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LESSONS FROM YOUNG LIVES
Welcome to the 2018 issue of *Oxford Development Matters*, the magazine of the Oxford Department of International Development at Queen Elizabeth House. We have had another busy and productive year at the department and I hope the magazine will give you a taste of some of our activities.

We were delighted to welcome former MPhils back to the department to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the degree last summer. On pp12–13 you will find a thoughtful piece exploring what the day’s discussions revealed about changing understandings of ‘development studies’, along with some photos from the event.

We also mark another anniversary in this issue: it has been 30 years since the launch of *Forced Migration Review*. This magazine, which is produced by the Refugee Studies Centre and read around the world, explores issues related to refugees and internally displaced and stateless people. On p6 the Co-Editors tell us about the history of the publication and how it has developed over the years.

This summer brings another important milestone: it has been just over 15 years since the launch of Young Lives, the longitudinal study of childhood poverty that has been based at ODID since 2005. On pp10–11 Paul Dornan introduces us to some key findings from this pioneering research project. Follow them on Twitter as they outline further messages: @ylondon.

We also look to events in the wider world: on p9, Shannon Philip draws on his doctoral research to explore masculinity in India in the context of the current #MeToo campaign, while on p3 DPhil Felipe Roa-Clavijo describes how Colombia’s glorious national parks are becoming accessible thanks to the ending of hostilities with the country’s FARC rebels.

As always, the magazine also highlights some of the interesting activities of our alumni. On pp4–5 we report on a bicycle-sharing venture set up by a former MSc in Migration Studies student that has taken off in Oxford, as well as a fascinating offshoot of the project that is raising money for humanitarian causes.

We also showcase the entrepreneurial spirit of some of our current students, too. In 2017, a group of our MPhils won the Geneva Challenge for Umvuzo, their proposal for an app to help job-seekers learn new skills and connect with employers in South Africa, while a second team reached the semi-finals of the Hult Prize for a proposal for ‘solar ATMs’ in India. Read the story on p8.

Finally, on p7 Katie Washington talks to two of our DPhils who are studying at ODID as part of their missions as Jesuit priests.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine – and do please continue to send us your stories and keep in touch.

*Christopher Adam*
Head of Department
Since the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC in November 2016, thousands of guerrilla troops have demobilised from many corners of the country, mainly from isolated areas full of rich ecosystems. This has opened up areas that just a few years ago were too dangerous to visit. With the aim of rediscovering my own country, I embarked on a winter trip to El Cocuy National Natural Park in northeastern Colombia.

A few years ago, it would have been unthinkable to do what I did just a few days ago: to drive ten hours northeast from Bogotá, passing through towns, remote villages and places that were attacked and even destroyed during the violent conflict, and spend three days in a national park walking more than 65 kilometres of trails.

A protected area of 3,060 square kilometres, El Cocuy National Park hosts Colombia’s largest collection of glacier peaks, with 150 lakes and ecosystems that stretch from the dry forest at 500 metres up to the páramos ecosystems and glaciers above 5,000 metres. On my journey, I discovered not only incredible natural wonders that I never imagined existed in my country, but also the cultural richness of the U’was indigenous communities, who have lived there for centuries.

During the FARC conflict, El Cocuy was a violent area that played host to various guerrilla and paramilitary groups. Local people told me how it provided a strategic corridor for illegal groups, as it connects the eastern Andes with the lower plains.

In 2002, FARC bombed and destroyed a bridge over the Chicamocha River that connects Soata and Boavita, two small towns through which you have to pass to get to El Cocuy. It took the state two years to rebuild the bridge. In 2015, in the rural area of Guican – today the starting point of the hiking trail to Laguna Grande de la Sierra (the Great Lake of the Mountain) – there was a terrifying guerrilla attack on military troops that killed 12 professional soldiers.

The park was closed and re-opened to the public over the years, but with violent groups perennially present, it was too risky to visit. With all this violence now finally part of history, I imagined most of the region’s people would have supported the 2016 peace agreement referendum. I was wrong: most who voted in the towns of El Cocuy, Guican and Chita voted against the deal. Many local people told me they were too angry at FARC for all its violent actions to get behind a peace plan.

But at the same time, the deal has been a boost for the region. Tourism is already roaring – there are almost 200 registered guides, and an excellent network of hotels, services and transportation. El Cocuy is joining other areas of Colombia that have ‘opened up’ such as the Chiribiquete National Natural Park, another area where violent confrontation took place, which was recently featured by National Geographic.

Not that there isn’t plenty to argue about. Indigenous communities, farmers, local tourism organisations and the National Natural Parks agency all have their grievances: indigenous people demand respect for their sacred territories, the local tourism organisations demand the right to provide services in the park, and the parks agency asserts its mandate to conserve natural ecosystems.

But the point is that these so far non-violent conflicts are a far cry from the terror and misery of the FARC years. This time, competing interests are being reconciled through dialogue and negotiation rather than violence. It was only after negotiations between the U’was communities and the national government that the park re-opened its doors to the public in April 2017.

