



The Role of Elites in Economic Development

WIDER Conference

Elites play a crucial role in the development process. Their influence in politics, government, business, the media, and intellectual discourse profoundly affects the direction of economic and social activities. In some countries, the preferences of elites are closely aligned with the national interest. Elsewhere their predation is a major source of development failures.

This conference will examine the formation and perpetuation of elites and their impact on development outcomes. Topics will include, *inter alia*, the means by which elite status is attained and transmitted to others, especially other family members; the ways in which power is exercised; and the extent to which the personal goals of elites are consistent with national objectives. Exploration of these issues will improve our understanding of how elites can be encouraged to act in a way that has positive economic and social results.

Helsinki, Finland, 12–13 June 2009
Marina Congress Center
Katajanokanlaituri 6

Conference topics include:

- The characterization of elites
- Institutional causes of elite persistence
- Links between the preferences of elites and public interest
- The role of elites outside the ruling class
- Globalization and the emergence of transnational elites
- Elite perceptions of poverty
- Links between governance structures and the activities of elites
- Media control and influence by elites



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The conference is intended for researchers and policymakers from the academic, government, and development communities
For further information please visit: www.wider.unu.edu