

# LIVING IN ANTHROPOCENE, LIVING IN UNCERTAINTY RECONFIGURING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AS 'CARE' WITH RELATIONAL APPROACH

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> August  
2024 11:00-13:00 BST  
Hosting from IDS  
Room No. 119

## How to participate

Face-to-face participation is free of charge and no advance booking is required. Seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to attend online, please submit your email address and other details using the web form below by 3 August 2024.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NPnJn4MlcLbFTVNQIJ6tgkzYgZPCChUnjjvizqZuh7s/>

**Programme** \*Details are subject to change.

### Day 1. The 'Care' Matters: Reconfiguring Developmental and Humanitarian Assistance as 'Care'. 7th August 2024, 11:00-13:00 BST

11:00-11:05 Opening Remarks

11:05-11:25 Presentation 1: Shinya Konaka 'Towards Reconfiguring Development and Humanitarian Assistance as Care: Ethics of Uncertainty of Pastoralist and Agropastoralist in Northcentral Kenya'

11:25-11:35 Presentation 2: Makoto Nishi 'Care and Control during the HIV Epidemic in Ethiopia'

11:35-11:45 Presentation 3: Simon West 'Relational Approaches to Sustainability Transformations: Walking together in a World of many Worlds'

11:45-11:55 Presentation 4: Masanobu Horie 'Humanitarian Assistance in Darfur', Sudan'

11:55-12:05 Presentation 5: Rahma Hassan 'Building Resilience from Below: Exploring Pastoralists' High Reliability Networks in Northern Kenya'

12:05-12:15 Presentation 6: Go Shimada 'Climate Change and Development Projects in Peripheral Area'

12:15-12:25 Presentation 7: Tamara Enomoto and Takuto Sakamoto 'Evolving Climate Crisis Narratives at the United Nations.'

12:25-12:40 Comments by Ian Scoones

12:40-13:00 General Discussions

### Day 2. Living in Anthropocene, Living in Uncertainty: New Predicaments for Pastoralism. 8th August 2024, 11:00-13:00 BST

11:00-11:05 Opening Remarks

11:05-11:25 Presentation 8: Shinya Konaka 'No longer any Refuge in the Anthropocene: The Displaced Pastoralists Case of Samburu in Northcentral Kenya'

11:25-11:45 Presentation 9: Emery Roe 'When Complex is as Simple as it Gets: A Recent Guide for Recasting Policy and Management in the Anthropocene'

11:45-11:55 Presentation 10: Norio Meguro 'Changes in Maasai Livelihood Practices and Knowledge in the era of Climate Change and the Anthropocene: A case Study of Amboseli Region, southern Kenya.'

11:55-12:05 Presentation 11: Eri Hashimoto 'Look for the 'Blood!': Dealing with the Loss of Cattle among Nuer Refugees of South Sudan'

12:05-12:15 Presentation 12: Isao Murahashi 'Climate Change or Local Justice?: On frequent Drought and Regicide in South Sudan'

12:15-12:25 Presentation 13: Kana Miyamoto 'Re-visited Epupa Dam Debate: Chieftaincy Disputes in North-west Namibia'

12:25-12:40 Comments by Ian Scoones

12:40-13:00 General Discussions

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## LIVING IN ANTHROPOCENE, LIVING IN UNCERTAINTY RECONFIGURING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AS 'CARE' WITH RELATIONAL APPROACH

### AIMS AND SCOPE

Unjustly labelled as backward and marginalised by the colonial/postcolonial states and international regimes dominated by agrarian-centrism, pastoralists and nomads have been suffering from extreme poverty, low-intensity conflict, environmental degradation, displacement, and eviction since the colonial period. In recent years, what has been termed the 'Anthropocene', comprising climate change, overpopulation, resource depletion, biodiversity extinction, and related environmental issues as sub-set agendas and that served as some core bases of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, has been making a profound impact on their livelihoods, both in policy narrative (Roe, 1994, 2023) and in reality (Crutzen & Stoermer, 2000; Steffen et al., 2015).

Consequently, 'Anthropocene' and the subset agendas have come to reactivate obsolete anti-nomadism policies implemented in the forms of sedentarisation (Semplici & Rogers, 2023), land-grabbing and privatisation (see Lind et al., 2020), and eviction from rangeland and communal land, which assume pastoralists and nomads as environmental destroyers. Pastoralists and nomads who have already suffered from direct damage of Anthropocene/Capitalocene (Moore, 2016) are now facing additional struggles due to 'anti-nomadism Anthropocene policies' with the 'blaming the victims' logic (Ryan, 1972). Moreover, Anthropocene policies have caused further deterioration of pastoral/nomadic livelihoods or even withdrawal from pastoralism and nomadism entirely and permanently. However, the Anthropocene of pastoralists and nomads has not been fully questioned yet, both theoretically and ethnographically.

These hyflex sessions will explore the current policy narratives and realities of the 'Anthropocene' of pastoralists and nomads through the reshaping of academic knowledge employing 'relational ontology' (Konaka et al., 2023), which takes pastoral and nomadic ontology seriously. It focuses on the reflexive, complex, and dynamic interactions with their environment ('Human makes environment, which makes humans') beyond common dichotomies: human/non-human, subject/object, culture/nature, local/global, and traditional/modern. It also relativises the Western scientific knowledge and considers it equivalent to the ontology of pastoralists (Konaka, 2022). We must re-theorise reflexive relationships between human and nature beyond the 'intact nature' model and reevaluate the human-made environment of pastoralists and nomads, comprising rangeland and communal land, as part of the Anthropocene agenda. Relational ontology urges us to re-imagine and redraw the existing picture of Anthropocene as pastoralists and nomads towards forthcoming UN IYRP 2026 and the post-2030 agendas.

The theoretical ideas of these sessions 'relational ontology', originated from our recent book on resilience of African pastoralism (Konaka et al., 2023; see also Konaka and Little, 2021). Another theoretical streamline is from Emery Roe (2023), who has recently published significant research on Anthropocene. Furthermore, Ian Scoones recently published an epoch-making paper on the transformation of the development from 'control' to 'care', in which he suggests that 'such responses to uncertainty mean building on the embedded, mutualistic and networked relational practices that are so central to successful pastoralism' (Scoones, 2023: 14). The paper is critically important in radically rethinking development and humanitarian assistance, with relational approaches at its core.

These hyflex sessions are designed to bring about convergence among these theoretical streams and to unleash their theoretical and practical potential through a worldwide exchange of theoretical ideas and ethnographic examinations. Session 1 will explore the reconfiguration of developmental and humanitarian assistance as 'care' as proposed by Scoones's paper regardless of pastoralism. We invited Simon West from Australia who had proposed 'a relational turn' for sustainability science (West, 2020), Makoto Nishi from Japan who had published a paper (Nishi, 2023) on care during the HIV epidemic in Ethiopia, and Rahma Hassan from Kenya who is doing research on humanitarian responses in Northern Kenya. Representatives from the Japanese KAKENHI team, former UN officials, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and international non-governmental organization staff will present papers.

Session 2 will feature a keynote speech by Emery Roe from UC Berkeley. It will be followed by ethnographic examinations on African pastoralists (Samburu, Maasai [Kenya], Nuer, Lotuho [South Sudan], and OvaHimba [Namibia]), with various topics interrelated with climate change (livelihood diversification, land issues, displacement, and local justice) by the Japanese KAKENHI team.

Both sessions are to be followed by comments by Ian Scoones as a discussant and concluded with general discussions.