Riding the Dragon: Africa engages with China

Workshop Programme

Thursday 12th November 2015
Room T102, 21-22 Russell Square, SOAS

10am – Registration and Welcome by Carlos Oya and Julia Strauss

10.15am – 11.45am – Panel 1 – Chinese Overseas Direct Investments: companies on the move
This panel will look at broad themes about the dynamics of Chinese investments both from the perspectives of large-State owned companies and small-scale (private) investments and will help provide a broad overview of Chinese FDI in Africa with emphasis on the diversity of actors and sectors

Dic Lo   China’s outward FDI in the developing world (overall picture and main characteristics)
Daouda Cisse Chinese investment policies and Chinese companies’ business strategies in Africa
Giles Mohan  The Political Economy of China’s African Oil Investments
Chair: Carlos Oya

11.45am – 12.00am – Tea/coffee break

12.00am-1.30pm  – Panel 2 – Labour and migration: people on the move
This panel will look at the experiences and realities of labour and people moving as part of growing involvement of Chinese companies, agencies and investors in Africa. The focus is on the experience of workers, on how these can be studied, and on the social reactions and perceptions to such movements.

Tim Pringle   Labour Relations: Is China’s model of labour relations being imposed on Africa?
Carlos Oya Understanding the employment effects of Chinese investments and contractors in Africa
Tang Xiaoyang  Racialization and Universalization of Work Ethics
            Sino-African Encountering on a Labour Issue
Greg Dobler  China and Namibia, 1990-2015: societal reactions to new international actors
Chair: Julia Strauss

1.30pm -2.15pm  – Lunch break
2.15pm-3.45pm - Panel 3 – Governance challenges in Chinese engagements in Africa
This panel will debate some critical challenges in the governance of investments, engagements and relations between Chinese actors (companies, state, individuals) and African hosts, and on the implications of risk and conflict for such encounters.

Dan Large  Security, development and China’s engagement with conflict in Africa
Julia Strauss  China’s Evolving Notions of Governance in Africa
Xiaoxue Weng  Chinese investment in Africa’s natural resources in the informal economy
implications for governance, rural livelihoods and the environment

Chair: Stephen Chan

3.45pm – 4.30pm - Tea/Coffee break and networking

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11am-12.30pm – Panel 4 – Agricultural investments in Africa by Chinese e companies and technical cooperation

This panel will look at examples from Mozambique of Chinese agricultural investments, whether in the form of private firms or as part of technical cooperation linked to Chinese development aid. The panel will also more broadly and critically discuss to what extent Chinese actors really participate in “land grabs”.

Zhang Chuanhong  Does Scale Matter? Research on the Interaction of State, Capital and Local Agency through the lens of China-Africa Agricultural Engagements
Sergio Chichava  An overview of China’s agricultural investments in Mozambique
Xiaoxue Weng  Chinese investment in Africa’s natural resources in the informal economy – implications for governance, rural livelihoods and the environment

Chair: Carlos Oya

12.30-1.30 – Lunch

1.30pm-3.00pm – Plenary – Research agendas: collective discussion and closing remarks of participants

3.00pm-3.30pm – coffee break

3.30pm-5.00pm – Screening of “When China Met Africa” and discussion

6pm-7.30pm – ‘Will Africa feed China? Rumors and Realities’ -
  Keynote Lecture by Deborah Brautigam in G3, followed by Reception