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Research areas

Labour in the global economy, Labour standards, Large scale agriculture and Labour, Labour management systems, Workers/trade union rights, Ethical trade, Sustainability standards, Trade, Global Value Chain analysis, Pro Poor Value Chain Development, Convention Theory, Alter/anti globalisation movements

Educational background

- 2005 - 2009 PhD in International Development Studies at Roskilde University (also attached to the Danish Institute for International Studies). Thesis title: Labour Agency and Private Social Standards in the Cut Flower Industry.
- 1998 – 2003 Masters Degree in International Development and Geography at Roskilde University. Title of Dissertation: Labour rights and transnational companies in the banana sector in Latin America.
- 1994 – 1998 Bachelor in Science of Religion with a minor degree in Psychology from Copenhagen University

Research Projects

- 2013 - 2015 'Multi-stakeholder initiatives in the Cotton Value Chains of South Asia'. The project is financed by The Danish Council for Independent Research. The overall objective of this research project is to analyze (i) how multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) for sustainable cotton production are formulated, implemented, and monitored in the cotton value chains of South Asia; and (ii) whether the processes through which MSIs are institutionalized in South Asia make any difference to the income, work, and environmental conditions of cotton farmers and on-farm workers in this region. The research project is being undertaken in collaboration with Peter Lund Thomsen (Associate Professor of CSR in developing countries at Copenhagen Business School), Neil Coe (Professor of Economic Geography and Head of the Geography Department at the National University of Singapore), and Sukhpal Singh (Professor and Chairperson at the Centre for Management in Agriculture at the Indian Management Institute in Ahmedabad).
- 2010 - present 'Minimizing the exclusionary effects of standards. What works?' financed by financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Development Research Committee. The research has two thematic focuses. One concerns the extent to which new generations of standards and auditing, influenced by development methodologies such as Participatory Rural Appraisals, have had more success than earlier ones in mitigating the possible exclusionary effects (on Southern producers and workers) of standards in global agro-food value chains. The other concerns the extent to which new more sophisticated and/or civic labour control systems are emerging in large-scale agriculture in East Africa and the possible drivers of such changes in line with both new competitive and ethical pressures, as well as changes in production systems. The second of these concerns is being pursued together with Peter Gibbon (senior researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies).
- 2005 - 2009 'Labour Agency and Private Social Standards in the Cut Flower Industr'. PhD research financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Development Research Committee. The thesis explored the possibilities that private social standards open up for labour organisations to improve work conditions in the South using case studies from the global value chain for cut flowers.

Conferences held

- Conference on 'Governing Sustainable Agriculture through Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives'
Organizers: Lone Riisgaard (University of Roskilde, Department of Society and Globalization) and Emanuelle Cheyns (The Research Unit MOISA and CIRAD),
12.12.2012 -15.12.2012
Montpellier, France
- Conference on 'Labour in Large Scale Agriculture in Africa and Southeast Asia'
Organizers: Lone Riisgaard (University of Roskilde, Department of Society and Globalization), Peter Gibbon (Danish Institute for International Studies) and Bennoit Daviron (CIRAD, Montpellier)
20.09.2012 – 22.09.2012
Cape Town, South Africa

Professional Experience

- 2012 - present Employed as Assistant Professor at Roskilde University, International Development Studies, Department of Society and Globalisation
- 2010 – 2012 Employed in a Post doc. position at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). External lector at Roskilde University at International Development studies.
- 2010 - 2011 Project leader on impact study commissioned by the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation.
- 2010 – 2011 Project leader on study commissioned by UNIDO and IFAD including coordinating case studies in Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Indonesia and designing a 'Pro-poor value chain development tool for practitioners'.
- 2010 Project leader on study commissioned by the Danish Foreign Ministry on Gender and Value Chains.
- 2009 Project leader on study commissioned by Traidcraft on "A comparison of voluntary standards' impact on poverty: case studies of tea and coffee in East Africa"
- 2008 Completion of the SA8000 auditor course
- 2008 Researcher on study commissioned by the IDRC (managed by Overseas Development Institute) on "Integrating Poverty and Environmental Concerns into Value Chain Analysis: A Conceptual and Strategic Framework"
- 2007 Researcher on study commissioned by the International Trade Secretariat on "The Economic Impact of a Ban on Imports of Air freighted Organic Products to the UK"
- 2006 Research assistant on study commissioned by the Common Fund for Commodities on "Current Trends and New Development Role of Commodities"
- 2004 Consultant at the ILO Department for Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, Geneva
- 2003-2004 Elaboration and overseeing of a regional development project for Central American workers in export production Zones