



Politics and International Studies Newsletter



Introductions

Before joining SOAS as a lecturer in International Relations, **Vineet Thakur** was a Global Excellence Stature Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, University of Johannesburg. An alumnus of Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, where he also taught briefly, he has worked at Ambedkar University, New Delhi. He was a research associate on 'Technology Vision 2035', a Government of India project for preparing a vision of India's technological roadmap. **Vineet's** research focuses on diplomatic histories of Indian and South Africa, postcolonial theory, and disciplinary history of International Relations. His recent work has appeared in *International Political Sociology*, *The International History Review*, *Contexto Internacional*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, among others.



Before joining us as a Leverhulme visiting professor, **Neve Gordon** served as a professor in the department of politics and government at Ben-Gurion University Israel. **Neve** was the director of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel during the first Palestinian intifada and among the founders of Ta'ayush-Jerusalem during the second Intifada. His current research is on human shielding,

focusing on international law, human rights, and the ethics of violence. **Neve** is the author of *Israel's Occupation* (UC Press 2008) and (with Nicola Perugini) *The Human Right to Dominate* (OUO 2015). During the past decade, **Neve** was a member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, Brown University, and the University of Michigan, and was among the founders of Hagar, a Jewish-Palestinian school in Beer-Sheva.

Ian Patel joined us at the start of the year, having previously taught at Goldsmiths, University of London. His PhD, completed at Cambridge University, examined the supposedly sovereign quality of victim testimony within international justice, and its perceived role in supporting the legitimacy of truth commissions. At King's College London, he was a postdoctoral fellow on a project supported by an ESRC Standard Grant entitled: 'Resisting State Crime: A Comparative Study of Civil Society' (RES-062-23-3144). His current research is based on interviews and ethnographic research conducted in Tunisia and Mombasa, Kenya. He has recently published articles in *The Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* and *Conflict and Society: Advances in Research*. The first of these articles examined continuities between current EU-North Africa relations and former colonial rule. The second examined the ongoing state-led justice process in Tunisia following the uprisings of 2011, investigating the extent to which "transitional justice" in Tunisia tends to delegitimize, obscure and replace existing political grievances.





Appointments, Awards, Honours

Many warm congratulations to **Kerem Nisancioglu** whose book *How the West Came To Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism*, co-authored with Alex Anievas, has won the ISA International Political Sociology Section Book Prize for 2017! The award will be made at ISA 2017 in Baltimore.

Congratulations to **Priya Kumar** for completing her PhD Thesis *Diaspora 2.0: A Comparative Analysis of Sikh, Tamil and Palestinian Online Identity Politics*; and to **Atta Barkindo** who also completed a doctoral thesis on the emergence and transformation of Boko Haram in northern Nigeria.

Mathilde Zederman, along with 4 PhD students from SOAS and Cambridge won a grant from the [British Association of Islamic Studies](#) to hold a methodology workshop, 'Producing Knowledge on Islam in Europe - Epistemology, Methodology, Reflexivity' in Cambridge later this academic year.

Doctoral student **Michael Edward Walsh** was [noted](#) in the official record of the United States Congress. Separately, he was [named](#) a "Person to Watch Who Wants to Change the World" by the United Nations Foundation. And, he was the subject of a [front-page article](#) in West Hawaii Today.

Doctoral student **Michael A. Innes** has been appointed Senior Fellow in the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS) at the University of Oslo. The appointment is for two years (2016-2018), and will involve research and publication projects focusing on rebel governance, guerrilla vernacular presses and illicit resources and finance.

Congratulations to **Michael Buehler** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics.

Leslie Vinjamuri has been appointed to the Advisory Board of LSE IDEAS, a Centre of the Institute of Global Affairs at the London School of Economics, and she has also been appointed an Academy Adjunct Fellow of the [Queen Elizabeth II Academy](#) for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The Faculty Senate elected **Meera Sabaratnam** as Chair; **Matt Nelson** as Deputy Chair and Tania Kaiser as the final representative from Senate on the newly reconstituted Academic Board.

In September 2016, **Yuka Kobayashi** was appointed Visiting Research Professor at the Institute of International Economics, Nankai University (PRC).

In September, **Felix Berenskoetter** took on the role of convenor of the 'Interpretivism in International Relations' Working Group of the British International Studies Association (BISA). He convenes this group together with Evgeny Roshchin and Iain Ferguson, based in St. Petersburg.



Former Department doctoral student, **Gerasimos Tsourapas** (currently a lecturer at University of Birmingham) was announced the 2016 co-winners of the 2016 Dissertation Award of the Migration and Citizenship Section of APSA. The chair of the award committee writes,

"In his dissertation titled *Trading People, Consolidating Power: Emigration & Authoritarianism in Modern Egypt*, **Gerasimos** describes and explains Egyptian migration policy from the 1950s to the present. **Gerasimos** engages the question of what emigration policy looks like in non-democracies. Are emigration policies a tool of statecraft in authoritarian societies and, if so, to what end? The findings are both subtle and consequential. **Tsourapas** challenges the received wisdom that movements out of the Middle East are primarily driven by economic or developmental factors. Rather, many policies have their origins in politics – especially, they reflect concerns about national security, the exercise of soft power vis-à-vis relations with Egypt's neighbors, and interests in consolidating political power in times of crisis, such as the power vacuum that followed Gamal Abdel Nasser's death. In this sense, **Tsourapas'** dissertation is of the genre that reminds scholars who would rush to the economic determinants of any phenomenon that politics, too, matters. And for political scientists, that surely adds an additional feather to the cap of an already powerful dissertation."

