The latest QS World Rankings were released in February. The Department of Politics and International Studies has been ranked 23rd in the world, 6th in Europe, and 4th in the UK, behind Cambridge, LSE and Oxford.


Many congratulations to Hangwei Li who is the joint silver medal winner at the 2017 United Nations Correspondents Association awards for her media reporting on climate change and water pollution.

PhD candidate Hinni Aarninsalo has been awarded 87,000 euros from the Kone Foundation in Finland for her doctoral research. Hinni is working on the politics regarding gender and sexual minorities in Rwanda and Uganda.

PhD student Veronica Ferreri had secured a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in a research project titled "Normality and Crisis: Memories of Everyday life in Syria as a Chance for a New Start in Germany".

Recent doctoral student Kathryn Nash will be joining the Political Settlement Research Program at the University of Edinburgh as a post-doctoral fellow in mid-February (Professor Christine Bell directs this programme).

PhD Candidate Lewis Turner has accepted a position as a Researcher in Patterns of (Forced) Migration in the Middle East and North Africa at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Freiburg, Germany. Lewis will take up the 2-year position in June after submitting his thesis.

Congratulations to doctoral candidate Mathilde Zederman, who has just been chosen out of 1124 applicants for a highly competitive Max Weber Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence for 2018-19.

BA International Relations student Aminatou Diallo takes up a post this week at the Department for International Trade working directly for the Secretary of State for International Trade.

Meera Sabaratnam begins her term as Chair of the Global Development Section of the International Studies Association (ISA) and will be responsible for their program in 2019.

In January 2018, doctoral candidate Hang Zhou was selected as a fellow of the Global Governance Futures 2030 — Robert Bosch Foundation Multilateral Dialogues (GGF) program. He will be a member of the working group “Futures of Global Order” and will attend four dialogue sessions over the course of 2018 and 2019, in Washington DC, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, and Paris and Berlin.

Former doctoral student Gerasimos Tsurapas has been awarded the 2017 Prize for Outstanding Early-Career Researcher by the University of Birmingham’s School of Government and Society.

Leslie Vinjamuri was awarded a Small Research Grant by the British Academy for a project on “The Future of Internationalism”.

PhD candidate Nattaporn Sittipat was awarded 2017 Fieldwork Award from SOAS to conduct her fieldwork on
That foreign policy at the National Archives of the United States in Washington, DC. In April, Nattaporn Sittipat was awarded a scholarship from the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the UK (ASEAS) to present her paper at ASEAS postgraduate seminar at University of York.

**Kristin Surak** was named a Fung Global Fellow at Princeton University for the 2018 academic year.

In March, politics undergraduate Maya Muller won second prize in the HART Prize for Human Rights 2018 competition in the Senior Essay category.

**Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** was nominated to the international advisory board of this year’s World Congress of Middle East Studies (WOCMES) meeting in Seville, as well as to the new International Advisory Board of *Third World Quarterly*. Professor Adib-Moghaddam also attended this year’s Queens Anniversary Prize ceremony at St. James’s Palace. He served on the national panel which evaluates the highest form of recognition to higher education institutions in the United Kingdom.

PhD candidate **Catherine Craven** has joined the Elliot School for International Affairs at George Washington University as a Visiting Scholar from March until May, 2018.

**Fiona Adamson** completed a 3 month Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of European Global Studies, University of Basel. Dr Adamson has also joined the editorial board of the *European Journal of International Relations*.

**Reem Abou-El-Fadl** has been co-convening a monthly seminar entitled 'Europe-Monde Arabe: Histoire croisée des espérances révolutionnaires durant les années 1960-70’ at the Institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslim World, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, EHESS, Paris. She presented her research on the 1970s Egyptian student movement at its first session in January. The seminar will run till June 2018.

**New Publications**

**Christian Maags** has co-edited (with Marina Svensson of Lund) *Chinese Heritage in the Making, Experiences, Negotiations and Contestations* (Amsterdam University Press, 2018).

*Chinese Heritage in the Making* examines how the Chinese state uses cultural heritage as a source of power. While the state uses official heritage discourses, objects and sites to pursue political and economic goals, at the same time the official discourse has encouraged new actors to appropriate the discourse to protect their own traditions. This book focuses on the contested nature of heritage, especially by studying heritage as a field of power and contestation through the lens of individuals, local communities, religious groups, and heritage experts. In addition, it examines the effect of the internet on heritage-making processes, as well as how that process affects different groups of people.


**Kristin Surak** published the article “Rupture and Rhythm: Toward a Phenomenology of National Experiences” in the journal *Sociological Theory*. The piece explains the mechanics of how people attribute meaning to ruptures in the flow of everyday life, and it dissects the way that rhythm – as both cadence and overall flow – enables people to adjust to new circumstances, align action, and smooth subsequent ruptures.


In December, Phil Clark published an article, “*Rwanda’s Recovery*”, in *Foreign Affairs*.


**Laleh Khalili**’s “The infrastructural power of the military: The geoeconomic role of the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Arabian Peninsula” was published in the *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR). The article analyses the crucial role the US Army Corps of Engineers has played in the post-Second World War era in the making of not only military but also civilian transportation
and communication infrastructures in Saudi Arabia. Laleh also published a review of Aidan Forth’s Barbed Wire Imperialism in THES.

On January 22, 2018 the revised and updated Second Edition of Daydd Fell’s Government and Politics in Taiwan was published. The book is used extensively on a number of Politics Department courses at SOAS, as well as on courses in the United States, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The book launch was held at SOAS on March 22.

