Politics and International Studies Newsletter

Introductions

The **Department** welcomes Dr **Alastair Fraser** who has joined the department as of January as Lecturer in African Politics. **Alastair** writes:

“I joined the Department in January. Most of my research has been about how foreign aid donors, international NGOs and multinational companies promote their preferred economic and social agendas in Africa, and about how African elites and citizens respond to these influences. I have written about privatisation in the copper mining industry, the strategies African countries deploy to negotiate with international aid donors, and the ideological effects of relationships with international NGOs and donors on trade union leaders, clerics and NGO workers. I am interested in Southern Africa and have used Zambia as my main case study. My current research projects look at the politics of 'call-in' radio and television shows, and I have a longer term project considering the dynamics of and relationships between market oriented, technocratic, post-socialist and populist modes of political mobilization and rule. I am a member of the Editorial Working Group of the *Review of African Political Economy* and previously worked as a Lecturer in African Politics at the University of Cambridge and as a researcher and lobbyist for Action for Southern Africa the successor organisation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the UK.”

We also welcome Dr **Rafeef Ziadah** who has joined the department as ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow on Laleh Khalili’s project, “Military Mobilities and Mobilising Movements” which explores the development of cities, infrastructures, ports and transport in the Middle East and Gulf states. **Rafeef** holds a PhD in Political Science from York University, Canada (2013). Her research interests include the political economy of militarism, labour movements, multiculturalism and critical race theory, with a particular focus on the Middle East. She has also worked for many years around issues of Palestinian refugee rights, including as Senior Campaigns Officer for British NGO War on Want. She is also an accomplished performance poet.

**Karoline Hecker** is pleased to have joined the department’s student support team on a part-time basis until December. It was not until after a couple of years in the UK chauffeur industry that she discovered her passion for higher education administration and took up an opportunity at Middlesex University where she also completed a part-time online undergraduate degree on the side. She then went on to work at University of the Arts before she headed off to Ghana to teach for a year. **Karoline** recently returned to London after a brief stint in the human resources department of a Berlin technology start-up and is expected to graduate with a master’s in International Business and Development from Birkbeck in the autumn. Outside of work she enjoys a good workout at the gym or a stroll through an exhibition.

Appointments, Awards, Honours

The Department congratulates **Peter Brett**, **Margarita Dimova** and **Jamil Mouawad**, who have all just passed their doctoral vivas. Many warm congratulations to the newly minted “doctors”!

Doctoral student **Veronica Ferreri** has been awarded with a doctoral fellowship by the Trajectories of Change Programme - ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius from February 2015 to September 2016.
Doctoral student Akanksha Mehta has been awarded the FTW International Award by Duke University to participate in the Ninth Annual Duke University Feminist Theory Workshop (March 2015). She was also elected to the Executive Committee of the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section (FTGS) of the International Studies Association (ISA).

Doctoral student Pia Ljungman has been awarded the Kone Foundation doctoral grant. Kone Foundation supports bold new multidisciplinary research initiatives. Pia is working on how the European sovereign debt crisis has remodelled Europe with the objective to explain the European arrangement’s strategic role in finance capitalism.

Kathryn Nash received a tuition grant from the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust for the third year of her PhD.

In November, Michael Farquhar accepted two prizes for his doctoral thesis ‘Expanding the Wahhabi Mission: Saudi Arabia, the Islamic University of Medina and the Transnational Religious Economy’. The first was the Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies (AGAPS) dissertation award; the second, an honourable mention in the Malcolm H. Kerr Award for best dissertation in the social sciences, administered by the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

Michael’s thesis, which he completed in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science, explores the role played by Saudi state-funded educational institutions in extending Wahhabi religious influence to locations around the world.

Enze Han has been awarded a Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Enze will be an academic member of the Institute’s School of Social Sciences for the academic year 2015-16. During the Fellowship, he will be conducting research for his project on ‘State and Nation-Making in the Multi-ethnic Borderlands between China and Southeast Asia’.

Doctoral student Gerasimos Tsourapas was awarded a British International Studies Association Workshop Grant to co-convene an international workshop titled ‘Sending States, Emigrants & Diasporas: New Trends & Novel Approaches in Political Science,’ to be held before the Annual BISA Conference in June 2015.

Doctoral students Jack Joy, Noga Glucksam and MPhil student Calum Fisher received a scholarship to attend the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQRMR) at Syracuse University in June 2015. Dr Reem Abou-El-Fadl will also be attending.

Recent doctoral graduate Sami Everett accepted a junior research fellowship at Wolfst Institute, Cambridge.

Christopher Barrie, MSc Middle East Politics, was recently awarded the Rhonda A. Saad Prize for Best Graduate Paper in Modern and Contemporary Arab Art. The prize is awarded by The Association of Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World (AMCA) and is open to submissions worldwide. The winner’s submission is considered for publication in the Arab Studies Journal.

Christopher’s paper looked at the interplay of the cosmopolitan and the local through an examination of the treatment of myth in the surrealist poetry of Georges Henein and visual art of ’Abd al-Hadi al-Gazzar.

PhD Student Atta Barkindo has been appointed a Consultant on the European Union Support to Help Strengthen Nigeria’s National Capacity Respond to Evolving Security Challenges (EUTANS), by the Office of the National Security Adviser, Nigeria.

Felix Berenskroetter started to work as an Associate Editor for a new ISA journal called The Journal of Global Security Studies (joGSS), published with Oxford University Press. The journal’s mission is to encourage conversations between different approaches to studying ‘security’ and welcomes submissions across theoretical, methodological and thematic camps. It publishes four types of work: research articles, review articles, forums, and research innovations. More information about the journal and how to submit can be found on the OUP website.

Meera Sabaratnam has been re-elected as co-convenor for the Colonial, Postcolonial and De-colonial Working Group of the British International Studies Association. She has also been elected as a Member-at-large for the International Political Sociology Section of the International Studies Association.

With the support of Dr Phil Clark and the Department of Politics and International Studies, the Somaliland Journal of African Studies (SJAS) was launched on March 4th at SOAS, Room 116. SJAS - a joint project between a SOAS student (Rodrigo Vaz, MSc African Politics) and scholars from the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Hargeisa. The first issue of the journal, launched on the same day, can be found here. The call for papers for the next issue can be found here.

Salwa Ismail’s “The Resurgence of Police Government in Egypt” was published online by the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). This memo was prepared for The Arab Thermidor: The Resurgence of the Security State workshop held in London in October 2014.

