Welcome to the 2023 ODID report

Welcome to our 2022–23 Annual Report which we hope gives you a sense of the wide range of activities and intellectual energy of the ODID community over the last year. For many of us, the year was marked by the return to our regular rhythm of research, teaching, and engagement following the extended disruptions of the pandemic.

Researchers at Young Lives, our long-standing study into inequality and poverty in low and middle-income countries, were able to return to their study countries in person for the first time to conduct a seventh round of their longitudinal survey. The latest round includes a new component focussed on mental health, and an innovative approach using hair samples to measure levels of cortisol. The fieldwork should be completed by early 2024. We also launched a new series of videos, What Next, which aims to explore future directions in some of our prominent research fields; the first focusses on inequality and was published on our newly revived departmental blog. Look out for more videos exploring refugee studies and technology and development in the near future.

We are proud of the real-world impact our research generates. Francesca Lessa has been working for many years on transnational human rights violations in Latin America in the 1970s and over the past year has used her knowledge to help in efforts to bring those responsible to justice. She acted as an expert witness in two high-profile trials and developed an essential new online resource in conjunction with local civil society organisations.

Our students continue to make a difference too. Ten ODID students were selected as fellows of Oxford’s SDG Impact Lab this year. The Lab works with businesses, government, and the third sector to train students in the skills needed to help deliver real world change that advances the Sustainable Development Goals. This year some of those students worked on a new local project, with the BMW plant in Oxford. We were also delighted that one of our MPhil students, Khansa Maria, was awarded one of Pakistan’s highest honours, the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz prize, for her disability activism and academic success. We will continue to learn from her insights into life as a disabled student at Oxford.

Our EDI work more broadly was also a focus this year. Our MPhil teaching staff have been running an induction session for new students in recent years to help create an inclusive and equal learning environment and this year they have produced a film about the session to help share the experience with others. The film has been shown at EDI events around the University and other departments are now hoping to introduce similar initiatives.

This year we continued to think deeply about how we operate as a department. We undertook a departmental away day and carried out a review of our flagship course, the two-year MPhil in Development Studies, to understand more about its strengths, achievements, areas for improvement, and challenges in a changing world. Three experienced scholars – Professors Amanda Hammar, Maxine Molyneux, and Sandra Sequeira – visited ODID to review the course over two days and we are addressing their recommendations, intended to ensure the most effective harnessing of the programme’s wealth of resources. We also redesigned our departmental website, giving it a fresh new look and bold new strapline — Transformative thinking, global change — to better reflect our mission. We feel the strapline effectively encapsulates our aim of supporting change through rigorous, critical scholarship.

We were also pleased that the Refugee Studies Centre was instrumental in efforts to help the University gain Sanctuary Status this year. Universities of Sanctuary make up a national network which collectively strives to make higher education institutions places of safety, solidarity, and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary and the RSC, with its many years of experience in this field, played a key role in this exciting development.

Finally, on a personal note, we wish to acknowledge the hard work and support we have both received over this last year from all our colleagues in ODID. It has been an honour to serve as Heads of Department but we could not do so without their help. As we step down we extend our warmest wishes to Professor Jocelyn Alexander who took over as Head of Department in September 2023.

Professors Diego Sánchez-Ancochea and Christopher Adam
Heads of Department 2022–23

Highlights
Connecting and informing through Oxford’s first Sanctuary Fair

The fair coincided with the announcement that Oxford University had received University of Sanctuary status. The award recognises Oxford’s sustained commitment to being a place of welcome for people who have been forcibly displaced around the world.

Universities of Sanctuary make up a national network which collectively strives to make higher education institutions places of safety, solidarity, and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary. The status is held by 25 universities across the country. As part of that, institutions must provide evidence of their commitment to developing initiatives that align with three core principles: learn, embed, and share. Oxford University and its colleges have a long-standing history of being a place of safety. Support for individuals with lived experience of displacement includes the welcome for refugee academics during the Second World War and the recent assistance provided to students and academics affected by the war in Ukraine.

The RSC, which was established in 1982 and undertakes research, teaching, and outreach relating to all aspects of forced displacement, is an important part of that history. More recently, the Refugee-Led Research Hub at the RSC is working to support aspiring researchers from displacement backgrounds, for example as refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and stateless, among other categories. The scheme is designed for students who have completed a Bachelor’s degree and are interested in beginning a graduate degree at Oxford or other universities. Those selected to join OGGAS are matched with a mentor who assists their application process.

Global MPI 2022 launched

The 2022 global Multidimensional Poverty Index, which examined the simultaneous interlinked deprivations which multidimensionally poor people face around the world, was launched on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The 2022 global MPI compares acute multidimensional poverty for 111 countries in developing regions. These countries are home to 6.1 billion people, three-quarters of the world’s population. Of these people, the report finds that 1.2 billion (19.3%) are identified as multidimensionally poor.

The report presents the first in-depth global analysis of the possible combinations—or bundles—of deprivations across the ten indicators measured in the global MPI. It investigates which interlinked deprivations are most frequent through a simultaneous interlinked deprivations analysis of the possible combinations—or bundles—of deprivations across the ten indicators measured in the global MPI.

Support for students affected by displacement

The Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) at the Refugee Studies Centre launched Oxford’s Graduate Application Support Scheme (OGASS) for prospective students who have been affected by forced displacement, for example as refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and stateless, among other categories. The scheme is designed for students who have completed a Bachelor’s degree and are interested in beginning a graduate degree at Oxford or other universities. Those selected to join OGGAS are matched with a mentor who assists their application process.

Global MPI 2022 launched

Sabina Alkire was awarded full professorship

Sabina Alkire was awarded a full professorship in the University’s Recognition of Distinction exercise. She is now Professor of Poverty and Human Development. Professor Alkire is Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at ODID. Her research interests include multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis, welfare economics, the capability approach, the measurement of freedoms, and human development.

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OCTOBER 2022

Report proposes new British national refugee strategy

Professor Alexander Betts co-authored a new report calling for the UK to develop a principled and effective national refugee strategy.

OCTOBER 2022

Nikita Sud chosen as Falling Walls winner

Research by Professor Nikita Sud on the many lives of land was chosen as a Winner in the Social Science and Humanities category by Germany’s Falling Walls Foundation. Academics and academic institutions, universities, research organisations, companies, private and public research centres, academies, research funders, foundations, and individuals were invited to nominate “the bright minds behind the latest breakthroughs and outstanding science projects” in one of ten categories. There were a total of 1,345 nominations. The Falling Walls Foundation was founded in 2009. It holds an annual science event in Berlin that coincides with the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (9 November 1989) and showcases the research work of international scientists from a wide range of fields.

OCTOBER 2022

OGASS participants benefit from a series of workshops that focus on helping them choose a university and degree, write a compelling personal statement, and draft CVs and other required documents, among other topics. Find out more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rlh-launches-oxford-graduate-application-support-scheme-for-scholars-affected-by-displacement

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The report suggests that key aspects of the government’s existing approach are inadequate, noting that the current policy to remove people seeking asylum to Rwanda will be particularly ineffective, costly, and risk weakening the global refugee system. Instead, the report suggests that it is possible to create a unified national policy that ensures refugees’ access to protection, addresses concerns with people smuggling, and restores Britain’s global reputation.