The online version of the founding issue of the International Journal of Taiwan Studies was published in January 2018. Daydd Fell guest co-edited the founding special edition with Michael Hsiao on the theme of the State of the Field of Taiwan Studies. This special edition is the first publication projects coming out of the 2015 Second World Congress of Taiwan Studies that was co-organized by the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies. The special edition includes state of the field papers on religion, cross-Strait relations, indigenous studies, democracy, social movements, ethnicity and gender in Taiwan.

PhD Candidate Lewis Turner co-authored an article in the latest issue of Forced Migration Review, together with Katharina Lenner of the University of Bath. The article examines the lessons learned from the Jordan Compact – Jordan’s attempts to integrate Syrian refugees into the formal labour market.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam’s new book has been published by Cambridge University Press. Psycho-nationalism: Global thought, Iranian imaginations is the second book in The Global Middle East book series that he co-edits for Cambridge University Press. Psycho-nationalism focuses on the cognitive use of politics to offer a timely exploration into the psychological roots of national identity and how these are often utilised by governments from East to West. Examining this trend, Adib-Moghaddam’s analysis is driven by what he terms ‘psycho-nationalism’, a new concept derived from psychological dynamics in the making of nations. Through this, he demonstrates how nationalist ideas evolved in global history and their impact on questions of identity, statecraft and culture. Psycho-nationalism describes how a nation is made, with reference to Iran, one of the oldest nations in human history.


Rafeef Ziadah published “Constructing a logistics space: Perspectives from the Gulf Cooperation Council” in Environment and Planning D: Society and Space (Dec. 2017) and “Transport Infrastructure and Logistics in the Making of Dubai Inc.” in International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (Feb. 2018). Both articles are open access. The first article makes visible neglected aspects of the physical transformation of the Gulf Cooperation Council with a focus on the understudied maritime container ports in Oman and Qatar. The latter article situates trade infrastructure in the production of Dubai’s economic geography as a sea–air multimodal trading hub.

In March, Michael Buehler published “The Ephemeral Nature of Local Political Monopolies in Indonesia” in Robert Hefner, Ed. Handbook of Contemporary Indonesia (London: Routledge). He argues that the decentralization of political and fiscal authority in Indonesia in 1999 triggered a series of studies that predicted the rise of subnational strongmen who would subjugate the local state to their personal interests. However, almost 20 years after the devolution of power, Indonesian local politics are a lot more dynamic than earlier studies had assumed. While there are undoubtedly oligarchic and dynastic tendencies in Indonesian local politics, recent scholarship has emphasized the ephemeral nature of such power constellations. This chapter argues that a unique combination of institutional and structural conditions explains why local dynasties struggle to survive multiple
election cycles in Indonesian local politics. The findings also speak to research on subnational authoritarian regimes in other parts of the world by showing that different constellations of institutional and socio-economic variables shape the rise and fall of local political monopolies.

In March, Michael Buehler's book *The Politics of Shari’a Law: Islamist Activists and the State in Democratizing Indonesia* (Cambridge University Press) was published in paperback. Michael also published a review of Vedi Hadiz's *Islamic Populism in Indonesia and the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press).

In February, Elisa Brewis, a PhD student at SOAS' Department of Politics and UCL's Institute of Education published a peer reviewed article titled "Fair access to higher education and discourses of development: a policy analysis from Indonesia" in *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education* (2018). The article explores the relationship between fair access policies and discourses of development through a policy analysis of higher education reform in post-authoritarian Indonesia (1998–present). The method was document analysis of five laws/regulations, using the criteria of accessibility, availability, and horizontality to identify the extent of fair access for students from (1) lower socioeconomic backgrounds and (2) under-developed regions of the archipelago. The analysis demonstrates how neoliberal, human capital, inclusive development and Pancasila discourses have been called upon in the making and un-making of a higher education market, with ultimately favourable outcomes for the fair access agenda.

Hagar Kotef published a brief reflection on home and violence (on life and identity in the colonial state and on the conditions of possibility of its critique) as part of a spacial issue of Critical Inquiry titled "Israel/Palestine: A Forum on the Occupier and the Occupied". An article she co-authored with Merav Amir on the technology of full body scanners was published in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. The article is titled "Insecure identities: On the securitization of abnormality" and it offers a critique of security technologies and notions of "objectivity" from a queer/feminist perspective.

Professor Stephen Chan's experiment in open access publication, centred on his book *Meditations on Diplomacy*, has resulted in the book having had 10,000 downloads over the last three months. Stephen also completed writing the new edition of his earlier book, *Robert Mugabe: A Life of Power and Violence*, bringing the political biography up to the time of his fall from power.

Manjeet Rangotra published her article 'India's republican moment' in Udit Bhatia (ed.) *The Indian Constituent Debates: Deliberations on Democracy* (Routledge 2018).


With co-editor's John L. Brooke and Greg Anderson, Julia Strauss has published *State Formations: Global Histories and Cultures of Statehood* with Cambridge University Press, which also includes her single authored article, "Regimes and Repertoires of State Building: The Two Chinas and Regime Consolidation in the early 1950s".

Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice

CCRJ is delighted to announce the appointment of Esther Hodges, Palak Mahesh Bhatt, and Sofia Marri as Postgraduate Research Associates.

