



OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF  
**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





## THE CHALLENGE

- Two-thirds of humankind live in the global South, 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 2020 ODID REPORT



seminars we held. Take our Oxford Development Talks, a public engagement series that provided many colleagues with the opportunity to present their ideas in a relatively short format to a large audience; you can find presentations on a diversity of topics, from the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty to the role of Islam in a changing world; from China's development strategy to evaluations of migration controls. Moving to the online world also had a big advantage: we could reach a wider audience as well as benefiting from participation by speakers from all over the world, from Nigeria to the Mexico City.

Despite all the difficulties, our research centres continued working hard and accumulating recognition. Let me just highlight a few examples: OPHI was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize, while Young Lives secured new funding from DFID for new rounds of their survey. Both centres, as well as TMCD and the RSC, have also undertaken path-breaking research on the impact of COVID-19 that will inform medium and long-term responses to the current crisis. On the following pages, you can also read about the new grants and prizes that individual researchers – at all stages of their careers – have received over the past year, as well as the books and articles they have published.

We are extremely proud of our students' accomplishments. Sixteen DPhil students completed this year: the list of their thesis titles showcases the diversity of topics, their multidisciplinary breadth and intellectual and policy relevance. Our MPhil and MSc students produced first-rate work: their results this year were as good as in the past if not better, despite all the obstacles they faced. They are now moving to a real world that needs them more than ever to design more inclusive policies and build a better post-COVID-19 world.

We look with some trepidation but also much excitement to the future ahead. The next academic year will not be easy as we try to implement a hybrid teaching model, while providing an enriching experience to a new generation of students and keeping everyone safe. The department is looking forward to working on some issues that are fundamental for our everyday lives as well as our research agendas. We aim to deepen our teaching and research on climate change, while simultaneously reviewing our own environmental practices. We are also committed to advancing our anti-racism agenda, promoting a conversation on the interactions between racism and development, and critically evaluating our own practices in all areas from teaching to hiring.

The years ahead will be particularly difficult for marginalised communities across the globe. The world faces mounting challenges, including economic divergence between the global North and South, growing authoritarian politics, and inequality of income and opportunities. I am convinced that our work is particularly important in this kind of environment: training great students, promoting critical research, building horizontal alliances with partners in different countries, and contributing to policy debates should all be helpful activities as we imagine a different future.

At a personal level, it has been a pleasure to be at the helm of such an inspiring group of people at such a challenging time. I have learnt a lot during my first year as Head of Department and I am thankful for the support of colleagues and students. I would particularly like to acknowledge all the contributions from Chris Adams, my predecessor in the post, and hope I can follow his example during the rest of my term as Head of Department.

**Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea**  
31 July 2020

This has been an eventful year to say the least! The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown changed our lives in big and small ways. Some of my colleagues and students had to deal with the consequences of the virus and support those affected in their families. In March, from one day to another, we closed our building in Mansfield Road and moved all our teaching and research online. Many students went back to their home countries where they prepared for their exams and wrote their theses. They later replaced their nervous walk to the Exams School wearing subfusc with exams taken online from their bedrooms.

I am so impressed with how the ODID community has risen to the challenge. My colleagues had to suddenly combine home teaching with online supervision; students lost access to the library and to personal interactions with their classmates; seminars in Oxford were suspended and new online seminar series launched; and new revision classes and online social activities were designed from one day to the next.

This annual report offers a number of examples of some of the exciting





# STUDY

235  
students

7  
degree  
courses

Students  
from  
52  
countries

86%  
students  
from outside  
the UK

66%  
female  
students

27%  
students  
funded



© Young Lives / Muligeta Gebrekidan

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.

## 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 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, particularly 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. We also now offer students the chance to undertake doctoral study on a part-time basis.



### The following DPhil students completed\* their doctoral work during 2019/20

**Mihika Chatterjee**, Green Templeton  
*Land for industry: state-society relations in agrarian Maharashtra*

**Frances Cossar**, St Antony's  
*Agricultural development, mechanisation, and rental markets: theory and empirics from Ghana*

**Sherine El Taraboulsi**, St Cross  
*State building and state-society relations in Libya (1911–69): an examination of associations, trade unions, and religious actors*

**Maria Franco Gavonel**, St Antony's  
*Internal migration and human capital accumulation among youth in developing countries*

**Kieran Gilfoy**, Brasenose  
*Amongst the shadows of mineralised mountains: resource-making and social becoming in the Peruvian Andes*

**Robert Hortle**, St John's  
*Citizen wellbeing in hybrid regimes*

**Adil Hossain**, Merton (pictured above)  
*In search of citizens in Citizenagar: the politics of contingent citizenship in the aftermath of the 2002 Gujarat riots in India*

**Sa'eed Husaini**, St John's  
*Beyond stomach infrastructure: party membership and political ideology in Nigeria's Fourth Republic*

**Ian Madison**, Jesus  
*Parallel states, public services, and the competition for legitimacy in Kosovo*

**Ilan Manor**, St Cross  
*Digital diplomacy in times of upheaval: how foreign ministries use Twitter during crises*

**Hiroshi Oikawa**, Worcester  
*Backward linkage formation in Malaysia's electronics industry: transnational corporation demand and local entrepreneur supply*

**Blair Peruniak**, St Edmund Hall  
*A republican theory of political asylum*

**Greta Semplici**, Lady Margaret Hall  
*Moving deserts: stories of mobilities and resilience from a Kenyan desertscape, Turkana County*

**Claire Walkey**, St Anne's  
*Building a bureaucracy: the transfer of responsibility for refugee affairs from United Nations Refugee Agency to government of Kenya*

**Lucieqian Xia**, Merton  
*The diplomatic making of EU-China relations: structure, substance and style*

**Aga Zuoshi**, St Antony's  
*Experiencing development on China's Frontier: the Nuosu's bridewealth*

\*given leave to supplicate



## ALUMNA PROFILE

**Pei Man Jessica Wan**  
Gender and Training Officer for  
Better Work, International Labour  
Organisation  
MPhil in Development Studies  
2011–13

Upon completing my studies at Oxford, I worked for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to conduct research on gender equality in the labour market. I also had an opportunity to apply my knowledge on International Labour Standards as an Associate at non-profit business network and consultancy, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR). I managed and implemented a wide range of projects on business and human rights, from the prevention of gender-based violence in garment factories in Bangladesh and India (HERrespect) to conducting human rights impact assessments for extractives companies.

In my current role at Better Work, a partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation, I am responsible for the implementation of our global gender strategy across nine country programmes. I work with diverse stakeholders – from workers' representatives to buyers and retailers – to promote decent work, gender equality, and women's empowerment in the garment sector. One of the most rewarding parts of my work is having the space to co-develop gender-transformative interventions with my country teams to tackle the root causes of sexual harassment as well as strengthening our referral pathways to provide remediation for victims and survivors.

My experience at Oxford shaped my approach to gender and development as a practitioner, and I am thankful for the nurturing environment for intellectual curiosity fostered by the dedicated



and ever-patient scholars at the Oxford Department of International Development. I am appreciative of the guidance and mentorship of my thesis supervisor, Miles Tendi, who supported my field research experience, which is the foundation to my career in business and human rights. And I feel lucky for the friendships I made at St Antony's College and Queen Elizabeth House, and especially our MPhil class of 2013, as we try to meet and reconnect across the globe.

## 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.

**2019/20 Course Director:**  
Dr Cheryl Doss



**Due to the pandemic, our first-year MPhil students were unable to carry out fieldwork in the usual way this summer. They received bespoke training in digital research methods and are exploring a wide range of topics in countries across the world. Some of their projects are listed below:**



- How does China's principle of non-interference apply in fragile political settlements?
- Empowerment as instrument – effects on women's lives of an integrated nutritional and agricultural intervention to improve child nutrition in Southern Malawi
- Risky decisions: information, governance, and irregular migration in Guinea
- Nation-building down the road of ecology or tapping the source of emancipation in North Kurdistan
- Politics, artisanal mining, and water scarcity in Ghana
- Local and refugee-led humanitarian aid
- A comparative qualitative analysis of transnational surrogacy arrangements
- Lawfare and the contestation over energy transitions: public participation in electricity planning in South Africa
- How is Zimbabwe's energy policy influenced by its international relations and what impact does this have on its energy pathway?
- To what extent is the origin and spread of COVID-19 the result of environmental injustice? Evidence from China and the United States
- 'Women are property, property cannot own property', customary law, land rights as a pathway to women's empowerment in Northwest Cameroon
- Women and resilience to violent extremism in the Sahel: a case study of Burkina Faso
- 'Junk' nation: the political and moral life of sovereign credit ratings in South Africa
- The Mecca for exiles: an exploration of political Islam in Qatar
- And we have not loved ourselves: incarnation and identity in reimagined West Indian Anglican worship, 1971–2010
- Surveillance and control: 'kiapdom' in late-colonial Papua New Guinea
- The state and the built environment in Singapore
- Place-making and power in Appalachia during the war on poverty
- Neopatrimonialism and agriculture in Africa: the case of command agriculture in Zimbabwe 2005–19
- Marginalisation in American indigenous communities: educational trauma and Teach for America
- Language, affect, and emotion in Kenyan political rhetoric: a focus on the national 'Building Bridges Initiative' (BBI)
- The politics of 'success': how Uganda's HIV 'success story' narrative has been maintained in the face of bad data and cultural change and how this narrative has shaped policy
- How can crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, shape the EU-Africa border? A case study of Senegalese migrants reaching the Canary Islands
- Pakistani Islamism: a major development determinant
- How do farmers understand agroecology? To what extent do current practices involve integration into agricultural markets, and how is that achieved?
- 'Green growth' in European policymaking – pathway or barrier to alternative 'beyond-growth' futures?
- Women in Nollywood
- Exploring the implications of insurgent lawfare in South Africa
- How do contemporary missionaries working in faith-based development organisations (FBDs) understand and represent the role of faith in their 1) identity, 2) development ideology, and 3) practice?
- Climate justice considerations in the planning and design of the Red Metropolitana de Movilidad in Santiago de Chile
- Political economies of health provisioning in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria
- State discourse on scaled-up agricultural businesses and its impacts on the livelihoods of peasants in China
- Enterprise recovery from COVID-19 in relation to the New Online Sales Model: a study on entertainment-fishing equipment retailers' adoption to live-streaming sales



