



OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF  
**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## THE CHALLENGE

- Two-thirds of humankind live in developing countries, where most of the world's worst deprivation is located. Understanding these societies is of central importance to any enquiry into the human condition.
- International action to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerability of people and nations must be based on critical yet rigorous knowledge.
- Universities have a special duty to create and share this.

## WHAT WE CAN CONTRIBUTE

- The seven postgraduate programmes and five specialised research groups of the Oxford Department of International Development give us unequalled depth of scholarship in key themes of this enquiry.
- We specialise in academic research and research training, drawing on a worldwide network of partners. We are not constrained by aid agency agendas, and thus can explore new and old problems from a critical standpoint.
- Oxford's engagement with international development is based on the quality of our scholarly research and postgraduate research training, which in turn influences both the global epistemic community and contested policy agendas.
- Our interdisciplinary approach has strong roots in Oxford faculties (economics, politics and international relations, anthropology, population health, sociology, history, law, geography, management, and area studies) and multidisciplinary graduate colleges.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- Influencing the theory, analysis, and practice of development worldwide to the benefit of disadvantaged people and countries; supporting international networks and local institutions involved in this endeavour.
- Worldwide attraction of the best postgraduate students; recruitment of outstanding scholars to faculty; adding to our network of leading development research institutions; bringing key visitors to Oxford.
- Endowment of scholarships, with a particular focus on enabling students from countries in the global South to read for our degrees.

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## FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

### WELCOME TO THE 2019 ODID REPORT

This is the third annual report I have had the pleasure to introduce, but it is also the last before I pass on the role of Head of Department to my colleague, Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea. Preparing my handover notes in the last couple of weeks, I have been sorting through the small mountain of papers and files that chronicle my time as Head of Department. They make fascinating reading. Whether it is the reviews of fellowship and research grant applications (and the numerous letters of congratulation to those who have been successful), the drafts of opening remarks for our many public lectures, the letters of welcome to visitors and affiliates, the reports on colleagues' sabbatical leave, or even just the 'notes-to-self' on my regular meetings with colleagues and students, this mini-archive never fails to remind me of the remarkable energy that flows through the ODID community. This report provides only a brief snapshot of our activities over the last year but I hope it also give you a sense of the excitement and intellectual engagement that makes us tick.

Some of us got a sense of this energy in June during the Vice Chancellor's visit to the department, for which we laid on a set of fascinating research 'flash talks' (it really is impressive what can be conveyed in four minutes!). The Vice Chancellor admitted to being unaware of the full breadth and relevance of the work we do here in ODID and, thus encouraged, we are hoping to launch a series of web-based video talks in the course of the coming year to take our research to a wider audience. Please look out for them!

'Flash talks' aside, this year has been one of both consolidation and progress. On the research side, with REF2021 beginning to loom large, colleagues have

been pushing hard to bring their current research to fruition and inevitably the jargon of 'outputs', 'impact', 'eligibility' and 'environment statements' has started to season our conversations. But at the same time we are investing heavily in new research and new ideas and it has been exciting to see so many research grants and renewals coming through in the course of the year.

On the teaching side, we continue to attract the finest students from across the world and, I believe, provide them with the graduate training to match. I would like to thank all of my colleagues involved in our teaching programme – course directors, lecturers, supervisors, teaching assistants and our team of course administrators – for their fantastic commitment to what continues to be one of the best International Development programmes anywhere in the world.

It has also been the year in which we saw our first social enterprise 'spin-out' take off, with the launch of sOPHla, an innovative not-for-profit organisation designed to bring the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's path-breaking work on poverty measurement into the world of international business. In conjunction with Oxford University Innovation (OUI), sOPHla has established offices in Oxford and in Boston, Massachusetts, and has already begun work in a number of companies in Central America. You can read about sOPHla on p 14. And as I write, Professor Xiaolan Fu, Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, is also working with OUI to bring her methodology on early-stage valuation of tech companies in the global South to market.

And finally, an update on an issue I mentioned last year, namely our future in our current home. On the surface,



matters are quiet – we are still here, but the building has been sold, the proceeds invested with the University, and our tenancy has been secured through to 2033, if required. There has been progress, however. A new home for ODID is now firmly established as one of the division's priority strategic projects and, as I write, we are awaiting the outcome of an exciting new architectural competition which may offer us a possible future site. Whether this works for us is not yet clear, but we are hopeful.

In closing, and as we prepare for a new cohort of students in October, let me say farewell to our graduating students – most especially the remarkably large number of DPhils who have successfully graduated this year – and to our colleagues who have left the department. I wish all of you well. Let me also add, on a personal note, my sincere thanks to my friends and co-workers in the department for their support and encouragement over the past three years: it has been a great pleasure to serve as Head of Department.

**Professor Christopher Adam**  
31 July 2019

# STUDY

266  
students

7  
degree  
courses

Students  
from  
55  
countries

83%  
students  
from outside  
the UK

62%  
female  
students

40%  
students  
funded



Lodewijk Van Dycke, MPhil in Development Studies 2017-19

The department offers two doctoral programmes, a two-year MPhil course, and four nine-month MSc courses to around 260 students.

Students on our courses benefit from small class sizes, personal supervision by world-class academics, and a vibrant and diverse community of peers. Our degrees offer flexibility in learning, with a range of optional courses to enable students to match their study to their interests. With top-quality training in research methods and the opportunity to develop research ideas through a dissertation, our master's courses provide a solid basis for outstanding students to proceed to doctoral study, on our own DPhils in International Development and

Migration Studies, on other doctoral programmes in Oxford, and elsewhere in the world.

Our degrees are also closely tied into our research activity, which means that our recent findings can be used in the classroom and student work can contribute to our research programmes.

Graduates of the department pursue a wide range of careers after completing their studies – in international organisations, government agencies, the private sector, international NGOs, and social enterprises, or as academics in universities and research institutions across the world. Many also pursue further studies.

## OUR COURSES

### DOCTORAL STUDY

The DPhil in International Development provides an opportunity for outstanding students to pursue in-depth research into processes of social, political, and economic development and change in the global South. The new DPhil in Migration Studies offers students the chance to focus on a specific and important contemporary challenge facing the world.

Our DPhil students are able to draw on the expertise of scholars in a wide variety of disciplines and a range of regional

specialisms, with notable strengths in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Our research groups also provide a rich source of data and case-study material. For Migration Studies, our students benefit from the involvement of two renowned research centres: the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) at ODID and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

We support our students in a variety

of ways: through funding to meet their needs at various stages of their research; via a dedicated study area, the Loft, which provides a friendly and welcoming space for peer support and networking; and by providing dedicated guidance from the Director of Doctoral Research, who is available for student assistance and consultation.

For the first time we are also now offering students the chance to undertake doctoral study on a part-time basis.

### The following DPhil students completed\* their doctoral work during 2018/19

**Geraldine Adiku**  
Wolfson

*The remittance debate reconsidered: interrogating transnational transfers between Ghanaian migrants in the United Kingdom and their relatives in Ghana*

**Olanshile Akintola**  
Jesus

*Beyond greed and grievance: understanding the multi-causal factors of the Niger Delta conflicts*

**Hani Awad**  
Hertford

*'Forgotten as history': space and politics in the Cairo peri-urban fringe*

**Nora Bardelli**  
Lincoln

*'The refugee' reproduced, negotiated, and represented: hierarchies of Malian refugeeeness in Burkina Faso*

**Lennart Bolliger**  
Wolfson

*Apartheid's African soldiers: a history of black Namibian and Angolan members of South Africa's former security forces, 1975 to the present*

**Arnold Chamunogwa**  
St Antony's

*Power at the margins of post-colonial states in Africa: remaking authority on fast-track resettlement farms in Zimbabwe*

**Frances Cossar**  
St Antony's

*Agricultural development, mechanisation, and rental markets: theory and empirics from Ghana*

**Evan Easton-Calabria**  
Linacre

*Subjects of self-reliance: a critical history of refugees and development*

**Santiago Izquierdo Tort**  
St Cross

*Payments, ecosystems and development: payments for environmental services (PES) in the Mexican Lacandona rainforest*

**Paul Kellner**  
Green Templeton

*'...Jalanan are also the nation's children...': street-associated youth identities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

**Chloe Lewis**  
Linacre

*Gender protection/protecting gender: rethinking responses to sexual violence in armed conflict and its aftermath*

**Alejandro Olayo Mendez**  
Campion Hall

*Migration, poverty, and violence in Mexico: the role of casas de migrantes*

**Julia Pacitto**  
Lincoln

*Roads to asylum: refugees' and asylum seekers' journeys towards exile in the UK*

**Ankita Pandey**  
Wolfson

*Movement allies: the politics of civil rights activism in India (1960s-1980s)*

**Alexandra Panman**  
St John's

*Urban lives and urban legends: re-examining the slum in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

**Caitlin Procter**  
St Antony's

*Claiming the state: the everyday lives of Palestinian refugee youth in East Jerusalem*

**Felipe Roa-Clavijo**  
St Antony's

*Rethinking rural development, food and agriculture in Colombia: examination of competing narratives during the agrarian strikes and negotiations 2013-2016*

**Emilio Travieso**  
Campion Hall

*Reason to hope: economic, social, and ecological virtuous circles in Chiapas, Mexico*

**Nathaniel Ware**  
Magdalen

*The relationship between impact investing mechanism design and social value creation*

**Barbara Zeus**  
St Antony's

*Refugee education between humanitarian and development assistance – a configurational comparative analysis across low- and middle-income host countries*

\*given leave to supplicate

## ALUMNUS PROFILE

**Brian Mwesigwa**  
Special Assistant to the Minister  
of Foreign Affairs, Uganda

MSC in Global Governance and  
Diplomacy 2014–15

I enrolled in the MSc in Global  
Governance and Diplomacy in 2014  
with a few years' experience in the  
Foreign Service, seeking to equip  
myself with the kind of knowledge, skills,  
and resources only a place like Oxford  
could afford.

Even as a practitioner, the MSc in Global  
Governance and Diplomacy helped  
me to truly appreciate the essence of  
diplomacy and the diplomat's *raison  
d'être*, allowing me to make sense of  
the traditional or seemingly mundane  
aspects of our work, but perhaps  
even more importantly, raising my  
consciousness of emerging issues and  
the demands of the information age.

Soon after leaving Oxford, I was  
appointed Special Assistant to the



Minister of Foreign Affairs, a position  
that requires reading with a critical  
eye and keeping abreast of the latest  
developments.

I am privileged to witness and  
contribute to the formulation and  
coordination of foreign policy at the  
highest level, the rigour and content of  
the MSc having been good preparation  
for the analytical, management, and  
coordination functions of the role.  
I have come to truly appreciate the  
time and the network of friends and  
lecturers at ODID.

MPHIL IN  
DEVELOPMENT  
STUDIES

The two-year MPhil in  
Development Studies provides a  
rigorous and critical introduction  
to development as a process of  
managed and unmanaged change  
in societies in the global South.

Students study theoretical  
contributions to the field of  
development and major themes  
and scholars in the field; they  
study research methods; they  
follow foundation courses in  
Economics; History and Politics;  
and Social Anthropology; and  
they choose from a wide range  
of optional courses. The capstone  
is a 30,000-word thesis, for  
which students usually conduct  
fieldwork during the summer  
between their first and second  
years.