During my journey in El Cocuy, I crossed paths not only with other Colombian nationals but also with large numbers of foreign tourists, including people from Germany, France, Belgium and the US. In what used to be a war-torn territory, today there is a new phase of openness for tourism, research and natural protection that has allowed me, other Colombians and foreign visitors the discovery and exploration of a unique natural and cultural area – and with it, a country that’s now returning to some measure of peace after five dark decades.
In recent months, hundreds of new brightly coloured dockless bicycles have appeared all over Oxford, scattered across the city streets like post-Finals confetti and generating much interest and debate.

But one Migration Studies alumna anticipated the trend, setting up a bike-sharing venture of her own that is proving highly successful and starting to expand globally.

Agne Milukaite, who completed the MSc in Migration Studies in 2013, launched Cycle.land in 2016. She describes it as a kind of ‘Airbnb for bikes’, a peer-to-peer social marketplace that allows people to borrow and share bicycles that would otherwise be sitting idle.

‘With 7 million tourists visiting Oxford every year, I wanted to solve the problem of bikes not being used as efficiently as they could be in the city. So often you see lots of bikes parked up and not in use’, Agne explains. ‘My business idea was to create an online app that would make it possible for bike owners to loan out their bikes when not in use’.

Users register with the Cycle.land site and upload a photograph of their bike, along with its location, the amount they have chosen to charge for rental, and a description. The site encourages users to be as detailed and personal as possible in these, and they run the gamut, from the highly technical to the jaunty (‘The brakes are nice and loud, letting people know you’re coming!’).

The site, which now has over 1,000 bikes listed and more than 20,000 registered users, also offers a surprisingly diverse range of bikes, from old-fashioned sit-up-and-beg bicycles to triathlon bikes, electric bikes, bicycle trailers, tandems – even a unicycle.

Agne drew on support from Oxford’s strong entrepreneurial ecosystem to develop the idea for Cycle.land, starting with the Oxford Venture Idea Exploration Workshop (VIEW) programme run by the Entrepreneurship Centre at Said Business School. The six-week programme enabled her to learn practical business skills, including pitching a business idea, carrying out market research, and creating a business model.
Jo Boyce is ODID’s Communications and Alumni Relations Officer

‘When I came to pitch the idea of peer-to-peer bicycle-sharing, it was voted “the best business idea” by the panel, which included Roy Azoulay, who runs Oxford University’s Startup Incubator, and who became my mentor’, she says.

Cycle.land was subsequently incubated by Oxford University Innovation, which enabled it to launch within a few months. It went on to raise seed funding via equity crowdfunding platform Seedrs, which was started by two Oxford alumni, and also won backing from angel investors and Parkwalk Advisors.

The arrival of the dockless bikes in the summer of 2017 has not dented Cycle.land’s success; indeed, Cycle.land was involved in drafting the Code of Conduct put together by Oxford City Council which ushered in the new bikes and has recently linked up with one of the operators, Mobike, to become their city manager in Oxford, managing the fleet and working closely with stakeholders and the community.

‘So far, it has been a great success’, Agne says of the Mobike link. ‘Our mission is the same – disrupt urban transport and make it very easy to access a bike in urban areas’.

That, ultimately, is the aim of Cycle.land; not just to be a successful business but to transform city transport.

‘With Cycle.land, we’re building a sustainable company focused on shared bike mobility that is at least as disruptive as car- and ride-sharing companies’, Agne says. ‘A lot of my thinking has been inspired by urban theorist Jane Jacobs, who advocated for diversity in urban planning. We also need diversity in urban transport. While Zipcar, Tesla and Uber are making a difference in how we move, as a society, we are in trouble if innovation is solely focused on cars’.

‘We need innovation that can meaningfully reduce traffic, improve air quality and make society more active. A simple bicycle can do all three’.

After significant success in Oxford, Cycle.land has expanded, with schemes in Cambridge and Edinburgh, and is set to launch in more UK cities later this year.

‘In the long term, our ambition is to become a global platform that is the beginning of a truly smart city,’ Agne says.

If you are Oxford-based and would like to donate your bike, or volunteer to help with the humanitarian fleet, contact Cycle.land via www.cycle.land/sendusamessage.

Ruby the humanitarian bike

One fascinating Cycle.land offshoot was conceived, by chance, by another MSc in Migration Studies alumna, Krizia Delgado.

Krizia had the idea of using bike-sharing as a pilot project for a kind of ‘impact sharing economy’ – in which people would get involved not to make money but to create impact for others.

Krizia had read about Cycle.land while working in Silicon Valley and met Agne during a business trip to Oxford, where she shared the idea.

‘It turned out that Agne and I had both studied Migration Studies … but a year apart. So there was an instant connection’, Krizia says.

Thus the humanitarian bike fleet was born – bikes for which rental charges would go not to owners but to support humanitarian causes.

‘The way we consume and produce in today’s society is increasingly becoming more conscious’, Krizia says. ‘And if through our regular economic activities we are able to impact directly on humanitarian projects, even better’.

