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Bringing Developing Country Science Journalists into the Mainstream

More than 700 journalists from around the world are meeting this week in London to debate critical issues at the [6th World Conference of Science Journalists](#). DFID helps fund the [World Federation of Science Journalists](#) and the conference.

Science has a crucial role to play in international development, and science journalists are important catalysts in the process of exploring and explaining this role. But they face many challenges. These include lack of access to science research, inadequate skills to engage with complex science, and editorial policies which inhibit active reporting.

DFID is running a lunchtime session on Thursday 2 July which explores the barriers faced by southern journalists, called 'Friendship or Friction: How the media relates to the research community'. The aim of the session, chaired by Head of Research Chris Whitty, is to debate the practical challenges faced by each community, and showcase techniques used by DFID-funded research to communicate science.

Other highlights of this year's event include:

- An AIDS vaccine: Mission impossible? (panel discussion)
- Global uncertainties: Security for all in a changing world
- Science-based policymaking: Advising government

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New Research Documents

Health and Fragile States

Eldis, web dossier, 2009

With some of the worst health indicators and the least adequate health services in the world, providing health services and rebuilding health systems in fragile states is a complex undertaking. This health and fragile states dossier highlights the challenges and approaches to delivering health services in fragile states.

Mapping UK Muslim Development NGOs

Mohammed Ralf Kroessin, Religions and Development Research Programme Working Paper No. 30, 2009, 29 pages

Relatively little information is available in the public realm about the values and ways of operating of UK-based Muslim organisations working in the field of relief and development, or their relationships with government and other organisations. This mapping of UK Muslim NGOs sought to address this basic knowledge gap, by identifying information and exploring variables such as their mission, size, networks, programmatic and geographical foci. In addition, some broader observations about the role and relevance of this type of faith-based organization are made.

Staying Behind When Husbands Move: Women's experiences in India and Bangladesh

Deeptima Massey, Migration, Globalisation and Poverty Working Paper No.18, 2009, 4 pages

This briefing summarises the effects of the temporary absence of migrant men on women's livelihoods in rural West Bengal, India, and northern Bangladesh. This often increases insecurity in poor women and children, leading to food shortages, financial pressure or ill-health. Informal social protection from kin or social relations can be instrumental in reducing and overcoming insecurity and hardship. The temporary absence of migrant men can also sometimes facilitate greater autonomy for women, allowing them to manage their own work and take decisions on household needs.

Nanotechnology and Development News: Water and development summary compilation

Meridian Institute, 2009, 38 pages

A compilation of all the water-related news summaries from *Nanotechnology and Development News*. The index lists the summaries by application (nanofiltration, desalination, nanoparticles for the catalytic degradation of water pollutants, magnetic nanoparticles for water treatment and remediation, nanosensors for detection of contaminants and pathogens), implications (sustainability of nanotechnology for developing countries; environmental, health, and social implications of nanotechnology), and by geographic regions.

Scaling up Stigma? The effects of antiretroviral treatment on stigma: Early evidence from rural Tanzania

M. Roura, M. Urassa, J. Busza, et al., Conference paper abstract, AIDS 2008 — XVII International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, 3–8 August 2008

This qualitative study investigated the new dynamics between AIDS stigmas, antiretroviral provision, and HIV test uptake two years after the introduction of free antiretroviral therapy (ART) in a rural ward of North Tanzania. It found that the persistence of blaming attitudes and emergence of new sources of stigma feed into stubbornly high levels of HIV denial and counter-balance the potential positive impact of HIV normalization on HIV test uptake, and that vigorous grassroots interventions are necessary to ensure the local acceptability of therapy.

Transnational Agrarian Movements Struggling for Land and Citizenship Rights

S.M. Borras Jr. and J.C. Franco, IDS Working Paper No.323, 2009, 47 pages

Rural citizens have increasingly begun to invoke perceived citizenship rights at transnational level, such that rural citizen engagement today has the potential to generate new meanings of global citizenship. La Vía Campesina has advocated for, created and occupied a new citizenship space that did not exist before at the global governance terrain – a public space distinct for poor peasants and small farmers from the global South and North. One of the outcomes is that the public space created and occupied by various civil society groups was expanded and became much more complex.

