Appointments, Awards, Honours

We are very proud of first year BA International Relations students Letitia Davis, who has won an essay prize awarded by the PSA’s Women and Politics group. This is the first time ever the group has awarded the prize to an undergraduate essay. Letty has won the prize for an essay titled ‘Pinkwashing and Homonationalism: Gender, Sexuality and Power in Israel’ which she wrote for her “Introduction to IR” course. Letty’s tutor Akanksha Mehta noted the essay and alongside Rahul Rao and Felix Berenskoetter (the course convenors) nominated the essay for the prize. The prize judge had this to say about the essay: “This essay explores the interplay between hard and soft power in world politics through a discussion of ‘pinkwashing’ and homonationalism in Israel. The essay contends that Israel maintains a balance between unrivalled regional military strength and cultural appeal to the West through its display of democratic and pro-LGBT values, and goes on to explore the interplay between these two facets of power in the sexualisation of IDF soldiers in the Israeli pornographic film Men of Israel. The nuanced handling and seamless integration of queer theory, postcolonial theory and the more mainstream International Relations literature make this essay truly worthy of first prize.”

The Department of Politics and International Studies has risen ten places in the Guardian League Tables to number 13. SOAS Politics also came high –and ahead of other major London Politics departments– in the QS World University Rankings.

Tat Yan Kong has been awarded a small grant from the Academy of Korean Studies to support his research project, “Evolution of the North Korean Political Economy Under the Kim Jong-Un Regime: Empirical Trends and Theoretical Implications.”

Kristin Surak has been awarded a Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton.

Kristin will undertake the first global mapping of state-run schemes to manage temporary low-skilled labor migration. The project begins in late nineteenth century South Africa, moves through the mid-twentieth century developments in North America and Europe, then on to the dramatic cases in the Middle East, before it shifts to the closely managed programs in East Asia, and concludes with nascent structures emerging in Southeast Asia. It aims to produce a taxonomy of guestworker programs by analysing the different regimes of control – the techniques for policing full membership in the state, nation, and economy – employed across time and place. It is a testament to the excellent done research in the Department that IAS has appointed two of our colleagues, Kristin and Enze Han, as Fellows for the coming academic year.

Fiona Adamson has been awarded a two-year Leverhulme Fellowship for the project “Conflicts Beyond Borders: Transnational Identities, Belonging and Security.”

Rahul Rao was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (2015-16) for a project titled “Out of time: anxieties of queer postcolonial temporality”. The project seeks to explore the ways in which memory, history and ideas of futurity inform, constrain and enable contemporary queer postcolonial activism in the global South.

Also congratulations to Enze Han who is also a recipient a Leverhulme research fellowship, which he will take up after returning from his year at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

At the eighteenth annual meeting of the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, doctoral student Atta Barkindo’s PhD research project “History, Memory and Resistance in Northern Nigeria: The Transformation of Boko Haram since 1995” was selected as a 2014 grant recipient.

Elian Weizman, a former doctoral student and more recently a senior teaching fellow at the department accepted a Research Fellowship at the CBRL Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem to start in October 2015. Elian has also been shortlisted to the SOAS Director’s Teaching Prize 2014-15 in the category of ‘inspirational teaching’.

Leslie Vinjamuri has been appointed to the editorial board of the Cambridge Studies in International Relations, a leading book series of Cambridge University Press. Leslie was also appointed a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Stephen Chan was appointed to the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Visiting Chair of Academic Excellence at Bir Zeit University. The appointment includes travelling to Palestine where he delivers a series of eight lectures on comparative foreign policy. These begin with latest theories of securitisation and go through the foreign policies of leading actors in the international system and how they approach the Middle East.

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce has been awarded best article by an early career researcher by Critical Policy Studies (Routledge) for his article: “The Concept of Governance in the Spirit of Capitalism”.

The Concept of Governance in the Spirit of Capitalism
Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was invited to act as a consulting editor to the *FWU Journal of Social Sciences* at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University in Peshawar. Doctoral student Gerasimos Tsourapas has been awarded a departmental scholarship to attend the Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, where he will attend courses on Advanced Survey Data Analysis and Survey Experiments.

MSc student Fadil Aliriza was appointed as a Visiting Senior Fellow to the Legatum Institute’s Transitions Forum.

In March, PhD student Indrė Balčaitė won the second prize in the annual best student paper competition organised by the Asian Geography Speciality Group of the Association of American Geographers for her submission “Mae Sot, Myawaddy and flows over six decades: from a cosmopolitan backwater to a high-speed gateway?”.

PhD candidate Lewis Turner was awarded fieldwork grants from both the ESRC and SOAS to undertake his doctoral fieldwork in Jordan, where he will be researching gender and the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

We are happy to congratulate Guy Eyre, who received one of the SOAS Research Scholarships to conduct his doctoral research with Matt Nelson. Also congratulations to Catherine Craven who has been awarded an ESRC PhD scholarship through the Bloomsbury Doctoral Training Centre for her research project “What explains shifts in global diaspora governance? An exploration of the making of international policies and norms directed at the global Tamil diaspora.” She will be joining the Department in September and working under the supervision of Fiona Adamson.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam has been re-appointed Chair of the Centre of Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute.

Dr. Reem Abou-El-Fadl and PhD students Noga Glucksam, Jack Joy and Calum Fisher attended the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) in Syracuse, New York for two weeks in June. They were instructed in qualitative research methods and methodology by some of the field’s leading scholars, and given opportunities to present and receive feedback on their own research designs.

Many warm congratulations to the newly minted “doctor”, Freya Irani who passed her doctoral viva in the last few weeks.

The book analyses the reform movement in Iran and the groups and organisations that form the basis of the Egyptian opposition movement in their historical contexts. It argues that the contemporary movements have not arisen out of a vacuum but represent the culmination of over twenty years of mobilisation by social movements. The contemporary movements seen on the streets of the Middle East have their roots in a rich history of social and political struggle in the region. Since the 1990s, large-scale social movements have mobilised millions in opposition to authoritarian regimes often backed by the West. In Egypt, diverse movements opposed the Mubarak regime and its dependence on the US, and have gone on to fight for further transformative change. In Iran, an Islamic reform movement, women’s movement and democracy movement has challenged the undemocratic and exclusivist nature of the Islamic state since the 1990s. This mobilisation is itself part of a history of struggle for democracy, social justice and freedom in the region that dates back over a century.

