

Weekend reading and listening: the art of development, election biometrics, expats, data quality and new addresses

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This week's weekend reading and listening links, coming to you direct from our office located at since.coin.monks (more on that below):

The role of the arts and culture in development is a topic of growing interest; last week, Prof Mari Pangestu delivered a rousing [lecture](#) on the 'creative economy' at the Development Policy Centre. In the same vein, the LSE Review of Books [reviews](#) John Clammer's *Art, Culture and International Development: Humanizing social transformation*, which examines both the social and economic development benefits of a flourishing artistic and cultural life.

As Nigeria prepares to go to the polls at the end of March, Giulia Piccolino argues that the growing use of [biometrics in African elections](#) is an expensive 'fix' that will likely fail to address more fundamental challenges to electoral integrity.

For our readers based in 'the field': what do you call yourself? What do others call you? [SiliconAfrica.com](#)'s Mawuna Remarque Koutonin picks up on implicit biases in who are considered '[expats](#)' vs '[immigrants](#)'.

Over at UN Dispatch, Mark Leon Goldberg presents, in his own words, an "exceedingly interesting and wonky" [podcast](#) exploring the quality of development data, framing it as one of the key challenges in preparing the Sustainable Development Goals. (I agree with his characterisation!)

Finally, '[what3words](#)' is a tech start-up purporting to improve the delivery of humanitarian aid (among other purposes) by dividing the world into 3m x 3m squares, each of which is granted a unique, 3 word code name. What do you think? Is the 'under-addressed' nature of the world actually a major barrier to development? Has anyone in humanitarian aid trialled this platform yet?