In Memoriam

It is with profound sorrow that SOAS announces the passing of Professor Lawrence Sáez on 11 September, following a protracted battle with cancer.

Lawrence was a Professor of the Political Economy of South Asia. He joined the Department as a permanent member in 2007, and had since made significant contributions to the teaching of political economy and research methods. In 2015, he served as Head of Department, and had been working actively as the Department’s REF Coordinator into his final months. He continued his teaching and research after his diagnosis, inspiring both colleagues and students with his resilience, honesty and humour. Lawrence was a dear and well-respected member of the Department. He was truly collegial, a source of guidance and camaraderie to so many of us, taking the Department’s duties and future as seriously as he did its social life and present. As students’ tributes to him testify, he was also a well-loved and cherished mentor to many generations at SOAS.

His high spirits throughout his illness and treatment were a testament to his strength of character, optimism, and perspective. Lawrence’s passing is a great loss for the Department, and a severe blow to his friends and colleagues. He is already much missed.

A public memorial service will be held at SOAS with a date to be confirmed. A celebration was held for him in June where members of the Department paid tributes to all the ways Lawrence had transformed the scholarly and social life of the Department. The images below are from that event:

Prof Aseema Sinha of Claremont McKenna College remembers Lawrence (via Rochana Bajpai):

Lawrence Sáez’s contributions to studies of Indian political economy and to comparative studies of India and China are significant and far-reaching. Lawrence brought back real politics into the institutional studies of Indian federalism, reviving a field and highlighting the linkages of institutional federal politics to economic liberalization processes and changes in the party politics of the time. He presciently saw the movement of economic reforms to the states in India and set in motion a whole generation of studies that began to focus on state-level reforms. He went on to write comparative studies of India and China’s banking reforms, and conceptualized India as a Hybrid Market capitalism model. He was productive across many subfields—Indian political economy,
federalism, economic liberalization, India-China comparison, energy policy, political economy of India-Pakistan competition, among many other themes. His contributions will be sorely missed and as important, his teaching, and collaborations with students and co-authors. He was an innovative thinker, an academic who supported his students and peers, and a wonderful co-author.

Tahani Mustafa (‘Quasi-State Institution Building: Security Sector Reform in the Occupied Palestinian Territories’);
Heba Negm (on alliance patterns in the Middle East with particular reference to the Iranian-Syrian axis); and Lewis Turner (‘Challenging Refugee Men: Humanitarianism and Masculinities in Za’atri Refugee Camp’). Many warm congratulations to all.

Recent doctoral student Veronica Ferreri has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin.

Emanuelle Degli Eposti has accepted a postdoctoral research post at the Centre for Islamic Studies at Cambridge University starting in November.

Lewis Turner has accepted a post as senior researcher focused on humanitarian work with Syrian refugees in the Middle East at Freiburg University in Germany.

Doctoral student Salman Rafi Shaikh was awarded a SOAS Research Scholarship for his research on the fragmentation of hegemonic ethnic groups.

Doctoral student Guy Eyre was awarded a Research Scholarship from the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) for his research on religion and politics in North Africa (focusing on Morocco and Algeria).

PhD candidate Adélie Chevée received the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation / BRISMES Scholarship in July.

SOAS PhD student Ibrahim Nyei has been admitted into the prestigious Adam Smith Fellowship at the George Mason University. Ibrahim was selected after a competitive recruitment process after which about 100 students were selected worldwide for the 2018/19 cohort. The fellowship will run from 2018 - 2019 and will entail series of colloquial in London and at the George Mason University. The first colloquium of the fellowship which took place in London in September focused on Liberty and the Market Process from selected works of F.A. Hayek. The Adam Smith Fellowship is a co-sponsored program of the Mercatus Center and Liberty Fund, Inc. Adam Smith Fellowships are awarded to graduate students attending PhD programs in a variety of fields including economics, philosophy, political science, and sociology. The aim of the fellowship is to introduce students to and encourage them to critically engage key thinkers in political economy that they might not otherwise encounter during their graduate studies.
In July Catherine Craven won a scholarship to attend a Summer School at Central European University in Budapest titled ‘The National and the Transnational’, which brought together scholars from across the social sciences to discuss the ways in which their research was ‘decentring’ dominant forms of knowledge production.

Fiona Adamson, as part of a consortium led by the University of Liège in Belgium, was awarded a European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme grant on the topic of Migration Governance and Asylum Crisis (MAGYC). The consortium of 13 universities in Europe, Turkey and Lebanon will receive approximately 3.2 million Euros of which the SOAS share is approximately 400,000 Euros.

Meera Sabaratnam has been appointed as the institutional lead for the Decolonising SOAS initiative.


Professor Stephen Chan has been awarded a British Academy grant of £9000 to write, with Dr Ranka Primorac of the University of Southampton, a political history of Zambia as evidenced in the literary works of that nation.

In July, the SOAS Engagement and Impact Fund (EIF) awarded Phil Clark £6000 to conduct seven book launches in seven countries over the next year. The EIF enables SOAS researchers to increase policymakers’ and practitioners’ uptake of their research findings. With this funding, Phil will launch his upcoming monograph, Distant Justice: The Impact of the International Criminal Court on African Politics (Cambridge University Press) through a series of public events and closed roundtables at the ICC in The Hague and the African Union in Addis Ababa, followed by events in Nairobi, Johannesburg, Gulu (Uganda), Bujia (DR Congo) and New York.

Laleh Khalili has been appointed (along with long-time editor Joel Beinin) the co-editor of the Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures book series at Stanford University Press.