Doctoral student Emanuelle Degli Esposti published a review of Jessica Achter’s The Politics of Haunting and Memory in International Relations in the 10th anniversary issue of the Journal of Global Security Studies (joGSS).
of the St Anthony's International Review (Feb 2015), 'The Resurgence of Identity Politics'.

Alexej Ulbricht published his book Multicultural Immunisation: Liberalism and Esposito with Edinburgh University Press. The book draws on the political philosophy of Roberto Esposito to suggest that liberal multiculturalism is best understood as a series of immunitary processes that strengthen liberalism against the perceived threat of the other through a partial inclusion. A book launch where Alexej discussed his book with Prof Stephen Chan was held on 3 February 2015.


Reem Abou-El-Fadl has published an article titled ‘Neutralism made Positive: Egyptian Anti-colonialism on the Road to Bandung’ in the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 42(2). Many assessments of the trajectory of positive neutralism in Egypt have presented it as a foreign policy implemented in response to the Cold War context. This contribution contends instead that positive neutralism developed out of the pursuit of a particular combination of foreign policy and nation building in Egypt, by elites whose political formation was dominated by an anti-colonial rather than Cold War consciousness. The use of Egyptian documents throughout foregrounds Egyptian agency and motivations in drawing up policy, and enables an evaluation of the contributions of positive neutralism identified in Egypt at the time.

In November doctoral student Jeremy Taylor published ‘Japan’s Emerging Presence in East Africa’ in The Pacific Islands Society.

Laleh Khalili’s “The Utility of Proxy Detention in Counterinsurgencies” was published in Jan Bachmann, Colleen Bell, Caroline Holmqvist (eds.), War, Police and Assemblages of Intervention (Routledge, 2014). Her article “Scholar, Pope, Soldier, Spy” appeared in Humanity 5:3.

In January, doctoral student Mohammad Ali Shabani authored a report entitled “Making Sense of Iran’s Iraq Policy” for the Germany-based Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO).


**Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks**

**Centre for Comparative Political Thought**

On 11 November 2014 the **CCPT** hosted a guest lecture by Professor Niraja Gopal Jayal (JNU, Delhi and King’s College, London) on ‘Citizenship and its Discontents: an Indian history’. The discussant was Professor Engin Isin (Open University).

**Centre for the International Politics of Conflicts, Rights and Justice (CCRJ)**

CCRJ hosted a panel discussion ‘Is Grassroots Justice a Viable Alternative to Impunity? The Case of the Iran People’s Tribunal’ with Payam Akhavan, Professor of International Law at McGill University and Dr Shokoufeh Sakhi, Director of the executive committee of the International People’s Tribunal Foundation investigating State Crimes in Iran (2013-2014). **Leslie Vinjamuri** chaired this discussion.

**Centre for Taiwan Studies**

**Dafydd Fell** and **Chang Bi-yu** organized the following Centre of Taiwan Studies Seminars since the last newsletter:

- **November 5**: Screening of *Is Time Still on Our Side* and a Roundtable Discussion on the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan Speakers: **Joanne Ichimura** (SOAS), **Rosemary Seton** (SOAS), Andrew Coe (Shoki Coe’s son), Geoffrey Roper (Shoki Coe’s pastor), Lim Jong-jong (Producer), and **Niki Alsford** (SOAS).

- **November 6**: Film Screening: *The Will to Power* and Q&A with Director Fann Yung Choung (范揚仲) Speaker: Director Fann Yung Choung (范揚仲)

- **November 7**: The Social Origins of the Taiwan Democratic Movement: The Making of Formosa Magazine Dr Linda Arrigo, Taipei Medical University

- **November 7**: Film Screening: *The Wind Around the City* and Q&A with Director, Fann Yung Choung (范揚仲) Speaker: Director Fann Yung Choung (范揚仲)

- **November 13**: The Propaganda Function of Taiwan’s International Development Assistance Speaker: Dr. Colin Alexander (Nottingham Trent University)

- **November 18**: Film Screening of Sunflower Occupation and Q&A with Producer, 蔡崇隆 TSAI Tsung-Lung Speaker: 蔡崇隆 TSAI Tsung-Lung

- **November 20**: Language Variation in Taiwan Media and Popular Culture Speaker: Professor Henning Klöter

- **November 26**: Book Launch: *Popular Culture in Taiwan: Reading Harry Potter in Taiwan* Speaker: **Marc L. Moskowitz** (University of South Carolina)

- **December 2**: Stars as Production and Consumption: A Case Study of Brigitte Lin Speaker: **Dr Ming-Yeh Rawnsley** (SOAS)

- **December 11**: Roundtable on Taiwan’s Local Election Results Speakers: Dr Dafydd Fell (SOAS), and Dr Malte Kaeding (Surrey)

- **December 12**: Cannibalism and the Cultural Denigration of Imperial China. A Story of Taiwan in the 1890s Speaker: **Professor Ian Inkster** (SOAS)
January 22, 2015. Taiwan’s Renminbi Hub: The Strategic Basis and Political Response Speaker: Dr Winnie King, University of Bristol

January 22: Fragments of an Unfinished War: Taiwanese Entrepreneurs and the Partition of China Dr Françoise Mengin Centre d’études et de recherches internationales (CERI), Paris

January 27: Mechanisms for challenging, negotiating and circumventing the international sovereignty of the state in Taiwan Speaker: Dr. Françoise Mengin, Centre d’études et de recherches internationales (CERI), Paris

January 29: Studying and Research in Taiwan: Briefing on Scholarship and Research Funding Opportunities, and Youth Mobility Scheme Various Speakers

February 5: How Westminster ‘Dealt’ with Taiwan: A Study of UK Taiwan Relations in the Post-war Era Speaker: Michael Rand Hoare (SOAS)

February 9: The Impacts of Changing Ruling Parties in Taiwan: Continuity and Change Speakers: Isabelle Cheng (Portsmouth) Dafydd Fell (SOAS), Simona Grano (Zurich), Lee Chun-yi (Nottingham), Ming-yeh Rawnsley (SOAS) and ‘Topical Issue Editor’

February 11: Documenting Student Movements in Taiwan: An Audience with Documentary Film Maker Chiang Wei ho-chao-rector Speaker: Director Chiang Wei-hua

February 12: The Gangster (臺灣黑狗兄) (2) (Hand In Hand 牽阮的手 with Q&A with Directors Juang Yi-tseng 莊益增 and Yen Lan-chuan 颜蘭權)

February 16: Film Screenings: (1) Sock’n Roll (臺灣黑狗兄) (Class 303 (303)) (2) My Fancy High Heels (我愛高跟鞋) and Q&A with Directors Juang Yi-tseng 莊益增 and Yen Lan-chuan 颜蘭權 Speakers: Directors Yen Lan-chuan 颜蘭權 and Juang Yi-tseng 莊益增

February 18: Creative Spaces in Taiwan: Emergent Sources of Authority and Institutions of Urban Redevelopment Speaker: Igor Rogelja (SOAS)

February 19: Film Screening: Gongliao, How Are You? 貢寮,你好? Co-organized with SOAS CND.

