

Merging Critical Development Studies and Critical Terrorism Studies: the co-production of security through global and local approaches.

Call for Papers

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Convenors:

Fabrizio Leonardo Cuccu, Dublin City University (fabrizioleonardo.cuccu@dcu.ie)

Alice Finden, Durham University (alice.e.finden@durham.ac.uk)

Workshop abstract:

Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in postcolonial societies is increasingly intertwined with international development cooperation, shaping security measures in postcolonial contexts. This involves a complex web of actors engaged in social and security initiatives. National governments, international organisations, local and international non-governmental organisations play pivotal roles in this process.

Scholars of development studies have drawn attention to how international aid and social protection programs can be seen as extensions of colonial practices. Similarly, postcolonial perspectives on security highlight the continuity between colonial policing methods and contemporary systems of surveillance, especially those reinforced under the pretext of counterterrorism. Research on the “security-development” nexus has explored how specific security concepts influence the relationship between western and non-western nations, often resulting in the securitization of development policies. Although the relationship between national actors and international donors is rooted in unequal power dynamics and partial dependence, local actors implement mechanisms of resistance and enforce conditionality controls against mechanisms perceived as neocolonial.

This panel seeks to unravel the connections between the actions of international donors and localised security narratives and practices. Its aim is to prompt reflection on the discursive and practical dimensions of international development and counterterrorism and their critical influence on security approaches in postcolonial contexts. To that end, this panel invites contributions that address – but are not limited to – the following questions:

- How can we provide critical analytical perspectives on the genealogy of the concepts of "violent extremism" and "development," exploring their interconnectedness and effects within the discourse on security in postcolonial spaces?
- How do transnational development discourses converge with local security practices, and what are the implications of this convergence?
- What is the role of national Civil Society Organizations in implementing international development projects, and how do they impact the reproduction of international security measures?
- What role do forms of colonialism, imperialism and neocolonialism play in the fusion of security and development discourse?
- How are gendered, class, youth, ethnic, sexual and religious minorities involved in or erased from international programs related to security, economic empowerment, and community engagement?
- What tensions arise when International Development and Security agencies speak through a language of ‘inclusion’ and ‘diversity’?
- How are the languages of counterterrorism and development interconnected?
- What insights can we provide into cooperation among various national and international actors in security matters?

We encourage contributions from across disciplines that engage with these questions and aim to address the intricate dynamics at the nexus of development, counterterrorism, and security in postcolonial settings. The workshop will be designed in an interactive format, where participants will engage in collaborative discussions on their papers. Abstracts can be submitted via the EISA website until 5 February 2024.