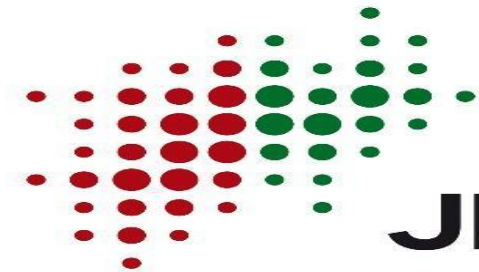


Zur Aktualität des Werks und Wirkens des Entwicklungsökonom Hans Singer (1910-2006)

GABRIELE KÖHLER
UNRISD SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
SYMPOSIUM
WUPPERTAL, 5.5.2025



STADT WUPPERTAL

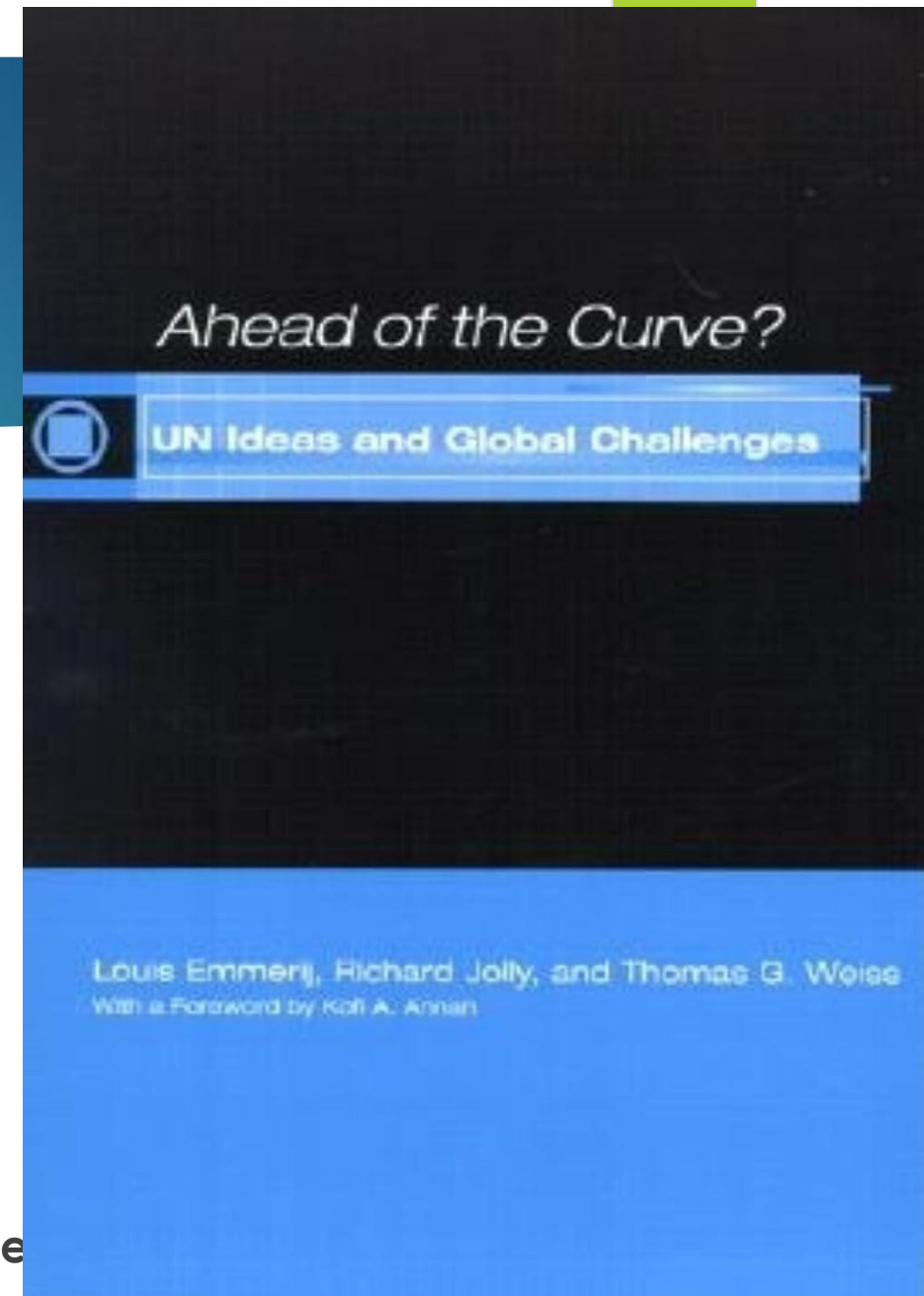


JRF

Johannes-Rau-
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Ideen – deren Rolle in der UN