Krizia donated Ruby, the bike she had used during her time at Oxford, to Cycle.land as the first bike in the fleet, and it currently lives in the bike racks outside Queen Elizabeth House, where a number of current students use it regularly.

Since then, the fleet has grown to ten bikes, including one based in Edinburgh. Donated bikes come from all kinds of sources: students who are leaving Oxford, city residents; Krizia also gained permission to take and refurbish bicycles from the city council’s store of abandoned and removed bicycles.

The humanitarian bikes are currently raising money for two refugee and migration-focused projects: Techfugees, which coordinates the tech community response to the needs of refugees, and Migration Matters, which provides bite-sized video courses about migration from leading thinkers in the field.

Krizia, who now works as Head of Science and Innovation at the British Embassy in Mexico City, thinks the idea could readily be adapted for different contexts.

‘The idea is that it would be adopted by other companies in the sharing economy, eg Airbnb,’ she says. ‘People would share their houses and the funds would go to humanitarian projects. This is just one example; in my view the “impact sharing economy” model could be adapted for many other social issues in the world’.

Jo Boyce is ODID’s Communications and Alumni Relations Officer
Thirty years of publishing on displacement

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Forced Migration Review. Here, Marion Couldrey and Jenny Peebles outline the history of the highly regarded magazine, which brings together research and practitioner perspectives on refugees and internally displaced people.

Given the long and venerable history of the University of Oxford, it might seem presumptuous to mark a mere 30 years of existence. However, though only one small project within Oxford’s vast panoply, Forced Migration Review has made a significant contribution over the last three decades – and in that time has reflected some of the many changes that have taken place in the world of refugees and publishing.

The magazine was launched in 1987, under the name Refugee Participation Network newsletter (RPN), when the field of refugee studies was still young. The idea of the RPN had arisen at a meeting held in Switzerland in December 1985, jointly convened by UNHCR and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and involving researchers from the UK.

Participants agreed that there needed to be more information sharing between practitioners and researchers, and they asked Robert Chambers of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex to look into the matter. He approached Barbara Harrell-Bond, then-director of the Refugee Studies Centre (which she had established 1982), with the suggestion that the RSC start publishing a newsletter with the aim of ‘selecting and digesting experience, research and practical information … in the form of short, easy-to-read articles of common interest to those involved in refugee assistance’, as the first issue put it. The rest, as they say, is history.

RPN was first published in November 1987. At the beginning, the magazine was printed in black and white, with each issue containing fewer than a dozen articles. By the mid-1990s, the RPN had moved to an A4 format and was venturing into colour – and also into Spanish and Arabic. It is now published in four languages (French was added in 2005), and the aim has always been to publish in languages which are represented in regions with large populations of refugees and in which there is little resource material available relating to refugees.

Over the years, we have sought to cover topical issues, issues of emerging importance and issues which merit greater attention than they receive. Our location within the University of Oxford provides us with the independence and gravitas to tackle sensitive subjects when needed. And in all this we have worked to include displaced people, and to encourage accountability of the international community towards those directly affected by forced migration and statelessness.

The advent of email and the internet revolutionised the editing process, previously reliant on faxing or exchange of letters. It became possible not only to receive and edit articles more easily (and therefore to publish more in each issue of the magazine) but also to make issues available online.

By the second half of the 1990s, we realised that we were increasingly publishing articles focusing on internally displaced persons as well as refugees (people displaced across international borders). We were also publishing more articles on statelessness. And increasingly the old name of the magazine seemed inadequate.

After publishing 24 issues of the RPN, the publication was re-launched in 1998 as Forced Migration Review, using the term ‘forced migration’ that was increasingly being used to refer to both refugees and internally displaced persons. Ironically, it is now not infrequently suggested to us that this name, too, may soon be obsolete, with the blurring of boundaries between irregular/economic migration and forced migration and the overlapping mandates of agencies working in these areas. Will we one day become the Displacement Digest…?

We continue to seek new ways of making FMR’s content available as widely as possible, using technology as appropriate such as providing articles (in English) as podcasts and providing QR codes for all articles. In all our activities we have been generously supported by many donors over the years – governments, UN agencies, NGOs, foundations and even individual readers who make voluntary donations to help keep FMR going. For a publication to survive for 30 years on soft funding alone is an achievement of which we are proud.

We used to receive far more article submissions from practitioners than from researchers. That trend has reversed in recent years. Why? Is it because of the growing reputation of FMR within academic circles? Because of FMR’s visibility and accessibility worldwide? Because of the growing demand on researchers to demonstrate outreach and impact? Whatever the reasons, this is FMR’s latest challenge – to ensure that the perspectives and expertise of practitioners and displaced people are still represented in FMR as strongly as those of researchers. Watch this space.

Find out more: www.fmreview.org
A journey of spiritual development

Katie Washington spoke to two of our students who have taken a non-traditional path to doctoral study at Oxford.

At ODID, every DPhil candidate who joins us to conduct their research is on a different journey. Alejandro Olayo Méndez and Emilio Travieso came to Oxford to study and pursue their doctoral research as part of their missions as Jesuit Priests.

