

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

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Class hours: Monday 16:30 – 18:00

## **Civil Society and Development**

### **Objectives:**

So far we have been discussing the roles of formal development actors such as national governments, aid agencies, and multilateral institutions. In this lecture, we will look at the role of civil society organizations in development. First, we will examine the notion of ‘civil society’. Second, we will discuss the role of the development NGOs which work within civil society. By the end of the class, students will understand that the role the NGOs play in development is a matter of intense debate and that there may be alternative forms of civil society that represent the socially marginalized people.

### **Questions:**

- 1) What is the role of civil society in the social change and development process in mediating between donors (and outside forces) and the localities/communities of the poor? To facilitate or act as a catalyst of a participatory form of economic or social development? Or to contribute to the establishment of ‘democracy’ and ‘good governance’?
- 2) Are NGOs a positive factor in the development process? Whose interests do they primarily represent – those of the donors and the guardians of the new world order, or the groups that are socially excluded, marginalized, and poor?
- 3) What is the best way to advance the interests of the socially excluded, marginalized, and poor – by joining (and encouraging the poor to join) anti-globalization movements for social change or to serve as strategic partners of overseas development associations and their so-called ‘war on poverty’?

### **Required reading:**

Veltmeyer, H. 2012. Civil Society and Development. In *International Development*. P. A. Haslam, J. Schafer, P. Beudet, eds. Chapter 12. Ontario: Oxford Univ. Press.