Record Nr. UNINA9910461248403321 Inside the everyday lives of development workers [[electronic resource]] **Titolo** : the challenges and futures of Aidland / / edited by Anne-Meike Fechter and Heather Hindman Sterling, Va., : Kumarian Press, 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-56549-388-5 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource Altri autori (Persone) FechterAnne-Meike HindmanHeather 331.7/6133891 Disciplina Soggetti Nonprofit organizations - Employees Social service Humanitarian assistance - Social aspects International relief - Social aspects Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Cover -- Contents -- 1 Introduction -- 2 False Binaries: Altruism and Selfishness in NGO Work -- 3 Maintaining Independence: The Moral Ambiguities of Personal Relations Among Ghanaian Development Workers -- 4 Intercultural Encounters, Colonial Continuities and Contemporary Disconnects in Rural Aid: An Ethnography of Development Practitioners in Madagascar -- 5 Orienting Guesthood in the Mennonite Central Committee, Indonesia -- 6 Everywhere and Everthrough: Rethinking Aidland -- 7 Anybody at Home? The Inhabitants of Aidland -- 8 Dealing With Danger: Risk and Security in the Everyday Lives of Aid Workers -- 9 The Hollowing Out of Aidland: Subcontracting and the New Development Family in Nepal -- 10 Epilogue: Who Is International Aid? Some Personal Observations --Contributors -- Index. Sommario/riassunto * Explores the social and cultural worlds shaping aid workers and their development practices* Shows how aid workers in the "field" negotiate

a variety of often conflicting and contradictory imperatives of the development systemMuch and warranted attention is paid to the lives

of aid recipients - their household lives, saving habits, gender relations, etc. It's held that a key to measuring the effectiveness of aid is contained in such details. Rarely, however, is the lens turned on the lives of aid workers themselves. Yet the seemingly impersonal network of agencies and donors that formulate and implement policy are composed of real people with complex motivations and experiences that might also provide important lessons about development's failures and successes. Hindman and Fechter break new ground by illuminating the social and cultural world of the aid agency, a world that is neglected in most discussions of aid policy. They examine how aid workers' moral beliefs interlink and conflict with their initial motivations, how they relate to aid beneficiaries, their local NGO counterparts, and other aid workers, their views on race and sexuality, the effect of transient lifestyles and insider language, and the security and family issues that come with choosing such a career. Ultimately, they arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of development processes that acknowledges a rich web of relationships at all levels of the system.