Gerasimos was also jointly awarded the Martin O. Heisler Award of the Ethnicity Nationalism and Migration section of the ISA for the best paper presented at a panel or poster session by a graduate student at the 2016 ISA Annual Convention.

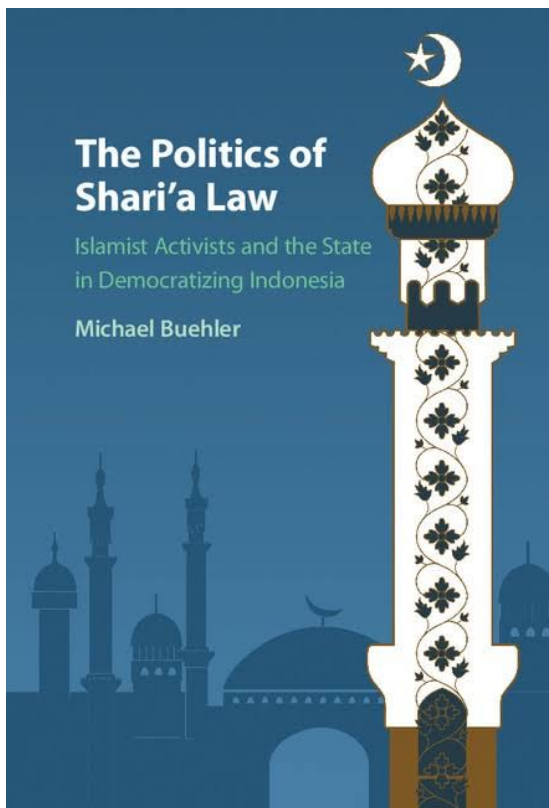


New Publications

Fiona Adamson's "The Growing Importance of Diaspora Politics," is the lead article for *Current History's* November 2016 special issue on the "World of Diasporas."

Rahul Rao published "The Diplomat and the Domestic: Or, Homage to *Faking It*," as part of a forum on Cynthia

Weber's *Faking It: US Hegemony in a 'Post-Phallic' Era*, in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*. **Rahul** also published a book chapter titled 'Revolution' in *Concepts in World Politics*, edited by Felix Berenskoetter (Sage, 2016).



Michael Buehler published *The Politics of Shari'a Law: Islamic Activists and the State in Democratizing Indonesia* with Cambridge University Press. The book is available [here](#). The book is concerned with the Islamization of politics in Indonesia after 1998. This Islamization presents an underexplored puzzle: why has there been a rise in the number of shari'a laws despite the electoral decline of Islamist parties? **Michael** presents an analysis of the conditions under which Islamist activists situated outside formal party politics may capture and exert influence in Muslim-majority countries facing democratization. His analysis shows that introducing competitive elections creates new pressures for entrenched elites to mobilize and structure the electorate, thereby opening up new opportunities for Islamist activists to influence politics. **Buehler's** analysis of changing state-religion relations in formerly authoritarian Islamic countries illuminates broader theoretical debates on Islamization in the context of democratization. This timely text is essential reading for students, scholars, and government analysts.

Elizabeth Pisani and **Michael Buehler** published "Why do Indonesian politicians promote shari'a laws? An analytic framework for Muslim-majority democracies" in the *Third World Quarterly*. The article is available [here](#). The authors have compiled an original dataset of shari'a regulations passed by local governments across Indonesia, and have examined the content and timing of newly-passed shari'a regulations in relation to geopolitical history, the electoral cycle, and electoral outcomes. They have

found that regulations are strongly concentrated in areas with a history of political Islam. Regulations map on to the electoral cycle in ways that suggest that those passing them are motivated less by religious doctrine than by the quest for electoral advantage. However, those passing shari'a regulations do not excel in subsequent elections. In Indonesia, profane political agendas appear to trump Islamist agendas.

Michael Buehler has reviewed Jacqueline Behrend and Laurence Whitehead's *Illiberal Practices: Territorial Variance within Large Federal Democracies*, Dina Afrianty's *Women and sharia law in Northern Indonesia: local women's NGOs and the reform of Islamic law in Aceh*.

Former MSc student (and current doctoral student at University of Pennsylvania), **Heather Swadley**, has published an article in *Res Philosophica* for its special issue on philosophy of disability. The article is titled "Toward a Support-Based Theory of Democracy: Creating Participatory Parity for Cognitively Disabled Persons".