- ▶ Richard Jolly et al zur intellektuellen Geschichte der UN
 - ▶ Können Ideen die Welt verändern?
 - ▶ War/Ist die UN „ahead of the curve“ – ihrer Zeit voraus?
 - ▶ Wer sind Ideenträger?
- ▶ Hans Singers Kontext: Gründerzeit-UN
 - ▶ Frieden sichern
 - ▶ Wirtschaftskrisen vermeiden
 - ▶ Ökonomische und soziale Gerechtigkeit
 - ▶ **Global welfare state (Beveridge-Bezug)!**
- ▶ Hans Singer: Einer der „Gründungsväter“ der Entwicklungsökonomie
 - ▶ Singer einhellig als “Pioneer of Development” anerkannt



Langfristeeinfluss Hans Singers auf die UN

Drei Ideen, bei denen Hans Singer seiner Zeit voraus war UND sein Einfluss fortwirkt:

- I) Die Einordnung der benachteiligten Entwicklungsländer vs den ökonomisch mächtigen Industrieländern und das Werben für Rohstoffabkommen (commodity agreements) (*ToT-Debatte*)- **UNCTAD**
- II) Analyse des informellen Sektors – unregulierte Arbeitsverhältnisse - **ILO**
- III) Das Argument, dass Wirtschaftspolitik/-planung die Bedürfnisse von Kindern einbeziehen sollte - **UNICEF**

Einfluss/Nachwirkungen von Idee I

► Terms of trade

Die bahnbrechende Idee I: Terms of Trade – und Politikempfehlungen

- ▶ Entwicklungsländer: wegen der langfristigen Trends bei Rohstoffpreisen – ihrem Hauptexport - im Vergleich zu Industrieprodukten: permanent wirtschaftlich benachteiligt: **“ökonomischer Imperialismus und Ausbeutung”** (Singer 1949)
- ▶ Rohstofffonds (aufbauen auf Keynes)
 - ▶ Preise/Produktion stabilisieren
 - ▶ Überschüsse für Investitionen schaffen
 - ▶ Diversifizierung anstossen
- ▶ Regulierung von transnationalen Unternehmen

Bezug zu Singers Analysen/Politikempfehlungen

UNCTAD – 2015-2023

- ▶ “market access conditions still **biased against developing countries**, ... and to exports from developing countries in particular
- ▶ “in legal terms, WTO rules are equally binding on all participants, but in economic terms they are **biased towards** an accommodation of the requirements of the **developed countries**”
- ▶ “... **commodity price volatility** is one of the reasons why commodity-dependent economies have lower long-term average growth rates than economies with diversified production”
- ▶ “the global economic system would gain greater coherence if new efforts were made at the multilateral level to **control price fluctuations** on international commodity markets “
- ▶ “Some important work on the **fallacy of composition** and **deteriorating terms of trade** even for manufactured goods exporters showed how even so-called “sunrise” industries ... can easily get overcrowded in global markets, leading to declining relative prices and reduced unit values of such exports “
- ▶ Entwicklungsländer beim Marktzugang benachteiligt – besonders deren Exporte
- ▶ WTO-Regeln bevorzugen ökonomisch die Industrieländer
- ▶ Preisschwankungen bei Rohstoffen sind der Grund für niedrigere Wachstumsraten rohstoffabhängiger Länder
- ▶ Das Weltwirtschaftssystem hätte mehr Kohärenz, wenn internationale Rohstoffmärkte kontrolliert würden
- ▶ Der Mangel an Diversifizierung und die sich dadurch verschlechternden Terms of Trade (Austauschbeziehungen) selbst bei Industriewarenexporten führen zu deren Preisverfall

UNCTADs empirische Forschung:

