Governance and Inclusive Development (GID)

Programme leader: Prof. dr. Isa Baud

Research area and mission
Widespread transformations in the political, social, cultural and economic landscapes, linked to processes of uneven development (poverty and inequality) and globalization, underpin the need for rethinking the governance of development capabilities in low-income countries. This presents a range of challenges, as new strategies are required capable of addressing both the risks and opportunities, and the needs of both elite and marginalized groups, within a knowledge-based global ‘economy’, ‘polity’ and ‘society’. Countries in the global South are playing an increasingly important role in international discussions on world growth and development, putting forward their own perspectives and claims. The aim of the group’s research is to gain a deeper insight into the build-up of capabilities among various groups of actors, how actors and institutions influence social transformation processes within countries, localities (cities, regions) and in globalizing international networks (with a Southern perspective). Particularly, issues of socio-economic inequality (poverty), space and place, scaling of governance, the dynamics of interaction between governance networks, institutions, regimes and livelihoods, and the impact of interventions aiming at ‘sustainable development’ are crucial subject areas. The focus is on governance issues in three strategic areas of development in low-income countries:

- Governance of natural resources for sustainable development
- Urban governance and resilient development,
- Governance resources for human development (education, knowledge, rights and social justice).

The mission of the research programme is to promote research on governance issues from the perspective of the global South, and to provide better inter-disciplinary understanding of how processes of governance can deal with inequalities and poverty issues at different and linking scale levels. This is closely linked with a responsibility to participate in the wider societal debates on these topics, linked to organizations of practice – such linkages provide both sources of inspiration and validation of the analytical work done in the group.

Objectives and scope for the next five years
The strategy of the GID group is centred on the core research question of governance and inclusive development capabilities in the global South: how do various actors at different scale-levels network, conflict, negotiate and frame the governance and management of resources and capabilities for resilient development? The question concerns the use of physical, human, financial, political and cultural resources, their transformation in institutions...
and institutional dynamics; and the outcomes in terms of resilience in various geographical environments. We concentrate on the following strategic domains:

1. governance of natural resources for sustainable development, focusing on human-environmental system interaction in rural environments;
2. urban governance, addressing inequalities and citizenship issues, and promoting resilient development, focusing particularly on the rapidly growing urban-metropolitan environments in the global South; and
3. the governance of human resources for human development, with a focus on youth, education, knowledge and learning.

The common approach is to understand how the ‘governamentalty’ (or changing conditions) of institutions affects individual and household capabilities. The governance arrangements we study are locally bound by time and space, but also connect to national, regional and global governance structures. Our assumption is that the diversity in outcomes of the various governance arrangements at different scale levels provides sufficient leeway to decrease inequalities and promote social justice. The gradual shift towards a governance approach means that research at higher scale levels and attention to linkages between multiple scale

A main topic is **Urban Governance and Resilient Development**

We examine the dynamics of urban governance networks in fast-growing cities in the global South, where the major growth of urban populations is going to take place in the next decades. Cities offer great potential to foster development capabilities. They house the majority of productive activities, generate most economic growth and offer the best chances to link to the opportunities of globalization. In many respects cities offer opportunities for poverty reduction thanks to economies of scale. Specifically, the high population densities in urban areas make it cheaper to provide citizens with the social, economic and environmental infrastructures necessary to pursue sustainable livelihoods. However, high densities also concentrate multiple risks for their inhabitants. Many urbanites are at risk from vulnerabilities resulting from the complex interactions between geographic, economic, social, political and cultural systems. Urban governments must face the challenges of becoming both competitive nationally and globally and responsive and accountable locally in an environmentally sound manner. It is unlikely that urban governments can face these challenges successfully on their own. Thus, they need to partner with many different actors – both public and private – at multiple scale levels and across sectors in “urban governance networks”.

The aim of this research programme is to provide a better understanding of the underlying processes of resource negotiating and allocation in urban governance networks, which support or undermine efforts to reduce urban inequalities and to respond to urban development challenges.

Three strategic issues structure the research for the coming years:

4. Risk, vulnerability and livelihoods resilience in cities (including topics like climate change, poverty, social cohesion and youth);
5. Analyzing new support instruments in urban governance in building citizenship (spatial information infrastructure) and
6. Linking scales and networks of governance (local and state-national government relations, and metropolitan focus) for resilient development.

