



Private Sector Roles in Development and Governance in the Global South

Programme: Thursday 15 June 2017

KEYNOTE LECTURE

18:30-20:00 **Turbulence, change and interruption: working with informality in West Africa**
(Venue: Darwin B.40). Please register [via Eventbrite](#).

Speaker: *Prof Jane Guyer*

Summary: Jane Guyer will address the issues of informality in West Africa from the perspective of the researcher, drawing on a newspaper archive collected in Nigeria during the 1990s, a study of small businesses' use of the energy supply in Lagos and other published sources, to explore research methods useful in identifying and studying the processes that are shaping the employment, incomes and services of the self-employed. Her talk will focus on topics such as money exchange and management and the extension of engagements amongst researchers and with practitioners from both Africa and Europe, and across disciplines.

AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Space in Afternoon Seminars is limited, so please register your attendance [via Eventbrite](#). Please note that the seminars are intended to be highly interactive and participatory, so your questions and comments will be welcome.

14:00-15:30 PANEL 1
Capturing change in people's life-circumstances in the informal sector: a panel discussion on 'doing' research on informality

Panelists: *Jane Guyer*, Johns Hopkins University, US
Jacques Charmes, Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France & Core Member of WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalising & Organising)

Chair: *Colin Marx*, DPU, UCL

16:00-17:30 PANEL 2
Market systems and informality: lessons from policy and practice

Panelists: *François Roubaud*, Development, Institutions & Globalisation (DIAL), France
Bill Vorley, PI - Shaping Sustainable Markets; Team Leader - Small-scale and Informal Enterprise, IIED, UK

Chair: *Michael Walls*, DPU, UCL



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

University College London Global Governance Institute in collaboration with the Development Planning Unit (DPU) is hosting two public panel discussions entitled: 'Private Sector Roles in Development and Governance in the Global South' on 15 June 2017, kindly supported by the French Embassy in London and UCL Grand Challenges, followed by a keynote talk from Prof Jane Guyer, Johns Hopkins University.

'Markets' and 'in/formality' are currently fashionable topics, and with this seminar series and talk, we are keen to promote critical discussion about the assumptions we bring to our understandings of each. As academics and those working in the development sector, we talk a lot about the 'informal economy', yet the concept of 'formality' has a tendency to evaporate into irrelevance when we try to examine it in 'developing' contexts. Often the bulk of a given economy is effectively 'informal', and any attempt to overlay a definition of formality obscures rather than illuminates. For example, if we define 'formality' as applying to business people who are registered or pay tax, we create an often arbitrary distinction.

For example, in recent DPU research, when talking to small traders in Zaria, northern Nigeria, some would say they paid a government levy, whereas others hadn't. But the levy itself made little difference to their actual businesses. In a number of cases, those paying taxes were not sure who the tax collector represented - they readily raised the possibility that it was just someone extorting money, which they paid in order to get rid of the individual in question. In every other respect, that trader is just as 'informal' as the next person who had avoided payment, yet by some definitions they would be classified as operating within the 'formal' sector. Importantly, there was little evident expectation that payment of 'taxes' would result, directly or indirectly, in the provision of public goods of any sort.

Nevertheless, there is definitely something of value in the idea of greater and lesser degrees of regulatory presence/state organisation, and hence in the notion of formality. The seminars and talk in this event are designed to promote discussion around topics such as those and the implications those debates have on the ways that we understand the role of markets, entrepreneurialism and innovation in the Global South.

As the informal sector grows in the Global South, and as local economic processes show new and creative ways of dealing with a turbulent global political-economy, it is becoming increasingly important that we understand those innovations both in academic and policy terms. It is crucial that practitioners are able to predict, plan and create dependable infrastructures and relationships in order to help support the resilience of economic actors in situations of increasing uncertainty, with the links between academia, policy and practice vital in supporting that ability.

With participation from international experts focusing on informal markets in the global South, the productive economy, development policy and the role of markets in poverty reduction, this series of two panel discussions and a keynote is designed to share anthropological, policy and practice perspectives on the roles the informal sector plays, both in theory and in practice, in development and governance in the Global South.





PROFILES OF SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

[Jane I. Guyer](#) graduated from the LSE in 1965 (BA Sociology, First Class Honours), and from the University of Rochester, New York, USA, in 1972 (PhD Social Anthropology). Theoretically, she focuses on the interface between formal and informal economies, and particularly on the instabilities that interface gives rise to. She has undertaken fieldwork in Nigeria and Cameroon, and served on the faculty at Harvard, Boston, Northwestern and Johns Hopkins Universities. Her most-cited work is *Marginal Gains: Monetary Transactions in Atlantic Africa*, published in 2004. Since publication of that book, she has focused on two areas: firstly on African land use and, secondly, on *Cultures of Monetarism*, which draws on West African, Western and other non-Western sources to understand differing experiences with monetarist policies and approaches. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2012, she is currently serving on one of their committees, after retirement from the full-time faculty at Johns Hopkins University in 2015.

[Jacques Charmes](#) is an Economist and Statistician. He is currently Emeritus Research Director at the French Scientific Research Institute for Development (IRD). Previously, he was Director of the Department of Social and Health Sciences at IRD and a Professor of Economics at the University of Versailles, and at the Institute for Political Science (Sciences Po) in Paris. He has been involved in the design and analysis of many labour force, living standards, informal sector and time-use surveys in Africa, both north and south of the Sahara. He has written several articles, reports and manuals on the measurement of the informal sector in the labour force, with a particular emphasis on women. He was a co-founder and remains a core member of the international network, WIEGO, and served as their co-director of statistics 2000-5. He is also a member of the Scientific Council of the CODESRIA-MacArthur programme on *Africa's real economies*.

[François Roubaud](#) is an Economist and Statistician, Senior Research Fellow at the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), and a member of the DIAL research unit (IRD and Université Paris-Dauphine) in Paris. In the statistical field, he has been one of the pioneers in the implementation of mixed surveys (household/enterprise) and the initiator of the 1-2-3 survey to measure the informal economy implemented in dozens of LDCs (in Africa, Latin America and Asia). He has also played an active role in governance measurement through the development of governance and democracy modules grafted onto official household surveys. He specialises in and has published widely on development economics with special interest in labor market and informal economy, governance, and impact evaluation and political economic of development policies.

[Bill Vorley](#) was the Principal Investigator (PI) for *Shaping Sustainable Markets* and Team Leader for small-scale and informal enterprise at IIED, with particular expertise in agribusiness, agrifood systems, informal markets, smallholders and inclusive business. He is currently researching small-scale farming in formal and informal markets, market structures and the future of family farming and sustainable commodity production and trade. His work also includes an initiative launched in 2014 on *consumption, urbanisation and rural transformation*, and prior to joining IIED, he was Director at the Food and Agriculture Program, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Minneapolis.

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