

Emerging Donors and the Changing Landscape of Foreign Aid: Public Perceptions of Development Cooperation

Introduction

Origins of the project

- Surge of political, policy, practitioner and academic interest in the 'non-DAC donors'
- Principally focused on:
 - Impacts on **development** (economic growth, poverty reduction, humanitarian crises, well-being, sustainability etc)
 - Implications for **foreign aid architecture**, norms and procedures
 - Role of 'development cooperation' within the wider agendas, trends, impacts of the **emerging powers**, including trade, investment, military power, geopolitical strengths

The 'public face of development'

- Significant research and analysis within many DAC donor countries
 - Not just measuring levels of public awareness/understanding of and support for different forms of foreign aid and development policy, but also attempts to educate and persuade the public of legitimacy and effectiveness
 - Public, civil society and parliamentary scrutiny of foreign aid: a democratic imperative and a social-political debate
- Academic analyses
 - Policy-oriented analyses (for bilaterals, NGOs, philanthropic foundations, private giving etc)
 - Critical research examining social constructions of Self and the Other; postcolonial perspectives; historical and present cultures of aid

The public face of (non-DAC) development cooperation?

- Contributes to the understanding and theorising of the wide variety of 'non-DAC' donors/development cooperation partners
 - To date, few analysts focusing on the articulation between public awareness/debates and development cooperation discourse and practice
- Extends the public face of development literature beyond its western heartland
- Contributes to analyses of the 'rising powers': public perspectives on this aspect of international relations
 - Significant symbolic value, often higher than actual material flows.
- Contributes to regional studies expertise: international relations, politics, sociology, geographies of case study countries.

Why China, India, Poland, Russia and South Africa?

- A network of congenial scholars with country expertise
- A range of 'non-DAC' donors: 'new' EU, Asian Drivers, post-socialist, different attitudes to OECD-DAC/UN/global architecture etc

Acknowledgements and disclaimer

- We are grateful to the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) for funding this project under the 'Futures of Aid' call.
- All of the views expressed here are independent, and are not necessarily endorsed by DFID.