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English Summaries

Lukas Zürcher

Negotiated Development: Contradictions and Conflicts in the Daily Life of a Swiss Couple in Ruanda around 1970

A broad array of interviews and ego-documents forms the basis for this paper, which reconstructs the daily routines of a Swiss couple, engaged in development work in Rwanda around 1970. The micro-historical perspective reconstructs manifold negotiations within the family, within the working environment and internationally. Development was no one-way thing. Rather, a close reading shows multi-directional influences behind official rhetoric. The discourse of a dominant 'West' loses some plausibility in view of the many stances of refusal and subversion by local project partners. By looking at development as a constant process of manifold negotiations, this paper shows the need to depart from 'beloved' master narratives and to direct future research towards the reconstruction of complicated and mutually disturbing interactions in aid relations.

Sara Elmer

On Buffalos, Vicious Dogs and Alpha Leaders: Swiss Efforts at Development in the Himalayas, 1958–1970

In 1958, a Swiss NGO started a rural development program in the remote Nepalese Valley of Jiri. Initial successes soon gave way to increasing difficulties, which uncovered the complexity and uncontrollability of development practice. Despite harsh criticism from staff, local authorities, and an external evaluation team, the Jiri-Project steadily expanded until 1970. This paper reconstructs the conflicts around and within the small Swiss colony in Jiri in a micro-historical approach. It sketches the archetypes of the 'expert', the 'pioneer' and the 'Nepalese' and it shows the many discursive shifts in the legitimizing of their action framework.

Patricia Hongler

"The Attitude of an Elder Brother". Ideal, Self-Conception and the Image of Africa Among Swiss Volunteers in Development Work 1964–1974

From 1964 until 1974 several hundred Swiss nationals were active as volunteer development workers on the African continent. The idea was to have these young professionals transfer their skills to the African population. However, they trav-

elled with contradictory ideals: They were asked to deal with their African counterparts on an equal basis but at the same time had to impart their expertise. This paper inquiries into these manifest contradictions through a close reading of individual cases. Looking at daily routines, the self-perception and the specific perceptions of 'Africa' by the Swiss volunteers are singled out, and their ideals are brought into perspective.

Franziska Diener

Precision mechanics in the Mechanism of International Politics.

The Indian-Swiss Training Center in Chandigarh, 1961–1968

The business-lead Swiss Foundation for Technical Development Aid (*Swisscontact*) started a training program for engineers in precision mechanics in Chandigarh, India, in 1961. In this project, Swiss business leaders aimed at promoting their standards of skilled labour in South-East Asia. For the Swiss agency, the choice of India as a field of activity was largely accidental. The paper focuses on the conflicts between Indian organizations and *Swisscontact* which severely challenged the project after the first five years. Swiss leadership was increasingly contested. The causes were personal animosities between the staff involved and structural problems that made decisions difficult.

Lukas Meier

*The Power of the Recipient. Health as a Topic of Negotiation
between Switzerland and Tanzania 1970–1980*

The article looks at the history of Swiss medical aid in Tanzania covering the period between 1970 and 1980. It argues that rather than being a unilateral European imposition, Swiss development projects in East Africa can best be conceptualized as processes of negotiation, which were very much shaped by local African actors. Drawing from a rich body of empirical sources in Africa and Switzerland, the paper turns away from eurocentric perspectives in the history of development aid as well as from the highly tenacious (but empirically anaemic) belief that development was but a European-grown hegemonic project designed to suppress the African continent.

Katharina Pohl and Daniel Speich Chassé

Comparatively Good. Tensions in the Swiss and Norwegian Discourse on Development

Norway and Switzerland are two small countries, which share some important features. They are both economically strong but rather weak in terms of foreign policy. They share a discursive tradition of humanitarianism and of being 'good', while each country always kept its national economic interests well in view. But differences also abound: development aid worked as a source of national identity in Norway while it has always been domestically contested in Switzerland. The paper aims at a comparison of these two cases. A first finding is that comparing donor-policies was an important feature in the global development endeavour. A second finding is that from the point of view of small open economies the notion of a unified 'West' must be called into question.