Reem Abou-El-Fadl’s edited volume *Revolutionary Egypt: Connecting Domestic and International Struggles* was published by Routledge in June. The volume brings together experts on the Middle East from disciplines as diverse as political economy, comparative politics and social anthropology, including from SOAS, Charles Tripp and Corinna Mullin at the Politics Department, and Adam Handieh at Development Studies. Coming two years after the ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood president Muhammad Mursi, and four and a half years since that of Hosni Mubarak, the volume offers a variety of insights that assist us in understanding the position Egypt finds itself in...
today. Considering the revolution as a process, the contributors analyse it in light of decades of popular resistance to state practices. The volume also places Egypt’s revolutionary process in its regional and international contexts, considering popular contestation of foreign policy trends as well as the constraints imposed by external actors and structures. It draws connections between Egyptians’ struggles against domestic despotism and their positions on regional and international processes such as economic liberalisation, Euro-American interventionism and similar struggles further afield. The volume will feature on jadaliyya’s ‘New Texts Out Now’ page in early July.

Reem Abou-El-Fadl has also published an article in Nations and Nationalism (vol. 21, no. 2) entitled ‘Early pan-Arabism in Egypt’s July revolution: the Free Officers’ political formation and policy-making, 1946–54’. The article argues against conventional accounts of the belated appearance of an instrumentalised pan-Arabism in the programme of the Free Officers. Instead it underlines the impact of the British colonial context on the Free Officers’ political formation and draws on pamphlets, speeches, media output and memoirs to evidence their early identification with pan-Arabism in turn.


Sebastian Lundby, MSc Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice, has written an article titled “On the European System of Immigration Detention” published in the Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration. The article was originally written as a research paper for Fiona Adamson’s International Migration and Diaspora Politics class.

Doctoral student Gerassimos Tsourapas published an article titled “Why Do States Develop Multi-Tier Emigrant Policies? Evidence from Egypt” at the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. The article examines why states vary their policies towards their citizens abroad, and why some emigrant groups are treated preferentially to others. Through a single-case study of Egypt, it highlights how policy differentiation is based upon the perceived utility of an emigrant group remaining abroad versus the utility of its return. This utility is determined by states’ domestic political economy priorities and foreign policy objectives. Gerassinos also published an article titled “The Politics of Egyptian Migration to Libya” at the Middle East Research and Information Project. Inspired in part by the recent massacre of Egyptian migrants in Libya by the Islamic State, the piece examines the history and politics of Egyptian migration to Libya since the early 1950s. It pays particular attention to how the welfare of migrants has always been subordinate to strategic concerns in the calculations of both states.


In May, Meera Sabaratnam published a response piece to Patrick T. Jackson’s keynote address in Millennium: Journal of International Studies. Her response was titled ‘Staging a Battle, Losing the Wars: International Studies, Science’ and the Neoliberalisation of the University’ and is available via academia.edu.

Doctoral student Najia Mukhtar published an article in a special issue of Contemporary South Asia. The article is based on her PhD research and is titled “Using love to fathom religious difference – contemporary formats of Sufi poetry in Pakistan”.

Bhavna Dave published an article “Becoming “Legal” through “Illegal” Procedures: The Precarious Status of Migrant Workers in Russia” in Russian Analytical Digest (No 159).

Doctoral student Eddie Walsh’s working paper, titled “Stability as systemic fallout” was published by the Emerging Science and Technology Policy Centre.


Michael Farquhar has published a chapter in a volume edited by Masooda Bano and Keiko Sakurai and published by Edinburgh University Press. The volume is titled Shaping Global Islamic Discourses: The Role of al-Azhar, al-Medina and al-Mustafa and Michael’s chapter is a history of the Islamic University of Medina, founded as a Salafi missionary project by the Saudi state in 1961.
Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

Centre for Comparative Political Thought
On 22 May, the CCPT hosted a guest lecture by Professor Jens Hanssen (University of Toronto) on “The Global Cold War and the Arab Intellectual Field”. The discussant was Dr Abdel Razzaq Takriti (University of Oxford).

'Lenin in Tunis', World Social Forum, March 2015

In April, CCPT co-sponsored an international conference on Uses of the Past. The conference was co-organised by Leigh Jenco (LSE), Humeira Iqtidar (King’s College), and Rochana Bajpai and featured papers by Uday Mehta (CUNY), and Wael Hallaq (Columbia), among others.

The London Comparative Political Thought Group, co-chaired by CCPT at SOAS, LSE and King’s College London, held a seminar at SOAS in June. The papers presented were Mill and the Indian Elite: A conversation (Udit Bhatia, Oxford), and Comparative Political Thought methodologies (Brooke Ackerly and Rochana Bajpai).

Centre for the International Politics of Conflicts, Rights and Justice
CCRJ has hosted many world-class speakers including Professor Charles King of Georgetown University who spoke about the birth of modern Istanbul (Midnight at the Pera Palace) and Professor Victor Cha of Georgetown University and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who spoke about theories of unification on the Korean peninsula.

Professor Thomas Christensen of Princeton University spoke about The China Challenge (in an event chaired by Enze Han).

Enze Han chairing Thomas Christensen lecture

Professor Jack Snyder of Columbia University held a roundtable in advance of his forthcoming work on human rights and religious mobilisation in Asian Turkey. And Professor Tonya Putnam, also of Columbia University, spoke about the impact of domestic legal reforms and civilian atrocities.

The London Transitional Justice Network, co-chaired by CCRJ at SOAS, the LSE, UCL and UEL, hosted Professor Mark Osiel for a talk on individual and collective responses to mass atrocities.

Former CCRJ Intern and MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice graduate, Sanne Verschuren, will be starting a PhD in Political Science at Brown University this Fall. Her research will focus on norms surrounding the use of unmanned military systems. Sanne is the recipient of a fellowship by the Belgian American Education Foundation for the first year of her PhD studies.

