

## **What role can and/or should development cooperation play in the current 'permacrisis'?**

### **Workshop convenors:**

Ivica Petrikova, Royal Holloway University of London, [ivica.petrikova@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:ivica.petrikova@rhul.ac.uk)

and

Melita Lazell, University of Portsmouth, [melita.lazell@port.ac.uk](mailto:melita.lazell@port.ac.uk)

### **Workshop outline:**

Development aid has been a significant financial channel from the Global North to the Global South for the past seven decades. Although it is now smaller in volume than remittances and foreign direct investment, OECD countries allocated over 200 billion USD in development aid in 2022, marking a 14-percent increase from 2021 and a substantial, 438-percent, increase from 1960. Our proposed workshop aims to make a substantial contribution to the ongoing debate regarding the role, potential, and direction of development aid in addressing global crises and challenges.

The world has entered an era of 'perma-crisis,' a state in which "as we emerge from one crisis, another lurks around the corner" (Dorrell, 2023). A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscores that humanity is running out of time to prevent a catastrophic climate crisis. 2023 is almost certain to be the hottest global year on record, with the previous eight years already the eight warmest. This year has also witnessed a concerning surge in global climate disasters, encompassing devastating floods in India, Southeast Asia, and Libya, extreme heatwaves across the northern hemisphere, and wildfires in Canada, Chile, and Argentina. Additionally, recent years have seen the highest number of conflicts since World War II, as well as an unprecedented number of forcibly displaced people and refugees globally. While these issues transcend geographic boundaries, they disproportionately affect vulnerable communities in the Global South. Can development aid help address these issues and if so, how?

In alignment with the overarching theme of the workshop call, which centres on hope and resistance, our workshop encourages participants to rethink the ways in which development policy and financial support from the Global North can foster a collaborative, partnership-based approach to aid. An approach that would empower countries and communities in the global South and North to enhance their resilience and adaptive capacities in a sustainable and equitable way.

Acknowledging the challenges within the global development aid system, we also welcome contributions that scrutinise the domestic politicisation of aid, its effectiveness, power imbalances, and the intended and unintended consequences of development policy and aid in various forms, both historically and in contemporary contexts. We are also interested in research specifically addressing the connections between development aid and various facets of the permacrisis, including external and internal conflicts, migrant and refugee flows, and the climate crisis. Finally, we hope to also include theoretical contributions on the global aid system that explore its underlying principles and assumptions and suggest avenues for reform or replacement.

The workshop will work towards a special issue on the role of development cooperation within the current perma-crisis, serving to critically examine past and present development policies and aid while proposing practical pathways for development cooperation to alleviate crises. We will further use the workshop to discuss potential collaborative grant applications.