## 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.

**2019/20 Course Director:**  
Professor Christopher Woodruff

## 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.

**2019/20 Course Director:**  
Dr Tom Scott-Smith

## 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.

**2019/20 Course Director:**  
Dr John Gledhill

## 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.

**2019/20 Course Director:**  
Professor Biao Xiang (SAME)

**Congratulations to the following students who won prizes for their performance on our master's courses in 2019/20:**

### MPhil in Development Studies

- **Eugene Havas Memorial Prize for Best Overall Performance**  
Nicholas Carverhill (St John's)
- **Papiya Ghosh Thesis Prize**  
Leonie Hoffmann (St Antony's)

### MSc in Economics for Development

- **George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance**  
Shraddha Mandi (St Antony's)
- **George Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit)**  
Richard Freund (Kellogg) and Edoardo Lanfranchi (Oriol) (joint winners)
- **Luca D'Agliano Prize for Best Dissertation**  
Ben Brunckhorst (Kellogg)
- **Arthur Lewis Prize for the Best Examination Essays in Development Economics**  
Shraddha Mandi (St Antony's)

### MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy

- **Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize**  
Christina Qiu (St Antony's)
- **Best Dissertation Prize**  
Peter Wyckoff (Regent's Park)

### MSc in Migration Studies

- **Examiners' Prize**  
Maisie Morris (St Cross)
- **Best Dissertation**  
Sophia M Iosue (St Cross) and Helena Ratté (Green Templeton) (joint winners)

### MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

- **Best Thesis**  
Elisa Sisto (Green Templeton) and Emma Walker-Silverman (Linacre) (joint winners)
- **Examiners' Prize**  
Elisa Sisto (Green Templeton)

# RESEARCH

**No1**  
ranking in  
2014 REF

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

**£4.1m**  
in research  
income\*

**71**  
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; Migration and Refugees in a Global Context; Human Development, Poverty and Youth; and The Political and International Dimensions of Development.

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.

During 2020, many of our researchers and research groups have reoriented their research questions or approaches to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read more about this in our most recent alumni magazine:

[http://bit.ly/ODM\\_COVID](http://bit.ly/ODM_COVID)



## OUR RESEARCH GROUPS

### 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)

### 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 2001, 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 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)

### 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)

## NEW AWARDS

**ODID was successful in attracting a number of major new external awards in 2019/20.**

### NEW YOUNG LIVES FUNDING

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) awarded £9.4 million in new funding to **Young Lives** to enable them to continue their longitudinal study into children and youth around the world.



Young Lives is a unique mixed-methods study which began in 2001 to investigate childhood poverty and inequality in four low- and middle-income countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam) by following 12,000 children from the ages of one and eight years old respectively. The major new funding, which runs to March 2024, will enable the team to continue their research investigating transitions into adulthood, with a significant focus on access to the labour market.

'Our Young Lives "children" are now young adults; ensuring that this generation of young people access decent work is one of the greatest challenges of the achievement of sustainable development and gender equality', said Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, ODID Head of Department. 'This new funding will enable us to explore the determinants of young people's successful transition into the labour market, further education, and realising their potential'.

At the heart of Young Lives is a quantitative survey, consisting of a child and household questionnaire, first carried out in 2002 (Round 1) and most recently in 2016 (Round 5). This new award from DFID will fund Round 6 and part of Round 7 of this survey in all four study countries.

'Studying the life trajectories of the Young Lives "children" offers a unique opportunity to examine, among other topics, who is most likely to recover from a childhood in poverty, at what age, in which circumstances and with what implications for participation in the labour market and entrepreneurship', said Marta Favara, Young Lives Deputy Director and Co-Principal Investigator.

Young Lives will also use this funding as a springboard to help secure further donor funds to support complementary qualitative research to deepen understanding of young people's everyday experiences, further research analysis and global policy and communications work.

### STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Douglas Gollin** is research director for a new programme to support research that provides a deeper understanding of the fundamental economic processes of structural change and productivity growth in low- and middle-income countries.



The research programme on Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) is funded by DFID, with a budget of £12 million in its first five years.

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

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

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

STEG's initial five-year research programme seeks to build a community of researchers working on the structural transformation of low- and middle-income countries; and to link research to policy. Research will be funded primarily through competitive calls along a number of thematic areas, beginning in mid-2021. These calls will follow an initial inception phase devoted to shaping and sharpening the research focus.



## STRUCTURAL ESTIMATION OF SPATIAL SPILLOVER EFFECTS OF CASH TRANSFERS

Professor Gollin also won funding from the Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning (CEDIL) for a project on 'Structural Estimation of Spatial Spillover Effects of Cash Transfers'.

Cash transfers are increasingly used to deliver economic development, humanitarian assistance, and social protection programmes in low-income and fragile countries. Accurate measurement of any 'spillover' effects experienced by people other than the direct recipients of cash transfers is essential for the overall evaluation of such programmes.

Existing methods for estimating these spillover effects are limited because they rely on unrealistic assumptions or do not fully exploit the data available. This project will develop innovative methods for causal estimation of spillover effects of cash transfers, which are rooted in economic theory and are based on a thorough understanding of the local economy. In particular, it will explicitly model and estimate the extent of economic integration of local markets, and how this affects how spillover effects vary over space and across different groups of non-recipients. These methods will involve more realistic assumptions and will fully utilise the data available.

The main geographical focus of the project is rural Kenya; the team will also apply their methods to secondary data from Uganda and Lesotho, and demonstrate how the methods they develop and the results they find can be applied in other contexts.

## INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTIES: A STUDY OF POLITICAL PLURALITY IN ECUADORIAN AMAZONIA

**Natalia Buitron** of the London School of Economics was awarded a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship titled 'Indigenous Sovereignities: A Study of Political Plurality in Ecuadorian Amazonia', to be held at ODID.



Indigenous peoples enact a variety of strategies to create their own legitimate authorities – authorities that engage with, oppose, or bypass nation-state sovereignty.

This project will explore the diversity of such strategies in Ecuadorian Amazonia and aim to explain why some indigenous collectives opt for cultural recognition, while others choose a politics of confrontation. On the basis of in-depth and long-term ethnography, the project will compare different indigenous movements and revisits fundamental concepts of governance, authority, and sovereignty.

## GENDERED VIOLENCE AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

**Nandini Goptu** is a co-investigator on a new three-year ESRC-funded project investigating the multiple determinants of violence against women in Delhi NCR and Johannesburg.



The project, 'Gendered Violence and Urban Transformation in India and South Africa', will explore the mechanisms of violence in specific cases and localised environments linked to urban transformation, inequality and emerging gender/racial/caste/class relations through a multi-scalar research design.

Dr Manali Desai of the University of Cambridge is the Principal Investigator for the £1.76 million Global Challenges Research Fund award; Professor Sanjay Srivastava (Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi), Professor Kammila Naidoo (University of Johannesburg) and Dr Lyn Ossome (Makerere Institute) are the other co-investigators.

The project seeks to capture the experiences of transition from apartheid to post-apartheid and liberalisation in South Africa, and from state-led development to neoliberalisation as manifested in urban India, and explore how the attendant shifts in security, ownership, rights, dispossession, and value are manifested in episodes and enactments of gendered violence in the two cities.

## VISIONS OF LIFE: THE CREATION OF POSTCOLONIAL SCREEN CULTURES IN AFRICA

**Dan Hodgkinson** was awarded a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship to research 'Visions of Life: The Creation of Postcolonial Screen Cultures in Africa'.



Over the last century, politics across the world has been remade through the visual technology of screens. The era of decolonisation, in the 1950s and 1960s, was a key moment in this remaking. Visions of Life explores the political aims, processes, and significance of creating a new film industry in one of Africa's most influential projects of postcolonial transformation – Nkrumah's Ghana. By co-producing a film with the research participants, it explores how the first generation of postcolonial filmmakers sought to shape Africans' emotional indexes and imaginations of political change at home and on the continent more broadly.

## REMAINS: EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS OF FEAR, INDIFFERENCE, AND LOVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

**Alessandro Corso** of Durham University was awarded an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to be held at ODID titled 'Remains: Exploring New Frontiers of Fear, Indifference, and Love in the Mediterranean'. The language of fear used by politicians and the media is producing an increasing divide between peoples and governments across the world. However, the need to improve one's life condition is 'boundless', as seen in high-risk forms of migration across reinforced borderlines. At the border, the divide between what Ruben Andersson has called the 'no go world' (parts of the globe portrayed as dangerous and out of bounds through wars, famine, displacement, and terrorism) and the 'rich world' becomes blurred into a series of unexpected encounters that go beyond taken-for-granted stereotypes.