The report places international cooperation at its core, suggesting that effective refugee policy depends on cooperation at its core, suggesting that it is possible to create a unifying approach are inadequate, noting that aspects of the government’s existing policy responds to global market and helps to restore Britain’s global reputation.

The report was launched at a roundtable at the Houses of Parliament. Find out more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files-files-1/british-national-refugee-policy-2022.pdf

Laura Rival gives expert testimony in case against Ecuador

Professor Laura Rival gave testimony as an expert witness in a case against Ecuador over its treatment of indigenous peoples living in ‘voluntary isolation’, held at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Brasilia. The case represents the first time in the court’s history that a state has been tried for allegedly failing in its duty to protect the human rights of such peoples and is likely to create significant legal precedent for their protection and territorial rights.

The case related specifically to the Tagaeri-Taromenane indigenous peoples who live in the Yasuní National Park in northern Ecuador. It was brought by a coalition of indigenous organisations and civil society environmental groups, who argues that the human rights of the Tagaeri-Taromenane have been violated due to the impact of increasing oil exploitation on their territory, resources, and way of life.

Professor Rival was called in as expert witness to comment on Waorani culture and social organisation, as well as on the relationship that the Waorani people have with the Tagaeri, Taromenane and other groups who live deep in the forest.

She pointed out that although the Yasuní National Park was declared a Biosphere Reserve for Humanity in 1989, oil companies have expanded their industrial activities in the Yasuní for decades, contaminating its rivers; violating the right of free, prior, and informed consent required for development in indigenous territories; and displacing indigenous communities who must now live in much diminished territories.

She also showed how such external pressures relate to contradictions in Ecuador’s Constitution. While Article 57/21 guarantees the protection of the territories of peoples in ‘voluntary isolation’, specifying that any violation of this right amounts to genocide, Article 407 says the State may declare the exploitation of natural resources within the intangible territories earmarked for their protection.

October 2022

Remembering Gina Crivello

The journal Children & Society published an obituary of colleague, Gina Crivello, who died unexpectedly at the age of 50 in April 2022. Crivello often refereed papers for Children & Society and was an active member of the Editorial Board as well as publishing in the journal. The tribute was written by her colleagues Jo Boyden, Ginny Morrow, and Gillian Mann.

Dr Crivello was a social anthropologist who was one of the first researchers to join the Young Lives team in Oxford in 2006. She helped develop and then lead the project’s qualitative research.

Read the tribute: onlineibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/chso.12654

November 2022

New MPI for Nigeria

The Nigerian government launched a new policy tool for measuring poverty, which found that 63% of people – 113 million Nigerians – are multidimensionally poor. The Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022) is built from 15 indicators grouped within four dimensions: health, education, living standards, and work and shocks. A household is considered poor if they are deprived in more than one dimension, or the equivalent share (26%) of the weighted indicators measured in the MPI.

The Nigeria MPI (2022) is based on the most extensive survey of multidimensional poverty in Nigeria to date. It was undertaken between November 2021 and February 2022 and was designed to cover 36 states, FCT Abuja, and 109 Senatorial Districts.

Research

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) plays a key role in many countries of the South. It gives employment to millions of people and contributes a significant share of global trade in gold and other minerals. In Peru, ASM – and that effect on the global production.

Unfortunately, small-scale and artisanal miners are often ‘informal’ – in other words they are not registered with or regulated by the state. Formalisation brings miners into the orbit of the state, which provides protections, in the form of social and labour rights, but equally obligations, such as taxes and compliance with labour and environmental requirements.

In the case of Peru – the site of our research – successive attempts to expand the formalisation of ASM have failed. While large-scale mining has benefited from state support, artisanal and small-scale miners have often been regarded as backward and confrontational.

We received funding from La Joya, a gold processing company, to identify the obstacles to the formalisation of ASM in the gold industry and make proposals for change. In collaboration with the Pacifico University in Lima, we undertook fieldwork in Lima and Arequipa, interviewing policymakers and ASM leaders, organising focus groups and visiting some mining sites. The research team also gathered evidence in two other regions, La Libertad and Madre de Dios, to ensure that we took into account different regional dynamics of ASM.

Our research, which resulted in a policy document launched in Lima, identified a number of obstacles to the formalisation of ASM in the Peruvian gold sector. Current legislation fails to account for the diversity of the sector: it imposes the same obligations on individuals or very small collectors of miners working independently as it does on small-scale mining companies with hundreds of workers; policies also neglect differences between distinct regions and geologies, as well as different ways of mining.

State practices at the national and regional levels also create challenges. The regional governments tasked with regulating ASM and promoting formalisation lack sufficient capacity in terms of financial resources and personnel. Their budgets, allocated by central government, arrive late in the financial year, giving them limited time to spend, whilst central government-set targets focus on numbers of formalisation applications processed, disincentivising a long-term strategy. For miners, formalisation procedures are cumbersome and expensive: according to some estimations, miners would need to spend between US$20,000 and US$50,000 and might wait up to three years to formalise.

More generally, state institutions are largely absent from ASM areas, thus reducing miners’ incentives to formalise. Why should artisanal and small-scale miners pay taxes when they have little access to public education, health care or basic infrastructure? Additionally miners face challenges implementing adequate labour and environmental practices and navigating the tax system.

The management of land concessions is a particularly difficult problem. At the moment, the right to exploit land tends to be in the hands of wealthy individuals and companies who often neither mine nor allow artisanal and small-scale miners to mine. Such actors can hold concessions unused for up to 30 years with minimal penalties. Moreover, the broader concession regime includes many other concession rights (such as forestry), and the resulting complexity is inadequately managed by public institutions.

Resolving all these problems and progressing the formalisation of ASM in Peru – as in many other countries – will take time and demand significant political capital. Our research proposed changes in four broad areas. We call for a new narrative that values the economic contribution of ASM and recognises its key social role. We make proposals to expand the presence of the state in mining communities and rethink its contribution in many areas, from productivity enhancement to training in health and safety. We recommend new procedures in areas such as taxation and miner registration to facilitate cheaper and more efficient formalisation, particularly for subsistence miners. We also make a number of proposals to reform public policy, strengthening strategic planning, improving the interaction between national and regional governments and enhancing state capacity.

Of course, implementing all these reforms is easier said than done. This is why we call for a new political economy approach that focuses on future trajectories. For example, a simplified formalisation process for subsistence miners could increase the number of formalised miners quickly, creating incentives for further investment in the sector. Pilot projects to improve local public services could increase the connection between local communities and the public sector and reduce obstacles to formalisation at the local level. The ultimate challenge is to strengthen pro-development actors and create new incentives so that the process of formalisation continues step by step in years to come.

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea is a Professor of the Political Economy of Development and Anna Wilson is a Research Officer at ODIID

Towards formalisation of mining in Peru

By Diego Sánchez-Ancochea and Anna Wilson

Research

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Providing evidence on the crimes of Operation Condor

Departmental Lecturer Francesca Lessa has provided expertise and resources that are proving crucial in efforts to bring to justice those responsible for Operation Condor, a campaign of persecution of opponents to the military regimes in the Southern Cone. As an expert witness, she has worked with colleagues to bring together the first time previously scattered information about Condor into a new, freely accessible website. The site, plancondor.org, includes archival documents, books, articles, verdicts in criminal cases, an interactive map of victims, statistical reports, and documentaries. It was jointly created with input from civil cases, an interactive map of victims, statistical reports, and guarantees, as well as their right to know the truth regarding their parents’ fate and to locate their remains. It was created in 2023. Dr Lessa has spent more than 10 years researching these crimes and subsequent efforts to bring those responsible to justice, working with the help of a network of South American collaborators, including human rights activists, judicial professionals, academics, and policy-makers.