We’ve hosted a number of speakers over recent months. In November, SOAS’s own Dr. Phil Clark chaired a discussion on the politics of local peacebuilding in post-conflict Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, with guest speakers Dr. Marika Tsolakis of the UCL Institute of Education and Fabien Cante of the LSE. In December, the LSE’s Professor Robert Wade joined us for a talk on the transition from Western-centric to multipolar global order and Professor Karen E. Smith – also of the LSE – presented a seminar on EU mass atrocity prevention after Brexit, with Anthony Dworkin as discussant (European Council on Foreign Relations).

Into the new year, and CCRJ director Dr Leslie Vinjamuri, along with Professor Stephen Hopgood, Pro-Director (International) at SOAS and Professor Jack Snyder of Columbia University, launched their new book, Human Rights Futures, here at SOAS. They were joined by Amnesty International’s Joanne Mariner and David Mepham of Human Rights Watch for a panel discussion on the critical juncture currently faced by human rights.

On the 24th January, Champa Patel (Head of the Asia Programme at Chatham House), Maung Zarni (human rights activist and Fellow at the Sleuk Rith Institute), and Lee Jones (Reader in International Politics at Queen Mary University) participated in a panel discussion on the current situation for the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Professor Kathryn Sikkink of Harvard University spoke on her new book, Evidence for Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st Century, to a crowded room in the Brunei Gallery Lecture theatre on 21st February. The LSE’s Dr. Yuna Han rounded off our recent run of events with a talk on the role of state agency in international criminal justice in March.

We’re grateful to all our speakers and were particularly delighted to celebrate all the fantastic women speakers we’ve hosted over recent years on International Women’s Day on the 8th March.

Keep an eye on our website for updates on future events and speakers: www.soas.ac.uk/ccrj/events

Centre for Comparative Political Thought

The Centre for Comparative Political Thought hosted a talk by Ayesha Omar, Lecturer in Political Theory at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg on “A Comparative Account of Political Authority in Ibn Rushd and Marsilius of Padua” on 11 Jan. 2018.

Centre for Taiwan Studies

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

November
01/11/17
Book launch: Culture Politics and Linguistic Recognition in Taiwan: Ethnicity, National Identity, and the Party System
Speaker: Jean-François Dupré (Ottawa)

02/11/17
Democracy, Youth Political Engagement, and Social Media in Taiwan
Speaker: Ms Gwényth Wang

08/11/17
Rethinking the Rogowski Model: Taiwan’s Trade Policy and Domestic Political Alignment 1996-2008 and Beyond
Speaker: Dr Mark Lai

15/11/17
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Book Launch and Chapter Talk: Maps, Power, and Knowledge: Three Decades of Cartographic Blankness in Post-war Taiwan
Speaker: Dr Chang Bi-yu

16/11/17
Wuqiu Island Lighthouse: A Woman’s Battlefield in Life
一個女人的生命戰場 - 烏坵燈塔
Speaker: Kao Dan-Hua 高丹華

22/11/17
Contemporary Taiwan and Hong Kong Cinemas in Comparison: Reconstruction of Identities and Local Consciousness on Screen
Speaker: Ms Ting-Ying Lin

23/11/17
Revisiting Taiwan: China’s Last Frontier
Speaker: Simon Long

29/11/17
Curating Taiwan Cinema in France
Speaker: Dr Wafa Ghermani

30/11/17
Women in films: ideal, danger, and social challenge
Speaker: Dr Wafa Ghermani

December
05/12/17
Moving House: Facing Urban Relocation as a Displaced Community in Taiwan
Speaker: Ms Elisa Tamburo

06/12/17
Film Posters and Popular Culture: The Works of Chen Zi-Fu as a Case Study
Speaker: Dr Chen Yawen

07/12/17
The Album commemorating the redevelopment of Taipei (1915)
Speaker: Ms Fan Ya-Ting

13/12/17
An exploratory analysis of the 2014 Taipei City mayoral election - A political marketing perspective
Speaker: Dr Norman Peng

14/12/17
Book Launch: Law and Politics of the Taiwan Sunflower and Hong Kong Umbrella Movements
Speaker: Brian Christopher Jones

2018
January
12/01/18
Book Launch: Towards an EU-Taiwan Investment Agreement: Prospects and Pitfalls
Speaker: Dr Michael Reilly

17/01/18
Be Militant or Tolerant? Social movement repertoire and culture in Hong Kong and Taiwan
Speaker: Dr Klavier Wang

18/01/18
Hemmed in? The Implications of China’s new aviation routes in the Taiwan Strait (Roundtable Discussion)
Various Speakers

25/01/18
Taiwan and Chinese nationalism revisited
Speaker: Professor Christopher Hughes (LSE)

26/01/18
Book Launch: Buried Treasures 塵封的瑰寶：倫敦大學亞非學院特藏臺灣原住民檔案
Speaker: Dr Niki Alsford

30/01/18
Utilization of Indigeneity: An Examination of the Politicization of Aboriginal Heritage in Taiwan
Speaker: Daniel Davis

February
01/02/18
Studying and Research in Taiwan: Briefing on Scholarship and Research Funding Opportunities, and Youth Mobility Scheme
Various Speakers

07/02/18
Measuring and Accounting for Taiwan’s Maintenance of the Status Quo: A Linguistics Informed Discourse Analytic Research Design
Speaker: Martin Boyle

08/02/18
Same Sex Marriage in Taiwan: LGBT Roundtable
Speakers: Legislator Yu Mei-Nu, Joyce Teng and Jennifer Lu

12/02/18
Film Screening of Documentary - Almost Home: Taiwan and Q&A with Director Victoria Linchong
Speaker: Victoria Linchong

