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Welcome

Welcome to the 2020 issue of Oxford Development Matters – my first as the new Head of Department. I write from an Oxford that would be quite unrecognisable to you as former students. Departments and libraries closed, students scattered, and academics and support staff all working from their homes. The QEH building itself is locked up and silent, with only occasional visits from Gary, our caretaker, to water the plants.

Despite the disruption, you may have read that Oxford University as a whole has been a leading force in efforts to address the pandemic. Much attention has rightly focused on medical advances, including promising progress on the development of a vaccine against COVID, but in the social sciences we too have an important contribution to make. You can read about the exciting ways in which our academics are reshaping their research to help understand the impact of the pandemic and global lockdowns within their own fields on pp 6–9.

While QEH may now be experiencing one of the most dramatic periods in its history, our past has of course been eventful too; on pp 4–5 Valpy FitzGerald continues his history of the department with a survey of the turbulent middle years, during which QEH narrowly escaped closure as it moved away from its original purpose, as a place of training for colonial officers, to emerge as a leading centre for research in development studies.

As always, the magazine also features interesting research and activities by our current and former students. On p 10 you can read about a new app developed by DPhil student Alex Barnes. Alex was working on an app to enable safe navigation in conflict zones when the pandemic struck. He and his colleagues quickly spotted a potential new use for similar technology, this time to help with social distancing. On p 3 alumna Rebecca Buxton also spotted a gap in the market and filled it: for a popular philosophy book that shifted the focus away from white men to highlight the contribution of women and people of colour. And on p 12, DPhil Biruk Terrefe draws on his research to discuss new urban development projects in Addis Ababa and how changes in the capital’s cityscape have reflected the fluctuating political priorities of different regimes.

Our latest cohort of students are as vibrant and accomplished as ever, but as they complete their courses and emerge into the world of work, they do so under exceptionally difficult circumstances. In recognition of this, we have launched a new all-QEHID networking group on LinkedIn, The Oxford Development Network, in a bid to bring together all our current and former students to share experiences, opportunities, and advice. You will find a flyer about it enclosed with the magazine – we would be delighted if you would join the new group so we can harness the power of our extended network to help each other through this tough time. And, as always, please complete the Keep in Touch form, either by returning the paper copy or following the link, to ensure we can contact you about new initiatives (hopefully some on-site soon) in the future.

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea
Head of Department

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Thank you to the students, academics and alumni who have contributed to this magazine.

The Philosopher Queens

Frustrated by the predominance of white men in most histories of philosophy, alumna Rebecca Buxton joined forces with a friend and crowdfunded to get a different kind of book written – one about women philosophers, by women philosophers.

Nearly two years ago, my friend and co-editor Lisa had a day off work and went looking in a bookshop for something to read on women philosophers. Perhaps in retrospect it was unsurprising that she found almost nothing. Most philosophy departments in bookshops might carry a few works by Simone De Beauvoir or Hannah Arendt, but they usually showcase the history of philosophy almost exclusively as a discipline of white men.

When researching afterwards, Lisa and I found an embarrassing number of books on the history of philosophy that mentioned either only one woman or no women at all. The book *The Great Philosophers*, for example, offers chapters on individual philosophers throughout history, each written by philosophers of the modern day. All of these chapters are about men and all of the philosophers who wrote the chapters are men. Even last year the trend continued, with A C Grayling publishing *The History of Philosophy*. No chapter in this book is dedicated to a woman philosopher or even women philosophers as a group. But with so many books coming out in popular philosophy, why is it that women philosophers are still being ignored?

