Economic development of the Global South

The study of economic development in the Global South from a long-term perspective is of increasing importance in the current era of globalization, integration and convergence. This applies both in the Global North and for the growing academic communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Discussions on development challenges for the Global South often lack sufficient understanding of the diverging history of different regions and countries. This leads to a poor understanding both of the development trajectories of success stories and of remaining development challenges. One explanation for this deficiency is a lack of recognition concerning how important the understanding of the past is for planning the future, another is the poor and uneven funding for researching the history of the Global South. The research group aims to be narrowing the gap between historical research on the Global South and the current development debate. The scope is broad in both time and space, covering roughly the last 150 years and stretching over Africa, Asia and Latin America.

One sub-discipline is of a purer historical character, sharing many of the classical research interests within the field of economic history of the Global North, such as long-term demographic change; agrarian history; colonialism and imperialism; building of state capacity; wages and living standards; resource distribution and inequality.

Another sub-discipline interacts more closely with the field of Economics and the more contemporary development debate such as the Sustainable Development Goals. This research is characterized by exploring trends in economic growth and poverty reduction, analysing conditions for sectoral change within and between agriculture, industry and services; changing conditions for global interaction and so on.