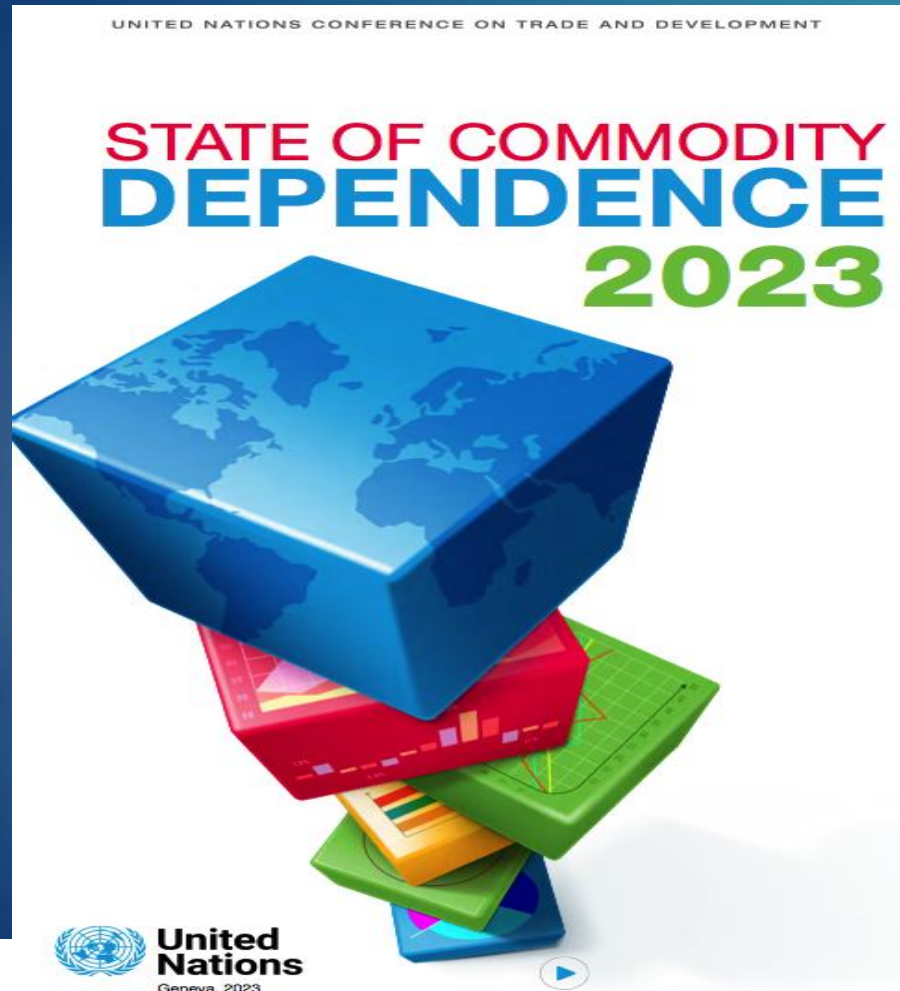
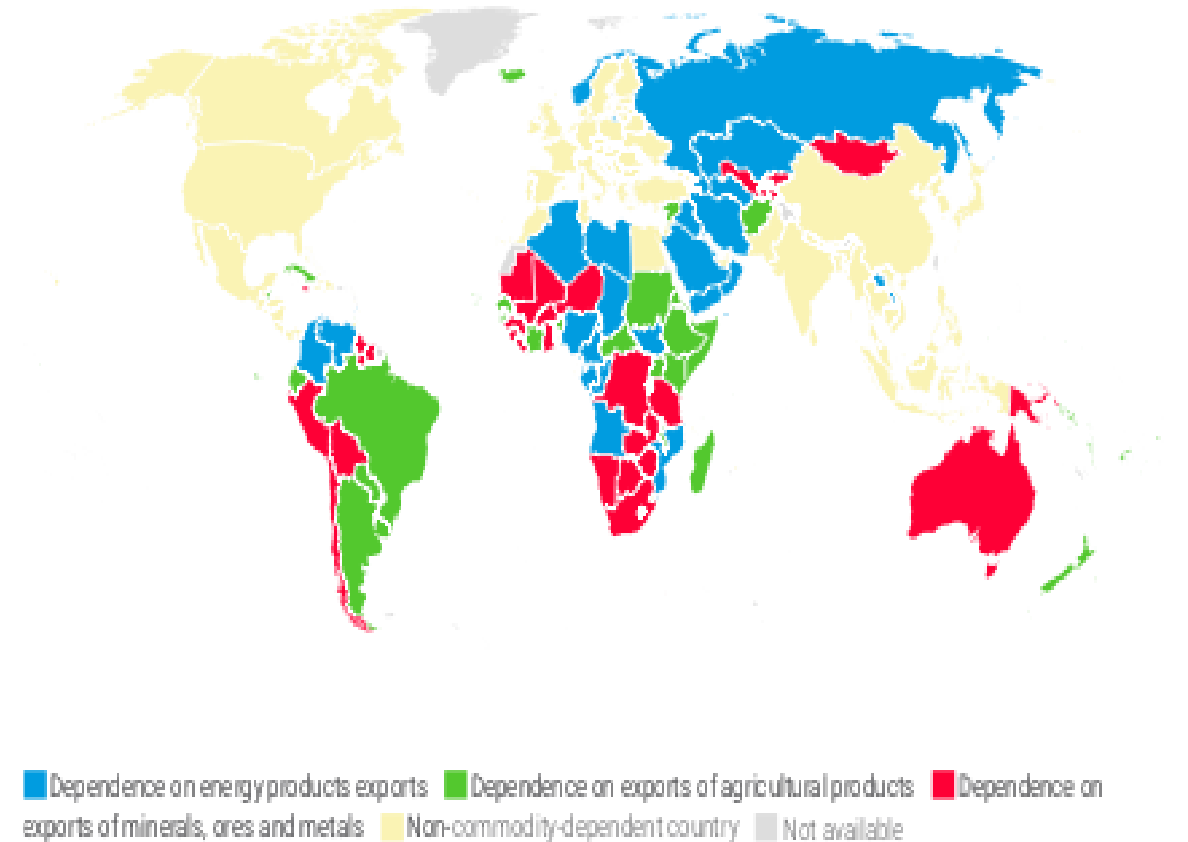


Figure 2

Commodity dependence by dominant export product group, 2019–2021



UNCTAD- Praxis: Common fund for commodities

Organization



years of project
experience



101
member states



9
institutional
members



7
investment
partners



**9 Investment
Funds:**

AGRIF, EcoE III, Africa Food
AFSFG, EcoE IV (approved),
EcoE II, AAFSME Fund,
Moringa, AATIF, SME IF