As there seemed to be an obvious gap, Lisa and I began to look into publishing a book exclusively on women philosophers, written exclusively by women philosophers. And so, the idea for *The Philosopher Queens* was thought up, over several cups of tea and some emails to friends who knew far more about the world of publishing than we did. We were lucky enough to find our publisher, Unbound, early on in the process. Unbound might seem like an unusual choice – they are a crowdfunding publisher. As an author or editor, you have to run a campaign for your book and ask people to pre-order it before it even exists. Of course, of course we thought this would be a hard sell, and Unbound warned us to expect the process to take up to six months. Once we launched the campaign, our book was fully funded within 26 days. After two years of working on this project, *The Philosopher Queens* – featuring women from throughout the history of philosophy and from diverse backgrounds, from Duotima and Ban Zhao, to Iris Marion Young and Angela Davis – will be published this year. Finally, there will be something on those dusty philosophy bookshelves about the lives and legacies of women philosophers.

Lisa and I both studied philosophy at university. In fact, we fell in love with philosophy together at the age of 16 when we both embarked on the A-Level. But as philosophy undergraduates we both noticed the distinct lack of diversity. I assumed, ignorantly, that women philosophers got little attention because there weren’t any worth paying attention to.

Diversity in the curriculum is important – fortunately, this no longer seems to be a controversial opinion. For one thing, it can encourage new generations of philosophers to take up the subject; this is very difficult when they don’t see themselves reflected in the history of the discipline. But what people often miss is that most of us do not campaign for diversity for this reason alone, but also because the history of philosophy lacks diverse. Women and people of colour have been doing philosophy all along, but the histories that we share and learn do not recognise that.

This book is only a tiny step in the right direction and, of course, no single book can encompass the histories that have been ignored for thousands of years. But we hope that, in the future, when a young girl walks into a bookshop she might now see a book that does justice to women in the history of philosophy.

The Philosopher Queens will be published by Unbound on 17 September. The Angela Davis chapter is now available free of charge at thephilosopherqueens.co.uk so raise money for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Rebecca Buxton completed the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies in 2017. She is now studying for a doctorate at ODI.
Queen Elizabeth House and the Development Pivot

Continuing his series on the history of the department, Valpy FitzGerald expands on the turbulent period from the late 1960s to the early 1990s during which QEH sought to define its structure and purpose. So instead the University and the QEH Governing Body appointed Paul Streeten, a senior Oxford development economist from Balliol with extensive experience of international institutions, as both Warden of QEH and Director of a rival Oxford research unit, the Institute of Commonwealth (formerly Colonial) Studies (ICS), in 1968, bringing the two under one roof.

Under Streeten’s leadership and with the support of his mentor, Balogh, QEH underwent a radical pivot in its focus. While some of the old activities remained, including a Foreign Office-financed course for young diplomats from newly independent countries, QEH also embarked on a visitation programme for senior Indian civil servants, Streeten moved QEH away from the British neo-colonial project, engaging intellectually with the emerging field of development studies and institutionally with the United Nations.

The University would have preferred to wind down QEH at this stage: the original endowment from South African mining magnate Ernest Oppenheimer had run out and the University was unwilling to provide core funding, while the University’s Social Studies Board felt that the teaching and research priorities lay elsewhere.

Fortunately, the University’s commitment to QEH was eventually renewed by the arrival of Paul Streeten, who had been a doctoral student under his predecessor, Balogh. Streeten, a senior Oxford development economist who had been a doctoral student under his predecessor, Balogh, was appointed as Warden of QEH and Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS) in 1968. Having set QEH on this new trajectory, Streeten left Oxford in 1976, to be succeeded by another distinguished progressive economist, Keith Griffin (after an interim administration headed by Peter Ady). Griffin maintained the new direction of QEH, focusing on the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and others for several limited-term teaching posts, in refugee studies (Barbara Harrell-Bond), African history (including William Bensar) and income distribution in the 1980s. However, QEH was eventually closed down due to falling student numbers in 1993. The final refoundation of QEH in the emerging field of development studies.

The final refoundation of QEH in the emerging field of development studies.