February 26: Friending the Enemy: the White Group and the KN’s Pursuit of an alliance with Post-imperial Japan Speaker: Dr Barak Kushner (University of Cambridge)

London Migration Research Group (LMRG)

The London Migration Research Group (LMRG), co-convened by Fiona Adamson and Kristin Surak, hosted Gregor Noll (University of Lund) on 2 December 2014 to speak on ‘Junk Science: The Politics of Age and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers; Maarten Vink (EUI/University of Maastricht) on 20 January 2015 who spoke on ‘The International Diffusion of Expatriate Dual Citizenship’ and Tomoko Hayakawa (UCL) who gave a seminar on ‘A paradox of ‘temporariness’ in migration – a UK case study’ on 24 February 2015. Information on upcoming seminars is available here.

The Migration, Mobility and Membership research cluster (Fiona Adamson, Kristin Surak, Phil Clark, Enze Han, Bhavna Dave and PhD students Gerasimos Tsourapas and Mathilde Zimmerman) has held two seminars in Term 2 to discuss research-in-progress by department members.

Presentations and Conferences

MPhil student Alia Al-Senussi has co-ordinated a show at Duddell’s in Hong Kong for the ICA London’s Off-Site series titled ‘Hong Kongese’. Alia will also be moderating a talk for Salon at Art Basel in the city at the same time on ‘Reaching Out: (Beyond) the Caucasus’. Alia recently spoke on a panel moderated by Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi as part of the Armory Show’s MENAM symposium and will be returning to Sotheby’s Institute as a guest lecturer in April.

In March, a group of students (including Rodrigo Vaz and Tewodros Sile) formed the SOAS East Africa Network. The Network hosted its first conference which included a panel on “Conflict and Cooperation in East Africa”, with presentations by Margarita Dimova, Phil Clark and Mary Harper, Africa Editor at the BBC.

Yuka Kobayashi presented two papers at the 2015 International Studies Association Meeting in New Orleans in February. These papers were on ‘China’s learning in International Organisations – case study on Climate Change and the WTO’, and ‘Clash in Civilisations? China in Finance and Human Rights’ which form the basis of a larger project on China and global governance and China’s
learning in International Organisations. She was also a discussant on a panel on ‘Development and International Organisations’ at the 2015 International Studies Association Meeting in New Orleans in February.

Kristin Surak’s book Making Tea, Making Japan was spotlighted in an Author Meets Critics session at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association held in Toronto, Canada in November.

In January, Kristin held a better-late-than-never book launch and award celebration at which Dr Fabio Grygi of Soas and Dr Julia Krause of Goldsmiths discussed Making Tea, Making Japan.

In November, Kristin Surak gave a talk on ‘Cultural Nationalism in Practice’ at the University of Michigan, and in January she spoke at UCLA on guestwork schemes around the world. Focusing on cultural practices, she gave a talk on ‘Beyond Peacefulness: The Politics of Tea’ at the School Anthropology, University of Oxford in February.

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce presented two papers at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in New Orleans: ‘The Concept of Governance in the Spirit of Capitalism’ and ‘The Legitimation of “Oxfam” as a Voice in International Trade Policy’. He also contributed to a roundtable discussion on ‘Reflexivity and International Relations: Reflexive Scholarship, Reflexive Politics’. Elsewhere, he contributed to a roundtable discussion on Pierre Bourdieu’s On the State (Polity 2013), hosted by the Department of Law and the Forum of Legal and Political Theory at the London School of Economics.

Doctoral student James Eastwood presented a paper, “‘Meaningful service’: pedagogy at Israeli pre-military academies and the ethics of militarism”, at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in New Orleans. James also presented a paper, ‘The New Spirit of Militarism: the IDF ethical code and the assault on Gaza’ at the SOAS Centre for Palestine Studies Research Seminar.

In December, Leslie Vinjamuri spoke about human rights, transitional justice, and North Korea at a conference on Korean Unification at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She also spoke about State Responses to Mass Atrocities at the World Perspectives Conference at Latymer Upper School.

In February, doctoral student Akanksha Mehta presented two papers at the ISA Annual Convention in New Orleans, USA. These were titled ‘Silences as Sites of Agency and Transformation: Feminist Studies and the Politics of Right-Wing Women’ and ‘The Aesthetics of “Everyday” Politics: Visuals, Violence, Gender, and Right-Wing Movements.’

Doctoral student Merve Kutuk presented a paper titled ‘On the Category of Muslim Women: A Discursive Approach’ at Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference in Washington DC, USA on 25th November 2014.

In December 2014, doctoral student Marco Jowell presented a working paper titled ‘The Unintended Consequences of Foreign Military Assistance to Africa’ at a conference in Uppsala, Sweden organised by the Nordic Africa Institute on African Armed Forces.

In November, Michael Buehler participated in a workshop at King’s College on new power dynamics in Indonesia after the presidential election. The same month, Michael shared his views on Thai Politics during a SOAS roundtable titled The Land of Smiles Under Martial Law: Thailand Six Months On, and which was organized by SOAS’ Centre for Southeast Asian Studies and SOAS Thai society. In February, Michael delivered lectures at SOAS’ Centre for Southeast Asian Studies and at Oxford University’s St Antony College on the Diffusion of Islamic laws across Indonesia. In February, Michael also travelled to Freiburg in Germany to present a paper on Indonesia’s reform efforts at a workshop Jokowi’s Indonesia: A preliminary Assessment. The workshop was organized by University of Freiburg’s Southeast Asian Studies Program and FRIAS Research Group Southeast Asia in Cooperation with the Center for Transcultural Asian Studies (CETRAS), The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research sponsored the roundtable discussion.

Felix Berenskoetter was invited to participate in the closing panel of the Annual conference of Millennium: Journal of International Studies at the LSE in October, reflecting on the conference theme ‘Method, Methodology and Innovation in International Relations’. In November, Felix was invited to give a talk on ‘Approaches to Concept Analysis in International Relations’ in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge. In February, Felix presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in New Orleans, titled “Three Approaches to Concept Analysis” and “Ontological Security and the Temporal: Anxiety, Agency and Authenticity.” He also acted as discussant on two panels: “Theory from History; History through Theory”, and “Friendship and IR: Beyond the Western Paradigm”. In addition, Felix chaired a panel on Pragmatism and Critique in International Relations.
Peter Brett attended a five-day workshop in Niamey, Niger in December. Organised by Point Sud in Bamako, it was devoted to African Courts and Judiciaries. The hope is to create an informal network of African and European early-career researchers studying judges and courts in Africa. A follow-up event is planned for early 2016.