In a bid to support these efforts further, in 2022 Dr Lessa worked with colleagues to bring together for the first time previously scattered information about Condor into a new, freely accessible website. The site, plancondor.org, includes archival documents, books, articles, verdicts in criminal cases, an interactive map of victims, statistical reports, and guarantees. It was jointly created with input from civil society organisations. The website includes an interactive map of victims and children in Buenos Aires in 1976.

The court concluded that Argentina was responsible for the coup’s disappearance and had breached the rights of victims’ two children to judicial protection and guarantees, as well as their right to know the truth regarding their parents’ fate and to locate their remains. In the sentence, the Court cited a statement given by Dr Lessa several times and published to illustrate that Condor amounted to a system of cross-border repression of political opponents in South America; that Uruguayan nationals were the most persecuted within the framework of Operation Condor; and that Argentina was the country where transnational repression of refugees operated most intensely; and that Condor’s main objective was persecuting and eliminating political opponents to the military regimes in the Southern Cone.

Finally, in an intriguing development, an artist working to create an animation for the new plancondor website managed to locate a plane used in a secret rendition in another Operation Condor case, in which five political exiles – three Argentinians and two Uruguayans – were forced onto a flight from Asunción to Buenos Aires.

The team passed this discovery on to lawyers and a Uruguayan judge has ruled that the plane must be preserved. The judge also asked the Uruguayan Air Force to carry out a report with the aim of confirming that the plane at the airport is indeed the Operation Condor aircraft.

DECEMBER 2022
Ruben Andersson wins Leverhulme Fellowship
Professor Ruben Andersson was awarded a three-year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, starting in September 2023, for a project titled ‘Apocalypse Soon: Security, subversion and the struggle for a human future’. The project will lead to a book on the expansion of global security agendas in times of crisis. According to the Leverhulme Trust, competition for awards was particularly keen this year; it received 160 applications and awarded 30 Fellowships across the UK.

‘I’m delighted to receive this Fellowship,’ Professor Andersson said. ‘It’s a unique opportunity to draw together and develop various strands of research on borders, security, and surveillance into an ambitious book project. Leverhulme major research fellowships are especially welcome in that they encourage us to look beyond narrow specialisations, which is fundamental in order to address today’s complex landscape of crisis and insecurity.’

Marta Favara presents at FCDO
Young Lives Director of Research Marta Favara was invited to present at the ministerial launch of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s Position Paper on Education, Climate and the Environment. Young Lives research and policy outputs are directly referenced in the position paper, which sets out the UK’s ambition across this critical area.

The paper calls for immediate action to mitigate the negative effects caused by climate shocks and suggest a new network with integrated solutions for maximum impact to deliver the quality education that is essential for reducing vulnerability and improving resilience. Young Lives will continue to engage with FCDO in supporting further work in this area.

DECEMBER 2022
Nikita Sud wins funding for project on green transition
Professor Nikita Sud won funding from the University’s John Fell fund for a new 18-month project, which aims to explore the societal impact of the transition to green energy in India and Indonesia. Indonesia is the world’s largest exporter of coal, and India the second largest producer and consumer.

Under worsening climate change, both countries are attempting to move away from coal, and towards a greener energy future of solar, wind, hydropower, and biofuels. Professor Sud will research the little understood societal consequences that are entwined with the energy landscape. She will study the changing nature of the coal-powered state as it makes space for private, market actors in green energy. As state-dominated coal mines and power plants are set to be replaced by green installations, she will probe political implications.

The Condor Trials wins Méndez book award
The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America by Departmental Lecturer Francesca Lessa has won the 2023 Juan E Méndez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America.

The judges were unanimous in their choice of the winner. First awarded in 2008, the Méndez Human Rights Book Award honors the best current non-fiction book published in English on human rights, democracy, and social justice in contemporary Latin America. The books are evaluated by a panel of expert judges drawn from academia, journalism, human rights, and public policy circles. The Condor Trials was published in 2022 by Yale University Press.
Ten students from ODID were selected as Fellows by the Oxford SDG Impact Lab, which this year launched a new programme, alongside its easylab holidays programme, with the BMW Group (UK) in Oxford.

The Lab, which was established in 2021, works with business, government and the third sector to train students in the skills needed for collaborative and impactful research as well as to deliver real-world change that advances the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A total of 35 Fellows were selected from across the University to participate in this year’s programme.

As part of the new BMW Group Plant Oxford Programme, 15 Fellows, including two from ODID, will work on projects focusing on new ways of addressing employee wellbeing, the local Oxford community and the planet's impact on the environment. Students will also gain a unique insight into the manufacturing process and sustainable production.

With the Lab’s founding partner, easylab holidays, 20 new Oxford SDG Impact Lab Fellows, including eight from ODID, will continue the work started last year to democratisre sustainable tourism with easylab holidays. They will work with a variety of stakeholders to address challenges in specific Mediterranean tourism destinations, as well as working with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation to advance industry-wide progress.

Cathryn Costello gives evidence on UK’s Illegal Migration Bill

Professor Cathryn Costello gave evidence to the UK Parliament’s Joint Committee on Human Rights on the new Illegal Migration Bill, introduced that month with the stated aim of stopping people from crossing the Channel in small boats.

Dr Peter Walsh from Oxford’s Migration Observatory and Sir Stephen Laws from Policy Exchange also gave evidence in the session. The discussion covered subjects such as possible deterrent effects of the Bill (if any); the broad scope of the legislation (far wider than for small boat arrivals alone); the question of what ‘coming directly’ means in Article 31 of the Refugee Convention; practical challenges such as removal of individuals; the disappplaction of modern slavery protections; lack of Parliamentary time to scrutinise the Bill; and the detention of people with no hearing.

Watch the session: www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/9f69ecf1-28eb-40b0-a968-f598d6c571c

Sri Lanka launches MPI

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) in Sri Lanka launched their national Multidimensional Poverty Index and child Multidimensional Poverty Index as official statistics to guide poverty reduction in the country with a full report analysing the results. The report, which examines poverty across rural, urban, and estate areas and covers Sri Lanka’s 25 districts, is based on data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019.

Sri Lanka’s national MPI is a leading indicator to assess national poverty, also known as the ‘drewer approach’. The individual child MPI includes the same ten indicators as the national MPI grouped into the three dimensions of education, health, and standard of living, and adds individual indicators of undernutrition and early childhood development for each child aged 0–4 years of age.

Si Lanka’s MPIs were developed by DCS in partnership with OPHI and UNICEF Sri Lanka. The national MPI and child MPI will be updated and published regularly to monitor progress.

Albent Sanghoon Park wins Open Leaders award

Departmental Lecturer Albent Sanghoon Park was one of three Oxford academics to be awarded Open Leaders awards to promote policy engagement this year.

Dr Park used his award to review the current state of academic literature on academic-policy engagement, to conduct an informal survey of Oxford academics, and to host a joint academic-policy workshop on resilience policy for sustainable development.