22

staff members
of which

50%
are women



9

commodity experts
of which **56%** are
women, form the
Consultative Committee

*As of 31 March 2024 based on most recent reports

Einfluss/Nachwirkungen von Idee II

► Informeller Sektor

- 2 Milliarden Menschen arbeiten in unregulierten Arbeitsverhältnissen

Die bahnbrechende Idee II: „informeller Sektor“

- ▶ Entstehung des Konzepts “informeller Sektor”
- ▶ ILO-Kenya-Studie 1972 “Employment, incomes and equality”
- ▶ Positive Bewertung des Sektors: effizient, innovativ, resilient, profitabel (Schumpeter?)
- ▶ Blick auf Rolle von Frauen
- ▶ Idee aus dem Institute of Development Studies der University of Nairobi

“The problem with employment is that the statistics are incomplete, ... omitting a range of wage earners and self-employed persons, male as well as female, in what we term ‘the informal sector’.

“The popular view of informal sector activities is that they are primarily those of petty traders, street hawkers, shoeshine boys and other groups ‘under-employed’ on the streets of the big towns. The evidence presented in Chapter 13 of the report suggest that the bulk of employment in the informal sector, far from being only marginally productive, is economically efficient and profit-making, though small in scale and limited by simple technologies, little capital and lack of links with the other (‘formal’) [sic] sector. Within the latter part of the informal sector are employed a variety of carpenters, masons, tailors and other tradesmen, as well as cooks and taxi-drivers, offering virtually the full range of basic skills needed to provide goods and services for a large though often poor section of the population.

Rezeption damals?

“We were very close to the Kenyan Philip Ndgewa who was we think permanent secretary of planning or had another senior position and we negotiated and talked with him and he was fully in support.

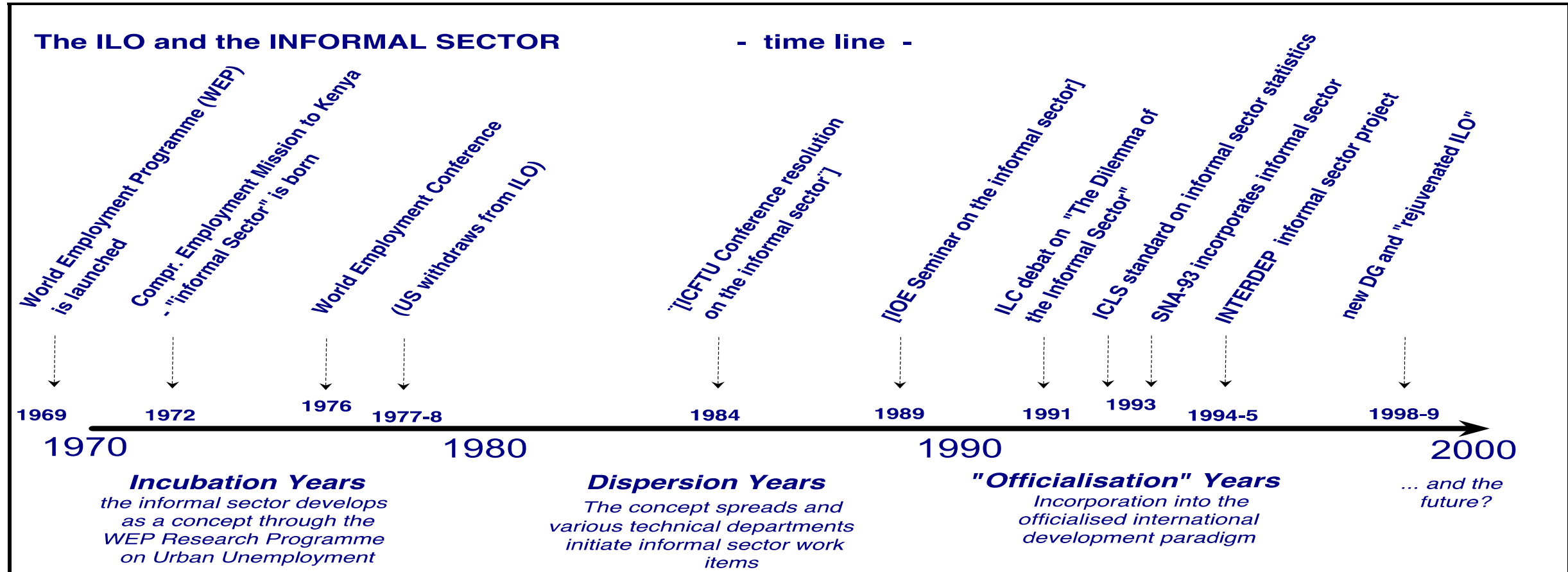
... the reaction within the ILO was doubtful and uncertain by the old guard but **supported by our friends and the more go-ahead people.”**

Particular regard for the role of women in economic activities “wasn't based on Hans' 1930s studies but **came out in our conversations in the late 60s and early 70s.”**

