

# *Taking stock of Development studies at Aalborg University*

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# Brief historical overview

- From GUF to DIR
- From DIR to GRS
- From DIR to GRS to DEC & GDS
- Danish PhD Network on Development and International Relations
- Business studies, culture and language, engineering, water and sanitation, planning, environment, climate change etc.
- Teaching MA programs & Research Collaboration – learning from each other – free to choose approaches, concepts, methodologies – co-authorship – NOT North-South but Mutual learning as key for exchange of knowledge

# DIR and GDS examples

- Preference to carry out basic research with a normative commitment to produce knowledge that can promote the aspiration of the vulnerable, subaltern groups, the voiceless and those that lack opportunities to work and earn a decent existence.
- Combination of two interdisciplinary disciplines: development studies and international relations with a view to create intellectual and knowledge synergies and syntheses.
- Critical and open engagement with on-going theories and debates on globalization and development.
- Studies and analyses of alternative ideas, approaches, movements for reform or subversion and practices that emerge through the processes of globalization and development.
- Commitment to contribute to community service, disseminate information and research results and open out to the community to engage in civic public education and engagement in relation with topical issues of development and international relations.

# Research Collaboration

- ENRECA programs (Costa Rica)
- BSU programs (Nepal, Uganda and Kenya)
- Business development in Ghana
- Business in Development (BID) – Third World Enterprises
- International Business Research in North-South Perspective
- PBL, ICT and UNESCO projects
- Innovation and Globelics
- Other Danida financed PhD scholarships from Bangladesh, India, China, Bhutan, Philippines, Thailand, Kenya etc.

# Summing up

- Key question is "What is development"?

If it is the study of economic growth and the study of resistance against economic growth ....

If it is the study of global, regional, national and local development strategies and of those who are against....

If it is the study of the belief in mainstream development and also those who believe in alternative development ....

If the definition of "What is development" is based on subjective and other factors then AAU and partners are on the right track.