

EADI Jubilee Event
**Development in Crisis: Reflecting on the Past,
Looking to the Future**

22 and 23 May 2025

Draft, 10.02.2025

Thursday 22 May 2025

12:00 – 13:15

Lunch

From 13:00

Registration and arrival of participants jubilee event

13:30

Welcoming words

Jochen Steinhilber, Head of Department at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Andy Sumner, EADI President

14:00 – 15:00

Keynote Lecture / Speech (45 minutes)

Nikita Dhawan, Professor and Chair holder of Political Science with a focus on Political Theory and the History of Political Thought, Technical University Dresden

Chair: Alfredo Saad-Filho, Queen's University Belfast

15:00 – 16:30

Session I

Roundtable:

From worldwide democratisation to democratic recession and geopolitical conflicts: what do development researchers have to say?

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee / Tea

17:00 – 18:30

Session II

3 Parallel Panels

The New South, a new reality/ interconnection between environmental, social and (geo)political challenges / Civil society

19:30 - 21:00

Reception: Old Town Hall Bonn

Welcome by Mayor of the City of Bonn

Jubilee speeches by Andy Sumner (EADI President) and Henning Melber (former EADI President, Nordic Africa Institute)

Friday 23 May 2025

9:00 – 12:00

EADI Directors' Meeting (Jubilee event continued)

9:00

EADI Information Session: Outlook 2025/ 2026

10:00

Session III (of jubilee event) and Session I (EADI Directors' Meeting)

Roundtable:

Development Studies: Reflecting on the Past, Looking to the Future

- Development Framings: Should development be transformational or more modest?
- Universality and development: what is the focus of development studies?
- Decolonisation. Of what and how should it be pursued?

12:00

End of Jubilee Event

Lunch

Introduction to the topic at [2024 - 2025: EADI 50th Anniversary Celebrations](#)

Supported by



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn

Panel Abstracts:

Roundtable: From worldwide democratisation to democratic recession and geopolitical conflicts: what do development researchers have to say?

In the early 1990s, Francis Fukuyama famously spoke of ‘The end of History’ and the unstoppable rise of the western-democratic model throughout the world. More than thirty years later, we are witnessing rising authoritarianism, the spread of so-called ‘illiberal democracies’ and its ill-defined twin concept of populism, together with growing threats to democratic ideals under supposedly progressive governments. At the same time, geopolitical conflicts are on the rise, creating new rifts among citizens and countries, and further reinforcing defiance towards democracy.

What aspects of this growing challenges can development studies, with its multidisciplinary perspective, help us understand? What other aspects may be ignored? Should the discipline also conduct a critical self-analysis in light of these political threats? In this roundtable, panellists will reflect on the besieging of democracy and the resurfacing of multiple conflicts with critical insight from development studies.

Note: Once we have secured the panellists, we can then make the specific insights they bring an explicit part of the abstract, including specific regional angles.

Chaired by: Prof. Dr. Anna Khakee, Associate professor, International Relations, University of Malta

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr.	Sangeeta Mahapatra	Research fellow	German Institute for Global and Area Studies GIGA
Dr.	Assem Dandashley	Associate Professor	Department of Political Science at Maastricht University.

Panel: The New South, a new reality?

A recent trend in development studies and international relations focuses on the emerging concept of ‘New South’, as opposed to ‘Global South’. While the latter is often used for a lack of a better term to refer to a very heterogeneous group of countries sharing some commonalities and development aims, the former emphasizes their growing agency and independence on the international scene against a backdrop of growing defiance towards the ‘Global North’, whose economic power is on the decline.

To what extent does increased agency, economic weight and defiance towards the Global North effectively translate into a ‘New South’? Is there enough convergence of economic and diplomatic interests to justify such a shift in typology? In a context of rising geopolitical tensions between ‘Global South’ and ‘Global North’, this panel will critically assess the concept of ‘New South’ and explore its implications for development studies and practice.

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Chaired by: Prof. Dr. Anna Katharina Hornidge, Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr.	Iliana Olivie	EADI Vice President / Director	European Thinktanks Group ETG
Dr.	Andrea Ordóñez	Senior Research Fellow	SouthernVoice

Panel: Interconnection between environmental, social and (geo)political challenges

Global capitalism is facing a polycrisis. Increasingly, the interplay between environmental, social and developmental dimensions is triggering (geo)political conflicts, such as those over access to rare minerals or water, over inequitable value sharing in international value chains, or migration-related tensions in the wake of climate change. These are just a few manifestations of these contemporary interplays, requiring an urgent multidisciplinary effort, both at providing empirical evidence of these effects, and at convincing policy makers and society of the need to re-orient our core economic, social and environmental values. This panel foregrounds some of specificities of these interplays, stressing the crucial role of multidisciplinary approaches in tackling them, and suggesting ways to increase societal awareness.

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Chaired by: Prof. Dr. Katja Bender, Director, International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE), Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr.	Zita Sebesvari	Deputy Director	UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
	Matthias Rompel	Regional Director Southern Africa	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Dr.	Jörn Grävingholt	Head of policy department	Bread for the World/Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Panel: Civil society

Far from being set in stone, our understanding of civic space and civil society varies with context and the analytical lens one uses. Current shifts in the development discourse such as the role of the decolonial critique, together with a rapidly changing global political landscape (growing nationalism, defiance towards democratic ideals etc.) force us to rethink the meaning, conceptual boundaries and reach of action of civic spaces and civil society. While some emphasize the threat of a 'shrinking civic space' under growing authoritarianism, others stress instead how practices adapt to shifting contexts, thereby conceptualising 'civil society' as a flexible web of actors rather than a rigidly defined sector as such. So where exactly is civil society headed? What kind of responses and strategies are designed by actors to adapt to growing political pressures? And how do governments (try to) reconfigure civic spaces in today's world? These questions will constitute the focus of this panel on civil society.

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Chaired by: PD Dr. Eva Youkhana, Senior researcher, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn

Confirmed speakers

Rilli Lapailainen

President

Concord

Session III (of jubilee event) and Session I (EADI Directors' Meeting)

Roundtable:

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Chaired by Andy Sumner, EADI President

- Development Framings: Should development be transformational or more modest?
- Universality and development: what is the focus of development studies?
- Decolonisation. Of what and how should it be pursued?

Confirmed speakers:

Prof. Dr.	Arief Anshory Yusuf	Director Executive	Center for Economica and Development Studies, Padjadjaran Unive
Prof Dr	Karina Batthyany	Director	CLACSO (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales)
Dr.	Sebeka Plaatjie	President Vice-	SADSA (South African Development Studies Association)
Prof.	Taekyoon Kim	President	KAIDEC (Korea Association of International Development and Coop
Prof.	Brendan Howe	President	APISA and WISC