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.
FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

WELCOME TO THE 2021 ODID REPORT

The second year of the pandemic was one of continuous adaptation for us. We began the academic year teaching and supervising face-to-face, only to move back fully online in January 2021. We responded to the challenge by expanding our online teaching resources, organising exciting events on Zoom, and supporting students’ move to digital-based research. Both students and staff showed an amazing level of resilience, creativity, and enthusiasm, working together to make 2020–21 a big success.

At the same time as dealing with the implications of COVID–19, we made a number of innovations and achieved impressive research accomplishments.

We found new ways to enhance our impact, promote our ideas, and support communities across the world – this annual report provides many examples. Merlin Steen, a student on our MSc in Economics for Development, won the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge for the most innovative social startup. Seedloans provides women farmers with digital support. Professor Xiaolan Fu launched OxValue.AI, a startup that uses new technologies and ideas to support socioeconomic transformation and more equitable development.

At the same time, we remain global leaders in development research. As you can see from the following pages, my colleagues received prestigious grants, from an ERC Advanced Grant (Masooda Bano) to a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (David Jackman) as well as new funding from foundations, private companies, and other public agencies. Our recent Research Excellence Framework submission – led by Nandini Gooptu with support from Jo Boyce – also showcased our research capacity. We entered 51 people, 123 outputs (including 97 journal articles and 16 monographs) and four exciting impact case studies. Our submission nicely illustrates the quality, diversity, and richness of our work. Our research is not only feeding into important policy debates but also producing new multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary insights, and we remain leading contributors to a number of fields within international development, migration and refugee studies, and development economics.

The quality of our researchers together with their entrepreneurship allowed us to respond successfully to a challenging funding environment. As most readers know, this year the UK government undertook deep cuts in aid-funded research. This short-sighted decision – criticised by multiple academics, including our Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson, and by institutions such as the Development Studies Association – negatively impacted some of our research centres and many of our partners in the Global South. Nevertheless, a strategy of funding diversification initiated a few years ago lessened the blow, helping us to protect our research and adapt and thrive in a challenging environment.

Our fantastic students remain another key component of our success. Eighteen doctoral students graduated this year, their theses cover a large number of topics (from the struggle over natural resources to the many faces of work in the 21st century) and countries. The lockdown hampered the fieldwork of second and third-year DPhils, most adapted amazingly to the new conditions, redesigning their projects and undertaking online fieldwork. I am amazed by their resourcefulness and convinced that their contributions will be highly valued in the years to come. We also attracted a record number of MPhil and MSc students, who, despite the difficulties, worked hard and left ready to make their mark in the world.

Development studies faces many challenges in the 21st century. The emergence of China and India as global powers requires a redefinition of the categories of Global North and Global South. Climate change is demonstrating the limits of growth and even calling into question traditional social–democratic models. We must also search for new ways to incorporate issues of race and racism into our teaching and research. And yet I am convinced that our work is more important today than ever. Our vibrant multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary environment, our critical approach to research, and our ability to link analytical insights and innovative policy recommendations will allow us to contribute to tackling the growing number of global problems the world faces.

Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea
31 July 2021
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 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 2020/21

- Amogh Dhar Sharma, Wolfson
  The Backstage of Democracy: Exploring the Professionalisation of Politics in India
- Jamelia Harris, St Anne’s
  Understanding the Effects of a Large Development Sector on the Labour Market of a Small Low-Income Country: Evidence from Sierra Leone
- Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, Linacre
  Voices in the Dark: Energy and the Politics of Living in Refugee Camps
- Luis Schiappacasse, St Antony’s
- Myfanwy James, St Antony’s
- Carlos Quembo, St Antony’s
- James Wilson, Kellogg
  A Fraud Appraised: The Political Economy of Macroeconomic Policy in the CFA Zones
- Lucia Rost, Magdalen
  Unpaid Care Work and Social Norms: Gender, Generation and Change in Northern Uganda
- Solange Fontana, Linacre
  The ‘Realty’ of Cochin: From the Material to the Spectacular, a Story of India’s Emerging City
- Diletta Lauro, Lincoln
  The ‘Realty’ of Cochin: From the Material to the Spectacular, a Story of India’s Emerging City
- Myfanwy James, St Antony’s
  Anti-Deportation Activism in the UK
- Richard Dolan, St Antony’s
  Valuation Struggles in the Ecuadorian Amazon: Oil ‘Non-Conflicts’ and the Inevitability of Change Among the Quichua People of the Lower Napo River
- Soumya Mishra, St Antony’s
  Material to the Spectacular, a Story of India’s Emerging City
- Ikuno Naka, St Cross
  The ‘Realty’ of Cochin: From the Material to the Spectacular, a Story of India’s Emerging City

*received leave to supplicate

The department offers two doctoral programmes, a two-year MPhil course, and four nine-month MSc courses to around 270 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 in 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.

Students from 57 countries

85% students from outside the UK

61% female students

28% students funded

More new ‘Drs’ join the Loft wall

277 students

7 degree courses

Our courses provide a solid basis for a dissertation, our master’s programmes help develop research ideas through methods and the opportunity to learn, with a range of optional courses. Our degrees offer flexibility in a diverse community of peers. Our academics, and a vibrant 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.

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ALUMNUS PROFILE

Ismail Waiswa

Ismail Waiswa is a detention survivor and migration activist studying for his MPhil in Development Studies. His activism was inspired by his experience as a political prisoner and refugee. 

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 researching a wide range of topics in countries across the world. Some of their projects are listed below:

- Multilateralism and the COVID-19 Vaccine: Leaving the Global Poor Behind?
- Different Approaches to Conflict Resolution: Asking to Understand the United Nations’ Special Envoy’s Approaches to Negotiation, Arbitration and Peacebuilding in Syria
- Between Care and Profit: ‘Healthy Entrepreneurs’ and the New Model of Community Health Entrepreneurship
- Configurations of Memory, Identity, and History Across Generations of Hmong in Diaspora in Fresno, California
- Permitted Prestation and Successful Failures: Enforced Governance of the Jordan Compact
- Beyond the ‘Italian Pastoral’: Tomato Harvesting, ‘Modern Slaves’ and Italian Migration Governance
- Bureaucratic Discretion in the Punjabi Land Bureaucracy: An Instance of Bureaucratic Stability Through the Suspension of Formal Procedures
- Changing Nature of State in the Context of ‘Transnational Infrastructure Development on the Laos—Vietnam Border
- Chinese Direct Investment, Job Creation and Skill Transfer for the Young: A Case Study of Sheffield Coal Power Plant in Pakistan
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STUDENT STARTUP WINS INNOVATION PRIZE

Seedloans was launched in 2020 when Merlin and collaborator Elizabeth Nalugemwa were discussing the impact of COVID-19 on farmers in Uganda. Elizabeth mentioned that women in her village were struggling to obtain enough seed because of disruption to supply chains and low incomes and the two came up with Seedloans as a solution. The startup currently has a Ugandan/German team of eight.

