

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## International Summer School

# Constructing Research Frameworks on the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa's Policy Environment

2-14 April 2018 (University of Cape Coast, Ghana)

## BACKGROUND

Building on a highly successful 2013 collaborative summer school on social protection and qualitative research methods, the partners International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD), University of Kassel, and the Institute for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast/Ghana, are organizing a new summer school project in 2018. This year's Summer school aims to offer a varied and focused course programme with diverse teaching staff comprised of German, Ghanaian, Kenyan and South African academics as well as Ghanaian and international practitioners from development cooperation.

The **Summer School 2018** deals with a factor of key importance for the changing development policy context in Africa and the developing world: The United Nation's **declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in 2015, succeeding the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs not only lead to a refocusing of national, international and civil-society based development efforts. Governments as well as international and local development actors seeking to implement these new goals also face a complex policy environment. It is marked, among others, by lack of coherence between donor policies in the fields of trade, migration and development cooperation as well as a new indicator framework for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs. Moreover, manifold linkages between local, national and international policy spheres on the one hand and between state, private sector and civil society actors on the other become manifest therein, shaping these actors' negotiation of new opportunity structures as well as constraints.

Grasping this new, multi-faceted policy environment requires innovative approaches to policy research. Against this background the Summer School seeks to introduce participants to and support them in the construction of research frameworks that combine integrated theoretical frameworks, sensitive methodological tools and realizable data gathering techniques for exploring the SDG policy-field. Given the great significance of the SDGs for development agendas in Africa and the complex social, economic and political situation they face here, the School will focus on this world region in particular.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The summer school will offer participants mainly the opportunity to:

- Engage in creating conceptually integrated frameworks for analyzing SDG policy that coherently link theory, methodology and methods
- Acquire an understanding of the interrelatedness of SDG related policy regimes, and the constraints governing them, through exploring critical theoretical perspectives on development policy
- Reflect on methodological issues in relating theoretical perspectives and empirical research on (development) policy, including the review of literature, the operationalization of theories into categories and indicators for qualitative and quantitative analyses, or the use and implementation of gendered approaches
- Familiarize themselves with a range of practical research tools and methods, as, for instance, the use of computer-assisted packages for quantitative or qualitative data analysis, comparative research designs or ethnographic analysis
- Gain in-depth knowledge on key actors, interests and their interactions across scales (local-national-international) and sectors (government-private sector-civil society)
- Strengthen their international networks which could lead to further cooperation and collaborative projects

## PARTICIPANTS

This Call for Applications addresses:

- Doctoral candidates with a social science background enrolled at Ghanaian universities
- Postdocs with a social science background at Ghanaian universities, who have completed a doctoral programme within the last 5 years

## PERIOD

The summer school will take place in **Cape Coast, Ghana, from 2 April (arrival day) to 14 April 2018 (departure day)**. Participants cannot shorten their stay as funding depends on a continuous participation.

## FORMAT

Academics and practitioners from the field of development (cooperation) will provide substantive input on SDG issues through a series of lectures and seminars that aim to demonstrate the linkage between theory, methodology and methods as well as thematic areas related to the two guiding subject areas.

PhD students will be given the opportunity present their ongoing research projects in workshops as well as in one-on-one encounters with teaching staff.

A field trip will provide participants the opportunity to interact with local practitioners to discuss their experience with social protection projects.

## PRELIMINARY LIST OF PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS

### University of Cape Coast (UCC):

- **Prof. Patrick Agbesinyale** (Associate Professor, Director of the Institute for Development Studies)
- **Prof. Awusabo Asare** (Professor at the Department of Population & Health)
- **Prof. Akua Britwum** (Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Gender, Research, Advocacy and. Documentation)
- **Prof. Francis Enu-Kwesi** (Associate Professor at the Institute for Development Studies)

### University of Kassel:

- **Dr. Frauke Banse** (Lecturer at the Department of Political Science)
- **Dr. Franziska Müller** (Research Associate at the Department of Political Science)
- **Prof. Christoph Scherrer** (Professor for Globalization and Politics, Executive Director of the ICDD)
- **Prof. Aram Ziai** (Professor of the German Research Foundation (DFG) for Development Policy and Postcolonial Studies, Director at the ICDD)

### Other African Universities:

- **Dr. Joseph Matofari** (Associate Professor, Food Safety and Microbiology , Egerton University, Kenya)
- **Dr. Ben Scully** (Lecturer at the Dep. of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

### Practitioners:

- **Stefan Bienefeld** (German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD)
- **Dr. Wangui wa Goro** (African Development Bank)
- **Alan Walsch** (Country Director, GIZ Office Accra)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications can only be submitted online; access the online application form under: **[www.uni-kassel.de/go/summer-school-ucc](http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/summer-school-ucc)**
- The following documents (pdf) need to be uploaded during the online application process: Current Academic CV; PhD proposal/longer abstract of the PhD project; abstract/s of current research project/s (for Postdocs only); proof of PhD/Postdoc status.
- You are also asked for a short statement on your motivation to apply and what you expect to gain from attending the summer school.
- **Application deadline for Ghanaian applicants: 20 February 2018 [12:00 pm GMT+1]**

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PARTICIPATION

Successful applicants will be offered fellowships covering tuition, travel, board and lodging.

## CONTACT

Direct queries to Ms. Aleksandra Draganic (ICDD, Univ. of Kassel): [transfer@icdd.uni-kassel.de](mailto:transfer@icdd.uni-kassel.de)

Further information on the ICDD / UCC: [www.icdd.uni-kassel.de](http://www.icdd.uni-kassel.de) / [www.ucc.edu.gh](http://www.ucc.edu.gh)