

Julius Mugwagwa: Hello everyone, welcome to Spotlight, my name is Julius Mugwagwa, a research fellow in the Development Policy and Practice Group in the Maths Computing and Technology Faculty.

It's my pleasure today to host two very exciting guests for this discussion on inclusive innovation and development.

It's my pleasure now to introduce Professor Smita Srinivas from Columbia University in the USA who is here at the Open University as a visiting professor in the Innovation Knowledge and Development Group.

And we also have Dr Theo Papaioannou who is the head of the Development Policy and Practice Unit within the Maths Computing and Technology Faculty.

Welcome Theo and Smita.

Smita Srinivas: Thank you.

Theo Papaioannou: Thank you.

Julius Mugwagwa: So, let me start with Smita please. Can you tell us a bit about yourself.

Smita Srinivas: Sure. First of all I'm really quite delighted to be here at the Open University. I am a visiting fellow, a visiting professor at the IKD and in the economics programme. And it really was a special pleasure because I met many of you in the April workshop, which was a very exciting commencement to a longstanding project, developing on health innovation systems. And a way to look at the politics and the challenges of the evolution of the health industry from the standpoint of our development concerns about inclusion.

Julius Mugwagwa: Great, thank you very much. Let me just ask you about the exciting book that you have just published, Markets Menagerie Health and Development in Late Industrial States. I have read this book and I am really excited about the way you tease and weave out issues around production, distribution, health, politics. Could you just tell us more about this.

Smita Srinivas: Well it's always wonderful to know somebody has read the book.

Julius Mugwagwa: Yes I have yes.

Smita Srinivas: So the book was kind of a longstanding debate I was having with different communities that were looking at the health industries. And the threads that I was trying to pull together were threads that were missing it seemed to be in the study of the economics of evolution and the economics of evolution that then apply to the study of innovation.

For me as a development scholar, what I find missing is the sort of the development politics. I know the health industry in India, in Brazil, in South Africa, in Nigeria and so on are very, very different animals. And so the book tries to do two things I think. One is of course it's a study of the health industry but it really tries to analyse the common sense as well as the theoretical ambit of what we call

market failures, as the primary lens through which many economists and development scholars understand development. And to move beyond this idea of market failures into something which I think is more exciting, which is to look at what I call the market menagerie, which is different types of markets, many of which are sequential or simultaneous. And the hard questions about what the state is supposed to do in development, what kind of society is supposed to be created through this process of the health industries evolution.

The second part of that related to the first, is if you have all these markets and you take markets seriously as an institution which we're always being told to do, what are the repercussions in theoretical framework to understand the relationship between supply side capabilities in the health industry, that is the ability to produce vaccines, diagnostic kits, medicines and so on. How do we connect that to the distributional questions? The questions that I call the demand and delivery questions in any society.

Julius Mugwagwa: Let me bring in Theo at this point. could you just tell us a bit about yourself and then you tell us why inclusive innovation and why now?

Theo Papaioannou: So my work is on inclusive innovation and development and my view of that is more political in some ways. What I've been concerned with is the extent to which innovation can become more inclusive of those who have been excluded from traditional schumpeterian approaches to innovation and therefore I am interested on the impact of that on development.

Julius Mugwagwa: So what is inclusiveness, in your own view?

Theo Papaioannou: Well that's a very difficult question. It's very interesting that if you look at the literature, the literature has paid much more attention to what exclusion is but not what inclusion is. And I guess this is because there are different dimensions to inclusion and in this sense there may be a need for what might be called multi-dimensional theory of justice. There are dimensions such as equity, such as participation, such as recognition. It's very difficult to bring all these different dimensions together.

But in my work I look at inclusion as inclusion of the needs and aspirations of those excluded and mainly those excluded by traditional hierarchical models of innovation, especially in developing societies.

Julius Mugwagwa: Right, right. And Smita do you have the same take?

Smita Srinivas: Yeah, so you know maybe to step away from some of the abstraction with which both of us have been addressing this. I think, you know I came into development studies as a person really interested in how non-governmental organisations work. I've worked with them, I've worked with unions. One of the questions has always been, how do these organisations situate and mediate their politics? And in many cases such as health insurance programmes, medicines for the poor, free medicines. I say free medicines because of course, they're not often actually free in the sense of kind of the cost, the political cost and mediation of getting those, access to those.

my framework really was trying to look at the somewhat problematic category of late industrial development, which was seen to be the

mechanism by which, if you develop supply side capabilities then as a late industrialising economy, you could get to your health outcomes. And I expressed some strong ambivalence about the idea that the late industrial framework can get us there.

Smita Srinivas: when I first read some of the work that Theo had done, the part that I found tremendously exciting and that I thought would enrich my understanding of what I had seen, was I think a political theory of justice. That so far has remained quite outside the realm of traditional innovation studies. and I think one of the things we've been trying to do this afternoon and we've been discussing this with some interest, is precisely how we write about it with some shared language. Given we come to this political economy question from somewhat different vantage points. But this is the excitement.

Theo Papaioannou: It gives us a very good ground to work together. I mean here in DPP and in IKD we have collected over the years data which helps us to understand more specifically looking at cases of different technologies, especially health. How these relations are formed and they are formed historically and contextually and that's very important.

We do think that our work our empirical work and our reflection on that empirical work would actually lead us to some new directions of understanding innovation in a developmental context.

Julius Mugwagwa: And then maybe finally I see a lot of enthusiasm and myself included that I am quite enthusiastic that inclusive innovation will lead to inclusive development. I don't know, just your final thoughts on that. When we talk about inclusive innovation, are we necessarily going to see inclusive development?

Theo Papaioannou: Well that's a very good question. The extent to which inclusive innovation could result to inclusive development, well it's not straightforward. What is certain is that if we manage to make innovation more inclusive, in terms of developing technologies which in several sectors, whether food and agricultural or health or transport, whether those technologies will include, will take on board some of the needs of the poor, certainly we will actually manage to lift those people at a level that could participate better and therefore at some level equalise some of the relations which have been very unequal with the consequences that we know.

Julius Mugwagwa: Thank you very much Smita and Theo for this very exciting and thought provoking discussion. We look forward to reading more about you know the kind of results that are coming out of this collaboration. And we also invite any viewers to contribute to this discussion that's happening within the IKD family. Thank you very much.

Smita Srinivas: Thank you.

Theo Papaioannou: Pleasure, thank you.

[Recording stopped.]