Centre for Taiwan Studies
Between June 18 and June 20 Chang Bi-yu and Dafydd Fell organized the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies conference at SOAS. The event was co-organized by the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies and Taiwan’s Academia Sinica.
This was the largest Taiwan Studies ever held in Europe. It featured three keynote speeches, 16 academic panels, four roundtables, a concert and film screening. 75 of the world’s leading Taiwan Studies scholars from Europe, North America and Asia joined the event to share their research findings.

The three-day event attracted an audience of over 500 people, with audience members coming from as far as Taiwan and California. One of the highlights was the concert on June 20 featuring the multi-award winning Taiwanese musician Lin Sheng-hsiang and the British Taiwanese band Transition in the BGLT. Dafydd was interviewed by the Taipei Times in a feature on the conference.

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

5 March. Picturing History: Models of Cross-strait Lineage Construction for Taiwanese Buddhism Speaker: Dr. Stefania Travagnin, University of Groningen.


12 March. Southern Hokkien: An Introduction – What We Did and Why We Did What We Did Speaker: Prof Bernhard Fuehrer (SOAS)

18 March. Situating the Taishang in Cross-Strait Ties Speaker: Dr Joe Thomas Karackattu (Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras)

10 June. Film Screening of Joyful Life and Q&A with Director Anita Chang Speaker: Director Anita Chang

10 June. The Quest for a Quality Regime: Taiwan’s State Entrepreneurs in the New Millennium. Speaker: Dr Michelle Hsieh (Academia Sinica)

To celebrate the end of term Chang Bi-yu and Dafydd organized a party for students taking Taiwan related courses on March 20. This featured a performance by the music department’s Teoh Yang-Ming.

London Migration Research Group

David FitzGerald (UC San Diego) presented a seminar on his book Calling the Masses: The Democratic Origins of Racist Immigration Policy in the Americas. The London Migration Research Group (LMRG) on 21 April 2015.

Migration, Mobility & Membership Cluster

Gerasimos Tsourapas was awarded a British International Studies Association [BISA] Workshop grant (with Maria Koinova, University of Warwick) that funded a daylong workshop on 16 June. The workshop, titled “Sending States, Emigrants & Diasporas: New Trends & Novel Approaches in Political Science,” attracted scholars from the United States, Europe, Australia and Great Britain, including Fiona Adamson. Fiona presented a paper titled “Sending States and the Making of Intra-Diasporic Politics: Turkey and Its Diaspora(s),” while Gerasimos presented a paper titled “Does Emigration Sustain Authoritarianism? Egypt & Cross-Regime Cooperation in the Middle East.” A panel of select papers was also featured in the Annual BISA Meeting, on 17 June. The workshop, co-sponsored by the Politics Department’s Migration, Mobility & Membership Cluster, ended with a celebratory dinner at St Katharine Docks.
Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA)

The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) held three Big Star Rising Star events in the summer term. Professor Sarah Ansari (Royal Holloway) was in conversation with Dr Daniel Haines (Bristol) on 20 March, discussing “Corruption and Development: Between Citizen and State in post 1947 India and Pakistan”. On 29 April 2015 Dr Katherine Schofield (King’s College) and Dr Chloe Alaghband-Zadeh (Cambridge) exchanged views on “Music, Art and Power in India”. On 22 May 2015 Professor Nile Green (UCLA) and Dr David Motadel (University of Cambridge) spoke on the theme of “Going West: Persian Students and Shahs in Imperial Europe”.

MUSA is a student-led research network organised by Sameen Mohsin Ali, Najia Mukhtar, Johann Chacko (Politics), Francesca Fuoli, Christopher Bahl (History) and Simon Leese (Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies).

Presentations and Conferences

Professor Stephen Chan gave a course of lectures in Strategic Diplomacy at the School of Leadership, University of Johannesburg, in April. Later that same month he went to Beijing to help chair a collaboration between Sussex Institute of Development Studies and its Chinese Cabinet counterpart in preparation for the Chinese hosting of the G20 in 2016. At the end of June and beginning of July he went to Palestine to act as the inaugural Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Chair of Academic Excellence at Bir Zeit University.

Bhavna Dave presented a paper “Reforms in Kazakhstan’s Labour Migration Law” at a conference Migration Bridges in Eurasia in Yerevan, Armenia in November. The conference was co-organised by the Institute of Social and Political Research, Russian Academy of Sciences and Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of National Academy of Sciences in Armenia. Bhavna also gave two lectures (in Russian) on “Conceptual and methodological approaches to understanding migrants’ adaptation and integration in Russia” at a Workshop Migratory processes in Russia: Problems of adaptation and integration of migrants for doctoral students at North Caucasus Federal University in Stavropol, Russia.

In March, Bhavna Dave gave a talk on “The Precarious Status of Central Asian Migrant Workers in Russia: The Blurred Boundaries Between ‘Legality’ and ‘Illegality’” at the Centre for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus at EHESS (Ecoles des hautes études en sciences sociaux), in Paris. Also in March, Bhavna gave a talk to the Eastern Research Group, FCO on the effects of Russia’s new labour migration legislation on migrant remittances to Central Asian states. She gave a talk on similar issues to the Eurasia Program and Migration Initiative Program of the Open Society Foundation in New York on 29 April 2015. Also in April, Bhavna gave a paper “How Migration Laws Foster an Illegalization of Migrant Workers in Russia” at the 20th Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention at Columbia University, New York. In June, Bhavna organised a one-day workshop on Russia’s Migration Regulatory Regime: Migration Policy, Laws, Enforcement and Effects on 19 June 2015 at SOAS under the auspices of the Centre of Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus. She also gave an introductory paper at the workshop.

In April, doctoral student Anna Rader participated in the week-long Hague Colloquium on Legal Identity in The Netherlands in April 2015, where she delivered a paper on Somaliland’s biometric registration schemes. In June, Anna spoke at a panel on the technical and political reasons for the delay of Somaliland’s parliamentary and presidential elections as part of the Horn of Africa seminar series at the University of Oxford.

