

SEMINAR TITLE

The Developmental State and Democratisation

Place: UWC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT (Room 1G)

Date: Thursday 14 June

09h00 to 14h00

SEMINAR

The aim of the seminar is to discuss the much used and little understood notion of the “Developmental State”. The apartheid regime frequently visited Taiwan and understood that it was one of the most successful developmental states in the world. But before they could implement their learning’s, the ‘small’ matter of democracy overtook them. The post apartheid regime could be described as being somewhat ‘besotted’ with the Chinese development model. It is thus almost an accident of history that at UWC we managed to get a person who is one of the world’s leading scholars on land and property reform, and social activism, in both Taiwan and China. This seminar is arranged around You-tien with papers from local scholars who have, and are still grappling with development and social activism issues.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

09h00	Welcome – Andries du Toit (Plaas)
09h15	You-tien Hsing – Taiwan: A Post-Developmental State?
10h15	Stephen Gelb (UJ) – The Developmental State in SA: What is possible?
10h45	Tea
11h00	Discussion
11h30	Lisa Thompson and Sharon Penderis (UWC) – Citizenship and participation issues relating to the notion of the developmental state
11h50	Nico Cloete – From the Perspective of Higher Education South Africa is a Pre-Developmental State?
12h15	Discussion
12h45	Comments – You-tien Hsing
13h00	Closure – Andries du Toit
13h15	Finger lunch



Biographies

You-tien Hsing is Professor of Geography at the University of California at Berkeley. She is the author of *Making Capitalism in China: The Taiwan Connection* (Oxford University Press, 1998), *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China* (Oxford University Press, 2010), and co-editor of *Reclaiming Chinese Society: The New Social Activism* (Routledge, 2009). Hsing serves on the editorial board of several international journals, and has been visiting professor to Tsinghua University in Beijing, Shanghai University in Shanghai, National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University in Taiwan. Hsing's research has been focusing on the political economy of development, urbanisation and land in China. Recently she has expanded her interests to East Asian societies in the era of the post developmental state, and the politics of conservation in China's northern frontier regions, particularly in Inner Mongolia. Hsing is also a member of Manuel Castell's group working on sustainable development. She draws inspirations from ethnographical work and believes that theorizing starts from muddy realities. It is a process of open dialogues and self-reflections, of which the historical and the geographical, the institutional and the emotional are all indispensable.

Stephen Gelb teaches economics at the University of Johannesburg. He grew up in South Africa and studied economics at the Universities of Cape Town, Toronto and Manitoba in Canada, and has taught economics, political science and development studies at the Universities of Durban-Westville, Natal and the Witwatersrand as well as universities in Canada and the US. He was an activist in the anti-apartheid movement as a student in Canada, and after returning to South Africa in 1984, advised COSATU, the SA Council of Churches, the UDF and the ANC on economic policy issues. Since 1994, he has consulted to several SA government departments, as well as UN agencies and foreign governments. He has worked as an economist at the Development Bank of Southern Africa and was the Executive Director of The EDGE Institute, an independent economic research organisation in Johannesburg. He was the Founding Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, during 2008–9. He has published on South African economics and politics for over thirty years. His current research is on foreign direct investment, especially between Asia and Africa; and on the political economy of growth and inequality in South Africa.

Nico Cloete has been the full-time director of CHET since 1997. He is also Extraordinary Professor of Higher Education, University of Western Cape; Visiting Professor, Masters Programme in Higher Education, University of Oslo and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Cape Town. He was actively involved in academic staff organisation and was President of the University of Witwatersrand Staff Association (1991–1992) and General Secretary of the Union of Democratic University Staff Associations of South Africa (1993–1994). He was the research director for the Nelson Mandela appointed National Commission on Higher Education (1995–1996) and served on the South African Ministerial Advisory Council for Universities and Technikons. Dr Cloete initiated the Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa (HERANA) in 2009 and is the co-ordinator of this network. In



2010 he gave the opening keynote at the congress of the European Consortium of Higher Education Researchers in Oslo. He has published widely in psychology, sociology and higher education policy. His latest books are *Higher Education and Economic Development in Africa* (African Minds/CHET, 2011) and *Shaping the Future of South Africa's Youth: Rethinking Post School Education and Skills Training* (African Minds/CHET, 2012).

Lisa Thompson is Professor in the field of International Relations and Development and the Director of the African Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (ACCEDE), in the School of Government. Areas of research specialisation include the impact of the global political economy on development and democracy in the global South. Forms of mobilisation, collective action and social movement organisation at local and global levels, and the impact of non-state actors on development and democracy are priorities in case study based research at the Centre, with a number of funded projects on democracy, development and participation. Recent publications include *Citizens and Social Movements: Perspectives from the Global South* (Zed books, 2010, co-edited with Chris Tapscott) as well numerous publications and policy research on democratic development and participation in South and southern Africa.

Sharon Penderis is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute for Social Development at the University of the Western Cape. She is currently registered at the African Centre for Citizenship and Democracy for her PhD entitled 'State-society relations in the South African Developmental State: Integrated Development Planning and public participation at the local level'. Other research and teaching interests include community development and (as a member of the South African Community Development Academy) involvement in co-presenting a number of national workshops on 'Building Communities from Grassroots. She has also participated in a variety of community development initiatives.