13/02/18
Film Screening of Documentary - 福爾摩沙對福爾摩沙 (Formosa vs. Formosa) and Q&A with Director Ke Chin-Yuan (柯金源)

13/02/18
Film Screening of The Receptionist with Q&A with Director Jenny Lu
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15/02/18
Film Screening of The Best Secret Agent with introduction by Chris Berry
Speaker: Prof Chris Berry (King’s College London)

20/02/18
Why Indigenous Voters of Taiwan Do Not Vote?
Speaker: Dr Cheng-Hao Pao

22/02/18
Electoral System and Indigenous Political Representation in Taiwan
Speaker: Dr Cheng-Hao Pao

March

01/03/18
Joint Event on Language Landscape in Taiwan
Speakers: Dr. Chin-hui Lin & Prof. Henning Klöter

08/03/18
The Era of Rebellion: Li Ang’s political journey in Dangwai
Speaker: Ms Li Ang

09/03/18
Politics of writing love and sex
Speaker: Ms Li Ang

15/03/18
Annual Lecture One: How I began my dialogue with Taiwanese Society
Speaker: Professor Chen Fang-Ming

16/03/18
Annual Lecture Two: The Writing Of A History of Modern Taiwanese Literature
Speaker: Professor Chen Fang-Ming

19/03/18
Indigenous Language Education in Taiwan: Past, Present and Future
Speaker: Dr Douglas McNaught

22/03/18
Book Launch: Government and Politics in Taiwan (Second Edition)
Speaker: Dr Dafydd Fell

23/03/18
Film Screening of Finding Sayun (不一樣的月光)

Presentations and Conferences

In February, PhD Candidate Sena Galazzi convened a Panel Series on Myanmar’s Chin State, as part of the 2nd International Conference on Burma/Myanmar Studies at the University of Mandalay. The all-day event was the first time academic researchers have come together for a conference specifically devoted to Chin State. The event was dedicated to the late Dr Bianca Son, also from SOAS. On the day, Sena and her colleague Sang Hnin Lian also officially launched the Chin State Academic Research Network, which aims to be a platform fostering development of an academic community engaged in scholarly discussions on Chin State. A Special Issue of the Journal of Burma Studies is now underway to showcase some of this emerging research.

Tat Yan Kong gave a lecture titled "The advance of marketization in North Korea: between political rigidity and economic flexibility" at the University of Tuebingen on 22 November 2017. In December, he gave a talk at the SOAS Centre of Korean Studies event North Korea and Northeast Asian Security. In March, he was a panel speaker at the Commonwealth Journalists Association event "Tension on the Korean Peninsula:

Series, funded by the Japan Foundation. Four lectures were held during 2017-18.

The Centre hosted a talk by Prof Chung-In Moon (Special Adviser to the Republic of Korea President for Foreign Policy, Unification and Security) entitled "The Olympic Peace and Prospects for Inter-Korean Relations under the Moon Jae-in Government". The event was attended by HE Mr Joonkuk Hwang, Republic of Korea Ambassador to the UK. They also hosted the launch of the monograph The Political Economy of the Small Welfare State in South Korea (Cambridge University Press) by Prof Jae-Jin Yang (Yonsei University, Korea) on 15 March 2018. The discussants were Prof Robert R. Kaufman (Rutgers University) and Dr Timo Fleckenstein (LSE).

London Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Sciences

The London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science (Co-Chairs Tat Yan Kong SOAS and Ramon Pacheco Pardo King’s) continued with its Contemporary Japan Speaker Series, funded by the Japan Foundation. Four lectures were held during 2017-18.

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What are the prospects for long term peace?” at the House of Lords on 21 March 2018.

On 30 November 2017, Rochana Bajpai presented a paper ‘Extremism or Moderation? Muslim leadership in majoritarian India’ at a conference on Political Representation in India at EHESS, Paris. On 10 March 2018, Rochana participated at a workshop on Indian Political Thought at Corpus Christi college, University of Cambridge. She spoke on Dr Ambedkar’s legacies for Indian liberalism and minority politics.

On 25 February 2018, doctoral candidate Hang Zhou made a presentation titled “Chinese trilateral development cooperation and its practice in Africa” at the international seminar Vision of China-Africa Relationship under One Belt One Road co-organised in Kampala by Confucius Institute of Makerere University, Uganda and Center for African Law and Society at Xiangtan University, China.


PhD candidate Lewis Turner presented his work on economic activity and humanitarian governance in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan to the Middle East Studies Association in Washington, D.C. in November.

On 21 March, Dr Seyyed Ali Alavi delivered a speech for a panel at UCL on the Middle East in post-ISIS era.

Rahul Rao delivered the 52nd Innsbrucker Gender Lecture entitled ‘The Nation and its Queers’ at the Universität Innsbruck in January 2018.

Bhavna Dave was invited to present a paper, “The role of Khorgos Special Economic Zone in China’s Silk Road development strategy,” at a conference on Silk Road Development Initiatives organised by the International Association for Silk Road Studies (South Korea) and Vietnam National University of Social Sciences and Humanities at Ho Chi Minh City, 10-12 November 2017. She also presented a paper on “North Korean migrants in the Russian Far East: Guest workers’ or slave labour?” at the Annual Conference Migration Bridges in Eurasia at Moscow State Institute of International Affairs (MGIMO), 29 November 2017, and talked about her research on “Migrants’ legalization campaigns and deportations in Moscow” at the Centre for Independent Social Research, St Petersburg, 25 November 2018. Dr Dave was invited to be a discussant at the workshop on “State, Religion and Civil Society in Eurasia” organized by the Open Society Institute in Chişinău, Moldova, 20-21 November 2017, and was invited to participate at the Caspian International Training Network Symposium at Ghent University, 4-6 December 2017.

