

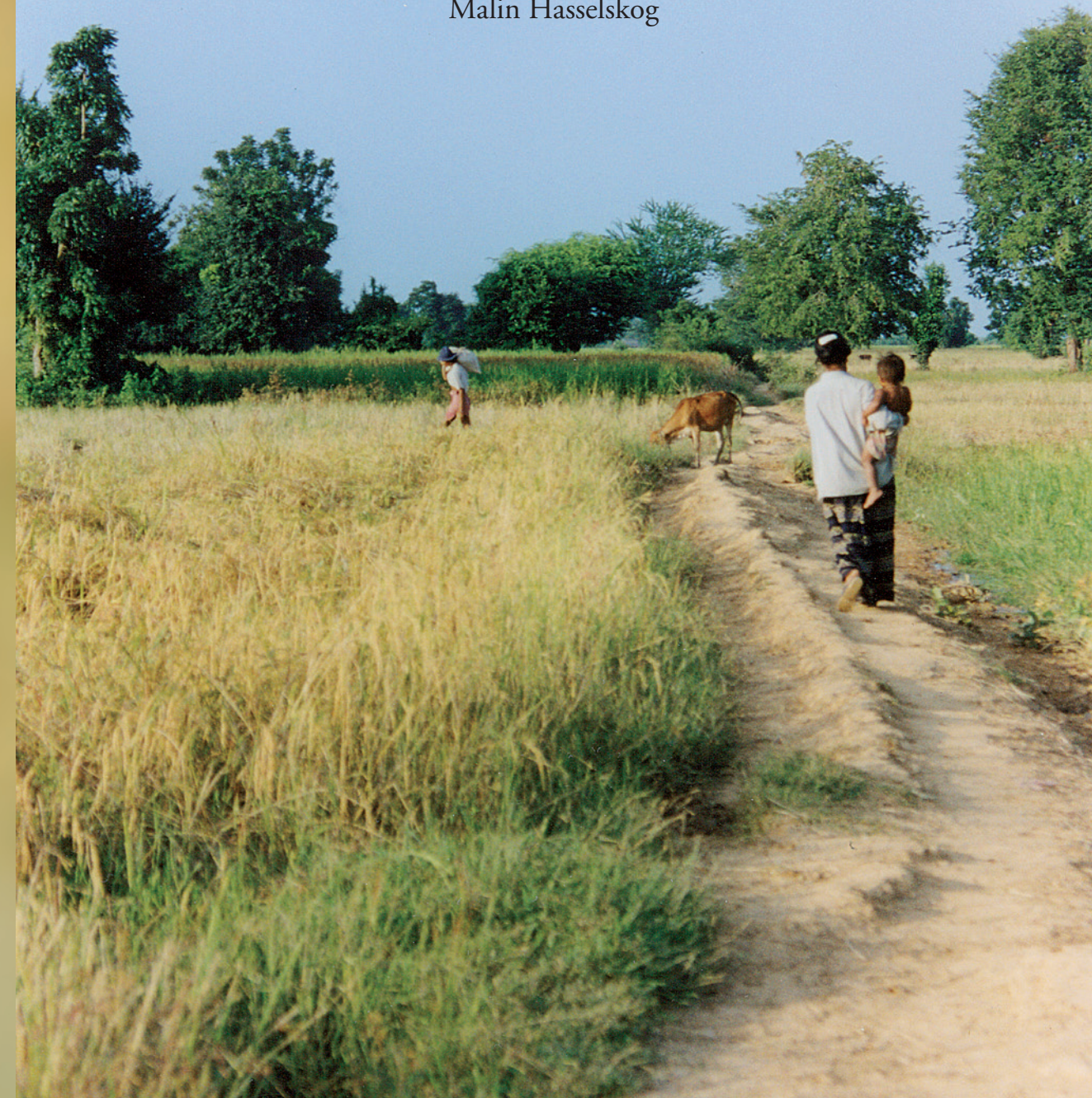


UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Development Intervention on the Ground

*Inherent rationales of aid and their encounter with
local dynamics in three Cambodian villages*

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In this PhD dissertation, international development cooperation is regarded and treated as an instance of intervention into local settings. It is argued that inherent but commonly non-articulated assumptions help explain interventionist development practice, and that an interplay emerges at implementation between newly introduced features and locally prevailing ones, which helps explain why things typically do not evolve as intended.

The inherent rationales of development intervention are therefore traced and scrutinised, and the encounter in three Cambodian villages between a governance intervention and the local dynamics is empirically studied. The findings point to that interventionist thinking and practice build on futile assumptions of societal change as technical and makeable, and on flawed ambitions to predict and control. Through implementation interplay, manifestations of development intervention come to form part of ongoing socially constructed processes and of villagers' life-worlds. Local livelihood strategies as well as power structures are affected, though in largely unintended and unpredictable ways. The study suggests that there are remaining reasons and room for intervening in poor societies, though assumptions and ambitions need to be altered and local appropriation endorsed.

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