

Propositions

attached to the thesis

DISCIPLINING GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

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1. Governance assessments comprise discursive frames on 'good' governance and stress the central role of these frames in advancing sustainable development. Thus, they attempt to set standards, transfer norms and contribute to the measurement of performance. (This thesis)
2. Governance assessments are not merely technical tools but also serve as political instruments that shape relations between the assessor and the assessed and result in knowledge that can be used as an instrument of power. (This thesis)
3. The main premise of conducting regular governance assessments and linking these to forms of reward or punishment is that such practices would influence governments to adopt the policy prescriptions promoted by international organisations or foreign governments. (This thesis)
4. The manner in which functional knowledge on governance performance is used is strongly influenced by the structural dynamics between the assessor and the assessed. (This thesis)
5. While governance assessments are primarily concerned with promoting governance, they serve ultimately as mechanisms that provide opportunities for engagement between development actors. (This thesis)
6. Governance programmes promoted by development actors reflect, at a normative level, the norms and values of these actors regarding governance and development.
7. Political will to genuinely strengthen governance is essential for the implementation of effective governance programmes in the Global South.
8. Critical thinking is required on the role of governance in sustainable development, especially considering the growing popularity of state-led developmental models.
9. Reducing development cooperation to a carrot and stick approach fails to recognise the urgency and importance of promoting sustainable development, as the latter requires inclusion of all members of society and therefore needs strong governance.
10. Being cognisant of power relations between development actors provides a more comprehensive understanding of the manner in which development discourse translates into development practices.
11. The saying 'The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau'. (Genesis 27:22) reminds us that we need to remain critical of actors engaged in promoting development theories, devising specific development policies and implementing these practices across the Global South.