GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EDITED BY DIANE STONE AND SIMON MAXWELL

Global Knowledge Networks and International Development

The 'knowledge agenda' has become a central part of the discourse of developing societies as well as advanced economies. Governments and international organisations devote considerable financial resources to both in-house and contracted research. This volume provides a coherent examination of policy thinking and institutional practice on the questions of how, why and to what extent research informs policy in the field of international development.

Drawn from think tanks, academia and development agencies, the contributors provide case histories of how research projects have informed local, national and global policy. They also investigate how development agencies have promoted the development potential of research, and outline various methods and techniques of policy entrepreneurship. Providing an analysis of thinking and practice in this topic, the book explores three key elements:

- The role of knowledge and ideas in development policy
- Case studies of projects bridging research and policy-making at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Washington, DC-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- The intersection of research and policy communities with case studies on Africa, South Asia and Hungary

Global Knowledge Networks and International Development will interest students, researchers and policy-makers concerned with global policy, global governance and development.

Diane Stone is Marie Curie Chair and Head of the Public Policy Programme at the Central European University, Hungary. **Simon Maxwell** is Director of the Overseas Development Institute, the UK's leading independent think tank on international development and humanitarian policy.

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Bridges across boundaries

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Simon Maxwell has been Director of the Overseas Development Institute since 1997. Before that he worked overseas for ten years, in Kenya, India and Bolivia, and for about fifteen years at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, latterly as Programme Manager for Poverty, Food Security and the Environment. The Overseas Development Institute describes itself as Britain's leading independent think tank on international development and humanitarian policy – this statement of purpose has led Simon Maxwell to think, write and lecture on policy processes and the role of research-based think tanks, both nationally and across national borders.

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John Young joined the Overseas Development Institute in May 2001 after five years in Indonesia managing an action-research project to promote more decentralised and client-oriented public services. Before that he was the Intermediate Technology Development Group's Country Director in Kenya, responsible for managing the group's practical project and research work on a wide range of technologies to ensure that lessons were effectively communicated to government and non-government policy makers. Since joining the Overseas Development Institute he has been involved in projects on decentralisation and rural services, information and information systems, strengthening southern research capacity and bridging research and policy. He now runs the Research and Policy in Development Programme which aims to improve the use of research in development policy and practice through improved knowledge about research-policy links; improved knowledge management and learning systems; improved communication; and improved awareness of the importance of research.

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Preface

A transnational 'community of practice' has emerged over the past decade, interested in the most effective use of research, data and analysis in the formation of policy. The contributors to this volume are part of the community. Drawn from think tanks, universities and development agencies, they share not only an interest in research and its intellectual attractions, but also a passion for putting research to its best use.

The papers are innovative in this respect. They provide a coherent examination of policy thinking and institutional practice across national boundaries, on the questions of how, why and to what extent research informs policy in the field of international development. Making strong links between research and policy is far from straightforward when the links cross boundaries: there are problems of culture and understanding involved, but also problems of power and participation. The papers do not shy away from these problems. Collectively, they seek to advance understanding of research, not simply as a global public good, but as a policy tool of international organisations, development agencies and civil society.

Our thanks go first to the authors of the papers, who have shared their thinking and experience, and done so both analytically and readably. We are particularly pleased that they all, without exception, combine both theory and practice: these are bridge-builders on their own account.

We would also like to express particular thanks to Lyn Squire and his colleagues at the GDN, who have provided opportunities for us to develop our ideas. Their enterprise embodies the kind of global knowledge network we seek to build. Our thanks also to Susanna Moorehead at the UK DFID for her understanding of this issue and her early buy-in to the process making this book possible.

Domestically, we would like to thank David Sunderland and Erwin Juenemann at the ODI and Tamas Dombas at the Centre for Policy Studies for their work on the text. At Routledge, Grace McInnes has provided timely support and advice. Finally, the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation series editor, Richard Higgott, has given us considerable latitude to explore these innovative new themes in the study of globalisation and development. We, of course, remain responsible for errors, omissions, misrepresentations, elisions and exaggerations.

Diane Stone and Simon Maxwell
March 2004

Acknowledgements

Abbreviations

ACCORD	African Centre for the Cooperative Resolution of Disputes
AERC	African Economic Research Consortium
AFSSRN	Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network
AIDA	Accessible Information on Development Activities
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APQC	American Productivity and Quality Centre
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ISIS	ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Affairs
ASK	Ain o Salish Kendra
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany)
CACM	Central American Common Market
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CAHW	community animal health worker
CANDID	Creation, Adoption, Negation and Distortion of Ideas in Development
CCR	Centre for Conflict Resolution
CDF	Comprehensive Development Framework
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CERGE-EI	Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education – Economics Institute
CFPS	Centre for Foreign Policy Studies
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSCAP	Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific
CWDS	Centre for Women's Development Studies
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of the OECD)
DAH	Decentralised Animal Health
DAHC	Decentralised Community-Based Animal Health Care
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Canada)