Daniel Trachsler

Neutrality, Solidarity and the Cold War: Development Aid as a Tool of Foreign Policy in the Period of Petitpierre, 1945–1961

The Swiss Federal Council and Foreign Minister Max Petitpierre established governmental development aid as an important pillar of Swiss foreign policy between 1949 and 1961. Crucial factors for this decision were not humanitarian and economic considerations only, but also foreign policy objectives. With its activities in the field of development aid, the Swiss government wanted to contribute to the containment of the spread of communism, especially in Asia and Africa, and to demonstrate its solidarity with the Western world. However, this anticommunist intention was never publicly admitted, so as not to undermine the credibility of Switzerland's policy of neutrality.

Samuel Misteli

The UNCTAD Moment. The Genesis of the North-South-Conflict and the Politicisation of the Swiss Discourse on Development

A global North-South divide first became internationally visible at the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva in 1964 (UNCTAD). On the diplomatic stage the notion of 'development' acquired a militant tone. The same radical move in development discourse also can be observed within Swiss domestic contentions around 1970. This paper aims at connecting the international discursive shift with the Swiss domestic experience. It focuses on the Swiss delegation to UNCTAD in

Geneva and on some more prominent positions within Swiss domestic politics. By highlighting the function of economic knowledge, this paper shows how specific criticism of the inequitable global economic order turned development-issues political.

Nuno Pereira

Against the "Help to Pillage" of the Third World; the Leftist Plea of the 1970s

This paper examines the main criticisms of development aid made by Swiss far-left organizations in the 1970s. According to Trotskyist and Maoist groups, far from benefiting developing countries, Swiss aid was essentially intended to fight communism and promote private investment in the Third World. These revolutionary groups went on to denounce Swiss imperialism, holding it responsible for underdevelopment. For the radical left, the 'oppressed peoples' of the Third World were on the front lines of global revolution. Swiss leftists emphasized the convergence between anti-imperialist struggles in the Third World and anti-capitalist protests in Switzerland. They therefore advocated strong support for liberation struggles in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the form of vigorous political solidarity, not development aid.

Anita Ulrich and Konrad J. Kuhn

Social Movements and International Solidarity – Archival Contents and Open Questions in Research

This paper offers an overview of sources pertinent to Swiss non-governmental developmental organisations at the *Schweizerische Sozialarchiv*, Zürich. Against the backdrop of existing research on Swiss experiences in international development and solidarity, it sketches new fields of possible research. Research has so far strongly focused on political authorities and classical diplomatic history. However, the collections of the *Sozialarchiv* show the intricate connections between non-governmental organizations, civil movements and national state actors. The utopia of global equity has propelled many individuals into development work, and as they organized themselves as pressure groups, they changed the scale and scope of official development aid. More research into these connections is mandatory and promising.

Gregor Spuhler, Lea Ingber and Sonja Vogelsang

Foreign Aid as a Biographical Experience. The Contemporary Witness Project humem, Two Volunteers in Tanzania 1967–1969 and the Safeguard of 75 Contemporary Testimonials by the Archiv für Zeitgeschichte

In 2009/10 the association *humem* (*humanitarian memory*) conducted a series of video-interviews with 75 Swiss experts in development under the direction of the filmmaker Frédéric Gonseth. This project built up a unique biographical memory on Swiss foreign aid in the second half of the 20th century. In a first step the paper describes this oral-history-project and the sample of interviews. The second part focuses on the experiences of two Swiss nurses in Tanzania in the 1960s. It complements the video footage with additional archival material. The third part shows how respective sources at the *Archiv für Zeitgeschichte* can be used for further research.

Peter Fleer

'Entangling Archives'. The Contents of the Swiss Federal Archives between the Discourse on Development and Historical Reflection

This paper contrasts the archival material at the Swiss National Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) with national and global development discourses and with recent research perspectives in the social sciences and humanities regarding developmental questions. A brief overview of the files relevant to development is given. The paper argues that processes of globalization and interlinking are central for any research into the history of development endeavours. Theories of post-development have multiplied the number of possible research approaches. The material at the *Bundesarchiv* can help in further diversifying the understanding of global developmental issues. The traces of diplomatic practices and of administrative routines must be followed in as broad a basis of information as possible.

Patricia Hongler

