New This Month SUMMER 2014

NEW THIS MONTH

AID AND DEVELOPMENT


Chasing misery: an anthology of essays by women in humanitarian responses. Hoppe, Kelsey, editor. North Charleston, SC: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014. This compilation of essays offers personal stories from women who have served on the front lines of humanitarian response in countries including Haiti, Pakistan, Sudan, and Syria. Authors focus on various aspects of their relief work experience, including: fear in the face of danger, fighting emotional numbness, and the difficulty of maintaining intimate relationships.

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While maintaining strong links with China and Russia, Mongolia has made the United States key to its “third neighbor” policy in order to balance the influence of its giant neighbors. Addleton, USAID mission director and former U.S. ambassador, explains Mongolia’s relationship with the United States over the past 150 years and emerging cooperation in the areas of democracy promotion, development, security, and business.


Mowforth criticizes traditional development efforts in Central America. The topics of food, water, energy, deforestation, mining, industrialization, and indigenous rights in the region are investigated.


Challenging prevailing perspectives in youth studies, these case studies on Uzbekistan and Kashmir demonstrate that a young person’s class position—along with globalization—determine how he or she transitions to adulthood. The authors attempt to foster a more fluid understanding of the factors which positively and adversely influence the process of growing up in the region.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT


Poverty reduction in the non-Baltic states of the former Soviet Union is proceeding apace, this study posits, but continued movement in this direction will depend on the ability of these states to develop diversified economies that do not rely strictly on natural resources. The experts represented here find that countries should add economic institutions and built capital to their economic mix – as well as beef up their regulatory capacities – in order to improve efficiency and development. USAID staff may download the book from the World Bank eLibrary.


This report measures the impacts of agricultural innovation on farm productivity, prices, hunger, and trade flows. Authors examine how eleven agricultural practices and technologies could help farmers around the world improve the sustainability of growing three main staple crops – maize, rice, and wheat. It is determined that a range of technologies must be used in order to maximize yields.


Essays in this volume examine the situation of small farmers in Asia, Latin America, and especially Sub-Saharan Africa. Authors reflect on how small farmers are impacted by climate change, gender concerns, innovation, financing challenges and political disempowerment.
The new extractivism: a post-neoliberal development model or imperialism of the twenty-first century?

A ramped up quest for the natural resources of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru is an expression of contemporary imperialism, the authors claim. The social and ecological problems wrought by Latin American mining and agribusiness cannot be viewed as mere inevitable collateral damage. These activities will not improve national development; instead, Veltmeyer and Petras say, they will spell disaster for the majority of the citizens of these countries.


In recent years there has been a renewed interest in corporatization – public enterprises fully owned and operated by the state but operate with a degree of autonomy. Through the use of case studies contributors examine the corporatization of water and electricity services in a number of Asian, African and Latin American countries. They conclude that corporatization is here to stay and can contribute to greater financial and managerial transparency.

DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS


Fez, Morocco’s third largest city, has been keeping careful tabs on whether its use of new information and communications technologies, particularly in its records bureau, is actually making life better for its citizens. Kettani and Moulin have gathered this data – and analyzed the impact of e-government in other localities – to develop a framework that can be used to measure the successes and failures of e-government.


Koinova investigates why some Eastern European postcommunist states with large ethnonational minorities managed to participate in nonviolent transitions while in others ethnic conflict turned into civil wars. She provides a decade-long comparative study of three places, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Kosovo, where majority-minority relations escalated to different degrees of violence, and concludes that these variations are rooted in conflict dynamics established during the formative period at the end of communism.

Humanitarian agencies and donors have responded to the challenges of civil war in the developing world by revising their mandates to emphasize issues of conflict prevention and resolution. Duffield provides a framework for understanding the merging of development and security and the relationships between global market forces and local conflicts.