Seedloans has so far mainly distributed seeds to farmer groups via the Young Farmers Federation of Uganda (UNYFA); it also partners with Salesforce, which is building an IT platform to track farmers pro bono, and agrilora, which supplies free two-way SMS contact.

Seedloans was one of two startups nominated by student society Oxford Social Entrepreneurs to represent Oxford at the finals. As well as Merlin and Elizabeth, the team consists of Sabrina Kuespert, Martin Luba, Lutz Otto, Lisa Stoles, Ismail Waitsa and David Wako.

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.

2020/21 Course Director: Dr Cheryl Doss

A social startup co-founded by MSc in Economics for Development student Merlin Siringo in the $2,000 first prize in the Fowler Social Innovation Challenge (GSIC).

Seedloans provides female smallholder farmers in rural Uganda with seeds as collateral-free loans in kind. The farmers receive 10 kilograms of bean seeds, fertilizer, access to storage and training as well as direct digital support. Once the beans have grown, producing an estimated 100 kg harvest, the farmers then pay back 20 kg. The harvested beans are stored and then sold when market prices are high, to finance new seeds.

Seedloans beat finalists from 28 universities in 16 countries to win the Fowler GSIC Changemaker Award for the most innovative social startup.

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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.

2020/21 Course Director: Professor Christopher Woodruff

MSC IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY

This degree 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.

2020/21 Course Director: Dr Joerg Friedrichs

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 five core courses on: the anthropology of migration, migration and the economy, migration and development, the governance of mobility, and methods in social research. These core courses are complemented by a range of optional courses and a 15,000-word dissertation.

2020/21 Course Director: Professor Ruben Andersson

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

MPhil in Development Studies
- Eugene Haves Memorial Prize for Best Overall Performance: Dao Dinh (Exeter)
- Papiga Chokh Thesis Prize: Wang Yiyi (St Edmund Hall)
- Examiners’ Prize: Samuel McQuillen (Wolfson)

MSC in Economics for Development
- George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance: Yihao Zhang (St John’s)
- George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance (proxime accessit) Merin Stein (Wolfson)
- Luca D’Agostino Prize for Best Dissertation: Neil Vanninen-St Antoni’s
- Arthur Lewis Prize for the Best Examination Essays in Development Economics: Merin Stein (Wolfson) and Marco Melekar (St Edmund Hall) (joint winners)

MSC in Global Governance and Diplomacy
- Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize: Katherine Mooney (St Cross) and Benjamin Bushell (St Antoni’s) (joint winners)
- Best Dissertation Prize: Benjamin Bushell (St Antoni’s)

MSC in Migration Studies
- Examiners’ Prize: Tiger Hill (St Catharine’s)
- Best Dissertation Prize: Mariya Popova (Wolfson)
- Dissertation Prize (runner up): Nicholas Lancaster (St Antoni’s) and Katielle Monsekenidom (Regent’s Park) (joint winners)

MSC in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
- Best Thesis Prize: Jake Milham (Wolfson)
- Gil Loescher Prize for Best Overall Performance: Olivia Wicki (St Antony’s) and Noemie Bellin-Smith (Lady Margaret Hall) (joint winners)

Examiners: The previously named Examiners’ Prize has been renamed this year in memory of Professor Gil Loescher, who sadly died in 2020.

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: Economics of Development; Migration and Refugees in a Global Context; Human Development, Poverty, and Youth; and 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 then-UK Department for International Development (DFID) in 2008.
**Our Research Groups**

**International Growth Centre**
Established in 2008, the IGC is an economics research network, funded by FCDO 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.igc.org](http://www.igc.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 and capabilities in developing countries.

[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 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 new external awards in 2020/21. Find out more about some of our new work below.**

**Choosing Islamic Conservatism: Muslim Youth in Europe and the UK and the Question of Social Cohesion**

**PI:** Masooda Bano  
**Funder:** European Research Council

This project will study the persistent appeal of Islamic conservatism among young Muslims in Europe. It takes as a starting point the highly conservative Islamic networks that have historically embedded themselves in Muslim communities in Europe and the UK. Despite facing recent competition from Islamic scholars and institutions that are actively trying to promote teachings from classical Islamic scholarly tradition – which balances textual loyalty with a focus on contemporary social reality – these movements remain highly popular among second and third-generation Muslims. Working within theories of institutional persistence and change, complementing them with a focus on understanding the significance of ethical and moral agency as discussed in recent studies in the anthropology of Islam, and taking cues from the growing interest in the role of neighborhood in young Muslims socialisation, Professor Bano’s project will develop a unique approach to understanding the ‘stickiness’ of Islamic conservatism in the West.

**Formalisation Within the Mining Sector in Peru**

**PI:** Diego Sánchez-Ancochea  
**Funder:** La Joya Mining SAC

Increasing formalisation is a key challenge in the process of economic development. Workers in formal companies receive social benefits and often experience better labour conditions and have higher wages. In addition, the expansion of the formal sector is likely to result in higher tax revenues as well as productivity growth at the macroeconomic level. In the mining sector, formalisation can also enhance environmental sustainability, as more dangerous production processes are abandoned. Yet expanding the formal sector is not easy, with many informal companies preferring informality to keep costs down, combined with a governmental struggle to implement effective policies. This research will explore two questions: why is formalisation so difficult in countries like Peru and how can current trends be reversed in the future? With a focus on gold mining in Peru and taking a political economy approach, the project will explore the political obstacles to successful implementation of formalisation policies at the macrolevel and the socioeconomic constraints towards formalisation at the micro-level, with a focus on Arequipa.

**Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement in Poverty**

**PI:** Sabina Alikire  
**Funder:** World Bank

OPHI’s researchers are applying their expertise in multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis to investigate multidimensional poverty in contexts of forced displacement using a gender-centred analysis. This is one of the first studies to explore empirically the nexus of these three themes: gender, forced displacement, and multidimensional poverty. The main research question being asked is: do men and women in forcibly displaced settings have different lived experiences of poverty, compared to each other and to their host communities? To answer this question, the project delivers two different lines of work: a multi-country descriptive analysis using a multidimensional poverty index to analyse differences between forcibly displaced populations and host communities, as well as comparisons with monetary poverty; and a deep examination of gendered aspects of multidimensional poverty, looking at intra-household analyses by gender, as well as empirical associations across indicators and with other gender-related indicators.