In sum, although in 1993 the University did once again consider closure as an option, by now there was a strong feeling in Oxford that the University was academically viable development studies centre would thereby be lost. Moreover, the University’s Social Studies Board felt that the teaching and research priorities lay elsewhere. Fortunately, the University’s commitment to QEH was eventually renewed by the arrival of Paul Streeten, who had been a doctoral student under his predecessor, Balogh. Streeten, a senior Oxford development economist who had been a doctoral student under his predecessor, Balogh, was appointed as Warden of QEH and Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS) in 1968. Having set QEH on this new trajectory, Streeten left Oxford in 1976, to be succeeded by another distinguished progressive economist, Keith Griffin (after an interim administration headed by Peter Ady). Griffin maintained the new direction of QEH, focusing on the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and others for several limited-term teaching posts, in refugee studies (Barbara Harrell-Bond), African history (including William Bensar) and income distribution in the 1980s. However, QEH was eventually closed down due to falling student numbers in 1993.

In consequence, the University was finally forced to come to terms with its financial and academic responsibility for what had become a significant yet still ‘semi-detached’ Oxford institution without a clear teaching or research mission. In 1971, when Harrell-Bond retired, QEH was fully merged with the ICS and the Institute of Agricultural Economics (which had become unwieldy due to falling student numbers) to create the International Development Centre (IDC), nominally a department of the University within the Social Studies Faculty.

Despite the loss of government support and the Commonwealth Secretariat’s training role to Sussex, which had seemed a blow to QEH at the time, the event a space emerged at Oxford from the 1970s onwards where creative and critical research could flourish. Streeten had attracted a group of younger scholars as students and research associates, including Keith Griffin, Sanjaya Lall, Deepak Narayen, and Frances Stewart.

They were not the only QEH scholars at the time: in the event a space emerged at Oxford from the 1970s onwards where creative and critical research could flourish. Streeten had attracted a group of younger scholars as students and research associates, including Keith Griffin, Sanjaya Lall, Deepak Narayen, and Frances Stewart. Their contributions in the 1970s included advancement of and analysis of foreign direct investment (Lall and Streeten), technological learning and capabilities (Lall), employment and appropriate technology (Streeten), and the impact of aid (Griffin, with John Enos). QEH came to spearhead research into the important equity dimension of basic needs and employment in economic development policy, which was to evolve into the ‘human development’ approach adopted by the United Nations.

Clearly, development economics was the dominant discipline at QEH in the 1970s and 80s, although there were a number of QEH scholars working on colonial history, such as Colin Newbery and Stanley Trapido. Moreover, a multidisciplinary approach began to emerge. On the one hand, these development economists took a creative approach, which was different from that of the ‘mainstream’ Oxford colleagues, mainly focused on development issues, which was to evolve into the ‘human development’ approach adopted by the United Nations.
The COVID-19 pandemic has renewed attention on academic expertise. This is particularly the case in health science: epidemiologists have led discussions on social distancing and lockdowns, while teams of doctors and other scientists are working non-stop to find a vaccine. The University of Oxford has been at the forefront of these efforts and some trials have already shown promising results.

Finding a vaccine (as well as effective treatments) is clearly the most urgent task. Yet it is increasingly evident that the consequences of the current crisis will be multidimensional and that social scientists have important roles to play. We need to better understand the economic and social impact of the virus and the policies adopted to respond to it. We need to consider the potential political consequences of the lockdown in different contexts. We must explain the interactions between the virus, health systems, and domestic economies as well as identifying the key sectors that are most at risk.

Researchers at ODID have actively participated in public debates on COVID-19 in the global South from the outset. On our website, a section devoted to Development in the time of coronavirus collects some of the many contributions made by our students and researchers through interviews, op-eds, and briefs. For example, Diego Sánchez-Ancochea has recently been at the forefront of these efforts, as he has proposed a child support grant in South Africa to critics of the way Africa is depicted in global health literature. From evaluations of the lockdown in India to warnings about socio-political impacts in Ethiopia, the research highlights ODID’s multidisciplinary approach as well as our common commitment to equitable change.

Many colleagues are also launching new research on COVID-19 in the global South and the following pages showcase some of the new directions our academics are taking. Some of this work focuses on international dimensions, considering, for example, the changing patterns of global value chains or the evolution of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). Others evaluate the impact of the virus in specific countries, hoping to draw lessons for others. This is the case for the phone survey that Diego Sánchez-Ancochea is implementing in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam, for example.