For those who believe they can rely on governments to effectively tackle climate change and its consequences, Worldwatch Institute begs to differ: This year’s annual report on environmental trends and issues highlights the importance of citizen engagement and activism to confront powerful interests invested in status quo environmental policies. The report encourages citizens to take initiative to creatively advance new solutions such as benefit corporations, steps to improve ecoliteracy, and worker-owned firms.


Gall, a New York Times correspondent who has spent over a decade reporting from Afghanistan and Pakistan, argues that much of the damage from the war in Afghanistan can be traced to Pakistan’s government and intelligence forces. To make her case she combines personal accounts with anecdotes from interviews with Afghan villagers, Taliban fighters and officials of many governments.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE


Piketty, a professor at the Paris School of Economics, explores the global history of wages and wealth over the past three centuries. He asserts that explosion of productivity driven by new technology has until now allowed society to escape from the dystopian future economists had imagined and presents data about income distribution showing that inequality has widened dramatically in recent decades and will soon get dangerously worse.


Impact investing uses capital to drive financial value and social and environmental impact at the same time. This volume explains what impact investing is, describes various investment vehicles, and explores where opportunities are evolving around the world. Practical advice on how to get started, as well as real-world stories showing how impact investing can bring about tangible change, is included.

Although the current generation of Africans entering the labor force is the most educated ever, many are finding that their prospects for employment and earnings differ very little from those of their parents. This report examines the youth employment challenge and identifies specific areas where government intervention can reduce obstacles to productivity for households and firms, leading to a brighter employment prospects for youth and their own children. USAID staff may access this e-book via the World Bank eLibrary.

EDUCATION


Inclusive education seeks to put an end to discriminatory practices that exclude children with disabilities from receiving an appropriate education. This volume draws on experiences in Africa and describes the issues to be considered when implementing inclusive education strategies. After reviewing the importance of family and community involvement, authors turn their attention to inclusive education approaches in schools. These approaches include conducting feasibility studies, preparing teachers, supporting individual needs, and managing the inclusive classroom.

EVALUATION


This volume begins with an introduction to feminist theory and research strategies and moves on to look at the differences between evaluation and research and the roles of the feminist evaluator. Contributors present cases that illustrate the application of feminist theory and methods in a variety of international contexts then provide practical examples of feminist research less easily categorized as evaluation.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT


In this collection of essays contributors explore the use of narratives by and about women as a way of understanding sexualities in the context of change, and the possibilities for women’s empowerment. Case studies from the global South look at young women navigating their sexual agency in the refugee camps of Palestine, sexuality activism and organizing in China, and derogatory and lurid representations of women in Nigerian newspapers.

In this study of gender diversity in the workplace, Annis and Merron investigate the scientific differences between how men and women think and document the five stages through which an organization will evolve into “a gender-intelligent company.” They conclude that in order to balance the gender equation, organizations must discard the notion that women should think and act like men and embrace the differences they bring to the workplace.

HEALTH, NUTRITION & POPULATION


As the need for global cooperation on health grows ever greater, who and what governs global health decision-making? Gostin’s ambitious text encourages the establishment of rules for stewardship, transparency, participation and accountability. He calls for incorporation of human rights law into the equation, with attention paid to social and economic rights, reformation of global health institutions such as the World Health Organization, and a deeper commitment to ending health disparities by committing to social justice.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY


Disappointing results in the past from public policies aimed at enhancing innovation in Latin America have led several countries in the region to reintroduce strategies to stimulate innovation and encourage technology adoption. This volume outlines the main trends in regards to the design and implementation of STI policies in Latin America and presents case studies from eight countries that highlight the different paths these policies have taken.


Simon explores the current landscape of contemporary data visualization tools, and how companies such as Netflix and eBay are using them to discover insights about their customers. He examines the business, societal, and technological reasons behind the ascent of the visual organization and provides a framework for understanding their four different levels. Predictions about current trends, big data, visual organizations, and the future of data visualization are offered.
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