**CHOOSING ISLAMIC CONSERVATISM: MUSLIM YOUTH IN EUROPE AND THE UK AND THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL COHESION**

**PI:** Masooda Bano  
**Funder:** European Research Council

This project will study the persistent appeal of Islamic conservatism among young Muslims in Europe. It takes as a starting point the highly conservative Islamic networks that have historically embedded themselves in Muslim communities in Europe and the UK. Despite facing recent competition from Islamic scholars and institutions that are actively trying to promote teachings from classical Islamic scholarly tradition – which balances textual loyalty with a focus on contemporary social reality – these movements remain highly popular among second and third-generation Muslims. Working within theories of institutional persistence and change, complementing them with a focus on understanding the significance of ethical and moral agency as discussed in recent studies in the anthropology of Islam, and taking cues from the growing interest in the role of neighborhood in young Muslims socialisation, Professor Bano’s project will develop a unique approach to understanding the ‘stickiness’ of Islamic conservatism in the West.

**FORMALISATION WITHIN THE MINING SECTOR IN PERU**

**PI:** Diego Sánchez-Ancochea  
**Funder:** La Joya Mining SAC

Increasing formalisation is a key challenge in the process of economic development. Workers in formal companies receive social benefits and often experience better labour conditions and have higher wages. In addition, the expansion of the formal sector is likely to result in higher tax revenues as well as productivity growth at the macroeconomic level. In the mining sector, formalisation can also enhance environmental sustainability, as more dangerous production processes are abandoned. Yet expanding the formal sector is not easy, with many informal companies preferring informality to keep costs down, combined with a governmental struggle to implement effective policies. This research will explore two questions: why is formalisation so difficult in countries like Peru and how can current trends be reversed in the future? With a focus on gold mining in Peru and taking a political economy approach, the project will explore the political obstacles to successful implementation of formalisation policies at the macrolevel and the socioeconomic constraints towards formalisation at the micro-level, with a focus on Arequipa.

**GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN POVERTY**

**PI:** Sabina Alikire  
**Funder:** World Bank

OPHI’s researchers are applying their expertise in multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis to investigate multidimensional poverty in contexts of forced displacement using a gender-centred analysis. This is one of the first studies to explore empirically the nexus of these three themes: gender, forced displacement, and multidimensional poverty. The main research question being asked is: do men and women in forcibly displaced settings have different lived experiences of poverty, compared to each other and to their host communities? To answer this question, the project delivers two different lines of work: a multi-country descriptive analysis using a multidimensional poverty index to analyse differences between forcibly displaced populations and host communities, as well as comparisons with monetary poverty; and a deep examination of gendered aspects of multidimensional poverty, looking at intra-household analyses by gender, as well as empirical associations across indicators and with other gender-related indicators.
RESEARCH

Featuring	

SOCIAL COHESION AS A HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVE
Pi: Cory Rodgers
Funder: AHRC

The vast majority of the world’s refugees live in low- and middle-income countries of the Global South, where local communities often experience economic hardship and socio-political exclusion even before the arrival of displaced populations. As recognised in the 2016 New York Declaration as well as the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees, refugees may face hostility if they are perceived as a burden to the communities that host them. In response to this, a variety of programmes have been implemented to promote ‘social cohesion’ between refugees and their host communities.

However, there is little policy coherence across this broad ‘social cohesion’ agenda. Some programmes incorporate vulnerable members of the host community as aid beneficiaries, others contribute humanitarian resources to local development, and yet others facilitate community dialogue and dispute resolution mechanisms. Moreover, the evidence base upon which many programmes are designed is largely economic – based on measures of the burdens and benefits of hosting – with fewer anthropological and sociological studies.

This project applies ethnographic methods among both humanitarian organisations and affected communities in two countries that host large refugee populations: Lebanon and Kenya. Its goals are to document the variety of programme objectives encompassed by the ‘social cohesion’ banner, the metrics used to monitor and assess these programmes, and the political consequences of bringing local communities under the remit of refugee aid providers.

AWARENESS-RAISING PROGRAMME FOR DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP
Pi: Xiaolan Fu
Funder: Facebook

The rise of digital technologies has reshaped knowledge-based labour markets, economies, and societies overall. Based on who can and cannot access them, it is possible for digital technologies to create enormous divergences between those at the top and bottom of the income scale. This divergence is not only economic. Large-scale interaction and engagement on social media may have led millions towards extremist views; at the same time issues such as cyber-bullying and privacy have become ever more critical. The concept of digital citizenship has emerged in response to these developments. Digital citizenship involves using technology in ways that are appropriate, responsible, and intelligent. This project introduces the digital citizenship concept and raises awareness about its constructive norms, practices, and standards in the Turkish context, where little research has so far been carried out. The project includes a survey of the population by Turkish partner INGEV (Human Development Foundation).

FEATURED RESEARCH

HOW COVID THREATENS TO REVERSE PROGRESS FOR THE YOUNG LIVES FAMILIES
By Julia Tilford
Communications Manager, Young Lives

Over the last two decades, evidence from Young Lives has shown that the living standards of our study families have significantly improved, with young people substantially better off than their parents, despite persistent inequalities. However, our latest research is showing that COVID-19 tumbling the progress, further entrenching existing inequalities, and even reverse life chances, affecting those in poorest households most.

Young Lives is a mixed-methods, longitudinal study into the causes and consequences of child poverty, following the lives of 12,000 children from two birth cohorts in Ethiopia, Nepal, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States), Peru, and Vietnam since 2001. Our new programme, Young Lives at Work (YLAW), set up in 2020 with funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), is tracking the children’s transition into early adulthood to investigate how poverty and persistent inequality explain later skills development and learning, access to jobs, family formation and well-being.

Our research team was poised to conduct a sixth in-person survey round when the pandemic hit. Given Young Lives’ rich history, we were uniquely placed to analyse the impact of the pandemic in the context of what we already knew of the participants’ lives and the team swiftly adapted to deliver an ambitious three-call COVID-19 phone survey. Following careful ethical consideration of how to contact individuals during such a distressing time, our experienced interviewers tackled to just under 10,000 young people.

Our findings suggested that across each of our study countries, young people had been far more affected by policies introduced to contain the virus than by individual health impacts of coronavirus. Rising food prices, increased household expenses, falling incomes, severely interrupted education, and shifting job patterns typically affected those in the poorest households most, with many reporting that they had run out of food at least once over the year.

The pandemic increased girls’ and young women’s domestic and childcare burden, suggesting that families resorted to more traditional gender roles under stress. In Ethiopia, 70% of young women spent more time on household work during lockdown, compared to only 26% of young men. It also took its toll on mental health with many young people reporting high levels of anxiety and depression. Moreover, in India and Peru, domestic violence had increased and in Peru those who had experienced domestic violence before the pandemic were significantly more likely to suffer during the pandemic, with 24% reporting an increase during this period.