Alastair Fraser wrote a briefing on August's Zambian Presidential election, 'Zambian Democracy: All Heat, No Light', for the *Review of African Political Economy*. Alastair Fraser has published two new papers from the Politics and Interactive Media in Africa project: 'The political economy of sponsored call-in radio in Zambia' and 'Let's Be Responsible Citizens! The Political Economy of a Sponsored Call in Radio Show'.

Felix Berenskoetter published an edited volume on *Concepts in World Politics*. The book is aimed at students and features a collection of junior and senior scholars unpacking 17 concepts prominent in the study of international politics. In addition to editing the volume, Felix wrote the introductory chapter and co-authored the chapter on "Peace" with Oliver P. Richmond. As part of this project, Felix also published an article entitled "Approaches to Concept Analysis" with *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*.





Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

Centre on Conflicts, Rights and Justice

CCRJ welcomes & congratulates its 2016-2017 postgraduate interns **Clara Musaeus** & **Oskar Butcher**.



In July, **Leslie Vinjamuri** and CCRJ postgraduate interns **Maya Schkolne** and **Adrien Chevaillier**, and PhD students **Julie Broome** and **Cathy Huser** met with SOAS President, Mrs Graça Machel to discuss their research and the work of the **Centre**.

CCRJ has hosted several events as part of its speaker series. Its first event of the year was held within days of a referendum result in Colombia that rejected a peace deal between the government and the FARC. Panelists include Ivan Briscoe (Program Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Crisis Group) who joined us from Bogota, Dr Nick Morgan (Lecturer in Latin American Studies at Newcastle), Dr **Phil Clark** (SOAS) and Dr **Leslie Vinjamuri** (SOAS).

CCRJ's second event of the year was "Courts in Conflict: Interpreting the Layers of Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda", a talk by Dr Nicola Palmer of The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. The discussion drew on the recent publication of *Courts in Conflict* (OUP, 2015) a monograph that focuses on the practices of Rwanda's post-genocide criminal courts.

Next, CCRJ held an event with Professor Sarah Kreps, Cornell University, and Anthony Dworkin, European Council on Foreign Relations, "The Promise and Perils of Drone Proliferation".

In November, CCRJ hosted Dr Ruba Salih of SOAS on "Reading Hannah Arendt in the Middle East: Refugees, sovereignty, humanity".

Centre for Taiwan Studies

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

JULY

05/07/16 2016 SOAS Taiwan Studies Summer School

Speakers: Christopher Lupke, Chang Tieh-chih, Ma Shih-fang, Cora Tao, Ma Kuo Kuang, Nancy Guy, Harry Wu, Chung Chuan, Lin Chen-Yu, Dafydd Fell, Charles Chen and Chang Bi-Yu

05/07/16 Film Screening of Chasing the China Wind: A Musical Journey - 逐風捕樂：流行中國風？ and Q&A with the Director Lin Chen-Yu

05/07/16 The Sounds of Dissent: Protest Music in Taiwan Since the 1970s, Speaker: Mr Chang Tieh-chih

05/07/16 Ballad of the Oppressed: Narrating the Works of Lai He through Music, Speaker: Dr Harry Wu

05/07/16 Documentary Screening: Small Oyster Rock in Kezailiao (蚵寮漁村小搖滾) Followed by Talk and Discussion with Chang Tieh-chih

06/07/16 Documentary Film Screening of Gongliao Ni Hao Ma?

06/07/16 Decoding Cui Suxin's Gongliao, How Are You?: Post-verité Documentary and Environmental Activism from Taiwan, Speaker: Prof Christopher Lupke

06/07/16 Music as a Prophecy of Political Change: Twenty Years of Evidence from Taiwan, Speaker: Prof Nancy Guy

06/07/16 Feeling History Through Song: A Close Listening to Taiwan's 'Flowers in the Rainy Night', Speaker: Prof Nancy Guy

06/07/16 Film Screening of Match Point, Followed by Q&A with Director Chung Chuan (鍾權), Speaker: Director Chung Chuan

07/07/16 Talk on the Book No 6 Alley 7, Chingtien Street by the Author, LiangXuan 亮軒, Speaker: Ma Kuo Kuang 馬國光 a.k.a LiangXuan 亮軒

07/07/16 Music of Lo Ta Yu, Speaker: Mr Ma Shih-fang

07/07/16 Those People, Those Songs: Modern Taiwanese Folk Song Revival Movement, Speaker: Ms Cora Tao (陶曉清)

07/07/16 Music of Lin Sheng-hsiang, Speaker: Mr Ma Shih-fang

08/07/16 Music in Taiwanese Political Communication, Speakers: Dafydd Fell and Charles Chen

08/07/16 Book Launch - The Sinophone Cinema of Hou Hsiao-hsien: Culture, Style, Voice, and Motion, Speaker: Prof Christopher Lupke

08/07/16 Two Film Screenings of (1) *Affair of Three Cities* and (2) *Chaiwan Matchup* and Q&A with Director Chung Chuan, Speaker: Director Chung Chuan

SEPTEMBER

23/09/16 Polynesia Concert Followed by Q&A with the Singer Chalaw

OCTOBER

04/10/16 Breaking the Boundaries of Percussion Music: the Ju Percussion Group from Taiwan, Speaker: Ju Tzong-Ching 朱宗慶