The diversity of ongoing research illustrates one of the strengths of our department: the variety of our interests and the creative combination of policy-focused research and more critical approaches. Some of my colleagues are informing macroeconomic policy responses at the national and international level, while others are questioning the ways states have constrained migration or failed to respond to the urgent needs of indigenous peoples. Together all this work demonstrates the contribution that high-quality research can make to confronting the social, economic, and political challenges we are facing, while placing those suffering most at the heart of our analysis.

None of us can predict how much the world will change after these strange and complicated months. Will we have other waves that force us into new lockdowns? Will the economic crisis last for a few months or for several years? Which countries will be most affected? How can we make sure that those suffering most – in each country and in the world as a whole – are properly supported? Will the crisis create new opportunities to envisage a different future? I have no doubt that many of my colleagues will be at the centre of all these debates.

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea sets out how the department is making sense of the coronavirus pandemic through commentary and new research.
existence of, potential for, and barriers to digital information and assistance for refugees. Meanwhile, Cory Rodgers is working with refugee monitors living in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya to assess the response to COVID-19 there and in the nearby Kalobeyei settlement, in order to provide practical feedback and rapid information to the UNHCR's COVID-19 response.\cite{122}

**OPHI**

Persons designing COVID-19 response face a need for immediate data as well as projections or simulations, in order to seek to mitigate the emergence of ‘new poor’ and to reduce poverty even during the current crisis.\cite{122}

OPHI is undertaking user-responsive research on COVID-19 and multidimensional poverty of the poor. First, we will rapidly re-analyse existing data on the global MPI which is online in order to provide briefings on COVID risk and vulnerability for more than 100 countries and over 5.7 billion people. Second, we will respond to countries who are seeking just-in-time studies on the ‘new poor’ for their emergency responses, and share emerging good practices with our 60-country South-South network focused on multidimensional poverty reduction. Third, we will post a section on our website featuring these outputs and including interactive maps where users can select different kinds of COVID-19 risks at the same time, and select whether to view the number or proportion of people affected. OPHI are already in active contact with many governments and actors shaping pro-poor COVID-19 emergency responses. This work will help us to meet their expressed demand.

**Young Lives**

Young Lives recently received £9.4 million in funding from DFID for a new round of work focusing in particular on transitioning to adulthood in the context of the pandemic and the resultant disruption to planned fieldwork, we rapidly revised our planned research designs and conducted a new phone survey to investigate the short-term impact of the pandemic on young people in our study countries.\cite{121}

The phone survey focuses on impacts on health and well-being, and on transitions to the labour market and higher education for the young people in the study. We will publish headline outcomes after each round of calls, providing rapid analysis to policy-makers.

We are in a particularly strong position to inform policy because of our long-term relationship with participants, which enables us to collect high-quality information with significantly fewer refusals than is usual in a phone survey; the pro-poor nature of the samples, which enables us to focus on those families that are likely to be most affected by the crisis; and the four-country structure, which can show the differential impacts of COVID-19 according to varying contexts and related strategies implemented by governments.

Our planned in-person Round 6 household survey will take place in 2021, enabling us to explore the medium- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 too, and the impact on outcomes not measured in the phone survey.

**Loren Landau**

Even as the pandemic has delayed a comparative survey on urban mobility and Africa’s future politics, it draws into high relief the centrality of movement and uncertainty in people’s lives. Rather than promote solidarity and an inclusive social contract, states across sub-Saharan Africa have intensified restrictions on poor residents and migrants in ways furthering spatial, class, and other social divisions. Families and communities reliant on mobility are weakened as are possibilities for planning a life beyond the local. As I monitor these developments and work to strengthen research and collaborations around these themes as part of a new Oxford-Wits Lab on Mobility Governance (O4W), partners in Johannesburg, Accra, and Nairobi are preparing to roll out our 1,200-person survey when conditions allow. Our work will explicitly incorporate questions on how frustrated mobility and uncertainty shape local and diaspora engagements and the spatial and temporal scales of people’s political mobilisations.