Whilst many young people in the four countries had returned to school or work by the end of 2020, recovery from the pandemic was uneven and incomplete. A shift to agriculture and self-employment in India, and Ethiopia and India indicated a move to more informal, poorer-quality jobs. The persistent digital divide made learning almost impossible for young people without internet access and a device to use for study. In India, one in five 19-year-old students had experienced almost a whole year of lost learning by the end of 2020.

As an impact-focused study, Young Lives at Work continues to prioritise a research-to-policy approach, informing COVID-19 recovery plans through a series of headline reports and policy briefs, national engagement events, and academic conferences. Our research findings and analysis have been published in a series of high-profile journal articles and featured in many national and international media articles, including The Guardian and La Prensa (Canada).

As the pandemic continues to unfold, the longer-term impacts are as yet unknown. YLAW has extended the phone survey into 2021 with two additional phone calls, and findings will be published in early 2022.

Find out more about Young Lives at Work and the Young Lives study at www.younglives.org.uk

• COVID-19 Phone Survey: Call 1 was conducted between June and July 2020. Call 2 between August and October 2020. Call 3 between November and December 2020. Call 4 in August 2021, and Call 5 will conclude by December 2021.
• YL data is open access and publicly archived via the UK Data Service.

WHEN STATES DISARM SOCIETIES: CONSOLIDATING VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH
Pi: David Jackman
Funder: Leverhulme Trust

In much of the world de facto political power is held by violent actors both within and beyond the formal state. These actors often interdepend as much as they compete, and in doing so radically shape the character of politics and the lives of a societies’ citizens. A striking question this raises is how the ability to use violence becomes more consolidated within the state. When, in other words, do states disarm societies? This project examines this question through three cases from the notoriously unruly South-West of Bangladesh urban gangsters, underground leftist and the pirates of the Sundarban forest.

STRUCTURAL ESTIMATION OF SPATIAL SPILLOVER EFFECTS OF CASH TRANSFERS
Pi: Natalie Quinn
Funder: GiveWell

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 but existing methods are limited. This project will use a ‘structural’ approach to estimate the spillover effects of cash transfers. In particular, it will explicitly model and estimate the extent of economic integration of local markets, and how this affects how spillover vary over space and across different groups of non-recipients. The main focus of the project is the evaluation of non-profit GiveDirectly’s standard cash transfer programme, using data from an existing randomised trial in Western Kenya.

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NEW URBANISM AND THE MAKING OF GENDERED VIOLENCE IN INDIA’S ‘MILLENNIUM CITY’

By Nandini Goopu
Associate Professor of South Asian Studies

Sustainable Development Goal 5 aspires to eliminate violence against women by 2030, while Goal 11 aims to make cities inclusive and safe for all, including women. Our research as part of the ESRC-funded project, ‘Urban transformation and gendered violence in India and South Africa (GendV)’, brings together insights to explore how violence against women interacts with urban change in India and, in particular, how it manifests in India’s ‘Millennium City’—Gurgaon.

Gurgaon epitomizes the country’s globalized urban modernity, it developed at a spectacular pace in just three decades this century on the site of previously rural tracts, having attracted multinationals, IT and finance companies, property developers, and industrial investors. Gurgaon represents uninterred career mobility, prosperity, and the pinnacle of a good life. Marring this promise, however, are the land mafias, armed gangs, and extortion racketts spawned by a real estate boom and the influx of capital. Although such criminal violence is integral to the city’s political economy, Gurgaon’s new settler residents locate its source outside their own modern, prosperous milieu. Violence is largely attributed to supposedly traditional and ‘backward’ local residents from Gurgaon’s rural past and to those who live in slums, consisting of migrant service workers and the working classes.

The fear of violence as an external threat has unleashed the construction of extensive infrastructures of private security and digital surveillance to protect gated spaces. Women, in particular, are perceived to be acutely vulnerable. Instances of egregious public assault and rape have been amplified in social and media discourse, assuming a phantasmatic quality that terrifies women.

Yet, the threat to women lies as much, if not more, within the gates as outside.

From the police and women’s help lines consistently show how domestic abuse to be the most prevalent form of reported violence. Despite this, violence is externalised to public sources, thus displacing attention from everyday private forms of abuse. Instead, the respondents in our research were entirely silent on the latter.

Nevertheless, in the interstices of women’s narratives of respectable lives in Gurgaon, elements of everyday coercion and control are evident. Dogged by extreme safety fears for women, men have taken on the role of protectors, while women have had to truncate their freedom of movement and accept spatial restrictions. Most women, including working professionals, reported having no choice but to rely on their male partners, relatives, friends, or colleagues when stepping outside safe spaces. Those willing to take the risk of unaccompanied mobility resort to subterfuge to evade monitoring by their families. With the prioritisation of public safety in this way, men’s and women’s guardians’ care, love, and concern often segue into punitive anger or strict censure if women transgress the limits of their safety. For instance, the emphasis on restraint in women’s behaviour magnifies the much-maligned stereotype of the forceful female – the feminist. This constrains women from asserting themselves at both work and home.

Similarly, many women who set up their own business encounter patriarchal limitations, despite the conceit of unlimited economic opportunities for all in Gurgaon. Women often confine themselves to businesses within the safety of gated communities, such as home-based catering or boutiques. With restricted business options, many women entrepreneurs ascribe to the role of primary breadwinner. They assert that they set up businesses out of ‘passion’, not need, working in their own time without encroaching on any duty owed to the family. They explain that their businesses are geared to achieving financial autonomy to cover personal expenses for activities or goods that their husbands would beitle as frivolous or unnecessary. The financial independence women seek in this way, paradoxically, reinforces men’s household economic and decision-making dominance. Such structural dependence of women on men, while upholding the idea of respectability, prevents them from publicly airing any disquiet, let alone speaking out about any form of control or abuse.

None of our middle- or upper-class respondents described spatial restriction as a form of patriarchal control, or questioned the deprivation of their own needs and desires as coercive, or construed men’s and their families’ prerogative to prescribe and sanction the limits of their economic and domestic activities as an imposition on their freedom or autonomy. Yet, evidently, the process of urban transformation has not only led to increased protectiveness towards women but also strengthened patriarchal norms, intensified gendered social conservatism, and deepened everyday coercion and control, all of which also cement the substratum for more overt abuse and violence.

Field research was done by Ganima Jaju and Tanvi Kapoor. Find out more about this Gurgaon research and the wider Cambridge-based GendV project at www.womensgurgaon.com and www.thegendvproject.sociology.cam.ac.uk

A NEW HUB TO SUPPORT REFUGEE-LED RESEARCH

By Alexander Betts, Bahati Ernestine, Andonis Marden, Mohamed Hassan Mostowad, Ruth Nyabuto, Ghazal Sarah Salehi, Pauline Vidal, and Fonl Joyce Vuni

Members of the Refugee-led Research Hub

The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) has created a new hub based at the British Institute of Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi which aims to facilitate refugee-led research through scholarships, online courses, refugee-led research projects and mentorship.