‘Being a Jesuit is about having a deep commitment to faith and social justice, so for me it is the perfect fit’, Emilio (above, left) says of his decision to pursue doctoral work at ODID.

The Jesuits (also known as the Society of Jesus) are an international religious order of men within the Catholic Church who have committed to a life of service to God and to the Church. There are currently over 16,000 Jesuit priests and brothers worldwide, who undertake missions as parish priests, chaplains, teachers, academics, writers, doctors, development workers, spiritual directors and artists in many different contexts.

Emilio and Alejandro originally arrived at the priesthood via somewhat different routes.

‘I have wanted to be a priest for as long as I can remember’, says Emilio, who was born and raised in Florida by Cuban parents. ‘Growing up, the church was an extension of my big Spanish family, but it wasn’t until I came across the Jesuits whilst studying for my undergraduate at Harvard that I knew this was the path for me’.

Alejandro, who is from Mexico City, joined the Jesuits after quitting his job in the private sector and spending a year in Southern Mexico working at a human rights centre. After meeting a Jesuit scholar, who introduced him to the Society, which needed Spanish-speaking priests, he moved to the US to start his two-year novitiate.

Before coming to Oxford, Alejandro worked in the US with Latin American migrant communities and refugees from Afghanistan, as well as completing stints as a parish priest and a school counsellor. ‘My speciality quickly became migration and the decision for me to do a doctorate at Oxford was driven by the need for more expertise on migration within the Society’, he says.

His research at ODID focuses on the interactions between migrants and humanitarian aid community shelters along the migration corridor in Mexico and the ways these interactions shape the migratory processes in the region.

Emilio was also drawn to doctoral study after working with migrants, specifically Haitian and Dominican migrants in the US and Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic.

He became frustrated with observing migrants and refugees in different contexts suffering the same humiliations and struggles: ‘I started to ask what it would take for people to live in their own countries with dignity – the right not to migrate. During this time, I learnt of a social business cooperative in Southern Mexico that was making the sovereignty and dignity of indigenous people economically viable, enabling them to stay and live in their own country, which is exactly the kind of thing I was looking for’. This then became the topic of his doctoral study at ODID.

Both Alejandro and Emilio found that conducting qualitative fieldwork as Jesuit priests was, at times, a bit of a balancing act.

‘Most of the shelters I work with are faith-based, organised through the Catholic Church, and so I would always arrive at the centres as Father Alejandro, I would never hide this,’ Alejandro says. ‘This was very helpful for me in building trust and securing interviews but I was very cautious to make sure that my interviewees did not feel obliged or forced to participate because I am a priest’.

‘I also had to carefully balance being a priest and a researcher during interviews’, Emilio says, ‘particularly where the conversation would move to more personal or sensitive issues. If this happened, the interview would be stopped so I could be there for the person as a priest not a researcher. Conducting my fieldwork made me even more grateful for the privilege we have as Jesuit priests in sharing a very real and raw side of humanity’.

‘For me, my research isn’t just about producing a thesis… it is to do with this wider way of being present to people, and our mission as Jesuits’, he says.

Now, writing up their doctoral research, Alejandro and Emilio have returned to stay at Campion Hall, a private hall of the University of Oxford sponsored by the Society of Jesus.

‘We always live in a Jesuit community, but here in Oxford, at Campion Hall, we have the luxury of living in a religious and vibrant scholastic community’, Alejandro says.

Outside of their studies, they give mass in parishes and conduct pastoral work in local communities in and around Oxford. ‘My focus here is to do my research but being able to do the pastoral thing on the side is really refreshing; it just gives me fresh air’, Alejandro says.

Katie Washington is a doctoral student at ODID researching gender and extremism in the UK.
Umvuzo

South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, with a general jobless rate of 27.7% and youth unemployment standing at 38.6% in the first quarter of 2017, according to Statistics South Africa.

This was the challenge that inspired a team featuring three ODID MPhil students to come up with Umvuzo, an app that offers skills training and connects job-seekers with potential employers, thereby addressing some of the specific problems in the South African labour market.

According to the team, those problems include a mismatch between the skills offered and those sought, excessive search costs because the job-seeker pool is located far from employment centres, and inefficiencies in the way employers recruit.

To tackle these, Umvuzo, which means reward or earnings in isiZulu, has a dual-facing operating model: one for employers and the other for job-seekers. Job-seekers complete training modules which focus on skills that are actually in demand; performance data from their activity on the app can then be accessed by employers, allowing them to track potential job candidates based on the skills they have acquired.

‘Umvuzo’s innovation lies in its ability to tie together employers and job-seekers in a mutually reinforcing way,’ says team member Fuaaad Mkosi, who is a second-year MPhil student, Keitumetse-Kabelo Murray, in the first year of the MPhil, and Boitumelo Dikoko, who is studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town.

Users will be able to submit job applications for vacancies uploaded by employers directly through the app, which will also suggest potential job listings based on a user’s acquired skills.

