

Monday, April 24th at 4:00PM
Blow Hall - Board of Visitors Room

Rethinking Human Development: How Can We Elevate the Human Condition?

Luke Pascual¹, Nic LaGamma², Cameron How³,
Brandon Raquet⁴ & David Wisdom⁵

¹) ldpascual@email.wm.edu, ²) nplagamma@email.wm.edu, ³) cehow@email.wm.edu
⁴) braquet@email.wm.edu, ⁵) dpwisdom@email.wm.edu

Not all countries are created equal. Many factors influence how a country develops, and this presentation examines five of the most salient. How do geography's impacts on human interaction effect development? What causes human migration and what impact does it have on development? How can we reduce education as an opportunity cost? How can countries learn from the healthcare advances in Sub-Saharan Africa? Does foreign monetary aid actually have a meaningful impact on those countries receiving aid? By answering these questions we will present a coherent picture of the obstacles the developing world faces on its journey to prosperity. Have culture, climate and isolation proven to significantly impact the process of development, specifically with regards to human migration and economic success in the agricultural and industrial ages. A developing country's geography, income, and education status all influence the international migration of skilled laborers, also known as "brain drain" migration. This depletion of human resources perpetually increases the opportunity cost of education. Research suggests this can be resolved by addressing cycles of political corruption, formal economic stagnation and poor teaching. Lack of healthcare also restricts human development. The effectiveness of healthcare improvements currently implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa are being assessed for their impact on both long-term ultimate goals, such as lower infant and child mortality rates and longer life expectancy, as well as shorter-term proximate targets, such as immunization, disease prevention, and nutrition. Many first world countries provide aid to developing countries, but to what extent does pouring money into a country actually effect change? Research shows that ("as is turns out") thoughtful and liberating economic policy has a larger impact than bare magnitude of aid on development. These topics establish a baseline understanding of the human development climate, along with the mechanisms in place to actualize prosperity.