

Call for Papers for a Conference on

# **SOUTH-SOUTH HUMANITARIANISM**



26-27 November 2014, India

**Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA)  
O.P. Jindal Global University**



The formal system for international humanitarian assistance, founded in the principles and provisions of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, has traditionally been dominated by northern states and agencies and characterized by a flow of aid from the global north to the global south. The past decade however has seen growing humanitarian contributions by southern states and organizations such as Saudi Arabia, China, Venezuela, India, the African Humanitarian Organization, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, among others, to other southern states and peoples.

Humanitarian contributions by southern donors can help fill the gap between growing humanitarian needs and stagnating humanitarian budgets. Southern participation can also improve the representativeness and legitimacy of international humanitarian action. Yet, there is also concern that the humanitarian policies and practices of southern donors could result in a deeper fragmentation of the humanitarian system, contribute to an undermining of humanitarian principles, and weaken existing efforts to improve the transparency and accountability of humanitarian action.

**This conference on South-South humanitarianism aims to bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders in a multi-disciplinary conversation about the nature, implications, and future of south-south humanitarian partnerships.**

## **THEMATIC FOCUS**

**We invite individual paper proposals, full panel proposals, and suggestions for alternative formats (e.g. film, debate, workshop etc.) exploring one or more of the following themes:**

### **1. MANY HUMANITARIANISMS**

Humanitarianism has a diverse global history that predates the existence of the formal humanitarian system. In order to understand southern practices of humanitarianism, we invite papers that interrogate the philosophical, moral, historical, and cultural understandings of humanitarianism among specific southern states and agencies. Examining alternative southern understandings and practices of humanitarianism also offers an opportunity to problematize dominant understandings of humanitarian action embedded in northern history, culture, and institutional practices.

### **2. POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

Papers under this theme will help build a rich repository of empirical evidence on southern humanitarianism through case studies of specific southern donors, agencies, and partnerships. What are the goals, principles, and mechanisms of southern humanitarian donorship? Who is providing aid where, how, with whom, and to what effect? Do southern donors adhere to traditional humanitarian principles or do their programs suggest a new paradigm for humanitarianism? How is the distinction between political and humanitarian action managed and implemented, and to what effect? What role do non-state actors play in southern humanitarianism?

### **3. EFFECTS AND OUTCOMES**

What are the effects of south - south humanitarianism for meeting humanitarian needs and for the broader functioning of the humanitarian system? How do southern donors define and measure effective humanitarian action? What impact do southern humanitarian partnerships have for the protection and welfare of civilians? What are the implications of using bilateral rather than multilateral channels for meeting humanitarian needs? The preference for bilateral mechanisms could result in a fragmentation of the humanitarian system. Yet, southern donors might have access to a number of disasters precisely because they fall outside the formal system, perceived by many to be a form of western imperialism. Southern donors tend to direct a large part of their humanitarian assistance towards regional neighbors and through regional financial and coordination mechanisms. Could this lead to a greater regionalization of the humanitarian system?

### **4. HUMANITARIAN GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY**

Critical scholars of humanitarianism have argued that humanitarian action operates as a form of governance between the north and south, that sustains and legitimizes power inequalities and the structural conditions that have contributed to the continuing impoverishment of southern states. How might the nature of humanitarian governance transform as the lines between donors and recipients become blurred? What conception of international order and justice is likely to be promoted through south - south humanitarianism? As southern humanitarian donorship challenges the idea of the south as an entity dependent on the charity of the north, what potential does southern humanitarianism have to shape relations between the global north and south?

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**Deadline for submission: 1 September 2014**

Authors are invited to submit an abstract for individual paper proposals or a brief outline for panel proposals.

Individual paper proposals should include the title of the paper and an abstract of up to 250 words.

Panel proposals should include the title of the panel, an abstract for the panel theme, and details of all the authors and papers to be included.

We welcome presentations from policy and practice, as well as suggestions for alternative formats and mediums.

Accepted papers will be considered for publication in a special edition of a journal.

**The conference will be able to provide accommodation, local transport and meals for conference participants.**

**Please submit to:** [southernhumanitarianism@gmail.com](mailto:southernhumanitarianism@gmail.com)

### **For further enquiries**

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