

HAMLET WITHOUT THE PRINCE OF DENMARK: HOW DEVELOPMENT HAS DISAPPERED FROM TODAY'S DEVELOPMENT' DISCOURSE

The presentation

Ha-Joon Chang's presentation at DIIS will be based on his forthcoming paper; 'Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: How development has disappeared from today's 'development' discourse', just published in a book edited by Shahrukh Rafi Khan, Jens Christiansen called 'Towards New Developmentalism – Market as Means rather than Master'

The definition of 'development' has always been a contentious issue. Income level is of course one of the most widely accepted single measures of development, but most people would agree that development is something more than providing higher material standards of living.

The most well known in this respect is the UNDP's human development index (HDI) and its variations, which try to incorporate non-income dimensions of human welfare, such as education, health, and gender equality. HDI and similar measures of development (e.g., the physical quality of life index – a 1970s predecessor of HDI) are saying that our lives are not simply fulfilled by having more material goods but need self-realization and dignity. The 'humanistic' dimension of development emphasized by these indicators is absolutely essential in making us remember that material progress is only the means and not the end of development.

However, there is another dimension that used to be central to the definition of development in the early days of development economics but has become increasingly forgotten. It is the 'production' side of development.

The full version of the paper can be downloaded here

<http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/faculty/chang/pubs/HamletwithoutthePrinceofDenmark-revised.pdf>

The author

Chang is one of the leading heterodox economists specialising in development economics. Currently a Reader in the Political Economy of Development at the University of Cambridge, Chang is the author of several influential policy books.

'Rethinking Public Policy in Agriculture – Lessons from History, Distant and Recent', *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 2009, vol. 36, no. 3.

'Economic History of the Developed World: Lessons for Africa', lecture delivered in the Eminent Speakers Programme of the African Development Bank, 26 February, 2009

Under-explored Treasure Troves of Development Lessons – Lessons from the Histories of Small Rich European Countries (SRECs)' in M. Kremer, P. van Lieshout & R. Went (eds.), *Doing Good or Doing Better – Development Policies in a Globalising World*, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, 2009