Call for papers

Sustainable Development: What is at stake for the South?

University of Bordeaux, France
June 10-12, 2009

For the last few years, "Sustainable development" has emerged as a household expression, whether in everyday life or in the academy. It lies at the basis of economic policies designed in both industrialized and developing countries and outlines specific proposals and requirements intended for international institutions. Yet, the consensual and unanimous understanding on the notion of sustainable development may well result in the inclusion of its name on the long list of hollow concepts.

However, promoting socially equitable, ecologically sustainable and economically viable development turns out to be the most essential challenge of the 21st century. For more than twenty years, international financial institutions have been carrying out programs in many developing countries that have caused social regression and have largely contributed, under the guise of globalization, to the worsening of their environmental situations. While Western-like development strategies are clearly showing their limits, the time has come to search for development strategies which take into consideration the historical and cultural realities of the countries. From now on, economic policies need to serve social and ecological goals which appear to be less and less separable.

Thus, the specificities of sustainable development in developing countries, if any, call for identification and analysis. Do specific institutional contexts, North-South relationships, and the exacerbation of tensions between social and ecological dimensions contribute to the determination of particular trajectories of sustainable development? To what extent do the requirements of sustainability influence the existing social, political and economic frameworks? Do the challenges of sustainability alter or redirect the problematics of developing countries? Also, do the practical experiences of sustainability implemented in the South question the concept of sustainable development itself? The third GRES Conference on Development intends to shed original light on these questions and closely related sets of themes. More specifically, our objective is to confront various heterodoxies (institutional economics, post-Keynesian economics, Marxian economics, ecological economics, etc.) to the question of sustainability in developing countries.

Conference topics

The contributions shall relate to theoretical, empirical or methodological aspects. Although not exclusive, four broad topics will be given greater place:

A. Heterodox Approaches of Sustainable Development

A.1. Sustainable development in a historical perspective
A.2. Original and/or "forgotten" contributions to sustainable development analysis
A.3. Growth, de-growth and sustainable development

B. International institutions and sustainable development

B.1. Mid-range assessment of Millennium Development Goals
B.2. Measurements of sustainable development
B.3. Globalization and sustainable development
B.4. Trade and sustainable development
B.5. Financialization and sustainable development

C. Social sustainability: content and relevance

C.1. Definition(s) of social sustainability
C.2. Social sustainability and human development
C.3. Poverty, inequality and well-being
C.4. Labour market and entrepreneurial dynamics
C.5. Sustainable consumption
C.6. Social economy

D. Considering the environmental dimension

D.1. Access to natural resources, environmental conflicts
D.2. Access to technologies and knowledge
D.3. Agriculture and food
D.4. Energy problems
D.5. Environmental impacts of development strategies
D.6. Valuation of environmental policies
D.7. Global public goods and North-South relationships

Steering Committee

Catherine Baron (University of Toulouse), Eric Berr (University of Bordeaux), Jean-Philippe Berrou (University of Bordeaux), Matthieu Clément (University of Bordeaux), François Combarnous (University of Bordeaux), Ali Douai (University of Bordeaux), Sylvie Ferrari (University of Bordeaux), Claire Gondard-Delcroix (University of Bordeaux), Jean-Marie Harribey (University of Bordeaux), Malika Hattab-Christmann (University of Toulouse), André Meunié (University of Bordeaux), Alexandre Minda (University of Toulouse)

Deadlines

Deadline for complete workshop submission	5 January 2009
Deadline for abstracts submission	15 January 2009
Notification of acceptance	31 January 2009
Registration opening	1 March 2009
Final version of papers for the proceedings	31 May 2009

Submission details

Abstracts as well as complete workshop proposals must be submitted at the following address: eric.berr@u-bordeaux4.fr.

Final versions of presented papers, as well as presentations, could either be in French or English, official languages of the conference.

The fees, the cost for transportation and accommodation are at the expense of the participants. Nevertheless, the steering committee will attribute some limited grants to participants coming from developing countries whose proposal will be accepted. To apply, please contact the steering committee (eric.berr@u-bordeaux4.fr) by February 1st, 2009.

All useful information can be found on the website of the conference: http://beagle.u-bordeaux4.fr/jourdev/.

Scientific committee

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Conference venue

University of Bordeaux
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Contact

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