The Open Leaders scheme aims to help drive a culture of policy engagement among staff and students at the University of Oxford. Awards can be used to improve access for the policy-making community to research and expertise, deepen researchers’ skills and understanding of how to contribute to policy-making, or enhance relevant networks.

MPhil student Khansa Maria wins top Pakistan honour

MPhil student Khansa Maria was awarded a Tamgha-e-Imtiaz prize, Pakistan’s national Medal of Excellence and one of the country’s highest honours, for her disability activism and educational success.

Khansa is one the youngest recipients in the award’s history. She was one of 135 distinguished Pakistani and foreign nationals to receive the award in the latest round. Khansa, who is registered blind, is studying for the MPhil in Development Studies at ODID and is a Rhodes Scholar.

‘Receiving this award was an absolute thrill, but I am acutely aware that it comes with immense responsibility’, Khansa said. ‘I am committed to continue my advocacy work and view this recognition as a privilege’.

Brain and Mental Health campaign highlights YL and RSC

Research by Young Lives and the Refugee Studies Centre feature in a current showcase bringing together research on the Brain and Mental Health from across Oxford University.

The showcase highlighted Young Lives research on the association between mental health and violent conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, which found that after the outbreak of violent conflict on 4 November, young people’s mental health significantly worsened.

By the end of the year, 2 in 5 young people were experiencing mental health issues, with rates of anxiety three times higher than 2–3 months earlier. Rates of depression increased from 16% to 25%. It also featured Women & War: A Feminist Podcast, hosted by Dr Dilar Dirik of the RSC. The podcast provides a platform to learn about women’s struggles for liberation, justice, and peace and amplifies critical contemporary feminist work in the field of war, violence, colonization, and forced migration.

Ashwiny Kistnareddy selected for BA/ Humboldt Foundation symposium

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Ashwiny O Kistnareddy was chosen as one of 15 early career researchers (ECRs) from the UK to participate in the 2023 British Academy Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Knowledge Symposium, which aims to facilitate international networking and research collaboration.

The symposium brought together around 30 ECRs from the UK and Germany from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss the theme ‘What is a good city?’. Participants can apply for seed funding to pursue collaboration following the symposium.

Dr Kistnareddy’s project looks at the role of the city both as a sanctuary for refugee children and as a place where they are resettled and negotiate life as part of a community. Through her work, she hopes to contribute to new local and national frameworks and policies.

Pranav Baskar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Jill Gardener, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (easyJet holidays)

Zubin Deyal, MSc in Economics for Development (easyJet holidays)

Stella Elgood Field, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Jill Gardener, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (easyJet holidays)

Artie Lam (Tak Lam), MSc in Migration Studies (BMW)

Anvi Ramachandran, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Tarana Ranjan, MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy (easyJet holidays)

Hannah Zamar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

The ODID students involved are: RAF Ahmed, MPhil in Development Studies (BMW)

Pranav Baskar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Alexander Brunner, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Zubin Deyal, MSc in Economics for Development (easyJet holidays)

Stella Elgood Field, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Jill Gardener, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (easyJet holidays)

Artie Lam (Tak Lam), MSc in Migration Studies (BMW)

Anvi Ramachandran, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Tarana Ranjan, MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy (easyJet holidays)

Hannah Zamar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

The ODID students involved are:

- Rafi Ahmed, MPhil in Development Studies (BMW)
- Pranav Baskar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)
- Alexander Brunner, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)
- Zubin Deyal, MSc in Economics for Development (easyJet holidays)
- Stella Elgood Field, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)
- Jill Gardener, MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (easyJet holidays)
- Artie Lam (Tak Lam), MSc in Migration Studies (BMW)
- Anvi Ramachandran, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)
- Tarana Ranjan, MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy (easyJet holidays)
- Hannah Zamar, MPhil in Development Studies (easyJet holidays)

Tom Throndheim, at the Sheldonian Theatre on 5 March. The conversation delved into the crucial role of community in the journey of finding belonging and understanding the self.

Find out more: ophl.org.uk/ophi_stories/kim-samuel-book-2023

Topp Havn, at the Sheldonian Theatre on 5 March. The conversation delved into the crucial role of community in the journey of finding belonging and understanding the self.

Find out more: ophl.org.uk/ophi_stories/kim-samuel-book-2023

Cathryn Costello gives evidence on UK’s Illegal Migration Bill

Professor Cathryn Costello gave evidence to the UK Parliament’s Joint Committee on Human Rights on the new Illegal Migration Bill, introduced that month with the stated aim of stopping
Venice Architecture Biennale installation gave voice to migrant women in Johannesburg

An installation at the Venice Architecture Biennale combined social science data with film, composition, performance and art to bring to life the voices of migrant women in Johannesburg as collected by ODID Visiting Fellow Caroline Wanjiku Kihato. The installation, You Will Find Your People Here, was featured as a Curator’s Special Project under the theme of Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year's biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first Gender and Geography. This year’s biennale was curated by academic, educator and novelist Lesley Lokko, the first

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The work was a creative response to the testimonies collected in Dr Kihato’s book, Migrant Women of Johannesburg: Everyday Life in an in-between City. It also featured three fabric panels exploring language diversity, family connections and women’s mobility to Johannesburg created by artist Awo Tsegah, drawing on data from the Oxford-Wits mobility lab. The panels referenced typical African fabrics – East African Khanga, the Southern African Shewshwe, and the Ghanaian Kente – to convey the continent’s diversity and the portability of domestic space.

Find out more: www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2023/special-projects

Young Lives launch survey Round 7

The Young Lives team launched Round 7 of their longitudinal study, returning to the field in their study countries to meet the study participants face to face for the first time since the pandemic.

Young Lives is a longitudinal study of poverty and inequality that has been following the lives of 12,000 children in India, Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam since 2001.

Since 2020, Young Lives at Work (YLAW) has been following the original study children into youth and young adulthood. It aims to investigate how education and skills shape young people’s opportunities as they move into the labour market.

Round 6 of the survey, which was scheduled to take place in 2020, was rapidly transformed into a phone survey, comprising five calls over a two-year period, to find out how the pandemic was impacting young people’s lives and providing critical insights during a time when many other data collection projects were suspended. Round 7 will comprise a face-to-face survey as well as a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) on more sensitive topics, such as mental health and partner violence, administered as an audio SAQ in Ethiopia and Peru, where low literacy might impede respondents’ ability to read and answer the questions by themselves. Ahead of Round 7, Young Lives forged a new partnership with the Wellcome Trust which is funding a mental health survey component, enriching the Round 7 data with crucial information on the wellbeing of the cohorts.

The unprecedented combination of COVID-19, conflict and climate change is having a significant impact on young people’s lives, particularly those living in low- and middle-income countries, with profound effects on their mental health.