DFID	Department for International Development
DG	Development Gateway (formerly Global Development Gateway)
DRC	Development Resource Centre (World Bank)
EADI	European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes
EC	European Commission
ED	Executive Director
EEPNET	Environmental Economics and Policy Network
EERC	Economic Education and Research Consortium
EGDI	Expert Group on Development Issues
ERF	Economic Research Forum
ERRC	European Roma Rights Centre
ESB	Education Sub-Board (Open Society Institute)
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
EU	European Union
EUMAP	EU Accession Monitoring Program
Eurodad	European Network on Debt and Development
FWLD	Forum for Women, Law and Development
G-24	Group of 24
GDG	Global Development Gateway (now Development Gateway)
GDN	Global Development Network
GDNet	the on-line Network associated with the GDN
GLR	Great Lakes Region
GNP	Gross National Product
GPPN	Global Public Policy Network
GRP	Global and Regional Research Program
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Development Cooperation)
HIPC	heavily indebted poor countries
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HO	Home Office
ICEG	International Centre for Economic Growth
ICRIER	Indian Centre for Research on International Economic Relations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	InterAmerican Development Bank
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IDT	International Development Target
IEA	International Economics Association
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGD	Institute for Global Dialogue
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund

IMPACT	International Model for Policy Analysis and Agricultural Commodity Trade
INGOs	international non-governmental organisation(s)
IPF	International Policy Fellowship (Centre for Policy Studies, Central European University)
IQHEI	Institut québécois des hautes études internationals
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
ISS	Institute for Strategic Studies
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
JBIC	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation
JEEAR	Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KM	Knowledge Management
KNETs	Knowledge Network(s)
KS	Knowledge Sharing
KVB	Kenya Veterinary Board
LACEA	Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association
LATN	Latin American Trade Network
LGI	Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (Open Society Institute)
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MMCP	Managing Multiethnic Communities Project (LGI)
MNC	multinational corporation
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NORRAG	Network for Policy Review Research and Advice on Education and Training
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSI	Open Society Institute
Oxfam	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PAC	Partnership Africa Canada
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PHARE	Poland and Hungary Action for Restructuring of the Economy
PRGF	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility
PRISM	Performance Reporting and Information System for Management
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RAPID	Research and Policy in Development
RAPnet	Research and Policy Network
RAWOO	Raad voor het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek in het kader van Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council)

RBEC	Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (World Bank)
RDFN	Rural Development Forestry Network
RPP	Roma Participation Program
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIIA	South African Institute for International Affairs
SANEI	South Asia Network of Economic Institutes
SARC	South Asian Regional Cooperation
SAREC	Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries
SARN	South Asian Research Network
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
SPIA	Standing Panel on Impact Assessment
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAN	Transnational Advocacy Network(s)
TWN	Third World Network
UCT	University of Cape Town
UDN	Uganda Debt Network
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNU	United Nations University
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VASEM	Vietnam Agricultural Spatial Equilibrium Model
WB	World Bank
WBI	World Bank Institute
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WDR	World Development Report
WTO	World Trade Organisation

1 Global knowledge networks and international development

Bridges across boundaries

Simon Maxwell and Diane Stone

Introduction: bridging research and policy

This book is a contribution to the burgeoning literature on bridging research and policy in international development. The wider literature is concerned with how research can best influence policy, and conversely with how policy can make better use of research. Our particular concern is with policy that applies across national borders, and with the potential contribution of global knowledge networks.

The case for global policy surely needs no making: global warming, trade, financial stability, security – these are all examples of global problems that need global solutions. The role of research in helping to find solutions is, however, more difficult. What kinds of ideas count in current debates, and whose? What links exist between research and policy at global level? And what are the accountabilities? Will global development 'narratives' be the exclusive property of rich and well-connected northern institutions? Or will there be substantive contributions from all players? That is where networks come in.

Networks can play an important part in helping to create a policy process that is research rich, inclusive and accountable – at least in theory. Even so, the virtues of networks are not straightforward. We find that access can be unequal, transaction costs high, and sustainability problematic. This is true even of well-funded and well-meaning initiatives like those taken by the World Bank. There is a way forward, but it requires development agencies and actors to think in new ways about knowledge management.

We will come to that question. However, we need to begin with the more general topic of bridging research and policy. This is not straightforward, either. A linear model, in which careful research leads inexorably to better policy, is widely derided. As Clay and Schaffer (1984) remark, 'the whole life of policy is a chaos of purposes and accidents' (see also Grindle and Thomas 1991). Alternative policy models include disjointed incrementalism (Lindblom 1980), the interactive model (Grindle and Thomas 1991), mixed scanning (Walt 1994), policy as argument (Juma and Clark 1995) and ideas about the 'tipping point' (Gladwell 2000).

Several of the papers here venture into this territory. Clarke and Squire set the issue in the general context of institutional development and path dependency,