**Laura Rival**

I am working with Brazilian, Peruvian, Ecuadorian and Colombian colleagues, as well as colleagues from various research-in-action networks, to support indigenous demands for appropriate and culturally respectful health and education provision in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Amazon.

This forms part of my ongoing work with indigenous communities of the Amazon and my current collaboration with a British Academy-DFID research project on ‘Sustainable Development and Atmospheres of Violence: Experiences of Environmental Defenders’. We are studying how ‘land-grabbing’ within indigenous territories, which has accelerated under President Jair Bolsonaro, is propagating the spread of COVID-19 among indigenous peoples within their own demarcated territories.

The situation is especially complex because many native Amazions move back and forth between their remote communities and crowded peri-urban neighbourhoods around jungle towns and latillas such as Manaus, Belem or Iquitos, where life conditions are very precarious, and adequate health infrastructure and information is lacking.

In particular, the young scholars I am working with have highlighted concerns that some indigenous people are slipping through the cracks of healthcare coverage. For example the Indigenous Health Secretariat (SESAI) of Brazil’s Ministry of Health has indicated that it is responsible only for what it terms ‘village Indians’, an anachronistic phrase that excludes indigenous peoples living in cities and in voluntary isolation. One demand being expressed by indigenous leaders in Manaus is that urban residents be regarded as indigenous citizens by the city’s health secretariat so that they can be included in the city’s vaccination campaigns.

In addition, in Oxford, we are trying to get connected with the medical school to support hospitals in the Amazon, particularly in Iquitos, where the situation is particularly dire.
A lockdown restrictions ease and retail businesses reopen in the UK and across the world, social distancing remains critical to controlling the transmission of COVID-19. Now a smartphone app, originally designed for conflict zones, is helping by showing users how busy a place is before they leave home.

Alex Barnes, who is studying for a DPhil in International Development, launched Crowdless with his colleagues in April 2020.

“We were keen to see what we could do to help in the current circumstances, and we came up with Crowdless,” Alex says. “We believe it will be extremely useful for people who need to travel to shops and grocery stores but are trying to meet social distancing regulations effectively to protect themselves and the wider population.”

The app uses existing open-source data alongside crowd-sourced information from users, who can report how busy the venues they visit are. By enabling people to pick the best time to shop, Crowdless also helps supermarkets optimise footfall; the vision is for retailers and shoppers to work together to create a safe and convenient shopping experience.

Following a successful launch, Crowdless became one of four enterprises selected by the Oxford Foundry’s COVID-19 Rapid Solutions Builder programme, which provided funding and mentoring support for two months to help accelerate the app’s development. They received mentoring from experts in sales, leadership, and product design, all of which have been extremely useful for continuing to build Crowdless, Alex says.

A key element of Crowdless’s success has been its ability to tap into the community spirit engendered by the lockdown, according to Yohan. Users on the ground have been eager to help NGOs, development companies, and anyone who needed it.’

Alex’s lived experience in Afghanistan where he worked with the Australian Department of Defence showed him first-hand how friends and colleagues were at risk. He joined forces with Yohan Iddawella, a PhD student at the London School of Economics, in January 2019 to address the issue and promote security for humanitarian workers.

“We were planning to start developing Lanterne for Colombia first, in part because it is more accessible and has greater smartphone penetration than Afghanistan,” Alex explains.

But when COVID-19 hit, Colombia went into full lockdown and the team were stopped in their tracks. So they started adapting the technology they had to the lockdown that was being introduced throughout the world.

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A key element of Crowdless’s success has been its ability to tap into the community spirit engendered by the lockdown, according to Yohan. Users on the ground have been eager to support their communities by sharing information and uploading data to the platform, and even volunteering for the app’s Community Ambassador Programme, where they brainstorm ways of improving the quality of the data and store coverage.

