PPHA 35575 - Diversity and inclusion in international development policy: Using data for more inclusive development policies (Draft reading list)

Prof: Mareike Schomerus/

This course is taught by a team from the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics in Nairobi, Kenya.

W: 9:10am-12:10pm CT
Zoom (Link on Canvas)
Office Hours: XX, via signing up page
Contact office hours; Slack

Teaching Assistants:

Overview

Evidence-based policy is only as good as the data that underpins the evidence. However, current approaches to data-gathering often contribute to systematic exclusion and perpetuate existing power relationships in international development. Exclusive data can render whole groups of people—for example, women or minorities—invisible for the policy process. This is particularly true for so-called ‘hard-to-reach’ populations who are supposed to benefit most from international development.

Identifying how unrepresentative and flawed data leads to exclusive policies requires data literacy that foregrounds a justice-based approach in data collection and analysis. This course offers students theoretical and hands-on practical learning to understand what is required to make data inclusive, how to engage with those whose data is collected in ethical ways and through what mechanisms inclusive data can create policies that support diversity and inclusion. The course is taught as a lab in collaboration with researchers and data scientists from the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics in Kenya and India.

Course objectives

The objective of this course is to sharpen students’ data literacy through hands-on experiences of designing and implementing inclusive research practices and determining the policy impact of such practices.

Specific learning objectives are to

- Identify how data relates to systemic problems of exclusion and inclusion in evidence-based international development policies and programmes and recognise how different research theories and philosophies, research methodologies and unconscious biases contribute to these.
- Apply perspective-taking exercises as well as develop and test data collection
practices that counter exclusion through participatory and justice-based approaches.

- Analyse, determine and demonstrate how inclusive research practices could change international development policies and programmes.

**Reading and other sources**

Over the course, we will be reading two books in their entirety. In some weeks the specific chapters that are relevant for that week are listed as supplemental reading—but trust me, these books are so good you’ll want to finish them anyway. These are


We will also be reading two novels:


The rest of the reading is a mix of academic articles, so-called grey literature, blogs and a few things to watch.

**Week 1 (Jan 6): What do you know? Data and international development**

**Required reading**


**Watch**


**Supplemental reading**


**Week 2 (Jan 13): Are you thinking what I’m thinking? Power, bias and
difference

Required reading


Blogs


Watch


Supplemental reading


Week 3 (Jan 20): Can you repeat the question, please? How research methods create reality

Required reading


**Blogs**


**Supplemental reading**


**Week 4 (Jan 27): What am I missing? Inclusion and vulnerability**

**Required reading**


**Blog**

**Supplemental reading**


**Week 5 (Feb 3): What do you think? Dignity and Empathy**

**Required reading**


**Watch**


**Supplemental reading**


**Week 6 (Feb 10): Practicum**

**Required reading**


Daley, Kathryn. 2015. ‘The Wrongs of Protection: Balancing Protection and Participation in

**Blogs**


**Supplemental reading**


**Week 6 (Feb 10): Practicum**

**Required reading**


**Watch**


**Week 8 (Feb 24): How did it go? Reflections from the Practicum**

**Required reading**


**Blog**


**Week 9 (March 3): What I would like to know is this: Questions to practitioners and policy makers**

**Required reading**


**Week 10 (March 10): Why does it matter? Better policy through better data**

**Required reading**


**Supplemental reading**