



# DDRPN

Danish Development Research Network

*DDRPN Public seminar:*

**Mutual South-North learning?**

**Taking stock of development studies at Aalborg University**

**Wednesday 14 February 2018, 7-9 pm**

**Venue:** Aalborg University, Rendsburggade 14, ground floor, room 4.105, Aalborg

**Michael Omondi Owiso**, PhD, Dept. of Political Science, Aalborg University: *A Review of Kenya's Post-Conflict Peace Building and Conflict Management Architecture*. Collaboration between DK and Kenya

# Conceptualizing partnership?

Highly debated/contested – at the same time evolving:

- Highly unequal power relations and determination of means and ends (Fowler, 2000)

= this is the more traditional sense.

- Collaboration based on equality and mutually beneficial processes and outcomes (Brinkerhof, 2002).
  - Unlocking potential for learning
  - Closes the mutuality gap
  - Engaging in joint projects to exchange know-how
  - Learning takes place intentionally/unintentionally, directly/ indirectly (in relation to the substantive aims of the partnership).
  - Reciprocity = both partners contribute and learn from one another

# Mutual South-North Learning

- Core of Denmark's development cooperation is mutually binding partnerships with the countries with which we work as well as their authorities and organisations.
- Sustainable Development Goals - abandons the classic North-South approach to development cooperation
  - agreements between countries or between public and private actors or between private players
  - businesses, civil society and research institutions.
    - Importantly partnerships in development cooperation will always depend on how they contribute to fulfilling the development objectives.

(Danish Foreign Ministry)

# Selected South-North Learning partnerships

## 1. Building Stronger Universities (BSU - Danida)

**Objective** = strengthen the research capacity of universities in selected Danida priority countries.

Phase 1 = 2011, Phase 2 = 2014, Phase 3 = 2017-2021.

strengthening research policies and strategies

- PhD schools
- development of research concepts
- enhancement of research quality assurance
- improving libraries and publication managements systems
- Support to research environment & processes.

# Selected South-North Learning partnerships

## 2. African Preparatory Course (Royal Danish Defence College + Maseno University - Kenya)

### **Objectives:**

- scrutinize and introduce the diversity of Africa
- conflicts and their related dynamics
- economic development
- political institutions (both nationally and regionally), resources and history.
- insight into contemporary Africa
- equip and prepare to better interact with both private and public African partners.

# My research experience- Political Science Department at Aalborg University

- Erasmus Mundus
- PhD Dissertation: Transitional Justice and the Institutionalization of Democracy: Historical Legacies and the Truth Process in Kenya
- *A review of Kenya's Post-Conflict Peace Building and Conflict Management Architecture*
- South Africa and the Brics research paper
- Conference on Forced Migration in the Eastern & Horn of Africa (October 2017)
- Book workshop emanating from conference
- Book publication on forced migration
- Fieldwork at Dadaab Refugee Camp & article
- Second conference on Forced Migration (October 2018)

# Potential/possibilities for future mutual collaboration

- climate change
- refugee & migration flows
- security & international security
- terrorism & counter terrorism
- radicalisation
- global market mechanisms