Refugee-authored scholarship is underdeveloped, varying on non-existent, despite a sizable and growing number of academic and research centres that focus on forced displacement. Some 85% of the world’s refugees live in low and middle-income countries, and yet very little refugee and forced migration studies research is published by authors based in these displacement-affected regions, let alone by refugee or displaced people themselves. Refugees and displaced people also remain underrepresented in tertiary education, especially at the graduate level.

The new Refugee-led Research Hub (RLRH), which has initial funding from the IKEA Foundation, presents an effort to expand the pathway to graduate-level opportunities for displaced scholars, supporting the lifelong education of self-identified refugee and forced migration studies, as well as in the social sciences and humanities more broadly.

The ultimate aim of the RLRH is to create a model that can redistribute power and opportunity towards individuals with lived experience of displacement, recognising that their insights and expertise will advance scholarship and improve the lives of refugee and forced migration studies.

The RLRH’s activities are based on a hybrid model of both in-person and remote activities. It is physically located in new office buildings in the gardens of the BIEA and will be a fully integrated part of the BIEA, able to draw upon its library, seminar rooms, training activities, and workshops. It is also an integrated part of the RSC, allowing RLRH’s researchers, scholars, and fellows to participate in activities organised by the RSC and access a range of academic resources in Oxford.

At the outset, its activities will fall into three primary categories: teaching and training, mentorship, and research projects.

A key component is the launch of the RSC-BIEA Fellowship in Refugee Studies. This one-year fellowship provides eligible refugees with a displacement background who have a demonstrated interest in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. The 1.2 inaugural fellowship was awarded from a large number of applications, and are based in a range of countries across Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and Europe. These fellowships will enable refugees to study in their own countries, internally displaced, asylum seekers, and as current or former refugees. Scholars have completed undergraduate degrees (or have equivalent experience), and several have been awarded a first graduate degree. All have academic aspirations to go onto graduate study in Oxford or at other leading universities.

Fellows will spend 25–30 hours a week on the programme, developing thematic expertise, and academic and research skills. They will have the opportunity to engage with RSC students, staff, and alumni, BIEA researchers, and other scholars in the RSC’s network. They will be able to attend RSC and BIEA events, and will participate in seminars and workshops, engage in an independent research study, and undertake a professional placement.

The RLRH is also undertaking refugee-led research projects. The first of these focuses on the nature and impact of refugee-led organisations, in partnership with the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) at Carleton University, with funding from the Open Society Foundations, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Bosch Foundation, and the Global Whole Being Fund. It focuses on camps and cities in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, and is led by a team of four research leads – Abx Getachew; Andvira Kara, Mary Gitahi, and Uwezo Ramazzes – all of whom have experience as refugees and are based in each of the main focus countries. The RLRH aims to add more refugee-led research over time, including collaborative studies, and it has begun supporting one such project relating to the measurement of refugee self-reliance in collaboration with the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI).

Beyond these activities, the RLRH and its additional support – we would like to increase the scholarships that we can offer to people with displacement backgrounds through mentorship, a new RSC online course for displaced learners which will launch next year, opening the BIEA’s Graduate Attachment Scheme (GAS) to refugees, and professional development opportunities within the leadership of the organisation. Over time – and with additional support – we would like to increase the scholarships that we can offer to people with displacement backgrounds to undertake graduate degrees within Oxford.

To find out more about how to support the work of the RLRH, please contact andonis.marden@qeh.ox.ac.uk
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 across governments, banks, and private investors to determine the value of new technologies with great accuracy, overcoming one of the key barriers that prevents innovative ideas translating into viable products.

As the world confronts multiple challenges such as COVID and climate change, new technologies to help address them have never been more necessary. But new ideas often fall victim to what has been called the innovation ‘valley of death’ – the set of barriers that prevents them crossing over from theory into reality.

One of the key factors preventing this is the simple fact that it is hard to work out what completely new technologies are worth; it is expensive, there is limited expertise, and all existing techniques have obvious drawbacks. Current methods may be subject to assumptions about future income, rely on subjective assessments, be based on past investments that do not reflect the value of creativity and novelty, or be purely theoretical and so unusable in practice. They thus tend to have poor predictive power. All this inhibits the investment needed to get innovations off the ground.

The new spinout, OxValue.AI, offers a new approach which seeks to make technology pricing objective, affordable, and accessible to all those who need it. The new enterprise aims in particular to facilitate the dissemination of technologies to countries in the Global South.

OxValue.AI is based on the Valuation of Early-Stage Technology (VEST) Tool, developed by Professor Xiaolan Fu of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD) at ODID.

The tool makes use of an algorithm that leverages big data, econometrics, and machine learning techniques to estimate empirically the monetary value of a patented invention or a startup.

The model developed from this was able to explain around 85% of the variations in the value of technologies owned by the startups in the database. Its predictive power was even stronger for newer startups.

The tool is likely to be of use for international organisations involved in technology transfer such as the United Nations, European Union, and World Bank to aid in valuing and budgeting technology investments and assistance, for national governments to improve GDP accounting, for global corporations for mergers and acquisitions, and for financial services institutions for evaluating funding opportunities.

OxValue.AI was launched at an online event on 25 June, which attracted an online audience of more than 15,000 people. Speaking at the event, Lord Timothy Clement Jones, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence, said: ‘Underpinning this method is a pioneering technology evaluation tool. It is clearly useful and new approach to the appraisal of technology and an important guide for decision-making, technology investment, transfer and commercialisation.’

Mark Logan MP, member of the UK Parliament’s Science and Technology Select Committee, said the new tool would ‘boost international innovation collaboration. We are on an edge of something very exciting.’

OxValue.AI’s founding members are Professor Fu (Chair of the Board), Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, ODID Head of Department (Board Member), and Professor Xi-Kong, Associate Dean International at the University of Surrey (Managing Director).

Find out more at www.oxvalue.ai

By Jo Boyce
ODID Communications Officer

A social enterprise created from ODID research has developed an affordable tool that can be used by international organisations, governments, banks, and private investors to determine the value of new technologies with great accuracy, overcoming one of the key barriers that prevents innovative ideas translating into viable products.

The most direct and immediate links to impact and engagement come about 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 how our research is having an impact beyond academia.