After having established an inter-institutional bilateral Erasmus agreement between SOAS and the University of Pavia, in May Simona Vittorini travelled to the University of Pavia where she lectured on the postgraduate course ‘Indian Ocean: history, geopolitics and security’. During her stay, on 21 May Simona was also a speaker at the workshop ‘Evolving Strategic Dynamics in the India Ocean Region’ presenting a paper Narendra Modi’s Indian Ocean policy. In April, along with Dr David Harris, a SOAS politics alumnus and currently at University of Bradford, Simona Vittorini presented the paper “Taking South-South Discourse Seriously: views from India and Ghana on Contemporary Indian Development Cooperation” at the International Symposium ‘Global Governance and the Politics of Aid’ organised by the University of Bradford. In June, Simona presented a paper at BISA 2015 titled “The Third India-Africa Forum Summit 2015. Charting Narendra Modi’s Africa Policy”.

Rahul Rao presented a paper titled “The Elusiveness of ‘Non-Western Cosmopolitanism’” at a workshop titled ‘How to Study Global IR’ at the University of Oxford, and at a workshop on ‘Spatialising Political Thought II: A
Critical Lexicon in the Making’ at Queen’s University Belfast, both in May 2015. In June, Rahul presented a paper titled ‘Capitalism and Homophobia’ at the IGLP conference hosted by Harvard Law School. He also interviewed Professor David Scott about his work on history, memory and temporality at the IGLP Colloquium held immediately after the conference.

In late April, Enze Han presented “Supporting the Co-ethnicity across the Border: the Kokang Conflict, Chinese Nationalism, and Sino-Myanmar Relations” at the Conference ‘Myanmar’s “Borderlands”: Reforms, Conflict, Geopolitics’ held at LSE. In late May, Enze gave a talk on Sino-Myanmar relations at Yunnan University, China.

Fiona Adamson attended a workshop for the new Journal of Global Security Studies (JoGSS) at the University of Denver in Colorado on April 30th where she presented a paper on “Spaces of Global Security”. In May, Fiona participated in a debate on the “Ethics of Immigration” with David Miller (Oxford) and others at University College London (UCL).

In April, Felix Berenskoetter participated in a workshop hosted by the Journal of Global Security Studies (JoGSS) and the Sic Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy at the University of Denver; participated in a workshop titled ‘Concepts at Work’ at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at Hebrew University, Jerusalem and presented a paper exploring the reasons for and functions of the friendship discourse in German-Israeli relations. In June, Felix participated in the 40th Annual Meeting of the British International Studies Association (BISA), where he presented at a roundtable on “Power Politics: Relevance and Return?” and served as discussant on the panel “The Impact of International Relations as a Social Science”.

Peter Brett gave a paper in May at the Law and Society Association annual conference in Seattle. It was titled “Cause Lawyers Beyond Borders: the South African Legal Profession and Regional Judicialisation”, and was part of a session presenting a special issue on African lawyers now forthcoming in Politique Africaine. The discussant was Rick Abel.

In April, Phil Clark and Stephen Chan took part in the University of Johannesburg school of leadership in Soweto, teaching modules on transitional justice and strategic diplomacy, respectively, to South African government and trade union leaders.

Stephen Hopgood spoke on “The Endtimes of Human Rights” at the Central European University in Budapest in May, as well as attending a workshop at Warwick University with Professor Samuel Moyn on the history of economic and social rights. He also gave a talk on the future of human rights at the Department of Continuing Education in Oxford. In June, Hopgood spoke at the University of Westminster about the Responsibility to Protect after 10 years, and he appeared on a panel on philanthropy and human rights in London with Baroness Helena Kennedy, who is establishing an Institute of Human Rights at Mansfield College Oxford. The Baroness, a former president of SOAS, described his remarks as “gloomy”.

Doctoral student Ini Dele-Adeediji delivered a paper on April 25, 2015 at the Joint Conference of the Swiss Society Middle East and Islamic Cultures and the Swiss Society of African Studies at Universitat Bern titled “The educational sector in Northern Nigeria as a sphere of contestation between the Nigerian State & Boko Haram”. In May, Ini was on a panel organised by the Royal African Society titled “How to Fix Nigeria: Prospects for Change” offering his take on the future ahead for Nigeria along with other experts. Also in May, Ini co-convoked a talk on May 19 at SOAS with Atta Barkindo and Bala Liman titled “Pax Nigeriana: Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Reconciliation after Boko Haram” which was moderated by Dr Phil Clark.

Doctoral student Hae Won Jeong presented her paper “Renierism and Politics of Development in Post-2006 Kuwait: Too much or too little Politics?” at the annual Midwest Political Science Association conference.


In March, MSc student Bilal Zenab Ahmed published a study of the Al-Khansa Manifesto in Souciant Magazine. The work is called “The Women of ISIS” and is available online, along with an examination of Yemeni sectarianism named “Sectarianism in Yemen,” and an analysis of jihadist critiques of democracy titled “Maududi’s Germany.” Zenab also recited the Call to Prayer in Nigel Farage’s pub as part of the Beyond UKIP Cabaret.

In March, Laleh Khalili gave her inaugural lecture titled “The Sinews of War and Trade” on the politics of maritime transportation and infrastructure.
She was introduced by Professor Clare Hemmings (LSE); and Professor Lisa Hajjar (University of California, Santa Barbara) gave the vote of thanks.

From Left: Profs. Lisa Hajjar, Paul Webley, Laleh Khalili and Clare Hemmings

Meera Sabaratnam was invited to address the World Congress 2015 of the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS) in April, on the subject of “Empire Today”. She discussed debates on white supremacy as a global ordering principle and its intersections with geopolitics and capitalism. Meera also ran an early-career mentoring workshop for BISA’s Colonial / Postcolonial / De-colonial Working Group in June, including advice on how to develop yourself as a researcher, read job adverts and a CV / covering letter clinic with senior scholars. As part of the 40th anniversary workshops for BISA before the main annual conference in June, Meera organised a workshop titled “Impunity, Security and the Colonial Frontier”.

