Development discourse is trapped in certain contradictions and assumptions that are no longer sustainable. The dominant paradigm of development as economic growth is inherently unstable and contradictory, in that it implies that all countries can “develop” and that resources are inexhaustible, and both assumptions are wrong. Moreover, the very idea of development began in an unstable binary structure: we are the developed nations, you are not. However, critical and developing country rejections of neoliberalism and the growth paradigm have themselves too often settled into an oppositional stance with its own binary orthodoxies: you are the exploiters, we the exploited, and we speak for development, you cannot. In the meantime, while debates rage, globalization has rendered all such binary structures and assumptions unsustainable— boundaries between “developed” and “developing” countries are impossible to maintain functionally or conceptually, as are boundaries between the “national” and the “global.” The global economy and its financial and environmental catastrophes are highlighting the fallacies underlying the economic growth paradigm, risks which all countries— “developed” and “developing” alike—are subject to, and yet there can be no “development” without growth and without massive investment in human capacity building. Within this space, conventional “development” tools and concepts are inadequate. If we are to move “beyond development” we need a new paradigm, rooted in what liberal societies have traditionally sought to deliver to their own citizens: opportunity and fairness. Beyond development lies a conversation in politics and in law that must become both global and inclusive, as we struggle to articulate and realize our aspirations and our claims to fairness, respect and resources within a global environment of finite capacities and infinite capabilities.