In October, Umvuzo won the 10,000-Swiss-franc Geneva Challenge and the team are now planning the next stage towards development of the app, working with development agencies in South Africa to get a better idea of how Umvuzo will fit into current efforts to match job-seekers to jobs.

As well as Fuaaad, the team features Sakhe Mkosi, who is a second-year MPhil student, Keitumetse-Kabelo Murray, in the first year of the MPhil, and Boitumelo Dikoko, who is studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town.

Empower

Meanwhile, Empower, featuring five Oxford students, including two from ODID, won the regional finals of the Hult Prize in March, with a proposal to provide ‘solar ATMs’ in India.

Declared co-champions in the London finals with a team from UCL, they were one of just 16 regional winners out of over 100,000 global submissions.

Empower aims to provide access to clean, safe and trustworthy solar electricity to the 240 million people in India who are not reached by the power grid and are unable to afford alternative solutions, such as solar home systems, because of their high upfront cost and requirement for regular payments.

‘The Empower solution meets customers’ exact energy needs, at or below the cost they already spend on substandard alternatives’, explains team member Gideon Laux, who is studying for the MSc in Economics for Development at ODID. ‘The “Solar ATMs” will provide a reliable, on-demand energy source to charge devices, such as lights and mobile phones, and will be run by local entrepreneurs with an existing customer base’.

Empower are now invited, with the other regional winners, to take part in a six-week accelerator on Hult International Business School’s campus at Ashridge Castle in Hertfordshire this summer. They then have a chance to become one of the final six teams to pitch for $1 million in seed funding at the Hult Prize Global Finals, which kick off the United Nations Global Goals Week in New York City in September.

As well as Gideon, the Empower team consists of Vabyanti Endrojono-Ellis, who is a second-year MPhil student at ODID, Ronit Kanwar, who is studying for a BA in Economics & Management, James Dickson, an MBA student, and Alistair Berven, who is studying for the MSc in Environmental Change & Management.

The team are currently keen to find contacts with potential implementation partners for their pilot phase in India this summer – for example NGOs who might be able to facilitate access to their target demographic.

If you are interested in joining the team or contributing your experience in any other way, contact gideon@empower-energy.co.uk.
Masculinity and the ‘new’ Indian man

As the #MeToo campaign focuses renewed attention on gender relations, Shannon Philip reports on his doctoral research exploring how young urban Indian men are making sense of themselves in a country experiencing rapid change.

The recent #MeToo campaign has seen an unprecedented global online reaction to gendered violence across various spaces, from Hollywood to academia to politics. In India the #MeToo campaign has similarly been important in opening up several debates around what counts as sexual abuse and about the stigma surrounding it, as well as generating counter campaigns with hashtags like '#NotAllMen' and '#MenAreTrash'. These debates are part of a new wave of conversations and campaigns in India, largely among the urban middle classes, around the safety of women and girls in the country. Often emotionally charged and increasingly polarised, these discussions have led to many questions about what is and should be expected of men in their social worlds.

One such question has been key to my fieldwork among young, unmarried middle-class men in India: what does it mean to be a young man in India today? In their world, which is dominated by new consumption practices and social media, looking and being ‘modern’ is crucial to creating a sense of belonging in what they feel is a developing and changing country. The consumption of new lifestyles, fashion and culture is one part of this process, which defines them as ‘modern Indian men’, but an equally important part is the adoption of the ‘modern’ narratives about gender equality that they encounter on social media.

However, spending a long time with young men in Delhi and seeing these social and cultural worlds up close laid bare to me the tensions and anxieties – as well as the opportunities – involved in being these ‘new’ Indian men.

The process revealed that young men have an image and representation of themselves in which to be ‘modern’ entails both being ‘respectful’ of women and at the same time also ‘masculine’ in a more conventional sense – tough, cool and nonchalant. And here, the ability to convey violence, without necessarily actually being violent, serves as an easy and accessible tool to help in keeping up a masculine facade.

My research revealed that in fact these young men’s girlfriends and other women friends also wanted them to be ‘maschio’ and ‘respectful’ at the same time. They wanted to date young men who could show off their tough, smart and macho looks, whilst taking them around the malls and cafés of Delhi. Men with money, a bike, sunglasses and cool clothes were the ones who won attention.

Keeping up this masculine appearance was valued much more than showing vulnerability, anxiety or doubt about any aspect of life in a changing India. The fear of not getting a high-status job in the country’s extremely competitive job market, for example, or of not having enough conversational English to confidently take dates to the mushrooming coffee shops around India could not be articulated. Young men worked very hard to keep up this appearance, but the fragility of this way of being a ‘successful man’ was visible everywhere in the cracks in the masculine facade and the everyday realities of their lives.

One telling example came from a photo exercise I carried out with young men as part of my doctoral research. The photo of my research participant Aman (bottom right) neatly illustrates the tensions between how men want to appear and their reality.

Amongst friends, Aman is a caring and sensitive young man, the joker of the group. Yet when I asked him to pose for the camera, he decided to pose in the way he wanted the world to see him. The smiles and jokes disappeared, his fingers rolled into a tight fist and his gaze was made to appear stern, in control and piercing. Then, once the camera was put away, he relaxed, softened and smiled again.