In December, Gerasimos Tsourapas joined Stephen Chan and Meera Sabaratnam in speaking at an event titled ‘A Century of Knowledge Production at SOAS - Perspectives from the Politics Department.’ In February, he presented a paper titled ‘The International Cooperation of Authoritarian Regimes & Migration Management in the Middle East’ at the DVPW Comparative Politics Conference held at the GIGA Institute in Hamburg.

Doctoral student Myung Ja Kim presented a paper in a session on ‘Diaspora in political change’ at the International Studies Association’s annual conference in New Orleans.

In November, Phil Clark organised a special lecture by Prof. Keith Krause (Graduate Institute Geneva and Programme Director of the Small Arms Survey) on ‘Forms of Resistance: State-building Strategies of Local Actors in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding’. The lecture was part of the ‘Institutions for Sustainable Peace’ consortium, a three-year project involving the German Institute of Global and Area Studies, SOAS and eight other universities around the world.

In December, Phil Clark was a discussant at a workshop comparing post-liberation politics in Rwanda and Eritrea, held at the University of Oxford and gave a paper on reconciliation in Rwanda at the annual International Association of Genocide Scholars conference, held this year at the University of Cape Town. Also in December, he gave a guest lecture at the Halcyon School in central London as part of its genocide study week. In January, Phil Clark gave a panel presentation on civil society and transitional justice in Uganda at the University of East London, as part of a broader research project on civil society and post-conflict responses led by Dr Lavor Rangelov and Prof Mary Kaldor at LSE. In February, Phil gave a guest lecture at the Hampton School in Twickenham to students researching the Rwandan genocide.

On 6 March, Reem Abou-El-Fadl, presented a paper titled ‘Nostalgia and Legitimisation Formulas: Sisi between Nasser and Sadat’ at Oxford’s Middle East Centre for the Friday Seminar Series on ‘The State of Egypt, the State of Palestine’.

Fiona Adamson participated in a roundtable on Audie Klotz’s new book on Migration and National Identity in South Africa at the 2015 International Studies Association Meeting in New Orleans in February. She also presented two papers, one co-authored with PhD Student Matthew Godwin, on Diaspora Politics and Civil War at the 2015 International Studies Association Meeting in New Orleans in February and one on ‘Rebel Diplomats’. She was also a discussant on two additional panels on diaspora politics at the 2015 International Studies Association Meeting in New Orleans in February.

On December 5 Dafydd Fell gave a lecture titled ‘Taiwan’s party system in the aftermath of the Sunflower Movement and November elections’ at Vienna University. On December 11 he joined a Roundtable on Taiwan’s Local Election Results at the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies. During his fieldwork trip to Taiwan he also gave two public lectures. On Dec 23rd Dafydd gave a lecture on the ‘Space for Small Parties in Taiwan’ at the Political Science Department, National Chengchi University. Then on December 24 Dafydd spoke at the Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat Sen University on ‘Taiwan’s Party System after the Nov 2014 Elections and Taiwan’s Small Parties.’

In December 2014, Enze Han gave a talk on China-Myanmar Relations at the Shanghai International Studies University.

In October 2014, doctoral candidate Emanuelle Degli Esposti was invited to lead a brown bag seminar at the London headquarters of international research and consultancy agency Integrity entitled ‘The intersection of ideology and strategy: local, trans, and international dynamics in the rise of IS’.

Benjamin Schuetze, doctoral student in the department, presented a paper titled ‘The special forces experience’ – an analysis of US security assistance to Jordan at the example of the King Abdullah II Special Operations
Training Centre” at the annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference in Washington DC on 24th November 2014. Benjamin was also awarded with a MESA travel grant in support of his attendance at the 2014 MESA conference. PhD student Indrè Balcaïtė gave a talk ‘A Borderless Village: Binding / Bounding Spiritual Ties among Phlong Migrants in Greater Bangkok’ at the SOAS Centre of South East Asian Studies (CSEAS) seminar series on November 18th and at the Macau Ricci Institute on December 11th.

On December 8-10th, Indrè Balcaïtė took part in the Asian Borderlands Research Network (ABRN) conference ‘Activated Borders: Re-openings, Ruptures and Relationships’ at the City University of Hong Kong where she gave a paper ‘Tangled statuses: cross-border networks among the Karen from the Hpa-an area, Myanmar (and beyond)’. On January 28th, she presented a more detailed version at the SOAS MA course ‘Histories of Ethnicity and Conflict in South East Asia II – Non-National Perspectives’ at the invitation of the convenor Dr Mandy Sadan (History).

In December Charles Tripp presented a seminar paper at the Middle East Centre, LSE on ‘Battlefields of the Republic: the struggle for public space in ‘Tunisia’. In January, gave a talk on ‘Tunisia: from activist public to the re-founding of the Republic’ at the Gulf Cultural Club, Abrar House. Prof Tripp gave a talk on ‘Violence as political communication: implications for research’ as part of a 3-day Social Sciences Methodology Training Workshop for North African Scholars organized by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation and CEMAT in Tunis 8-10 February 2015

Demonstration by relatives of Tunisians captured and held by government forces in Syria, Tunis 2015

Also in February, Charles Tripp gave the 2015 Irvine Memorial Lecture at St Andrews University on ‘The Politics of Pain: the production of violence in the Middle East’.

Rochana Bajpai was invited to deliver a seminar on problems of pluralism and models of multiculturalism in India at the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs at the Pardee School for International Affairs at Boston University. This formed part of Prof Bob Hefner and Dr Jeremy Menchik’s seminar on “Varieties of Pluralist Co-existence” sponsored by CURA. Rochana travelled to Boston in February amidst a snow-storm to deliver the lecture titled ‘Indian Multiculturalism: An Exception?’ Rochana was also an invited speaker at a panel on the 2015 Delhi elections organised by the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge on 26 February. The panel led a lively discussion on the reasons and implications of the massive victory of the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party -’common man’s party’) over the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in the recently held state elections. The all-female panel comprised Dr Mukulika Banerjee (LSE), Dr Lisa Mitchell (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr Shruti Kapila (Cambridge).