Former PhD student and now postdoctoral researcher at the Woolf Institute Sami Everett co-organised with Hanan Hammad and Karima Laachir a well-attended joint international workshop (Woolf Institute and the SOAS Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, CCLPS) titled Minorities and Popular Culture in Modern Middle East. The event was held June 12-13 in the Brunei Gallery. A group of international scholars from multiple disciplines presented fifteen research papers centering on: how modern popular cultures have represented minorities in the modern Middle East, how Middle Eastern minorities have contributed to the popular culture industries, and how to understand tension between minorities contributing to the entertainment industry, while minorities have been misrepresented in the media.

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce presented two papers at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in New Orleans in February: “The Concept of Governance in the Spirit of Capitalism” and “The Legitimation of Oxfam as a Voice in International Trade Policy”. In May, he presented “Symbolic Power and Social Critique in Trade Policy Research” at a workshop at the University of St Gallen, Switzerland, before conducting some primary fieldwork in Geneva. In addition, in June, he presented at the British International Studies Association Conference in London on “The Concept of the Market in the Legitimation of Neoliberalism”.

In May, Michael Farquhar spoke at an event to launch Shaping Global Islamic Discourses: The Role of al-Azhar, al-Medina and al-Mustafa, a collection of articles edited by Masooda Bano and Keiko Sakurai and published by Edinburgh University Press. The launch took place at the Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations in London. Michael’s own chapter in this volume focuses on the history of the Islamic University of Medina, founded as a Salafi missionary project by the Saudi state in 1961. In June, Michael presented at the annual meeting of the British International Studies Association in London, as part of a panel on geopolitics, economics and the state in the Middle East, sponsored by BISA’s Historical Sociology Working Group. Michael’s presentation discussed police perspectives on the politics of economic reform in Egypt since the 1970s. Also in June, Michael took part in a one-day workshop at the University of Sussex on arms and militarisation in the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop was organised by Anna Stavrianakis (Sussex) and Paul Holtom (Coventry), and involved arms trade and Middle East experts drawn from academia, research institutes and NGOs.

Dafydd Fell has given the following presentations: “Taiwan’s Political History in Eleven Election Advertisements” at Leeds University in March; “Mergers and Takeovers in Taiwanese Party Politics” at the European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland in April; “Taiwan’s Political History in Eleven Election Advertisements” at the Centre of Taiwan Studies, University of Ljubljana in April; Public Panel on “Civil Society in Hong Kong and Taiwan” at University of Zurich in June; and “Party Politics in Taiwan Revisited” at the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies Conference in June at SOAS.

This year a record number of six SOAS postgraduate students were selected to present their dissertation projects at the European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference in Krakow, Poland in April. These included five students on Politics Department degrees or courses. These were Chi Yeung Chiu (MSc Polities of China), Tian Shuai (MSc International Politics), Jan Heidrich (BA Politics), Ed Moon (MA Taiwan Studies) and Rosa Berteli (Erasmus Visiting Student). All five were selected for the conference MA panel, in which students can gain feedback on their dissertation projects. Jan Heidrich is only the second undergraduate student to be selected to present at the conference in its eleven-year history. In addition to those presenting four more Politics and CISD students travelled to Krakow to join the conference.
In June, Rochana Bajpai travelled to Florence to present a paper “Secularism and religious diversity in India” at the conference “The Governance of Religious Diversity: More or less secularism?” at the European University Institute. The conference was organised by Anna Triandafyllidou and Tariq Modood.

Manjeet Ramgortla presented research on “Colonialism and the ancient/modern trope” at a political theory lab at QMUL in April 2015. Manjeet also presented a paper on “Conceptual Silence: Republican Paradigms and Post-Colonial Thinking” at a conference on Reclaiming Republicanism: Recovering the Tradition’s Radical Heritage at the University of Oxford in June.

Myung Ja Kim presented “Diaspora and Divided Homeland: Geopolitics, Nation-Building Policies and the Zainichi Diaspora” at a workshop titled “Migration, Mobility & Membership Cluster” in July at SOAS.

Kristin Surak presented the paper “Outlaw Tea: Postmodern Tradition” at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, held in Chicago in March.

Kristin spoke about current trends in migration to Japan in a dialogue with Bill Emmott, former Chief Editor of the Economist, at a session hosted at the Daiwa House in London.

In the spring, Kristin gave talks on her book Making Tea, Making Japan at several American universities, including Princeton, Columbia, Northwestern and UNC-Chapel Hill. She also spoke on similar subject matter at the University of Zurich in May. While in the US, she was invited for a public talk at the Japan Foundation in New York on “Beyond ‘Peacefulness Through a Bowl of Tea’.”

In February, Matt Nelson presented at paper titled “Informal Agencies of Influence in Pakistan: The Interdependence of Social, Religious, and Political Trends” for a two-day conference on Pakistan: Beyond the Security State at UC-Berkeley. In May, Matt presented “Islamic Law in an Islamic State: What Role for Parliament?” at the AALIMS-Oxford conference on the Political Economy of Islam and Muslim Societies. Oxford’s Foundation for Law, Justice, and Society (Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Wolfson College) posted abbreviated version of Nelson’s paper at http://www.fljs.org/content/islamic-law-islamic-republic-what-role-parliament. In June, Matt presented “Religious Freedom and Public Order: Tracing a Familiar Tension in Two Islamic States” at a conference in Hong Kong on ‘Religious Minorities in Asia’ sponsored by Cornell University and the City University of Hong Kong; and presented “Islamist Politics in South Asia After the Arab Spring” at The Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. This paper was written in conjunction with an ongoing Brookings project titled ‘Rethinking Political Islam’.

In March, Phil Clark gave a presentation on the ICC in Africa and the problems of “distanced justice” at the Pursuing Justice in Africa conference at the University of Cambridge. In May, Phil gave a lecture on conflict and security in the African Great Lakes at the Royal College of Defence Studies; chaired a seminar on Boko Haram featuring three SOAS Politics PhD students who have conducted in-depth fieldwork in northern Nigeria, Atta Barkindo, Ini Dela-Adedeji and Bala Liman; and gave a presentation on human rights and transitional justice at the “What’s Wrong with Rights?” conference hosted by the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life at the University of Oxford.