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 how our research is having an impact beyond academia.
IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

From 2016 to 2019, Professor Tom Scott-Smith, Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration at Refugee Studies Centre, has been working on two streams of research dedicated to shelter and food – emergency refugee accommodation and humanitarian nutrition – with a particular focus on how humanitarians respond to basic human needs. His work focuses on the social and cultural importance of these physical needs, and the political complexities involved in meeting them. Through a series of imaginative outreach activities aimed at widening public engagement work, the project has also helped highlight and publicise the many interconnected issues that humanitarian nutrition and its history - with a particular focus on how forced migrants from the 19th century to the present day, with a view to examining the humanitarian approach to hunger. Through archival research, oral history, and the analysis of humanitarian handbooks, this research examined how Victorian technologies, such as the soup kitchen, were transformed into contemporary mechanisms for emergency feeding. The full results of this work featured in a book, *On an Empty Stomach: Two hundred years of hunger relief*, which won the Association for the Study of Food and Society Monograph Award for 2021. The research also led to a working paper ‘Contested evolution of nutrition for humanitarian and development ends’ which emerged from discussions that took place at an international workshop co-organised with the Food Studies Centre at SOAS, University of London, and featured an interdisciplinary panel of 17 scholars and nutritional experts.

Shelter Without Shelter

By Irini Tsemidou

Research Impact Facilitator

Human beings have certain basic physiological needs. Everyone needs shelter and food to survive. Shelter gives security, protection from the weather, and provides people with a dignified life. Balanced nutrition is essential for good health. Meeting these needs becomes especially fraught in cases of conflict and natural disaster.

Over the past few years Tom Scott-Smith has been working on two parallel streams of research dedicated to shelter and food – emergency refugee accommodation and humanitarian nutrition – with a particular focus on how humanitarians respond to basic human needs. His work focuses on the social and cultural importance of these physical needs, and the political complexities involved in meeting them. Through a series of imaginative outreach activities aimed at widening public engagement with the research they fund by offering the next generation of researchers a platform to share their ideas with wider audiences and offering them space to challenge their thinking. In the context of this scheme, Professor Scott-Smith produced an essay for BBC radio exploring the social history of soup, which has been one of the main elements of *Shelter Without Shelter*. Examining the creation of four soup recipes since the 19th century, he suggests that the food offered by aid workers tends to be determined by current humanitarian ideas rather than beneficiary needs.

Throughout the programme, concrete details and a wide range of case studies were explored, including how to use the MIPI as a governance tool to guide policies and budget allocation, and to track national and international goals and targets (such as the SDGs). Case studies using the MIPI were discussed, including experiences in South Asia, China, and Colombia. Participants had the chance to design and present different stages of MIPI implementation.

To find out more please contact ophi-exed@qeh.ox.ac.uk

OPHI HOSTS INAUGURAL EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

By Ana Marin Morales

Communications and Events Officer, OPHI

OPHI hosted its inaugural Executive Education Programme 'Using the MPI as a Policy Tool' this summer. The course aimed to increase understanding of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) among senior government officials and high-level policymakers and to inspire today’s leaders.

Thirty-two representatives from 20 countries attended to learn how to implement integrated strategies that – guided by the MPI – consider the many interconnected issues that affect people’s lives. Participants included ministers, deputy ministers, secretaries of state, presidential advisors, and directors of planning, social protection, and statistics, as well as high-level representatives from development agencies, academia, and NGOs.

OPHI ExEd is a new initiative that builds upon OPHI’s trajectory as a global referent in multidimensional measurement, drawing on the rich experiences and empirical network of global champions committed to poverty alleviation.

This first programme took place over five days. It included open discussions between participants and world leaders including Nobel Peace Laureate Juan Manuel Santos (former President of Colombia), Tahnee Talaguy (former Vice President of the Dominican Republic), and Luis Felipe López-Calva (administrator of UNDP). Ana Helena Chacón (former Vice President of Costa Rica), Margarita Cedeño (former Vice President of the Dominican Republic), and Ana Helena Chacón (former Vice President of the Dominican Republic), and Luis Felipe López-Calva (UNDP Regional Director for LAC) among others. The course offered interactive lectures and talks, workshops, policy snapshots, and practitioners’ panels.

Topics were wide-ranging and covered a combination of principles pertaining to leadership as well as practical experiences and recommendations relating to the MPI. Reflecting on leadership, speakers discussed the responsibility to serve others by bridging the gap of inequality, and the importance of sustained commitment to poverty reduction.

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Topics were wide-ranging and covered a combination of principles pertaining to leadership as well as practical experiences and recommendations relating to the MPI. Reflecting on leadership, speakers discussed the responsibility to serve others by bridging the gap of inequality, and the importance of sustained commitment to poverty reduction.
ODID academics and students are frequently called on by the media for comment and analysis on topical issues, drawing on their specialist knowledge to bring depth and objectivity to current debates. A selection of this year’s commentary is presented below.

28 July 2021
‘Crony globalisation: How political cronies captured trade liberalisation in Morocco’. Adeel Malik wrote for the Brookings Institute about his co-authored research showing that politically connected firms were more likely to receive protection through non-tariff measures following trade liberalisation in Morocco.

15 July 2021
‘We can make progress on global poverty — in spite of COVID’. Sabina Akre drew on the Multidimensional Poverty Index to set out a series of measures that could ‘make this year a turning point towards ending acute poverty’ in an essay for the Financial Times.

24 June 2021
‘The United States can afford more refugees’. Alexander Betts drew on the experience of three African countries to suggest lessons for the US in an essay for the Boston Review.

9 April 2021
‘Whether or not Kenya closes its camps, much damage has been done’. Cory Rodgers and Mohamed Tali wrote for African Arguments about the fear and uncertainty created by Kenya’s ultimatum to the UNHCR on the closure of its refugee camps.

11 May 2021
‘OPINION: LGBT+ refugees should be resettled with their chosen families’. DPhils Sam Ritholtz and Rebecca Buxton wrote for Thomson Reuters Foundation News about how the global asylum system prioritises the ‘traditional’ families refugees are often trying to escape.

10 May 2021
‘Each burning pyre is an unspeakable, screeching horror’ — one researcher on the frontline of India’s COVID crisis’. DPhil Vyoma Dhar Sharma wrote for the Conversation about how her fieldwork in global health and her personal life came together amid India’s COVID tragedy.

25 March 2021
‘Can Chinese Special Economic Zones revivise Nigerian manufacturing industry?’ DPhil Nwamaka Ogbonna, writing for the Africa Report, considered why, more than a decade after the establishment of Chinese SEZs in Nigeria, their impact on domestic manufacturing remains limited.
20 March 2021 ‘When agriculture drives development: Lessons from the Green Revolution’. Douglas Golin and co-authors wrote for VoaEU about the aggregate economic impacts of agricultural productivity growth.

17 March 2021 ‘The biased, unnaturalness of refuge’. Hanno Brankamp wrote for Africa is a Country about the ‘lessons of racialised difference that infuses humanitarianism in practice’.

10 March 2021 ‘The age of agitation: African politics and the question of youth’. Dan Hodkinson and co-authors introduced the first in a new blog series for African Arguments, which takes a generational perspective on social movements across Africa and asks: how are young people mobilising for political change?