Rahul Rao delivered the keynote lecture for an international symposium entitled ‘Sexuality and Social Justice: what’s law got to do with it?’, organized by Kent Law School and the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, on 5 March 2015. The lecture was entitled ‘moral panic / material precarious’.

Rahul Rao featured on three roundtables at the International Studies Association Convention held in New Orleans from 18-21 February 2015: ‘Race and International Relations: A Debate Around John Hobson’s The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics’ (the text of this intervention can be read at the disorderofthings blog); ‘Queering/Querying Global Political Economy’; ‘Queer Theory and the International’. He also presented a paper entitled ‘The diplomat and the domestic: a crisis in Indo-US relations.’ He was also invited to speak at the Radical Philosophy Conference 2015, held at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin on 17 January 2015, on a panel titled ‘Queer Theory and Geopolitics’ and to teach as a Senior Faculty member at the Harvard Law School Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) Workshop at Doha, Qatar, in January 2015.


In November, Laleh Khalili was invited to present “Lineaments of Settler-colonialism in Counterinsurgency Confinement” at a conference on “The Scope of Slavery: Enduring Geographies of American Bondage” symposium at Harvard University. She also gave lectures on “Invisible Sinews of US Counterinsurgency” at Smith College and “Colonial Origins of US and Israeli Counterinsurgency” at Tufts University. She also organised a panel on The “Economies and Politics of War” at the annual meeting of
Middle East Studies Association in Washington DC, and presented “War and the Making of Logistics and Transport Infrastructure in the Gulf” on the same panel.

In February, she presented “Palestine and Transnational Circuits of Coercion” at a workshop on “The Middle East and North Africa in Global History, 1907-2008” at Stanford University.

In December, Mohammad Ali Shabani spoke about Iranian relations with Iraq at a seminar in Madrid organized by FRIDE, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Casa Arabe.

In February Doctoral Student Atta Barkindo presented a paper titled “Rethinking Citizenship in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future – 2050” at a conference organized by the Global Initiative on Civil Society and Conflict (GICSC), Tampa, Florida.

Mark Laffey and Jane Hayward (Tsinghua University) presented “The Problem with Weber: China, the Peasantry and the Internationalization of the State” at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association in New Orleans. Mark also chaired a conference theme panel on ‘IR’s Eurocentric Limitations’.

Also in November, Laleh was in a conversation about her book *Time in the Shadows* with Ian Cobain of the Guardian at Free Word, London.

Rochana Bajpai continued field-research for her project on minority representation and democracy in India, travelling to India during November 2014-January 2015 and March-April 2015.

In February, Michael Farquhar began fieldwork in Cairo for his current research project on the politics of crime and policing in Egypt since the 1970s, against the background of broader processes of economic

### Politics Department Seminars

**for Term 2**

14 Jan 2014
Sanjay Seth (Goldsmith)
‘Some Theses on the Code of Historiography’

21 Jan 2014
Catherine Boone (LSE)
‘Territorial Institutions and the Structure of Politics in Africa’

28 January 2014
Marcus Mietzner (Australian National University)
‘Indonesia’s New President: A Preliminary Scorecard’

25 February 2014
Yuen Foong Khong (Oxford University)
‘The American Tributary System’

4 March 2014
**Alastair Fraser** (SOAS)
‘Post-populism? Michael Sata’s legacy and Zambia’s 2015 Presidential by-election’

18 March 2014
Todd Hall (Oxford)
‘German Lessons for Sino-Japanese Relations?’

In December, Mohammad Ali Shabani spoke about Iranian relations with Iraq at a seminar in Madrid.

Same rally with environmental activist Medha Patka

In February, Michael Farquhar began fieldwork in Cairo for his current research project on the politics of crime and policing in Egypt since the 1970s, against the background of broader processes of economic
Dr Dafydd Fell spent a month in Taiwan for fieldwork in the winter break. He was hosted by the Faculty of Social Science, National Sun Yat Sen University, Kaohsiung. He continued to work on his research projects on party switching and also on the development of Taiwan’s Green Party. He also organized another SOAS student alumni meeting of his former politics students based in Taiwan.

In November Charles Tripp was in Tunisia carrying out fieldwork research for his project on ‘The Republic in Contention: reclaiming public space in Tunisia’. He participated in three days of practice-based workshops organized by Art Rue and FAI-AR (Marseille) on the overall theme of Conflicts and Resistance: the Citizen Artist and Tunisian Public Space, working on the three topics of ‘Images and the visual in public space’, ‘Material, society and public space’, and ‘Dramaturgy, theatre and public space’ led, respectively, by the Tunisian artists/directors, Hela Ammar, Sonia Kallel and Souad Ben Slimane. As part of the programme he joined Tunisian and Algerian colleagues in a panel for a public forum discussion at the Dar Saida on ‘The Citizen Artist and Public Space in the Maghreb: how can art contribute to the establishment of a democratic public space?’

Laleh Khalili has had some fascinating research trips for her ESRC-funded project on ports and transport infrastructure in the Arabian Peninsula. As part of her research (which has also included burrowing into obscure business archives of long defunct shipping agents) she took a field trip to Kuwait, where the state is pouring money into a controversial new container terminal on the island of Bubyan set for opening in 2016. She also interviewed business leaders in shipping as well as media and political analysts. She has written very briefly about some of her impressions of Kuwait in her blog, thegamming.org.

A far more exciting research trip for Laleh, and the kind of fieldwork one can only conduct once in a lifetime included travel on a massive containership, CMA CGM Corte Real from Marsaxlokk, Malta to Jabal Ali, Dubai. The trip which lasted two weeks took Laleh through the Suez Canal and the previously pirate-ridden waters of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, through the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman to the Persian/Arabian Gulf. She has written her diaries of the travel at her blog thegamming.org.
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Outreach

Between January and March 2015 doctoral student Marco Jowell was contracted by Integrity Services and Research to lead a project for the UK government designing the new Conflict, Stabilisation, and Security Fund (CSSF) for East Africa. The CSSF East Africa is a pool of funds to support cross department conflict prevention and conflict management activities in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Between February and March 2015 Marco was contracted by UNICEF through the NGO Conciliation Resources along with Ben Shepherd from Chatham House to produce an analysis of the African Union’s Regional Joint Task Force (AU RTF) against the Lords’ Resistance Army (LRA) in order to determine the mission’s protection strategy.

In November, Matt Nelson joined Farzana Shaikh from Chatham House and Graham Williams from the FCO for a panel to discuss the Pakistan position paper developed by the European Council on Foreign Relations.

