

**UNIPIID**  
FINNISH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UniPID MOOC course *Essentials in Development Studies*. Get to know the course teachers and collaborators!

## Ana Tarazona



Ana is the current UniPID Virtual Studies coordinator. She is also conducting her PhD studies at Tampere Peace Research Institute -TAPRI, where she is focusing on the role of Colombian women in the promotion of peace and non-violent means of conflict resolution.

Ana is an enthusiast about the different engagement strategies used by the historically marginalized. She is convinced that Global South communities have a lot to contribute to processes of knowledge-production, based on their lived experiences and worldview.

“Contributing to the MOOC development has allowed me to broaden my critical thinking around current debates on sustainable development. Getting involved with its contents has greatly contributed to my personal and professional growth”.

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## Gutu Wayessa



Gutu is the current course's responsible teacher. Gutu received his PhD in Social Sciences (Development Studies) from the University of Helsinki. Currently, he is a university researcher in Sociology at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Previously, he was a postdoc researcher at the University of Luxembourg and the University of Helsinki and a university lecturer in Global Development Studies at the latter. He has undertaken innovative research in various areas of development studies and has over fifteen years of experience in undergraduate and graduate teaching.

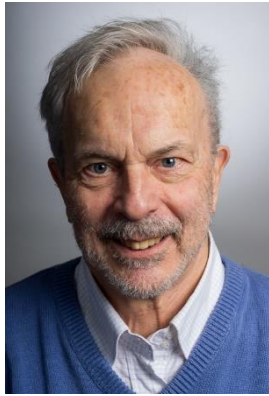
"I am privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to developing the MOOC course *Essentials in Development Studies*. The range of themes and perspectives the course covers are befitting its name and truly inspiring to me".

## Harlan Koff



Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Luxembourg; GAMMA-UL Chair in Regional Integration and Sustainability at INECOL, A.C., Mexico; Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa; and Docent in Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. His research focuses on international development, comparative regional integration, and migration. He is especially passionate about policy coherence for sustainable development because it addresses the complexities of policy interactions and how “non-development” policy sectors can undermine the well-being of local communities.

## Henning Melber



Henning came as a son of German immigrants to Namibia, and joined the anticolonial movement in 1974. He studied Political Sciences and Sociology, with a focus on African and Development Studies. After Independence in 1990 he headed a local Namibian think tank. In 2000 he relocated to Uppsala as Research Director of the Nordic Africa Institute. From 2017 to 2023 he was President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).

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## Marjaana Jauhola



Dr Marjaana is a senior research fellow at Tampere Peace Research Institute at Tampere University and docent in Global Development Studies University of Helsinki in Finland. Her research explores intersections of development interventions, intersectional inequalities and forms of feminist resistance using audio-visual ethnography and life historical research (for details, see [www.scrapsofhope.fi](http://www.scrapsofhope.fi)).

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## Meeri Tiensuu



Meeri is currently a PhD researcher at Tampere Peace Research Institute. Meeri is experienced in development studies and was previously enhancing global academic partnerships at UniPID Coordination Unit.

Meeri is interested in the connections between knowledge production, co-creation and social activism. She is passionate about finding new ways to promote global solidarity and responsibility in her work while advocating hope in today's world.

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## Ossi Ollinaho



Docent of Global Development Studies at the University of Helsinki. He has contributed to environmental social theory by conceptualizing insidious socio-material changes and everyday relevances of environmental changes. He has empirically focused on agroforestry, agroecology, and extractivisms as part of critical agrarian studies.

"I find this UniPID course relevant because it focuses on the structures of the contemporary world system that remain an obscure background of everyday life to most people."

## Ratih Adiputri



Ratih is a postdoc researcher and lecturer at the University of Jyväskylä. Her research interest in sustainable development and Global South (Southeast Asia) and her experience in teaching online courses motivated here to contribute to developing this MOOC course.

"I learned so much from the UNIPID personnel, people that I've met when working in this course also from the reading references. I learn the importance of connecting the "heavy" and technical language of commitment/regulation/Agenda to the everyday and daily lives public activities so our (development) works are more meaningful."

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## Sheela Patel



Sheela Patel is the founder director of SPARC, an NGO based in Mumbai that aims to mobilize large numbers of the urban poor and to support and strengthen their organizations to enable them to become an important part of the city system.

Patel is widely recognized, nationally and internationally, for seeking urgent attention to the issues of urban poverty, housing, and infrastructure onto the radar of governments, bilateral and international agencies, foundations, and other organizations.

## Tiina Kontinen



Associate Professor in International Development Studies at the University of Jyväskylä. Tiina leads a research group on Civil Society and Citizenship in Development and directs the International Master's Degree Programme in Development, Education, and International Cooperation (DEICO). She is inspired by the field of development that provides the possibility to work on the intersection of theory and practice. It offers endless opportunities to learn, and sometimes painfully, to unlearn. She especially enjoys teaching in the global classrooms, the treasure chests of lived experience from different parts of the world.

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## Tuija Veintie



University researcher at Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS) at the University of Helsinki, and member of the Helsinki Inequality Initiative (INEQ). Her current work focuses on transformation toward sustainability and strengthening sustainability expertise. For years Veintie has studied the incorporation of Indigenous and local eco-cultural knowledge in intercultural bilingual education in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Her research interests include education for sustainability and social justice, epistemic pluralism, and decolonial alternatives.

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## Violeta Gutiérrez Zamora



Violeta is an environmental sociologist interested in rural development, conservation, forests, and the everyday relations between human and non-human species. I use feminist political ecology and critical theories along with ethnographic methods to explore questions about socio-ecological conflicts, environmental policy and governance, rural livelihoods, and plural values of nature.

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