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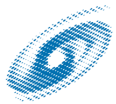
# SI657/757: Information Technology and Global Development (WI 10)

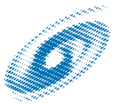
## Wk 2: Development, Poverty, and Power



# Next steps on project groups:

- Final groups
- Select country of likely focus; read Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (if available; go to World Bank site (http://www.worldbank.org/) and select poverty topic)
- FSPP talk





# Is growth good for the poor?

- Absolute vs. relative poverty
- Economics of inequality (middle class savings, capital flight and luxury consumption, rent seeking, social stability)
- Inequality and income accounting (Lorenz curves and Gini co-efficients)
- Variable growth paths (the 'Kuznets curve'; cf. Huntington)
- New ways of measuring / accounting for poverty (e.g. Human Development Index, Human Poverty Index, World Development Index)

# Poverty alleviation as growth strategy

- Poverty alleviation builds access to credit, unleashing otherwise stalled economic activity
- Poverty alleviation removes barriers (health, nutrition, education) which limits economic productivity
- Raising income of poor disproportionately benefits local economic activity
- Poverty alleviation as building public support for and participation in development processes

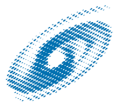
# Social distribution of poverty

- rural vs. urban
- women/children vs. men (income, access to infrastructure, education, health care, etc.) – cf. women in development ('WID') and gender-sensitive programming
- minority/indigenous vs. majority
- redistribution: asset ownership (e.g. land reform); taxation systems; subsidies and targeted public investment

# From ‘stages’ to ‘ladders’: Collier’s “traps”

- Conflict
- Natural resources
- Landlocked with bad neighbors
- Bad governance





# The case for aid: Sach's 'Big 5' development interventions

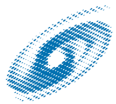
- Agricultural inputs
- Investments in basic health
- Investments in education
- Power, transport, and communications services
- Safe drinking water and sanitation

# Beyond growth: Development as Freedom

- Political freedom
- Economic freedom
- Social opportunities
- Transparency guarantees
- Protective security

*(freedom as ends and means of development)*





# SI657-10 Wk 3 small group work

- Pick ONE of the general development frameworks articulated by Collier (poverty traps), Sachs, ('big 5 interventions') or Sen (5 freedoms).
- What role might information technologies play in addressing each of your author's categories?
- What are the limits of IT approaches or contributions to some of these challenges?
- What are the appropriate roles of various actors (national governments, international donors, local communities, domestic or international private sector, other organizations or institutions, etc.) in contributing to or participating in these initiatives?

# SI657 – Wk 3 small group work: Ferguson, Escobar and Li readings

- Distribute and discuss your reading notes on each of the Ferguson, Escobar, and Li readings (in that order). Each of you should lead an 8-10 min discussion of your assigned reading (other group members should ask questions of clarification etc.)
- Group question: How do each of Ferguson, Escobar, and Li support, challenge, or complicate the visions and priorities for development articulated by Collier, Sachs, and Sen?
- (please take notes on your discussions, and be prepared to share with the wider class)