

Doctoral Course
Economic Development: Analyses, Policies, and Theories

The doctorate will focus on the mechanisms underlying development. The proposal of this course is grounded in two firm beliefs. First, it is facts that must determine the agenda of economic inquiry. Second, economics must be considered a component of social sciences, undoubtedly specific but not autonomous. From this viewpoint, lectures will compare different theoretical approaches but will lay particular emphasis on theoretical perspectives that are critical of the presently dominant one.

The aim is to enable scholars to understand the economic reality they live in so that they may not only operate in academia but also actively participate in the more general context of economic relations. It is with this goal in mind that, from the very beginning, lectures will go hand in hand with an intensive team research carried out by the doctoral students.

Economic development will be dealt with after a preliminary treatment of issues concerning the boundaries of the economy and of economics, the analytical toolbox and a synthetic description of recent developments in the axiomatic-deductive approach.

The course will deal with the complexity of development by focusing on specific themes that are likely to change year by year, especially in relation with the research projects submitted by the doctoral students. The theme of the first year will be the relation between finance and industry, since we strongly believe that what characterizes the present international economy is the increasingly central role that financial markets have on development, thus also on employment, on working conditions and on rights.