Stupid and Expensive? A critique of the costs-of-violence literature

F. Gutierrez-Sanin, Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper No.48 (Series 2), 2009, 30 pages

This paper considers the impact of war and violence from a economic development perspective, highlighting often disregarded conceptual issues and outlining distinctions between bullionist, deadweight and distributive approaches. It examines key trends from the literature, using Colombia and Peru as case studies. The author concludes that a more careful approach to the data when assessing the costs of war could assist in understanding how and why war may sometimes lead to patterns of increased growth and welfare in certain cases and could better inform policy interventions.

Children in Times of Economic Crisis: Past lessons, future policies

C. Harper, N. Jones, A. McKay, and J. Espey, ODI Background Note, 2009, 12 pages

This note discusses how economic shocks, in particular the current economic downturn, affect the wellbeing of children. What can be done to mitigate harm? These questions are explored, and a framework for analysing the impact of shocks on children in different contexts is presented, along with suggestions for initial policy implications.

A Practical Approach to Identifying Maternal Deaths Missed from Routine Hospital Reports: Lessons from Indonesia

Siti Nurul Qomariyah, J.S. Bell, E.S. Pambudi, et al., Global Health Action (2009) Vol.2, 5 pages

Accurate estimates of the number of maternal deaths in both the community and facility are important in order to allocate adequate resources to address such deaths. Current studies show that routine methods of identifying maternal deaths in facilities underestimate the number by more than one-half. This study tested the RAPID method and found that it provides a more complete estimate of hospital maternal mortality than routine reporting systems.

Evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health's enquiry into Maternal Morbidity

2008, 8 pages

The Realising Rights research programme consortium responded to the call from the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health for evidence on the topic of maternal morbidity. This submission concentrates on three main areas: the urgent need to put in place interventions and services to prevent unwanted pregnancies and improve sexual and reproductive health; research findings on the costs associated with unsafe abortions; and information on the scale of the problem of congenital syphilis and entry points for improving action in this area.

Natural Resources and Chronic Poverty in India: A Review of issues and evidence

Amita Shah, CPRC and IIPA Working Paper No.43, 2009, 35 pages

Natural resources perform multiple functions as a driver, maintainer, potential exit route, and also an effective escape mechanism in the context of poverty dynamics, especially in a predominantly agrarian economy such as India. The discourse on poverty reduction however, has often overlooked some of the major concerns of natural resource management, despite recognising the criticality of agricultural growth for reducing rural poverty in the country. This overview of the interface between natural resources and poverty in India and pleads for better equity and sustainability in resource management by ensuring sustained investment in support institutions at various levels.

Paid Work, Women's Empowerment and Gender Justice: Critical pathways of social change Naila Kabeer, Pathways of Women's Empowerment Working Paper 3, 2008, 121 pages

The focus on the transformative potential of paid work can be seen as one strand in a broader research agenda on the material dimensions of women's empowerment, an agenda which would also include women's property rights, access to credit, social transfers, skills training and other kinds of economic resources. However, different resources have their own forms of materiality in that the changes associated with them are likely to take concrete shape through somewhat different pathways in women's lives.

Small NGO Schools in India: Implications for access and innovation

N. Blum, *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, (2009) 39(2), 10 pages

NGOs play an important role in providing educational services, especially in un-served and under-served communities. This paper critically examines the nature and potential of NGO provision of primary schooling in India. It argues that NGO programmes can have positive impacts in terms of both access and quality because the programmes are small-scale and locally rooted, and their organisation allows for greater flexibility and room for innovation in areas such as curriculum design, teacher education, and school networking than is commonly possible within government schools.

Developing Effective Mental Health Policies and Plans in Africa: 7 key lessons

Mental Health Policy and Service Development, World Health Organization, 3 pages

This review of the mental health policies and plans of four African countries was undertaken as part of the Mental Health and Poverty Project (MHaPP). Using the WHO checklist on mental health policy and plans, the policies of Ghana, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia were analysed. Seven key lessons emerged that may be useful for other low and middle-income countries undertaking policy reform.