Aman was very happy with his image and told me he liked the way his arms and legs looked in the photo, ‘ready to take on anything’, as he put it, and hence the sign of an appropriately masculine, young ‘new’ Indian man.

This leaves us in a complex situation where on the one hand, as campaigns like #MeToo reveal men’s systemic power and privilege over women, they also beg the question, what makes men the way they are?

The expectations of men, and the tensions involved in looking, acting and being a ‘man’ in their particular contexts can be demanding. Although of course this does not take away responsibility for the individual actions of men, equally we must not lose sight of the social and cultural contexts that create these ways of being a ‘man’ in the first place.

Shannon Philip is completing his DPhil at ODID
Learning from Young Lives

It has been just over 15 years since Young Lives launched their longitudinal study of childhood poverty in four countries. Here, Paul Dorman outlines some of the key findings from this pioneering, DFID-core-funded project.

Children’s lives are lived in the round but policy is delivered in ‘silos’. While that sounds (and indeed is) trite, it is demonstrably important: as a practical example, children’s chances in school can be undermined by their need to work or their health. Grappling with multidimensionality is a real world challenge.

So, how to respond? For me, the starting point is to really understand how poorer children’s lives are lived. Perhaps that, in a nutshell, is the bottom line of the Young Lives research study. Having collected five rounds of household and school survey data, following the same children in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam since 2002, study researchers are now distilling the top-line messages across a number of areas.

Our first two pieces of work have now been published, with summative reports on children’s experiences of violence and children’s work; others are to follow soon, focusing on nutrition, adolescence, the labour market and tracing the consequences of childhood poverty.

Firstly, our report on violence affecting children. One of the most striking findings from the Young Lives research is how high aspirations and hope are: children and their parents frequently describe these in relation to hopes for education and schooling (see the table below).

But as the report outlines, in many places the reality feels very different: schools can be frightening, violent places, particularly for children who ‘stick out’ (often, but not always, the poorest children or those from minority groups).

Most striking is our finding that violence undermines learning – a great rejoinder to those who downplay or even justify corporal punishment or other violence as important for discipline. For example, we found that experience of violence at age 8 in India, Peru and Vietnam was negatively associated with maths scores at age 12. Our cohort evidence suggests that better learning would happen in safer environments and that violence is a cost to educational performance. With that in mind, it is concerning to see how widespread corporal punishment was across all four study countries.

Parents who aspired for their children to achieve a graduate or postgraduate degree, by household wealth tercile and child gender (%)

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despite formal prohibition (see infographic, below right). The law is often important, but it needs other supporting tools to achieve robust change for children.

Secondly, our report on child work – a topic much discussed globally. Some work is hazardous and exploitative, often involving long hours undermining health and education, but not all work takes this form. There are all sorts of muddles about when ‘child work’ (which almost all children do as part of their daily lives, often from a young age to ensure family survival) becomes damaging ‘child labour’.

As our summative report describes, from children’s point of view, conflating the two is problematic. Banning child labour sounds good (and sometimes is) but, as with corporal punishment, without related activities to overcome the fundamental drivers, simply outlawing work-based activity is not enough. If the underlying drivers are poverty and community norms, then action to overcome those ought to be the starting point (see infographic, below left).

It is worth reading the reports in full, and both have good summaries, but four personal reflections to conclude:

• School is now firmly embedded as a global experience. Policy-makers (global and national) have identified this as the path to social mobility. But even with rising enrolment, poor children often get least from schools. The pressures to work outside school and violence within the school environment undermine benefits. Helping to overcome these challenges is therefore part of increasing the impact of schooling.

• I started off by talking about multidimensional problems. There is now a wealth of evidence, including from the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, that child-sensitive social protection provides part of a multidimensional answer, with gains across education, health and other sectors.

• Implementation. Both violence (corporal punishment) and child labour present areas which sometimes result in discussions about legal change. That may well be part of the solution, but the Young Lives experience suggest that is not all that is needed, and that it must be done carefully to avoid harm. Addressing the underlying drivers, including poverty, is equally important.

• Non-governmental organisations and others often talk about ensuring that children can participate in discussions and decisions about them. There is a rights-based reason for this, empowering children and young people by putting them at the heart of action designed to promote their development and future prospects. But there is also a pragmatic need – to understand what is more likely to work for children.

Watch out for our further summative reports at www.younglives.org.uk and follow @yloxford.

Supporting children who work
There are four opportunity areas for action:

Engage with children, families and community members. Legislation needs to be implemented sensitively to protect communities and social relationships.

Social protection systems should be improved to support children and their families living in poverty, and those who rely on children’s work for survival.

Prioritise interventions that reduce pressures associated with care work in the home to release the burden most often experienced by girls.

Schooling should be accessible and flexible to help children who must work.

The summative report on which this is based is available here: www.younglives.org.uk/content/childrens-experiences-violence

Paul Dornan is Senior Policy Officer at Young Lives
Last summer, we welcomed many former students back to Oxford to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the MPhil in Development Studies. It was a great opportunity to consider the evolution of the degree and to learn about the amazing and diverse career paths of our alumni.

