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# An Introduction to the Human Development and Capability Approach: Freedom and Agency

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Edited by Séverine Deneulin with Lila Shahani



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Freedom and Agency



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## Human Development and Capability Approach: Freedom and Agency:

Aimed at undergraduates and post-graduates in the social sciences, as well as development practitioners, this textbook provides an introduction to the human development and capability approach; it also clarifies key concepts and fosters debate on a number of critical issues. The book offers new perspectives on a wide range of topics, which include the conceptualisation and measurement of well-being and inequality; the role of markets and economic growth in promoting development; the importance of democracy and public debate; culture and religion; health; equality and justice; and the connections between social and economic policy in addressing poverty and inequality. Case studies from across the world are used to illustrate concepts and highlight the relevance of the approach in addressing contemporary development challenges. A set of questions accompanies each chapter for seminar discussion to help readers assimilate central points and apply the approach to diverse realities. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the human development and capability approach for students and practitioners world-wide.

'This book is essential reading for all those who wish to understand the Human Development and Capability approach to development. It both explains and advances thought on this important and increasingly influential perspective.'

Frances Stewart, President, Human Development and Capability Association 'One of the most important influences of the human development approach has been through educational and teaching at all levels. In this tradition, it is great to see this new volume, which provides excellent academic foundations in ways that are accessible for a wide range of potential audiences.'

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Gustav Ranis, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, 2010.

About the AuthorS?verine Deneulin is Lecturer in International Development at the University of Bath. Lila Shahani is Editor for the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation at UNDP.