As a contemporary symbol of the frontier for undocumented migration in Europe, the Italian island of Lampedusa becomes a mirror of a global order of fear and separation, but also a potential space of cohesion and reciprocity. In this fellowship, Dr Corso will examine, by means of ethnography and visual methods, how contemporary encounters (voluntary or accidental) with various abject remains (objects, stories, pictures, and corpses) of undocumented migrants by locals and artists in Lampedusa generate distance or allow for mutuality in the context of undocumented migration in the Mediterranean since the 1990s.

## INNOVATION AND CATCH-UP IN PLATFORM ECONOMY: THE CASE OF TENCENT

**Xiaolan Fu** was funded by Tencent to explore lessons from the Chinese multinational conglomerate and video game technological giant's innovation story, especially its success in technological catch-up, product innovation, and ecosystem development. Researchers will use both quantitative methods and qualitative interviews for the analysis of these research questions.



Findings from the study will contribute to our understanding of innovation strategy and management in internet companies, especially in effective digital product innovation and value creation and capturing through the innovative application of basic technology, and innovation-empowered ecosystem development, as well as the role of social impact-orientation in driving inclusive innovation. They will also offer valuable managerial and policy implications for other latecomer firms in both the developing and developed countries.

## FROM CONSERVATISM TO IDEALISM: THE LIFE OF LORD JOHN BOYD ORR

**Tom Scott-Smith** won a Leverhulme Research Fellowship in spring this year to explore the life of Lord John Boyd Orr (1880–1971). The project, which began in September, examines Orr's intellectual history, asking how his political views changed from youthful conservatism to radical idealism. John Boyd Orr described himself as a simple farmer, but he ended up responsible for the most ambitious proposals for international governance in the 20th century. He was the first director of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and in his later years he also became president of the National Peace Council, the World Union of Peace Organisations, and the Movement for World Federal Government. His most important contribution to the history of ideas was the proposal of a World Food Board, which has been described as 'one of the most ambitious designs for international action ever put forward'. Drawing on detailed archival research, this project explores the complex relationship between power and opposition, examining how radical new ideas can be launched successfully onto the global stage.





## FEATURED RESEARCH

### AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF YOUNG PARENTS AND MARRIED PEOPLE

**By Emily Cracknell**  
Communications Officer, YMAPS

Each year millions marry and become parents young. While a great deal is understood about what leads to marriage and pregnancy amongst adolescents and young people, very little is known about their day-to-day lives and how to support them.

The Young Marriage and Parenthood Study (YMAPS) sought to amplify young people's voices and to learn what life was like from their perspective. We listened to their experiences of navigating complex adult relationships and responsibilities to better understand what they needed and hoped for, and how policies and services might better support them.

Led by Principal Investigators Gina Crivello and Gillian Mann, country-based researchers held interviews with 345 married, cohabitating, or divorced young people in urban, peri-urban, and rural communities in four countries: Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states), Peru, and Zambia. They spoke with young people about their varied experiences with relationships and new roles and responsibilities, including in parenthood, separation, and divorce. A total of 77 group discussions were also held with parents, community members, and service providers to understand the context of the young people's lives and the social norms of their communities.

Our comparative findings, across all four countries, found many commonalities. Multidimensional poverty, including weak sexual and reproductive health and rights, were defining reasons for early marriage or parenting. While parents, community members, and the young people themselves agreed it was better to marry and have children in their 20s, for most, poverty severely limited their available options.

We learnt that while there was legislation against child marriage in place, many skirted this through informal unions, which were common in Ethiopia, Peru, and



© Young Lives / Sebastian Castañeda Vita

Zambia. These unions were often seen as equivalent to marriage, by community members and the couples alike, but came without the legal protections of formal marriage. For some couples these unions were beneficial due to the ease with which they could be dissolved, while for others the cost of traditional marriage was too high, and so this was their only option.

Most did not plan to marry or parent in their teens. A lack of sexual health education and social taboos around female adolescent sexuality discouraged open discussions and contraception use, and led to many unplanned pregnancies and subsequent relationships.

Most had already dropped out of school early due to poverty or pregnancy but once married and parenting, options narrowed even further. Financial restraints, work, restrictive gender norms, and family responsibilities meant few could return to education or gain further skills. Even if there was legal provision to support young parents and married people to return to school, this was rarely acted upon. Lack of available and affordable childcare also restricted the feasibility of returning to school and made it difficult for young women to work outside the home. Young people found it incredibly hard to improve upon their circumstances and get out of the trap of poverty.

However, it was not all bleak. Despite great difficulties, many young people preferred to be married, found joy and love with their partners and children, and were hopeful and working hard towards their futures.

By 2030, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals aim to end marriage under the age of 18. But we cannot forget the millions who are already married. Support and second chances are essential to allow these young people, and their children, a better future.

Learn more about our study and our policy recommendations here:  
[www.younglives.org.uk/content/young-marriage-and-parenthood-study-ymap](http://www.younglives.org.uk/content/young-marriage-and-parenthood-study-ymap)

*YMAPS ran between 2017 and 2020, with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada and in collaboration between Young Lives and Child Frontiers, a consulting company that works in partnership to promote the care, well-being and protection of children. The young people interviewed were drawn from select groups from the Young Lives' study in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states), and Peru, and Child Frontier's study in Zambia. The research in India was funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, with data collection in 2016.*

### THE SHAPING OF ISLAMIC SCHOLARSHIP

**By Masooda Bano**  
Professor of Development Studies

Are informal institutions, be they secular ideologies, cultural norms or religious beliefs, impervious to change? How do societal conditions impact what knowledge is created and valued? How did the introduction of Western educational systems implanted by colonial powers disrupt local forms of knowledge production? These questions, which are of concern to many within development studies, form a central focus of my new book: *The Revival of Islamic Rationalism: Logic, Metaphysics and Mysticism in Modern Muslim Societies*.

A theoretically informed ethnography of a new Islamic scholarly network that is working to revive rationalist scholarship



Masooda Bano

in Islam, the book shows how religious beliefs are not static; whether religious tradition stagnates or goes into a creative mode is a direct response to societal conditions. The political, economic, and social realities which together form societal conditions have a direct bearing on how texts are interpreted, what questions are asked of those texts, and which scholars and texts from earlier Islamic scholarship become popular.

It also shows how colonial rule had a major impact on the current shape of Islamic knowledge and how elites' involvement in knowledge creation is critical to keeping a knowledge base creative and responsive to social reality. Under colonial rule, Islamic educational platforms lost access to financial resources and faced intense competition from modern Western educational institutions, which now received state funds and awarded degrees that provided routes to upward mobility.

More critically, the state's prioritisation of Western education over education provided in Islamic educational institutions led to the exit of Muslim elites from the latter institutions. This also involved the exit of the leading Islamic scholarly families, who in order to maintain their elite status sent their younger generations to be educated in Western institutions. The result was that Islamic scholarship during the 19th and 20th centuries was for the first time in Islamic history primarily delegated to the socially and economically marginalised, and often also the least intellectually able.

The book is thus also theoretically engaged with debates on knowledge creation and elite involvement. Engagement of elites with any knowledge base brings intellectual capital acquired through their education in leading institutions, but equally elites bring social connections and influence that in turn shape socio-economic and political institutions. Their involvement also brings economic security to a knowledge platform, as they have the resources to support it. As the book shows, the biggest contribution of the current movement for

Islamic rationalism is that it is reversing this colonial legacy by motivating Muslim societal elites – culturally liberal and university-educated Muslim youth in the West as well as in the Muslim-majority countries – to engage seriously with the study of Islamic texts. This is leading to critical reflection and revival of more pluralistic approaches to the study of Islamic sources, which marked the Golden Age of Islam, thereby enabling Muslims to be part of modern institutions and be confident of their Muslim identity.

As to which societal conditions have contributed to the rise of this movement aimed at a revival of Islamic rationalism, the book identifies the globalisation of tastes due to easy access to Western media networks; social apps; the internet; and increased travel. But, equally important factors are: time away from colonial rule, which is weakening the strong intellectual imprint left behind by colonial powers, making some look for alternative modes of engagement with modernity instead of simply copying the West; an upwardly mobile second and third-generation Muslim population in the West, keen to establish Islam's relevance to modern reality; and, equally (though ironically) the rise of Islamic militancy.

Disruptions, as Schumpeter tells us, can be productive. In some way, Islamic militancy since September 11 has created such a disruption: the negative image that Islamic militancy gave to Islam has forced ordinary young Muslims to reflect on their faith and who is representing it. This has encouraged dynamic, modern, educated young Muslims to engage intellectually with their religious tradition and brought scholars representing the more rationalist, as opposed to textually rigid, approaches to the forefront. Presenting evidence on the spread of this movement, the book predicts that Islamic rationalism, and not jihadism, will be the most influential Islamic movement of the 21st century.

Masooda Bano (2019) *The Revival of Islamic Rationalism: Logic, Metaphysics and Mysticism in Modern Muslim Societies*, Cambridge University Press



## HUMANITARIAN NEUTRALITY AND HUNGER RELIEF

By Tom Scott-Smith  
Associate Professor of Refugee  
Studies and Forced Migration

Humanitarian action has a moral simplicity that has long made it intuitively attractive. Compared to development, it concentrates on saving lives, not improving systems. Rather than engaging with the often messy and political process of long-term structural change, humanitarians focus instead on immediate human needs. This is especially the case for 'classical' humanitarian agencies, which maintain an ideal of purity in humanitarian action and espouse principles such as neutrality and impartiality that stress their distinction both from development and from politics.

In reality, things are not so simple. Emergency assistance has many political effects: prolonging conflicts, skewing incentives, and influencing other institutions. Over the past 30 years many books and articles have looked at these effects, and we now know a great deal about how donor funding directs humanitarian attention to strategically significant crises, how the aid economy deepens divisions and diverts resources in civil war, and how humanitarianism can undermine local democratic accountability.