Leslie Vinjamuri was appointed Dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership at Chatham House and Head of the US and Americas Programme. She is on leave from SOAS, but continues to Chair the SOAS International Relations Speaker Series during 2018-2019 and to be available to colleagues and graduate students.

Julia Gallagher’s new ERC-funded project ‘Understanding Statehood through Architecture: a comparative study of Africa’s state buildings’ started on 1 September 2018. Julia has been joined by post-doctoral researcher Dr Daniel Mulugeta Gebrie and doctoral researchers Kuukuwa Manful and Innocent Batsani Ncube.


Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was elected Honorary Fellow of Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge. Senior membership of the college comes with several rights and direct access to the scholarly networks throughout Cambridge University.

Carlo Bonura was a runner-up for the Director’s Teaching Prize. Carlo was nominated in the category for inspirational teaching for staff in post more than four years. In staff-student fora Carlo is routinely mentioned by our students, particularly for his work on ISPs.

Akanksha Mehta’s doctoral dissertation, ‘Right-Wing Sisterhood: Everyday Politics of Hindu Nationalist Women in India and Zionist Settler Women in Israel- Palestine,’ won the Best Dissertation Award from EISA. The award citation read, ‘There were many excellent nominations and the selection process was very competitive. The committee found your dissertation most impressive in terms of originality, creativity, intellectual analysis, and independent thinking. Your comparative account of the religious right and the everyday in India and Israel provides an impressive account of the power of populist politics, colonial practices and gendered violence that speak beyond the topic of your dissertation. By bringing together feminist IR with gender and queer studies, critical geography, nationalism and political violence, your dissertation provides an outstanding analytical intervention in both theoretical and methodological terms, thus contributing to critical IR scholarship in general and feminist IR and its focus on the lived everyday experiences of violence, war and conflict, in particular.’

Innocent Batsani Ncube
Salwa Ismail’s book *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* was recently published by Cambridge University Press. With a view to understanding the rationalities and mechanisms of governing through violence, the book scrutinises the forms and practices of violence deployed by the Asad regime to maintain its grip on political power for over four decades. Based on extensive fieldwork in Syria and drawing on a wide range of primary sources, *The Rule of Violence* shows how the political prison and the massacre, in particular, developed as apparatuses of government, shaping Syrians’ political subjectivities, defining their understanding of the terms of rule and structuring their relations and interactions with the regime and with one another. Examining ordinary citizens’ everyday life experiences and memories of violence across diverse sites, from the internment camp and the massacre to the family and school, *The Rule of Violence* demonstrates how practices of violence, both in their routine and spectacular forms, fashioned Syrians’ affective life, inciting in them feelings of humiliation and abjection, and infusing their lived environment with dread and horror. This form of rule is revealed to be constraining of citizens’ political engagement, while also demanding of their action.

Reem Abou El-Fadl co-authored a contribution in *Radical History Review* titled ‘Manifesto: Networks of Decolonization in Asia and Africa’. The piece advocates a collaborative approach to research on histories of decolonisation, and emphasises the larger Afro-Asian environment in which the ‘Bandung moment’ took place, focusing on transnational networks outside those of interstate diplomacy.


In April, **Michael Buehler** published a chapter titled “The Ephemeral Nature of Local Political Monopolies” in Robert W Hefner’s edited volume, *Handbook of Contemporary Indonesia*. The same month, **Michael Buehler** published an article on *Saturadah*, an outlaw motorcycle gang with roots in the Netherlands’ Indonesian community. He examined how the group’s global success speaks to the ongoing socioeconomic marginalisation of diaspora communities in the west. In June, he published a review of Patrick Winn’s book *Hello Shadowlands: Inside the Meth Fiefdoms, Rebel Hideouts and Bomb-scarred Party towns of Southeast Asia* in New Mandala.

In July, **Michael Buehler** published an article on local dynasties in Indonesian politics at the East Asia Forum. In 2018 Indonesians were asked to elect governors, district heads and mayors in 17 provinces, 115 districts and 39 municipalities. Elections for local government heads in Indonesia are largely performative events that do not deliver much to ordinary citizens in terms of improved public services or genuinely progressive politicians. In fact, direct elections for local government heads have facilitated the rise of political dynasties. Yet despite their shortcomings, Indonesia’s local elections remain surprisingly dynamic affairs. The same month, **Michael Buehler** also published a review of David Kloos’ book *Becoming better Muslims: Religious authority & ethical improvement in Aceh, Indonesia* in Politics, Religion & Ideology.

**Arshin Adib-Moghaddam’s** research article ‘After the “Middle East”: Turkey and Iran in a new region’ was published by *JETRO-IDE ME-Review* Vol.6 (2018-2019) in Tokyo, Japan.

In July, **Phil Clark** published a research brief titled, ‘Leading from the Middle: Assessing the Role of ‘Go-Between’ Leaders in Building Peace after Mass Conflict’. It summarises the main findings from a 3-year research project funded by the Fetzer Institute, with case study analysis from Colombia, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

**Fiona Adamson** published ‘Sending States and the Making of Intra-Diasporic Politics: Turkey and Its Diaspora(s)’ in *International Migration Review*.

**Data Salam** has published a chapter titled ‘Disambiguating the idea of public sphere and
secularism in the Middle East’ in the volume Religion and civil society in the Arab world: In the vortex of globalization and tradition edited by Tania Haddad and Elie Al Hindy (Routledge).


Professor Stephen Chan co-edited (with Andrew Williams of St Andrews) a festschrift to Professor A.J.R. Groom, emeritus at both the University of Kent and Science Po in Paris, a special issue of Global Society 32(2), 2018.