Manjeet Ramgotra gave a paper on ‘Post-colonial republicanism: the revival of a paradigm’ in the School of Politics and International Relations at QMUL on 13 Dec. 2017. In January, Manjeet organised and chaired a discussion panel on "What does it mean to decolonize the university’. In February, Manjeet gave a guest lecture on decolonizing political theory to a UG political theory class at QMUL and presented her research on 'The critical voice of women in eighteenth-century western political thought' at the 'Bridging the gender gap through time: how women philosophers of the past contributed to today's thought' conference at KCL. In March, Manjeet Ramgotra presented her work on republicanism in Nehru's political thought at a conference on Indian Political Theory at the University of Cambridge.

Meera Sabaratnam presented her new book Decolonising Intervention: International Statebuilding in Mozambique to the research seminar of the Humanitarian and Conflict Research Institute at the University of Manchester in March, having presented it also to the Overseas Development Institute in January. The book can be downloaded for free here. Meera also gave a public lecture at the University of Brighton on "The Whiteness of International Relations Theory", to their lecture series on "Thinking the Polities of Race".

Meera Sabaratnam participated in a workshop hosted by the World International Studies Committee (WISC) and the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) on the question of 'Teaching IR Globally' in Johannesburg.

Fiona Adamson participated in the workshop “Migration Statecraft in the Middle East” at University of Birmingham on November 10, 2018. In December, she gave a keynote lecture on “Diaspora and Diaspora Politics” at the conference “Diaspora Communities and Peace: On the Path to a More Active Diaspora Engagement in Civil Conflict Transformation?” at the Protestant Academy in Loccum, Germany. Also in December, she gave a talk on “Diasporic Europe: Migration, Assemblage Theory and Disaggregated Sovereignty” at the Institute of European Global Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland.
In January, Fiona Adamson was an invited discussant and commentator for the workshop, “Inclusion, Exclusion and Global Security” at the Sie Center, Korbel School, University of Denver. Dr Adamson was invited to speak on Global Cities in a Time of Populist Nationalism at the Urban Thinkers Campus event at Fordham University Law School, New York in February. Also in February, she spoke on “Migration Governance in Turkey” at the conference “Understanding Global Migration,” at Southern Methodist University, in Dallas. In March Dr Adamson spoke on “Global Migration: From ‘Crisis’ to ‘Opportunity’” at the 10th Anniversary Conference of the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa.

In December 2017, PhD student Veronica Ferreri presented a paper entitled "Fear, Apathy and the New Order of Things. Displaced Syrians and the Reconfiguration of the Asylum Regime in Lebanon" at the Seminar Series organised by the Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies at SOAS. In February 2018, Veronica also participated in the workshop "Representation of Change: Time, Space, and Power in Qualitative Research on the MENA Region and Europe" organised by Phillips-University Marburg and University of Zurich. In this occasion, she presented a paper entitled "Inhabiting a State of Permanent Loss between the Syrian Revolution and a Refugee crisis".

In December, Catherine Craven participated in a workshop on "Diaspora and Peace – On the Path to a More Active Diaspora Engagement in Civil Conflict Transformation?" which brought together both scholars and practitioners working on migrant integration and diaspora engagement and was held at the Protestant Academy in Loccum, Germany. Catherine also presented her paper "The Global (and Local) Politics of Diaspora Engagement for Development: Tamils in Toronto” at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans in April, 2018.

Julia Strauss was invited by the Kellogg Institute at Notre Dame University to give the talk "Rhetorics and Realities: China and Africa in an Age of Deepening Engagement", on October 10, 2017.

Rafeef Ziadah spoke on the opening plenary of The Canadian Association of Cultural Studies conference held in Simon Fraser University (Vancouver March 1-4) on a panel entitled ‘Solidarity across settler colonial sites’ with Sunera Thobani, of British Columbia and Palestinian human rights lawyer Sahar Francis. Rafeef also spoke on a response panel (30 November) to the Memory Metamorphosis exhibition hosted a the SOAS Library’s Wolfson Gallery and cosponsored by the Hagop Kevorkian Center at New York University. The exhibit was co-curated by artists Jacqueline Reem Salloum & Suhel Nafar and explored Palestinian diasporic memory through art.

Leslie Vinjamuri spoke at the University of Tokyo’s Security Studies Unit, and also at Kyushu University on the subject “Human Rights Backlash: Is Trump’s America a Game Changer?” These panel discussions were part of a broader discussion surrounding the publication of Human Rights Futures (Cambridge University Press, 2017). As part of this trip, Leslie travelled with Jack Snyder (Columbia University) to Hiroshima to meet with Kenji Shiga, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and Keiko Ogura, a victim and activist of the Hiroshima bombing. Keiko created the organisation, Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace. Toru Oga, Professor of International Politics at Kyushu University led the visits to Fukuoka and Hiroshima. Professor Aoi Chiyuki, Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo, hosted the panel discussion in Tokyo.