Yet 'classical' humanitarianism continues to be attractive, in part because these political effects can be presented as containable corruptions from a powerfully simple idea: the moral imperative to relieve suffering. Part of the reason for this is that aid agencies now have such well-established technical systems, which seem insulated from politics, focused around the provision of expert medical care and infrastructural engineering. Take hunger, for example. Whereas development agencies seek to address the root causes of hunger in a way that is self-evidently political – looking at agricultural policy, economic systems, purchasing power, and so on – the task of classical humanitarians is more narrowly focused on the job of getting food into people quickly and efficiently. This involves a much tighter emphasis



on micro-scale interactions between nutrients and bodies, which tends to involve acting directly on people by, for example, determining the extent of hunger on the physique through measuring fat and muscle wastage (nutritional anthropometry), or developing products and rations that are nutritionally balanced to meet bodily needs.

In my book, *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*, I turn our scholarly attention to these practices, situating them against the long history of humanitarian strategies for tackling hunger in emergencies. Techniques for feeding starving people may seem neutral and objective, but they have changed a great deal over the past two centuries and in their twists and turns they have always been influenced by social, cultural, and political conditions.

I begin my book by looking at the industrial soup kitchens of the Victorian era, which were designed to convert donations into nutrition for the maximum number of people, feeding the 'deserving' poor with a soup that could be produced quickly, at scale, making the most of cheap ingredients. I then look at the origins of nutritional requirements, and the debates around physical characteristics of racial groups at the turn of the 20th century, which became related to eugenicist ideas about the relationship between food and human improvement. I look at the discovery

of vitamins, exploring how the direct ingestion of nutrients in the form of pills and later protein injections in the 1930s and 1940s led to the medicalisation of hunger, as food became isolated from its cultural and social significance. I then look at the vat-grown high modernist famine foods of the 1960s, when state-led industrialisation helped newly independent states manufacture nutrients in factories, producing food for famines that required no input from agricultural labour and no lengthy process of growing plants in soil.

All these examples show how technical humanitarian systems were influenced by prevailing ideas in politics, culture, and society. In this respect, humanitarianism is no different from development, with fashions and ideologies coming and going, leaving their imprint in technical systems. I conclude that our current arrangements for managing hunger in emergencies are similarly influenced by recent trends towards individualism and faith in markets. These come with benefits as well as costs. We can argue about whether a particular approach is efficient or inefficient, whether it is fair or not, whether it is progressive or reactionary, but we can no longer claim that it operates in a purified neutral and apolitical space, as the ideals of classical humanitarian might suggest.

Tom Scott-Smith (2020) *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*, Cornell University Press

# 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.

In this section you can read examples of recent impact on policy from our research groups, as well as a personal reflection from our academic Simukai Chigudu on his high-profile involvement with Rhodes Must Fall and Black Lives Matter.



## FEATURED IMPACT

### HELPING GOVERNMENTS FIGHT POVERTY DURING COVID-19

By **Maya Evans**  
**Research Communications Officer,**  
**OPHI**

From the outset of the pandemic, it was clear that the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty would be severe. The crisis has provided another sobering perspective on inequalities and their consequences, and threatens to exacerbate these disparities further. The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, observed in July that ‘while we are all floating on the same sea...it’s clear that some are in superyachts while others are clinging to the floating debris’.

The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has been working to support governments as they respond to the COVID-19 crisis. At the beginning of the pandemic, OPHI undertook assessments of possible vulnerability across populations in developing regions including a special study of Sub-Saharan Africa. Online maps were created to show the proportion

and number of people at high risk if they contracted COVID-19 due to deprivation in three key indicators – nutrition, drinking water, and cooking fuel. Our research showed that globally, some 472 million people are living with deprivation in all three indicators.

OPHI has also been supporting governments to create multidimensional vulnerability indices to inform national rapid assessments, and together with the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), a network of countries and organisations implementing multidimensional poverty measures, has been sharing countries’ experiences of their emergency and post-emergency responses in meetings, public webinars, online and through issues of the MPPN magazine *Dimensions*.

Meanwhile, OPHI has been continuing its work to embed multidimensional poverty measurement around the world. This year five countries – Seychelles, Maldives, the State of Palestine, Ghana

and Angola – have launched new national Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) to track the progress of their policies and to inform more efficient and coordinated poverty reduction.

This year also marked ten years since the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (global MPI) was first launched. The 2020 joint report with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP HDRO) profiled the first comprehensive study of harmonised trends in multidimensional poverty covering 5 billion people. The study found that 65 out of 75 countries reduced MPI significantly over the time periods studied.

The report also explored whether, before the pandemic, countries had been on track to achieve their commitment to halve multidimensional poverty between 2015 and the 2030 in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If observed trends had continued, 47 out of 75 countries would have been on track. These positive findings were counterbalanced by the current crisis. In addition to the annual update showing where multidimensional poverty persists globally, the report included simulations based on different scenarios using two indicators of the global MPI which suggest that, if unaddressed, progress in reducing MPI across 70 developing countries could be set back between 3 and 10 years.

At the launch event for the global MPI, the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, said of the MPI it ‘helps us figure out where to apply pressure to do the greatest good for the greatest number...where we can act now to tackle the more severe effects of the crisis, and what we can do to prepare countries and communities for the next one.’ The hope at OPHI is that despite the challenges of 2020, progress against poverty reduction can be sustained through continued monitoring and measurement and with the innovation and the continued commitment of colleagues in poverty reduction across governments, civil society, academia, business, and the wider public.



Dhiraj Singh

### FACILITATING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FOR LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

By **Jo Boyce**  
**Communications Officer, ODID**

Professor Xiaolan Fu has played an integral role in the creation of a new online platform that aims to give low-income countries better information about technology and innovation to help them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Connect platform provides users with access to information, best practice, and lessons learned from existing science, technology, and innovation (STI) initiatives within the United Nations system and beyond. It was launched at the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July. Users can search for publications and knowledge resources; technology solutions; financial resources and matchmaking; and capacity development.

Professor Fu led the independent review working group for the online platform.

Launch of 2030 Connect is a key achievement of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which was established by the UN in 2015 to enable governments, civil society, business, the scientific community, UN agencies, and other actors to collaborate and to evaluate how different technologies can help or hinder achievement of the SDGs.

The TFM also comprises an inter-agency task team on STI, currently consisting of 42 entities; an annual multi-stakeholder forum on STI for the SDGs; and a ten-member advisory group, as well as the online platform. Professor Fu was appointed to the advisory group, the only academic member, in 2016.

The TFM is central to achievement of SDG9 (‘Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation’) and SDG17 (‘Global cooperation in a cumulative and collaborative way’).

Professor Fu’s involvement with the TFM resulted from her research into the role of



Deo photographer, CC BY-SA 4.0

innovation in low-income countries and her engagement with the UN organisation over several years.

Research undertaken by Professor Fu as part of the Diffusion of Innovation in Low-income Countries (DILIC) project at the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD) reviewed and analysed the global evidence available on the nature of innovation in LICs, its origins and diffusion channels, the barriers to innovation, and the role of innovation in sustainable development. This comprehensive study was complemented by in-depth studies of firms in Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya.

A key finding of the project was that increasing technological capabilities in LICs needed to be seen by researchers and policy-makers as an essential current means of development and not just as a desirable future *outcome* of development.

The DILIC project findings helped to transform policy-makers’ understanding of the potential for and barriers to innovation in LICs, and through the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) which supported the project, its findings were disseminated across the developing world.

The work led to Professor Fu being invited to address the UN General Assembly in 2014. Drawing on results from DILIC, Professor Fu argued that innovation was a strategic priority for LICs and helped to form a high-level policy consensus between UN member states on the importance of technology and innovation in achieving the SDGs.

She was then invited to lead a symposium at the UN Development Cooperation Forum in April 2015 in South Korea. Both meetings were critical in setting the agenda for the Addis Ababa meeting in August 2015, at which the TFM was agreed.

In recognition of the importance of the Oxford research, Professor Fu was also appointed by then-UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in 2017 to the Governing Council of a new UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Bank aims to support technology access, acquisition, and utilisation in LDCs and to promote research networking among their STI communities. Its operationalisation marked the achievement of the first SDG target – target 17.8.

Professor Fu is Professor of Technology and International Development at ODID and Director of the TMCD.



## CONFRONTING ANTI-BLACK RACISM AT OXFORD AND BEYOND

**By Simukai Chigudu**  
**Associate Professor African Politics**

The toppling of the Edward Colston statue in Bristol made for a dramatic scene. The frantic energy of large crowds cheering while the statue of the slave merchant plunged into the Avon river signalled the release of pent-up tension and frustration, accumulated during a pandemic crisis and widespread anti-racism protests in the summer of 2020.

Within 48 hours, Oxford was seized by the same zeal. Over 1,000 people gathered on the city's High Street to call for the removal of the statue commemorating the notorious Victorian imperialist, Cecil John Rhodes. A wide range of advocacy groups from different parts of Oxford staged a coordinated, peaceful, and impassioned protest about the statue and about structural racism in Britain.