In December, Phil Clark participated in a roundtable on Rwanda at the Belgian Embassy in London, hosted by Dr. Harry Verhoeven from Georgetown University and participated in a roundtable for visiting Rwandan parliamentarians, hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the House of Commons. He also gave a breakfast briefing on security issues in Africa to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), and appeared before the Ngoga commission in Rwanda, examining the issue of genocide denial and revisionism in a 2014 BBC television documentary, ‘Rwanda’s Untold Story’. In January, Phil continued a five-year engagement as an expert witness for the prosecution in an extradition case at Westminster Magistrates Court involving five Rwandan genocide suspects.

In February, Phil Clark hosted a ‘Public Dialogue on Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia’, as part of his two-year research project on ‘middle tier’ or ‘go-between’ leaders who bridge elite-level peace negotiations and peace and reconciliation at the community level. The Colombia event, which attracted an audience of 230 people, was the first in a series of four public dialogues (the next three focusing on South Africa, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka). The Colombian dialogue featured Carlos Velandia (former leader of the ELN guerrilla group) and Rosa Emilia Salamanca (former executive secretary of the Colombian National Women’s Network) and was moderated by Andrei Gomez-Suarez (from the National Centre for Historical Memory in Bogota). This research project is funded by the Fetzer Institute, a US-based NGO.

In February, Phil Clark organised an Africa study day for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) at SOAS, attended by 50 FCO and 20 SOAS representatives. The day-long event involved presentations by SOAS staff (including Phil and Stephen Chan from the Politics Department) on topics requested by the FCO: African leadership, migration, transitional justice, multilingualism and policy uses of anthropology. The FCO in turn presented on the ways in which they use academic research in day-to-day policymaking. The study day was intended to form the basis of various ongoing FCO-SOAS exchanges on Africa.

Tat Yan Kong participated in an FCO-organized roundtable briefing for Mr Charles Hay, the new UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, on 15 January 2015.

Professor Stephen Chan flew to Belfast to brief the command of 38 Brigade on its forthcoming deployment to Southern Africa to mentor and develop military personnel and units there.

In December, Leslie Vinjamuri spoke at an Expert Meeting on the Impact and Effectiveness of the International Criminal Court at the Hague Institute for Global Justice. This meeting was also sponsored by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University. Leslie also wrote an expert comment for Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report on the CIA’s use of Torture, ‘Senate Report on Torture Seems Unlikely to Lead to Greater Accountability’

Leslie Vinjamuri chaired a discussion on Obama’s final years at Chatham House with Steven Erlanger of the New York Times and Xenia Wickett of Chatham House. She also participated in a high level working group meeting on Transatlantic Cooperation to Prevent and Stop Mass Atrocities cosponsored by the Stanley Foundation, Chatham House, and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.
In January, Mohamed Al Daaysi, an undergraduate in Politics and Development, published a piece on the LSE’s Middle East Centre blog. Mohamed’s piece, titled ‘Radical spatial-demographic transformations: the need for an intersectional view’ called on the need for intersectional analysis when considering the uneven and combined development in Bahrain.

In November, Salwa Ismail was interviewed on the conflict in Syria by Austrian radio fm4.

Beginning in February, doctoral student Mohammad Ali Shabani started writing as a columnist for the Washington and Beirut-based website Al-Monitor, which focuses on political, social and economic developments in the MENA region. He penned articles on the politics behind the appointment of Iran’s new UN envoy, widening support for Foreign Minister Zarif, Iranian decision-making on the nuclear issue and the future of Tehran’s cooperation with the IAEA.

In March, Mohammad was interviewed by the New York Times on Iranian reactions to Netanyahu’s speech before Congress. His commentary was featured extensively. He also wrote an article on the aims of Netanyahu’s speech, published by the National Interest.

In January, Laleh Khalili appeared on Pacifica Radio’s Letters and Politics to speak about the film Battle of Algiers and its continuing relevance today.

Kristin Surak was interviewed numerous times by Deutsche Welle on topics including Japanese-Chinese bilateral relations, snap elections in Japan, and Japanese foreign policy in the Middle East. The BBC Nightly News interviewed her on the Japanese hostage crisis, and the Hokkaido Newspaper interviewed her Abe’s re-election. She also appeared on Radio France International and PrimeTime FM in Seoul.

She also published a controversial blog piece on the re-election of Japan’s prime minister in The Diplomat, and a piece on the election results in the Hokkaido Shinbun.

Doctoral student Ini Dele-Adedeji was on the 12 January edition of the Arise TV evening news, discussing the beginning of Goodluck Jonathan’s election campaign. He was also interviewed on an episode of Sputtnik, on Russia Today, hosted by George Galloway MP, discussing Boko Haram and the abduction of the Chibok girls. In February & March, he made several appearances on “The World” morning news programme on Arise TV, discussing the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria and its wider implications, and two interviews to the BBC World Radio Service for its NewsDay programme, discussing the multi-national Joint Task Force set up to fight Boko Haram.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was interviewed about the Paris murders by Kristeligt Dagblad in Denmark and Asian Affairs in London and New Delhi. His views on the democratic aims of the Iranian revolution were published on the front page of Tehran Times. He gave several additional interviews to the Iranian press.

In October, Michael Buehler was interviewed on Monocle 24’s ‘The Globalist’ on Joko Widodo’s plan to attract foreign investment for infrastructure projects. The same month, Michael discussed on Monocle 24 how the Thai military makes money from unofficial land deals and how the Sedition Act is used to silence government opponents in Malaysia. Also in October, Michael gave an interview to Thai BBC on the military coup in the country. He also explained the political agenda behind Malaysia’s anti-terrorism laws on the Islam Channel. In November, Michael was interviewed on the Islam Channel about the death sentences for Muslim separatists in Thailand. In addition, Michael also discussed on the Islam Channel the reasons behind fuel subsidy cuts in Indonesia and why they triggered street protests.

The same month, Michael discussed the health of the Thai King: why the Singaporean government got involved in a dating website called ‘Paktor’, discrimination against female police recruits in Indonesia and the lack of justice for victims of the Maguindanao massacre in the Philippines on Monocle 24.

In December, Michael discussed power struggles within the Thai Royal House, the impact of government subsidies on obesity rates in Malaysia; as well as drug problems in Burma and how they relate to the spread of capitalism. He also discussed the collapse of the Indonesian tea industry due to excessive red tape. Later that month, Michael discussed education reform in Indonesia; a Thai government video promoting ‘good values’ featuring Nazi symbols; the politics of low-cost air-travel in Malaysia and Japan’s endeavors to promote Japanese culture across Southeast Asia on Monocle 24.