**2018/19 Course Director:**  
Dr Cheryl Doss



Raphael Bradenbrink

Our first-year MPhil students  
conducted fieldwork in 22  
countries over the summer

## Cameroon

*Agency and identity of internally displaced  
persons at the centre of the ongoing  
'Anglophone crisis' in Cameroon*

## Canada

*"We wish we didn't have to exist": the  
paradox of non-profit organisations and  
indigenous community development*

## China

*How digital technology applied by  
the private company can affect  
inclusive development in China: the  
case of big data model in Mybank*

## Colombia

*Political agency in post-conflict  
reintegration: the case of female  
ex-combatants in Colombia*

*The effects of international investment  
arbitration on environmental  
governance: explored through the case  
study of the Colombian Páramos*

## Côte d'Ivoire

*Breeding ground for revolt: security  
sector reform and mutiny occurrences  
in Côte d'Ivoire (2010–17)*

## France

*Post-resettlement refugee labour  
outcomes: investigating socioeconomic  
integration and employment in France*

## Ghana

*Social and economic upgrading of  
Ghanaian smallholder farmers*

## India

*Fostering the ideal Indian woman:  
how sites of education continue  
to shape Christian subjectivity in  
post-colonial Tamil Nadu*

*Global value chains, jugaad, and the  
solar photovoltaic industry in India*

*Women's participation in  
student politics in India*

*A mixed methods investigation into  
how neoliberalism impacts individual  
health behaviour in prevention and*



*treatment of hypertension in India*

*How does the category of humanitarian  
emergencies disrupt routine  
development by aid NGOs?*

## Jamaica

*Trickle or flood? Examining manifestations  
of austerity at sites of encounters  
between citizens and bureaucracies  
in 21st-century Jamaica*

## Jordan

*The politics of water: examining the  
everyday practices of managing and  
accessing water in Amman from a  
political ecology perspective*

## Kenya

*What are the perceived incentives and  
challenges for a local NGO to create  
income-generating projects?*

## Kenya and UK

*From the closet to the courts:  
exploring the politics of storytelling  
through the life histories of LGBT+  
refugees in Nairobi and London*

## Lebanon

*Spaces of engagement: an ethnographic  
study on patterns of peer network  
formation in youth-led, grassroots  
CBOs, and on the effect of peer  
networks on youth perceptions of  
identity, belonging, and the future*

## Malaysia

*An investigation into state-business  
interactions in Malaysian industrial policy*

## Netherlands and Rwanda

*Genocidal rape: feminism, critical  
explanations and the legacy of  
the ICTR*

## Nigeria

*The political economy of special  
economic zones (SEZs) in Nigeria:  
a comparative study of the Lekki  
Free Trade Zone and the Ogun-  
Guangdong Free Trade Zone*

## Pakistan

*Development-induced displacement  
and citizenship: a case study of  
the Orange Line Metro Train*

*Humanising Chinese labour in  
developing countries: case study  
of a power station in Pakistan*

## South Africa

*Robots or rights: assessing  
perceptions of technological  
change and automation among  
policy-relevant actors as  
'pragmatic' drivers of universal  
social policy in South Africa*

## Spain and Uganda

*(Social) entrepreneurship at the  
intersection of race: a case study  
of an African tech start-up.*

## US

*Immobility in the margins:  
disability in US immigration  
The moral politics of American  
Christian charity to African  
orphanages*

## MSC IN ECONOMICS FOR DEVELOPMENT

This degree in development economics has a strong emphasis on bringing methods of modern economic analysis to economic development theory and policy.

The course seeks to cultivate the analytical and critical skills relevant to economic development, in particular those needed to assess alternative approaches to policy. Structured around core courses in economic theory and econometrics and a 10,000-word dissertation, the programme exposes students to key issues in and analytical approaches to contemporary economic development.

**2018/19 Course Director:**  
Professor Douglas Gollin

## MSC IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY

This degree course is designed to provide high-quality graduate teaching on the institutions and processes of global governance and diplomacy. It teaches students about the sources, mechanisms, processes, and practices of global governance at the subnational, national, international, and transnational levels, focusing on issues such as globalisation, regional integration, international organisation, and multilateralism.

Students also learn about the institutions and processes of international diplomacy, including diplomatic practice, international negotiation, conflict mediation, and public diplomacy, as well as the conduct of diplomacy in international and regional bodies. Underpinning the programme are courses in research methods and a 12,000-word dissertation.

**2018/19 Course Director:**  
Dr Jörg Friedrichs

## MSC IN REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES

This degree course offers an intellectually demanding, interdisciplinary route to understanding forced migration in contexts of conflict, repression, natural disasters, environmental change, and development policy making.

The course aims to offer students an understanding of the complex and varied nature of forced migration and refugee populations; of their centrality to global, regional, and national processes of political, social, and economic change; and of the needs and aspirations of forcibly displaced people themselves. Students take courses in the anthropology and politics of forced migration, in international human-rights and refugee law, and in the political philosophy of movement. This core is complemented by training in research methods, a wide range of optional courses, and a 15,000-word dissertation.

**2018/19 Course Director:**  
Dr Tom Scott-Smith

## MSC IN MIGRATION STUDIES

This degree, taught jointly with the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME), provides a broad, theoretical understanding of human mobility and the role of both internal and international migration in the wider processes of development, social change, and globalisation. It offers an overview of the major debates and literature on contemporary migration from different disciplinary perspectives.

Students take three core courses: on migration and mobility in the social sciences; migration, globalisation, and social transformation; and methods in social research. These core courses are complemented by a range of optional courses, discussion groups, and a 15,000-word dissertation.

**2018/19 Course Director:**  
Professor Biao Xiang (SAME)

**Congratulations to the following students who won prizes for their performance on our master's courses in 2018/19:**

### MPhil in Development Studies

- **Eugene Havas Memorial Prize for Best Overall Performance**  
Lena Reim (St Antony's)
- **Papiya Ghosh Thesis Prize**  
Nora Cyrus (Exeter)
- **Examiners' Prize**  
Ollie Ballinger (St Antony's)

### MSc in Economics for Development

- **George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance**  
Lukas Boehnert (Oriël)
- **George Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit)**  
Felix Tong (Regent's Park)
- **Luca D'Agliano Prize for Best Dissertation**  
Yannick Markhof (St Antony's)
- **Arthur Lewis Prize for the Best Examination Essays in Development Economics**  
Annie Gregoire (Keble)

### MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy

- **Best Dissertation Prize and Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize**  
Kiera Schuller (Magdalen)

### MSc in Migration Studies

- **Best Dissertation**  
Ana Alanis Amaya (Kellogg) and Anne Schnitzer (St Catherine's) (*joint winners*)
- **Examiners' Prize**  
William Jernigan (Green Templeton)

### MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

- **Thesis Prize**  
Vanshaj Jain (Exeter) and Emma Montoya (St Antony's) (*joint winners*)
- **Examiners' Prize**  
Imogen Dobie (Jesus) and Meadhbha Monaghan (Linacre) (*joint winners*)

## PRIZES AND AWARDS



Lanterne, a startup co-founded by ODID DPhil Alex Barnes (*above, centre*), has won multiple prizes and awards over the past year.

Lanterne is a navigation app which helps people travel safely in conflict zones, enabling NGOs, charities, businesses, and individuals to make informed decisions about their safety. By helping people to better understand their security environment, Lanterne enables organisations to operate in fragile states and undertake vital development programmes.

Alex co-founded Lanterne with Yohan Iddawela, a geographical information systems specialist who, like Alex, has lived and worked in Afghanistan, and Sebastian Mueller, an outstanding computational social scientist.

International workers are in constant danger in conflict zones, with over 3,000 humanitarian workers killed, injured, or kidnapped in these areas over the last ten years. Alex's experience in Afghanistan, where he worked with the Australian Department of Defence,

showed him first-hand how friends and colleagues were at risk. In fact, while Alex was in Kabul, several aid workers were kidnapped just blocks away from where he was staying. In discussions with workers on the ground, he found that they were so busy and stressed by their work that they had little time to consider security issues, despite the huge risks they were taking in their work.

Since its foundation, Lanterne has won the Oxford Foundry All Innovate competition award for Best Postgraduate Idea and the London School of Economics Generate competition. Lanterne also received a grant from the European Union's Big Data Corridor, which provided €50,000 to develop the second prototype in collaboration with the Intelligence Systems and Networks (ISN) research group at Birmingham City University. In July 2019, Lanterne was awarded a European Space Agency business incubation grant, which provides £41,500 in funding towards research and development for satellite-related technology. Lanterne is also representing Oxford at the Santander Universities Entrepreneurship Awards finals in October.

To learn more about Lanterne or help the team in any way, please contact Alex at alex@lanterne.ai.



ODID DPhil student Greta Semplici (*above*) won the Commission for Nomadic Peoples' 2019 Best Student Essay Prize for her essay 'Clotting nomadic spaces: on sedentism and nomadism'.

Greta's paper questions the conventional division between nomadism and sedentism from which most definitions of pastoralism are drawn.

With reference to scholar Jeffrey C Kaufmann's concept of a 'sediment of nomadism', in which pastoralism is defined in terms of 'pure' degrees of mobility and 'pure' food economies centred around livestock, she notes that, in pastoral settings, sedentism is also 'essentialised' in this way. She therefore reverses the traditional critique of the nomadism/sedentism dichotomy by questioning the relevance of ideal types of 'pure sedentism'.

Based on 14 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Northern Kenya's arid lands, the paper looks away from big cities and regional centres to focus on small settlements springing up along improved communication roads.

Employing a range of methodologies, the paper asks what relationship exists between mobility and settlements; the emerging picture contests views of two separate spaces, focusing instead on spaces of connections and what Greta terms 'pulsations'.

The paper makes it possible to move beyond a dichotomous definition of sedentism and nomadism to value changes, flexibility, and adaptability as important features of places created and re-created by nomadic pastoralists, and their livelihoods.

The paper will be published in a future issue of the journal *Nomadic Peoples*.



MSc in Migration Studies student Amos Schonfield (*above, far left*) was highly commended in the 2019 Vice Chancellor's Social Impact Awards for Volunteering.

Amos was recognised for his work in running Our Second Home, a youth movement for refugees and

asylum seekers in the UK that aims to empower and develop young leaders. Through residential camps, Our Second Home members develop their leadership skills in a nurturing and supportive environment.

Amos came to ODID after piloting the project because he wanted to learn more about the drivers of migration and the debates around integration.

The Vice Chancellor's Social Impact Awards are presented every year to Oxford University students who show exceptional achievement and commitment to positive social change.

# RESEARCH

**No 1**  
ranking  
in 2014 REF

**40%**  
of research  
rated 4\*  
in REF

**£4.1 m**  
in research  
income

**58**  
academic  
and research  
staff

**5**  
research  
groups

**4**  
cross-cutting  
themes

We undertake a broad and textured programme of research which defines a wide range of entry points into issues of international development and employs a range of methodological approaches. We aim to influence the theory, analysis, and practice of development worldwide to the benefit of disadvantaged people and countries, and to support international networks and local institutions involved in this endeavour.

Our research clusters around four cross-cutting themes: Economic Development and International Institutions; Migration and Refugees in a Global Context; Human Development, Poverty, and Children; and Political Change, Conflict, and the Environment.

Around half of our academics and research staff are also associated with research groups that are at the forefront of their specialist fields: the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC); Young Lives; the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI); and the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD).

In collaboration with the Department of Economics and the Blavatnik School of Government, ODID also anchors the Oxford element of the International Growth Centre (IGC), established by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in 2008. We also host a major five-year project funded by the European Research Council: Changing Structures of Islamic Authority.

## OUR RESEARCH GROUPS AND MAJOR PROJECTS

### International Growth Centre

Established in 2008, the IGC is an economics research network, funded by DFID and run jointly by the LSE and the University of Oxford. The IGC has a research network of nearly 1,800 world-class economists and 14 country offices around the world, providing policy-focused economics research on issues of state effectiveness; agriculture, firms, and employment; urbanisation; and energy production and demand. Four senior ODID staff have management roles in the IGC, guiding the centre's country programmes in Ethiopia and Tanzania and its cross-cutting research programme on firms and entrepreneurship.

[www.theigc.org](http://www.theigc.org)

### Changing Structures of Islamic Authority

Changing Structures of Islamic Authority and Consequences for Social Change: A Transnational Review (CSIA) is a five-year research project funded by the European Research Council. It brings together Islamic textual scholars, ethnographers, and survey specialists to map the competing theological positions of today's leading Islamic authorities, to examine their real-life consequences, and to explore why young Muslims follow one authority rather than another.

[www.csia-oxford.org](http://www.csia-oxford.org)

### Young Lives

Young Lives is a pioneering multidisciplinary research programme investigating the lives of children and young people in four developing countries. At its heart is an innovative longitudinal study tracking the development of 12,000 children in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru, and Vietnam through quantitative and qualitative research. Launched in 2002, Young Lives has generated unmatched insights into the lives of two cohorts of children in their early years, through adolescence, and on to higher education and the labour market. Young Lives data are supporting path-breaking research into the dynamics of childhood poverty in the four countries and providing the evidence base for informed policy-making.

[www.younglives.org.uk](http://www.younglives.org.uk)

### The Refugee Studies Centre

The RSC, founded in 1982, is a world-leading research centre providing multidisciplinary, independent, and critical social science scholarship on factors determining and resulting from the forced displacement of populations. The RSC provides the anchor for the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)

### The Technology and Management Centre for Development

TMCD, which builds on the legacy of the pioneering work of former ODID economist Sanjaya Lall, is a centre for interdisciplinary research into the applications of technology and management innovation in the developing world. TMCD research spans issues in industrial policy; innovations, technological capabilities, and competitiveness; technology diffusion; and finance, corporate governance, and public management capabilities in developing countries.

[www.oxfordtmcd.org](http://www.oxfordtmcd.org)

### The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

OPHI is a research group dedicated to developing systematic approaches to measuring 'multidimensional' deprivation and well-being, and using these to develop more granular monitoring of poverty than is present in traditional income- or consumption-based measures. Founded in 2007, OPHI's work is now deeply embedded in that of the UN and has been adopted by a large and increasing number of countries around the world.

[www.ophi.org.uk](http://www.ophi.org.uk)



## NEW AWARDS

ODID was successful in attracting a number of major new research awards in 2018/19.



