

DEPARTMENT:	International Development & Global Studies
TERM	Winter 2023
PROFESSOR:	Susan Spronk
RESEARCH TITLE:	Foreign aid, privatization and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
NUMBER OF STUDENTS:	2-4
LANGUAGE:	English, French
ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN FRENCH	YES

#### RESEARCH DESCRIPTION:

Goals: We aim to better understand how blended finance in foreign aid programs in Canada is affecting our partners in developing countries and Canadian civil society. [Blended finance](#) is the use of public aid funds to raise money from the private sector (e.g. profit-seeking and philanthropists) to meet international aid and development goals while providing a profit to private investors. It is increasingly promoted as a solution to the financing gap to achieve the United Nations' [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Critics argue that blended finance is yet another iteration of privatization and it is not likely to raise the funds needed and risks further hampering the capacity of the public sector to deliver basic services, such as infrastructure and essential services (e.g. transportation, housing, education, water & sanitation and health) needed to promote equity and a Green Transition.

In this course, we aim to better understand the particular challenges that blended finance creates for our partners in developing countries and for Canadian civil society organizations (e.g. non-governmental organizations and unions) by exploring the following questions:

- 1) What is the impact of blended finance initiatives in the global South?
- 2) How does blended finance contribute to the goal of gender equality?
- 3) What have been the reactions of Canadian (and Québécois) civil society organizations to blended finance?
- 4) What are the alternatives to blended finance?

If you are interested in questions related to decolonization of foreign aid, equity (e.g. race, gender, ability), climate change and social movements, this is the course for you!

This course will take place in the Fall semester (September 7 to December 31, 2022). All meetings will take place by Zoom or Teams.

#### KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

This course will allow students to:

- Participate and be a member of an existing research team;
- Expand your research knowledge (methodologies, techniques, analysis, etc.) on foreign aid and international development;
- Gain an understanding of how different modalities of aid delivery affect partners in the global South and civil society organizations in Canada and Québec;
- Increase or validate their interests in graduate studies and gain a first practical experience of

social science research;

- Learn how to formulate a research question and do a literature review for grad school
- Gain practical experience in research (e.g. how to do an interview)