26/10/16 The place of David Landsborough in Taiwanese history: A digital archive project, Speaker: Dr David Yao-Jen Liu

London Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Sciences

The *Contemporary Korea Speaker Series* of the **London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science** (Co-Directors: **Tat Yan Kong** SOAS and Ramon Pacheco Pardo KCL) was launched in October 2016. Funded by the Academy of Korean Studies, the Series invites leading social science academics from Korea to discuss topical issues relating to the Korean Peninsula. The four speakers for the 2016-17 Series are:

Prof Tae-Hwan Kim, Korea National Diplomatic Academy
Korean Public Diplomacy as a Counter-Geopolitics
13 October 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS

Prof Woosik Moon, Seoul National University
Korean Economy at the Crossroad: Two Lessons from Abroad
20 October 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Room K6.63, Strand campus, King's College London

Prof Eun Mee Kim, Ewha Womans University
Sustainable Development Goals and Better Life for Girls: South Korea's Journey from Recipient to Donor of Foreign Assistance
Time: 27 October 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Venue: Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS

Prof Sunghoon Park, Korea University
East Asian Regionalism: Challenges and Opportunities
8 November 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Room K6.63, Strand campus, King's College London

The *Contemporary Japan Speaker Series* of the **London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science** (Co-Directors: **Tat Yan Kong** SOAS and Ramon Pacheco Pardo KCL) was launched in November 2016. Funded by the Japan Foundation, the Series invites leading social science academics from Japan to discuss topical issues relating to the Japan. The four speakers for the 2016-17 Series are:

Prof Shin-Ichi Fukuda, University of Tokyo
Japan's Lost Decades and Abenomics
17 November 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Room K6.63, Strand campus, King's College London

Prof Atsushi Yamada, Hitotsubashi University
Is Japan Exceptionally Closed to Foreigners?
1 December 2016, 6.15-7.30pm
Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS

Prof Masaru Yarime, University of Tokyo
Stimulating Innovation for Sustainability: Japan's Experience and Opportunities and Challenges in the Asia Pacific
2 February 2017, 6.15-7.30pm
Room K2.31, Strand campus, King's College London

Prof Yukiko Abe, Hokkaido University
Gender gap in Japan and its regional variations
13 February 2017 6.15-7.30pm
Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS

Muslim South Asia Research Forum

The **Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA)** started the academic year with a workshop, 'Negotiating Technologies', organised in collaboration with the CEIAS (Centre for South Asian Studies, CNRS-EHESS), Paris and the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge. The workshop was held on 14 and 15 October 2016 at Trinity College, Cambridge. Researchers from the US, India, Germany, and the UK presented work exploring the impact of technology on religious authority, gender, intimacy, and activism in the context of South Asia.

MUSA is a research network launched in May 2013 and run by SOAS students, Dr **Najia Mukhtar** (PhD Politics), **Johann Chacko** (PhD Politics), Francesca Fuoli (PhD History) and **Sameen Mohsin Ali** (PhD Politics). Podcasts of **MUSA's** events are available on the [website](http://www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/musa/). **MUSA** receives generous funding for its activities from the **Politics Department**, as well as from other faculties and centres at SOAS. To find out more about **MUSA**, please visit: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/musa/>



Presentations and Conferences

Bhavna Davé and **Yuka Kobayashi** organised a one-day workshop on *China's One Belt, One Road Strategy: Competition, Collaboration and Convergence in the Greater Eurasian Region* at SOAS on 6 July, funded by the Department of Politics and

International Studies, SOAS China Institute and Centre of Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus. The workshop focused on discussion of China's Belt Road Initiative's economic, energy, infrastructural, geopolitical/security implications particularly in the Greater Eurasian region. **Dave** and **Kobayashi** presented a paper on "China in the border regions and perspectives from the Russian Far East and Kazakhstan."



Following the workshop, **Dave** and **Kobayashi** were invited along with four other leading experts on the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to participate at a roundtable discussion on China's BRI and implications for the UK at the Cabinet Office on 18 July. They gave a paper on "Economic, social and security dimensions of China's Belt Road Initiative for Central Asian states" at the *One Belt, One Road: Security Dimensions* workshop held at the Lau China Institute, King's College on 12 October.



Fiona Adamson was an invited panelist at the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) conference on "Rethinking the Global Refugee Protection System" in New York, NY 5-7 July 2016. **Fiona** also presented the paper "International Migration and Global Justice" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia, PA 1-4 September 2016. **Fiona** was also an invited presenter at the Global Knowledge Partnership on

Migration and Development (KNOMAD) Workshop on Migration and Violent Extremism at the World Bank, Washington DC on 14 September 2016. Further, **Fiona** gave a guest lecture on "Diaspora Mobilization and the Transnationalization of Civil War" at Georgetown University, Washington DC on September 15, 2016.