The second edition of Stephen Chan’s political biography of Robert Mugabe appears in October, updated to the fall of the President last year.

In July, Manjeet Ramgotra published an article on ‘Postcolonial Republicanism and the Revival of a Paradigm’ The Good Society: A Journal of Civic Studies, 26(1).


Bhavna Dave and Yuka Kobayashi published ‘China’s silk road economic belt initiative in Central Asia: economic and security implications’ in the Asia-Europe Journal. The piece covers the economic and security impact of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (Silk Road Economic Belt in Central Asia) in the Central Asia region. The rising importance of China has geo-strategic considerations on what was originally Russia’s ‘backyard’. The ‘Belt’ has a significant impact on Central Asian countries economic conditions. Bringing together the fieldwork conducted by Dave in Central Asia and Kobayashi in China the piece concludes with policy implications for this important development.


Kristin Surak’s book Making Tea Making Japan was published in Japanese as MTMJ: 日本らしさと茶道 by Saihatesha Press. The award-winning book draws on extensive archival and ethnographic work to provide the first full account of how this aesthetic pleasure of ruling men that once stood at the centre of power politics in Japan became a hobby of housewives as it came to embrace not merely the elite few, but the nation as a whole. The analysis connects the literatures on macro-political nationalism and micro-cultural enactments of everyday nationhood by arguing that they share the same repertoire of action. She shows that this ‘nation-work,’ in embodied and linguistic forms, plays a crucial role both during the foundational phases of nation
building and in the more mundane routines of nation maintenance thereafter.

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce published a new article, titled ‘Professionalizing Protest: Scientific Capital and Advocacy in Trade Politics’ in International Political Sociology (12:1). The article explores how and why certain NGOs have shifted from being ‘radical outsiders’ to ‘reformist insiders’ to protest the design and purpose of global trade. The argument is situated at the intersection between political economy and sociology. The paper suggests that a professionalised, activist subjectivity has now emerged in certain NGOs, defined under a new ideal-type notion of the ‘critical technician’. Matt also published a book chapter on ‘EU Trade Policy and Civil Society’ in The Handbook on the EU and International Trade (Edward Elgar, 2018), edited by Sangeeta Khorana and Maria Garcia. The chapter examines the history and contemporary relations between EU institutions and civil society groups that have a stake in trade politics.


Alexis Artaud de La Ferrière published an article in Tumultes on the unexpected forms of cooperation between the trade union movement and the Catholic Church in the area of advocacy for undocumented migrant workers: ‘Décomposition nationale et espoir universel : Le syndicalisme et le catholicisme en France face à la figure du migrant’. He also published an article in the International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society on local-level convergences between religion, social action, and migration: ‘Somewhere between love and justice: a Roman Catholic church in Paris responds to the European migration crisis’.

Alexis wrote a review in Esprit of the exhibition on Eastern Christians curated by the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris: ‘Chrétiens d’Orient. Deux mille ans d’histoire’.

Christina Maags published an edited volume with Marina Svensson (Lund University) Chinese Heritage in the Making, Experiences, Negotiations and Contestations (Amsterdam University Press, 2018). In this volume, she co-authored the chapters ‘Mapping the Chinese Heritage Regime: Ruptures, Governmentality, and Agency’ and authored the chapter ‘Creating a Race to the Top: Hierarchies and Competition within the Chinese ICH Transmitters System’.

Christina Maags published the article ‘Disseminating the Policy Narrative of ‘Heritage under Threat’ in China’ in the International Journal of Cultural Policy; and a book chapter (co-authored with Ioan Trifu, Tokyo University) titled ‘Protecting the Weak? Tracing UNESCO’s Influence on Intangible Cultural Heritage Regimes in Japan and China’ in the edited volume Protecting the Weak in East Asia. Framing, Mobilization, Institutionalization, edited by Iwo Amelung, Moritz Bälz, Heike Holbig, Matthias Schumann and Cornelia Storz (Routledge, 2018). Christina also published a book chapter titled...

Sutha Nadarajah published the article ‘The Tamil proscriptions: Identities, Legitimacies, and Situated Practices’ in Terrorism and Political Violence. The article is available open access. Critiquing mainstream analyses of terrorism proscription regimes as reliant on rationalist conceptions of policy and law as institutionalised rules, it argues that explaining the uneveness and contradictions in the workings of terrorism bans instead requires an interpretive lens that treats state action as always situated practice. Based on the research, Sutha also produced country expert reports for five UK asylum tribunals hearing claimants from Sri Lanka.

Felix Berenkoetter published a book chapter titled ‘E Pluribus Unum? How Textbooks Cover Theories’ in the SAGE Handbook of the History, Philosophy and Sociology of International Relations, edited by Andreas Gofas, Inanna Hamati-Ataya and Nick Onuf. The chapter analyses the content of 22 textbooks and handbooks in the field of International Relations regarding their presentation and treatment of theories, as well as the distribution of authors in terms of geographical location and gender.

Rochana Bajpai published an article titled ‘Non-extremist Outbidding: Muslim Leadership in Majoritarian India’ in Nationalism and Ethnic Politics 24.3 (2018) (co-authored with Adnan Farooqui). Based on her research project on Indian minority MPs, the article elaborates a new notion of non-extremist outbidding. It shows that the role of leadership, relatively neglected, is crucial for understanding how minority parties may be able to survive and expand at a time of majoritarian nationalism.

Laleh Khalili coedited and introduced (with Charmaine Chua, Martin Danyaluk and Deb Cowen) a special issue of Environment and Planning D: Space and Society. Titled Turbulent Circulation: Building a Critical Engagement with Logistics brings together a number of critical scholars of capitalism and of logistics (including Rafeef Ziadah) to engage with the transformations that logistics and transportation infrastructures have wrought in global capitalism.

