

Lecture series

Part of the GGS Teaching Assistantship Program 2013/14

Foreign, Development and Economic Policy Issues *in Turkey, Iran, and African Countries*

Target group

Undergraduate students, doctoral candidates, and postdoctoral researchers

Course language

English

1. Global Large Scale Agricultural Investments in African Countries: Issues of Rights, Law, and Distributions of Benefits and Risks

Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 10:15 – 13:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Fitsum Resome Teddla (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

Timngum Julius Toh (Chair of Public Law, International Law and European Law, JLU)

This lecture addresses the diverse issues related to contemporary trends of global large scale agricultural investments. The conceptualization of the phenomenon, the analysis of distributions of benefits and risks, the characteristics of different land laws and rights as well as the concept of citizenship in Africa will be considered. The lecture is divided into two parts; the first part elucidates the origin and consequences of land grab, while the second part explains the various types of land law and the implications of the land deals for local communities from a land rights and human rights perspective.

2. Iran and the West – Roots of Conflicts and Possible Ways to Resolution

Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 10:15 – 11:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Hosnieh Mahoozi (Chair of International Economics, JLU)

Is Iran an enemy of the West? Why are the relations between Iran and the West so complicated? Is there any hope to resolve the conflict between Iran and the West? These are questions which probably come in mind following contemporary international politics. This lecture aims to discuss and answer the above-mentioned questions and is designed in five parts including:

- History of conflicts between Iran and Western Countries (pre- and after-revolution conflicts)
- Iran foreign policy issues
- Western (US, UK, EU) policies towards Iran
- Iran's economic challenges and effects of international sanctions
- Conclusion and discussion on conflict resolution

3. The 'Chinafrica' Relationship – Salvation or New Form of Colonialism?

Tuesday, November 05, 2013, 10:15 – 11:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Emmanuel Ametepah (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

“Beware of the Dragon” or “Feeding the Dragon” are some of the catching phrases in the media in the attempt to caution Africa in its engagement with China today. To what extent should Africa pay heed to this warning in dealing with China? The objective of the lecture is to examine the China-Africa relations by concentrating on the strategic economic, political and social interests by both sides. Emphasis will be laid on the challenges and opportunities arising to Africa in particular in this growing partnership. The consequences of this cooperation for the global balance of power in relation to interests of the West in Africa will also be briefly discussed.

4. Sixty Years of Development Aid Without Development: Africa and the ‚Aid Therapy‘

Tuesday, November 26, 2013, 10:15 – 11:45

Dekanatssitzungssaal FB 01, Licher Str. 72, 35394 Giessen

Emmanuel Ametepah (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

The lecture explores reasons why international development aid has not achieved its official goals in sub-Saharan Africa. It starts by briefly touching on the historical background and the different types of aid and proceeds by addressing the pros and cons of development aid. It then tackles the question of why aid in Africa has been ineffective, and in some cases even contra-productive in relation to the claimed developmental aim. The lecture finally discusses a possible way forward for Africa by exploring alternative development strategies in contrast to the classical ‚aid therapy‘ by drawing on examples from other developing countries.

5. Turkish Foreign Policy in the Age of Uncertainty

Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 10:15 – 11:45

Room 601, basement, Licher Str. 66, 35394 Giessen

Ahmet Görgeç (Institute of Political Science, JLU)

This lecture presents the major contours, concepts, trends and issues of Turkish foreign policy. After an overview of the Turkish foreign policy in terms of theories of international relations, the key foreign policy issues during the period of the republic, particularly during the post-Cold War era, will be examined. The lecture aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the conduct and changing priorities of Turkish foreign policy. In addition, EU-Turkey relations, Turkey-USA relations, Turkey-Middle East relations, and the effect of internal dynamics on the foreign policy will be pointed out in parallel. Within this context, the interaction of political, economic, cultural and military factors in Turkish policy formation are presented.