### RISE EDUCATION ETHNOGRAPHIES

**Masooda Bano**, Professor of Development Studies, has won funding for research into decision-making and implementation processes in primary education across seven developing countries as part of the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) programme.

RISE is a large-scale, multi-country research programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) that seeks to understand how school systems in the developing world can overcome the learning crisis and deliver better learning for all. The project covers seven countries: India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

In an attempt to draw more theoretical and conceptual insights from across these country programmes, RISE is developing a two-pronged political economy component: Political Economy of Adoption and Political Economy of Implementation. The former addresses the broader policy framework in which primary education decisions take place while the latter looks at the decision-making and implementation processes at the district and community level. Professor Bano will act as the PI for the research component on Political Economy of Implementation. She will develop the conceptual framework, design the methodology, supervise local researchers to carry out community-level ethnographic fieldwork, and work with the local researchers to produce publications.



### RESPONSES TO CRISIS MIGRATION IN UGANDA AND ETHIOPIA: RESEARCHING THE ROLE OF LOCAL ACTORS IN SECONDARY CITIES

Early Career Fellow **Evan Easton-Calabria** has won funding for a project that aims to provide data and evidence to improve the way in which secondary cities respond to and manage crisis migration. The research focuses on local municipalities responsible for managing cities and those that live within them, but will also include civil society actors such as migrant and refugee organisations. The project will focus not just on improving the direct assistance provided to refugees and migrants, but also research ways to enhance positive effects of these influxes on secondary cities, such as on urban planning; infrastructure; and co-existence between migrants, citizens, and other members of society.

The project will comprise desk-based research as well as field-based qualitative research in the secondary cities of Adama, Ethiopia, and Arua, Uganda. The researchers will also train and employ Uganda and Ethiopian PhD students and forced migrants from the communities that are being researched to act as peer researchers.

The research is funded by UNOPS, Cities Alliance and SDC.



### GLOBAL SOLDIERS IN THE COLD WAR: MAKING SOUTHERN AFRICA'S LIBERATION ARMIES

**Jocelyn Alexander**, Professor of Commonwealth Studies, has won a Leverhulme Research Project Grant for a three-year project exploring the histories of Cold War-era 'global soldiers'. The co-investigator is Professor JoAnn McGregor of the University of Sussex.

One effect of the combination of Cold War competition and decolonisation was the multi-directional movement of people, ideas and things across the globe. Ground-breaking research on this phenomenon has traced a great range of political, social, and cultural exchange, shifting our understanding of the locus and content of Cold War-era solidarities and struggles.

However, this work has paid little attention to the content, experience, and legacies of military exchanges, and specifically military training, in sites dispersed around the globe. Tens of thousands of mostly young men from dozens of countries participated in these exchanges; uniquely complex militaries were made by them. In southern Africa, one of the 'hottest' regions of Cold War-era contestation, these military networks were essential to the prosecution of the liberation struggles whose outcomes would dramatically remake the region.

The project takes as its focus the 'global soldiers' who formed these Cold War-era armies in southern Africa. Its concern is for the making of 'military cultures' in



### EXPLORING A SHARING SOCIETY: LAND AND SUSTAINABILITY IN INDIA

**Nikita Sud**, Associate Professor of South Asian Studies, has won a Global Challenges Research Fund grant for a project exploring the multiple ways in which people engage with land in India and the possibilities for shared use.

The co-investigators are Nayanika Mathur, Associate Professor in the Anthropology of South Asia at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography and the Oxford



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ATMOSPHERES OF VIOLENCE: EXPERIENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

School of Global and Area Studies, and Mallica Kumbera Landrus, Keeper of Eastern Art at the Ashmolean Museum.

In the last decade, 50 million hectares of land have been 'grabbed' for urban expansion, industry, infrastructure, and mining in the South. Of these, 5 million hectares are in India.

The project works with partners who lead, advocate for, and document peoples' movements against this land grab and who seek more equitable, sustainable land use. These various groups understand land in multiple ways: as a base for growth, but also as more than individualised property – as collective history, memory, and people's connection to the earth.

The project develops this multidimensional engagement with land academically, and then delves into its practical implications for sustainability.

**Laura Rival**, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Development, is part of a British Academy-funded project which aims to explore how environmental defenders experience violence in relation to projects designed to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, and why they continue to fight despite the risks.

The project also aims to identify the governance structures and socio-economic, political, and historical conditions and processes that are at the root of atmospheres of violence around sustainable development projects.

The project addresses a number of specific questions: how do environmental defenders experience violence around sustainable development projects in countries with different levels of criminal, political and state violence? How do atmospheres of violence around natural resource extraction and agricultural developments emerge? What safeguards are in place to ensure that sustainable development projects uphold environmental and social standards, and based on the lived experiences of defenders, what can be said about these standards' efficacy?

Researchers will interview defenders, defenders' family members and colleagues in Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau), Asia (Bangladesh and Cambodia) and South America (Brazil and Ecuador).

The project is led by Dr Mary Menton at the University of Sussex.



Aman Gupta, MPhil in Development Studies 2017-19



## YOUNG LIVES RESEARCH INTO EDUCATION AND GENDER

Young Lives won funding from Echidna Giving for an 18-month programme of research and policy engagement focused on two broad themes: the relationship between early childhood care and gender disparities in psychosocial wellbeing and cognitive development; and the link between gendered attributes, skills and educational trajectories, and academic and labour market outcomes in early adulthood.

The research draws on existing Young Lives household, child, and school effectiveness data, carried out in Ethiopia, India (in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam.

The objective of the research is to highlight any gender-based inequalities in access to early childhood care, skills development, training, and education, when these inequalities arise and with what

outcomes for young men and young women.

The purpose is to provide robust evidence to inform policy, practice, and advocacy globally, regionally, and nationally in the study countries and to engage with key stakeholders to facilitate research uptake in their work.

The principal investigator for the project is now Senior Education Researcher Rachel Outhred.

## TACKLING POVERTY AT WORK

Researchers from the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at ODID have launched sOPHIa Oxford, the University's first social enterprise spin-out, to help businesses track and tackle multidimensional poverty among their employees and their families, their contractors and in their supply chains.

sOPHIa Oxford has an exclusive worldwide licence to the Business Multidimensional Poverty Index (bMPI), developed by OPHI in partnership with business association Horizonte Positivo

in Costa Rica. Drawing on the pioneering work on multidimensional measurement of poverty led by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire, bMPI measures poverty in its many dimensions, analysing not just who is poor in the business but how poor they are and the multitude of factors keeping them in poverty.

Based on the Alkire-Foster method developed in OPHI's National MPI, the bMPI uses a multidimensional poverty survey approach that aligns with national measures, facilitating coordination with government efforts to end poverty. The

approach enables companies to see what issues need tackling, how to prioritise a response and redirect resources for better impact and verify change in people's lives.

The bMPI started with three pilot companies in Costa Rica and sOPHIa hopes to take the approach global.

The creation of sOPHIa Oxford and its licence from Oxford were supported by the University's innovation arm, Oxford University Innovation (OUI).

Find out more: [sophiaoxford.org](http://sophiaoxford.org)



## FEATURED RESEARCH

### THE COSTS OF INEQUALITY: LESSONS FROM LATIN AMERICA

Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea has spent the past academic year as a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame working on a new book that draws on the experience of Latin America – the world's most unequal region and the region where the wealthy have the greatest power – to examine the impact of income inequality.

*The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: Lessons and Warnings for the Rest of the World* explores the economic, political, and social consequences of the growing income gap and proposes solutions to this most pressing 21st century challenge. Using past and present examples from different countries in the region, the book demonstrates how inequality has hampered economic growth and contributed to a lack of good jobs. From Mexico all the way to Argentina, the wealthy have faced limited incentives to move into new sectors and the poor have not had enough resources to invest in new projects.

Inequality has also been one of the drivers

of weak institutions and the emergence of anti-system politics for decades. The poor and the middle class in Latin America have tended to distrust traditional political parties, gravitating towards populist leaders who offer easy solutions and promise rapid gains – a trend that is now evident in many other parts of the world. Inequality has also contributed to a variety of social problems, from violence to mistrust of neighbours and institutions. The relationships the research explores do not just go in one direction. In fact, low growth, exclusionary politics, and violence and social mistrust have reinforced inequality, generating vicious circles that are increasingly difficult to overcome.

Professor Sánchez-Ancochea's research on Latin America thus provides a disturbing image of what the future may hold for many other countries, from the United States and the United Kingdom to China. Yet his work also provides some positive lessons. Latin Americans have confronted entrenched economic gaps through creative means that can be used by those fighting in the rest of the world.

For example, the region has been a cradle for progressive ideas. From the theology of liberation to structuralist economics, Latin American social scientists have offered innovative ways to think about inequality and exploitation and their potential solutions.

These ideas have also influenced a number of social movements, from Brazil's Landless movement – one of the largest and most successful rural-based movements in the world – to student protestors in Chile. Their political discourse and creative mobilisation strategies have already been copied in many other parts of the world. Professor Sánchez-Ancochea's manuscript, which will be published by Bloomsbury/IB Tauris next year, concludes on a positive note. Much can be done to improve the distribution of income and reduce the political and economic power of the elites. Yet succeeding will require more than universal social policies and higher taxes; it will only be possible with stronger social movements and renewed social-democratic political parties.



## CRONY CAPITALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Arab uprisings in 2011 were not just aimed at overthrowing authoritarian regimes but were also targeted at a well-entrenched system of economic privilege where those attached to the ruler's insider circle had monopolised all economic opportunities – a topic explored in a new book co-edited by Globe Fellow in the Economies of Muslim Societies and Associate Professor Adeel Malik.

For every regime that faced a popular backlash in the Middle East, there were some prominent businesses who became the symbol of corruption and injustice. In Egypt it was Ahmed Ezz, the steel magnate. For Ben Ali's regime in Tunisia it was his wife, Leila Trabelsi, who together with her husband and extended clan controlled 220 firms in some of the most lucrative sectors of the economy. In Syria it was Bashar Assad's cousin, Rami Makhlof, the owner of Syria Tel, who symbolised the concentration of economic power at the top.

In the popular Arab imaginary, corruption of regimes and that of businessmen is often treated as the same. The Arab private sector is typically a handmaiden of the state, surviving and thriving in the comforts of the ruling circle. Arab states have increasingly intervened in financial, product, and labour markets to advance their political interests.

The Arab spring provided a fresh impetus for studying the nexus between business and politics in the region. Professor Malik, in collaboration with Ishac Diwan and Izak Atiyas, brought together 20 top political economists working on the Middle East to empirically map the nature of political connections within the private sector in key Middle Eastern states, and to probe the impact of this on prosperity. Capturing variation across countries, firms, and sectors, they looked at several dimensions of crony capitalism. The findings are presented in an edited volume on *Crony Capitalism in the Middle East* published by Oxford University Press in June 2019.

The volume focuses on how political connections shaped business performance



in Middle Eastern economies during and after the period of economic liberalisation, using an eclectic mix of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. A key concern was to identify the impact of political connections on outcomes (firm profitability, growth, credit, trade policy, etc.). To probe the impact of cronyism, some researchers used discrete events, such as the revolutionary overthrow of a regime, the EU trade agreement with Egypt, and elections in Lebanon. Others provided a contextual description of cronyism and its after-effects, and focused mainly on stylised patterns of such correlation.

The volume provides concrete information on the number, presence, and characteristics of politically connected firms (PCFs) in several MENA countries. It shows that about 50% of the sectors in Egypt were exposed to PCFs, and PCFs included 8 of the top 20 firms trading on the stock exchange. In Tunisia, this ratio was about 40%, and the Ben Ali firms were over-represented at the top end of the firm-size and output distributions. In Turkey, religious-network-affiliated firms constituted about 20% of the total firms. These differences partly reflect the differential reach of the state in these countries, and thus its ability to create regulatory rents.

Cronies tend to conglomerate in sectors that are sheltered from competition and susceptible to policy manipulation through the use of regulatory barriers and selective enforcement. Services sectors

oriented towards domestic markets remain a preferred home for political cronies in the post-liberalisation era. Across the region, PCFs tend to cluster in banking, real-estate, tourism, distribution, natural resources, and telecommunications sectors. These sectors were often selectively opened in the wake of liberalisation through discretionary licences, which were typically awarded to political insiders.

While the evidence furnished in the volume opens a new window into a relatively understudied subject, it only begins to scratch the surface of a complex phenomenon. Rather than mapping a straight-line relationship between cronyism and economic outcomes, the work paints cronyism as a differentiated tapestry whose effects are often subtle and highly context-specific.

While all forms of privilege in the market result in exclusion, the Middle East stands out for the sheer scale and political function of such exclusion. Business climate is marked by a vicious logic of partner or perish: as businesses become successful they are either forced to partner with one of the regime insiders or face extinction. Arab regimes are extremely reluctant to see independent sources of economic power thrive from below, as they tend to view them as a potential threat to the regime's power. Differentiating the form and function of cronyism within and across the region remains a fertile area for future research.

## HISTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON MODERN STUDENT ACTIVISM

On 9 March 2015, a student hurled faeces at a statue of British colonialist Cecil Rhodes at the University of Cape Town. This act led to the statue's removal. It also inspired the most significant period of student protest in post-apartheid South Africa's history.

Student protesters called for the decolonisation of universities and public life, spurring similar actions by student activists in the global North. Students in other African countries such as Ghana and Uganda also got involved. But the debate about what the decolonisation agenda means and who has the authority to lead it is still wide open – and often acrimonious.

The lessons from older, non-South African experiences of student protests in post-colonial African politics are often missing from those debates.

After independence, generations of university students in countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Angola, and Zimbabwe mobilised for change. They wanted politics and education to be decolonised, transformed and Africanised. These cases, and others, are explored in a special edition of the journal *Africa* edited by Departmental Lecturer Dan Hodgkinson and Luke Melchiorre of the Universidad de los Andes.

Today's student activism and that which came before it share two common traits. One is student protestors' belief in their own political agency. The other is the fear state authorities have that these groups may, in the words of Ugandan scholar Mahmood Mamdani, act as a 'catalytic force'. They have the power to spur other groups into action.

By looking back, scholars can understand the potential that such activism has for emancipating people from the legacies of colonialism. It is also a useful way to identify the limits to student decolonisation projects in terms of their impact on broader politics and society, as well as for the activists themselves.

In the introduction to the journal, the editors point out that African students in the 1960s and 1970s believed themselves to be emergent political elites and intellectuals. They questioned political leaders' assumed role as the agents of decolonisation and agitated for radical alternative projects of political change. These projects commonly incorporated socialist or pan-African ideological frameworks.

African universities were key actors in developing post-colonial and decolonised societies. They trained an entire new class of doctors, economists, lawyers, and other professionals. This was happening in countries with low levels of formal schooling, and thus university students' education was seen to give them the knowledge and skills to both understand and challenge state authority in a way that few other social groups could. These challenges led to frequent clashes between university students and the states that funded their education.

There was no single decolonisation project during this era. Students' challenges to state authority looked very different in different countries. The fatal contests between radical Islamist and secular Leftist students at the University of Khartoum in Sudan in the late 1960s offer one example. These two factions debated and fought violently over whether a decolonised Sudan should be secular and socialist, or bound by Islamic customs and values. Women's public performances of their femininity became a lightning rod for these tensions. This boiled over into tragedy after the *Adjako* women's dance was controversially performed in front of a campus crowd of men and women. The Islamic movement denounced this. Riots ensued, and a student was trampled to death.

Another example was the way in which the 1961 assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba influenced students in the Democratic Republic

of Congo. His death pushed young educated Congolese to revisit the meaning of decolonisation, turning ideologically to the Left. This shaped the ideas and practices of a generation who challenged President Mobutu Sese Seko's authoritarian rule.

Scholars of African student activism have typically devoted more time to analysing earlier historical periods. These include the early anti-colonial activism of nationalist leaders such as Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta in London, or Senegal's Leopold Senghor in Paris. By focusing on the 1960s and 1970s, the research that appears in the special edition opens up new ways of thinking about the significance of African student activism. Some students took their political ideas and behaviour into subsequent careers as opposition political leaders in Kenya, Niger and Uganda. In Zimbabwe and Angola, on the other hand, student activism opened the way into high-status careers as state leaders. These former protestors' uncomfortable association with authoritarian governance forced them to defend the meaning of their past activism.

The articles show how decolonisation in this period shaped a generation of university students' aspirations to challenge post-colonial forms of governance.

*This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons licence. Read the original article: [theconversation.com/african-student-movements-history-sheds-light-on-modern-activism-111003](https://theconversation.com/african-student-movements-history-sheds-light-on-modern-activism-111003)*

*Dan Hodgkinson and Luke Melchiorre (eds) (2019) 'Special issue: student activism in an era of decolonisation' Africa (89): 51*

# IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT



ODID has an exceptionally strong track record of outreach, dissemination of research findings outside academia, and policy engagement.

A major part of our impact and engagement comes about through our alumni, who take ODID to the world: we train a large number of graduates who become influential development practitioners in international institutions, including the UN system, World Bank and IMF, national governments, the

NGO sector, and, increasingly, in social enterprise and development consultancy.

On the research side, our scholarly output and our faculty and researchers have impact and influence through a range of channels. The most direct and immediate links to impact and engagement come through advisory roles, such as serving on research council panels and advising government departments, international organisations, foundations, and civil society.

Over the medium term, the main channels for impact and engagement are through specific policy-focused elements of the research agenda and, over the longer term, through the deeper impact of our research in shaping ideas and agendas in domestic and international public-policy arenas. Opposite you will find an example of recent policy engagement, while overleaf, Associate Professor Nikita Sud reflects on several years' experience of taking her research to different audiences.

## PROVIDING EXPERTISE ON AFRICA TO THE UK PARLIAMENT

ODID academics were invited to speak at the Houses of Parliament at two events during 2018-19, drawing on their research to offer expertise on current Africa-focused issues.

Jocelyn Alexander, Professor of Commonwealth Studies, and Simukai Chigudu, Associate Professor of African Politics, gave evidence at an urgent session of parliament's International Development Committee in February to talk about the political and humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe.

They appeared on the panel alongside Stephen Chan, Professor of Politics and International Studies at SOAS.

The panel were asked a series of questions covering the Zimbabwe government's response to protests, the impact of austerity, whether the international community was too quick to embrace the new regime, the role of EU sanctions and IMF negotiations, the effectiveness of DFID's involvement, and the possibility of compensation for white farmers.

The panel highlighted a number of issues in response to the questions, including:

- The importance of understanding the current political situation through a systemic analysis, rather than a focus on individuals, and in historical context;
- The complexity of divisions within the ruling party, the intelligence services, the army, and the police and the way in which the coup had disrupted established hierarchies and relationships;

- The likely destabilising impact of austerity in the face of extreme hardship following a year of deteriorating living conditions, which an imminent drought could only worsen;

- The way in which sanctions had been used for rhetorical effect by the government to point to victimisation by the West;

- That need to understand that the Zimbabwe government is not a single entity and donors should work strategically with different ministries to be most effective;

- The importance of supporting civil society organisations at the local level, as well as the crucial role of regional bodies.

Meanwhile, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Robtel Neajai Pailey spoke at the launch of a report into the difficulties encountered by Africans seeking to visit the UK.

The report, 'Visa Problems for African Visitors to the UK' was produced by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Africa, the APPG for Diaspora, Development & Migration and the APPG for Malawi.

The launch panel, which took place on 16 July, comprised then-Minister for Immigration Caroline Nokes; MP Chi Onwurah, Chair of the APPG for Africa; John Vine, former Independent Chief Inspector for Borders & Immigration; and MP Patrick Grady, Chair of the Malawi APPG, alongside Dr Pailey.

The report found that African applicants are twice as likely to be refused non-immigrant visas as those from other continents and outlined a number of particular challenges, including logistical barriers, inconsistent decision-making, financial discrimination, perceived gender and racial bias and a lack of accountability or a right of appeal.

Dr Pailey spoke about her differing experience of applying for UK visas, from the US as a US permanent resident and from Ghana as a Liberian national, in a case study featured in the report.

She also highlighted that the UK charges Africans for visa fees without actually granting visas, which she described as 'akin to extortion'.

She asked the report secretariat to consider writing a report 2.0 with additional policy recommendations, such as that the UK should charge visa processing fees upfront and only require payment for a visa if it is actually granted.

In addition, ODID was among signatories to a letter published in the *Observer* from 70 senior representatives from academia and civil society who expressed their growing concern over the numbers of African partners being refused entry to the UK.

The letter stated that the UK's visa system was damaging 'Global Britain's' reputation and called for 'a fair and equitable visa system that promotes and protects the essential collaborations that mean we can tackle today's global challenges as well as the unknown challenges of the future.'



## SOCIALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH ON THE MANY LIVES OF LAND



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In the current political moment of fake news, heightened nationalism, and the rule of political strongmen from Brazil and the US to Turkey, Hungary, the Philippines, Russia and India, intellectual endeavour is readily dismissed. With Facebook and 'Whatsapp University' generating words and emotions at the touch of a button, there are questions around the relevance of long-term research. For these and other reasons, universities have been looking critically at their place in contemporary societies. They are (or should be) asking: are we privilege-reproducing ivory towers? Is our research built on the structural inequalities of race, caste, class, and gender, and the continued legacies of slavery and colonialism?

One way in which academia has engaged with the issue of relevance is through agendas of impact and public engagement with research. These management-speak terms raise the hackles of many of my colleagues. How can overstretched academics, already handling the demands of teaching, crushing administration loads, and research be expected to add more to-dos to their workday? How can

we miraculously look into the future to assess the possible public relevance of a project that is barely a gleam in our mind's eye? Are the days of research as research over? I share these concerns, and dislike impositions of any sort. Yet, I have to admit that I have enjoyed taking my research in progress to audiences beyond the academic.

I am at the tail end of a book project titled *Unfixed Land: The Making of Land and the Making of India*. The book considers land as socio-natural, and thoroughly entangled in the human world. Socially produced land is not a mere 'thing' or resource to be built on, mined, tilled, etc. Instead,

land is enlivened with memory, history, identity, and sacrality. Enlivened land is further aligned to the modern, institutional projects of the state, market, and politics. Institutions engage with land as territory, authority, property, and as a crucible of access and exclusion. In their making and re-making of land, we witness a co-productive and continuous state-making, market-making and politics-making. In short, we make the land and the land makes us.

I have been conducting field-based research for this project since 2008. The research has been funded through small grants from ODID and my college Wolfson.



Not having big-bang research funding has been a blessing. It has allowed me to dwell on the field material, make repeated study visits, write journal papers, revise, rethink fundamental ideas, and often begin all over again. I believe that a project that has been long in the making is more rich and rewarding than a quick and dirty version would have been.

Having had the luxury of long-term research and reflective writing, I have also been able to test the public engagement waters at my own pace. I have had the odd nudge from facilitators in the Social Science Division. For instance, a few years ago, I was invited to participate in the Curiosity Carnival, which took university research to the city in bite-sized formats. I chose to think of my research in progress as a children's story on the multi-hued lives of land (*opposite, above*). That I have two young children, who often ask about my work, and to whom I narrate stories all the time, has probably sharpened my story-telling skills. Distilling long-term and fairly complex research into a 7-8-minute tale for a curious but restless audience aged 5 to 50 was challenging. But it was also enriching. Paring down scholarly ideas into simple, accessible forms helps hone fundamental concepts, and cut out the jargon.

Another jargon-free format I have embraced is writing for the media. I happened to write a very political first book (OUP, 2012). It gained an audience well beyond the academic in the moment in which it was written. The resulting interactions with print, radio and TV journalists drew me into greater engagement with the media. While academic books and journal articles may draw an audience of a few hundred or thousand, to see a media piece that broadly refers to the same research get over 100,000 views in a matter of days is heartening. I now regularly write for various publications, and participate in interviews and panel discussions.

As my land research has bubbled away, I have started testing some of its ideas in 800-word media pieces. These have tended to be linked to current events, which act as a hook for the general audience. For instance, I have written

on flooding and climate change for *The Conversation* and other publications, linking this to our institutional unfixing and re-fixing of land and nature. Such articles tend to lead to further opportunities. For example, I have been asked to speak in schools, contribute to Oxford University's digital outreach portal Oxplore, and write an article on the lives of land for *Geography Review*, a magazine for secondary schools produced by the Royal Geographical Society. Beyond the educational sphere, my media pieces have been picked up by land-rights organisations and social movements (eg La Via Campesina, Land Matrix, GRAIN, Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement, Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH), Farmlandgrab.org).

Having dabbled in media and educational outreach for a few years, as my book was taking final shape, I applied for research funding with a substantial public engagement element. The resultant grant from the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund is spread over two years. Within a larger research programme, I have organised two workshops on the lives of land. These have brought on board non-university participants, including activists, land users and losers facing industrial and infrastructural projects, lawyers, environmentalists, journalists, poets, cartoonists and others. Invited academic participants have deliberately been from non-English-speaking, indigenous, and other marginalised backgrounds.