Laleh was also invited to contribute a new foreword to a reprint of Allan Sekula’s Fish Story (first published in 1995). Fish Story is an extraordinary collection of essays and photographs by the late artist and critic Sekula. Allan Sekula (1951-2013) was throughout his life engaged with ‘the imaginaries and realities’ of capital accumulation, violence, and maritime transportation. Fish Story is an account of the seismic transformations wrought by the global logistics industry and by container-shipping. Laleh’s foreword reflects on how Sekula’s Fish Story still provides much rich and textured material for contemplating the maritime world of capital.

Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

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

London Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Sciences
The London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science (Co-Directors Tat Yan Kong, SOAS and Ramon Pacheco Pardo, King’s) has secured a third year of funding in support of its Contemporary Japan Speaker Series from the Japan Foundation. The CCJS features four invited speakers from Japan each year, covering the full range of the social sciences. The final year of the three-year series will feature four political scientists/IR specialists:
- Motoshi Suzuki, Kyoto University, 29 November 2018 6-8pm (SOAS)
- Yoshihide Soeya, Keio University, 7 December 2018 6-8pm (SOAS)
- Maiko Ichihara, Hitotsubashi University, 14 February 2019 5.30-7pm (King’s)  
- Hideaki Shiroyama, Tokyo University 14 March 2019 5.30-7pm (King’s)

Centre for Comparative Political Thought
In June, the Centre hosted a panel conversation on Prof Lisa Lowe’s *The Intimacies of Four Continents*. The panellists included Prof Elisabeth Anker (George Washington University) and Prof Gurminder Bhambra (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex).

Centre for Taiwan Studies
SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies awarded Teaching Grant
SOAS University of London has signed a major agreement with Taiwan to promote the School’s Taiwan Studies programme between 2018 and 2021. The research grant includes funding for the SOAS Taiwan Studies Programme’s small research seminars, policy related events, large annual lectures, film screenings, postgraduate summer school, annual international workshops, and research publication projects. The signing ceremony was held at the Taipei Representative Office at Victoria. The agreement was signed by the Taiwan Representative to the United Kingdom David Y.L. Lin and SOAS Director Baroness Valerie Amos.