The new funding will allow Young Lives to collect additional new data on many aspects of mental health and wellbeing including depression, anxiety, stress and post-traumatic stress disorders. Young Lives will use an innovative method, taking hair samples to examine levels of cortisol, a measurement of stress. This will also enable the team to measure the impact of the recent conflict in Ethiopia. This new data will enable a much deeper understanding of how conflict and multiple shocks are affecting young people’s mental health, knowledge which is crucial for informing policy, designing targeted interventions and improving young people’s mental health in low- and middle-income countries. Fieldwork is due to be completed by March 2024.
Global MPI 2023 launched

Nearly one in three ‘poor’ countries surveyed halved their global poverty rating within 15 years, according to the 2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). India saw 415 million people exiting poverty within just 15 years from 2005 to 2021. And, in just four years from 2010, more people exited poverty in China (69 million) than live in the UK. Indonesia saw an eight million reduction in the number of MPI poor in the five years to 2017. However, according to the 2023 release, 1.1 billion out of 6.3 billion people internationally (just over 18%) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for around half of these (534 million), while South Asia accounts for some 389 million. Together, these regions are home to around five out of every six poor people.

The global MPI was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and OPHI.

New research from the Young Lives team has drawn on over two decades of unique data to explore the consequences of early circumstances, global crises and intersecting inequalities on children’s skills development and lifelong learning. Young Lives has been following the lives of 12,000 young people born into poverty in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam since 2002. It has amassed a large body of information through regular visits to children and their families using our quantitative surveys, and more in-depth qualitative interviews with selected participants, making it the longest-running multi-country mixed-methods longitudinal cohort study in the Global South.

BBC ideas film features Young Lives research

Young Lives research on why some children beat the odds is narrated by poet and writer Lemn Sissay who explores why some children from poor backgrounds fare well despite the odds being stacked against them. Using research from Young Lives as a starting point, Lemn offers his take on three common factors that can help children beat the odds.

The four films were selected by BBC Ideas from 80 expressions of interest submitted across the Social Sciences Division. Watch the film: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzBaa7kOw&l=3

For more information on the research cited here visit: www.younglives.org.uk/research-project/cognitive-skills-ethiopia-and-peru

Find out more at: www.younglives.org.uk/research-project/cognitive-skills-ethiopia-and-peru

RESEARCH

How boys and girls can build skills for the future: insights from Young Lives

By Cath Porter

New research from the Young Lives team has drawn on over two decades of unique data to explore the consequences of early circumstances, global crises and intersecting inequalities on children’s skills development and lifelong learning. Young Lives has been following the lives of 12,000 young people born into poverty in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam since 2002. It has amassed a large body of information through regular visits to children and their families using our quantitative surveys, and more in-depth qualitative interviews with selected participants, making it the longest-running multi-country mixed-methods longitudinal cohort study in the Global South.

Research by Young Lives’ team members, funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Ecdida Foundation, has examined in depth how children’s skills develop and evolve through their lives. The findings broaden the conception of skills and learning beyond the ability to read, write and do arithmetic (the 3 r’s) to include foundational cognitive skills and social and emotional skills. Importantly, children’s ability to learn is not just influenced by what happens in schools — a supportive enabling environment is needed at all stages of childhood.

The research had three key aims: first, to improve understanding of how global crises — including climate change and COVID-19 — impact cognitive, social and emotional skills development, and academic achievement; second, to examine the role of gender and intersecting inequalities in shaping skills and education experiences in the face of adverse shocks; and third, to identify ways in which targeted public policies can mitigate the adverse impact of global crises and structural inequalities on skills development, and help to build resilience for successful lifelong learning.

An innovative use of tablet-based games allowed us to measure ‘foundational cognitive skills’, which are the building blocks of children’s (and adults’) ability to learn — including skills such as memory and inhibitory control. Our new evidence shows that children exposed to early rainfall shocks have significantly worse working memory and long-term memory in later childhood. Lower skills can have long-term consequences and exacerbate inequalities throughout childhood and into early adulthood, thus affecting the completion of secondary school in Ethiopia and enrolment in university in Peru.

Gender differences in skillsets become much more marked in adolescence, affecting transitions to higher education. Adolescent girls are particularly disadvantaged in social and emotional skills, such as self-efficacy and agency, skills which have been less emphasised in earlier research. Gendered social norms and intersecting inequalities also have a profound impact on girls’ and young women’s ability to continue to build skills and complete their education, with discriminatory gender roles often exacerbated in times of household stress, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Young Lives is a research to policy impact study and this latest research has important policy implications. Using our longitudinal data set, our new evidence shows — for the first time — that social protection programmes can improve foundational cognitive skills throughout childhood and adolescence, assisting the negative effect of early shocks and nutritional deficits.

While better skills can improve access to higher education and decent jobs, policies to reduce gender discrimination are also critical. In India, we found that young women are far less likely to complete higher education (and any level of education), with gendered aspirations in early childhood a predictor of this inequality. Finally, whilst we have seen some improvements in young women’s education and skills, this is still not enough to secure a decent job — women in their 20s have a much lower probability of working in all four of our study countries, and higher skills do not increase earnings for women.

Young Lives is currently undertaking the seventh round of fieldwork with our participants, allowing us to further understand how young people are coping with the multiple crises they have faced in recent years.

For more information on the research cited here visit: www.younglives.org.uk/research-project/cognitive-skills-ethiopia-and-peru

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Catherine Porter is the Director of Young Lives.
New podcast celebrates black women environmental leaders

ODID alumna Marion Atieno Osieyo launched a new interview podcast, Black Earth, celebrating nature and black women leaders in the environmental movement. Marion, who completed the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy in 2014, is now Head of Inclusive Conservation at WWF.

“I created the podcast having spotted a need for informed and inspiring conversations on what it means to restore and care for our living planet”, Marion said. “Through the podcast and our social media platforms, we are generating new conversations on some of the most ground-breaking solutions from planetary health to climate psychology, Afro-Indigenous farming practices and ecological reparations.”

Interviewees in the first season included:

• Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, a pioneering clean air advocate, whose nine-year-old daughter, Ella Roberta, died as a result of toxic air pollution close to her home in London
• Jennifer Uchendu, a Black Kreyol farmer, mother, author, and food justice activist from Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York
• Esther Stanford-Xosei, a leading climate reparations and law scholar working on reparations policy, research and movement-building around the world
• Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, an award-winning wildlife vet and the founder of Conservation through Public Health in Uganda
• Estha Kilimanjaro of the The Wind and The Warrior collective, which integrates spirituality, healing and environmental activism

Access all episodes at www.blackearthpodcast.com

ALUMNI PROFILE
Miguel Luis Uson Arias
MSc in Migration Studies 2021–22
Current position: Programme Management Associate, UNDP

Tell us about your current job

As a Programme Management Associate under the Global Programme on Nature for Development of UNDP, I provide programme management support for the delivery of activities under their Equator Initiative project to shine a spotlight on the success of local and Indigenous groups that contribute to sustainable development at the grassroots level. Working for a global programme, I work closely with an international team located in different parts of the world.

My tasks vary on a daily basis. I communicate with partners and stakeholders, contribute to the development of knowledge products, facilitate connections between our main stakeholders (Indigenous peoples and local communities) and other partners to promote nature-based solutions for sustainable development, manage the selection process identifying winners for the prestigious Equator Prize, support in-person and digital events in New York and elsewhere, and provide logistical support to Indigenous people and local communities for them to effectively participate in national, regional and global policy events as well as in global conservation and development conferences and capacity-building events.

What advice would you give to current students?