When it was my turn to address the crowd, I introduced myself as one of about seven black professors (official statistics are not available) at the University of Oxford to simultaneous cheers and shock. I proceeded to say that I am an angry black man, fully aware of the ugly stereotype that accompanies this image – hot-blooded, impervious to reason, and unworthy of serious engagement – particularly when talking about matters of racial injustice. But how

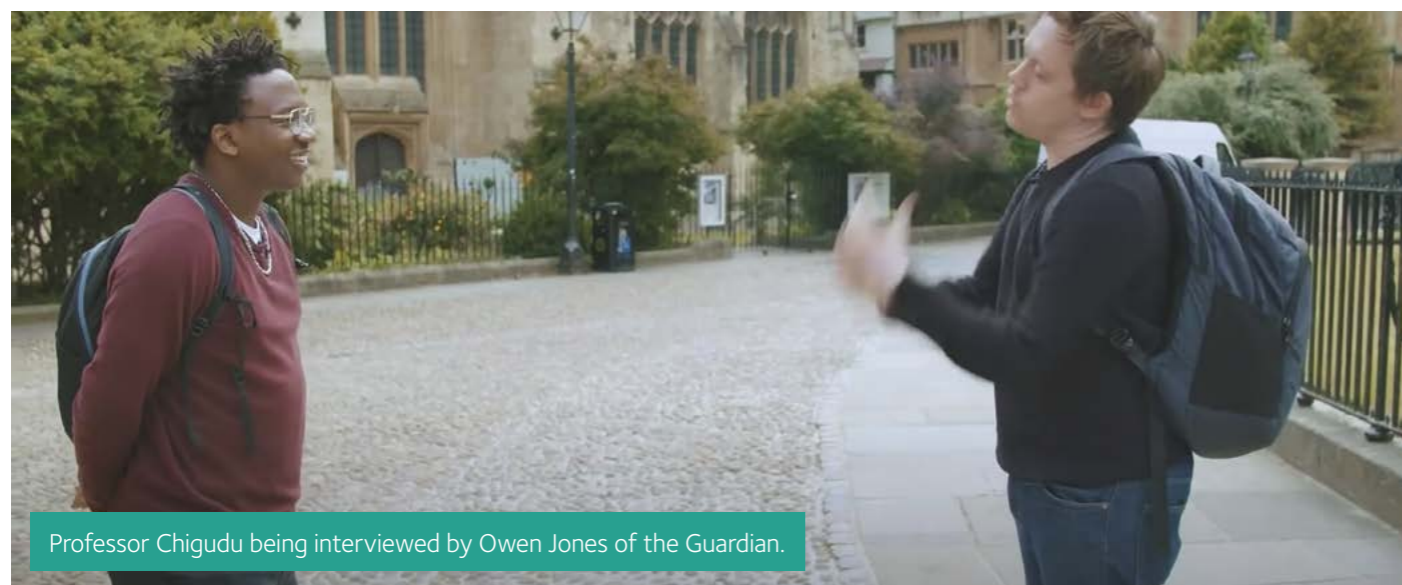
could I not be angry? Like many other black people in the UK and around the world, I witnessed the brutal torture and murder of George Floyd with outrage and revulsion. Outrage and revulsion at the long legacy of structural and institutional racism that has killed, exploited, subjugated, and silenced so many black people in the United States, in Britain, and in former white settler colonies.

It is this same outrage at institutional racism that ignited the Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) campaign in South Africa in early 2015. That protest rapidly became transnational, announcing itself in Oxford by asking uncomfortable questions about the University's past. A former imperial training ground, Oxford is strewn with tributes to the great men of the British Empire, who have portraits, busts, engravings, statues, and even buildings dedicated to their memory. Routinely forgotten are the histories of conquest, famine, and dispossession that these men left in their wake. RMF drew attention to this iconography as part of a manifold agenda that included two additional aims: reforming the Eurocentric curricula that dominate the university's pedagogy across diverse fields of study and addressing the under-representation and inadequate welfare provision for black and minority ethnic staff and students at Oxford. Crucially, in 2015 and now, RMF opened up discussions about how we talk about the dynamics of race and racism,

inclusion and exclusion, and being and belonging in Britain.

I was a DPhil student in ODID at that time as well as a founding member of our chapter of RMF. Initial reactions to our movement was often hostile, infantilising, and casually racist. Five years later, the conversation has progressed. It now appears that the Rhodes statue may well be removed while more members of our University community seem to have accepted the reality and complexity of anti-black racism. Symbolic victories are important. But they are a point of departure not arrival when pursuing a more widespread project of institutional change.

Throughout this summer, I have been called upon by a multitude of constituencies to recount the history of RMF, explain the contours of anti-black racism, and propose pathways forward to a more equitable future. This has been too much of a burden for me to bear as an individual and speaks to the crisis of representation of black faculty in the university. For an anti-racism project to be sustainable, it will need much more collective engagement. Racism cannot only be a concern for those directly affected by it. My own hope is that we at ODID can – with our usual rigour and interdisciplinary thinking – mobilise our expertise to tackle anti-black racism in our community and globally.



Professor Chigudu being interviewed by Owen Jones of the Guardian.

## 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. This year, they have been in demand for analysis of the implications of the pandemic on a wide range of issues related to development studies. A selection of this year's COVID-19 commentary is presented below.**

### 19 July 2020

'Coronavirus could reverse a decade of progress in reducing global poverty levels, UN study suggests'. *The Independent* wrote about the 2020 global MPI from OPHI and the UNDP and what it reveals about COVID-19

### 8 July 2020

'Microfinance and COVID-19 in Pakistan: What happens after lockdown?' Muhammad Meki discussed the impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan's microfinance sector in a webinar for FinDev Gateway

### 19 June 2020

'Hitting the brakes: rise in COVID-19 cases in India forces more lockdowns'. Nikita Sud was interviewed by *TRT World* about the economic implications of COVID-19 for India as it goes in and out of cycles of lockdown

### 19 June 2020

'Lives or livelihoods? Global estimates of the mortality and poverty costs of COVID-19'. In a blog for the World Bank, Olivier Sterck and colleagues set out a way in which the health and economic costs of the pandemic can be expressed through a common unit

### 19 June 2020

'A time capsule for future social science researchers: Loren B Landau'. In an interview with the Social Science Research Council, Loren Landau suggested COVID-19 offers oppressive states new powers to manage, exploit, or sacrifice certain populations

### 4 June 2020

'The two faces of income inequality: who'll be hardest hit by the pandemic?'. Diego Sánchez-Ancochea wrote for the UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab about inequality in the pandemic, emphasising that the elite may end up being beneficiaries

### 2 June 2020

'History tells us coronavirus pandemic could lead to global reduction in poverty, Oxford academic says'. Sabina Alkire was interviewed by the *Independent* on the potential impact of the pandemic

### 30 May 2020

'How colonialism and austerity are shaping Africa's response to the coronavirus'. Simukai Chigudu was interviewed by *Jacobin* magazine about COVID-19 in Africa

### 22 May 2020

'Global value chains, innovation and international trade'. Xiaolan Fu discussed the short-term disruptions and likely long-term transformations caused by COVID-19 in a podcast for the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum

### 20 May 2020

'Many refugees living in Nairobi struggle to survive because of COVID-19'. Naohiko Omata wrote for the *Conversation* on the ways in which the pandemic is disrupting refugees' ability to support themselves

### 18 May 2020

'Coming of age in the time of coronavirus: young lives and families in low- and middle-income countries'. Gina Crivello drew on the findings of Young Lives' Young Marriage and Parenthood study and the implications of COVID-19 for the University of Oxford's *Science blog*

### 18 May 2020

'Pandemic narratives and the historian'. Simukai Chigudu took part in an interview with leading historians of public health, epidemics, and disaster science about history and COVID-19 for the *LA Review of Books*



**12 May 2020**

'COVID-19 in the Palestinian refugee camps'. Anne Irfan wrote for the RSC's *COVID blog* on Palestinian refugee communities' particular vulnerabilities to COVID-19 as a result of 72 years of displacement and overlapping crises and rights violations

**5 May 2020**

'Ghost towns and crackdowns: the politics of urban COVID-19 control'. David Jackman and Tom Goodfellow wrote for the *SIID blog* on the range of strategies for urban control used by political elites in response to COVID-19, from coercion and overt violence to 'generative' interventions that aim to consolidate support

**1 May 2020**

'Buyer responsibility and the growing crisis in Bangladesh'. Chris Woodruff explored the impact of COVID-19 on the Bangladesh garment industry and suggested decisions by foreign buyers on whether to honour commitments to previously agreed orders would play a crucial role in a post for *VOX EU*.