Events
Since the last newsletter Dafydd Fell and Chang Bi-yu have organized the following Centre of Taiwan Studies events since the last newsletter
APRIL
20/04/18
2 Film Screenings of The Taste of Apple and Self-censorship with Director’s Q&A Sessions
Speaker: Kevin H.J. Lee (李惠仁)
26/04/18
Book Launch: Lord of Formosa (a novel), Speaker: Joyce M. Bergvelt
MAY
02/05/18
Ethno-Spatiality as Sovereignty: Performative Encounters of Taiwanese Indigenous Contemporary Art, Speaker: Biung Ismahasan
03/05/18
Book Launch: The Taiwan Voter: Political Cleavage and Electoral Decisions
Speaker: T.Y. Wang
04/05/18
A Lost Generation Revisited—70 Years after the Chinese Civil War
Speaker: 龍應台 Lung Ying-tai
09/05/18
Book Talk: Taiwan’s China Dilemma: Contested Identities and Multiple Interests in Taiwan’s Cross-Strait Economic Policy, Speaker: Syaru Shirley Lin
11/05/18
Panel Discussion: A Midterm Review of the Tsai Ing-wen Administration’s Performance
Speakers: Richard Bush, Jinji Chen and Steve Chu-chia Lin (Chaired by Dafydd Fell)
16/05/18
The Interaction Between the Indigenous Music and the Media in Contemporary Taiwan, Speaker: Lin Guo-Ting
17/05/18
Book Talk - Taipei: City of Displacements, Speaker: Joseph R. Allen
24/05/18
The Trajectory from Tongzhi Literature to the BL World, Speaker: Chi Ta-wei
JUNE
01/06/18
Book Launch: Wedding in Autumn and Q&A with author Shih Chiang-Yu
15/06/18
Community Building and Scale-Politics Mobilization in the Cross-Strait Temple-Making Process- Case of Taiwanese investment and Kunshan Matsu Temple, Suzhou of China, Speaker: Chien, Shiu-Shen
18/06/18
Explorations in Taiwanese Musical Modernity: The Case of Lee Shu-teh, ‘the Mother of Violin in Taiwan’, Speaker: Nancy Guy
20/06/18
Thinking with Birds: Ornithomancy and Indigeneity in Taiwan, Speaker: Scott Simon
21/06/18
Making God’s Country: A Phenomenological Approach to Religious Conversion among the Seediq and Truku of Taiwan, Speaker: Scott Simon
28/06/18
Learning to Farm and Cook: Participatory Action Research on Indigenous Edible Heritage, Speaker: Joyce Hsiu-yen Yeh
29/06/18
Food, Ethnicity and Cultural Identity: Staging and Performing Indigeneity through Taiwanese Indigenous Restaurants and Food, Speaker: Joyce Hsiu-yen Yeh
JULY
09/07/18
2018 Taiwan Studies Summer School
Speakers: Niki Alsford, Chang Bi-yu, Chen Nai-chia, Dafydd Fell, Adam Lifshey, Lin Fei-fan, Aw Mona (Tsai Chih-Wei), Darryl Sterk, Sun Chia-sui, Wang Lih-rong, Wei Chun-ying, Wei Yang, Wu Tien-tai
09/07/18
Indigenous Movement and Its Prospects Towards Indigenous Nation-Building
Speaker: Aw Mona (Chih-Wei Tsai)
09/07/18
From With-Them to For Us: Dynamic Model in Indigenous Higher Education
Speaker: Wu, Tien-Tai
09/07/18
Gender Issues in Indigenous Television News,
Speaker: Chia-Sui Crystal Sun
10/07/18
Indigenous Cultural Identities and Practices in Higher Education
Speaker: Wu, Tien-Tai
10/07/18
Study of Indigenous Subjectivity Law and Its Formation: Approach on Indigenous Jurisprudence,
Speaker: Aw Mona (Chih-Wei Tsai)
10/07/18
Domestication in Indigenous Feature Films From Taiwan, Speaker: Darryl Sterk
11/07/18
The Factual Fictions of 17th Century Spanish Taiwan, Speaker: Adam Lifshey
11/07/18
Population Movements and the Construction of Modern Tradition within Contemporary Taiwan Indigenous Society, Speaker: Niki Alsford
11/07/18
Indigenous Media Used as a Means of Cultural Change in a Period of Transformation of Culture and Society in Taiwan, Speaker: Chia-Sui Crystal Sun
11/07/18
Panel Discussion: Social Movement Activist Dialogue
Lin Fei-Fan 林飛帆, Wei Yang 魏揚, Chen Nai-Chia 陳乃嘉, Dafydd Fell
12/07/18
PG Research Training Seminar, Various student presenters
12/07/18
Theorizing the Transarchipelago: Interpreting Taiwanese and Filipino Cultures Together, Speaker: Adam Lifshey
12/07/18
From Chinese Folkdance to Indigenous Dance Theatres: transition in Taiwan's cultural diplomacy programmes, Speaker: Wei Chun-Ying
12/07/18
Empower Indigenous Women to Empower Themselves and Their Community
Speaker: Wang Lih-Rong
13/07/18
Engaging the general public in cultural diplomacy: from policy making to its implementation, Speaker: Wei, Chun-Ying
13/07/18
The Translation of Seediq Bale into Seediq as Interpretation, Speaker: Darryl Sterk
13/07/18
Documentary Film Screening of Pusu Qhuni - Seediq Bale (餘生—賽德克·巴萊)
Speaker: Darryl Sterk
13/07/18
Presentations and Conferences
Alastair Fraser chaired a panel on ‘Politicians’ Agency-in-Context: Understanding Legislative Politics in Eastern and Southern Africa’ at the African Studies Association of the UK conference in Birmingham in September, and spoke about his research in Zambia.
Rahul Rao was invited to the Oxford Union in May 2018 to speak for the proposition ‘This House Believes Britain Should be Ashamed of Churchill’. His side lost the debate (shock, horror). You can read a vengefully self-edited text of the speech here and witness the spectacle here.
Rahul Rao was invited to deliver the 10th Africa Day Memorial Lecture at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, in May 2018. His talk, entitled ‘What do we mean when we talk about statues?’, explored the reverberations of Rhodes Must Fall in the UK, US and Ghana, while also referring to the politics of statue controversies in India.
Rahul Rao was invited to speak on a panel on ‘Desire’ as part of the ‘Colonial Repercussions’ symposium III: ‘Planetary Utopias’, organised by the Akademie der Künste in Berlin in June 2018.
Rahul Rao participated in the London Free School of Critical Feminisms held at SOAS in July 2018.
MSc student Shivan Fazil was invited to participate in the first edition of the Middle East Mediterranean (MEM) Summer Summit, between August 16 – 26, 2018 at the Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano, Switzerland. The 8-day summer summit consisting on plenaries, seminars and workshops was followed by to a two-day forum on 25-26 August, where Shivan Fazil featured on a high-level panel 'the Art of Foreign Policy Advising' alongside Philippe Étienne, foreign policy advisor to the President of France, Pascale Beriswyl, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Kamel Akrout, national security advisor to the President of Tunisia, and Rana Zakarneh, another participant from Palestine. The panel was moderated by Gilles Kepel, Professor of the PLS Paris Sciences et Letters–École Normale Supérieure. Among other topics, the panel discussed the challenges facing the Middle East and Mediterranean region and the implications of instability in the region, particularly as it regards to Europe. In his intervention, Shivan Fazil underlined the plight of the youth in the Middle East and North Africa region where due to economic and social exclusion, the youth often seek the desperate alternative of emigration. He urged the policy-makers to advocate for further co-operation and integration within the MENA region.
In May, Laleh Khalili presented “The Aftermath of Counterinsurgencies” at 13/13 | THE COUNTERREVOLUTION, Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia University, New York, and also Participated in manuscript workshop for Darryl Li’s Universal Enemy at the University of Chicago. In September, Laleh presented “Remaking shores and harbours” at Cooper Union, New York and engaged with the students in a short seminar after the event.
In August, Christina Maags convened the session ‘Politics of Cultural Heritage in China’ where she presented the paper and ‘Enhanced Agency or Exploitation? Ambiguous Effects of the Chinese ICH Inheritors Program’. She moreover presented a second paper on ‘Mobilizing for ICH safeguarding:...
The political and social indigenization of UNESCO norms in China’ at the Conference of the Association of Cultural Heritage Studies (ACHS) in Hangzhou, PR China. In September, she presented a paper titled ‘Contracting elder care services and the private sector’ at the LSE Workshop ‘Contracting Government Services to NGOs in China’.