Plan and prepare for your time in Oxford more efficiently. There are just too many opportunities and activities around Oxford! There are activities organised by the MSc programme, the two departments that run the course, as well as talks organised by other Oxford departments, colleges and the Oxford Union. There are lots of museums and parks you can access for free plus the opportunity to attend formal hall in the different colleges of Oxford! Then there are more than 400 clubs and societies based on diverse interests. You will definitely find a community where you belong. But it is tough to maximise all these activities and opportunities given the rigour of the programme. Breaks in between terms will likely be used to revise and prepare for exams. Hence, pausing and taking advantage of the non-academic activities in Oxford will help you cope with stress and fatigue. So make sure to sharpen your organisation and time-management skills and have them ready for a year of an arduous and exciting journey!
Cinar Baymul launches AI-powered knowledge resource for doctors

ODD alumnus Cinar Baymul launched a new venture that uses the power of artificial intelligence to provide an up-to-date information resource for doctors and medical students in the UK. Ask Me, Doctor uses a specially constructed model based on ChatGPT to bring together the latest medical research, treatment protocols, and guidelines. Cinar was inspired to set up the venture by the experience of his partner, a junior doctor in the NHS, who noted the lack of technology to help doctors in patient care with up-to-date information. He said that building an AI model presented some obstacles, with the foremost being the demand for the high degree of accuracy essential for doctors. ChatGPT, an extensive language model, occasionally produces inaccurate or entirely fabricated answers. To overcome this, we constructed our own medical knowledge base, constantly updated with official UK health guidelines. By using this as the model’s primary source, we have achieved remarkable accuracy in generating responses.

The resource is also intended to be help junior doctors prepare for specialist exams. Cinar completed the DPhil in International Development and Policy Analysis at ODID in 2017.

Felicie Krause returns to Oxford as Lecturer in Latin American Studies

Alumnus Felicie Krause was appointed Departmental Lecturer in Latin American Studies and Associate Member of St Antony’s College this year. Felicie, who did the MPhil in Development Studies at ODID, is a political scientist by training, and his research focuses on social movements working on drug policy reform in Brazil and Latin America. His work also frequently crosses over into the sphere of public policy, and he is currently working on a project that will gather data on the determinants of drug policy reform in the region. Felicie was previously a diplomat in the Brazilian Foreign Service, and held postings in London and Dhaka, where he was Deputy Ambassador to Bangladesh.

Mason Ji

MSc in Global Governance & Diplomacy 2016–17
Current position: Attorney, Perkins Coie LLP

How has your education at Oxford benefitted you in your career?

My education at Oxford helps me every day in my law practice. As an international lawyer who must follow and keep abreast of international developments, having the skillset to know how to navigate and understand global affairs has been a great boon. This is particularly true when I need to counsel clients about anticipated future directions and greater trends, where my studies at Oxford that taught me methods and policy analysis have played a critical role in allowing me to give accurate advice and guidance.

What did you particularly value about ODID?

I particularly valued the diversity of the student body at ODID. My classmates in the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy programme came from across the world and from all walks of life. That diversity of backgrounds and opinions allowed me to learn just as much from my peers and their experiences as from the wonderful instructors and professors at ODID.

Shagun Gupta

MSc in Global Governance & Diplomacy 2014–15
Current position: PhD Candidate, American University, Washington, DC

What did you particularly value about ODID?

The warm and welcoming community, where everyone, especially faculty and staff make students feel very comfortable. It was the first time I was studying at a university outside India and the people at ODID made it empowering.

What other activities were you involved with at Oxford?

I attended events organised by the Oxford Union, and of course the annual balls at different colleges in the summer. The Somerville College Middle Common Room (MCR) was a vibrant space.

What advice would you give to current students?

The classroom is only half the learning that happens at Oxford so definitely find time to step outside and engage with the ODID community. Spend time with MCR colleagues and get involved in activities – this is what makes the experience memorable.
Progressing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at ODID

This academic year, the department renewed its commitment to equality and diversity in multiple dimensions. We continued to champion various initiatives to improve the inclusivity of our recruitment, teaching, and research practices, led by staff across ODID’s research groups and degree programmes.

Securing University Sanctuary Status

Led by the Refugee Studies Center (RSC), the University achieved University Sanctuary Status. This entails specific initiatives such as establishing Oxford’s Sanctuary community, expanding scholarship support, and further developing the Academic Futures programme, which aims to address underrepresentation in the graduate student body. You can read more about the RSC’s work on this on p 2.

Diversifying and decolonising student cohorts and the curriculum

The MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, offered by the RSC at ODID for 25 years, has recently focused on diversifying its student body and inclusive teaching. In 2022–23, 34% of the 29 MSc students identified as having a displacement background, and 33% were from the Global South. This change positively impacted the cohort experience according to feedback. Students with lived experience of displacement benefitted from being part of a diverse community that included others with similar experiences and backgrounds. Meanwhile, other students were able to learn from the experiences and deep regional knowledge brought to the course by those with a displacement background. For teaching staff as well, the opportunity to teach a diverse cohort enriched class conversations and created opportunities for mutual learning.

Faculty have also enriched teaching materials by including readings from Global South authors, women, and individuals with displacement backgrounds. Dr Naohiko Omata received a University Teaching Award for innovative teaching methods, which involved refugees.

New EDI Associates

Josh Parker-Allen, Albert Park, and Anna Marin Morales were elected as EDI Associates of the Social Sciences Division, focusing on diversifying and decolonising the curriculum, fostering an inclusive classroom culture, mapping and showcasing EDI-related research in the division and initiating an EDI research network.

Our focus next year

• Implementing our Athena SWAN action plan and working on the priorities identified in our Statement of Aims to promote gender and race equality.
• Working intersectionally on race and gender, while also paying attention to other minoritised groups and protected characteristics.
• Promoting departmental discussions to identify EDI issues that are of concern to us from both our departmental and academic discipline perspectives, and that reflect the needs of staff and students.
• Developing plans to advance the EDI agenda organically from the bottom up, with positive engagement of staff and students as widely as possible.
• Sharing best practice on EDI matters across our degrees.
• Enhancing our EDI briefing during induction and implementing inclusive recruitment guidelines systematically for all staff.

Film on ODID’s ‘Identity in the Classroom’ workshops

The MPhil in Development Studies runs a student induction workshop titled ‘Identity in the Classroom’, every year. This year, to help others in ODID and the Social Sciences Division learn from the experience, ODID staff and students produced a film based on the workshop, under the leadership of divisional EDI Head Nandini Goospu and funded by the University’s Diversity Fund.

The workshops aim to create an inclusive and equal learning environment, addressing issues of bias, discrimination, and inequality. They promote an intersectional approach to encourage active participation and improve classroom inclusion for all students. They foster awareness of complex identities, cooperative learning, and critical scholarship to enhance academic inclusivity.

The film was screened at a Social Sciences Divisional EDI event on Inclusive Classrooms and at a Knowledge Exchange Forum on Diversity of Student Experiences, organised by Oxford’s Centre for Teaching and Learning. It also provided the basis for a workshop for masters students in African Studies at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, and staff at other departments have expressed an interest in running similar workshops. Watch the film: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPGonmjsWwE
ODID Distinguished Alumni Lecture – Economic diversification in Nigeria: The politics of building a post-oil economy

Zainab Usman completed her doctorate at ODID in 2017 and is now Director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In the lecture, she presented the findings of her new book, drawing on her doctoral work, Economic Diversification in Nigeria: The Politics of Building a Post-Oil Economy. She argued that Nigeria’s major development challenge is not the ‘oil curse’, but rather one of achieving economic diversification beyond oil, subsistence agriculture, informal activities, and across its subnational entities. She suggests that Nigeria’s challenge of economic diversification is situated within the political setting of an unstable distribution of power among individual, group, and institutional actors.

