



FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

EC-UNDP Kapuscinski Development Lecture at Utrecht University

Natural Resource Extraction after COVID: Social Justice Challenges

by

Prof. dr. Anthony Bebbington

International Director, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ford Foundation

Summary:

Global Witness's annual reports on the killings of environmental defenders are but one, awful, indication of the social injustices that can accompany the extraction of natural resources from the subsoil and from forests. The struggle for social justice in these environments has become yet more difficult under COVID, all the more so given the impacts of COVID on indigenous populations in many of these environments. These challenges seem likely to intensify downstream of COVID in the face of economic reactivation policies, closing civic space, the search for energy transition minerals, and a politics of urgency that risks undermining a politics of social justice. In this talk I explore some of these trends and the challenges they present to civil society and to philanthropies that support civil society. I will refer especially to the experience of the Ford Foundation, while also making a broader argument.

About the speaker

Anthony Bebbington has had a distinguished career as a scholar, a researcher, teacher, policy analyst, and advocate. He was Director of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University from 2010 to 2017, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2009 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014. In addition to a long career in academia at Clark University, University of Melbourne, University of Manchester, and University of Colorado, he also held leadership positions at the World Bank and at non-profit think tanks focused on natural resources and development, including the International Institute for Environment and Development and Overseas Development Institute, both in London. Over the last ten years, Bebbington has served as an advisor to Ford in numerous capacities which helped inform our work on resource extraction and governance.

About the discussant

Veena Srinivasan is a Senior Fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, where she leads the Centre for Social and Environmental Innovation. Veena's recent research has focused on understanding anthropogenic and climatic influences in urbanizing watersheds and identifying appropriate policies and adaptation measures. Veena has won several awards for her work and was the holder of The Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity from 2018 to 2021.

Venue: Hybrid Event - Livestream from Muntgebouw Utrecht

Registration Online event (Free): <https://www.formdesk.com/universiteitutrecht-geo/form44>



Programme*:

13.45-14.00: Arrival and coffee - UU IDS & SD-ID Students & Staff

Start of online event:

14.00-.14.15: Welcome and opening by Jan Szczycinski (EC-UNDP) Wilco Hazeleger (Dean Geosciences) and Annelies Zoomers (International Development Studies)

14.15-15.00: LECTURE BY ANTHONY BEBBINGTON, followed by Q & A

15.00-16.00 : Discussion with Veena Srinivasan, discussant

End of online event

16.00-17.00: Drinks and reception – UU IDS & SD-ID Students & Staff

Background

This Kapuscinski Development Lecture Series is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and Utrecht University, the Netherlands. The lecture is funded by the European Commission.

Top global thinkers discuss development in the European Union countries and beyond. The series “Kapuscinski Development Lectures”, named for Ryszard Kapuscinski, a Polish reporter and writer who covered developing countries, is organized jointly by the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and partner universities and development think-tanks. Over 100 lectures gathered since 2009 over 30,000 participants.

The lecture series offers students from the European Union member states an unprecedented opportunity to learn and discuss about development issues such as climate change, human rights, aid effectiveness, Europe-Africa relations, Sustainable Development Goals among other. The high-level events contribute to the debate and formulation of the European development policy. The lectures are livestreamed at <http://www.kapuscinskilectures.eu> and their content is shared on this website.

The lectures honor the name of Kapuscinski, a Polish journalist and writer, who died in 2007. Kapuscinski, whose books were translated into many languages, was often named the “Third World Chronicler” or the “Voice of the Poor” for his famous reportages and books describing developing countries on all continents. Among other books, he was famous for: “The Emperor” on Ethiopia, “Shah of Shahs” about Iran, “The Shadow of the Sun” about Africa, “Another Day of Life” about Angola, and “Imperium” about the Soviet Union. More about “Kapuscinski Development Lectures” and planned events: <http://kapuscinskilectures.eu>.

**Due to COVID restrictions UU International Development Studies and Sustainable Development Students and Staff will be present at the live event at the Muntgebouw. From this location, we will livestream the lecture to all other participants.*