea of the conference is to investigate the relationship of development thought to development practice but with an eye to how that relationship facilitates a people-centred development agenda. To this end, the Institute is also calling for Essay Competition from students of development studies or other related disciplines. While focusing on the conference's overall theme, the essays should revolve around the following thematic areas:-

- a) Development thinking and practice: a retrospective and prospective look;
 - i. The nature of development thinking past and present
 - ii. The prospect for a more inclusive development practice
 - iii. Higher Education and Development
- b) Democracy and development dilemmas;
 - i. Democratisation Process: Challenges and Prospects
 - ii. Devolved Governance and Development
- c) Mobility, Access and urbanisation processes in Africa;
- d) Security and Peace building in Africa: towards a new architecture
- e) Africa's changing economies and demography
 - i. Youth and Unemployment
 - ii. Gender and Development
 - iii. Innovation and Development
 - iv. Informal sector and Development
 - v. Climate Change and Environment
 - vi. Data revolution and Development

Three best essays will be selected for presentation at the Conference and subsequent publication alongside other selected academic papers presented at the conference. Essay should be between 3000 and 5000 words including an abstract of 150 words and references. It should also be written in a general readership language and formatted as follows: font type: Arial, font size: 11, font colour: black, left: justified, page size: A4 and margin: 1" all round. This call is only applicable to students from East African Community Member States.

Submission deadline: 15thSeptember 2015 and should be send via email to the address ids50conference@uonbi.ac.ke and cc to ids50conference@gmail.com.

Winners will be notified not later than 15thOctober 2015