**28 April 2020**

'Why refugees are an asset in the fight against coronavirus'. Alexander Betts, Evan Easton-Calabria, and Kate Pincock wrote for the *Conversation* about how the work of refugee-led organisations is now more relevant than ever in responding to the consequences of COVID-19

**22 April 2020**

'Distress deepens in Indian villages, worsening economic pain'. Nikita Sud spoke to *Bloomberg* about rural unemployment in India in light of migrants' return to their villages

**21 April 2020**

'Shelter from the Middle East's perfect storm'. Adeel Malik wrote for *Project Syndicate* on the critical necessity of a new cooperative regional order in the Middle East amidst the pandemic

**17 April 2020**

'Nearly 60 million of India's poor most vulnerable'. Sabina Alkire and Christian Oldiges spoke to *Hindustan Times* about the high risk of the pandemic to India's most poor

**14 April 2020**

'Coronavirus puts class dimension of mobility into sharp focus'. Robin Cohen wrote for the *Conversation* on how the pandemic demonstrates the salience of class to the spread, containment, and impact of infectious diseases

**14 April 2020**

'COVID-19 has Kenyan refugee camp on edge'. Cory Rodgers wrote in *The New Humanitarian* on preparations at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya ahead of a potential outbreak of the virus

**13 April 2020**

'Africa does not need saving during this pandemic'. Robtel Neajai Pailey wrote for *Al Jazeera* on what lessons can be learnt from the global South's examples of ingenuity, generosity, and empathy during the pandemic

**8 April 2020**

'The marooned malaise: COVID-19 and Africa's stolen futures'. Loren Landau reflected on what the COVID-19 containment means for sub-Saharan African imaginations and politics for the *COMPAS blog*

**6 April 2020**

'The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global value chains and policy choices for China'. Xiaolan Fu wrote for the *Financial Times* about the impact of the pandemic

**3 April 2020**

'Access to digital learning during COVID-19 closures: compounding educational inequality?'. Rhiannon Moore and Lyida Marshall wrote on the implications of school closures across the world for the *Young Lives blog*

**31 March 2020**

'How data-mining companies are set to gain from the COVID-19 pandemic'. Ivan Manokha wrote for *OpenDemocracy* that such companies will be empowered and normalised, to the detriment of democracy

**31 March 2020**

'Digital diplomacy in the time of the coronavirus pandemic'. Corneliu Bjola co-authored a post with former DPhil student Ilan Manor for the *CPD Blog* analysing how effectively ministries of foreign affairs are using social media during the pandemic

**26 March 2020**

'From cholera to corona: The politics of plagues in Africa'. Simukai Chigudu discussed the lessons for the coronavirus response from the 2008 cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe with *Africa is a Country*

**25 March 2020**

'They have been left completely in limbo'. Nikita Sud was interviewed by *TRT World* on the impact of India's coronavirus lockdown on the country's informal workers

**25 March 2020**

'Oxford scholar sees COVID-19 pandemic as "wake-up call for collaboration"'. Xiaolan Fu spoke to *Xinhua News* about the need for global corporation to address the pandemic

**3 March 2020**

'The division of global value chains has been changing'. Xiaolan Fu was interviewed by *Xinhua Net* on the likely impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the Chinese economy

# EVENTS



Lur Alghurabi

The pandemic inevitably had a huge impact on ODID's normal events schedule this year. While Michaelmas term saw us hosting our seminar series, public lectures, and policy-related events as usual, in Hilary and Trinity term we abandoned in person events and moved online. While the switch to Zoom and Teams was forced upon us, we rapidly embraced the opportunities offered by the new formats to attract larger audiences from across the world.

We held a very successful public engagement series, Oxford Development Talks, as well as co-hosting a new series with the London School of Economics and Political Science, exploring the impact of the pandemic from the perspective of development studies. Our research groups ran webinars, public lectures and seminar series, many of them focussing on the implications of COVID-19, including a series from the Refugee Studies Centre co-hosted with refugee organisations, which would have been impossible to achieve with an Oxford-based event.

Please note that due to the pandemic, the regular RSC and OPHI Summer Schools did not take place in 2020.

Read about some of the highlights from our 2019/20 events calendar in this section.

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)



### Governance and Impact of Research in Low- and Middle-income Countries: Perspectives of Young Lives Country Directors

6 February 2020

Saïd Business School, Oxford

This event, supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund, brought together Young Lives' country directors from Ethiopia, India, and Peru, to share their perspectives as long-term partners in the Oxford-led study.

The event was produced as a podcast and in the first episode, Professor Santiago Cueto, Dr Renu Singh, and Dr Alula Pankhurst drew on their experience in research, governance, and policy engagement to highlight the strategies they have used to ensure research impact.

Listen to the podcast:

[bit.ly/YL\\_Methodological](https://bit.ly/YL_Methodological)



### The Asian Miracle: Learning from a Half-century of Development



5 March 2020

Harris Manchester College, Oxford  
**Deepak Nayyar**, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

This lecture analysed the phenomenal transformation of Asia, which would have been difficult to imagine, let alone predict, 50 years ago. In doing so, it provided an analytical narrative of this remarkable story of economic

development, situated in the wider context of historical, political, and social factors, and an economic analysis of the underlying factors, with a focus on critical issues in the process of, and outcomes in, development. The analytical conclusions drawn contribute to contemporary debates on development, and highlight some lessons from the Asian experience for countries elsewhere.

### Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019: 'The Map is Not the Territory: Story-making, Place and Performance'

30 October 2019

St Anne's College, Oxford

**Dame Marina Warner**, novelist and Professor of English and Creative Writing, Birkbeck College

Dame Marina Warner explored the potential of imaginative tale-spinning in establishing a sense of place and belonging, drawing upon her current project, 'Stories in Transit'. This project organises storytelling workshops in the UK and in Palermo, bringing young migrant students together with artists, writers, and musicians. It aims to establish the right of displaced individuals to cultural expression, to encourage story making, and to inspire participants to draw on their own traditions and imagination.

Listen to the lecture: [bit.ly/HBL\\_2020](https://bit.ly/HBL_2020)

### Marriage and Divorce in Adolescents: Before and After COVID-19

19 May 2020

Online

Twelve million girls are married under the age of 18 every year, and UN agencies warn of a doubling of this number due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Young Lives, together with Child Frontiers, Girls Not Brides, and GreeneWorks, organised a webinar to promote discussion of what measures need to be taken to ensure that life does not return to 'normal' after COVID-19, but equally that key gains for gender equality are not lost.

Speakers included: Nikki van der Gaag (independent gender consultant); Ramata Molo Thioune (IDRC); Gina Crivello (Young Lives); Gillian Mann (Child Frontiers); Chelsea L Ricker (lifelong sexual and reproductive rights activist); Rachel Yates (Girls Not Brides); Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (WHO).

Watch the recording:  
[bit.ly/YL\\_Marriage](https://bit.ly/YL_Marriage)

### Side Event with Costa Rica at 74th Session of UN General Assembly

25 September 2019

UNHQ, New York

OPHI held a Side Event during the SDG Summit at the 74th UN General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York. Hosted by the President of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado, high-level speakers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Chile, Curaçao, Costa Rica, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, USA, League of Arab States, Sida, UNDP, UN-ECLAC, and UNICEF shared their experiences of using multidimensional poverty indices (MPIs) to fight the interlinked features of poverty.

### Overcoming Boko Haram: A Book and a Conversation

1 June 2020

Online

This event launched *Overcoming Boko Haram: Faith, Society and Islamic Radicalisation in Northern Nigeria*, by Abdul Raufu Mustapha and Kate Meagher (eds). The book examines the social and political processes that explain the rise of the Nigerian Islamic extremist group known as Boko Haram, and considers what it can tell us about the rise of Islamic violence in West Africa more broadly. Looking beyond the preoccupation with jihadis and global terrorist networks, the book offers new insights into the drivers of Islamic extremism in Nigeria and beyond – poverty, regional inequality, environmental stress, youth unemployment, and state corruption and human rights abuses – with a view to charting more sustainable paths out of the conflict.

Speakers included Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea (ODID); Dr Kate Meagher (London School of Economics and Political Science); Dr Rahmane Idrissa (University of Leiden); Dr Adeel Malik (ODID and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies) and Dr Abubakar Kawu Monguno (University of Maiduguri).

Find out more: [bit.ly/OBH\\_launch](https://bit.ly/OBH_launch)

### Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020: 'Mobility and Immobility in the Time of Coronavirus: Reflections from Long-term Study of Migration and Displacement'

24 June 2020

Online

**Professor Laura Hammond**, SOAS, University of London

As the COVID-19 virus spreads across the world, more than a quarter of citizens are living under some form of restricted movement. For migrants, refugees, and others for whom mobility is an essential, even a life-saving act, these restrictions pose particular risks. In this lecture, Professor Hammond explored how forced migration studies can help us to better understand the monumental implications of the coronavirus pandemic on communities involved or affected by migration and displacement, with particular reference to the Horn of Africa region.

Watch the lecture:  
[bit.ly/ECL\\_2020](https://bit.ly/ECL_2020)

### Launch of the 2020 Global MPI

16 July 2020

UNHQ, New York

OPHI and the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme launched the findings of the annual update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index. Moderated by UNDP's Administrator, Achim Steiner, the high-level panel included Mr Abdul Mannan, Honourable Minister of Planning from Bangladesh; Isabel Saint Malo, the former Vice-President of Panama; Professor Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; Dean Joliffe, Lead Economist at the World



Bank; and Theadora Swift Koller, Senior Technical Advisor, Equity, at the World Health Organisation. Prince Clem Ikanade Agba, Honourable Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Nigeria, sent a written address.

Watch the launch: [bit.ly/MPI\\_2020](https://bit.ly/MPI_2020)



### LSE-Oxford Seminar Series: 'Insights from Development Studies in the Era of the Pandemic'

Online

ODID and the London School of Economics and Political Science co-hosted an online series exploring COVID-19 and development studies. The series included the following talks: **The Macroeconomic Impact of Coronavirus** with Ben Radley (LSE) and Xiaolan Fu (Oxford); **Migration, Refugees and Human Dignity** with Nimesh Dhungana (LSE) and Alexander Betts (Oxford); **The COVID Drama in Africa: Tales of the Unexpected** with Kate Meagher (LSE) and Simukai Chigudu (Oxford) and **Health, Poverty and Human Development** with Ernestina Coast and Rishita Nandagiri (LSE) and Sabina Alkire (Oxford).