Fiona Adamson and **Gerasimos Tsourapas** organized the workshop "Migration, Mobility and Membership in a Globalizing World: The 'Liberal Paradox' Reconsidered," at SOAS, 26-27 July 2016. Workshop participants included **Bhavna Davé**, **Enze Han**, **Kristin Surak**, and **Mathilde Zederman**.

Mathilde Zederman's paper for the above conference was titled "Islamic Opposition Movements in Diasporic Contexts: Egyptian and Tunisian Activism in France Since the 1990s" (with Margot Dazey). In October, **Mathilde** presented her paper "Les réseaux RCD dans la diaspora : une manifestation de l'autoritarisme à distance ?" (RCD networks in the diaspora: an expression of authoritarianism from afar?), at the international conference "actualité de la question autoritaire" organised by WFAW in Tunis.

In October, **Kristin Surak** gave a talk on the relationship between states and migration industries at the University of Trondheim, Norway. And in October she spoke about the tea ceremony and the phenomenology of nationalized practices at the University of Mainz, Germany.

In August, PhD student **Sameen Ali** presented her paper, 'Bureaucratic Politicisation & Governance in Punjab, Pakistan' at the 'State, Society, and Democracy in the Post Colony' conference, held at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (Pakistan). **Sameen** also presented the paper at the Development Studies Association's annual conference in Oxford in September.

In August, **Leslie Vinjamuri** spoke on a panel about the drivers and domestic implications of Brexit at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Fellow panelists included Francis Gavin (MIT), Barry Posen (MIT) and Stephen Walt (Harvard).

Leslie Vinjamuri attended the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. She spoke about the backlash against human rights across multiple locations especially in the Global South. In July, she spoke on a panel on "Inequality and World Order" at the International Political Science Association meeting in Poznan, Poland. **Leslie** also chaired the UK launch of the Report of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism: UN 2030. This event took place at Chatham House. Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia, was the speaker and lead author of this report. **Leslie** also participated in a conference at Oxford on "Navigating the Political: The Study and Practice of International Relations in Turbulent Times".

Meera Sabaratnam participated in the Annual Conference for *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, on 'Racialised Realities in World Politics' in October, contributing to panels on the foundations of liberal

international order, Indian and Yugoslav experiences of non-alignment, whiteness in international theory, Decolonising SOAS and horizontal practices of knowledge production.

Simona Vittorini was invited to present at Global Insecurities Centre, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies at the University of Bristol with a paper titled: 'The Third India-Africa Forum Summit 2015. Charting Narendra Modi's Africa Policy'. In September 2016 she attended The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom annual conference in Cambridge where she presented a paper with Dr David Harris titled 'Reciprocal Perceptions in Contemporary Indian-Ghanaian relations'. On 23 September **Simona** was invited by the Centre for African Studies at JNU and the African Studies Association of India to deliver a key note speech at the symposium on Contemporary India-Ghana Relations.

Dafydd Fell gave the following presentations:

1. "The Use of Rap in Taiwanese Political Communication," presentation given at 2016 SOAS Taiwan Summer School July 2016
2. "Lessons from Taiwan's 2016 National Elections," paper given at 13th Symposium on Sino EU Relations and the Taiwan Question, Shanghai Institute for International Studies, China, October 10, 2016.
3. "Developing Taiwan Studies Teaching Programme in Europe: the experience of School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)," paper given at Roundtable on Taiwan-EU Relations, Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, October 13, 2016.



Dafydd speaking about Taiwan's elections at the Symposium on Sino EU Relations and the Taiwan Question, Shanghai

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce presented a paper titled 'On the Resilience of Neoliberal Ideas' at a conference on Political Economy in an Age of Great Uncertainty at the University of Sheffield in July 2016. He was also invited to present a paper on "Network" as a Contemporary Keyword' at a workshop at Jesus College, University of Cambridge in July 2016. In September 2016, he presented a paper titled 'On the Resilience of Neoliberal

Management Ideology' at the International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE) Annual Conference in Lisbon.

PhD Candidate **Lewis Turner** presented a paper to the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Annual Conference in July, titled "In search of an orderly success story: the role of spatial practices in the creation, management, and depiction of Syrian refugee camps in Jordan." **Lewis** also presented his research on employment and livelihoods opportunities for Syrians in Jordan, in a paper entitled "From refugees to migrant workers?" to the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies triennial conference in September, which was held in Odense, Denmark.

In July, PhD student **Gabrielle Bayle** participated in a workshop held at the Institute for Asian and African studies of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin on *Identity, Agency and Fieldwork Methodologies in Risky Environments*. **Gabrielle** discussed preparing for fieldwork and data collection in the current sensitive political context of Ethiopia.

Tat Yan Kong presented a paper entitled "Coping with a difficult neighbour: China's recent strategies towards North Korea and their implications" at the International Workshop on *China's Identity in International Law*, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong, 1-2 September 2016.

In September, **Phil Clark** presented a paper on the politics of the International Criminal Court in Africa at the African Studies Association UK conference in Cambridge.

In September and October, the SOAS Centenary Lectures (for which **Phil Clark** is the academic lead organiser) commenced with events featuring former president of Timor-Leste, Jose Ramos Horta, and Nigerian author and winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka.

