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Introducing a new
special issue from
Business and Politics

SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORS:

Jason Miklian (jason.miklian@sum.uio.no) and

Benedicte Bull (benedicte.bull@sum.uio.no)

Center for Development and the Environment (USM), University of Oslo

How does the emergence of new actors affect how business engages with development?

This new special issue explores issues of global coherence and division on key debates; scrutinizes how new actors are reshaping the public-private divide; and assesses how disconnects within discourse on business and development can amplify negative societal consequences in fragile settings of weak governance.

“Our aim is to help expand our understandings of business engagement for development, showing how new policies, actors, and global trends are changing traditional assumptions.”

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Business engagement with environmental and socio-economic development has gained new prominence due to the perceived weakening of states and multilateral institutions against the forces of global capitalism. But there is no consensus on the desired role of business in development. While business participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has grown, new actors, many from the Global South, are promoting a narrower business-development agenda focusing on industrialization, modernization, and economic growth.



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