In April, Felix Berenskoetter presented in a workshop at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS), John’s Hopkins University, Washington D.C.; in June, he participated in a workshop on ‘Friendship and Politics: Cross-Cultural Perspectives’ at the University of Leeds. The workshop brought together scholars from North America, Europe and Taiwan to discuss theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of friendship. Also in June Felix chaired the panel ‘Analysing Narratives in an Age of Global Pluralism’; acted as discussant on the panel ‘Innovation in Interpretation: Revised Methods and New Approaches’; and acted as chair and presenter on the panel ‘Facets of Friendship in International Relations’ at the Annual Conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA) in Bath. In July, Felix was invited to give a talk on ‘Friendship in International Relations’ at the University of Tübingen, Germany and he taught a one-day workshop on concept analysis as part of the ‘Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences’ organised by the Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt University. In August, Felix participated in a workshop on ‘Narrating International Relations’ at the University of Hamburg, which he also helped to organise in his role as convenor of the Interpretivism in IR BISA Working Group. In September, Felix was part of a roundtable on Pessimism, Hope, Critique, acted as discussant on the panel ‘Engaging with Difference for Peace’; and was co-presenter of a paper titled ‘The Evolution of Power in German Foreign Policy Discourse’ and of a second paper titled ‘The Stranger in/and the Politics of Identity’ in the Annual Conference of the European International Studies Association (EISA) in Prague.


Kristin Surak hosted the international workshop ‘Sovereignty and Offshoring’ at SOAS with the support of seed-corn funding from the university. Scholars from Columbia University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, Saint Andrews, Cambridge, and elsewhere came together to discuss work in progress and recent legal transformations. A follow-up workshop is planned to be held in Paris 2019.

Manjeet Ramgotra gave a public lecture at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, SA) on ‘The languages of republicanism: self-rule and the public thing’ (4 April).

Manjeet also gave a guest lecture on republicanism to postgraduate students studying a module titled ‘Freedom in the Decolonizing Republic’ at Wits (11 April). Manjeet attended the PSA annual conference in March 2018 where she presented her research. At the SOAS Teaching and Learning Conference, Manjeet presented her ideas on ‘Decolonizing the curriculum: creative teaching, creative learning’ (8 June). Manjeet has developed and presented her research on ‘The languages of republicanism: self-rule and the public thing’ at the Mancept workshops in political theory at Manchester (11 September) where she participated in a workshop on ‘Positive Freedom in a Changing World’ and at the International Conference on Conceptual History on Interdisciplinarity and Conceptual Explorations’ at Malaga, Spain (25 September).
Elian Weizman co-convened a Working Group (together with Magid Shihade from Birzeit University, and Sharri Plonski and James Eastwood QMUL) sponsored by the International Studies Association. The Working Group ‘Unsettling International Relations: Knowing and Unknowing the Settler Colonial Present’ held a day long workshop ahead of the ISA annual conference in San Francisco in April 2018. Elian also chaired a roundtable discussion at the annual British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) conference held in June 2018 at Kings College London. The discussion dealt with the connection between scholarship and political commitments, in the study of Palestine and beyond. It included contributions from Mezna Qato, Toufic Hadded, Yara Hawari, James Eastwood and Sharri Plonski. Elian co-convened (with Sharri Plonski) a session about ‘Tracing Settler Colonial Subjects, Unsettling Settler Colonial Subjectivities’ at the European Association for International Studies (EISA) annual conference held in Prague this September. The session included 4 roundtables and contribution from a variety of scholars and context around the world.

In June, Adélie Chevée presented her research at the BRISMES Annual Conference. In April, she participated to the workshop ‘WHO’S WHO: Contested Identities and Conflicting Alliances in the Shadow of the Arab Uprisings’ at the University of Cambridge. Her paper focused on Syrian intellectual labour from below and national identity.

Professor Stephen Chan gave the address to open the conference held at the National Institute of Philosophy, part of the Czech Academy of Sciences, on local cosmopolitanism in Africa, at the end of June this year.

Dafydd Fell visited Taiwan between September 4 and September 18 2018 to attend the Third World Congress of Taiwan Studies at Academia Sinica and to continue his research on alternative political parties in Taiwan. At the Third World Congress of Taiwan Studies he gave two papers: ‘Explaining Party Switching in Taiwan’s 2016 Elections’ (September 7) and ‘Making Taiwan Studies Teaching Programmes Sustainable: The SOAS Experience,’ (September 8). On September 1 Dafydd Fell gave a lecture titled: ‘European Taiwan Studies’ at the European Federation of Taiwanese Associations in Brussels, Belgium.

This year many students on Taiwan related courses presented papers at conferences. We were particularly pleased to see six of our students giving papers at the European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference in Zurich in April.

In addition, MSc International Politics student Chen Nai-chia spoke at a packed Centre of Taiwan panel on Taiwan’s social movements together with two of the most famous Taiwanese student movement leaders Lin Fei-fan and Wei Yang.

In April Fiona Adamson presented ‘Sacred Nations, Unbound States: Diaspora Politics and the Power of Sacralization’ and ‘Global Cities as Spaces of Resistance to Populist Nationalism’ at the 59th Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (ISA) in San Francisco, CA 4-7 April 2018. Fiona also participated in the Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration (ENMISA) Distinguished Scholar Award Panel Honoring Audie Klotz and participated in the workshop ‘Cities and the Contentious Politics of Migration’ at the ISA annual meeting.

In May, Fiona spoke at the ‘World Orders in Crisis’ workshop at the Centre for Advanced International Studies, University of Exeter and spoke at the workshop ‘Political Exiles, Transnational Repression
and Global Authoritarianism in Eurasia and Beyond’ at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York. In July, she presented the paper ‘Turkey’s ‘Diaspora Engagement’ Policies: Transnational Citizenship or “Remote Control” Authoritarianism?’ at the conference ‘Authoritarian Practices Beyond National Regimes’ at the University of Amsterdam.