The celebrations also gave us a chance to reflect on what development means and what our mission as a department should be. Does the distinction between developed and developing countries still make sense? Is it still useful to teach development? Frances Stewart summarised the debate nicely when she asked whether we should call ourselves ‘development studies’ or ‘global studies’.

Leaving aside what we call ourselves, this discussion is important because it reflects different views about how the world looks today and what our challenges for the future are (in the age of Trump, Brexit, high inequality and many other interconnected processes). Based on the day’s discussions, the case for moving beyond ‘development’ to thinking in terms of the ‘world’ or the ‘global’ appears to rest on several connected arguments:

The ‘imperialist’ character of the development project. The post-colonial notion of development relied (implicitly or explicitly) on the assumption that rich countries should be emulated. The ultimate goal of development was to promote economic growth, structural change and institutional modernisation so that all countries would look like North America, Western Europe or Australia. Moreover, studying development was almost always about studying the ‘other’, those left behind.

This approach may be particularly inadequate at a time when a majority of the world’s population lives outside the rich countries (India and China together constitute almost 40% of the total); many rich economies are facing significant crisis (more on that below); and some of the most exciting socio-economic innovations at the local and regional level are taking place in developing countries.

The difficulties of distinguishing who is developed (or the ‘centre’ in a more structuralist terminology) and who is developing (the ‘periphery’). The emergence of China as an economic and political power makes talking about centre and periphery harder than ever before. It is not only that China is the largest economy in the world (and India the seventh and Brazil the ninth), but also that China has emerged as a reference point in many recent processes: think about the Spanish prime minister trying desperately to sell public debt to the Chinese government; or the growing importance of China for Latin American and African exports; or its role in climate change negotiations after Trump’s decision to leave the Paris Accord.

Related to this, the existence of acute political and economic challenges in developed countries. Many developed countries are dealing with growing inequality, social and political discontent and economic stagnation, particularly after the 2008 financial crisis. In this environment, are their challenges so different to those in developing countries? Don’t all countries need to talk about basic income? Isn’t the future of work a problem everywhere? And can we really assume that the quality of democracy is better in the US than in, say, Uruguay?

The growth of global challenges. Climate change and environmental degradation, migration and refugee flows or the management of global capital may be at the heart of development debates, but they are primarily global challenges. Globalisation has made the world interconnected, and may force us to study these interconnections more than anything else.

These are obviously significant challenges that encourage us to think about what to teach in development studies and how. Yet how significant are they? Should they force us to abandon the notion of development or the existence of centres and peripheries? Should we move away from development studies (or even international development) to think about the whole planet? I am not so sure. If we consider the structure of the global economy today we immediately see that:
• The differences between the standards of living of most countries in Africa and Latin America and the US are today larger than 50 years ago. Moreover, the poorest people in the US have a higher income than 70% of the global population, according to the fantastic work of economist Branko Milanovic. Catching up is an exception, not a rule. Critics will answer that catching up should no longer be an objective, given the current environmental crisis. This may be true but it does not negate the fact that there are structural differences between developed and developing countries and that almost all the people who struggle for daily survival are still located in the same parts of the world as in the past.

• Fourteen of the 15 richest people in the world (all men) come from the US or Europe. It is true that the number of Russian, Chinese and Indian billionaires is growing, but wealthy individuals are still primarily concentrated in a very few (central) countries.

• Many of the rules that prevent economic and social change (think about intellectual property rights or trade rules or the distribution of royalties in art) are still imposed by developed countries that continue to ‘kick away the ladder’.

• For all the problems that the US and Europe have faced recently, the 2008 financial crisis was a good reminder of the global structures of inequality. The demand for US dollars actually increased after the crisis, moving flows to the country that had created the mess in the first place! Can you imagine what would have happened with the currency of any developing country after a crisis like that? Or think about the role of the welfare state: Spain has struggled a lot recently but the levels of poverty have not increased nearly as much as those in Latin America in the 1980s and the Spanish middle class is still standing.

There is little doubt that the world is today very different to how it was in the 1940s and 50s when development studies (and structuralist economics) appeared. Of course, our future is interconnected and capitalism’s capacity to create good jobs and coexist with equality is in question everywhere in the world. Yet in trying to adapt to this new world, we run the risk of forgetting that people have almost opposite opportunities depending on where they were born, and that the divide between most developing countries and developed ones is still as large as ever. Studying those inequalities and considering how they can be overcome at the local, national and international level is important and may require talking about ‘international development’ for quite some time. The good thing is that our department has all the tools to participate in these conversations, including great alumni, fantastic research on global but also national and local challenges and the commitment to see the world from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Find podcasts, photos and video from the event at http://bit.ly/MPhilat20

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea is Associate Professor in the Political Economy of Latin America at ODID and Director of the Latin American Centre
IMI relaunches as network

The International Migration Institute (IMI), which was based at ODID between 2006 and 2017, has now relaunched as an international research network, IMIn.