In January, Michael was interviewed by Monocle 24 on the aviation industry in Southeast Asia; the appointment of the first Roman Catholic cardinal from Myanmar by Pope Francis; on transnational crime within the ASEAN region and the future of medical tourism in Southeast Asia. Michael also discussed on Monocle 24’s ‘The Daily Brief’ the peace negotiations between ethnic minority rebel groups and the Burmese government; plans of the Thai government to recognize a third gender in its new constitution; and why Indonesian government regulations to protect marine life undermine environmental friendly fishing practices.

In addition, Michael Buehler was quoted in the Nikkei Asian Review on the power struggle surrounding Indonesia’s search for a new chief of police. He also gave an interview to Sky News, discussing a clash between Philippine elite police forces and Islamist rebel groups in the Southern Philippines. In February, Michael discussed on Monocle 24’s ‘Daily Brief’ the decline in religious tolerance across Southeast Asia; how ‘Zombie’ companies undermine Vietnam’s economic growth and how the United Nations conservative drug policy has shaped Southeast Asia’s response to a growing narcotics problem in the region. Later that month, Michael was interviewed by Voice of America on the imprisonment of opposition
leader Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia and what this means for the
democratization process in the country.
Furthermore, Michael commented on the nomination of
Badrodin Haiti as Indonesia’s national police chief in an
article published by Reuters. Michael also talked about the
why Indonesia creates 10 percent of the world’s ocean
trash; what to make of the government’s statement that
the future of Singapore as a high-income country is
uncertain; the entrenched interests Indonesian president
Joko Widodo is facing in his battle against corruption and
what it means to come out as gay in Vietnam. Finally,
Michael was interviewed on Voice of America on how
the international community reacted to Malaysia’s decision
to imprison Anwar Ibrahim on sodomy charges.
In March, Michael Buehler, was a guest on Monocle’s
24’s ‘Globalist’ program and discussed how the execution
of two Australian nationals in Indonesia will affect
diplomatic relations between the two countries. He also
discussed on Monocle 24’s ‘The Daily Brief’ how
Singapore’s conservative work culture prevents women
from climbing up the corporate ladder.
David Wearing had an article published by CNN on 10
January 2015, titled ‘No “clash of civilizations” in Paris
attacks’. He also had an article published by the Guardian
on 6 February 2015, titled ‘British politics has laid the
ground for Peqida’.
In February doctoral student Jeremy Taylor appeared on
The Muslim Channel to discuss the humanitarian situation
in South Sudan. Jeremy was also interviewed by Voice of America about human rights violations in Darfur.
In November, Phil Clark was a guest on Rise and Shine
Rwanda, a Rwanda TV breakfast show, to discuss a
commission of inquiry into the recent BBC documentary
which tells a revisionist story of the Rwandan genocide;
appeared on Monocle 24’s ‘Midori House’ programme
(05:51) with Robert Fox, defence editor of the London
Evening Standard, discussing Putin and the G20 summit,
ISIS, the strengthening of Joseph Kony and the LRA
rebels, and Band Aid 30; and did the Monocle 24
‘Globalist’ news review (46:07), looking at the stalled
Colombian peace talks, Burkina Faso, Anglican women
bishops and, again, Band Aid 30.
In December, a radio documentary on forgiveness and
reconciliation in central Africa produced by Phil Clark
and Nicola Palmer (King’s College London) was discussed
in the Italian news magazine, Post Internazionale; and his
evidence to a Rwandan government commission of inquiry
into whether the recent BBC documentary, ‘Rwanda’s
Untold Story’, amounted to genocide denial was quoted by
the Ighwe website in Rwanda.
In January, Phil Clark was a guest on Monocle 24’s ‘The
Globalist’, looking ahead to events in 2015; was interviewed by Deutsche Welle on the impact of a UN
military strike against the Hutu-dominated FDLR rebel
group in eastern Congo; was quoted by the Institute for
War and Peace Reporting on the ICC’s decision to drop
criminal charges against Kenyan President Uhuru
Kenyatta; did the Monocle 24 news review on Boko
Haram, the transfer of LRA commander, Dominic
Ongwen, to the ICC, and US/UK cyber war games; was
interviewed by the New Times newspaper in Rwanda
about the UN’s upcoming military offensive against the
Hutu-dominated FDLR rebel group in eastern Congo; and
was a guest on Monocle 24’s ‘Midori House’ programme
discussing, among other issues, Boko Haram’s cross-
border violence in Cameroon.
In February, Phil Clark was quoted in the New Times in
Rwanda on the fight between the UN International
Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and Rwanda over
who should house the ICTR archives when the
Tribunal closes later this year; and was interviewed by Deutsche Welle on the UN’s suspension of joint military operations
with the Congolese army against the Hutu-dominated
FDLR rebel group because of war crimes accusations
against two Congolese generals involved in the mission.
The Deutsche Welle website ran a news article quoting
Phil Clark on the same issue. Also in February, Phil
Clark was a guest on Monocle 24’s ‘Midori House’
programme, discussing the Minsk talks on Ukraine, the
evacuation of Western embassies in Yemen, the drowning
of refugees in the Mediterranean and the 25th anniversary
of the release of Nelson Mandela; was a guest on the BBC
World Service ‘Weekend’ programme discussing, among
other topics, Ebola, Boko Haram and the Nigerian
elections, Ukraine, the Colombia event at SOAS and the
Cricket World Cup.
In March, Phil Clark was a guest on the BBC’s ‘Focus on
Africa’ TV programme, discussing the ICC Prosecutor
Fatou Bensouda’s visit to Uganda; was quoted in a
Guardian article about Naomi Campbell’s Ebola
fundraiser; was a guest on Monocle24’s ‘Midori House’
programme to discuss Greece, ISIS and deradicalisation,
and US attitudes toward climate change; and was
interviewed by Newshour on the BBC World Service
about the Mo Ibrahim Prize (this year given to out-going
Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba).
Also in March, Phil Clark was interviewed by Deutsche
Welle on whether Rwandan President Paul Kagame will
run again in 2017, and by the East African newspaper
interviewed Phil Clark about the Rwandan government’s
intention to prosecute the BBC for genocide denial.
Additionally, the Kinyarwanda news website, Imirisire,
also ran a piece on Phil Clark’s views on the BBC and
genocide denial.
In November Dafydd Fell published “The battle for third
place: Prospects for Taiwan’s small parties in local
elections’ in the Nottingham China Policy Blog.
In December, Leslie Vinjamuri posted a blog about
North Korea and human rights, ‘The North Korean Paper
Trail’ at Political Violence @ Glance. Dr Vinjamuri also
spoke about Peace and Justice on a BBC panel for the
Forum: Shaking up Foundations. This was recorded live
at the London School of Economics Literary Festival with
Will Self, Armand Leroi and Matt Parker. It will be aired
in March by the BBC World Service for their program, The
Forum hosted by Bridget Kendall.
In February, Doctoral Student Atta Barkindo published an article titled ‘Terrorism, Security and Politics: Nigeria’s 2015 Elections’, with the RUSI Newsbrief. He also produced a documentary titled, ‘the Global Citizen’, for the Global Citizenship Forum based in Florida, USA. The documentary records the stories of ordinary Nigerians who have gone beyond ethno-religious and regional sentiments to help victims of the Boko Haram conflict, particularly, Internally Displaced People living in camps, homes and on the streets of northeastern Nigeria.