In June, Phil Clark organised a seminar by Dr Sarah Maddison from the University of Melbourne titled, “A framework for multi-level conflict transformation: Agonistic reconciliation across time and scale”, participated in a roundtable at the Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster, which was designed to build a network of UK and Ireland universities working on transitional justice and peacebuilding; and gave a presentation on advocacy organisations, social media and transitional justice at a conference on “Innovative Media for Change” organised by Oxford Transitional Justice Research at the University of Oxford.

Also in June, Phil Clark chaired a writers’ workshop at the Transnational Law Summer Institute at King’s College London and organised the “Public Dialogue on Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka”, as part of his “Learning from...
Leaders’ research project, funded by the Fetzer Institute. The dialogue featured Shiral Lakthilaka, coordinating secretary to President Sirisena, and Kandiah Sarveswaran, a Tamil National Alliance member of the Northern Provincial Council, and was chaired by Suthaharan Nadarajah from SOAS. The project, which began with an event on Colombia, will end with similar dialogues on Northern Ireland and South Africa in October and November 2015. It will lead to a series of publications examining the role of “middle tier” or “go-between” leaders who bridge national and community level peace and reconciliation processes.

Also in June, Phil Clark gave a talk on post-genocide justice in Rwanda after a performance of Ken Urban’s play, Sense of an Ending, at Theatre503 in Battersea.

In March, doctoral student Mathilde Zederman gave a talk at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Paris) titled “Islamism and Bourguibism in Tunisia: between filiation, reappropriation and antagonism”. In June, she presented a paper at the conference of the Haqqa (INALCO, Paris) titled “Conceptualising the political space of Tunisian emigration in France”.

Leslie Vinjamuri delivered a paper at Stanford University on sequencing international justice and the last resort requirement. This three-day meeting in June formed part of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences project, led by Professor Scott Sagan of Stanford University, on New Dilemmas in Ethics, Technology, and War that brings together scholars across a range of disciplines and policymakers to discuss the changing context of war.

Leslie Vinjamuri participated in the Brussels Forum, the annual meeting of political and intellectual leaders hosted by the German Marshall to address pressing challenges currently facing both sides of the Atlantic.

In March, Michael Buehler presented a paper at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting in Chicago, USA. The same week, Michael delivered a lecture titled “The Diffusion of Islamic Laws Across Indonesia” to students and faculty at the Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies at Northwestern University, Chicago. In June, Michael chaired a talk held at SOAS on the future of the Thai monarchy.

In April, Yuka Kobayashi organised a workshop on “Muslims minorities in East Asia” co-hosted by the Qatar Faculty of Islamic studies, Doha, Qatar as part of the Qatar Foundation funded project on the same subject. This project examines the “lived-experiences” of Muslims minorities in East Asian Countries (China, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand). SOAS colleagues, Carlo Bonura and Michael Buehler participated at the Doha workshop; the results will be published in an edited volume on the subject. Former SOAS students Amaia Sanchez and Gavin Goh have also joined the project as researchers covering Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. Furthermore, the project includes colleagues from Bunkyo University, Mahidol University, University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales, Nanyang Technological University, and Wisconsin-Madison University.

In May, Julia Strauss contributed to a panel discussion at the University of Westminster’s China Media centre, International Communications and Media Handling Course for the Qin Shi (Seek Truth) Editorial Board; and contributed to a panel discussion organized by Kings University London on Emerging Economies in Africa. In June, Julia presented a paper titled “Campaigns, Bureaucracy, and Theatre in Competitive State Making from Above: Regime Consolidation in Taiwan through Land Reform, 1949-1954” at the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies; and also hosted a garden party attended by twenty of the participants of the Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies. Although it rained, the party was enjoyed by all.

In May, Charles Tripp made a presentation on a panel addressing ‘Art, Conflict and Iraq’ at the 56th Venice Biennale as part of the programme of the national Iraq Pavilion organized by the Ruya Foundation for Contemporary Culture in Iraq.
At the end of June, Simona Vittorini travelled to Accra in Ghana with Dr David Harris of the University of Bradford to conduct preliminary research on India-Ghana relations. Dr Harris and Dr Vittorini have recently submitted an application to the Leverhulme International Network grant. The network project will investigate Ghanaian perceptions at different levels of government and society of the Indian presence as it manifests itself in both rhetoric and reality, offering greater understanding of a burgeoning relationship.

Leslie Vinjamuri travelled to Washington, DC as part of her Leverhulme Research Fellowship. During this trip Leslie met with officials from the State Department, USAID, and think tanks in Washington to discuss US policy on human rights and transitional justice especially in North Korea, but also in a range of contexts.

From mid-March, Michael Farquhar undertook four weeks of fieldwork in Cairo, where he was affiliated as a guest researcher with the Netherlands-Flemish Institute, for his current research on the politics of crime and policing in Egypt.

In March-April, Rochana Bajpai travelled to Delhi as part of her Leverhulme research fellowship project on minority representation and Indian Parliament. She conducted interviews with MPs and attended parliament.

In early March, Michael Buehler briefed staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on Reform Prospects in Indonesia. In June, Michael chaired a talk organized by UNICEF’s Next Generation and Hosted by Google on the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

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Professor Lawrence Saez visited Bogota in April to deliver two lectures in Spanish. He gave a lecture on lessons of India’s democracy and electoral integrity at the Universidad Externo de Colombia. He also gave a talk on Colombia and regional cooperation in Asia at the Colegio de Estudios Superiores de Administración (CESA). Professor Saez has begun the negotiations on signing two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with these two elite Colombian universities to carry out research on Asia’s investment in Latin America and Colombia’s trade relationship with the Asia Pacific region. The collaboration will also include the development of the social science and humanities curriculum on India. The MOUs also entail knowledge transfer activities with Colombia’s Ministry of External Affairs. In June, Professor Saez visited the American University of Beirut (AUB) in order for the Department’s Centre on the Politics of Energy Security (CEPES) to collaborate with the AUB’s Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources as a partner on an EU-funded research project on the social and environmental dimensions of energy security between the EU and GCC countries.

