



Decentralization and Local Governance of Land in Africa

– *The implementation of Tanzania's Village Land Act in the context of increasing pressure on land*

Open LARRI seminar 2 October!

With: Rasmus Hundsbaek Pedersen, Postdoc at DIIS Danish Institute for International Studies

When: Friday, 2 October 2015, 13.15-15.00

Where: Vasagatan 1 in Gothenburg at School of Business, Economics and Law, Room F - 45

Land council secretary important for the settlement of local land disputes. Photo by Rasmus Hundsbaek Pedersen, DIIS

To address the increasing pressure on land and improve the security of tenure, especially among small-scale farmers, several governments across sub-Saharan Africa have initiated land reforms since the late 1990s. These so called "new wave" land reforms are as diverse as the contexts in which they are implemented. One common characteristic however is the recognition and formalization of existing rights to land, including customary/community land rights. In *theory* this often implies decentralizing responsibility over land administration and land dispute settlement and promotion of registration and issuing of land title deeds. But what are actually the outcomes of the reforms in *practice*?

One of the most well-known examples of this type of tenure reforms is the Village Land Act in Tanzania. **Rasmus Hundsbaek Pedersen**, currently postdoc at DIIS in Denmark, has done extensive field research on the implementation of this reform in Tanzania and will present his findings as starting point for discussion. His current research focus is on large-scale investments into natural resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. One of the issues that will be discussed is thus also how the Village Land Act is seen and implemented in relation to the interest of Government of Tanzania to promote large-scale land investments.



Program:

13.15 - 13.30: Introduction by **Maria Ölund**, Project Coordinator LARRI

13.30 - 14.15: Presentation by **Rasmus Hundsbaek Pedersen**, Postdoc DIIS

14.15 - 15.00: Discussion moderated by **Robin Biddulph**, University of Gothenburg



Registration is not mandatory but we appreciate if you let us know if you plan to attend: maria.olund@gu.se



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The Land Rights Research Initiative is a platform for discussion and collaboration among researchers, students and others interested in land rights issues in the context of global change. LARRI is hosted by GCGD - the Gothenburg Centre of Globalization and Development at University of Gothenburg.

Find more information about LARRI on: www.gcgd.gu.se/larri---land-rights-research-initiative