Since the turn of the century, policymaking by successive Nigerian governments has, despite superficial partisan differences, been oriented towards short-term crisis management of macroeconomic stabilisation, restoring growth and selective public sector reforms. To diversify Nigeria’s economy, this book argues that successive governments must reorient towards a consistent focus on pro-productivity and pro-poor policies, alongside comprehensive civil service and security sector overhaul.

International Online School in Forced Migration

This year the RSC’s International Online School in Forced Migration took place twice, in March and July 2023, welcoming participants from across the world.

The Online School offers a programme of study that is theoretically rigorous, empirically informed, and participatory. Participants have early access to pre-recorded lectures and readings, which are then followed by live online seminars and discussions. The school’s engaging academic content is complemented by a range of social and networking opportunities for participants.

The diversity of participants is always crucial in the success of the school, whether held online or in person. This year, 32 participants joined the school in March from 19 countries, with a further 50 from 26 countries joining us in July. Across both schools, seven bursary places were available for those with personal experience of displacement, funded by the RSC.

The course directors were Professor Matthew Gibney and Dr Catherine Bridgick (Warwick University), who, along with Professor Tom Scott-Smith, also acted as tutors. Guest lecturers included Dr Madeline Garlick (UNHCR), Victor Nyamori (Amnesty International / refugee rights lawyer, Kenya), Professor James Milner (Carleton University), and Dr Maryanne Loughrey (Boston College). Subjects covered included Conceptualising Forced Migration, The Moral Foundations of Refugee Protection, International Refugee Law, and The Politics of Humanitarianism, as well as a choice of optional modules. Find out more at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school

OPHI Summer School

This year the Centre for the Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America (CODS), at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, kindly hosted an in-person OPHI Summer School – OPHI’s annual course to train the next generation of statistical champions in multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis. Sixty-eight participants from 26 countries attended in person in Colombia to learn the skills required to construct, compute, and analyse a Multidimensional Poverty Index and describe its policy relevance. Find out more at: ophi.org.uk/courses-and-events/ophi-summer-schools
Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture – What Justice for Famine Crimes?

Alex de Waal of Tufts University gave the 2022 Harrell-Bond Lecture. Starvation is an ancient, cruel and effective weapon of war and efforts to prohibit and criminalise it as a war crime are recent and limited in scope. The prohibitions in the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court are as yet untested in courts of law and at the United Nations Security Council. This lecture examined ongoing efforts to expose, prevent, and punish starvation crimes and the prospects for success. It examined what may constitute a starvation crime, and ranged more widely into the acts of commission and omission that cause the societal distress that is famine. Building upon the transitional justice toolkit, the lecture explored measures that could be canvassed to remedy the injustices and traumas suffered by those who have endured starvation.

Listen to the podcast:
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/annual-harrell-bond-lecture-2022-what-justice-for-famine-crimes

Global South in the Age of Digital Revolution: Innovation and Capabilities Development

The Technology and Management Centre for Development hosted an international workshop to explore the challenges and opportunities that the digital revolution presents for the Global South. It explored how innovation and capabilities development can be harnessed to drive economic growth and development in the region.

The event featured presentations by Professor Bengt-Ake Bal Lundvall of Aalborg University Business School on ‘Tech giants as corporate innovation systems: why we need a new world order’ and Professor Xiaolan Fu of ODID on ‘Innovation and Catch-up in the Platform Economy: the Case of Tencent’. Dr Ling Ge, Chief European Representative and General Manager, Tencent, and Professor Richard Nelson, Director of the Program of Technology and Management Centre for Development, presented on ‘Innovation and Catch-up in the Platform Economy’. The Technology and Management Centre for Development and Professor Richard Nelson, Director of the Program of Technology and Management Centre for Development, presented on ‘Tech giants as corporate innovation systems: why we need a new world order’ and Professor Xiaolan Fu of ODID on ‘Innovation and Catch-up in the Platform Economy: the Case of Tencent’.

ODS Annual Lecture – Agrarian Questions of Gendered Labour in Global South Development Trajectories

For the ODS Annual Lecture 2023, Professor Lyn Ossome examined concerns around the structures, trajectories and gendered outcomes of capitalist development in the agrarian south, with the aim also of outlining a feminist decolonial critique of economic development. Professor Ossome specialises in the fields of feminist political economy and political theory, and has research interests in gendered labour, land and agrarian studies, the modern state and the political economy of gendered violence.

Access videos and summaries at www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/climate-change-and-challenges-development

Climate Change and the Challenges of Development Series

11 NOVEMBER 2022

Nature as an Asset or Nature as a Subject of Rights: Which way for addressing the global biodiversity crisis?

In 2021 and 2022, two high-level academic reports concerning the way humanity should deal with the fate of biodiversity were published: ‘The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review’ and the IPBES’ Assessment on Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature’. The former conceptualises nature as an asset, while the latter acknowledges a wide diversity of ways of conceiving of and valuing nature. An expression of such diversity, for an increasing number of people across the globe, ecosystems should hold legal personhood as a way of gaining protection. Should we address the global biodiversity crisis as a portfolio management or as a rights recognition problem?

This talk by Roldan Muradian of the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil, considered the clash between these two views.

3 FEBRUARY 2023

Transformative Education: Lessons from a new eco-campus

The latest IPCC reports called for a radical transformation of the ways our economies and societies are structured in order to avoid runaway climate change. Universities, as civil society institutions which constitute key economic, social, and political actors, are part of that transformation. Throughout the world, new higher education initiatives such as eco-campuses are springing up to meet today’s unprecedented challenges. The Campus de la Transition (‘Transition Campus’) is an eco-campus near Paris. It is a place of teaching, research and experimentation created in 2018 by a collective of academics, entrepreneurs and students united by a common desire: to promote an ecological, economic and just transition, towards regenerative and solidarity economies and societies. In this lecture, Professor Cécile Renouard, co-founder of the Campus, presented the transdisciplinary methodology and the teaching practices and pedagogies designed and implemented by the Campus.

12 MAY 2023

Green ‘new’ deal for the Global South or more of the same?