The results of this GCRF-funded outreach are available on [livesofland.web.ox.ac.uk](http://livesofland.web.ox.ac.uk). As the project website shows, our workshops and related interactions have led to a music video with the Meghalaya-based Rida and The Musical Folks (*opposite, below*). Speaking poignantly to questions of mining and environmental change in a Himalayan landscape, the video is in Khasi and English. A filmmaker in north India and his largely rural, Hindi-speaking team have worked with us on a short film on identity-based assertions around land. A cartoonist who attended one of our GCRF workshops sketched several talks and discussions, giving back his etchings to participants in an open access format (*above*). Very excitingly, conversations at a GCRF event have fed into a planned



'festival of the commons'. A fishworker-activist and several of his collaborators are recording songs, shadow plays, community mapping exercises, and other local responses to coastal land use change. The proposed festival will celebrate and record changing meanings of the coastal commons, engaging with ideas of land and the commons in the plural.

To go back to where I started, it is crucial that academics push back against the anti-intellectualism of today's new authoritarianism. Reaching out to, and learning from, a range of social groups could be part of this commitment. It was only when I started working with fishworkers, indigenous musicians and poets, or Dalit female journalists, that I realised with a shock that this was the first time I had spoken about my research in Hindi, or had it translated into Tamil or Khasi. The push for engagement has made me write in an accessible way for non-academic audiences, with access being not just about free availability of research, or writing sans jargon. Access has also involved multi-lingual communication and a conscious attempt to take research and related conversations to non-metropolitan audiences, including non-metropolitan audiences in the South.

**Nikita Sud**

## IN THE MEDIA

ODID academics and students are frequently called on by the media for comment and analysis on topical issues, drawing on their specialist knowledge to bring depth and objectivity to current debates. A selection of this year's coverage is presented below.

**16 July 2019**

'Opinion - Millions have come out of poverty. It's a reason to hope'. OPHI research on multidimensional poverty featured in *The Washington Post*

**12 July 2019**

'Life is getting better for world's poorest - but children bear greatest burden'. OPHI research on multidimensional poverty featured in *The Guardian*

**14 June 2019**

'How fear is redrawing our maps and infecting our politics'. Ruben Andersson discusses his new book on *The Majority Report*

**11 June 2019**

'How to truly decolonise the study of Africa'. Robtel Neajai Pailey writes for *Al Jazeera*

**24 May 2019**

'What Narendra Modi's landslide victory means for India'. Nikita Sud takes part in the *Anthill's* 'India Tomorrow' podcast series, summing up the 2019 elections

**23 May 2019**

'India nationalism - are minorities under threat?' Nikita Sud takes part in roundtable discussion for *TRTWorld*

**17 May 2019**

'Work undone: how India fails its young job seekers'. DPhil Deepa Kurup writes for *Al Jazeera*

**29 April 2019**

'Sex discrimination in British immigration law is likely to get worse after Brexit'. Catherine Briddick writes for *The Conversation*

**19 April 2019**

'India elections: will farm crisis be PM Narendra Modi's undoing?' DPhil Deepa Kurup writes for *Al Jazeera*

**15 April 2019**

'Nueva diplomacia: cómo son los embajadores 2.0'. Corneliu Bjola writes about diplomatic engagement online for Argentina's *Noticias*

**9 April 2019**

'A single WhatsApp message can incite people to violence'. DPhil Amogh Sharma features in the *Anthill's* 'India Tomorrow' podcast series about Indian elections

**29 March 2019**

'Choking a lifeline'. DPhil Deepa Kurup writes for *Frontline* magazine about how India's MGNREGS employment guarantee scheme is being undermined

**8 March 2019**

'8 female anti-corruption fighters that inspire us'. Robtel Neajai Pailey features in list compiled by *Transparency International*

**27 February 2019**

'Why Venezuelan migrants need to be regarded as refugees'. Alexander Betts writes for *IRIN*

**21 February 2019**

'Why Sajid Javid's decision on Shamima Begum cheapened British citizenship'. Matthew Gibney writes for *Metro*

**5 February 2019**

'New means of workplace surveillance'. Ivan Manokha writes for *Monthly Review* on the history and current state of play in employee surveillance

**29 January 2019**

'The struggles for Liberian citizenship'. Robtel Neajai Pailey writes for *Al Jazeera*

**17 January 2019**

'#ZimbabweShutdown and ZANU(PF)'s neo-liberal turn (... again)'. Dan Hodgkinson writes for *Africa is a Country*

**8 January 2019**

'The specter of bots and trolls'. DPhil Ilan Manor and Patrick Thewlis write for *The Jerusalem Post*

**8 January 2019**

'Why we need to rethink our relationship with land, in Chhattisgarh and Beyond'. Nikita Sud writes for *The Wire*

**19 December 2018**

'Fighting corruption early for the good of the country'. Robtel Neajai Pailey

interviewed in *Free Malaysia Today*

**18 December 2018**

'Inaccuracies spreading about UN migration pact'. Cathryn Costello contributes to *Full Fact* article on UN global compact on migration

**13 December 2018**

'The responsibility to protect: time to move on?' Noele Crossley writes for *In the Long Run*

**26 November 2018**

'The failed national improvement scheme that was demonetisation'. Nikita Sud writes for *The Wire*

**23 November 2018**

'Refuge, reformed'. Alex Betts writes about innovations in Kenyan refugee camps for *Foreign Policy*

**30 October 2018**

'I don't think that we can shy away from the legacies of the slave trade and how they're still with us'. Dan Hodgkinson joins debate on university slave trade reparations on *BBC Radio Ulster's* 'Talkback'

**30 October 2018**

'How not taxing the rich got Pakistan into another fiscal crisis'. Adeel Malik writes for *Al Jazeera*

**15 October 2018**

'When foreign "do-gooders" do more harm than good in Liberia'. Robtel Neajai Pailey writes for *Al Jazeera*

**5 October 2018**

'How Europe can reform its migration policy'. Alexander Betts and Paul Collier write in *Foreign Affairs*

**19 September 2018**

'Refugees expert: "more displacement" to come as returning Syrians face myriad obstacles back home'. *Syria Direct* interviews Ali Ali

**3 September 2018**

'Simukai Chigudu: The politics of epidemics'. Simukai Chigudu interviewed by *The British Medical Journal*

For a full list of media coverage, including links to online content, please visit: [www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/media](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/media)



# EVENTS



ODID hosted and organised numerous events over the course of the year. Our research groups hold regular seminar series during Michaelmas and Hilary terms, and the department also hosts three seminar series jointly with other departments: the African History and Politics Seminars with the History Faculty, the Department of Politics and International Relations, and the African Studies Centre; the Modern South Asia Seminars, with the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, the Faculty

of History, and the Faculty of Oriental Studies; and the Development Economics series with the Centre for the Study of African Economies in the Economics Department. These seminars play a key role in generating new research initiatives, testing preliminary findings, and disseminating results.

The MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy organises a series of lectures bringing diplomatic practitioners and academic scholars to the department to enable students and fellows of the

course to interact with experienced professionals and to discuss new perspectives on current diplomatic events and global governance challenges.

ODID also runs a number of regular lecture series that bring distinguished academics to the department: the Olof Palme, Harrell-Bond, and Elizabeth Colson lectures. It also hosts conferences, workshops, and many other one-off events. Read about some of the highlights from our 2018/19 events calendar opposite and overleaf.

## OPHI at the UN High-Level Political Forum

**17 and 18 July 2019**  
UNHQ, New York

OPHI launched two publications at the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the UN in July. Both publications were the product of collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). First to be launched was the report for the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019 figures. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office (HDRO), and Sabina Alkire, Director of OPHI, launched the key findings which were discussed by: Nabeela Tunis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Sierra Leone; Gonzalo Hernández Licona, Executive Secretary of CONEVAL in Mexico; and Haishan Fu, Director of the Development Data Group from the World Bank.

OPHI and UNDP then launched a new free online handbook, which provides detailed practical guidance for planners, policy-makers and statisticians on how to build a technically rigorous and permanent national MPI. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP's Policy and Programme Support Bureau, chaired the launch with interventions by: Gloria Alonso, Minister of National Planning, Government of Colombia; Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser-SDGs at NITI AAYOG, Government of India; Riaz Fatyana, Convener, National SDG Parliamentary Task Force and Chairman of Standing Committee on Human Rights and Law, National Assembly of Pakistan; James E Foster, Oliver T Carr Jr Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University; and Sabina Alkire, OPHI Director. The HLPF is dedicated to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

## Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2019: 'A Mobile Milieu: Humanitarian Equipment and the Politics of Need'

**5 June 2019**

**Professor Peter Redfield**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
ODID, Oxford

Approaching human mobility from the perspective of milieu – the intimate, inclusive envelope of immediate environment – this lecture focused on humanitarian equipment, from refugee camps to innovative devices that seek to provide for basic needs such as water and sanitation. Such objects offer little prospect of producing a satisfying response to human suffering. Nonetheless, their very inadequacies can expose conflicting assumptions about human needs and aspirations. Tensions between understandings of

what constitutes a satisfactory life emerge at a mundane level, positioning these devices as scalar connection points between individual experience and social imagination.

Milieu, Redfield suggests, can serve as a revealing conceptual site to investigate the political terrain exposed by human mobility, including rival strains of humanitarian concern, rights advocacy, national identification, and ecological anxiety.

Listen to the lecture:  
[bit.ly/Colson2019](https://bit.ly/Colson2019)

## 2019 Olof Palme Lecture: 'The Cognitive Empire: Struggles for Cognitive Justice and Global Peace'

**17 May 2019**

**Professor Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni**, University of South Africa  
Wolfson College, Oxford

In this lecture, Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni explored the concept of the 'cognitive empire' – the invasion not of territories but of people's mental universe, in which some forms of knowledge are privileged above others, creating particular notions of the human and enabling particular forms of politics and configurations of power.

He argued that imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, and the Cold War period brought to the surface the evils of the cognitive empire, including incarceration and assassination of those who expressed divergent ideas of liberation, equality and peace in a modern world where politics was underpinned by the will to power, the paradigm of war, and the paradigm of difference.

He critiqued 20th-century decolonisation as essentially a reformist rather than a revolutionary project, and spoke about the decolonial turn that came about with the entry into Western

universities and institutions of formerly enslaved and colonised peoples. He went on to talk about the concept of being 'on fire for justice', predicated on a 'we' consciousness of service to the community, rather than the 'I' consciousness of individualism and materialism.

Throughout, he examined how the life and thought of Olof Palme and his vision of a just and peaceful world challenged and fitted into these narratives.

Listen to the lecture:  
[bit.ly/OlofPalme19](https://bit.ly/OlofPalme19)



### RSC Conference on 'Democratising Displacement'

18-19 March 2019

New College, Oxford

The RSC's 2019 Conference focused on 'democratising' refugee protection from a variety of disciplinary angles, including ethics, politics, anthropology, history, and law.

The conference examined the role of refugees as political agents able to inform the decisions that affect them at local, state, regional, and global levels. It explored the ethics and politics of accountability, participation, and humanitarian governance; the character

of practical, institutional, and legal mechanisms to ensure that refugees have a say in their protection; and ways in which those who make decisions in relation to the displaced are (or could be) held accountable for their actions.

Keynote speakers were Lea Ypi, Professor of Political Theory, LSE, and Karma Nabulsi, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford. RSC staff presenting included Alexander Betts, Ali Ali, and Robin

Vandevoordt, plus DPhil candidates Claire Walkey and Blair Peruniak. Sessions focused on topics such as political participation and citizenship, contesting deportation and exclusion, refugee voices in modern history, international organisations and accountability, displacement and peacebuilding, resistance and political action.

Listen to presentations from the conference: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-rsc-conference-2019](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-rsc-conference-2019)

### Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018: 'In a Troubled and Polarised Middle East: Challenges for Palestine Refugees and UNRWA'

18 October 2019

**Pierre Krähenbühl**, UNRWA  
Commissioner-General  
Magdalen College, Oxford

Mr Krähenbühl opened by sharing and expounding on three thoughts from his many years spent in conflict zones: that we must strongly reject the notion that wars are inevitable; that we must also reject the idea that death and suffering is something anonymous – behind every single statistic are lives lost and torn apart; and that we live in a very troubling time in which we need to take a very strong stand for international law and in defence of the multilateral system.

His lecture highlighted the length of time that Palestine refugees have remained refugees and the conditions faced by them daily. He also discussed UNRWA's unique design, encompassing varied areas of focus and activities (both humanitarian emergency response and quasi state-like activities, such as the delivery of healthcare, social services, microfinance, and in particular education), and the financial challenges it faces following the withdrawal of US funding.

Listen to the lecture: [bit.ly/Harrell-Bond2018](http://bit.ly/Harrell-Bond2018)



### 'Reducing Poverty and Building Peace in Colombia: Inextricably Linked Processes'

12 November 2018

**Juan Manuel Santos**, former  
President of Colombia  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Former Colombian President and Nobel Peace Laureate Juan Manuel Santos began a three-year Visiting Professorship at Oxford with a Distinguished Public Lecture in which he shared his experience of negotiating peace and pursuing poverty reduction in Colombia.

Professor Santos outlined the circumstances that inspired him to pursue peace negotiations with FARC rebels in Colombia, as well as the conditions he sought to create that would make the process possible. He also spoke about Colombia's experience of implementing a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed with OPHI, as part of the process of building peace after the negotiations were complete.