Leslie Vinjamuri delivered a lecture on the politics of civil society activism at the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House. She also spoke on a panel discussion held at Columbia University on the publication of Human Rights Futures (edited by Stephen Hopgood, Jack Snyder, and Leslie Vinjamuri, Cambridge University Press, 2017).
Leslie Vinjamuri spoke on a panel with Luis Moreno Ocampo, former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The panel discussion was part of a conference on Human Rights and Transitional Justice organised by Professor Michael Williams at New York University. Additionally, she participated in a high-level dinner meeting at the British Academy, “Is the human rights era coming to a close?” The discussion was chaired by Professor Conor Gearty of the London School of Economics, and Professor Sir David Cannadine, President of the British Academy.

Leslie Vinjamuri spoke on a panel on the First Year of Trump’s Presidency to the Oxford Strategic Studies Group at All Souls College, Oxford, the Royal College of Defence Studies, City University of London and Chatham House. Steven Erlanger (New York Times), Peter Trubowitz (LSE) and Nigel Sheinwald (former UK Ambassador to USA) were also on the panel. She also delivered a lecture on America’s role in the world to the Royal College of Defence Studies. Afterwards, she participated in a panel discussion alongside Tommy Evans, Vice President of News Gathering and London Bureau Chief, CNN. The panel was chaired by Sir Tom Phillips, former UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Leslie Vinjamuri spoke about “Confronting Global Challenges: 2017-2067”, at the London School of Economics on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Centre for International Studies. Previously, Leslie was a visiting fellow at the Centre. She also spoke on a panel on “The Role of Experts in an Age of Populism” (This panel discussion was co-hosted by Foreign Affairs and Chatham House) as well as on a panel on international institutions and the postwar order, “Preventing World War III” at Chatham House. She also chaired several discussions on the first year of the Trump Administration and America’s Changing Role in the World at venues including Chatham House and the Council on Foreign Relations.

In March, Phil Clark gave a seminar at the Marriott Hotel, Kigali, on his forthcoming book, Distant Justice: The Impact of the International Criminal Court on African Politics (CUP, 2018). The event was hosted by the Aegis Trust programme in Research, Policy and Higher Education.

In November, Laleh Khalili was invited to present the Annual Peter Green Lecture on the Modern Middle East at Brown University. She spoke on “Quartermasters of Capital”.

In February, Laleh Khalili presented “Politics of Pleasure” at the LSE Department of Gender Studies seminar, and participated in a book panel of Dr James MacDougall’s A History of Algeria at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities. Laleh Khalili also organised a panel presentation with Deb Cowen (Toronto), Charmaine Chua (Oberlin) and Rafeef Ziadah (SOAS) on...
Laleh also chaired a book talk on *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled* by Wendy Pearlman (Northwestern) at London Middle East Institute.

**Mark N. Katz**, Fulbright Scholar visiting from George Mason University (January-March 2018), gave a lecture co-sponsored by the Department and the Centre for Iranian Studies on 7 February entitled, “What Do They See in Him? How the Middle East Views Putin and Russia.” He participated in the Valdai International Discussion Club conference on Russia and the Middle East in Moscow, 19-20 February. In addition, he gave a lecture on Russia and the Middle East at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, on 28 February. While here at SOAS, he published several short articles, including “America, Russia, and Syria’s Many Conflicts,” LobeLog, 29 January; “Can Russia Succeed Where America Failed in the Middle East?” LobeLog, 23 February; “Divergences over Turkish Incursion Reflected at Conference in Moscow,” *The Arab Weekly*, 4 March; and “Costly Victory: Russia in Syria,” *The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington*, 5 March. He returns to the US on 30 March.

**Hagar Kotef** was invited to take part at an MLA presidential panel under the theme States of Insecurity. Her talk, “Home, Land, Security: On Intimate Violences (or: Schemes of Belonging in Israel/Palestine),” was part of a panel featuring Lisa Lowe, Saidiya Hartman, Jack Halberstam, and Martin Fajard. She also gave the keynote speech in the PARSE conference in Gothenburg, where she talked about organic agriculture and free-range eggs in the Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

In November, **Yuka Kobayashi** lectured on “Lawfare - China and Multilateral Institutions” at the LSE, Department of International Institutions. In February, William Callahan (LSE) gave a guest lecture on “Mapfare and China’s South China Sea Disputes” for **Yuka’s** postgraduate course on China and International Politics. This exchange builds on the collaboration between Callahan and **Kobayashi** on “Ideas and Institutions in China’s International Relations”.

In March, **Yuka Kobayashi** was invited to be a speaker that the LSE South Asia Summit. The topic was “China in South Asia” and her talk covered her research on China’s Belt and Road in South Asia. China’s Belt and Road is a recent Initiative, only officially started in 2013 when Xi Jinping unveiled it. However, China’s activities in South Asia predate this and projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are poster projects for the Belt and Road Initiative and provide good case studies to study the Chinese Initiative.

During **Dafydd Fell’s** visit to Taiwan in December/January, he gave a number of public talks during the visit:

On December 20, 2017, **Dafydd Fell** gave a lecture at Taiwan’s National Sun Yat Sen University’s Sociology Department titled Migration through the lens of election advertising. The talk followed the publication of the paperback of his co-edited volume *Migration to and from Taiwan* in 2017.

On December 21 **Dafydd Fell** gave a lecture at Pingtung University titled Taiwan’s Political History in 11 Election Advertisements.

On January 3, 2018, five chapter authors joined **Dafydd Fell** for the Taiwan launch of his edited book *Social Movements in Taiwan under Ma Ying-jeou*. The event was held at National Taiwan University’s Department of Sociology.

Following the book launch **Dafydd** hosted a SOAS Taiwan Studies alumni Reunion close to National Taiwan University.

On January 4 **Dafydd Fell** spoke on a panel on International Space for Taiwan Studies at National Chunghsing University, Taichung.