Richard Jolly (2025) (Email-Austausch)

Idee II: Einfluss/Nachwirkungen Singers

Figure 1



ILO – empirische Forschung /Beratung

Français | Español



International
Labour
Organization

ILOSTAT

The leading source of labour statistics

Data Country profiles SDGs Standards & methods LMIS Blog More +

Home > Topics

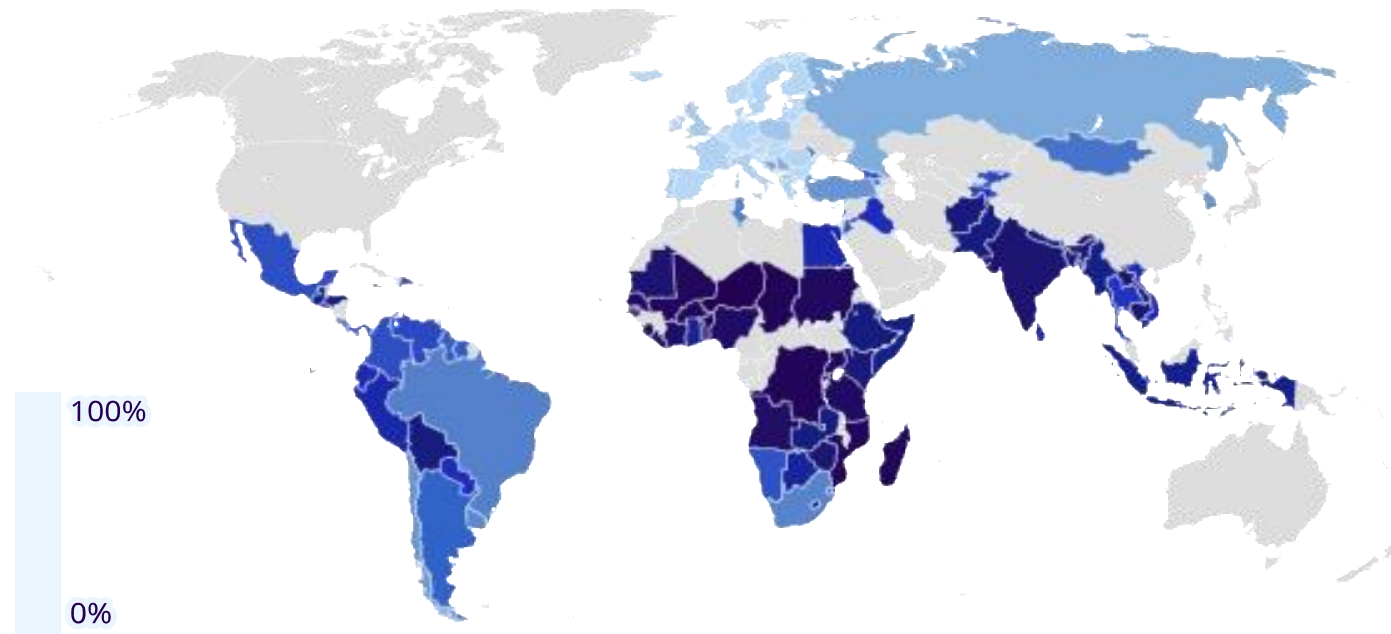


Topic

Statistics on the informal economy

► High rates of informality in developing countries

Informal employment rate, latest year



Boundaries shown do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO. See full disclaimer: ilo.org/disclaimer.

Source: [ILOSTAT](#) • [Get the data](#)

ILO-Politik



International
Labour
Organization



> [International Labour Conference](#)



104th Session of the International Labour
Conference (2015)

1991:

International Labour Conference:

International tripartite debate on
the informal sector

2015:

ILO Empfehlung

(Recommendation 204):

