

BLISS: blog of ISS on global development and social justice

One of the drawbacks we face as researchers is that the output usually comes after a prolonged period of time, whereas developments in the 'real' world continue to happen at a fast pace. Global challenges in relation to climate change, precariousness, migration and food security – to mention a few – are too complex to address in one piece of research, but our research findings can shed light on some aspects and contribute to discussing the bigger pictures. Often, research findings that could speak to those developments are not shared at all or in time, and thus fail to contribute to news-making, debates or policies, let alone have the potential to drive processes towards more inclusive, sustainable and just development.

The blog of ISS aims to provide a space where research ideas – preliminary findings; work in progress; specialized publications – are brought to the development community in a timely way. Blogs can address different audiences, ranging from our own colleagues – at ISS and in the field – to audiences in policy and practice or the public and media that are interested in and relevant to development.

Requirements for all blogs

Please adhere to the stated requirements as closely as possible. Failure to adhere to the requirements means that the managing editor may edit your article on her discretion. This means you have less say in the final product of your blog.

- Blogs can be **750-1000 words** each; if over 1000 words, you will be asked to shorten the article. The editors reserve the right to adapt and adjust the length of the article based on their discretion
- The **title of the article** is the most important part of the article. This is because this is all that is visible on the front page of the blog website. Thus, make sure it is provoking and catchy!
- Blogs should start with an interesting **summary** (blurb)— a 50-word (3-sentence) introduction of topic and main message. This is used in dissemination emails, so it must attract attention (otherwise people will not be inclined to read it)
- Add a nice **picture (high resolution)** relating to the content of the blog, and please include the source / credit! If failing to do this, the managing editor will choose a picture
- Add a **30-50 word bio** of the author (and their relation to ISS) plus a **bio photo**
- Please send the blog's editor **a list of email addresses** that the post can be forwarded to; if affiliated with an ISS research group, **please state the name of the research group**
- **Language (new!)**: The main language of the blog is English, but **you are very welcome to translate your article into your native language** after it is edited and finalised by us. We will publish the translation on Bliss as well. As part of the ISS' mission to decolonise science, we think it is important to make the articles accessible to people who are not able to read English. In case the blog is about research conducted in French- or Spanish-speaking regions and relevant to people who speak one of these languages, we have members of our editorial board who can translate it for you – just let us know.

Please make sure you adhere to the blog template:

1. **Catchy or thought-provoking title** (this is all that shows on the front page of the blog website, so if the title is not catchy or makes one think, the likelihood of the article being read is lessened) (preferably less than 10 words)

2. **Summary** (blurb) of 50 words (3 sentences)
3. **Introduction** (about 100-150 words)
4. **Body** (around 500 words)
5. **Conclusion** (100 words) – sometimes the conclusion is part of the body
6. **References (if any) and bio** (with bio photo)

More general guidelines:

- Blogs should be grounded in ongoing research and speak to broader implications for current development trends and issues
- Blogs can give space to the voices of people and communities that are marginalized in development discourses and interventions
- Blogs need to speak to an informed, but non-specialised audience: avoid complex language and jargon
- Blogs can have references in end notes. In addition, there can be hyperlinks to academic and non-academic, written and non-written resources
- Colleagues should feel encouraged to comment on blog postings and blogs may also cross-reference and build on each other
- It goes without saying that blog postings should not include abusive language, although we welcome critical contributions.
- Blogs are short and to the point. Focus on one central argument and write a short article about that. Blogs don't allow for lengthy introductions and long-winding texts. **It is very important that the interesting part of the article is revealed at the very start**, instead of vice versa, as is the tendency in academic writing. This is also why the blurb is so important.
- The more **hyperlinks** are inserted to other texts/articles/interesting information, the better. If you don't know how to insert a hyperlink in Word, copy the link and paste it behind the word you want to link (then the editor will hyperlink it); make sure the word you want to link is underlined, so that it is clear which word must be linked.

Editorial Board

The blog of ISS is managed by an editorial board representing the four research groups from the ISS community and a managing editor. Bloggers may consult the editorial board when they consider a topic for their blog. The team will review the blogs and provide comments to the author. The editorial board can also refuse blog entries if they are deemed unsuitable.