



## Invitation

### Development Research Conference

### ***Theme: Global Visions and Local Practices*** ***Development Research in a Post-2015 World***

Stockholm, August 22-24, 2016

[www.su.se/devres2016](http://www.su.se/devres2016)

#### *First circular*

#### **AIM**

The aim with this conference is to provide a multi-disciplinary forum for networking and intellectual exchange among scholars who conduct research in and of relevance to low-income countries and/or engage in capacity-building collaborations. Researchers and research students will present ongoing and completed research, including projects funded by Sida and the Swedish Research Council. The conference also intends to offer a platform for dialogue and strengthen the relation between development research and policy makers.

#### **THEME**

Development visions have gained momentum with the setting up of a new global agenda. While significant international consensus was attained around a set of normative goals (the SDG's), their materialization calls for serious reflection. One critical set of challenges relates to bridging global goals and visions, on the one hand, and local practices, realities and conditions, on the other. Ultimately, the outcomes of this global agenda depend upon the processes through which it is implemented and embedded in concrete settings. Global visions are modified by local contexts, producing a range of unintended and diverse outcomes. Local settings are characterized by an immense diversity in modes of life, physical environments and technical systems, which invites a consideration of a diversity of paths towards improved futures. Actors at the local level may embrace, appropriate or resist global agendas. Opportunities and risks for marginalized and vulnerable groups – the key targets of the new global agenda – are of particular concern. Also important is how their own innovations and everyday practices in a wide range of spheres (environmental, health, social and other practices) can be harnessed, their capacities and knowledges mobilized and how they can influence strategies and interventions seeking to materialize global development goals.

An emphasis on the encounter between current global visions and local contexts does not, however, entail that the great global-local challenges of our time can be solved at one specific scale. It rather

actualizes long-standing questions about processes, structures and relations at multiple scales that work against, or alternatively open new avenues towards more just and sustainable futures.

There is an acute need for reflection concerning the role of knowledge production in the new policy context. How can the competences of a broad and diverse Swedish academic community be mobilized and shape Swedish global policies and interventions? Can opportunities for critical independent research be secured? Researchers may contribute to the development of indicators, to the assessment of opportunities, risks and impacts relating to the new global agenda, but they may also reflect upon the assumptions and notions of progress underlying their own work and the new agenda and its implementation.

Keynote speakers will be invited to address this thematic area.

**The conference is inviting panel proposals from all disciplinary backgrounds**, on a range of thematic areas that relate directly or indirectly to the theme outlined above. Examples include: food and water, health, energy, infrastructure, education, poverty & inequality, gender, employment/work, urbanity, conflict/peace, climate, environment and biodiversity.

#### **DEADLINE FOR PANEL PROPOSALS: 25 January 2016**

Panel proposals should be submitted to [devres2016@humangeo.su.se](mailto:devres2016@humangeo.su.se). Panel proposals should be 300 words long and include content and form, the convener's affiliation, contact details and preferably discipline. The proposing conveners accept full responsibility for the organization of their panel. Presenters/papers should not be listed at this stage, as these will be selected following an open call for paper abstracts to be circulated later. The Organizing Committee will decide upon and announce the final list of panels by mid-February on the conference web page.

#### **DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: 21 March 2016**

Once the list of accepted panels is available, a new call will be circulated and abstracts will be invited – details concerning submission will be provided then. Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to the panel convener and to the conference organizers. Some travel funding for collaborating partners from a selection of countries will be available and can be applied for in connection with abstract submission.

#### **REGISTRATION – deadline 23 June 2016**

Registration is to be done through the conference web page. There will be no registration fee, but the participants will have to cover their own costs of travel and lodging. Registration will open in mid-April.

#### **VENUE**

The Conference will be held at Stockholm University Campus, not far from the center of Stockholm, in the Aula Magna and the Geo Sciences Building.

#### **LANGUAGE**

English.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

On the conference web page there will be suggestions concerning accommodation and other important information: [www.su.se/devres2016](http://www.su.se/devres2016)

**Conference administration:**

Questions concerning registration, technical arrangements and logistics should be sent to [devresreg@konf.su.se](mailto:devresreg@konf.su.se), Conference Services at Stockholm University.

For inquiries relating to the conference program, content and sessions: E-mail: [devres2016@humangeo.su.se](mailto:devres2016@humangeo.su.se), Lena Fält, Tel. +46 (0)8 164842.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Ilda Lindell (chair), Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University

Lisa Román, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Anna Herou, the Swedish Research Council

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Steve Lyon, Stockholm University

David Nilsson, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Cecilia Stålsby Lundborg, Karolinska Institutet

Lena Fält (conference administrator), Stockholm University

**The conference is organized by Stockholm University, the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).**