Transition from the Informal to the
Formal Economy

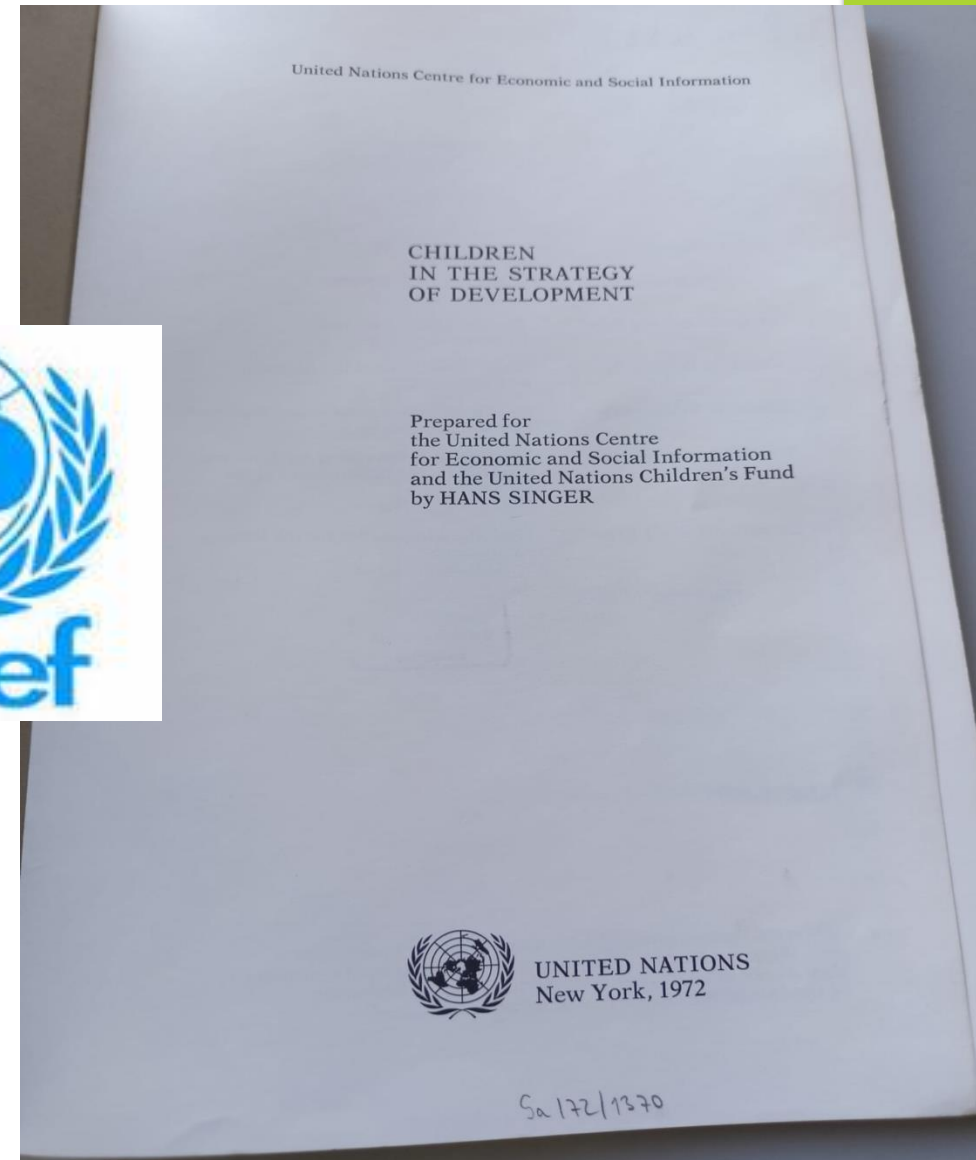
Einfluss/Nachwirkungen von Idee III

- Kinderbedürfnisse in die
Entwicklungspolitik

Kinderbedürfnisse in
die Entwicklungspolitik
(1947)

Kinderbedürfnisse in die
Planung (1972)

Kinder besonders
betroffen von
Rezessionen (1984)



Die bahnbrechende Idee III: Kinderbedürfnisse in die Entwicklungsplanung (1972)

Anlass und Bezüge

Erklärung der Kinderrechte
2. UN-Entwicklungsdekade
Stockholmer Erdgipfel

5/6 aller Kinder leben in armen
Ländern - (fast) keine Chance, ihr
Potential zu entfalten

Mangelhafte Kinderernährung

(Aus)Bildungslücken - nicht die
Zahlungsbilanz oder die
Sparquote - relevant

Hohes Bevölkerungswachstum

Prinzipien

Eigentlicher Zweck der
Entwicklungsarbeit:
in der Zukunft ein
besseres Leben

Wirtschaftswachstum -
nicht Selbstzweck,
sondern Mittel für sozialen
Fortschritt

Bedürfnisse und
Wohlergehn von Kindern:
gutes Wirtschaften und
soziale Gerechtigkeit

Ansatz (Keynes u.a.)

Sinn von
Wirtschaftsplanung:
soziale und ökonomische
Ungerechtigkeiten
abbauen

In Menschen (human
resources) investieren!

Verschiedene
Altersgruppen –
verschiedene Bedürfnisse

Bedarfsanalyse in
Wirtschaftspläne einbauen

Kinderbedürfnisse in
die Entwicklungspolitik
(1947)

Kinderbedürfnisse in die
Planung (1972)

Kinder besonders
betroffen von
Rezessionen (1984)