3 March 2021 ‘Latin America: inequality and political instability: lessons for the rest of the world’. Deep Sánchez-Aguiches wrote for the Conversation about what one of the world’s most unequal regions can tell us about the consequences of wealth concentration.

1 March 2021 ‘The incredible journey of the toyi-toyi, southern Africa’s protest dance’. Jocelyn Alexander and JoAnn McGregor wrote for the Conversation about the ‘lexicon of racialised protest’.

15 February 2021 ‘Why are they going after Bollywood?’. Nikita Sud wrote for scroll.in about the entanglement with the Bollywood film industry.

10 February 2021 ‘Can Addis Ababa stop its architectural gems being hidden under high-rises?’. DPhil Biruk Terefe reflected on the impact of urban renewal on the Ethiopian capital’s architectural heritage in a co-authored article for the Guardian.

10 February 2021 ‘COVID vaccines: rich countries have bought more than they need – here’s how they could be redistributed’. Robin Cohen explored the options for an equitable distribution of COVID vaccines for the Conversation.

4 February 2021 ‘Italy cancelled: how COVID school closures blocked routes out of poverty’. Young Lives research on the impact of the pandemic on prospects for the students in their study countries, especially girls, was featured in the Guardian.

8 January 2021 ‘We have to learn to see land with a more nuanced lens’. Nikita Sud spoke to Firstpost about her new book, discussing the importance of looking at land as ‘in the making’, the many ways it is transacted, and the consequences of undervaluing agrarian land and India’s farmers.

6 January 2021 ‘What will it take to end Indian farmers’ protests?’. Nikita Sud was interviewed on Al Jazeera’s Inside Story about continuing protests against deregulation of India’s agriculture sector.

24 November 2020 ‘Tom Scott-Smith and the history of famine relief’. As part of a series of ten podcasts with AHRC’s New Generation Thinkers, Tom Scott-Smith spoke to Helen Carr about the history of famine relief and humanitarian aid, and how it has changed over time.

22 August 2020 ‘Employee surveillance tools emerge as a serious side effect of COVID-19’. Ivan Manchanda was interviewed by CTECH about the implications of increased worker tracking due to home working.

1 October 2020 ‘Why are they going after Bollywood?’. Nikita Sud wrote for scroll.in about the ‘lexicon of racialised protest’.

22 September 2020 ‘Coronavirus India update’. Nikita Sud spoke to BBC Hindi about India’s informal economy under COVID, where the shock of the pandemic and lockdown has been felt most acutely.

16 September 2020 ‘India overtakes Brazil to record second-biggest caseload’. Nikita Sud was interviewed by TRT World about India’s twin economic and health crises.

4 September 2020 ‘NATO’s digital public diplomacy during the time of COVID-19 pandemic’. Corneliu Bps and Ian Hamer analysed NATO’s digital outreach during the pandemic and discussed its implications for the practice of public diplomacy in an article for TPQ.

22 August 2020 ‘Hunger, lost income, and increased anxiety: how coronavirus lockdowns put huge pressure on young people around the world’. Marta Fava, Alan Sanchez, Catherine Porter, and Douglas Scott wrote for the Conversation about the findings of the Young Lives phone survey.

17 August 2020 ‘Employee surveillance tools emerge as a serious side effect of COVID-19’. Ivan Manchanda was interviewed by CTECH about the implications of increased worker tracking due to home working.

Despite the pandemic, we laid on a rich and varied schedule of events during the academic year 2020/21, albeit held entirely online.

We launched a new lecture series on Climate Change and the Challenges of Development to examine how we might more fully incorporate current thinking about the planetary threat posed by climate change and the costs of environmental degradation into our research and teaching on development. We also initiated a new joint series with Oxfam India to explore issues of mutual interest.

Our research groups continued to hold conferences, public lectures, and seminar series. Read about some of the highlights from our 2020/21 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
Poverty at a Crossroad: Using Leadership and the Multidimensional Poverty Index to Build Back Better
24 September 2020

OPHI and the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) held an online Side Event at the 75th UN General Assembly for 21 world leaders and policymakers to discuss how to reduce poverty in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Co-hosted by the Governments of Chile and Pakistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), six heads of government, one Vice-President, and 14 high-level representatives from countries and international agencies shared experiences of using multidimensional poverty indices (MPIs) and approaches to illuminate the way through the current crisis.

Digital Technologies and Platforms in the COVID-19 Era: Challenges and Prospects for Developing Countries
28 January 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a rethink of and changes to business models across the world, beyond the economic and health disruptions it has wrought. In part, the pandemic has reinforced the critical role of digital technologies and platforms in building resilience and collective capacity to confront global socioeconomic shocks and to seize opportunities, reorganise, and transform the benefits of technology for a fair and justifiable world order.

This conference, part of the TMC’s flagship Inclusive Digital Model (IDMODEL) project, brought together experts to assess these issues. Across the conversations, key reflections and discussions focused on the development of digital technologies and pilot forms, and the key challenges and prospects these bring for economic recovery and inclusive development in developing countries.

How to Fight Inequality? A Conversation
26 February 2021

Reducing inequality has been a central international development concern for a long time and is one of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals. The damaging effects of social inequalities have now been acknowledged by governments, but inequality has continued to widen and has been supercharged by the COVID-19 crisis. Inequality is also driving other crises including environmental degradation and global warming.

We brought together entrepreneur Djaffar Shaich, founder of Millionaires for Humanity, Zambian rap artist and social activist Plato, Ben Phillips, author of How to Fight Inequality and co-founder of the Fight Inequality Alliance, and Sétérine Deneulin, Director of International Development at the Laulau S. Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford, to explore what should be done.

Watch the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=14sTRwHmokw

Learning From Longitudinal Studies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Before, During and After COVID-19
11–14 May 2021

Some 150 people from 24 countries attended this online conference, hosted by Young Lives in partnership with CLOSER and Lancaster University Management School.

The conference provided an impressive snapshot of the global community involved in longitudinal and development research with speakers from many organisations. Attendees shared experiences on the research challenges of the pandemic and discussed the power of longitudinal studies to guide policies that will help different societies to bounce back.

Watch the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO9ycykD750
Discussion and debate on the moral and practical aspects of forced migration, before turning to a reflection on the conceptualisation of the issue. Participants engaged in discussions, designed case studies, and structured debates specially created to enhance their understanding and application of theories to practical scenarios.

The bespoke curriculum comprised pre-recorded lectures, carefully selected readings, expert panel discussions, and structured debates aimed at broadening and deepening their knowledge of forced migration and protection of victims of trafficking. Thereafter, participants could return to their own countries in the light of travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants could participate in an expert panel discussion online.

The Summer School was held online in the light of travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants enrolled from 25 countries to learn the skills required to construct, compute and analyse a multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis. The Summer School provided a wonderful opportunity to network with other like-minded and committed professionals.