Crowdless now has 90,000 downloads and is available in eight languages, with most users in the UK and Germany. The team is currently working with the satellite company Astrosat to help community organisations and local authorities support vulnerable populations across the UK as distancing restrictions ease.

The app doesn’t store any of its users’ personal data – there is no login screen, for example – so users can rest assured that their data privacy is protected.

The app was recently chosen as one of the winners of Innovate UK’s ‘Business-led innovation in response to global disruption’ competition, providing Crowdless with a grant to underpin product development. The main focus will be to integrate crowd-sourced and third-party data, upgrade the user experience and integrate additional features, such as forecasting crowded times – allowing people to plan their trips ahead of time.

You can download Crowdless for iOS and Android via crowdlessapp.co/app, or join the community as a volunteer ambassador via crowdlessapp.co/ volunteer.

Lur Alghurabi reports on Crowdless, a new app helping users avoid queues and crowds during COVID-19, co-founded by ODID DPhil student Alex Barnes.

Addis Ababa’s Changing Cityscape

Urban investments across the African continent are at an all-time high. Yet the nature of these investments differs starkly across cities. Many of them are driven by political considerations. For example, in Addis Ababa, a city that has made enormous strides in the past two decades, a new urban aesthetic is emerging. It targets urban elites, the Ethiopian diaspora and international tourists.

Since coming to power in 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s administration has initiated several urban megaprojects. These include LaGare, a 36-hectare real estate project, and a 36-km riverside renewal scheme dubbed Beautifying Sheger. Both projects are intended to give Africa’s political capital a facelift and generate revenue through higher land values and urban tourism. They are the latest additions to a skyline that has undergone dramatic changes in the past 20 years.

Brik Terrefe draws on his doctoral research to write about the Ethiopian capital’s changing urban aesthetic, and what city redevelopments can tell us about the political priorities of successive regimes.
The projects are new but their delivery remains the same. The manner in which they are being implemented is reminiscent of previous Ethiopian regimes. This includes the sidelining of local stakeholders and the lack of coordination with the relevant bureaucracies. Decision-making continues to be highly centralised.

In new research, I use these urban megaprojects to analyse the period of political change. Urban spaces are sites of ‘continuous renewal’. New administrations use them to stamp their mark on cities. My research aims to identify how this is playing out in Ethiopia’s capital city.

Addis Ababa’s latest urban endeavours
A unique characteristic of Addis Ababa’s urban development is that successive Ethiopian regimes have used new urban projects as manifestations of their political priorities. Even today, we can find architectural remnants of past regimes.

The grand projects that different governments have undertaken over the decades are layers of political history woven into the city’s urban fabric. Marred by the fascist Italian occupation and domestic secessionist movements, Emperor Haile Selassie’s regime (1930–1974) reproduced its architectural remnants of past regimes.

Priorities. Even today, we can find architectural remnants of past regimes. Addis Ababa’s Structure Plan (2017–27).

While the Ethiopian ruling party (EPRDF), the coalition that was in power between 1991 and 2019, made the city administration fight back to keep our plans in place, otherwise we have a big problem.

This is reminiscent of former prime minister Meles Zenawi’s imposition of the light rail transit system despite vocal opposition from urban planners at the time. The recent demolition of Meskel Square, one of the city’s biggest public spaces, illustrates this lack of transparency and accessibility in the decision-making process.

A dedicated Megaprojects Office has been established in the city administration to manage LaGare and Beautifying Sheger, as well as a number of other major urban projects. These include the development of a multiplex residential village in Gotea and hiking trails, viewpoints and recreational spaces on Entoto Mountain.

We are at a critical juncture, in which the accessibility and affordability of the city’s future is as doubt. As one of the fastest urbanising nations in the world, Ethiopia needs to ensure that its urban investments provide adequate infrastructure and social services to its most vulnerable citizens.

The creation of elite enclaves and singular focus on urban tourism, while important, is unlikely to trickle down to the majority of the city’s residents. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons licence.