Our research on risk, vulnerability and livelihoods resilience contributes specifically to the debate by examining spatial concentrations of poverty and deprivations among urban households, linking them to the ways households ‘negotiate spaces’ with governance networks to access resources, and the extent to which governments and private sector
support/undermine such claims on the state and market by marginalized groups (exclusion/adverse inclusion).

Our research on linking scale and networks of governance focuses on the trends ‘down and out from government’. In the quest for global competitiveness new elite coalitions have been formed and urban governance institutions restructured to better respond to the needs of capital and the emerging middle-classes. The debate focuses on the extent to which decision-making processes have become less democratic, exclusionary of already disempowered groups, or whether more popular participation in decision-making will result in empowered citizens, reduced inequalities and greater sustainability. Our research focuses on experiments in direct and/or deliberative democracy, their institutional innovations and expansions of the ‘spaces’ where government and citizens interact, as well as the discourses framing such interaction. This includes a focus on intra-governmental networks between different scale levels, focusing on Latin American countries and Caribbean countries.

**Methodology**

The programme aims to further develop an integrated approach to the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods and tools for analysis in order to deepen our understanding of the complexities of poverty and development in the South. First, in-depth knowledge on the heterogeneity of different household capabilities and entitlements across different social groups is needed to adequately map out the needs and priorities across groups. The use of comparative case studies, participatory action research and descriptive analysis are qualitative research methods we will use to explore why certain social groups have to deal with more deprivations than others and what constraints they face in seeking governance responses. Second, outcomes of such qualitative research will feed directly into the development of quantitative research approaches on development capabilities as follows. The data collected on development capabilities through the above methods:

- covers multiple deprivations (including access and assets);
- cuts across scale levels (individuals, households, neighbourhood, cities), and
- can be referenced by location.

This allows the use of geographical analysis techniques (e.g. by using GIS and remote sensing) to combine different sources of data at different levels of aggregation. Furthermore, the outcomes of qualitative research can help to design better questions for survey instruments, and validate the priorities in types of inter-relationships to include in the analysis and modelling exercises. Collecting data series over time can be a useful tool (e.g. by remote sensing images, panel data, and repeat fieldwork studies) to develop a more profound understanding about the heterogeneity and dynamics of how capabilities develop and how governance networks can best respond to such dynamics.

**Where in the world**

Research projects in this programme take place in a variety of regions in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, with some concentration areas with long-standing contacts and activities. For the *Urban Governance and Resilient Development* group most research activities take place in India, Peru and the Caribbean, with potential comparative work linking the research work of the GID programme.

So, the program also pays much attention to development issues in the Caribbean, in particular to the southern part - Suriname. Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. In particular studies are made on *Urban Governance and Resilient Development*, in particular on issues linked with urban planning, housing and effects of climate change, as well on livelihood and
entrepreneurship. Isa Baud, Hebe Verrest, Karin Pfeffer and Ad de Bruijne are the main researchers in this field, as well as a set of Master students.

Studies on Fisheries forms part of the research on Governance of natural resources for sustainable development. Iris Monnereau analyses the social impacts of different governance arrangements of lobster fisheries in the Caribbean in/near small islands in the Caribbean.

The Department is also one of the founders of the Edulink education and training project on Urban Planning and Management.

**Publications on Caribbean Development Issues**

1. Baud, Isa, Asanke Koedam & Floortje Linnekamp……..[to be published].


**M.Sc. International Development Studies**

2. Floortje Linnekamp, Vulnerability to Climate Change: Household Experiences, Perceptions and Actions in Relation to Increased Flood Risk in Paramaribo, Suriname, 2010
11. D. Walraven: Relations between politicians, neighbourhood leaders and residents: A case study in the City of San Fernando, Trinidad 2006.
13. T. Janssen: It's the way the system set: an analysis of youth livelihoods in the Beetham Neighbourhood, East port of Spain, Trinidad, 2004

[Scholars who are interested in an internet copy have to mail to H.J.L.M.Verrest@uva.nl. If possible, it will be sent.]