©UNICEF



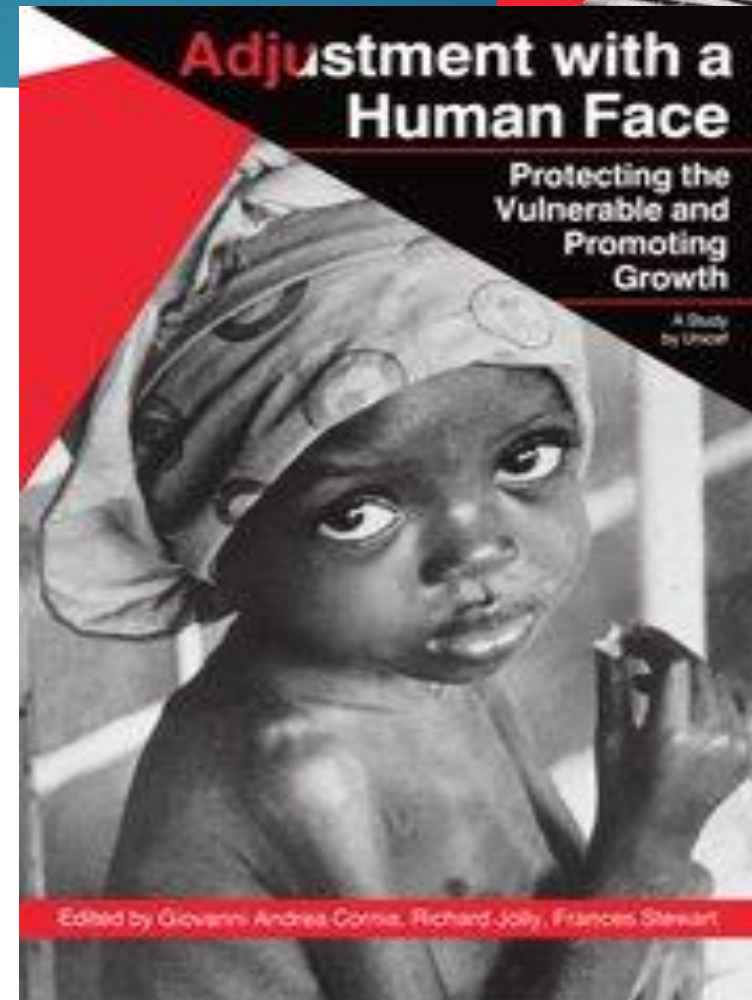
UNICEF-politische und wissenschaftliche Einflussnahme

Heftige Kritik an Weltbank/Währungsfonds Structural Adjustment-Vorgaben:

- ▶ Jolly and Cornia 1985.
The Impact of the world recession on children. World Development
- ▶ Cornia, Stewart and Jolly 1987.
Adjustment with A Human Face

Hinterfragen konventioneller ökonomischer Theorien:

- ▶ UNDP Berichte zu menschlicher Entwicklung (seit 1990)



Adjustment with a Human Face

Ten
Country
Case
Studies

A Study
by Unicef

a Cornia, Richard Jolly, Frances Stewart

Empirische Forschung:



Blog: Eine Krise im Verborgenen: Kinderarmut in Deutschland

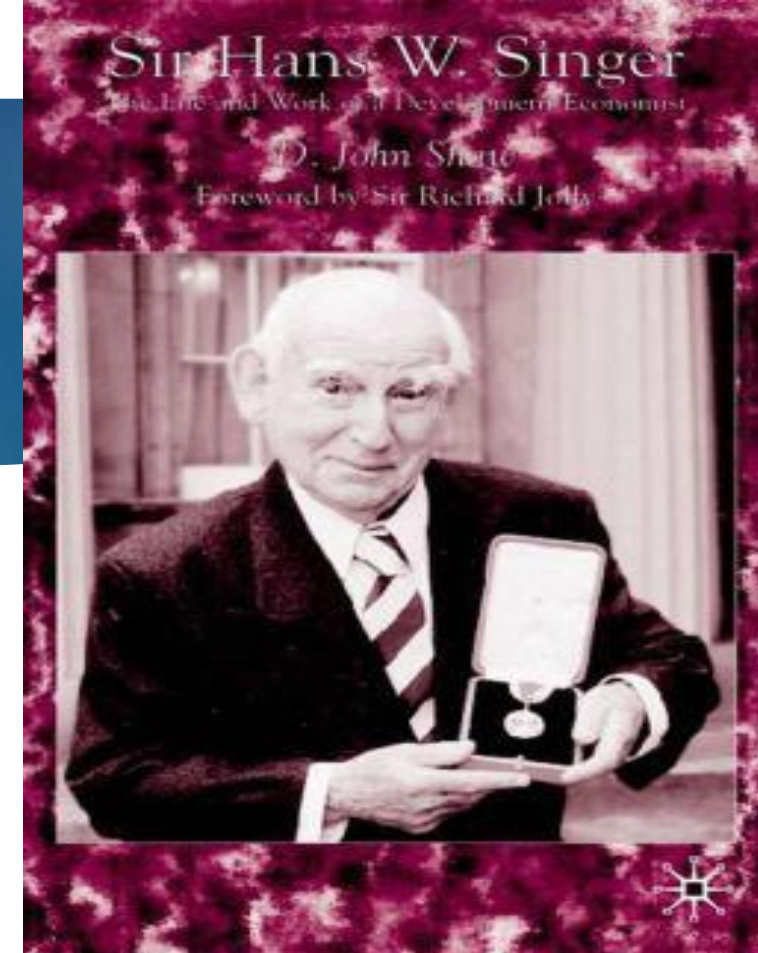
Feb 2025

- **MICS, established in 1995, is a household survey programme that generates data on the status and well-being of children, adolescents and their families, and helps shape policies for the improvement of their lives.**