In March, Matt Nelson collaborated with iMedia Associates to convene the first in a series of short courses titled ‘Political Islam in South Asia’ for the Diplomatic Academy of the FCO. In April, Matt reviewed the Home Office’s Country Information and Guidance (CIG) Report pertaining to sexual minority asylum claims from Pakistan. Also, in April, Matt taught a two-week course titled ‘Religion, Conflict, and Constitutional Law’ at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (LUMS) in Lahore.

Professor Steve Hopgood took part as a facilitator in a training day for MSF field workers in Amsterdam to enable them to better manage the dilemmas they face in a rapidly changing world.

Doctoral student Ini Dele-Adedeji was at the Foreign Commonwealth Office on June 11 with Bala Liman for a roundtable discussion on northern Nigeria, Boko Haram and issues related to those topics.

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March of solidarity at Bardo Square, Tunis – 29 March 2015

Lawrence Saez in the Zaha Hadid-designed IFI building on AUB campus overlooking the Mediterranean

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Leslie Vinjamuri chaired a discussion at Chatham House with Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations on challenges facing the next US President.

In April, Phil Clark held advisory meetings in Kigali with 15 Rwandan researchers as part of the Aegis Trust’s programme on research, policy and higher education. Under Phil’s direction, this DFID-funded programme is designed to facilitate peer-reviewed publications by Rwandan researchers and to communicate their findings to domestic and international policymakers. The launch of the programme was front-page news in Rwanda’s New Times and reported in The East African newspaper.

In June, Phil spent a week being cross-examined in Westminster Magistrates Court as an expert witness for the prosecution in the extradition case of five Rwandan genocide suspects. Also in June, Phil Clark wrote a report on the Rwandan political and security environment for the French Ministry of Defence.

Doctoral student Anna Rader briefed the incoming British Ambassador to Somalia on contemporary political issues in Somaliland at a closed round table at the Foreign Office in June.

Media and Blogs

In April, Meera Sabaratnam recorded a podcast for the journal Security Dialogue in April based on her 2013 piece “Avatars of Eurocentrism in the critique of the liberal peace”.

Tara Povey published an article in The Conversation, on the appointment of a woman ambassador by Iranian president Rouhani.

In April, Michael Buehler wrote an op-ed for Al Jazeera in which he argued that the Indonesian government should pursue a harm-reduction strategy to save the country’s drug users, not execute low-level drug runners.

NPR carried a news story in its “Tea Tuesdays” segment on Kristin Surak’s book Making Tea, Making Japan. She also appeared in the “Letters” section of the London Review of Books in a short response on de-naturalization in the United States. Kristin was interviewed about Japan-China relations by Deutsche Welle, Monocle 24 Radio, and China Central Television News, and on Japan-US relations by Channel News Asia TV, based in Singapore. She also spoke on Sky TV News about recent trends in global migration flows.

Arshin Adib-Moghadam gave a front-page interview on US-Chinese relations to the Tehran Times and his interviews on the situation in Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Yemen and Iran’s relations with the GCC were published by Mehr News Agency in English and Persian.

Jack Snyder and Leslie Vinjamuri published a blog post on openGlobalRights evaluating a recent quantitative study by Hyeran Jo and Beth Simmons claiming that the ICC deters civilian atrocities. “To prevent atrocities count on politics first and law later”. Leslie herself published a blog post about the implications of Palestine’s accession to the International Criminal Court on the peace process. “Palestine’s accession to the ICC may strengthen peace first approach”. This piece was cross-posted on openGlobalRights and Justice in Conflict. In the aftermath of South Africa’s decision not to turn President Bashir of Sudan over to the ICC, Adam Taylor of the Washington Post wrote about why so many African leaders have been reluctant to support the ICC. Leslie Vinjamuri was interviewed for this piece.

On the occasion of 50th anniversary of German-Israeli diplomatic relations, Felix Berenskoetter published an op-ed article in Ynet titled ‘After 50 years, are Israel and Germany really friends?’


In March, doctoral student Ini Dele-Adedeji was on the BBC World Service radio discussing the future trajectories of the Multi-national Joint Task Force comprised of Nigerian, Chadian, Nigerien and Cameroonian forces assigned to tackle Boko Haram; and was also part of a studio panel on the BBC World Service Radio special edition on March 31 dedicated to the coverage of Nigeria’s historic presidential election discussing the meaning of a Buhari victory for Nigerians. In April, Ini was on the Islam Channel’s ‘The Report’ programme discussing the Nigerian military’s recovery of some women and children previously abducted by Boko Haram from the Sambisa forest and in May, Ini discussed the recent successes of the Nigerian army in recovering some previously abducted people from Boko Haram camps on the BBC World Service Newsday programme. Ini appeared again on Islam Channel in May in a studio panel discussion involving a state government spokesperson debating the fuel scarcity crisis in Nigeria.

In March, Michael Buehler discussed on Monocle24 footage that shows Southeast Asian children being trained by ISIS in Syria and explained how this could potentially shape politics in Southeast Asia in the future; was interviewed on BBC WorldNews on the death of Lee Kuan Yew and his political and economic legacies; spoke on BBC Scotland’s Crossfire Program about LKY’s development strategy in Singapore and how it will shape the future of the country; was quoted in an article published by Bloomberg Business News on a new ban of alcohol sales in Indonesia. In April, Michael spoke on Monocle 24’s ‘The Monocle Daily’ about local political dynasties in Indonesia; why the new capital of Burma remains a ghost town 10 years after it has been built; the latest moves of General Prayut to establish himself as a military dictator in Thailand; and how Brunei managed to become the first country in Southeast Asia to be measles free; was quoted in the Wall Street Journal on the ban of...
alcohol in Indonesian supermarkets; gave an interview to the Belgium Newspaper ‘De Morgen’ on the execution of the Bali Nine ringleaders and Indonesia’s drug policy; spoke on Monocle24’s ‘The Globalist’ on the execution of Bali Nine Ringleaders for drugs trafficking; was quoted in Bloomberg Business News with regard to Joko Widodo’s foreign policy strategy and the 60 year Commemoration of the Asian African Conference; spoke on Radio France International on the Indonesian military’s operation against alleged “terror suspects” on Sulawesi island. He suggested that the country may be exaggerating the terror threat; was interviewed on Monocle 24’s ‘The Monocle Daily’ on the launch of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; reform initiatives in Vietnam’s custom department; the ban of alcohol sales in Indonesian supermarkets; as well as the 40th anniversary of the fall of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