President Santos also took part in an 'In-Conversation' style interview at the Blavatnik School of Government, a roundtable discussion, a book launch and a film screening in further events during November 2018 and May 2019.

Watch the lecture: [bit.ly/JMS\\_2018](http://bit.ly/JMS_2018)

### Two Lectures on Bhutan: 'The Land of the Thunder Dragon and Gross National Happiness'

8-10 January 2019

Magdalen College, Oxford

OPHI hosted two distinguished public lectures on Bhutan by the former Prime Minister of Bhutan, His Excellency Dasho Tshering Tobgay, and the President of the Center for Bhutan Studies & Gross National Happiness, Dasho Karma Ura.

Dasho Tobgay spoke on Does Bhutan Matter? Stories from a Young Democracy, chaired by Dr Ralph Walker. Dasho Ura gave a lecture on development with 'integrity' and the Gross National Happiness Index in a session chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson. Discussants included Martine Durand, Chief Statistician of the OECD and Professor James Foster, Professor of Economics and International Affairs at George Washington University. The event was part of a launch conference for the International Society of Bhutan Studies (ISBS) with the purpose of developing the study of Bhutanese culture and ideas.

### 2019 ODS Lecture: 'In Praise of Floods and Wetland Refuges'

7 May 2019

**Professor James C Scott**, Yale University

Professor Scott spoke about the importance of understanding rivers as living things, constantly changing shape. He suggested that a flood is simply the result of human trespass on the river's natural floodplain and the 'flood pulse', when the river overflows its banks, is part of a natural cycle that is essential for fish, insects and other animals that live on the river. He said it was also the basis for civilisation; the earliest forms of agriculture have almost always been flood recession agriculture. Professor Scott likened the impact of efforts to sculpt and confine rivers through straightening and the use of levees to 'iatrogenic' illnesses and spoke in favour of a 'disturbance' ecology in which small natural disturbances are permitted in order to prevent much larger, catastrophic disturbances. Listen to the podcast:

[bit.ly/ODS\\_Scott](http://bit.ly/ODS_Scott)

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

The **RSC International Summer School in Forced Migration** brought together 69 participants from more than 35 different countries in July to talk through new developments in the field. The Summer School prides itself on fostering interaction and dialogue between academics, practitioners, and policy-makers working in areas related to refugees and forced migration. Practitioners step back from the field and learn from the best recent academic work in forced migration as well as from their fellow practitioners.

The Summer School began with participants examining the conceptualisation of forced migration, considering displacement from political, legal and anthropological perspectives. Building on these foundations, participants then contemplated different ethical perspectives on the issue of free movement and the ethics of border control, concluding with a lively debate between tutor groups. The focus for the remainder of the week was on asylum policy and international refugee law. Workshops on African Union protection and European Union protection enabled participants to further their understanding of these areas. In a day-long simulation, participants assumed roles negotiating and brokering for the successful return of a group of

refugees to their village of origin. Later in the Summer School participants had the opportunity to specialise in several different areas related to forced migration including gender; human smuggling; humanitarian principles; IDPs; Palestinian refugees and international law; and trauma, mental health and psychosocial support. Before the Summer School concluded participants, tutors and speakers came together to discuss the future challenges in the refugee regime.

The Summer School invited world-leading academics and accomplished professionals in the field of forced migration to open each module. These speakers included Chaloka Beyani (former UN Special Rapporteur for IDPs), Madeline Garlick (from UNHCR) and Alessandro Monsutti (Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute Geneva). E Tendayi Achiume (UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance) provided an informative and thought-provoking endnote lecture on 'Migration as decolonisation'. Included in the evening programme was a screening of 'The Wait', followed by a moving discussion with the director, Dr Maher Abdulaziz. Work in small, diverse tutor groups



## SUMMER SCHOOLS (continued)

is an essential feature of the summer school. Once again, these groups were fundamental in encouraging critical reflection and debate on assumptions and professional practices. The 2019 tutor groups were led by Catherine Briddick, Jeff Crisp, Matthew Gibney, Maryanne Loughry, Tom Scott-Smith and Liesbeth Schockaert.

A crucial resource of the Summer School has always been the diversity of its participants. The Summer School offers a unique opportunity for professionals from all over the world to learn from each other and to form long-term networks that benefit both their personal and professional development. While major international organisations such as

UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration, and the Jesuit Refugee Service were well represented this year, there were also officials from various governments, staff of international and local NGOs (Refugee Consortium of Kenya, the Icelandic Directorate of Immigration, INHURED International, and Inter-American Court of Human Rights) as well as full-time researchers and academics.

Participants were able to share their personal experiences and fields of interest with fellow participants, tutors, and members of the Refugee Studies Centre during our Saturday Festival of Ideas. Thanks to the varied background of participants, their presentations were wide-ranging, engaging and included

talks on 'Education under siege: the experience at Gaza's universities'; 'Improving responses to refugees through problem identification while working with US military actors'; '#BetterTogether - response to refugees in Indonesia'; and 'Complex identity and language development through migration, frustration, integration'.

The RSC remains committed to providing bursary support to deserving participants, particularly those from the global South, who would otherwise be unable to attend this course. In 2019, ten participants received bursary funding thanks to generous support from the IKEA Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



The 2019 cohort of the **OPHI Summer School** completed an intensive two-week training in multidimensional poverty measurement in August.

The OPHI Summer School is an annual course led by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire and the OPHI team that provides a thorough technical and practical introduction to multidimensional poverty measurement with a strong emphasis on the Alkire-Foster method.

Held in different countries each year, the 2019 Summer School was hosted by CONEVAL at their headquarters in Mexico City. As Mexico was the first country to develop an official national measure of multidimensional poverty based on the Alkire-Foster method, CONEVAL was an inspiring setting for nearly 60 participants representing 23 countries from around the world to come together to develop their

skills and gain inspiration. Attendees represented a cross section of the development sector, ranging from professional staff from national offices of statistics and government ministries to researchers and students from academia and international agencies.

During the course, special speakers included: Executive Secretary of CONEVAL, Dr José Nabor Cruz Marcelo; Professor James Foster, the Oliver T Carr Jr Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University; and Luis Felipe López-Calva, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin American and the Caribbean.

Taking participants through Amartya Sen's capability approach and empirical examples of national and global multidimensional poverty indices were the OPHI team, which

included Sabina Alkire, Adriana Conconi, Usha Kanagaratnam, Corinne Mitchell, Ricardo Nogales, Christian Oldiges, Monica Pinilla-Roncancio, and Frank Vollmer. The OPHI team also covered the conceptual and empirical motivation for measuring multidimensional poverty, as well as estimation, dimensional breakdown, disaggregation by population subgroup, standard errors and statistical inference, robustness, communications, and policy applications. Supporting the course were Freya Paulucci-Couldrick, Émeline Marcelin and Johanna Andrango.

Upon completing the Summer School with presentations and an exam, participants demonstrated that they had developed the skills required to construct and analyse a multidimensional poverty measure using the AF method, and to describe its policy relevance.



# PUBLICATIONS



Garima Jaju, DPHI in International Development

The department's dynamic research programme is reflected in a steady stream of top-flight academic publications. You can find out more about this year's publications by departmental staff opposite and overleaf.

ODID hosts one of the leading scholarly journals in the field, *Oxford Development Studies*, a multidisciplinary journal published four times a year, aimed at the research and policy-making community.

ODID academics also edit a number of book series: Africa: Policies for

Prosperity (Professor Christopher Adam, Oxford University Press); Diversity and Plurality in South Asia (Professor Nandini Gooptu, Anthem); New Diplomacy (Professor Corneliu Bjola, Routledge); and Studies in Forced Migration (produced in association with the RSC, Berghahn Books). In addition, Professor Christopher Woodruff is an editor of the VoxDev development economics discussion platform, [voxdev.org](http://voxdev.org), a joint initiative of the IGC, the Centre for Economic Policy Research and the

Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries programme.

The department and a number of its research programmes have active Working Paper series to provide rapid access to their latest findings, as well as producing a variety of research and policy briefings to enable dissemination to non-academic audiences. In addition, the RSC produces the magazine *Forced Migration Review*, the most widely read publication on refugees and internally displaced and stateless people.

## BOOKS

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**Bjola**, Corneliu (with James Pamment) (eds) (2018) *Countering Online Propaganda and Extremism: The Dark Side of Digital Diplomacy*, Routledge

**Boyden**, Jo (with Andrew Dawes, Paul Dornan and Colin Tredoux) (2019) *Tracing the Consequences of Child Poverty: Evidence from the Young Lives Study in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam*, Policy Press

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**Mahmood**, Zaad (with Achin Chakraborty, Subhanil Chowdhury and Supurna Banerjee) (2019) *Limits of Bargaining: Capital, Labour and the State in Contemporary India*, Cambridge University Press

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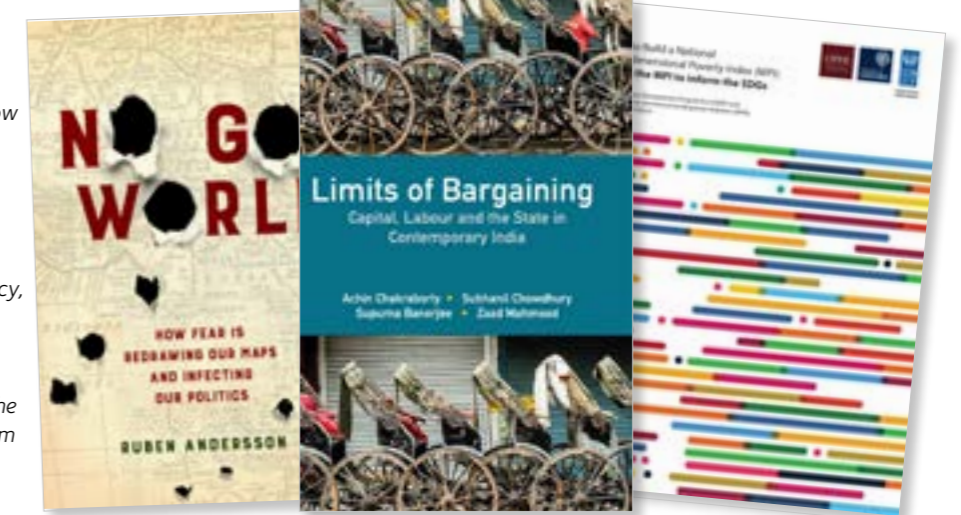
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## CHAPTERS

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**Friedrichs**, Jörg (2019) 'Escapology, or how to escape Malthusian traps'. In John Brewer, Neil Fromer and Frank Trentman (eds) *Scarcity in the Modern World: History, Politics, Society and Sustainability, 1800–2075*, Bloomsbury

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**Pailey**, Robtel Neajai (2019) 'Women, equality, and citizenship in contemporary Africa'. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*

**Vandevooordt**, Robin (with Gert Verschraegen) (2019) 'Subversive humanitarianism and its challenges: notes on the political ambiguities of civil refugee support'. In M Feischmidt, L Pries and C Cantat (eds) *Refugee Protection and Civil Society in Europe*, Palgrave

**Zetter**, Roger (2018) 'Conceptualising forced migration: praxis, scholarship and empirics'. In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Dona (eds) *Forced Migration: Current Issues and Debates*, Taylor & Francis.

**Zetter**, Roger (with Ray Salvatore Jennings, Sima Kanaan et al) (2019) 'Refugee returns through a global lens'. In *The Mobility of Displaced Syrians: An Economic and Social Analysis*, World Bank

## REPORTS

**Andersson**, Ruben (with David Keen) (2019) *Partners in Crime? The Impacts of Europe's Outsourced Migration Controls on Peace, Stability and Rights*, Saferworld

**Betts**, Alexander (with Imane Chaara, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Uganda: What Difference Does the Self-Reliance Model Make?* Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

**Betts**, Alexander (with Raphael Bradenbrink, Jonathan Greenland, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia*, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

**Betts**, Alexander (with Leon Fryszer, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities?* Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

**Moore**, Rhiannon (with Jack Rossiter, Martin Woodhead, and Caine Rolleston) (2019) *Summative Report: Delivering on every child's right to basic skills*, Young Lives, University of Oxford

NSIA and **OPHI** (2019) *Afghanistan Multidimensional Poverty Index 2016–2017: Report and Analysis*, National Statistics and Information Authority of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford

**OPHI** (2019) *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018: The Most Detailed Picture to Date of the World's Poorest People*, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford

UNDP and **OPHI** (2019) *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019: Illuminating Inequalities*, United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford.