The consensus is clear on the need to decarbonise faster than ever before to avert the worst impacts of climate change. Calls for a just, equitable transition from fossil fuels for developing countries supported by the North have grown louder. At COP26, India’s call for a coal ‘phase-down’ has since mushroomed into wider calls for a phase-out of all fossil fuels, even as countries look to shield their own energy security and industry. Rich countries have since signed just energy transition partnerships with South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, and possibly India, even as they renege on their climate finance promises. But what will a just, equitable transition actually look like for Global South countries with a sizable coal workforce, and where today’s polluters have since signed just energy transition partnerships with South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, and possibly India, even as they renege on their climate finance promises? What do global green trade wars portend for critical mineral-rich territories where regulation around land and mining have been lax? In this talk, journalist Aruna Chandrasekhar examined challenges to just transition in countries like India, based on her reporting over the last decade.
Publications

Books


Deneulin, Séverine (with Clemens Sedmak) (eds) (2023) Integral Human Development: The Capability Approach and Catholic Social Teaching, University of Notre Dame Press

Articles


Alkire, Sabina (with Fanni Kovessyi, Elina Scheja and Frank Vollmer) (2023) ‘Moderate Multidimensional Poverty Index: Paving the Way Out of Poverty’, Social Indicators Research


Costello, Cathryn (with Michelle Foster) (2022) ‘(Same) refugees welcome: When is differentiating between refugees unlawful discrimination?’, International Journal of Discrimination and the Law 22 (3): 244–80


Doss, Cheryl (with Aletheia Donald, Markus Goldstein and Sakshi Gupta) (2023) ‘Sharing responsibility through joint decision-making and implications for intimate-partner violence: evidence from 12 Sub-Saharan African Countries’, Review of Economics of the Household


Friedrichs, Jörk (with Niklas Stoehr and Giuliano Formisano) (2022) ‘Fear-anger contests: Governmental and populist politics of emotion’, Online Social Networks and Media 32: 100240


Park, Albert Sanghoon (2023) ‘Understanding resilience in sustainable development: Raging call or siren song?’, Sustainable Development


Stybarova, Nicole (2023) ‘Politics of belonging and effective citizenship: Danish migration law in the 19th century: Danish belonging before the immigrants’, Retfærd 175


Chapters


Friedrichs, Jörk (2022) ‘Thinking on time: How scholarly praxis can sustain, subvert and transform social reality’. In Gunther Hellmim and Jens Steffek (eds) Praxis as a Perspective on International Politics, Bristol University Press


The authors in FMR 71 share new perspectives on socio-economic integration that it is hoped can lead to a concrete and transformative shift in approaches. They reframe the role of integration in responses to displacement, at a significant time of global change marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, urgent climate-related pressures and ongoing digital transformation. Most importantly, the issue includes displaced people’s voices and strategies in working towards solutions.

FMR70 Knowledge, voice and power

People with lived experience of displacement need to be heard. Their perspectives, strategies and solutions should be at the centre of discussions about policy and practice. The authors in this issue of FMR reflect on progress made but also on the road still to travel. They challenge attitudes, highlight injustices, and make practical recommendations for change. This issue also includes a mini-feature, Social cohesion in refugee-hosting contexts, exploring the role of social cohesion in contexts of protracted displacement, with a particular focus on Kenya and Lebanon.

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Students

DPhil completed

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(Re)moving waste: Caste, space and materials in Delhi

Dia’Al Masri (St John’s)
Essays on immigration, labour markets, and political behaviour

Ollie Ballinger (St Anne’s)
Uneven development and insurgency in Turkey: A computational approach

Kimberly Bolch (Wolfson)
Incorporation beyond income: Cash transfers and trajectories of citizenship in contemporary Brazil

Sarah Burns (Linacre)
An analysis of post conflict economic and private sector performance

Stephen Damianos (Balliol)
The Skype state: Digital pushbacks and the absence of asylum on mainland Greece

Humaira Hansrod (Wolfson)
Exploring agency enactments of women farmworkers in South Africa’s Western Cape Province

Anjali Krishan (Merton)
Articulating a life worth living: the affective morality of married women’s suicide tales in Delhi-NCR

Saahil Kureshi (St Cross)
Student politics in Gujarat: 1967–1985

Chloe Marshall-Dentom (Harris Manchester)
Mixed migration, fragmented protection: Refugee and migrant protection in the ‘field’ of mixed migration

Kristina Pikovskaia (Green Templeton)
“Vendors keep this economy running”: Economic informalisation and citizenship in Harare, Zimbabwe

Samuel Ritholtz (Green Templeton)
Civil war and the politics of difference: paramilitary violence against LGBT people in Colombia

Gabriela Smarrelli (Wolfson)
Essays on human capital development and effective public policy delivery in Peru

Luis Vargas Faulbaum (Green Templeton)
Policy architectures and pension reform in Brazil and Chile

MPhil fieldwork projects

Entrepreneurship, happiness, and development (Bogota, Colombia)
Mental health interventions in a refugee context (Beirut, Lebanon)

Understanding the formation of climate finance partnerships for green technology (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Politics of scholarship and the ‘presence of absence’ of Israel and Palestine (New York, Boston, Washington DC, USA)

Local water governance in post-apartheid South Africa (Vredendal, South Africa)

Resisting the colonial-capitalist complex: First Nations Australian cultural resurgence for environmental justice and liberation (Mossman Gorge, Australia)

How do framings of time influence the aid industry and the power relations within it in the context of climate change? (London, UK)

A rising tide lifts all boats? How the Guinean Natural Resource Fund navigates competing claims of redistribution and sustainable development (Georgetown, Guayna)

Who are the winners and losers of India’s national Al policy? (Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi, India)

The politics of service delivery: The politics-bureaucracy interface and the provision of pro-poor services to bustees in the Kokkata Metropolitan Area (Kolkata, India)

Participatory mapping in the Wapichan wizi: politics of indigenous refusal, resistance, and resurgence in the Guayanese state (Guyana)

The evolution of ‘involution’ in China and its social impact (Beijing and Shanghai, China)

Transformative justice for Indigenous Australians in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (Karratha, Australia)

Navigating informality: local domestic workers, precarious labour, and digitalisation in Cairo (Cairo, Egypt)

The subcontracting of neonatal health in Lesotho (Lesotho District, Lesotho)

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Temporality, history and the perception of refugees in northern Uganda (Yumbe District, Uganda)

National champions of development: The Adani story (New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and Dharma Port, Odisha, India)

Whose local content? The politics of oil governance in South Sudan (Nairobi, Kenya, and Juba, South Sudan)

Land acquisition and the Pakistani state apparatus (Punjab, Pakistan)

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Examining the conceptualisation of electronic waste in India (Delhi, India)

How has the 2016 Indonesian Tax Amnesty shaped expectations and perceptions of the ‘fric social contract’ amongst different social groups? (Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia)

From early adopters to ‘laggards’? how cocoa farmers in Ghana adapt to changes in policies surrounding hybrid cocoa (Accra, Ghana)

Perceptions and contestations of sex education in Tanzania (Arusha, Tanzania)

Grassroots’ conceptualisation and implementation of ‘justice’ in Colombia (Medellin, Colombia)

Social cohesion versus chaos: Humanitarian workers as intermediaries between the Government of Spain and local residents of the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla (Canary Islands and Ceuta, Spain)

The new role of Chinese local governments in boosting technology and innovation (Hefei, China)

Legacies of security sector reform in Liberia (Monrovia, Liberia)

Students
The cover shows a photo of a young seamstress taken as part of the Young Lives study.

Young Lives is a longitudinal study of poverty and inequality that has been following the lives of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telengana), Peru and Vietnam since 2001. Since 2020, Young Lives at Work has been following the original study children into youth and young adulthood. It aims to investigate how education and skills shape young people’s opportunities as they move into the labour market.

In the academic year 2022–23, Young Lives were able to return to the field in their study countries to meet the study participants face to face for the first time since the pandemic and carry out their latest survey round. Read more in the report.

Photographs taken as part of the study do not show the study participants themselves but are of young people living in similar circumstances in similar communities, in order to preserve anonymity.

Above picture: The original architect’s drawing for the house at 3 Mansfield Road. Credit: The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. Ref: GE 170