On January 5 **Dafydd Fell** spoke at a discussion event on the Past and Prospects of Third Force Parties at the independent book store 公共冊所 | The Libratory. The event was organized by Green Party Taiwan.
On February 26, 2018, Dafydd Fell and Lawrence Saez joined the London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Sciences Unpacking Contemporary Party Politics Workshop. Dafydd discussed his ongoing research on party switching in Taiwan.

Between February and May 2018, Phil Clark conducted field research for a new book on post-genocide politics in Rwanda to be published by Zed Books in 2020. He also took part in a training programme for Rwandan researchers, hosted by the Aegis Trust. Fiona Adamson participated in the short course “Cosmopolitan Cairo: Migration, Diversity and Urban Development in the Global City” at American University in Cairo, January 20-24, 2018. Dafydd Fell visited Taiwan in between December 2017 and January 2018 to continue his research on alternative political parties in Taiwan.

**Current Research**

**Outreach**

Tat Yan Kong briefed the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs on "Political and economic developments in Hong Kong and Macao since the retrocession" on 21 March 2018.

In December, Phil Clark hosted a talk by Congolese opposition leader, Felix Tshisekedi, which focused on the current political impasse and election delays in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Shortly after publication of Phil Clark’s Foreign Affairs article on Rwanda, the editors at the Christian Science Monitor published an article responding to Phil’s Foreign Affairs piece. Phil then participated in a Foreign Affairs panel in January, hosted at the European Council for Foreign Relations in Berlin, to discuss the latest edition of the magazine focusing on societies recovering from mass atrocity.

In January, Phil Clark gave a morning briefing to Oxford Analytica on the current political crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In November, Yuka Kobayashi was invited to be a panellist at a workshop on “China and Russia: different challenges for Europe and Japan” hosted by the European Commission, European Council on Foreign Relations and the Japanese Embassy in Berlin. She spoke about China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the normative and material challenges the Initiative posed on Europe and existing institutions. The EU commissioners, European and Japanese diplomats participated in the workshop and it was hoped to create links between academia and policy.

In December, Yuka Kobayashi was invited to the British Academy (BA) to partake in a panel discussion on “The Great (infrastructural) Game in South Asia: has India Lost Out?” The discussion covered China’s Belt and Road activities and the recent developments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The panel discussion was hosted by the BA and the FCO, and aimed at contributing to academic discussion informing FCO policy. In December, Yuka also participated in the “Global China Dialogue on the Belt and Road” at the British Academy where she presented a paper on the Legal and Regulatory Issues in China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

In March, Yuka Kobayashi was invited to Ditchley Park to speak about her research on China’s relationship with Turkey. Former Foreign Secretary Jack Straw chaired a session on “Turkey’s Place in the West” where Yuka was asked to address Sino-Turkish relations in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative and its impact on Europe, UK, US and Canada. She joined ambassadors, diplomats and practitioners working on Turkey’s geopolitical positioning to discuss the timely topic.

Meera Sabaratnam gave a free masterclass in Hackney organised by the Positive Money foundation on Race and the Economy. These masterclasses were organised by
Politics Dept recent BA graduate Nonhlanhla Makuyana who now works at the Foundation.

Media and Blogs

Doctoral student Adélie Chevée published an article titled 'La Ghouta orientale, zone de guerre et de désinformation' for Regards in February.

Arshin Adib-Moghadam's new book, Psycho-nationalism, has been featured in an article by Arshin Adib-Moghadam in the Times Higher Education. The online magazine Muftah.org features excerpts of Psycho-nationalism. According to their editorial team: “Psycho-nationalism – a term coined by Adib-Moghadam – is neither mere tribalism nor patriotism; it is a potent and potentially dangerous amalgam of mythology and superiority, reliant not only on a deep sense of belonging, but of othering.”

Arshin Adib-Moghadam was interviewed and was invited to write several opinion pieces about the recent protests in Iran including for BBC Magazine, Publico, Euronews and Handelsblatt. He also gave half a dozen front page interviews to the Tehran Times which were also published in Persian by Mehr News Agency, the biggest syndicated news agency in Persian speaking countries. In his interviews, Adib-Moghadam talked about human rights, democracy, US foreign policy and regional peace.

Arshin Adib-Moghadam co-signed a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres together with what Tehran Times called “a group of distinguished professors and intellectuals” calling on Guterres to use Norouz, the Persian New Year, as an opportunity for global peace. Since November, Michael Buehler spoke on Monocle Radio on, among other topics, how Facebook facilitates the trafficking of endangered species in Asia; the Philippines’ decision to leave the International Criminal Court; the Thai military’s plans to hold elections in 2019; on Japanese investments in Indonesia’s convenience stores; the political economy of Myanmar’s ethnic insurgencies; on growing religious intolerance in Indonesia; on Myanmar’s deteriorating investment climate; on the EU ban on palm oil and its consequences for Indonesia; on the growing number of military personnel in Widodo’s cabinet; Indonesian online media disinformation campaigns; the retirement of Indonesia’s only female constitutional court judge; artificial intelligence weaponry in China’s military development; and internet surveillance in Southeast Asia. In January, Michael Buehler's research was mentioned by the Middle East Institute. In February, his research was mentioned in several Indonesian newspaper articles, including "Politisasis Islam dan Perda Syariah Jilbab Pramugari," and "Jalan Terjal Partai Islami Menuju Pemilu 2019."