In May, Michael Buehler was interviewed by Sky News on how the execution of eight drug traffickers will impact Australian-Indonesian relations; also gave an interview to Polish Radio on the execution of the Bali Nine Ringleaders in Indonesia; was interviewed on ‘The Monocle Daily’ on how Islamist parties have called on the Indonesian government to react to the Rohingya crisis. Michael also commented on the arrest of senior Thai bureaucrats for being involved in the trafficking of Rohingya refugees; and a controversial US policy to deport convicted US-Cambodians to Cambodia; was quoted on National Public Radio (NPR) on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Southeast Asia; discussed the diplomatic fall-out of the executions of Australian drug traffickers in Indonesia; China’s land reclamation projects in the South China Sea; the discovery of ‘death camps’ along the Thai/ Malaysian border; as well as reports from Malaysia that around 1300 organized crime syndicates in the country are run by women.

In June, Michael Buehler was interviewed on the Islam Channel on the decommissioning of Moro Islam Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in the Southern Philippines; commented on the arrest of British backpacker Eleanor Hawkins in Malaysia on BBC World News, Sky News, Independent Television News and ITV.

In March, Phil Clark was quoted by the New Times in Rwanda about a new DFID-funded programme he is directing which supports Rwandan researchers working on post-genocide issues; was interviewed by Deutsche Welle (04:45) and Voice of America on the Congolese security forces’ arrest of pro-democracy activists and a US diplomat in Kinshasa. In April Deutsche Welle interviewed Phil Clark on France’s declassification of documents relating to its involvement in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; and quoted Phil on Rwandan President Paul Kagame’s push for a third term. Phil was interviewed by the International Business Times on the West’s failure to remember non-European genocides such as the one in Rwanda, and The East African interviewed Phil Clark about the DFID-funded project he’s running which supports projects by Rwandan researchers. Also in April Phil Clark’s radio documentary on forgiveness and reconciliation in central Africa was discussed in Internazionale magazine in Italy. In May, Phil Clark appeared on the Amanpour programme on CNN to discuss violence in Burundi; was interviewed twice by BBC World Service Newshour (33:35), twice by Deutsche Welle as well as by SABC in South Africa and BBC Focus on Africa regarding violence in Burundi. Also in May, Phil Clark did the Monocle 24 news review (on Burundi, Scotland and UNOC’s plans to label the Great Barrier Reef officially “in danger”); was interviewed by SABC, Monocle 24 and Radio Poland about the post-coup situation in Burundi. Still in May, Phil was interviewed by the International Justice Tribune (Radio Worldwide) about the difficulties of cross-border arrests of war crimes suspects such as Joseph Kony and Omar al Bashir; and was a guest on the “Midori House” programme on Monocle 24, discussing Burundi and the results of the Polish and Spanish elections; appeared on Al Jazeera “Inside Story” to discuss the post-coup situation in Burundi. In June, Radio Adelaide interviewed Phil Clark about the situation in Burundi; he was quoted in an Al Jazeera website article and the Mail and Guardian in South Africa about popular uprisings in Africa; was interviewed by Deutsche Welle on the East African Community leaders summit to resolve the Burundi crisis; was quoted in IRIN News about the renewal of the Ugandan amnesty law for the Lord’s Resistance Army and other rebel groups; published a blog piece on the JusticeInfo.net website about the failures of the International Criminal Court in Africa; was interviewed by Liberation about the President Bashir/ICC controversy in South Africa; appeared on BBC Newsnight to discuss the UK’s arrest of Rwandan chief of intelligence, Gen. Karenzi Karake, on war crimes charges issued in Spain. was a guest on Monocle 24’s “Midori House” programme, discussing the Karenzi Karake arrest and terrorist attacks in Tunisia, Somalia, Kuwait and France; was quoted by The East African and the Sunday Monitor (Uganda) quoted Phil Clark on the impact of the Karenzi Karake arrest on UK-Rwanda relations; was interviewed by Deutsche Welle interviewed Phil Clark about parliamentary and local elections in Burundi and did the Monocle 24 news review on Burundi, Rwanda and gay marriage debates in Australia.

June continued to be a very busy month for Phil Clark who was interviewed extensively about the Karenzi Karake arrest in London:

Time magazine - http://time.com/3932134/ruandas-intelligence-chief-uk/
BBC World Service - http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02tv4vf (1:07:40)
BBC website - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33238670
The East African - http://www.theeastafrikan.co.ke/news/What-next-after-
Laleh Khalili appeared on BBC World Service’s Weekend programme in June. Laleh was also briefly quoted in a Vice article on a possible ICC case against Israel. Laleh also recorded a podcast interview about her current research on Archipelago.

MSc students Bilal Zenab Ahmed gave several interviews on Yemen to The Real News Network.

We would like to congratulate the Politics MPhil students on yet another excellent MPhil conference, held this year in early May. The conference was titled “Shifting Trajectories of Power and Resistance” and was a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about the new research projects taking place in the Department.

We would all like to thank the organisers of the conference for all their hard work. Thanks to Alia Al-Senussi, Dominique Oliver, Mathilde Zederman, and Natasa Kubikova. Also thanks to all the presenters for stimulating and thought-provoking presentations. The conference took place all day in the Brunei Gallery, and afterwards all attendees and presenters retired to Rodeo Gallery on Charing Cross Road where an excellent feast awaited all.

Alumni Networking Reception in Jakarta
Save the date for a summer special Alumni Networking Reception in Jakarta on 6th August 2015. More details coming soon, but for now, do save the date and RSVP online at www.soasalumni.org/rsvp. Contact Zeba Salman with any questions at z.salman@soas.ac.uk. We hope you can join us!
CORRECTIONS:
On page 5 of the Issue 14 of the Newsletter (March), Mathilde Zederman’s name was misspelled Mathilde Zimmerman. We apologise!

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 Laffey (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 Berenskoeetter

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