The network was created by a group of former IMI researchers. These include three former directors, Oliver Bakewell, Mathias Czaika and Hein de Haas, along with Agnieszka Kubal, Simona Vezzoli and Gunvor Jónsson, who teaches on the MSc in Migration Studies at ODID.

According to the founders, IMIn is committed to continuing the thriving interdisciplinary dialogue and new research perspectives that emerged at IMI, and to further expanding IMI into a global research network.

IMIn aims to:

- develop a long-term perspective on migration and human mobility as an intrinsic part of global change instead of a ‘problem to be solved’.
- explore new ways of understanding and researching migration processes, seeking to challenge conventional theory and to look for innovative approaches.
- build capacity by actively stimulating the participation of students and researchers from around the world, particularly from Africa, Asia and Latin America, in research, publications and public debates.
- create new public narratives on migration that challenge polarised debates between ‘pro-’ and ‘anti-’ migration voices.

You can follow the activities of IMIn on their new website, www.imi-n.org.

Olof Palme and Astor Lectures

We were delighted to welcome Professors James Ferguson of Stanford University and Christopher Udry of Northwestern University for high-profile lectures at the department this year.

Professor Ferguson delivered the Olof Palme Lecture, which developed on a recent book in which he analysed the figure of the share as a principle of distribution of cash transfers in the global South.

Noting that current schemes of distribution are limited by principles of nation-state membership, he suggested in the book that it might be possible to detect new logics of social obligation based on a principle he called ‘presence’.

The lecture sought to elaborate this conception, and develop a more complete account of how such an understanding of presence might provide a basis for an expanded sense of social obligation and for more inclusionary forms of politics.


In the Astor Lecture, Professor Udry spoke about the links between rural poverty and low agricultural productivity in Africa.

Using evidence from more than a decade of studying farmers and farming in Ghana, Professor Udry demonstrated that it is the lack of breakthrough technology, not farmers’ inability to adopt new technology, that lies at the root of stagnant agricultural productivity, and discussed possible routes out of the low-productivity trap.

Remembering Raufu Mustapha

The department hosted a day of events this spring in memory of Raufu Mustapha, our colleague and friend who died in the summer of 2017.

His former students Ami Shah and David Ehrhardt organised a workshop at ODID bringing together alumni and other scholars for a series of panels on African Political Systems, Societies at the Margins, Nigerian Institutions of Governance, and Identity and Conflict in Nigeria.

The workshop was followed by a reception at Raufu’s college, St Antony’s, which included reflections on Raufu as a teacher, mentor and researcher, as well as a keynote by Dr Jibrin Ibrahim. A new book, Creed & Grievance: Muslim-Christian Relations & Conflict Resolution in Northern Nigeria, edited by Raufu and David Ehrhardt, was also launched at the event.

Ami and David are planning a special issue in memory of Raufu, and colleagues Lindsay Whitfield, Gavin Williams, and Ricardo de Soares Oliveira have organised a stream in his honour at the African Studies Association UK conference in September this year.

Do please visit our online book of condolences for Raufu: https://raufumustapha.qeh.ox.ac.uk

You can also read an obituary in the latest issue of Oxford Development Studies: http://bit.ly/RaufuODS

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Cheryl Doss has been elected president of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE). IAFFE is a non-profit organisation that seeks to advance feminist inquiry into economic issues and to educate economists and others on feminist points of view on economic issues. Dr Doss will become president-elect in mid-June 2018 and begin her one-year term in 2019. She takes over as president from Naila Kabeer of the LSE.

A paper co-authored by Xiaolan Fu and Shaomeng Li that offers a new approach to valuing early-stage technologies was named Best Paper by the Innovation Strategic Interest Group at the 2017 European Academy of Management Annual Conference. The paper, which was co-authored in partnership with Chao Ai of Huawei Ltd, fills a significant gap in existing theory and potentially creates a new decision-making tool for investors.

The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) has finalised a new three-year funding agreement with the IKEA Foundation. The agreement, totalling £1.3 million, will cover funding in three areas: a Research Fellow at Lady Margaret Hall integrated into activities at the RSC; research at the RSC on the economic lives and contributions of refugees in three countries; and RSC Summer School bursaries for participants from the global South.

Sabina Alkire gave the 21st WIDER Annual Lecture on 24 October 2017. The lecture covered the ways in which countries are using the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index and other poverty measures to track achievements in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The lecture series presents the analysis of an eminent scholar or policy-maker who has made a significant contribution in the field of development economics. Watch the lecture: http://bit.ly/WIDER17

A special issue of Oxford Development Studies celebrating the work of Valpy FitzGerald, Emeritus Professor of International Development Finance at ODID and former Head of Department, was published in June 2017. The special issue, which was edited by Diego Sánchez-Ancochea and Frances Stewart, brings together articles by Valpy’s colleagues and former students on the theme of Conflict, Inequalities and Development. Read the issue: http://bit.ly/ValpySI
STAY IN TOUCH

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We also have course-specific LinkedIn groups for all our degrees:

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