Sanofi-aventis and DNDi Enter into a Collaboration Agreement on a New Drug for Sleeping Sickness, Fexinidazole 2009

A new agreement has been signed for the development, manufacturing and distribution of fexinidazole, a new drug for the treatment of human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness).

Farmers' Perceptions Lead to Experimentation and Learning

P. Mapfumo, R. Chikowo, F. Mtambanengwe, *LEISA Magazine* 24.4, December 2008, 2 pages

'Learning centres' in seven African countries — Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe — are identifying opportunities for adaptation, based on farmers' perceptions of climatic changes. Together, researchers, farmers and extension agents are experimenting with crop varieties and soil fertility improvements. This paper presents the initial results, conducted under the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme.

Rejecting 'Cultural' Justifications for Violence Against Women: Strategies for mobilising state, society and the international community

Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC), consultation paper presented at 'Culture', Women, Violence: Rejecting 'cultural' justifications for violence against women, 26 November, 2007, Istanbul, 180 pages

This consultation paper deals with three key areas: (1) responses of the international community in addressing the perpetuation of violence against women through 'cultural' justifications; (2) structural opportunities and challenges encountered in the process of trying to eliminate violence excused by reference to 'culture'; and (3) strategies for countering 'cultural' excuses for violence against women.

Growth Long-term Action Research Studies (LARS)

Eva Ludi, RiPPLE information sheet, 2009, 1 page

The Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region (RiPPLE) project has initiated a LARS on growth, focusing on how investments in water and sanitation services can contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor growth; where the barriers are; and what linkages to other sectors need to be developed for this to happen.

Pregnancy-related School Dropout and Prior School Performance in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
M.J. Grant and H. Hallman, *Studies in Family Planning* (2008) 39(4), 13 pages

This study from the Addressing the Balance of Burden in HIV/AIDS (ABBA) research programme uses data from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to examine the factors associated with schoolgirl pregnancy and subsequent educational pathways. We find that prior schooling discontinuities — instances of non-pregnancy-related grade repetition or temporary withdrawals from school — are strongly associated with a young woman's likelihood of later becoming pregnant while enrolled in school, dropping out of school if she becomes pregnant, and not returning to school following a pregnancy-related dropout.

Setting up your own Science Journalists' Association

B. Drillsma, World Federation of Science Journalists, 2007, 76 pages

This handbook describes how to set up and maintain an association of science journalists. The aim of the booklet is to give a basic idea of what needs to be considered when setting up a science journalists' group and to offer helpful suggestions and practical tips on how to get it off the ground.

Communications Success Stories: Mainstreaming research findings to lessen poverty
Scriptoria Communications, RIU, 2009, 36 pages

This booklet is for communications officers, researchers, extension workers, project managers, policy makers and others responsible for disseminating research findings in developing countries. It comprises 16 successful examples of communications methods which have been used to mainstream research findings in Africa and Asia. Each story shows how targeted communication, carried out well, can really make a difference to poor farmers and rural communities. Examples include radio, television, ICTs, drama, and working with groups, children, and face-to-face.

Mapping Meritocracy: Intersecting gender, poverty and higher educational opportunity structures

L. Morley and K. Lussier, paper presented at SRHE Annual Conference 2008, 'Valuing Higher Education', Liverpool, 9–11 December 2008, 11 pages

Widening participation in higher education can be a force for democratisation. It can also map on to elite practices and contribute to further differentiation of social groups. Those without social capital can remain untouched by initiatives to facilitate their entry into the privileges that higher education can offer. We demonstrate how current opportunity structures reflect traditional beliefs about meritocracy and reproduce privilege and exclusion. We argue that when gender is intersected with socio-economic status, participation rates of poorer women are seen to be extremely low in both African countries.

Children Combining Work and Education in Cottonseed Production in Andhra Pradesh: Implications for discourses of children's rights in India

V. Morrow and U. Vennam, Young Lives Working Paper 50, 2009, 32 pages

Child labour in India has long been the focus of research, policy concern and intervention. This paper presents a preliminary analysis of children's work in cottonseed production in Andhra Pradesh, drawing on evidence from two case studies. In parts of rural Andhra Pradesh, children work in the cotton fields for two to three months of the school year. Children highlighted the importance of this work in their everyday lives and its consequences for their schooling. The paper discusses the implications of the research for discourses related to children's rights in India.