Watch the talks: [bit.ly/ODID\\_LSE](https://bit.ly/ODID_LSE)



### UNDP and OPHI MOOC: 'Designing a Multidimensional Poverty Index'

Online

UNDP and OPHI launched a highly successful MOOC via Learning for Nature entitled 'Designing a multidimensional poverty index'. The course brought together over 2,400 policy-makers, technical experts, and other stakeholders engaged in developing national and subnational MPIs. It is now available as a self-paced online module at [bit.ly/OPHI\\_MOOC](https://bit.ly/OPHI_MOOC)

### OPHI/MPPN Webinars

Online

OPHI and the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) hosted a number of webinars discussing responses to COVID-19 from the perspective of policy-makers working in poverty reduction. Sabina Alkire and Monica Pinilla from OPHI presented the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which can identify those most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 to help focus emergency responses. Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director of the

National Statistics Office of Colombia (DANE), presented the experience of Colombia in using an MPI alongside other data to identify the households which might be the most vulnerable to COVID-19. In July, panellists explained some of the key findings from the 2020 global MPI report, including a presentation on 'changes over time in multidimensional poverty' and a section on how COVID-19 could affect multidimensional poverty.

### RSC Public Seminar Series: '#ByRefugees – Strengthening Refugee-led Humanitarian Response during the COVID-19 Pandemic'

Online

The RSC's Trinity term webinar series focused on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of COVID-19. It featured panels of individuals whose work is shaping how we understand and support refugee-led responses during crisis. Their accomplishments – whether as practitioners, policy influencers, funders, or community responders – challenge conventional top-down approaches to humanitarian assistance. These approaches are increasingly important in the current context, in which traditional humanitarian capacity has been stretched and forced to adapt. Refugee-led organisations are on the frontline of the response, in both refugee camps and cities. Series conveners were Alexander Betts and Andonis Marden (Refugee Studies Centre), Shaza Al Rihawi, Anila Noor, Najeeba Wazefadost, and Mustafa Alio (Global Refugee-Led Network). Many panellists were refugees. Panels included topics such as refugee-led responses in urban contexts; how international organisations can support refugee-led organisations; philanthropic support for refugee-led initiatives; refugee-led responses in camp settings; and refugees in international humanitarian organisations.

Find full details, including links to the webinars: [bit.ly/RSC\\_ByRefugees](https://bit.ly/RSC_ByRefugees)



### Oxford Development Talks

Online

This series aimed to showcase the best of Oxford thinking on international development, making it accessible to a wider general public.

International development faces major challenges in the context of COVID-19. Low and middle-income countries are likely to be the worst affected, not only by the virus but also its indirect consequences for the global economy, multilateral funding, and the provision of essential public services. With the public focused increasingly on domestic challenges, there is a risk of declining support for bilateral and multilateral assistance. It is thus more important than ever that the wider public can understand, engage with, and debate key ideas in international development.

The series included talks focused on poverty, equality, migration, human rights, and trade, in India, Africa and Latin America, among others.

Watch the full series: [bit.ly/OxDevTalks](https://bit.ly/OxDevTalks)

# PUBLICATIONS



The department continued to produce a steady stream of top-flight academic publications during 2019/20. You can find out more about this year's publications by departmental staff in this section.

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. This year, *ODS* relaunched with new aims and scope – find out more on p31.

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).

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.





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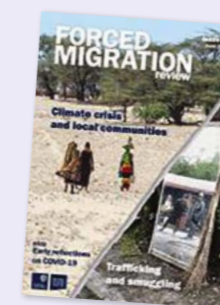
**Sterck**, Olivier (with Cory **Rodgers**, Jade **Siu**, Maria **Stierna** and Alexander **Betts**) (2020) *Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement*, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

UNDP and **OPHI** (2020) *Global Multidimensional Poverty index 2020 – Charting Pathways out of Multidimensional Poverty: Achieving the SDGs*. UNDP and OPHI

**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 64

**Climate crisis and local communities / Trafficking and smuggling / COVID-19: Early reflections**  
June 2020



The first of these three features focuses on the impact of the climate crisis on local communities, their coping strategies, lessons arising, and broader questions of access, rights, and justice. The Trafficking and smuggling feature explores some of the current challenges, misconceptions, insights, and innovations in these two areas. And the shorter COVID-19 feature offers preliminary reflections on the pandemic, focusing on the role of refugee-led organisations and the need for data to inform responses.

FMR 63

**Cities and towns**  
February 2020



Cities and towns are on the frontline of receiving and welcoming people who have been displaced. In this issue of FMR, policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, representatives of cities and international city-focused alliances, and displaced people themselves debate the challenges facing both the urban authorities and their partners, and the people who come to live there.

FMR 62

**Return: Voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?**  
October 2019



Voluntary return in safety and with dignity has long been a core tenet of the international refugee regime. In the 23 articles on 'Return' in this issue of FMR, authors explore various obstacles to achieving sustainable return, discuss the need to guard against premature or forced return, and debate the assumptions and perceptions that influence policy and practice. This issue also includes a mini-feature on 'Towards understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement'.

**Oxford Development Studies** (ODS), the multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that is edited from ODID, has relaunched, with revised aims and scope, a restructuring of its editorial advisory board and a new cover design. The relaunch sets the journal on a new course to meet the current and future demands of the field of development studies.



In the face of ongoing and new global challenges, the journal aims to serve as a forum for a wide range of voices to contribute to the production of knowledge and ideas in development studies. To this end, ODS has restructured its editorial advisory board to ensure greater inclusion of both women and scholars based in the global South.

It has also revised its aims and scope: '*Oxford Development Studies* is a peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum for rigorous and critical analysis of the processes of social, political, and economic change that characterise development.

ODS publishes articles grounded in one or more regions of the world as well as comparative studies. Our intellectual approach is open to work that is interdisciplinary or rooted in a single discipline, such as politics, anthropology, sociology, economics, geography, or history; however, we are committed to the idea that the journal should be relevant and accessible to a readership drawn from across the social sciences. The journal provides an outlet for contributions to development theory and for original empirical analyses, both quantitative and qualitative, as well as mixed methods.

In view of asymmetries in knowledge production and circulation in development studies, the journal seeks to include high-quality research from the perspective of those traditionally marginalised in academic publications. In particular, we aim to expand the range of articles by authors from the global South'.

As part of the relaunch, ODS initiated a new series of articles on Critical Issues in Development. To date, the journal has commissioned articles on migration, technology, race, gender, and the environment.

It is anticipated that each of these will include a critical commentary on the current state of the literature on the relevant topic as well as a forward-looking reflection on the future development of the field, including analytical questions that should be addressed in the coming years.

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



# PEOPLE



As of 31 July 2020, the department had 121 staff members, including core academic teaching staff, research officers and assistants in our research programmes, and communications and support staff. Of our teaching staff, 12 are Professors, 13 Associate Professors, and 10 Departmental Lecturers.

The diversity of our academic and research staff reflects our commitment to international development objectives, with 50% women and a majority of non-UK origin. This year we were delighted to welcome a new Professor of Migration and Development, Loren Landau, and a new Associate

Professor of Development Studies, Maxim Bolt to the department, as well as a new Director for our Young Lives study, Andy McKay. We were also saddened by the death of Gil Loescher, a long-time Visiting Professor at the Refugee Studies Centre. Read about his life and work overleaf.

## Loren Landau

joined us as Professor of Migration and Development from the African Centre for Migration & Society at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, where he was the founding director. Professor Landau's interdisciplinary scholarship explores mobility, multi-scale governance, and the transformation of socio-political communities across the global South. Along with continued work on xenophobia, inclusion, and representation, he currently oversees a multi-year initiative exploring mobility, temporality, and urban politics in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. To help realign the politics of knowledge production on human mobility, he spearheads multiple initiatives supporting critical migration and urban studies across sub-Saharan Africa, including the Academy for African Urban Diversity and the African Research University Alliance's programme on 'emerging urban subjectivities' supporting doctoral students in Nairobi, Cape Town, Harare, Accra, and Johannesburg.



**Andy McKay** joined us as Director of Young Lives. Professor McKay was formerly Professor of Development Economics at the University of Sussex.

Most recently, his research has focused on labour issues in developing countries, in particular on gender and young people. He also works on poverty/inequality and how these are impacted by policy, informality; health issues; and on international trade. He brings extensive experience of giving policy advice to bilateral donors, international organisations, and governments of developing countries and was also an associate director of the DFID-funded Chronic Poverty Research Centre from 2005–11.



**Maxim Bolt** joined us as Associate Professor of Development Studies from the University of Birmingham.

Professor Bolt is an anthropologist working largely on questions of economy in southern Africa – particularly labour, migration, borders, the social dynamics of money, and property inheritance. His first major project investigated South Africa's border with Zimbabwe, its large-scale commercial agriculture, its black workforces and white landowners, and the effects of concentrated formal employment in a context of crisis, upheaval and displacement. He now researches property inheritance, the state and class reproduction in Johannesburg, South Africa.



## GIL LOESCHER 1945–2020

Earlier this year, the Refugee Studies Centre and ODID lost a brilliant, kind, and inspiring colleague. Professor Gil Loescher dedicated his life to studying and teaching at the intersection of Refugee Studies and International Relations. He used his research to shape refugee policy and practice around the world, informing the work of organisations such as UNHCR and the US State Department, as well as working directly with refugees and displaced people in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Born in San Francisco, Gil went to St Mary's College of California on a basketball scholarship, before training as an international historian and political scientist at the LSE. Gil then spent 25 years as a professor at Notre Dame, before relocating to the UK and taking up a position at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, in the early 2000s. He had a longstanding relationship with the Refugee Studies Centre following its establishment in the early 1980s, consistently pushing for Refugee Studies to engage more effectively with politics and history, visiting to teach and engage on numerous occasions. For most of the last two decades, we have been privileged to have Gil as a permanent presence at the RSC, most notably holding the title of Visiting Professor – one that massively understated his contribution to the Centre.

