



E-Gazette



Complying with Conditions to reach Autonomy? (by Nicola Wiebe)

First impressions from my research stay in Chile

Since September I have been in Chile to find out about the impact of the conditional cash transfer programme on the autonomy of extremely poor household to use social protection networks. I was lucky to get support from a NGO and from German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to access involved institutions and programme participants.

Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) are a fashionable programme type: poor households regularly receive a small amount of cash, if they comply with a set of conditions, such as sending their kids to school or participating in preventive health measures. There are heated debates about the application of conditions (not only between Robert and myself): Is this the worst of paternalistic approaches to tell poor people what they have to do with their scarce resources instead of assuming they would know better themselves? Or, is this the ultimate innovation to finally take the complex problem of chronic poverty into account, and actualizing equal access rights to social services?

Of course: "It depends!" – not only on programme design, but also on implementation reality. My research stay in Chile gives me the chance to be closer to this reality and find out how programme participants themselves judge the effect of such programmes on their autonomy. The Chilean programme is

ambitious and differs quite a lot from other Latin American CCT experiences. It includes a psychosocial element, where social workers interact intensively with the families using a specially designed game methodology. Moreover, it embraces 53 minimum conditions to be reached (and monitored) in order to overcome extreme poverty.

Programme participants have been very welcoming to me and in most cases they were prepared to help with any kind of information I would ask for. Sometimes it is hard to leave a family – especially after gaining an insight into their problems – knowing that the impact of what I am doing is questionable. The learning experience, however, is very valuable to me.

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Harvard Snow (by Melissa Siegel)

I arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the home of Harvard University, after a long 18-hour drive up the East coast of the United States from my parent's home in Atlanta, Georgia. Shortly after my arrival, a snowstorm hit and the Kennedy School of Government (where I am a visiting Fellow of the Wiener Center for Social Policy) closed due to snow. The snow is still piled high around Cambridge but things seem to be back to normal. I will be at the Kennedy School until June attending course, giving seminars and working on the end stage of my dissertation on migration and remittances. I look forward to working with renowned migration specialists George Borjas (Economist) and Mary Waters (Sociologist) as well as regularly attending and speaking at the Migration Immigrant Incorporation workshop. I will be back to visit good old MGSog every now and then, especially for the much anticipated Advanced Academic Update on Migration in March!

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Nice to meet you.. Kwanpadh Suddhi Dhamakit

The names "Maastricht" and "the School of Governance" were suggested to me by a colleague of mine at work. I was working at the World Bank office in Bangkok before and felt the need to come back to school. My work focused specifically on social protection issues in Thailand and neighbouring countries (Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia) and ESPP was a natural step for me to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to further contribute to the social protection field more effectively. I did both my Bachelor's (in Economics at the London School of Economics) and Master's (in Management, Economics, and International Relations at the University of St Andrews) degrees in the UK, and always wanted to spend time on the continental Europe. The School, Maastricht, people



here have lived up beyond my expectations and life here is treating me well.

My research is in the field of migration, and specifically asking the question of what causes parents in developing countries to live their children behind. This is a worldwide phenomenon and with better insights from systematic studies, I hope my research will bring to bear the many fundamental issues in labour market, social, and migration policies in the developing world at large.

Lastly, don't be put off by the length of my name and surname (as we Thais usually have very long names). People usually just call me "Kwan"... and it's nice to meet you.

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[MGSOG Podcast now available](#)

The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance established the Social Policy Seminar Series in 2005 to encourage the exchange of ideas within the area of welfare, social protection and social policy in a (European and) multidisciplinary perspective.

Every two weeks the MGSOG invites distinguished professionals (ranging from academics to policymakers) to Maastricht to give presentations on topics of current interest. Speakers may discuss recently completed or early-stage research that they have undertaken, or report other types of professional activity. The seminars are aimed at scholars and academics as well as all those interested in policy analysis, risk assessment, policy design, policy monitoring, policy evaluation as well as methods and techniques of policy research applied to topics within social protection.

The lectures of the seminar series are now also available as Podcasts. You can download them [here](#). If you have any question or comments, please contact Martin Rehm. martin.rehm@governance.unimaas.nl

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[Alumni Day, 3 October](#)

Mark your calendar for an astonishing alumni day October 3, 2008 in Maastricht. We will invite key-note speakers like for example Kofi Annan to make this day especially content-wise an unfortgettable event. We are also open to other suggestions, so if you have any please let us know.

It will be an opportunity for members of our MGSOG community to come together to network, learn from each other, meeting old friends and renew bonds. To sum up some of our invitees: Heidelberg students, all former master students of MGSOG, UNICEF staff members who participated in the training programme, Summer School and Advanced Academic Update participants. More information

about this event will be available at our website soon.

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Leadership and the Dalai Lama

[Dr. J. Hoogenboezem](#), coordinator track Governance within MPP programme

A couple of years ago Warren Bennis wondered in the *Harvard Business Review* "As lifelong students of leadership we are fascinated with the notion of what makes a leader. Why is it that certain people seem to naturally inspire confidence, loyalty, and hard work while others (who may just have as much vision and smarts) stumble, again and again?". This was in 2002, but Warren Bennis started studying leadership decades ago, in fact, he became interested in the phenomenon when serving in the U.S. Army in the second world war. Yet, after many decades, an answer to the question Bennis asks is not forthcoming. In the United States, and in particular in the disciplines of business administration and public administration, there is an enormous production of works trying to find the key to leadership. One work in that vein bears the particularly funny title *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader: Becoming the Person Others Will Want to Follow* (written by John C. Maxwell), as if it were possible or even useful to distinguish between and live by 21 separate qualities. But a close look on these 21 indispensable qualities reveals that among them are such as generosity, commitment, and listening, and in the end the book has not much more advice to give than "be a nice person and try to do some good". In a way, that seems to be the sum of most leadership studies, particularly those served up to a business executive and public leadership audience in the United States. [Read more >>](#)

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Master's Meeting Maastricht University, 5 March

The 'watch dog' role of the media, the impact of migration processes, health care access for children in developing countries, effects of global warming. True governance issues. These issues need to be solved by designing and implementing effective public policies. Go to the essence of the problems, start making policy in Maastricht.

On March 5th academic director Prof. dr. De Neubourg will give our visitors a better insight of what governance really means and how all aspects (e.g. health, education, economics) are related. Next to that, we will introduce our current students and graduates, who will be able to give you a taste of the global perspective and international atmosphere at our multidisciplinary institute.

Our guests will have the opportunity to ask everything they ever wanted about the Maastricht student life, the school's programmes, and application and admission procedures!

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ESPP Summer School in Governance & Social Protection 9-20 June 2008

The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance invites you to participate in its international research

related and policy oriented Summer School in Governance and Social Protection. The Summer School is part of the PhD Programme in Social Protection Policy which trains young researchers in social protection and social policy in a European and multidisciplinary perspective. With the Summer School we want to bring together a large number of junior researchers and PhD students with senior researchers to study state-of-the-art theory and empirics of a selected subject related to governance and social protection and to develop academic skills and methods.

The Summer School is a 12-day programme and is structured around three lecture series, presentation of research papers and workshops. Professor William Greene (Stern School of Business, New York University), Professor Bob Deacon (Sheffield University) and Professor Peter Heller (John Hopkins University and IMF) have already confirmed to contribute to the programme. For more information about the programme, application and tuition go to our [website](#)
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[Please check our agenda frequently for more upcoming events >>](#)

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