Private Standards: A personal perspective from a training service provider

H. Wainwright and L. Labuschagne, Fresh Perspectives Issue 32, IIED, 2008, 2 pages

This opinion paper aims to provide a personal view on the impacts and conditions for success of private standards in crop production, from the viewpoint of people who undertake training in support of GlobalGAP in Kenya. It is suggested that in future Africa might have its own corporate social responsibility standard to primarily benefit Africa rather than retailers in Europe.

SPLASH Newsletter 5, March 2009

Water Science and Technology for the Developing World (SPLASH), 5 pages

This newsletter contains information on events, the SPLASH website, programme outputs, and a special feature on 'Engagement of main actors in the design and management of demand-led research programmes'.

APPP Working Paper No 1. Accountability: The core concept and its subtypes

S.I. Lindberg, Africa Power and Politics Programme (APPP) Working Paper No.1, 2009, 25 pages

Accountability is a central concept in comparative politics. Yet its growing popularity in a number of applied fields, including development policy, has resulted in a dilution of its content and introduced an undesirable semantic confusion. It may still be possible to recover from this, by resisting 'conceptual stretching' as recommended by Giovanni Sartori. This paper contributes with a synthesized approach based on a widely recognised set of core features of accountability, and provides a typology of subtypes with examples. Implications for empirical research are included.

A Misguided Quest: Community-based tourism in Latin America

J. Mitchell and P. Muckosy, ODI Opinion Paper 102, 2008, 2 pages

Tourism can help reduce poverty in Latin America, but community-based tourism (CBT) is not the answer. Instead, communities should be helped to access mainstream tourism markets. Many communities and development practitioners believe that mainstream tourism exacerbates the exclusion of vulnerable groups and commodifies indigenous culture. But enthusiasm for CBT (collective ownership and management) is misplaced because CBT rarely relieves poverty and vulnerability, and mainstream tourism may have a more beneficial impact than traditionally thought.

Budgeting Implications for ATI Legislation: The Mexican case

A. Hernández-Valdez, World Bank Institute Access to Information Working Paper Series, 2009, 42 pages

This paper analyses the budgeting implications of implementing access to information (ATI) legislation in Mexico. Any policy process is characterised by adoption and implementation phases. In the case of ATI policies, the adoption phase generally ends with the approval of an ATI law, and thus budgeting is passed on entirely to the implementation phase. Using the Mexican case, this paper focuses on the issues that must be taken into account for planning budgetary needs before and after passing legislation.

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Recent News Stories

Why women shun antenatal care

The Uganda Daily Monitor reported on the work by researchers from the Makerere University School of Public Health, a Future Health Systems RPC partner, who examined women's perceptions of antenatal care and delivery care services. The study found that the main factors that affect uptake of antenatal services and use of formal delivery care are the cost of transport, informal fees, demands for requirements such as gloves, and the poor attitude of the providers. The team are looking at ways of making maternal health care more accessible to the poor, including trialling a voucher mechanism.

Makutano Junction is 'outstanding'

Makutano Junction, the DFID-supported television drama based on the lives of a host of colourful characters in a fictitious Kenyan village, was shortlisted for the prestigious One World Media Award. The soap opera was set up to feature information on education, sustainable rural livelihoods and health in an informative yet entertaining manner. It is broadcast in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and in Kenya alone has 7 million regular viewers.

World Food Prize goes to Ethiopian researcher

The Ethiopian researcher Gebisa Ejeta has been awarded the 2009 World Food prize. Dr Ejeta began working on sorghum in the 1970s, and in the early 1980s whilst working at the DFID-funded International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) he developed the drought-resistant and high-yield cultivar, Hageen Dura-1, the first ever commercial hybrid sorghum in Africa. He subsequently worked on Striga, a deadly parasitic weed which devastates farmers' crops and severely limits food availability. The \$250,000 prize will be presented in October.

New fund for innovative knowledge sharing launched by AfricaAdapt

Africa's poor and vulnerable communities rarely have the opportunity to share their valuable experience and learn from others in broader or more formal exchanges of knowledge on climate change adaptation. The AfricaAdapt network (funded by the DFID/ IDRC Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme), launches its new Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund to promote new ways of sharing knowledge. The Fund will offer grants of up to US\$10,000 to projects that seek to overcome barriers to share knowledge with 'hard to reach' or marginalised African communities.

