Maia presented some of the key arguments of her recent book (*The Development State: Aid, Culture and Civil Society in Tanzania* – James Currey, 2014) which looks at how development and aid relationships impact on everyday social and political life in Tanzania.

Development funding provides essential services and infrastructure as well as a range of other less obvious benefits for those who are associated with it.

Employment, allowances, projects and workshops are important economic and political resources. They also convey social status.
Workshops can be popular fora for discussion of development issues.

Local civil society organisations are formed with a view to engaging with development issues.
Office of district civil society organisation in Magu District, with poster comparing life with trees with life without.

Gaining a place in the economy of development is also important. Local civil society organisations have to seek out opportunities to become development contractors, usually as part of larger projects.

Although what counts as development is clearly changing, the development economy, through projects and beneficiaries, continues to be an important part of the way that ordinary political relations in Tanzania are organised.

These CCM supporters are drivers of motorcycle taxis. Their bikes were provided on credit as part of a project run by a local MP as part of a local development initiative.
Motorcycle taxi drivers in Ulanga district show their support for their MP whose rotating credit project provided their motorbikes as she seeks re-election for CCM.

The centrality of development relations is not a recent phenomenon. Colonial governance through community development and league of nation’s oversight established Tanganyika as a state constituted through development relations. Although Tanzania is becoming less reliant on aid relationships and partnerships with international donors, these remain influential. Moreover, development as cultural idiom articulated through the notion of the project for which funding is sought remains foundational to local political organisation and informs how people think about possibilities for the future.