In August, Fiona Adamson co-convened the ‘Migration and Citizenship’ PhD Dissertation Workshop at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Meeting in Boston, MA. At the same meeting she presented the paper ‘The Colonial Migration State in the Middle East and North Africa,’ (co-authored by SOAS alumnus Gerasimos Tsourapas and Helene Thiollet). In September, Fiona spoke on ‘Migration, Refugees and Borders,’ at the research workshop ‘State Responsibilities and Non-Territorial Security Challenges’ at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, Wales. In September, Fiona presented ‘Diasporic Rebelocracies: The Transnational Dimensions of Rebel Governance Structures,’ at the conference on ‘Rebel Diplomacy’ at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.

In June, Meera Sabaratnam gave the keynote speech at a seminar hosted by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) on ‘Decolonizing the Academy’. Meera also participated in a roundtable at the annual British International Studies Association Annual Conference titled ‘Decolonising Capital: A Reading Group’.

In June, Rafeef Ziadah presented on a Spotlight Panel at the British Society of Middle East Studies conference (BRISMES) on ‘Middle East Studies & the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement’.

In June Bhavna Dave presented a paper (in Russian) on ‘Re-assessing the approach to labour migration in the Russian Far East’ at a conference on Migration Processes and their Impact on Socioeconomic and Demographic Development of the Far East at the Far Eastern Federal University held in Vladivostok and in September she presented ‘Securitization and Neoliberal Logic’ in Russia’s Labour Migration Governance’ (in Russian) at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. In October, she presented a paper on the ‘Security Implications of China’s Belt and Road Initiative for Central Asia’ at an international conference The Belt and Road Initiative: Challenges and Opportunities organised by Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

Bhavna Dave was invited by Times Higher Education (THE) at its Research Excellence Summit Uniting East and West in an emerging world research and innovation hub at Kazan Federal University in Kazan, Tatarstan in Russia, 29-31 August 2018, where she led a panel discussion on ‘Research across the Silk Road.’

In April, Matthew Eagleton-Pierce presented two papers at the International Studies Association conference in San Francisco, titled ‘The Resilience of Neoliberalism: Dominant, Residual, and Emergent Forms of Political Economy’, and ‘Managerialism in Civil Society Organisations’. In July, Matt spoke at a workshop titled ‘Neoliberalism and Mental Health’, at the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. The event brought together health professionals, social psychologists, and social sciences to debate how mental health problems can be understood in relation to neoliberal culture. In September, Matt presented a paper at the European International Studies Association conference in Prague on ‘Multiple Temporalities in the Movement of Capitalism’.

In September, Matt Nelson presented his current research and led a research-methods seminar in Lahore, Pakistan (LUMS) and at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka for a workshop on ‘Freedom of Religion in Divided Societies: Law, Politics, and Rights’. In October, Matt presented his research for a Konrad Adenauer Stiftung workshop at the National University of Singapore (Centre for Asian Legal Studies): ‘Role of Religion in Politics and Its Impact on Law-Making in Asia’.

On April 28, Alexis Artaud de La Ferrière was invited to the migration NGO Causons to speak about the social dynamics of religious practice in contexts of migration. Alexis was invited to give the keynote lecture at the Network for European Citizenship Education in Marseille on May 16, 2018. Alexis’s lecture focused on the challenge of teaching a European set of values, and argued that the core task for civic education in the present context is to redefine the meanings of universalist moral claims in a world that is increasingly suspicious of universalisms. In June, Alexis presented a paper titled ‘The role of religious identity in secular foreign policy
decision-making and the politics of friendship between France and Eastern Christians’ at the annual conference on Religion, Diplomacy and Peace organised by the International Commission for the History and Study of Christianity in the Vatican City. On October 2, he was invited to participate in a discussion panel on the topic of ‘Collective Mobilisations, Religion and Emancipation’ alongside Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun, Luis Martínez Andrade, and Michael Löwy at La Colonie in Paris.


In April, Rochana Bajpai presented a research paper titled ‘What do descriptive representatives describe? Minority representative claims in Indian election campaigns’ at a conference on Democratic Representation in South Asia held at Yale University and in September she was a speaker at a seminar on Minority Rights in the World’s Largest Democracy organized by the Swedish Institute on International Affairs (IU), Stockholm.

In October, Michael Büchler presented his research findings on subnational authoritarianism in Southeast Asia at King’s College.

Politics Department Seminars

17 October - Stéphane Dufoix (Paris Nanterre University) - Historicizing as Decolonizing Sociology: Epistemological and Political Issues of Writing a World History of Sociology

24 October - Matthew Eagleton-Pierce (SOAS) - The Political Economy of Managerialism

14 November - Raafeef Ziadah (SOAS) - The Politics of Logistics Space: Humanitarianism, Militarism and the United Arab Emirates

28 November - Kristian Stokke (Oslo University) - Contextual Politics of Semi-Authoritarian Rule and Hybrid Peace: Comparative Reflections on Myanmar and Sri Lanka

12 December - Kim Hutchings (Queen Mary) - To Dwell In the Borders: The Ethos of a Feminist and Decolonial International Ethics

16 January - Lawrence Hamilton (University of Cambridge) - Reinventing Representative Democracy from the Global South

23 January - Ben Clift (University of Warwick) - The IMF and the Politics of Austerity

6 February - Marlies Glasius (University of Amsterdam) - Extraterritorial Authoritarian Practices

20 February - Polly Pallister-Wilkins (University of Amsterdam) - Humanitarian Borders: Unequal Mobility and the Need to Save Lives