Understanding Young Lives in Peru

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) will contribute nearly US\$60,000 to the DFID-supported Young Lives programme for a project looking at early childhood development in Peru. The project, which was developed by Young Lives partners at Oxford University, GRADE, and IIN, was selected as part of an international call for research on Improving Early Childhood Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The team of researchers in Oxford and Lima includes experts in economics, child development, psychology and nutrition.

Farmers help to identify how to adapt to climate change

Farmers in Africa are helping to identify alternative farming practices that will help them adapt to climate change. The Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme is working with smallholder farmers in Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe – countries from a range of different climatic zones. Learning centres have been established in each country where researchers, extension workers and suppliers of agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, work together with farmers to identify interventions that could help minimise vulnerability to climate change.

Communication Success Stories: Mainstreaming research findings to lessen poverty

Examples of communication methods that have been successfully used to mainstream research findings in Africa and Asia have been compiled into an online resource booklet, 'Communication Success Stories - Mainstreaming Research Findings to Lessen Poverty', by the DFID-funded Research into Use programme. Communication officers, researchers, extension workers, project managers, and policymakers will all find ideas for disseminating findings, including working with radio, tv, internet kiosks, mobile phones, telecentres, drama groups, cartoon booklets and face to face.

Science as a political tool? Don't even think about it!

'Forget about using science to achieve political goals; it doesn't even work.' That was the stark message delivered by DFID's new head of research, Chris Whitty (and reported by SciDev.net). Whitty delivered what he described as a 'hymn of praise' for the role of science in international development, but was scornful of efforts to use scientific and technical assistance to achieve broader political goals such as increasing influence or even contributing to social stability, both of which he included among 'less good reasons' to engage in science in developing countries, 'because they don't work,' he said.

Egypt's first conditional cash transfers scheme

Conditional cash transfers (CCT) schemes are a form of social assistance intended to break the cycle of poverty in poor families. A pilot scheme was launched in Egypt in the Cairene slum of Ain es-Sira in March 2009 with support from the DFID-funded Pathways of Women's Empowerment Consortium. As part of this programme, cash transfers are given to female heads-of-households in exchange for attendance at gender and life-skills workshops, and adequate healthcare and schooling for children.

Current Crises and New Opportunities: Registration now open for the 2009 DSA Conference

Registration is invited for the Development Studies Association (DSA) Conference 2009, 'Current Crises and New Opportunities'. Funded by DFID, the conference will be held at the University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus, 2-4 September, 2009. The three plenary sessions are on highly relevant themes: The Global Financial Crisis, Climate Change and Energy, and Clashing Values.

Food, health and adaptation to climate change in East and Southern Africa. An IDRC call

IDRC's The Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health Program (Ecohealth - www.idrc.ca/ecohealth) have announced a call for concept notes on food, health and adaptation to climate change. Concept notes should entail research and capacity-building activities that use ecosystem approaches to human health to help understand and address health vulnerabilities related to food and nutritional security or food safety arising from climate change and climate variability in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Help for sick plants in Katine

If you get sick with an unknown illness, then you seek medical advice from a local doctor or health clinic. But what happens if the crops on which your livelihood depends become diseased? Who do you turn to? A recent *Guardian* article describes how farmers with ailing crops in Katine, north-east Uganda, can now attend a 'hospital for crops'. For almost three years mobile plant clinics, funded by CABI's Global Plant Clinic (GPC) project and the Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organisation (SOCADIDO), have been visiting the Katine market every fortnight.

STIs and HIV in Pakistan: From analysis to action

Understanding sexual health and rights, and identifying feasible and appropriate interventions for improving sexual health and wellbeing, benefits from a multidisciplinary approach. A recent study from Realising Rights, published as a special issue in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, seeks to understand the drivers of sexually transmitted infections in Pakistan. A survey conducted in Pakistan included almost 2,000 sex workers (male, female and transgender) and injecting drug users from two cities in the Punjab and North West Frontier Province.

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