

Nagoya University  
Graduate School of International Development  
**Development Sociology 2015**

Sanae Ito

Room 603/ Tel: (789) 4977

Email: ito@gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp

Class hours: Monday 16:30 – 18:00

**The United Nations and Multilateral Actors in Development**

**Objectives:**

In this lecture we will look at the rise, and the fall, of multilateral organizations considered relevant for development. We will learn about the United Nations system and examine the geopolitical contexts, global economic flows, and tensions under which different multilateral actors operate. We will then discuss the significance of multilateralism and the emergence of new non-state actors who take on new forms of multilateral roles.

**Questions:**

- 1) Given the grossly unequal distributions of power and wealth, how can multilateral initiatives produce more equitable development outcomes?
- 2) The historian Arnold Toynbee wrote that the twentieth century would be remembered as an age when 'human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race'. In light of this chapter's contents, how valid is that observation?
- 3) The UN and its agencies have been criticized for serving unilateral political interests under the guise of multilateral politics. How valid are such criticisms?
- 4) Given the emergence of new powers in the Global South, to what extent will traditional North-South fractures continue to dominate multilateral processes?

**Required reading:**

Sogge, D. 2012. The United Nations and Multilateral Actors in Development. In *International Development*. P. A. Haslam, J. Schafer, P. Beaudet, eds. Chapter 10. Ontario: Oxford Univ. Press.