

Theories of Development and Cooperation

The course explores the major theories and debates that have shaped our understanding of development and international cooperation. Starting from classical approaches to economic growth and modernization, students examine how concepts such as dependency, inequality, human development, sustainability, governance and institutional capacity have transformed the international development agenda.

Particular attention is paid to the relationship between theory and practice. Why have some development strategies succeeded while others have failed? How do political institutions, economic structures, international organisations and local communities influence development outcomes? And how have global challenges, from climate change and technological transformation to geopolitical competition, changed the way we think about cooperation?

Through theoretical debates, contemporary examples and comparative perspectives, students are encouraged to critically assess different models of development and the assumptions behind them. The course provides the conceptual foundations necessary to understand current development policies and prepares students to analyse international cooperation beyond traditional donor-recipient approaches.