In October, **Phil Clark** organised the launch of Harry Verhoeven's and Phil Roessler's book, *Why Comrades Go to War: Liberation Politics and the Outbreak of Africa's Deadliest Conflict* (Hurst Publishers), at an event jointly hosted by the SOAS Politics Department and the Royal African Society.

Alastair Fraser spoke on 'Post-populism in Africa: Michael Sata's rise, demise and legacy' at the African Studies Association of the UK in Cambridge in September.

Bhavna Davé gave a lecture (in Russian) on "Economic, Political and Social Consequences of China's OBOR initiative for Central Asia" at the Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies, Astana, Kazakhstan, on 23 August. **Bhavna** was also invited to give a presentation and lead a discussion on the effects of China's OBOR initiative on trade, investment and security in the Eurasian region by Eastern Europe and Central Asia Department (EECAD) of FCO at the UK Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine on 12 September 2016. Further, **Bhavna** was invited to speak at the Meeting of Eurasian Council of Foreign Affairs at Cliveden House on "Europe - Central

Asia: What is the Future of Political, Institutional and Security Integration?” on 7 October.

In September, **Matt Nelson** presented his paper, “The Constitutional Politics of Religious Freedom: From Ireland and India to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: at the APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In November, he presented the same paper for Oxford's Seminar on South Asian Political Thought.

Reem Abou-El-Fadl presented a paper entitled ‘Nasser and Egypt’s Early Afro-Asian Policy: From the Presidency to AAPSO’ at the ‘Afro-Asian Networks in the Early Cold War’ Conference held at the University of Bristol on 15-6 September 2016.

Laleh Khalili participated in and moderated a panel on *Policing the Planet: Why the Policing Crisis Led to Black Lives Matter* at the LRB bookshop, London; presented “Quartermasters of Capital” at Kings College, Cambridge; participated in a manuscript workshop for Yael Berda’s *Administrative Memories* at Harvard University; and presented “Za’tar” on a panel titled *On Banning Taste: Food Boycotts, Identity and Resistance*, at Empire Remains Workshop artistic studio, in London.

In October, **Felix Berenskoetter** was invited to participate in a workshop on “Friendship” as part of the Conference for Interdisciplinary Approaches to Politics (CIAP) at the University of Leeds. Felix gave a talk on “Friendship, Trust and Time”.



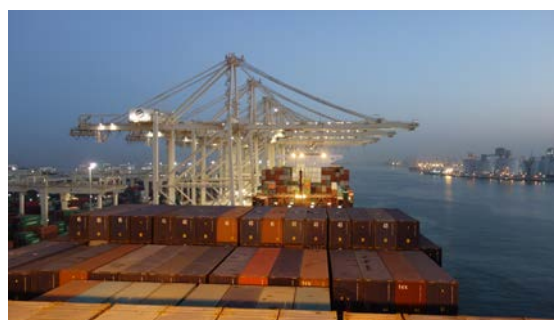
Pilgrims at the Tampak Siring Temple in Gianyar Regency, Bali

Bhavna Davé continued her research on Russia’s labour migration regulatory regime in Moscow and gave a number of lectures on this theme to some universities across Russia. She participated at the Anthropological Forum at Tomsk State University, Russia during 14-17 September where she gave a lecture to MA and PhD students on how migration laws and regulations produce informal and illegal practices. She also gave a paper at the Forum on “Migrants associations in Moscow: between state patronage and civil society.” Both lectures were in Russian. She gave a lecture on the production of ‘illegality’ in migration discourse to postgraduate students at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Moscow on 22 September and on how Brexit has shaped the migration discourse in UK at a Symposium Migration Bridges across Eurasia at MGIMO on 31 October.



Current Research

Between June and September, **Michael Buehler** conducted research in Bali, Central Java, South Kalimantan, and South Sulawesi on the diffusion of shari’a laws in these provinces.



Jabal Ali at Dawn

Laleh Khalili once again travelled on a containership from Malta to Dubai. The ship on which she was travelling, CMA CGM Callisto, stopped at Damietta

(Egypt), Beirut (Lebanon), Mersin (Turkey), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and after Jabal Ali (Dubai) went on to China. **Laleh** particularly enjoyed being able to visit Beirut (where she has previously conducted extensive research) from the shipside and cross through the Suez Canal, a significant portion of which now accommodates two-way traffic. **Laleh's** research project concerns the emergence of maritime and logistics infrastructure in the Arabian Peninsula at the juncture of capital accumulation, wars and military basing, and availability of cheap and heavily surveilled labour. In her final year of research leave on the project, she will be travelling to migrant-sending countries of South Asia in order to better interview workers who have migrated to the Gulf to work on the maritime sector, as well as meet with recruitment agencies and other significant actors facilitating labour migration to the Gulf.



Two-way traffic through Suez Canal



Outreach

Professor **Stephen Chan** observed the August 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Zambia, covering them for French media, but also filmed for both British and Chinese media on his views of the process and result.

In September, **Leslie Vinjamuri** moderated a panel to an audience of 700 people at the Cheltenham Literary Festival "The Only Superpower: What next for America?"

