

SEMINAR

Higher Education and Economic Development

Thursday 24 September 2009

Time: 1200-1400

Venue: Norad, INFO 6th Floor

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The Higher Education Research and Advocacy Network in Africa (HERANA) consists of academics from the Universities of the Western Cape (SA), Oslo and Makerere (Uganda), with research participants from 8 countries in Africa. A key project for HERANA is a study of the complex relationships between higher education and economic development. Starting point for the project is the question: Why are African universities performing so poorly when it comes to their contribution to economic development?

The study includes case studies of three countries that are regarded as among the most successful in linking higher education to their economies (Finland, Korea, North Carolina) as well as an examination of the link between universities and economic development in 8 African countries.

The analytical point of departure is that higher education's role in, contribution to and impact on development is influenced by the following three inter-related factors:

- The nature of the pact between the universities, political authorities and society at large.
- The nature, size and connectedness of the academic core (esp. graduate degree programmes and basic research activities).
- The institutionalization of externally-funded projects

At this seminar three of the researchers involved in the study will present the main preliminary outcomes of the African case studies, and discuss some of the underlying reasons for the relatively weak performance of African universities. In this they will focus especially on the consequences of the weak national pacts between higher education and society, the nature and role of institutional leadership, and the negative effects of the projectization approach of Northern donor agencies.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Welcome – Tove Kvil (NORAD)

Introducing the Project – Prof. Nico Cloete (University of Western Cape, South Africa))

Proposed HERANA Project Framework:

Prof. Joe MullerExtra (University of Cape Town)

	Prof. Peter Maassen (University of Oslo)
	Questions/discussion on Proposed Framework:
	Preliminary results of HERANA project: National pact, institutional leadership, 'projectization' approach
	Prof. Nico Cloete Prof. Joe Muller Prof. Peter Maassen
	Questions/Discussion