



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

School of Economics and Management

## **EEH032F, Aid in Historical Perspective, 7.5 credits**

*Biståndets roll I ett historiskt perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

**Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2020-12-01 to be valid from 2021-01-01, Spring semester 2021.

### **General Information**

This is an optional course at the PhD programme.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies:* Economic History

### **Learning outcomes**

The student will acquire advanced knowledge about major debates on the role of aid in the development process. In particular, s/he will be taught different analytical approaches to the role of foreign aid for development in economies outside the industrialized West since the 1950s. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be expected to:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge of changing perceptions of the role of aid in the development process and how and why the content of aid has changed over time

#### **Competence and skills**

- relate the discussion of aid to changes of development theory and apply analytical concepts from the literature of the role of aid in the development process and critically examine their limitations

## Judgement and approach

- make critical use of empirical evidence in addressing different dimensions of the role of aid in the development process
- discuss and defend theoretically and empirically sound analyses of the role of aid and its relation to the development process in the global South
- analyse and evaluate different roles of development aid among developing countries after WW II.

## Course content

The significant but elusive role of aid in the development process for long-term economic growth, poverty reduction and improving quality of life is a classic theme in both Economic History and Development Economics.

The aim of this tutorial is to analyze the theoretical and ideological underpinnings, practical implementation and long-term effects of aid directed towards the developing countries from 1950s onwards. It takes as a point of departure the contemporary, and animated, debate on the fruitfulness of aid to assess success or failure of different types of both bilateral and multilateral aid initiatives in a historical perspective. It also considers the implications of the rapidly changing aid landscape in terms of new aid actors and alternatives to aid during the changes taking place in the global economy. The real-world practice and allocation in terms of aid flows and donor preferences will be related to the development needs of recipient countries.

Empirically, the course will have a broad geographical scope including experiences from Asia, Latin America and Africa. This will allow for a deeper understanding of not only cases where development aid has played a prominently conducive role for development but also cases where it has impeded economic and social progress.

## Course design

The course consists of a number of mandatory group meetings where the student is expected to actively discuss and in writing reports of significant theoretical and empirical literature in the discussion of the role of aid in the development process. The course ends with a paper assignment focusing on a debate, theoretical problem or empirical case(s) that also is presented for the group.

## Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance both orally and in writing. Grading is continuous throughout the course. The greatest weight is given to the final paper.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

*Sub-courses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail or Pass

### **Entry requirements**

PhD students applying for this course should have at least 60 credit points in either economic history, business administration, economic and social geography, economics, history, sociology or the equivalent knowledge.

### **Further information**

This course cannot be included in the same degree as EKHT47.