Dafydd Fell published three opinion pieces: "The Politics of Railway Relocation in Taiwan: Democracy versus the Environment", 'Sex, Primaries and Electoral Systems in Taiwan', and 'Cycles of Optimism and Pessimism in Taiwan' all in Taiwan Sentinel.

Meera Sabaratnam was interviewed by John Humphrys on the Radio 4 Today programme on February 22nd on questions of 'decolonising the university', alongside commentator David Aaronovitch.

The New Economies Foundation interviewed Meera Sabaratnam as part of a podcast on the USS Pensions dispute.

Dr Seyed Ali Alavi, Teaching Fellow, was interviewed by BBC Radio Four on Syria. Ali was also interviewed by Radio Sputnik on Iran and JCPOA.

Professor Stephen Chan's journalistic work has received a wide audience. His features for the e-newspaper, The Conversation, have now had a readership of 600,000. His lengthy Guardian obituary for Zimbabwean opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai (with whom Chan once wrote a book) has been republished in outlets around the world many times. He acted several times as commentator for both BBC and Al Jazeera television during the downfall of Robert Mugabe, and was consulted frequently during this period by both the FCO, at Ministerial level, and the Cabinet Office.


Fiona Adamson published an article on diaspora politics that appeared in the German publication Welt-Sichten in February.

Laleh Khalili published a blogpost on recent US decision to expand offshore drilling in the US coastal waters for Verso blogs, and on refuting the merits of colonialism for Al Jazeera. She was also interviewed by Viewpoint magazine on the operation of empires as reflected through her research work.

Leslie Vinjamuri has continued to make weekly television appearances on networks including CNN, BBC, Bloomberg TV and CNBC to discuss the politics and foreign policy of the United States. She has also made many contributions to radio discussions on BBC, Monocle, National Public Radio, LBC and Talk Radio on these and other topics. She has commented on topics including the prospect of a summit between the US President and the leader of North Korea, transatlantic relations, US and the Iran Deal, the first year of the Trump Presidency, the student mobilization following the gun presidency, and was consulted frequently during this period by both the FCO, at Ministerial level, and the Cabinet Office.

Kristin Surak was quoted at length in the KnightFrank Wealth Report 2018 on trends in investment migration. She was also quoted in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News segment on “Cash for Passports.”

In November, Phil Clark was a guest on the BBC World Service "Weekend" programme, discussing the street rallies in Zimbabwe, same sex marriage in Australia, the
resignation of the Lebanese prime minister and the World Cup qualifiers. Also in November, the BBC website quoted Phil on the departure options for deposed presidents like Robert Mugabe, and World Politics Review interviewed him about the latest delay to the presidential election in DR Congo.

In December, Phil Clark did the news review on Monocle24’s "The Globalist" programme, focusing on the death of former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh and the International Criminal Court's statement that there remain "reasonable grounds" to believe the UK committed war crimes in Iraq. Also in December, The Blaze quoted Phil Clark on the killing of 14 UN peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Radio France International interviewed him about the same issue. In December, La Libre in Belgium interviewed Phil about his upcoming book, Distant Justice, which examines the political impact of the International Criminal Court in Africa, and RFI interviewed him about the ICC's decision to award reparations to the victims of Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga. Also in December, Newsweek published an interview with Congolese opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi after his presentation organised by Phil Clark at SOAS, and Deutsche Welle quoted Phil Clark on opposition calls for mass protests over election delays in DR Congo, and on the killing of 14 UN peacekeepers in eastern Congo. In February, KPVI in Idaho quoted Phil Clark about a new film, "Mama Colonel", which explores responses to sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in March, Deutsche Welle interviewed Phil Clark for radio and the DW website on Rwanda’s shutting down of 700 mainly Pentecostal churches in Kigali. Phil’s comments were then picked up in the Italian and Brazilian press. In March, RFI broadcast an interview with Phil Clark ahead of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson’s trip to Africa.

**Personal Notes**

On 8 November 2017, two members of the Department wed. Many congratulations to Mark Laffey and Meera Sabaratnam on their joining in love and politics.

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**

Mark Laffey

**Undergraduate Admissions Tutors**

Rochana Bajpai

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce

**Undergraduate Programme Convenors**

Rafeef Ziadah (BA Politics)

Meera Sabaratnam (BA International Relations)

**Undergraduate Tutors**

Carlo Bonura (Student Welfare Tutor)

Eilain Weizman (First Year Tutor)

Christina Maags (Second Year Tutor)

Rahul Rao (Third Year Tutor)

**Postgraduate Tutor**

Dafydd Fell

**Postgraduate Admissions Tutors/Programme Convenors**

Phil Clark (MSc African Politics), Terms 1 & 3

Stephen Chan (MSc African Politics), Term 2

Dafydd Fell (MSc Asian Politics)

Kerem Nisancioglu (MSc International Politics)

Laleh Khalili (MSc Middle East Politics)

Dafydd Fell (MSc Politics of China), Term 1

Yuka Kobayashi (MSc Politics of China), Terms 2 & 3

Tat Yan Kong (MSc State, Society and Development)

Leslie Vinjamuri (MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice)

Matthew Nelson (MSc Comparative Political Thought), Terms 1 & 3

Rahul Rao (MSc Comparative Political Thought), Term 2

**Research Tutor**

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Term 1

Alastair Fraser, Terms 2 & 3

**Research Admissions Tutor**

Tom Young

**Department REF Coordinator**

Lawrence Saez

**Department Learning and Teaching Coordinator**

Mark Laffey (acting)

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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March 2018