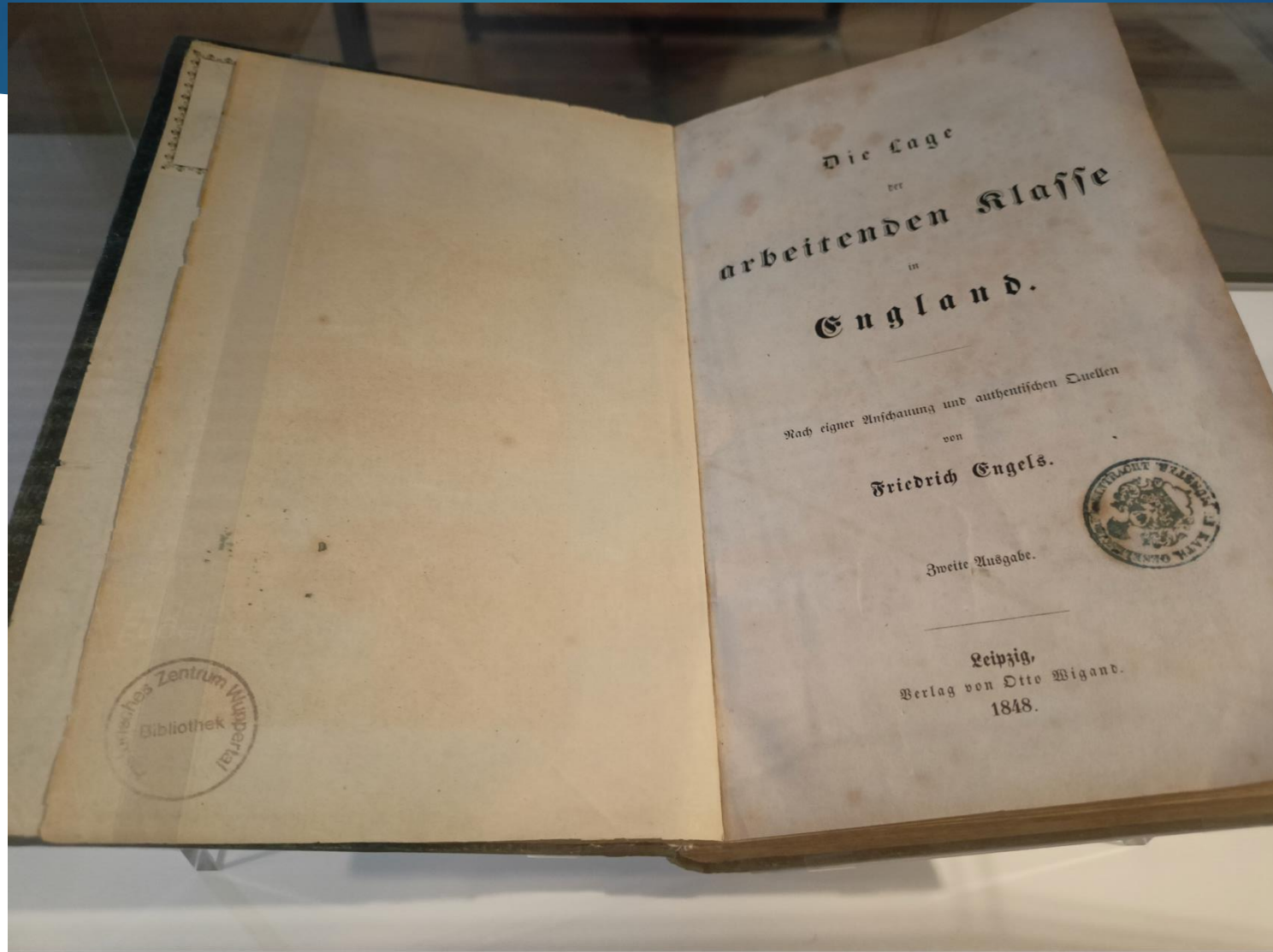
Fazit: Ideen – deren Rolle in der UN – und in der Welt ...

Hans Singers Vermächtnis:

- ▶ Sein Leitmotiv: (globale) Gerechtigkeit
- ▶ Ein heterodoxer Ökonom – hinterfragte und forderte gängige Meinungen heraus
- ▶ Ein „Aktivist“
- ▶ Ideen - die (versuchen) die Welt zu verändern ...



... Ideen – deren Rolle in der Welt



Ideen – deren Rolle in der UN – und in der Welt ...

„Heute, in Zeiten globaler ökologischer Krisen, sind Singers Fragen zur internationalen Integration ökonomischer, sozialer und ökologischer Anliegen von größerer Bedeutung denn je --- und die Perspektiven für eine gerechte globale Zusammenarbeit.“

Symposiumsprogramm

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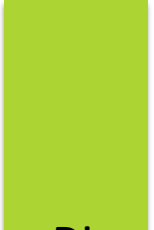
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