**Zetter**, Roger (with James Mackie, Héloïse Ru-audel, Maaria Seppänen, and Noemi Cascone) (2019) *Evaluation on Forced Displacement and Finnish Development Policy*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland



PRIZES AND AWARDS



*Refuge: Rethinking Refugee Policy in a Changing World* (Oxford University Press, 2017) by Professor Alexander Betts and Paul Collier of the Blavatnik School of Government was shortlisted for the 2019 Estoril Global Issues Distinguished Book Prize.

The book suggests the recent refugee ‘crisis’ in Europe offers an opportunity for reform if international policy-makers focus on delivering humane, effective and sustainable outcomes – both for Europe and for countries that border conflict zones. It sets out

an alternative vision that can empower refugees to help themselves, contribute to their host societies, and even rebuild their countries of origin.

The prize publicly recognises the author of a submitted book that best deals with significant global issues, while seeking to provide both new analyses and new perspectives related to globalisation and its inherent challenges, so as to help the world better understand its globally relevant risks and collective action problems.



*The Myth of Self-Reliance: Economic Lives Inside a Liberian Refugee Camp* by Dr Naohiko Omata was chosen for the GDS Book 2018–2019 Honorable Mention Category by the GDS Book Award Committee.

The book challenges whether Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana deserves its reputation as a model of self-reliance, and sheds light on the considerable economic inequality that exists between refugee households. By following the same refugee households over several years, it also provides valuable insights

into refugees’ experiences of repatriation to Liberia after protracted exile and their responses to the ending of refugee status for remaining refugees in Ghana.

The GDS Book Prize is awarded annually by the International Studies Association (ISA) Global Development Studies (GDS) section. It is awarded to books from a variety of fields that show a scholarly concern ‘with development and global justice’.



An article co-authored by Professor Xiaolan Fu exploring how Chinese firms acquire knowledge and experience in international markets by attracting returnees has won the 2018 *International Business Review* Best Journal Paper of the Year Award.

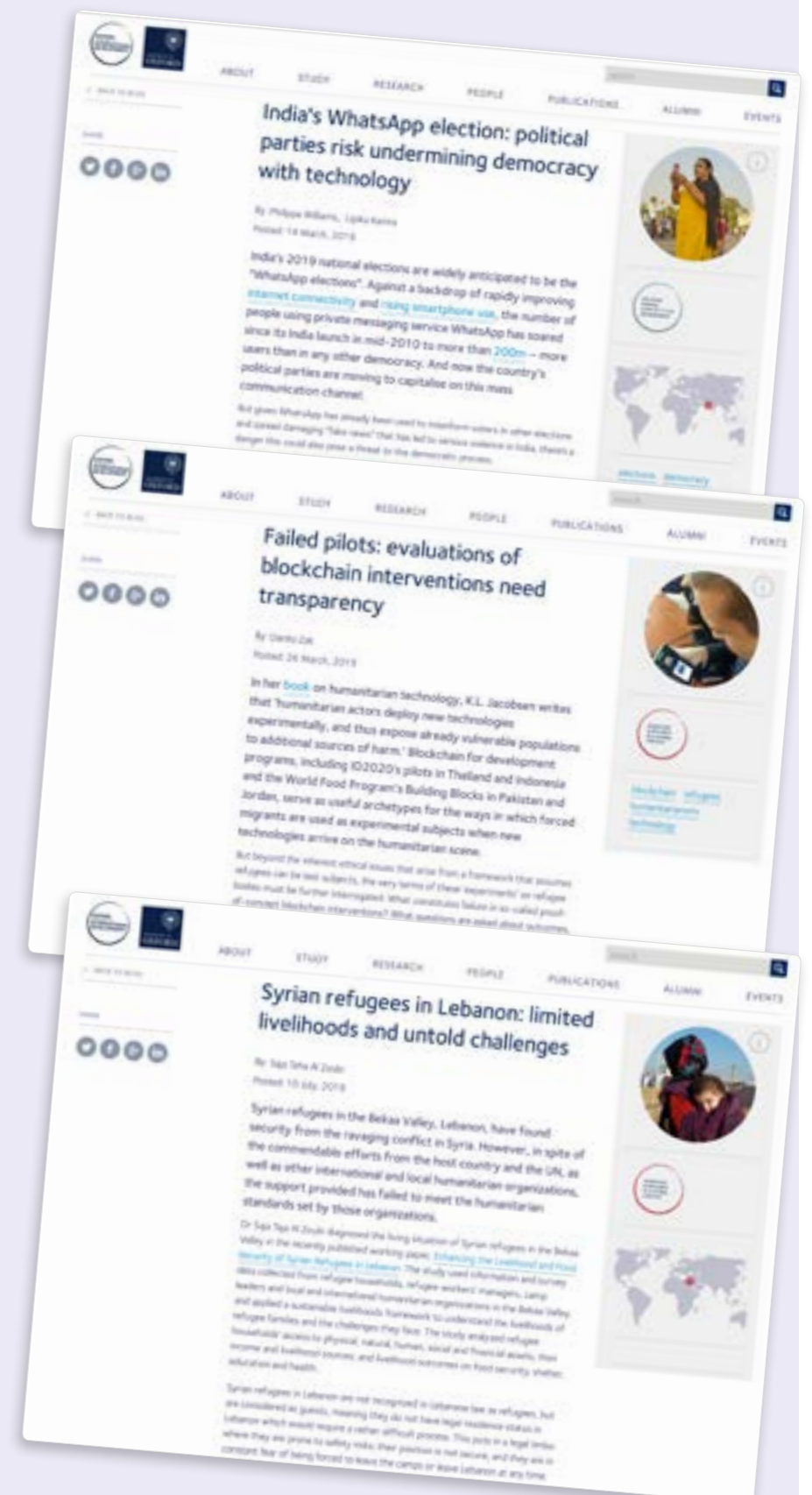
The paper, ‘Highly skilled returnees and the internationalisation of EMNEs: Firm-level evidence from China’ used an original firm-level survey from Guangdong province and was co-authored with Jun Hou of Lincoln University and Marco Sanfilippo of the University of Bari, Italy.

The award, which was announced at the European International Business Academy (EIBA) conference, is given for ‘the best IBR article (published in the previous year’s volume) in terms of enhancing the field of International Business research in the future’.



Siyao Mao, MPHil in Development Studies 2016-18

THE ODID BLOG



The ODID blog brings together commentary and analysis by staff, students, alumni, and friends of the department on the issues we research. To subscribe, visit [www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/blog](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/blog).

**Forced Migration Review** is published in English, Arabic, Spanish, and French, and is free of charge in print and online. It brings together researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and displaced people to analyse the causes and impacts of displacement; debate policies and programmes; share research findings; reflect the lived experience of displacement; and present examples of good practice and recommendations for policy and action.

**FMR 59**  
**TWENTY YEARS OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**  
 OCTOBER 2018

In the 20 years since they were launched, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have been of assistance to many states responding to internal displacement, and have been incorporated into many national and regional policies and laws. However, the scale of internal displacement today remains vast, and the impact on those who are displaced is immense. This issue includes 19 articles on the main feature theme, plus seven 'general' articles.



**FMR 60**  
**EDUCATION: NEEDS, RIGHTS AND ACCESS IN DISPLACEMENT**  
 MARCH 2019

Education is one of the most important aspects of our lives – vital to our development, our understanding and our personal and professional fulfilment throughout life. In times of crisis, however, millions of displaced young people miss out on months or years of education, and this is damaging to them and their families, as well as to their societies, both in the short and long term. This issue of FMR includes 29 articles on education, and two 'general' articles.



**FMR 61**  
**THE ETHICS ISSUE**  
 JUNE 2019

The 19 feature theme articles in this issue debate many of the ethical questions that confront us in research, programming, safeguarding, and volunteering, and in our use of data, new technologies, messaging, and images. This issue is published in tribute to **Barbara Harrell-Bond**, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre and FMR, who died in July 2018. In a special collection of articles within this issue, authors discuss Barbara's legacy: the impact she had and its relevance for our work today.

Find out more: [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org)

For forthcoming issues see [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming). To be notified about new and forthcoming issues, sign up for alerts at [www.fmreview.org/request/alerts](http://www.fmreview.org/request/alerts).



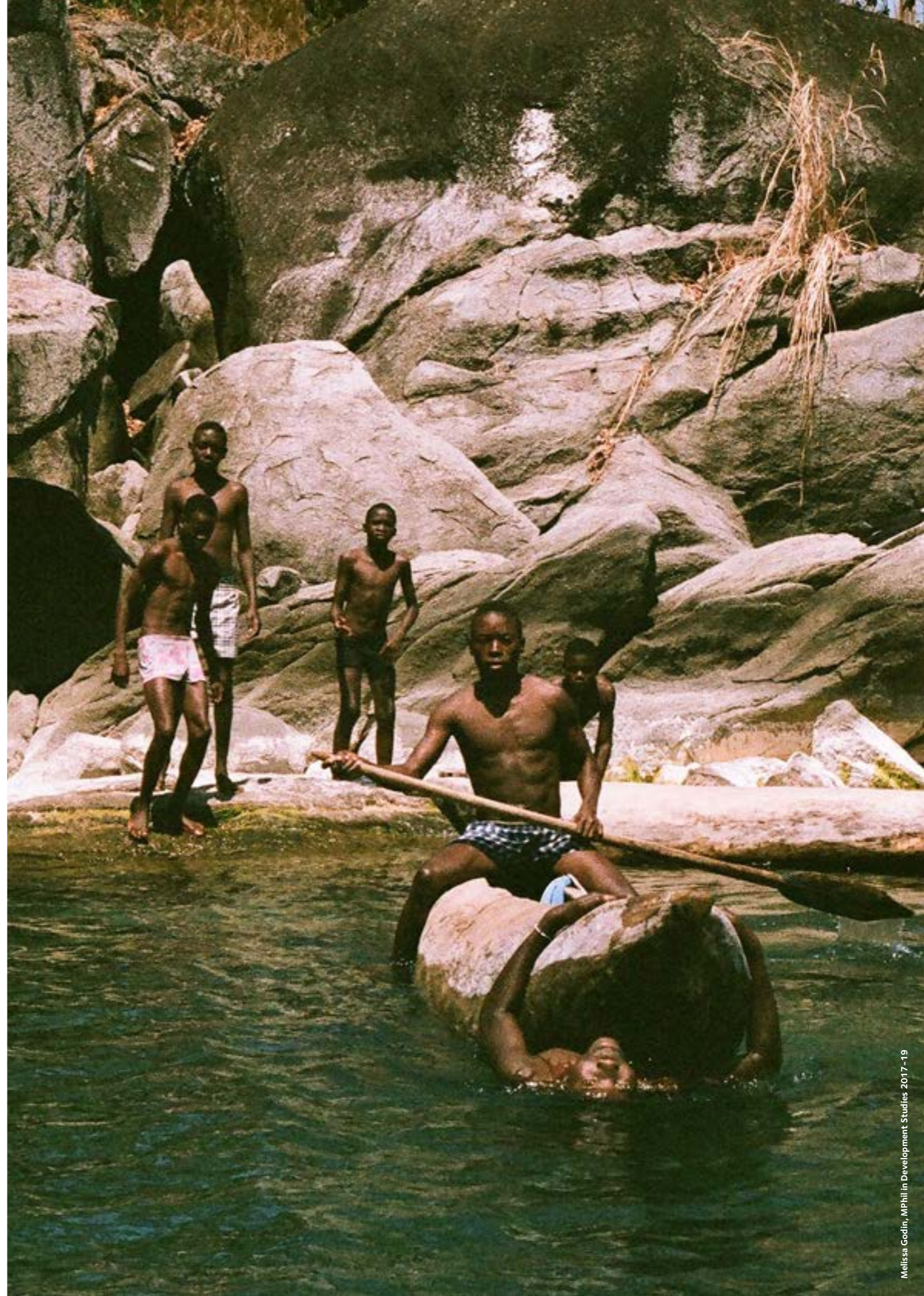
**OXFORD DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

The journal *Oxford Development Studies* (ODS) provides a forum for rigorous and critical analysis of conventional theories and policy issues in all aspects of development, and aims to contribute to new approaches.

It covers a number of disciplines related to development, including economics, history, politics, anthropology, and sociology, and publishes quantitative papers as well as surveys of literature.

It is published by Taylor and Francis and edited at ODID.

Find out more at [www.tandfonline.com/loi/cods20](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cods20)



# PEOPLE



As of 31 July 2019, the department had 98 staff members, including core academic teaching staff, research officers and assistants in our research programmes, and communications and support staff. Of our teaching staff, 10 are Professors, 13 Associate Professors, and 10 Departmental Lecturers.

The diversity of our academic and

research staff reflects our commitment to international development objectives: 53% are women and around 74% are of non-UK origin.

This year we were delighted to welcome a new Head of Administration and Finance, Graham Bray. Graham was previously Chief Operating Officer at ODID's Young Lives study. He replaces Lindsay Rudge, who has moved on

to take up the position of Head of Education Policy and Planning in the Social Sciences Division.

