

# THIRD WORLD Quarterly

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## SPECIAL ISSUE

### Beyond Corporate Social Responsibility? Business, Poverty and Social Justice

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How far can Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives help to address poverty, social exclusion and other development challenges? What is the balance of responsibilities between state, market and civil society in addressing these problems and meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? What new tools, strategies and methodologies are required to harness the positive potential contribution of business to development and deter corporate irresponsibility? This special issue brings together a dynamic mix of academics and development specialists to address these themes in a focussed and innovative way.

A variety of actors in development from agencies such as the World Bank and the United Nations to academics and activists have come to acknowledge the potential of the private sector firms in achieving developmental goals. But how far can conventional CSR strategies realize this potential? Critical questions about the differential impacts of CSR, about power relations in CSR processes and about the governance dimensions of this debate, are often neglected. This special issue brings together leading experts to address these questions through a diverse range of studies that shed new empirical light and conceptual clarity on these challenges.

## TWQ - setting the agenda

Editor: Shahid Qadir, *Royal Holloway, University of London, UK*

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*TWQ* examines all the issues that affect the many Third Worlds and is not averse to publishing provocative and exploratory articles, especially if they have the merit of opening up emerging areas of research that have not been given sufficient attention. It looks beyond strict 'development studies', providing an alternative and over-arching reflective analysis of micro-economic and grassroots efforts of development practitioners and planners. It furnishes expert and interdisciplinary insight into crucial issues before they impinge upon media attention, as well as coverage of the very latest publications in its comprehensive book review section.

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