In January, Atta Barkindo was interviewed by the Irish Radio-TV channel RTE from Abuja, on the Rise of Boko Haram; and by BBC Africa TV, Abuja, Nigeria on regional collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon in fighting Boko Haram; and with BBC Radio, Hausa Service, Abuja-Nigeria, on capacity of Boko Haram to successfully disrupt Nigeria’s elections. In March, he was quoted in an article “Boko Haram Grows Stronger as Nigeria prepares for Vote” published in the Star on March 2, 2015.

Meera Sabaratnam edited a forum on The Global Transformation (CUP, 2015) by Barry Buzan and George Lawson at The Disorder of Things, featuring international contributors. Meera was also quoted in The Telegraph in February discussing the merits of studying at a specialist institution like SOAS.

Events

In November, Phil Clark launched a new programme on research, policy and higher education through the Aegis Trust in Rwanda, with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The programme, under Phil’s direction, focuses on catalysing research by Rwandan academics, connecting research to policy and the media, and contributing to the University of Rwanda’s teaching on conflict-related issues. In March, the programme began supporting 12 research projects by Rwandan academics (from a pool of 171 proposals), which will generate peer-reviewed articles on subjects including post-genocide development, inter-generational trauma, gender dimensions of post-genocide recovery, transitional justice and reconciliation. Later this year, the programme will run a series of workshops on theory and methods, writing and publication, designed to increase the capacity of the Rwandan research community.

An evening presentation of The Iranian and Moroccan Library by Morad Montazami took place at Tate Britain on Friday 6 March 2015, 16.00-19.00. The presentation focused on a curated selection of publications that were collected for Tate in 2014, during his research undertaken in Iran and Morocco. Charles Tripp’s The Power and the People was part of this curated collection.

On 7 March, while most Londoners enjoyed a beautiful spring day, the Department was hard at work amidst the antique splendour of the Caledonian Club in Belgravia. The Department’s Annual Research Away Day was a productive and stimulating day during which the members of the Department discussed the substantive and the strategic aspects of their research. Topics included the activities of existing research centres and emerging research clusters in the Department, the planning necessary for an effective submission in REF 2020, drawing on lessons learned from REF 2104, the relationship of teaching to research, the role of the Department Research Seminar and of the Department Research Committee, as well as the resources – time – that would best support original and sustained research.

Notices

Student Mentoring Scheme

The departmental Student Support Team is pleased to announce the official launch of the student mentoring scheme. Students interested in becoming a mentor or mentee are required to register using the circulated Google Doc. They will then be matched with a mentor or mentee according to their areas of expertise or support required. The mentoring scheme proposal can be accessed on the BLE Info Point in the designated mentoring section. Any further queries should be directed to ugpolitics@soas.ac.uk.
Course Sign-Up Informational Event
The department has organised a course choice event on **Wednesday 18 March at 5.30pm** in the BGLT. The event is aimed to provide students with further information on their upcoming courses and the opportunity to raise specific questions with academic staff. Students are strongly encouraged to attend.

SOAS Summer School
Come and join us for the SOAS Summer School 2015! This year again the SOAS Summer School will offer a range of courses with a focus on Politics, including courses on International Relations in the 21st Century, Global Health, Transformations in China, Gender and Politics in the Middle East and more ….

Enjoy a 20% discount on tuition fees for SOAS’ current students and 10% for SOAS Alumni. Some scholarship places are also available (deadline 13 March). Enquire here!

Are you a graduating Politics student or one of our alumni? Let us know what you will be doing or have done after graduation. Email Laleh Khalili at lk4@soas.ac.uk!

The Department of Politics and International Studies is one of the most cutting edge politics departments in the United Kingdom, and uniquely positioned for the study of the politics of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

There are at present nearly 500 students studying for degrees (BA, Certificate, MSc and MPhil/PhD) in the Department. The Department also hosts visiting students who are here as part of their work towards degrees in other countries (notably the United States, EU, Korea and Japan).

Apart from providing students with a firm grounding in the discipline, the department has particular strengths in the following areas:
- **Regional Politics**: Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Africa
- **International Relations**: IR theory, security, human rights, transnational justice, international migration, IPE
- **Comparative Politics**: comparative political sociology, comparative political economy, comparative political thought
- **Political Theory**: political Islam, non-western political thought, multiculturalism

The current officers of the department are:

**Head of Department**
Prof Salwa Ismail

**Undergraduate Admissions Tutor**
Dr Meera Sabaratnam

**Undergraduate Programme Convenors**
Dr Michael Bachler (BA Politics)
Dr Fiona Adamson (BA International Relations)

**Undergraduate Tutors**
Dr Arshin Adib-Moghaddam
Dr Carlo Bonura (Student Welfare Tutor)
Dr Reem Aboul-El-Fadl (First Year Tutor)
Dr Tom Young (Second Year Tutor)
Dr Matthew Eagleton-Pierce (Third Year Tutor)

**Postgraduate Tutor**
Dr Dafydd Fell (Term 1)
Dr Kristin Surak (Terms 2 and 3)

**Postgraduate Admissions Tutors/Programme Convenors**
Dr Phil Clark (African Politics)
Dr Enze Han (Asian Politics)
Dr Mark Lafle (International Politics)
Prof Charles Tripp (Middle East Politics)
Dr Yuka Kobayashi (Politics of China)
Dr Tat Yan Kong (State, Society and Development)
Prof Stephen Hopgood (Conflict, Rights and Justice)
Dr Rahul Rao (Comparative Political Thought)
Dr Phil Clark (MRes in Politics with a Language)

**Research Tutor**
Dr Felix Berenskoetter

**Research Admissions Tutor**
Dr Bhavna Davé

This newsletter is produced three times per academic year by Laleh Khalili. Send any announcements or notices to lk4@soas.ac.uk

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On Facebook, you can find and befriend us at SOASPolitics