In July, **Phil Clark** led feedback sessions for Rwandan researchers as part of a training programme funded by DFID and hosted by the Aegis Trust in Kigali. The first group of 12 researchers presented their findings to a packed house of 200 policymakers, academics and journalists at the Umubano Hotel. A second group of researchers is currently completing their projects, with a further 6 researchers to be selected for the programme in December 2016. The aim of the project – designed and directed by Phil Clark – is to produce peer-reviewed journal articles and policy briefs by Rwandan authors and to amplify their voices in international scholarly and policy debates.

In September, **Phil Clark** appeared by video-link as an expert witness in [the criminal case concerning Rwandan genocide suspect](#), Gervais Ngombwa, currently being heard before a federal judge in Iowa.

In October, **Phil Clark** was a discussant after a presentation by recently exiled Vice President of Burundi, Gervais Rufkiyiri, hosted by the British Institute for International and Comparative Law.

In September, **Felix Berenskoetter** represented SOAS at the Graduate School Fair at New York University Abu Dhabi.

On 23 September 2016, **Yuka Kobayashi** addressed a group of international military and navy personnel on the legal and political dimensions of China's maritime disputes at a workshop on the 'Management of the Indo-Asia-Pacific's Maritime Future' hosted by the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, U.S. Department of Defense.

On 26 October 2016 Dr **Mark Laffey** and Dr **Yuka Kobayashi** received a delegation from the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE). The delegation was representing Chinese civil society and academia at the China-UK Human Rights Dialogue held in London on 27th October. Their visit was sponsored by the Chinese Foreign Ministry to promote exchange between scholars on NGOs between China and the UK. The head of the delegation and Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE, Mr SHI Guohui, and four colleagues met SOAS academics to discuss human rights, civil society and new developments in NGO activities in China.



For the discussion, Dr **Igor Rogelja**, and PhD candidate **Lili Liu**, joined from the Department, and Prof Lutz Marten and Ms E Li joined from the Confucius Institute.





Media and Blogs

Rahul Rao published a blog titled [On Statues \(II\)](#) placing the controversy around the installation of a statue of Gandhi on the campus of the University of Ghana in the context of Gandhi's views on race as well as contemporary Indo-African relations.

In September, **Kristin Surak** published the review essay "Our Citizenship is Expensive!" in the *London Review of Books*. The text builds from her current research on the spread of citizenship by investment programs.

Kristin Surak was interviewed by Sky TV News and Channel News Asia TV on the possible abdication of the emperor of Japan.

In August, **Michael Buehler** talked to Radio France International on Indonesia's strategy to curb drug consumption in the country. The interview is available [here](#). Also in August, **Michael's** research was mentioned in a new Human Rights Watch report. "These Political Games Ruin Our Lives": Indonesia's LGBT Community Under Threat", documents the alarming rise in anti-LGBT rhetoric across the archipelago. The report is available [here](#). In August, the new president of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, ordered death squads to kill drug addicts. In an article written by SOAS graduate Vanessa Vu, **Michael Buehler** explained how Southeast Asia's dysfunctional legal systems give rise to such populist politicians. The article published in DIE ZEIT, is available [here](#). In October, **Michael's** book was mentioned in a BuzzFeed article on discrimination against LGBT communities in Indonesia. The article can be read [here](#).

In September, **Leslie Vinjamuri** published [an article](#) in *the Guardian* on the US elections, "US Politics and Trump, a senior politics lecturer discusses". In October, she published [an article](#) as part of an H-Diplo-ISSF Policy Roundtable on how Brexit might affect British and international security.

Leslie Vinjamuri [was interviewed](#) for BBC Radio 4 today at 5pm (Saturday). Leslie spoke about US policy in Syria and how this might change under the next US Presidency. Leslie [was interviewed \(and quoted\)](#) for an article in the *Christian Science Monitor* on South Africa's decision to leave the ICC. In November, **Leslie** was interviewed on CNN about the US elections, the potential for discord on Election Day, and how the elections have shaped the US image abroad.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam's research [featured](#) in several [front page](#) editions of the *Tehran Times* and in exclusives for *Mehr News Agency* (selection) and *Al-waght* in Arabic. **Adib-Moghaddam's** comments were published in Turkey (*Anadolu News Agency*), France (*France24*), the UK (*Al-Fanar*). **Arshin** also wrote a featured for the LMEI Centenary issue entitled "Iranian Studies: Then and now".

In July, Newsweek [interviewed](#) **Phil Clark** about Rwanda's hunt for genocide suspects who have fled overseas; Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) [interviewed](#) **Phil** about the legacies of the Rwandan genocide; Radio France International [quoted](#) **Phil** on Israeli PM Netanyahu's visit to Rwanda; AFP interviewed him on Israel-Rwanda relations, with the [piece carried](#) by [numerous](#) media [outlets](#); **Phil** was [interviewed](#) by Ozy.com on Moise Katumbi's challenge to Joseph Kabila's presidency in the DRC.

