

STUBE-seminar

STUBE-seminar from 21st until 23rd November 2014 in Wiesbaden

New regional partnerships as promoters of development

- Seminar instructor:** Ms Daria Gorniak (STUBE Hessen-Referentin)
- Co-instructor:** Ms Sanimgul Yeszhan (course of studies: educational science, Goethe university Frankfurt, Kasachstan)
- Target group:** Hessian students from Africa, Asia and Latin-America
- Educational purpose:** Political and strategic context of new development partners; engagement of emerging powers in international development cooperation; types, roles and examples in triangular cooperation;
- Participants:** Overall, 26 students participated at the seminar (10 women, 16 men). Divided by countries, 9 students from Africa, 5 students from Asia, 1 student from the MENA-region, 2 students from Latin-america and 2 students from Europe took part at the seminar. For 16 participants it was the first time that they attended a STUBE-Seminar. The number of registrations totaled up to 43 and the number of represented countries totaled up to 14.

Seminar process

The seminar took place as planned.

Friday, 21st November 2014

The seminar started with dinner on Friday evening. The programme started at 7pm with an introduction of the seminar instructor as well as the introduction of the co-instructor. The co-instructor gave a brief orientation about some rules that should be followed during the seminar and she assigned duties to some participants who volunteered. Afterwards, the participants were invited to introduce themselves, by telling their name, country of origin, university course and place of study. Following the more general introduction, the co-instructor initiated a game in order to get to know each other's names. As there were many students who participated for the first time, the instructor gave an overview of STUBE and the various offers. Finally, the instructor asked the participants about their knowledge in context of regional partnerships. The instructor's presentation dealt with the *old* actors in development cooperation like the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Development Association (IDA) as part of the World Bank group and the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) – EuropeAid which is the responsible department for development cooperation of the European Union, their structural composition as well as their working approach were presented by the instructor. The purpose of this introduction was to familiarize the students with relevant terms.

Saturday, 22nd November 2014

After the breakfast, the co-instructor started the seminar with a warm-up game. The first speaker was Ms Nadine Piefer, who works as a project coordinator at the department of political science at the Technical University of Darmstadt. After introducing herself to the audience, Ms Piefer started her presentation on **triangular cooperation – potentials for horizontal partnerships with emerging powers** with a broad introduction to the political and strategic context of new development partners. First of all, Ms Piefer highlighted some new regional partnerships and explained how the partnership BRIC originated. Following this, she explained the divergences and convergences between North-South Cooperation and South-South Cooperation. Some participants requested further explanation of horizontal and vertical partnerships which quickly emerged into a broader discussion, where participants raised some concerns on the realization of horizontal partnership at all. Furthermore, Ms Piefer presented and compared the structural organisation of new departments in the field of international development cooperation of emerging powers with a special focus on Turkey, China, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and India. After a coffee break, the referee Ms Piefer initiated a discussion. After covering some questions about the developing process of cooperation between North-South and South-South partners, she moved on to the topic of triangular cooperation. While giving an overview what triangular cooperation means and which types and roles partners in a triangular cooperation can play, she gave a few examples of existing triangular cooperation. One participant particularly brought up the idea to define triangular cooperation in a broader way so much that not only countries can be viewed as partners but also non-governmental organisations which would take over an observational perspective. Responses to the presentation were very positive without any exception. The students complimented the deep knowledge of the referee in the field of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

After the lunch break, the participants had the possibility to question **Mr Prof. Dr. Detlev Reymann**, the **president of the University of Applied Science**, which is located in Wiesbaden. A lot of participants grabbed the opportunity to ask questions about the complicated application and acceptance procedure of German universities and of hessian universities like the Goethe University of Frankfurt in particular. The presidents offered his help to the attending students, which was very much appreciated. Following the round of questions, coffee and cake were served and some participants took the chance to talk to the president in a dialogue on private manners.

The second presentation by a student of political science, Eric Otieno, was delayed due to a warm-up after the coffee break. Mr Otieno held a presentation about [The 'C' in BRICS: How China is redefining development graphics](#). The referee started his presentation by showing a [TED video of Dambisa Moyo](#) who was born in Zambia and who is working as an international economist. In the video she argues that instead of private capitalism, state capitalism should be promoted and instead of liberal democracy, democracy should be de-emphasized and economic rights should be prioritized. Thus, she presents China's approach as an ideal way to further economic growth. The presentation of Mr Otieno dealt with the rise of China as an actor in the field of development cooperation and the difference between China as a trading partner and the *old* actors in development cooperation like the *World Bank* and the *International Monetary Fund* and the german governmental organisation for development cooperation *Gesellschaft für international Zusammenarbeit*. In particular, the presentation was focused on the perception of the western media on China as a raising actor in development cooperation. Mr Otieno presented some figures about China's involvement in Africa and more importantly, raised the question why China's involvement is getting so much attention. To underline this Mr. Otieno highlighted that various media sources subscribe to a largely negative view of China's involvement. Following the presentation, a heated discussion started and the students represented opposing position in the debate about how development should be pro-

moted. The instructor closed the discussion by encouraging the students to promote an approach in the future which represents the most favourable sides of each existing approach.

After the lectures and the dinner, the co-instructor coordinated the ideas of the participants to arrange a shared evening.

Sunday, 23rd November 2014

Due to the delay of several participants, the instructor reminded the students to pay more attention to punctuality during the seminar. The Seminar started with a delay of 15 minutes and due to the assumption that some participants still seemed to be tired, the co-instructor called out for an intense warm-up game. After this, the last day started with a presentation on **MERCOSUR: origins and development** from Ms. Dominique Jounda, a student in Intercultural and European studies at the University of Applied Science in Fulda. She started by showing a world map where some regional partnerships were marked and requested the participants to show the regional partnership which is operating in their country of origin. Ms Jounda explained how the regional partnership MERCOSUR originated since 1960 up to the current organizational status and compared the regional partnership to the organisational structure of the European Union. By showing the development of the monetary reserves of the member countries, she illustrated the positive impact of such a regional partnership. Lastly, Ms Jounda invited the students to divide into four groups and asked them to work on specific issues. During the teamwork, one group worked out which competences could be transferred from a national to the regional level. A second group thought about which regional partners would suit the regional partnership MERCOSUR best. The third group dealt with a simulation of a decision making process in the case of one member country raising taxes on oil for the other members of MERCOSUR and finally the fourth group discussed the reaction of one member country if it would be attacked from a non-member country. Afterwards, all four groups presented their results to the others.

After each participant was invited to show his or her satisfaction with the lectures and the atmosphere on a painted dart board, some participants were given the opportunity to give also an oral feedback about the seminar. In addition, each participant received an evaluation sheet which could be used to write additional comments about the seminar. At the end, the instructor distributed the certificates of participation and before everybody left for lunch, group pictures were taken.

Used methods

Following methods were used: a simple round to introduce oneself and one game to get to know each other, warming-up games, discussion and question rounds, teamwork in 4 groups (4-5 students), power point-presentation, *prezi* presentation, TED-Video and two different methods for evaluation.

Impressions from the seminar and evaluation

- “The discussions between the participants are really fierce and active. It’s a good idea and well organized. You could always learn something from this kind of discussion. I appreciate it.”
- There should be more seminars held in English.
- There should be more practical work

26th November 2014

Daria Gorniak

STUBE-Hessen-Referee