We also welcomed a number of visitors to the department over the course of the year. We are particularly honoured to host former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, who joins us for a three-year visiting professorship. Read more opposite.



**Saja al Zoubi, Visiting Researcher**

Saja Taha al Zoubi joined ODID in January 2018 as a Visiting Researcher, where she has been working with Professor Cheryl Doss on issues of gender and the livelihoods of refugees.

Dr al Zoubi is a development economist, whose early research focused on gender and rural development in Syria, particularly the role of women's empowerment. Her work has demonstrated the many, critical contributions women make towards supporting their households and communities. More recently, her work has focused on the experiences of Syrians who have been displaced by the war.

Dr al Zoubi worked for five years during the war in Syria in academic and humanitarian roles through INGOs and the United Nations. Her extensive experience in qualitative and quantitative fieldwork and data analysis enabled her to conduct rapid appraisals and fieldwork in active conflict zones and besieged areas in Syria, and in refugee camps in Lebanon.

Collaborating with international organisations, she conducted a comprehensive two-year study that explored how to enhance the livelihoods of Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley, East Lebanon. The study demonstrated that the vulnerability of Syrian refugees in Lebanon was due to their lack of legal documents, protection, and the right to work. The study findings also highlighted the deterioration in the educational situation for

Syrian children, with more than 70% of children not attending school. The study determined potential interventions that could enhance Syrian refugees' livelihoods in Lebanon, which Dr al Zoubi recently presented at a workshop she hosted at Christ Church.

Her work has also highlighted the challenges she has faced as a female Syrian researcher, and how these increased in complexity during the war. She has also spoken about the difficulties faced by displaced academics, particularly female academics.

As a Visiting Researcher at ODID, Dr al Zoubi has been using the data collected from the refugee camps in Lebanon to analyse refugees' coping strategies in harsh conditions, and investigate what happens when coping strategies become a way of life. She has also been carrying out some background research for a project on enhancing the livelihoods, socioeconomic integration, and contribution of Syrian refugees in the UK, focusing in particular on factors that affect integration, solidarity, and cohesion with the host community in order to determine suitable interventions.

In 2019, Dr al Zoubi joined Christ Church as a tutor on Gender and Forced Migration. She is the recipient of numerous awards: from the Open Society Foundations, USA (Civil Society Scholar Award); the Open Society Foundation, Jordan (Transformative Gender Research Fund); the Syrian Scientific Agricultural Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Pan-Arab Regional award in rural development and women's empowerment studies; and the League of Arab States' 'Arab Women Organization' for the best Arabic book about women.

Find out more about the workshop: [bit.ly/alZoubi](http://bit.ly/alZoubi)



We were delighted to welcome Graham Bray as our new Head of Administration and Finance in 2018. Graham was formerly Chief Operating Officer at Young Lives, where he had overall responsibility for all operational aspects of the study, including financial and personnel management, grants, contracts, and monitoring and evaluation.

Graham has extensive experience managing and supporting international development programmes and a track record of leadership and management. After five years teaching in rural Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, he managed HelpAge International's programmes in East and Southern Africa.

Before joining Young Lives, he worked for VSO, initially as Country Director of VSO's programme in Ghana, and then at VSO's head office, advising programme staff and coordinating the development of strategic and operational management processes to improve programme delivery and strategic alignment.



Greta Semplici, DPhil in International Development

**President Juan Manuel Santos, Visiting Professor**



Greg Smolonski / PhotoVibe

We were delighted to welcome former President of Colombia and Nobel Peace Laureate Juan Manuel Santos to the department as a Visiting Professor in Development for a period of three years, with a focus on reducing multidimensional poverty and building peace.

During this period, President Santos will conduct independent work on poverty reduction and peace building with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) as well as via interaction with the vibrant academic community of the department and University at large. In his capacity as Visiting Professor, President Santos will participate in University life and share his experience as well as enjoying space for his own reflection and writing.

President Santos is a distinguished public figure and an influential leader, well known for his role in the recent Colombian peace process. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016 for 'his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end'. During his term in office, which recently closed, President Santos took leadership in global efforts to reduce multidimensional poverty, including co-founding the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), a South-South initiative of policy-makers working to fight poverty in all its forms and dimensions, launched in Oxford in 2013 by its Secretariat, OPHI.

**HONOURS AND AWARDS**



Departmental Lecturer **Dan Hodgkinson** won a University Teaching Excellence Award for his outstanding contribution to teaching within ODID, and commitment to the History and Politics stream of the MPhil in Development Studies. His students and colleagues recognised Dan's dedication to the department beyond his teaching responsibilities in the overwhelmingly positive feedback they submitted to the Social Sciences Divisional Board, including his organisation of interactive workshops on 'Identity and Your Learning', and his proactive contributions to other courses.



Professor **Alexander Betts** was appointed Associate Head (Graduate and Research Training) in the Social Science Division. The role includes the Directorship of the ESRC Doctoral Training Programme. The appointment is for three years and begins in Michaelmas Term 2019.



Leverhulme Early Career Fellow **Robtel Neajai Pailey** won an International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award for her anti-corruption children's books, *Gbagba* and *Jaadeh!*. The awards are sponsored by the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre in Doha, Qatar, and are in support of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and its anti-corruption mandates. *Gbagba* was published by One Moore Book in 2013 and subsequently placed on the list of supplemental readers for 3rd to 5th graders in Liberia and for Primary 3 in Ghana. *Jaadeh!* followed in 2019.



Associate Professor **Simukai Chigudu** won the 2018 Audrey Richards Prize, awarded biennially for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies successfully examined in a British institution of higher education. Simukai completed his DPhil, which explored the politics of Zimbabwe's 2008/09 cholera outbreak, at ODID in 2017. The prize is awarded by the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUk) and was announced at the biennial conference in Birmingham in September 2018.

**Gary Jones**, ODID caretaker, was shortlisted once again in the Best Support Staff category of the Oxford University student-led Teaching Awards. Gary won the award in 2017 with a record 67 nominations, and was also shortlisted in 2015 and 2018. The awards aim to recognise great teaching and teaching support at Oxford and to help engage students more effectively in their academic experience.

**EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS**

We are delighted that a number of our Early Career Researchers have gone on to secure high-calibre academic and research positions after leaving us:

**Stefano Caria**, Departmental Lecturer in Development Economics, is now Lecturer in Economics at the University of Bristol

**Georgia Cole**, Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, is now Research Fellow at the Margaret Anstee Centre for Global Studies at Newnham College, Cambridge

**Arndt Emmerich**, Research Officer, CSIA, is now Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, Germany

**Patricia Espinoza**, Quantitative Research Officer, Young Lives, is now Deputy Head of Research at Oxfam

**Gunvor Jonsson**, Departmental Lecturer in Migration and Development, is now Lecturer in Social Anthropology at SOAS



The department won a plaque in the 'Small Building Conservation' category of the 2018 **Oxford Preservation Trust** (OPT) awards for the cleaning and repair work carried out to the building during 2017. According to Anthony Meek of the Estates Service, who oversaw the work, the OPT were impressed by the way in which 'the work brought to the attention a remarkable building that had previously been overlooked and ... was the catalyst for other renovation work along Mansfield Road'.



## ALL STAFF 2018/19

### ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF

#### Christopher Adam

Professor of Development Economics and Head of Department

#### Jocelyn Alexander

Professor of Commonwealth Studies

#### Ali Ali

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

#### Manhal Ali

Research Officer: Productivity and Development, The Readymade Garment Productivity Project

#### Sabina Alkire

Director, OPHI, and Associate Professor

#### Ruben Andersson

Associate Professor of Migration and Development

#### Masooda Bano

Professor of Development Studies

#### Alexander Betts

Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs

#### Corneliu Bjola

Associate Professor of Diplomatic Studies

#### Sophie Boote\*

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#### Kristine Briones\*\*

Research Analyst, Young Lives

#### Catherine Briddick\*

Martin James Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Migration

#### Stefano Caria\*\*

Departmental Lecturer in Development Economics

#### Grace Change\*\*

Research Analyst, Young Lives

#### Simukai Chigudu

Associate Professor of African Politics

#### Georgia Cole\*\*

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow

#### Cathryn Costello

Andrew W Mellon Associate Professor of International Human Rights and Refugee Law

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Senior Research Officer, Young Lives

#### Noele Crossley\*

Departmental Lecturer in Global Governance

#### Cheryl Doss

Senior Departmental Lecturer in Development Economics and Associate Professor

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#### Xiaolan Fu

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British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

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#### Dan Hodgkinson

Departmental Lecturer in African History and Politics

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Departmental Lecturer in Migration and Development

#### Pramila Krishnan

Professor of Development Economics

#### Shaomeng Li

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#### Bilal Malaeb\*\*

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**Lindsay Rudge\*\***

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**Anastasia Bow-Bertrand\*\***

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**Julia Tilford\***

Communications Manager, Young Lives

**Jayne Whiffin\*\***

Editorial Assistant, *Oxford Development Studies*

\*Joined during 2018/19

\*\*Left during 2018/19

**VISITORS**

ODID welcomes scholars from abroad or from elsewhere in the UK who wish to pursue research at Oxford in the area of development studies. Visiting scholars work on their own projects while at Oxford and have the opportunity to attend and participate in a wide variety of lectures and seminars across the University. Their research will fall broadly within the research categories covered by the department; our research groups encourage affiliations with academics working in their particular fields.

The following academics visited the department in 2018/19:

**Claura Santi Amantini**, Italy (RSC)  
**Dalal Ayham**, Jordan (RSC)  
**Adam Dalglish**, New Zealand (RSC)  
**Soazic Elise Wang Sonne**, Cameroon (RSC)  
**Mohsen Gul**, Pakistan (ODID)  
**Efser Rana Coskun**, Turkey (ODID)  
**Jules Gazeaud**, France (RSC)  
**Lukasz Dziedzic**, Austria (RSC)  
**Eleonora Milazzo**, Italy (RSC)  
**Victoria Klinkert**, Germany (ODID)  
**Lea Macias**, France (RSC)  
**Tamara Tubakovic**, Australia (RSC)  
**Ruby Elorm Agbenya**, Ghana (ODID)  
**Jon Echevarria**, Spain (RSC)  
**Virginia Passalacqua**, Italy (RSC)  
**Debojit Thakur**, India (ODID)  
**Caroline Wanjiku Kihato** (ODID)  
**Eric Burton**, Germany (ODID)  
**Yexin Zhou**, China (OPHI)  
**Zaijin Wang**, China (TMCD)  
**Alex Tasker**, UK (RSC)  
**Amanda Alencar**, Spain (RSC)  
**Sleiman El Hajj**, Lebanon (ODID)  
**Maria Santos**, Argentina (OPHI)  
**Julien Wolfersberger**, France (ODID)  
**Heidi Yan Hui**, China (TMCD)  
**Akos Kopper**, Hungary (ODID)  
**Sarah von Billerbeck**, UK (ODID)  
**Nasir Uddin**, Bangladesh (RSC)  
**Qun Bao**, China (TMCD)  
**Emilie Mortensen**, Denmark (RSC)  
**Jiewei Li**, China (TMCD)

**OXFORD ASSOCIATES**

Our Oxford Associates are colleagues with Oxford University academic appointments or similar positions in colleges who work on development and have research and/or teaching links with ODID:

**Christopher Allsopp**

New College

**Sudhir Anand**

St Catherine's College

**William Beinart**

St Antony's College

**Nancy Bermeo**

Department of Politics and International Relations

**Christopher Davis**

Wolfson College

**Ray Fitzpatrick**

Nuffield Department of Population Health

**David Gellner**

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Ian Goldin**

Oxford Martin School

**Roger Goodman**

St Antony's College

**Sarah Harper**

Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

**Pegram Harrison**

Said Business School

**Mark Harrison**

Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine

**Elisabeth Hsu**

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Andrew Hurrell**

Department of Politics and International Relations

**David Johnson**

Department of Education

**Neil MacFarlane**

Department of Politics and International Relations

**Matthew McCartney**

Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

**David Mills**

Department of Education

**Rana Mitter**

Department of Politics and International Relations

**Rachel Murphy**

Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

**Emma Plugge**

Nuffield Department of Medicine

**David Pratten**

African Studies Centre

**Steve Rayner**

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Isabel Ruiz**

Harris Manchester College

**Mari Sako**

Said Business School

**Stanley Uljaszek**

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology

**Nicholas Van Hear**

Centre on Migration, Policy and Society

**Laurence Whitehead**

Nuffield College

**Ngaire Woods**

Blavatnik School of Government

**Biao Xiang**

Centre on Migration, Policy and Society








HOUSE IN OXFORD.  
For The Rev<sup>d</sup> J. H. Mee.



## OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Above picture: The original architect's drawing for the house at 3 Mansfield Road. Credit: The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. Ref: GE 17D