

Second Conference on Albert Hirschman's Legacy: A Bias for Hope

*Sponsored by the A Colorni-Hirschman International Institute (A C-HII)
and the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG- World Bank Group)*

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Today, we live in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, partly as a result of decades of progressive globalization. In recent years, this trend has changed somewhat as global partnerships (e.g. on climate change, world trade) have come under increased pressure and a new wave of isolationism may threaten some of the collective action gains from previous years. Some similarities are to be found with the first part of the 20th century, when Albert Hirschman's progressive ideas were forged in light of the challenges of that time.

Inevitably, the overall responsibility for these challenges is felt more keenly in the embryo of world government that is the United Nations and its Agencies. Particularly nowadays, when the engine of globalization may be losing some steam Albert Hirschman's Legacy may offer ideas for our current collective predicament. In a nutshell: Albert's typical attitude of finding new lessons in specific local or micro challenges and then cautiously generalizing them should be taken at heart and indeed may give clues for a new Bias for Hope (a typical Hirschman expression) for the future.

Against this background, the proposed "Second Conference on Albert Hirschman Legacy", organized by the *A Colorni-Hirschman International Institute (AC-HII)* in collaboration with the *Independent Evaluation Group (IEG - World Bank Group)*, will focus on some of the main challenges of our time..

We can envisage the following themes:

- The general theme of development, starting from Hirschman's great trilogy (*Strategy for Economic Development, Journeys toward Progress, Development Projects Observed*) and considering its relevance and influence on current debates in development.
- The field of international development in the context of today's global economic and social dynamics and how this relates to the global concern of inequality and the strategies, options and constraints for improving the social conditions of the poor.
- The related topic of development evaluation: the theories and methodologies that are brought to bear on how we look at international development and how we scrutinize the actions of development organizations.

Whereas these ideas will frame the initial scope of the Conference, we are indeed interested in addressing a broader spectrum of suggestions coming from the Hirschmanian tradition, and we welcome your ideas on this. As Conference participation is based on the principle of self-selection, the scope will surely evolve and our tentative agenda will reflect the ideas and proposals contributed by the Hirschmanian diaspora all over the world.

We invite people interested in participating in the Conference to let us know on what theme and topic they wish to focus their contribution. Please contact us at info@colornihirschman.org, possibly by June 15, 2018.