Felipe Roa-Clavijo wins top Colombian prize
Recently completed DPhil Felipe Roa-Clavijo has won one of the most prestigious social science prizes in Colombia for his doctoral thesis.

The award was made by the Alejandro Angel Escobar Foundation, which has awarded prizes to recognise and support research that contributes to science and innovation in Colombia since 1974.

The foundation awards three prizes annually: in the social sciences; in mathematics and physics; and in sustainable development.

Felipe’s thesis, supervised by Laura Rival, is entitled ‘Rethinking Rural Development, Food and Agriculture in Colombia: Examination of Competing Narratives, Agrarian Strikes and Negotiations 2013–2016’.

The judges said of his work: ‘The research proposes a new look at long-term agricultural trends and a new approach to analysing the main demands from agrarian movements. It goes beyond describing a simple phenomenon; it proposes an innovative approach that explores the future of rural development and agriculture in Colombia from the perspective of food provision. This is thought-provoking research for the social sciences community.’
Greening ODID

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic brought the issue into the sharpest possible relief, ODID had been grappling with the question of how to fundamentally adapt – both its teaching and its everyday practices – in response to the climate crisis. In September 2019 we set up an Environmental Sustainability Group to help explore the problem and chart a way forward. The group ran a consultation in November seeking suggestions from across the department for changes we could make in five main areas: waste; food; energy; travel; and teaching and research. We were very clear that we need to find ways to halve our everyday practices to our own research and teaching on the global South. We have already made a number of improvements and more are planned.

On the teaching side, Nikata Sud will convene a new option course for the MPhil from Michaelmas Term 2020 on Climate Questions from the Global South. The course will focus on climate change issues such as the role of markets; the interaction with inequality; agriculture, food security and rural policy; the role of cities and urban environmentalism; pandemics in the Anthropocene; and non-human agency in global change. We will also be running a new seminar series, convened by Diego Tom Scott-Smith.

New programme on structural transformation

Douglas Gollin is research director for a new programme to support research that provides a deeper understanding of the fundamental economic processes of structural change and productivity growth in low- and middle-income countries. The research programme on Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) is funded by the UK Department for International Development, with a budget of £12 million in its first five years.

Low-income countries now face a huge challenge,’ said Professor Gollin. ‘The global pandemic will have a tragic impact, especially on the poor. But low-income countries also face the prospect of a severe global economic slowdown, and many of them will need to rethink their growth strategies. Our research programme will pose fundamental questions about the nature of long-run growth, the transformation out of subsistence agriculture. The answers to these questions will guide low-income countries in choosing effective policies as they emerge from the pandemic.’

STEG will be carried out by a consortium led by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and including ODID, the University of Notre Dame, the African Center for Economic Transformation, the Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale, and Grinnings University’s Growth and Development Center. Professor Joe Kaboski of Notre Dame and CEPR will lead the STEG Academic Steering Committee.

STEG is committed to making top-quality academic research in development economics directly relevant to the concerns of policy-makers. It will help developing country governments, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector to design and implement policies that promote productivity gains, structural change, and economic growth that are both sustainable and supported.

Rohbel Pailey article most downloaded

An article by Rohbel Nejia Pailey, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at ODID, was the most downloaded paper from Development and Change in 2019.

The article, ‘Decentering the White Gaze of Development’, expanded on the keynote address Dr Pailey delivered at the 2019 Development Studies Association conference in February.

In the article, Dr Pailey notes that the ‘white gaze’ of development measures ‘the political, socio-economic and cultural processes of Southern black, brown and other people of colour against a standard of Northern whiteness and finds them incomplete, wanting, inferior or repressive’. She goes on to say that despite this, race has largely been absent from the scholarly discussion. She goes on to say that it should be mainstreamed in development analysis, not just gender and class have been.

Dr Pailey also already recorded a podcast for our Oxford Development series in which she was interviewed by Mia Simovic of the student-run Oxford Society for International Development, drawing on this analysis to discuss how the white gaze has manifested in attitudes towards Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can listen to the podcast at https://bit.ly/RohbelNP.
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