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### Solar Basics

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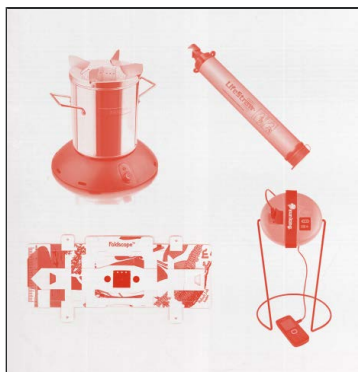
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## Issue 9: Little Development Devices / Humanitarian Goods

Editors:STEPHEN J. COLLIER, JAMIE CROSS, PETER REDFIELD, and ALICE STREET



This issue of Limn examines the recent profusion of micro-technologies in the worlds of humanitarianism and development, some focused on fostering forms of social improvement, others claiming to alleviate suffering, and many seeking to accomplish both. From water meters, micro-insurance and cash transfers, to solar lanterns, water filtration systems, and sanitation devices, examples proliferate across the early 21st century landscapes of international aid. Although small-scale endeavors are far from novel, today these devices are animated by different intellectual and moral energy, drawing on novel financial and organizational resources. Many blur distinctions between public and private interests, along with divisions between obligations, gifts and commodities. At the same time, they entail novel configurations of expertise, political obligation and forms of care. The articles in this issue explore these new convergences of developmental and

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humanitarian projects, alongside reworked relationships between experts, governments, and purported beneficiaries, focused on fostering “participation” and “partnerships” rather than nation-building.

Published November 2017

## FEATURING WORK BY

Stephen J. Collier, Jamie Cross,  
Peter Redfield, Alice Street,  
Austin Lord, Jonathan Morduch,  
Brenda Chalfin, Xhulio Binjaku,  
Meena Khandelwal, Kayley Lain,  
Tatiana Thieme, Tom Scott-Smith,  
Jacqueline Best, David Reubi,  
Christopher M. Kelty,  
Vincent Duclos, Anke Schwittay,  
Paul Braund, Amy Moran-Thomas,  
and Robert J. Foster

## IN THIS ISSUE:



Preface: Little  
Development Devices  
/ Humanitarian Goods

A brief introduction to  
the idea behind Issue  
Number Nine, and the

concepts associated  
with it.



## Solar Basics

Jamie Cross explores  
how a solar-powered  
lamp became the go-  
to solution to Puerto  
Rico's energy crisis.



## Deep Diagnostics

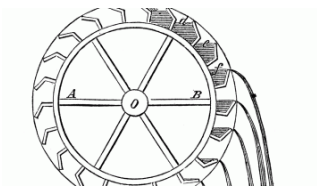
Alice Street examines  
the market  
infrastructure behind  
off-grid diagnostics.

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## On Band-Aids and Magic Bullets

Peter Redfield probes the merits of small solutions to big problems.



## Humility and Hubris in Hydropower

Austin Lord considers the unstable politics of micro-hydropower development in the wake of Nepal's 2015 earthquake.



## Microfinance as a

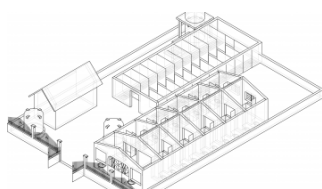
## Credit Card?

Jonathan Morduch traces the rise of microfinance, and argues that it's time for a new vision.



**EXCREMENTA I:**  
Welcome to  
Excrementa

Brenda Chalfin and  
Xhulio Binjaku  
imagine designs for  
the future with  
Dwelling-Based  
Public Toilets in  
Urban Ghana.



**EXCREMENTA II:**  
The Legitimizing  
Model

Xhulio Binjaku

explores the role of  
the model in  
upholding regimes of  
power, expertise, and  
commerce and  
explains the  
inspiration for  
Excrementa Estates.



**EXCREMENTA III:  
The Leader in  
Upscale Sanitary  
Solutions?**

Brenda Chalfin  
reflects on the use of  
design as a little  
development device.



**The Humble  
Cookstove**

Meena Khandelwal  
and Kayley Lain  
reflect on half a  
century of failed  
efforts to change how  
people cook in rural  
India, before adding a  
little device of their  
own to the fire.



“Water is life, but  
sanitation is dignity”

Tatiana Thieme  
explores how doing  
your business has  
become an  
opportunity for  
business in Nairobi.



A Slightly Better  
Shelter?



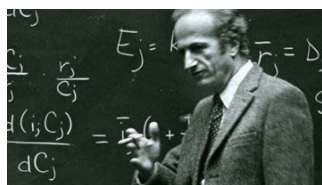
Tom Scott-Smith gets inside an award-winning shelter designed for refugees and asks: what makes it any better than a tent?



## Governing Development Failure

How did little development devices make their way into big development institutions?

Jacqueline Best explores the history of policy failure at the World Bank.



## Rational Sin

David Reubi explores  
how Chicago  
Economics remade  
Global Public Health.



The Participatory  
Development Toolkit

Christopher Kelty  
opens up a toolkit  
from the 1990s to  
explore the prehistory  
of apps, platforms,  
and algorithms.



Demanding Mobile  
Health

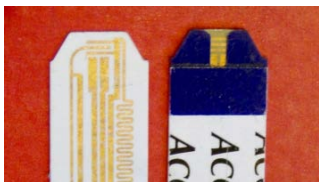
What are the  
infrastructural  
requirements of  
mobile health?  
Vincent Duclos

reports on the  
MOS@N experiment  
in Burkina Faso.



Iterate, Experiment,  
Prototype

Anke Schwittay and  
Paul Braund explore  
the curious  
intersection between  
international aid and  
design.



Glucometer Foils

Amy Moran-Thomas  
examines why  
diabetes patients  
worldwide still  
struggle to measure  
glucose.



## Customer Care

Robert Foster explores how mobile phones in Papua New Guinea offer new ways for both companies and consumers to give and receive care.

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