



#K4SD

2019 GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-Policy Nexus

Bonn, Germany | 23-25 October 2019

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Young researchers and practitioners in development: Tell us why sustainable development research matters

An International Blog Competition

The Context

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organization that promotes sound social science research in developing countries to improve sustainable development outcomes. It believes that youth can and will play a major role in restoring and sustaining faith in robust knowledge, thus safeguarding the benefits of enlightenment for social and environmental progress. GDN is calling on young graduates and researchers to help push forward the agenda of social science research for sustainable development, and submit their blog posts as part of an international competition linked to the global development conference, 'Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research-Policy Nexus.'

The generation of researchers – who started studying development through the lens of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – faces political, social and policy frameworks that are significantly different from their predecessors, and an environment under deep transformation. Sustainable development calls for more integrated, and faster knowledge production, across traditional disciplinary and other boundaries, and new ways to mix learning and action, across global and local scales. It also urges individual commitment and action on everyone, based on sound knowledge and beyond abstract support to an ideal.

And yet, debates and decisions are too often based on unsubstantiated claims, conventional wisdom, shaky or biased evidence, self-serving beliefs and 'post-truth' politics. The purpose of this competition is to provide examples of how sound knowledge and good research provide insights that can inspire action, guide decisions and reach successful outcomes.

This blog competition for youth is launched as part of GDN's forthcoming 2019 Global Development Conference, "Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-Policy Nexus" (October 23-25 in Bonn, Germany), supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Foreign Ministry and organized in partnership with the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), and the Bonn Alliance for Sustainable Development Research.

The Competition

GDN and its partners invite young graduates and researchers under the age of 30 to explore and share their faith in developing a sound knowledge base, and engaging in high-quality, sustainable, development research. We ask you to identify a good piece of research (or several of them) that has impacted, or can impact, sustainable development. It can be their own research, or that of another. It has to be published in a peer-review journal or in a recognized working paper series. We ask you to **submit a blog that makes the case for sustainable development research, by explaining how the piece they identified has provided useful insights to opinion leaders, policy makers and other stakeholders, and translated into influential debate or effective action.** This is therefore not an exercise in summarizing a research paper. What we ask is to document the impact of good sustainable development research, by providing narratives based on convincing examples. The organizers will also accept blog posts that criticize the potential usefulness of current development research.

Blog submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis by a selection committee consisting of the Founding Editors of GlobalDev, #K4SD Conference Director and international scholars. Up to 30 contributions will be selected on a rolling basis. The winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of €1000 and will be invited to attend GDN's 2019 Global Development Conference (Bonn, October 23-25) along with other selected contributions. Travel, hotel and visa expenses will be fully covered by GDN. However, they will have to apply for and secure their visas. In addition, their contributions will be considered for publication on the blog, GlobalDev, subject to a successful editorial collaboration, in English, between them and the Blog editorial team.

Qualifications & Requirements

Writers must

- Be under the age of 30, on 1 August 2019
- Have at least completed a Master's degree, and have a strong interest in research
- Be a developing or transition country national, living in their country of origin or abroad

Application Process

- Make a submission between 800 and 1200 words in English, French or Spanish to K4SDblog@gn.int
- Submit a bio and evidence to prove their academic degree

Selection Criteria

After determining that the submission is admissible and running anti-plagiarism checks, the selection committee will focus its review on the following criteria:

- Academic quality of references: the discussion is expected to be on a piece of high-quality research authors have come across during their research and study. General commentaries will not be considered.
- Originality: submissions are expected to provide insights into the broader significance of research work for sustainable development efforts. These might include the definition, questioning, operationalization or evaluation of sustainable development efforts, at all levels.
- Relevance to sustainable development: submissions are expected to make direct references to specific sustainable development challenges (including specific SDGs or sets of SDGs).
- Content: submissions should be specific and use examples
- Style and clarity of exposition: blog posts that meet the above criteria, but lack clarity and professional syntax/word choices/tone, will not be considered.