Gil's intellectual contribution to Refugee Studies is immense. He is, without doubt, the single most important academic to work on the international relations of forced migration. His approach can be characterised as drawing upon historical research to inform and engage with contemporary practice. He undertook pioneering archival research on the history of US refugee policy and on the history of UNHCR. His rigorous historical engagement enabled him to authoritatively identify recurring patterns and easily identify past precedent, in ways that were prescient to policy-makers. And his writing is a rare balance of rigour, accessibility, and empathy.

Throughout Gil's scholarship are a series of common themes. Perhaps most importantly he recognised that refugee protection is inherently political, and needs to be seen as such, a perspective that paved the way for a generation of political scientists and international relations scholars to work on refugee issues. Throughout his writing can be found a preoccupation with the injustice of refugee camps, the futility of building walls to contain refugees, and the importance of refugee resettlement. His overarching goal was to find practical ways to make the international

refugee regime more effective in protecting, assisting, and providing solutions to refugees. And within this, a major focus was on highlighting the agency and autonomy of international organisations like UNHCR – and its staff – to make a real and tangible difference in practice.

Gil suffered life-changing injuries in the August 2003 bombing of the UN compound in Baghdad, while advising on the humanitarian response for displaced Iraqis. Following his injuries, Gil inspired many with his rapid return to work, and his research engaged even more directly with the refugee communities he served. Despite the practical challenges, he embraced fieldwork, connecting with disabled refugees in the Burmese border camps in Thailand, for example. And this shift in focus was underscored by his work on protracted refugee situations, which had a notable difference in shaping policy debates on alternatives to encampment.

Gil was an inspiring teacher. He delivered his course on 'UNHCR in World Politics' to more than a dozen cohorts of MSc students. It was interactive and applied, taking concepts from international relations and grounding them in practice. Each year, students would have the opportunity to write and present a policy brief on how to address a particular protracted refugee situation. He would encourage innovative thinking, and students would delve deeply into ways to overcome encampment in situations from Dadaab to Cox's Bazar. He was still teaching earlier this year.

As a colleague at the RSC, Gil was unfailingly kind and generous. He would always make time for students and faculty who sought his advice, graciously volunteer his time for meetings and to assess the work of masters' and doctoral students, and try to contribute wherever he could make a difference. His nearly two decades of contribution to the RSC were largely unpaid, and yet he contributed as though he were permanent faculty.

Gil's legacy to the RSC is not only a seminal contribution to Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, but as a shining beacon of inspiration for how to be an academic who can make a real difference to people's lives, whether refugees, students, or colleagues. We will miss him greatly, but we will not forget his legacy, as a scholar or as a human being.

*Alexander Betts, Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs*





## HONOURS, AWARDS AND PRIZES

The University of Oxford was awarded The Queen's Anniversary Prize for research carried out by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative** in a ceremony hosted by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at Buckingham Palace.

The award recognised the work of OPHI on the measurement and understanding of global poverty and the contribution of its applied research to improving policymaking in poverty reduction by governments and international agencies.

The Boris Mints Institute of Tel Aviv University also awarded its 2020 prize to **Sabina Alkire**, OPHI Director, for her work on poverty. The 2020 BMI Prize was awarded to Dr Alkire 'for her extensive research and substantial public action in the field of poverty and inequality'.

### Cathryn Costello

was awarded the title of Professor in the University's annual Recognition of Distinction exercise.

She is now Professor of Refugee and Migration Law. Professor Costello's research is concerned with international refugee and migration law, and she currently leads an interdisciplinary team at ODID working on refugee recognition and the global governance of refugee mobility.

Professor Costello was also granted special leave from the Refugee Studies Centre to take up the newly created post of Professor of Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin from September 2020. She will also co-direct Hertie's new Centre of Fundamental Rights with Professor Basak Çali.

### Tom Scott-Smith

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration, was one of ten researchers to be selected from across the UK as 2020 'New Generation Thinkers' by BBC Radio 3 and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The New Generation Thinkers scheme offers a chance for early career researchers, with support and training provided by AHRC and the BBC, to cultivate the skills to communicate their research findings to those outside the academic community, helping the next generation of researchers find new and wider audiences for their research by giving them a platform to share their ideas.

The successful ten were selected from hundreds of applications from researchers at the start of their careers. Previous New Generation Thinkers have gone on to become prominent public figures in their field as well as the face of major documentaries, TV series, and regular figures in public debate.

Professor Scott-Smith specialises in the ethnographic and historical study of humanitarian relief.

**Alexander Betts**, Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, was conferred the award of Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS).

Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences are elected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to research and to the application of social science to policy, education, society, and the economy.

The Academy's Fellowship is made up of distinguished individuals from academic, public, and private sectors, across the full breadth of the social sciences. This year the Academy welcomed 51 new Fellows.

Professor Betts was also named a University Public Engagement with Research (PER) Leader for 2019–20.

The PER Leadership scheme enables academics to take on a leadership role in a culture change project for their departments and faculties to enhance support for PER.

**Cheryl Doss**, Senior Departmental Lecturer and Associate Professor, was named an Honorary Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE).

The AAAE is a nonprofit association, serving the professional interests of its members, working in agricultural and broadly related fields of development economics.

The award was made during the AAAE's 6th conference held in Abuja, Nigeria. Professor Doss also gave the Memorial Address at the conference, on 'Understanding rural household behaviour: Insights from an emerging literature'.

Professor Doss is a development economist whose research focuses on issues related to assets, agriculture, and gender with a regional focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

**Xiaolan Fu**, Professor of Technology and International Development, was appointed to the 2019 Newton Prize committee.

The £1 million Newton Prize recognises excellent science, research and innovation in support of economic development and social welfare in the Newton Fund's 17 partner countries.

It celebrates the best partnerships between the UK and Newton countries, encouraging international collaboration to address global challenges. For the 2019 Newton Prize, the countries were China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Professor Fu is one of ten members of the committee, which reviews shortlisted applications and makes the final decision on winners.

**Ivan Manokha**, Departmental Lecturer in International Political Economy, won a Divisional Teaching Excellence Award for his teaching on the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

The awarding committee were impressed in particular by the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from students in relation to Dr Manokha's two option courses in 'Global Political Economy' and 'Surveillance and Human Rights in the Digital Age', and the foundation course in the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy, saying the feedback 'showed a clear ability to engage students with the material at hand'.

The Social Sciences Division runs a teaching excellence recognition scheme each year. The scheme formally recognises the outstanding contribution to teaching and learning and the academic development of students shown by colleagues across the Division.

## EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

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

- **Ali Ali**, Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration, is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Global Affairs, LSE
- **Manhal Ali**, Research Officer on the Readymade Garment Productivity Project, is now a Research Fellow at the University of Leeds Business School
- **Bilal Malaeb**, Research Officer, OPHI, is now a Postdoctoral Research Officer at the Institute of Global Affairs, LSE
- **Kate Pincock**, Research Officer, The Global Governed, RSC, is now a Qualitative Researcher at the Overseas Development Institute
- **Anne-Line Rodriguez**, Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, is now Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the School of Politics and International Relations, Queen Mary University of London
- **Jack Rossiter**, Education Research Officer, Young Lives, is now a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Global Development
- **Evangelia (Lilian) Tsoordi**, Departmental Lecturer in International Human Rights and Refugee Law, is now Assistant Professor of European Union Law at Maastricht University
- **Robin Vandevoordt**, Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, is now Assistant Professor in Migration and Refugee Studies at Ghent University
- **Tom Western**, Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, is now a Marie Curie Fellow in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo

## ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF

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**Jocelyn Alexander**  
Professor of Commonwealth Studies

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**Manhal Ali\*\***  
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**Sabina Alkire**  
Director, OPHI, and Associate Professor

**Ruben Andersson**  
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**Masooda Bano**  
Professor of Development Studies

**Alexander Betts**  
Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs

**Corneliu Bjola**  
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Associate Professor of African Politics

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**Julia Tilford**

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## 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 and students visited the department in 2019/20:

- **Eric Burton**, Germany (ODID)
- **Yexin Zhou**, China (OPHI)
- **Victoria Baines**, UK (ODID)
- **Augustino Ting Mayai**, USA/South Sudan (ODID)
- **Huiling Liu**, China (TMCD)
- **Daniel Howden**, UK (RSC)
- **Jeffrey Pagel**, USA (OPHI)
- **Antônio Claret Souza Filho**, Brazil (OPHI)
- **Masood Sarwar Awan**, Pakistan (ODID)
- **Zhiyuan Yang**, China (TMCD)
- **Daniel Díaz Fuentes**, Spain (ODID)
- **Kate Ogg**, Australia (RSC)
- **Kasper Brandt**, Denmark (ODID)
- **Nathan Einbinder**, USA (ODID)
- **Asresahegn Birhanu Gelaw**, Ethiopia (RSC)
- **Helidah Reflloe Atieno Ogede**, South Africa (RSC)
- **Muhammad Zubair Abbasi**, Pakistan (ODID)
- **Saija Niemi**, Finland (RSC)
- **Matthew Porges**, Germany (RSC)
- **Albert Rodríguez-Sala**, Spain (ODID)
- **Didem Dogar**, Turkey (RSC)
- **Svenja Flechtner**, Germany (ODID)
- **Joerg Mayer**, Germany (TMCD)
- **Natalia Grincheva**, Russia (ODID)
- **Emre Eren Korkmaz**, Turkey (ODID)

## 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
- **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
- **David Mills**  
Department of Education
- **Rana Mitter**  
Faculty of History
- **Rachel Murphy**  
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- **David Pratten**  
African Studies Centre
- **Isabel Ruiz**  
Harris Manchester College
- **Mari Sako**  
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- **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.



A. BLONFIELD JACKSON  
F.R.I.B.A.  
ARCHITECT  
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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