The department continued to produce a stream of high-quality academic publications during 2020/21: you can find out more about this year’s publications by departmental staff in the following pages.

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 policymaking community.

ODID academics also edit a number of book series: Africa: Policies for Prosperity (Professor Christopher Adam, Oxford University Press); Diversity and Plurality in South Asia (Professor Nandini Gooptu, Anthem); New Diplomacy (Professor Cornelius 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 internationally displaced and stateless people.


Hronelova, Jesse Borton (2020) 'Ethnopolitical denial and crime relativization in Bosnian Republika Srpska', East European Politics.


Jackman, David (with Mathilde Malhot) (2021) 'Waves of international political authority and party (dis)loyalty in Bangladesh', Modern Asian Studies.


Özkul, Derya (with Ria Januaria) (2021) 'How do refugees navigate the UNHCR’s bureaucracy? The role of rumors in accessing humanitarian aid and resettlement', Third World Quarterly.


FMR Development Review is published in English, Arabic, Spanish, and French, and is free of charge in print and online. It brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers 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. In 2020–21 FMR produced three issues.

FMR 65 Recognising refugees/GP20 Plan of Action November 2020

The main feature on recognising refugees (published in collaboration with theRefMig project at Hertie School/Refugee Studies Centre) explored a range of challenges and developments in refugee status determination around the world. The second feature offers reflections on lessons and good practice emerging from the 2018–20 GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs.

FMR 66 Mental health and psychosocial support/ Data and displacement/Missing migrants March 2021

In the first feature in this issue, 15 articles on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) explored the importance of MHPSS and the challenges inherent in this field; debated MHPSS initiatives and advocated for strengthened collaboration and commitment. A second feature on data and displacement discussed recent advances in gathering and using data, the challenges that remain, and new approaches; and in a third feature on missing migrants, authors explored initiatives to improve data gathering and sharing, identification of remains, and assistance for families left behind.

FMR 67 Public health and WASH/ Non-signatory States July 2021

This issue included a major feature on public health and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), in which authors discussed challenges, responses, and innovations across a wide range of settings, and identified learning to inform future public health and WASH work with forced migrants. In a second feature, authors explored the status of protection in Non-signatory States (States that have not ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol), examining in particular the role of UNHCR, civil society and legal actors in facilitating access to protection for refugees and asylum seekers.

You can join FMR’s mailing list to stay informed about calls for articles and new issues. Visit www.fmreview.org/request/alerts to sign up.

Oxford Development Studies provides a forum for rigorous and critical analysis of the processes of social, political, and economic change that characterise development.

It publishes articles grounded in one or more regions of the world as well as comparative studies. Its intellectual approach is open to work that is interdisciplinary or rooted in a single discipline, such as politics, anthropology, sociology, economics, geography, or history, but it also aims to be relevant and accessible to a readership drawn from across the social sciences. It 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.

This year, the journal included a special issue celebrating the legacy of Abdul Raufu Mustapha, our friend and colleague who passed away in 2017. The issue was edited by two of Raufu’s former PhDs, Ami V Shah, now Associate Professor of Anthropology & Global Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, and David Ehrhardt, now Associate Professor at Leiden University.

‘Governance, power, and diversity in African states: celebrating the legacy of Abdul Raufu Mustapha’ also included papers by a number of other former ODID PhDs: Luisa Enria, Uchoka Ukwo, Nelson Oppong, Daniel Agbiboa, and Armin Langer.

It comprised the following articles:
- Nelson Oppong, ‘Between elite reflexes and deliberative impulses: oil and the landscape of contentious politics in Ghana’
- In Odele–Adekeye, ‘Rationalising the appeal of the Boko Haram sect in Northern Nigeria before July 2009’
- Danel Elege Agbiboa, ‘Vigilante youths and counterinsurgency in Northeastern Nigeria: the civilian joint task force’
- Porta Roelfs, ‘Contesting localisation in interfaith peacebuilding in Northern Nigeria’
- Luisa Enria, ‘Unsettled authority and humanitarian practice: reflections on local legitimacy from Sierra Leone’s borderlands’

As of 31 July 2021, the department had 115 staff members, including core academic teaching staff, research officers and assistants in our research programmes, and communications and support staff. Of our teaching staff, 13 are Professors, 12 Associate Professors, and 7 Departmental Lecturers.

The diversity of our academic and research staff reflects our commitment to international development objectives: over 50% are women and a majority are of non-UK origin. This year we were delighted to be awarded the Athena Swan Bronze award in recognition of our work to promote gender equality; you can read more overleaf. This year brought sadness too, with the retirement of our longest-serving member of staff, our much-loved receptionist Penny Rogers.
We are delighted with this announcement that ODI has been successful in its application for an Athena Swan Bronze award.

The Athena Swan Charter is a framework used to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research. Institutions and departments can apply for Athena Swan Charter awards to recognise their gender equality efforts. There are three award levels: bronze, silver and gold.

Bronze department awards recognise that, in addition to institution-wide policies, the department is working to promote gender equality, and to identify and address challenges particular to the department and to the discipline. The department must also plan future actions.

ODI’s application outlined its work in promoting gender equality to date and our goals for the future. These focus on improving recruitment processes and offering better help with career progression for staff; measures to improve work-life balance; encouraging greater discussion of gender and diversity both within and outside the classroom; and the promotion of female role models, among other things.

We are delighted with this award, which recognises the hard work of all those colleagues who prepared the application,” said Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, ODI Director of Development. ‘Although the department has always taken gender equality seriously, we know we can improve in many areas from hiring practices to teaching and learning and the academic development of students shown by colleagues across the division.

ODI AWARDED ATHENA SWAN BRONZE

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Lydia Marshall**
Senior Education/Researcher, Young Lives

Andy McKay
Director, Young Lives

Muhammad Meki
UGS Lecturer in Islamic Finance

Helena Mika
Research Assistant, Gender and Rural Transformation

Maria Molina
Quantitative Research Assistant, Young Lives

Rhiannon Moore**
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Maya Evans
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*Joined during 2020/21  **Left during 2020/21

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Callista Meierst* Course Coordinator, MSc in Economics for Development

Hamayan Minhas
ICT Officer

*Joined during 2020/21  **Left during 2020/21

Oxford Development Studies
A note on the photographs used in this report

Unless externally credited, the photographs used in this report derive from our research. The photos on the cover and pp 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 20, 21, 27, and 33 were taken as part of the Young Lives at Work project, featured on p 13. To protect the confidentiality of the children and young people in the study and to ensure their identities remain protected, Young Lives do not share photographs of the children and young people themselves. The images used are of people living in circumstances and communities similar to the children and young people in the study sample.

The photos on the inside cover and pp 2 and 23 were taken by MPhil in Development Studies students as part of their fieldwork.

Cover photo: © Young Lives / Mulugeta Gebrekidan

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