In August, Deutsche Welle [interviewed](#) (08:30) **Phil Clark** on the Beni massacre in the DRC and Kabila's attempts to delay the presidential elections; Deutsche Welle [quoted](#) him on pre-election instability in the DRC; **Phil** [was a guest](#) on Monocle24's Midori House programme, discussing various issues including Australia's asylum detention centres and violence in South Sudan; AFP [quoted](#) him on former African Union head Jean Ping running for president in Gabon.

In September, **Phil Clark** [was quoted](#) by the International Justice Tribune on the International Criminal Court in Mali; he did the Monocle24 morning [news review](#) on Syria, South Sudan and the same-sex marriage plebiscite in Australia; **Phil** was on Deutsche Welle radio [discussing](#) anti-government protests in DR Congo; the Deutsche Welle website [quoted](#) **Phil** on the same issue; he was on Deutsche Welle [discussing](#) the UN's report into government atrocities in Burundi; the Deutsche Welle website [quoted](#) him on the same topic; **Phil's** appearance as an [expert witness](#) in a Rwandan genocide case in the US was discussed in [various](#) US and Rwandan [media outlets](#); he [was interviewed](#) by Radio Netherlands Worldwide on Uganda's failure to implement truth recovery and victim reparations following the LRA conflict; **Phil** did the Monocle24 morning [news review](#) (25:08) on the Colombia peace plebiscite, the Timbuktu shrines destruction case at the ICC and language politics in Morocco; he was on Sky News, commenting on Amnesty International's allegations that the Sudanese government is using chemical weapons against civilians in Darfur.

In October, IRIN News [interviewed](#) **Phil Clark** about the trade and diplomatic breakdown between Burundi and Rwanda; **Phil** [gave an interview](#) to the International Business Times on South Sudanese rebels in eastern Congo; *Deutsche Welle* and the *International Business Times* interviewed him about France's new investigation into the shooting down of the Rwandan president's plane in 1994; Monocle24 [interviewed](#) (11:00) **Phil** about Burundi's decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court; the International Business Times [quoted](#) him again on the French inquiry into the shooting down of the Rwandan president's plane in 1994; *The East African*, *Bwiza News* and *the Islam Channel* (05:04) interviewed **Phil** on the same topic; Deutsche Welle [interviewed](#) (04:04) **Phil** about the Congolese courts' decision to delay the presidential elections and possible EU sanctions against the DRC. Full text of the interview available [here](#); **Phil** was [interviewed](#) by Radio France International about South Africa's withdrawal from the

International Criminal Court; Deutsche Welle [interviewed Phil](#) on pre-election instability in Congo; **Phil** was a guest (along with economist Vicky Pryce) [for two hours](#) on the BBC World Service's "Weekend" programme. Among other topics, they discussed the destruction of the Calais refugee camp, violence in South Sudan, asylum seeker policy in Australia and Werner Herzog's new film about volcanoes.

Neil Loughlin, a PhD Candidate in the department, [wrote an analysis](#) of the impact of the recent focus expansion by the ICC to broaden its process for selecting and prioritising cases to include land grabbing and environmental destruction. He argues that the decision presents an opportunity to curb the deforestation and rights abuses driven by illegally-issued agricultural concessions in Cambodia, likely to be the court's first credible case. It also has important implications for other countries suffering from the worst excesses of illegal deforestation.

Bhavna Davé was interviewed by *Al Jazeera* on the death of Uzbekistan's president on 2 September. She also gave an interview to *Sputnik Radio* (Moscow) on the implications of Uzbekistan's president's death for the mobilization of Islam-based extremism in the region.

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

Dr Mark Laffey

Undergraduate Admissions Tutor

Dr Rochana Bajpai

Dr Matthew Eagleton-Pierce

Undergraduate Programme Convenors

Dr Michael Buehler BA Politics

Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam BA International Relations Term 1

Dr Vineet Thakur BA International Relations Terms 2 & 3

Undergraduate Tutors

Dr Carlo Bonura (Student Welfare Tutor)

Dr Reem Abou-El-Fadl (First Year Tutor)

Dr Yuka Kobayashi (Second Year Tutor)

Dr Hagar Kotef (Third Year Tutor)

Postgraduate Tutor

Dr Dafydd Fell

Postgraduate Admissions Tutors/Programme Convenors

Dr Phil Clark (MSc African Politics)

Dr Enze Han (MSc Asian Politics)

Dr Kerem Nisancioglu (MSc International Politics)

Prof Charles Tripp (MSc Middle East Politics)

Dr Yuka Kobayashi (MSc Politics of China)

Dr Tat Yan Kong Terms 1 & 3 (MSc State, Society and Development)

Dr Dafydd Fell Term 2 (MSc State, Society and Development)

Dr Leslie Vinjamuri Term 1 & 3 (MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice)

Dr Phil Clark Term 2 (MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice)

Dr Matthew Nelson (MSc Comparative Political Thought)

Dr Phil Clark (MRes in Politics with a Language)

Research Tutor

Dr Alastair Fraser

Research Admissions Tutor

Dr Hagar Kotef

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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