27 February - Alexis Artaud de La Ferrière (SOAS) - SOS Chrétiens d'Orient: Intra-religious Solidarity and Nationalism Between France and Syria

6 March - Alastair Fraser (SOAS) - Researching Parliamentary Constituencies as Spaces of Contested Authority

20 March - SPECIAL DISCUSSION ON THE RESEARCH-TEACHING NEXUS

Laleh Khalili; Matthew Nelson; Meera Sabaratnam (all SOAS)
Leslie Vinjamuri and Jack Snyder spoke about *Human Rights Futures* (Stephen Hopgood, Jack Snyder and Leslie Vinjamuri, Cambridge University Press 2017) at Hong Kong University, and on a Roundtable celebrating the publication of the book at the International Studies Association in San Francisco.


In October, Leslie Vinjamuri chaired Professor James Goldgeier (American University and the Council on Foreign Relations) who spoke about ‘The Unconstrained Presidency’. This was the first lecture in the 2018-2019 International Relations Speaker Series.

Leslie Vinjamuri delivered a keynote address ‘Brought to you by America: The New World (dis)Order’ at the 2018 BISA US Foreign Policy Working Group Conference in Liverpool and spoke to the Free University Berlin-Hebrew University joint PhD program on *Human Rights Futures* (Stephen Hopgood, Jack Snyder and Leslie Vinjamuri, Cambridge University Press 2017) and also to the faculty on ‘America and the World: Is Trump a Game-Changer?’

In March, Phil Clark gave a lecture in Kigali titled, ‘The Death of the ICC? The Politics of International Justice in Africa’, hosted by the Aegis Trust and attended by senior Rwandan policymakers and jurists, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two High Court judges, the Executive Secretary of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission and a senior advisor to the President. In April, he gave a presentation on post-conflict politics in Rwanda as part of the Mo Ibrahim School of Governance in Kigali, hosted by the SOAS Department of Development Studies. In May, Phil Clark co-hosted a conference at King’s College, ‘Rwandan Perspectives on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Sustainable Peace: Enhancing Research, Influencing Policy’, which featured a programme entirely of Rwandan researchers. This was a landmark event, given how rarely conferences in Europe or North America feature line-ups comprising solely African speakers. Attended by more than 200 people, the conference hosted speakers looking at a range of issues on ethnic identity, post-conflict citizenship education, minority rights, intergenerational guilt after the 1994 genocide, gender and intra-family dynamics, the impact of sexual violence and agrarian reform. In July, Phil Clark gave a presentation on post-conflict welfare in Rwanda at the AHRC-funded conference, ‘Rwandan Stories of Change’, at the University of St. Andrews. Also in July, he co-hosted a British Academy-funded writers’ workshop in Kigali for Rwandan researchers as part of the Aegis Trust programme which he established in 2014. Phil was part of a UK and Rwandan consortium that successfully applied for a BA writing workshop grant. In May, Catherine Craven was invited to give a talk at the Elliot School for International Affairs’ Sigur Centre for Asian Studies on parts of her thesis research. The talk was titled ‘Locating the Global Politics of Diaspora Engagement: Engaging Tamils in Development in Toronto’.

**Current Research**

Between March and May, Phil Clark was in Rwanda, conducting field research for a new book project on social welfare in illiberal and post-conflict states. He also continued his work advising Rwandan researchers as part of a DFID- and Swedish government-funded project at the Aegis Trust.

Dafydd Fell conducted fieldwork interviews in Taipei, Kaohsiung, Penghu and Hsinchu with activists and politicians involved in Taiwan’s social movement linked political parties.

Bhavna Dave continued her research on the Russian state’s policies of accelerating development in its Far Eastern region and their impact on labour migration in Vladivostok in summer.
Alexis Artaud de La Ferrière will be conducting a 2-year study on the sociology of African Catholic migrants in Lyon and Paris as part of the collective ANR-funded project, Catholic migrants in a plural society: social and religious anchoring. In the context of secularisation, growing religious diversity and increased population mobility, this project looks at the transformation of religion as a social fact. It concerns Catholic migrants (African, Creole, Asian and Latin American) arriving in France, and seeks to show the diversity among Catholics and to shed light on issues of discrimination and racism in religious institutions, a theme that has received little scholarly attention so far.

In August, Michael Buehler provided a first-hand account of a M7.1 earthquake in Lombok. If you would like to donate to relief funds to help victims of the earthquake in Lombok or the Tsunami in Central Sulawesi, you can donate to Michael directly. Michael will transfer donations via Western Union directly to the bank accounts of two families affected by the earthquake in Lombok. He will email you a transfer receipt for tax purposes. You may also consider the following Indonesian and international organisations: Care, Catholic Relief Services, Give2Asia, Indonesian Red Cross, Islamic Relief, Kopernik, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Harvest or World Vision.

In May, Rafeef Ziadah was elected to the Board of Trustees of the NGO War on Want, where she had worked previously as Senior Campaigns and Research officer. War on Want is an anti-poverty NGO that works directly with partners in the Global South. In April, Rafeef Ziadah presented at the The Dóchas conference. Dóchas is the umbrella organisation of Irish Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in development and relief overseas and/or development education in Ireland. Rafeef presented on the challenges and opportunities for the Irish development sector in the Middle East post 2011-2012 Uprisings.

Outreach

The Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament invited Yuka Kobayashi to present an oral submission on China and the Economic Order in March 2018. China’s participation in the international economic order is linked to the timely topics of: US-China trade dispute, WTO, Belt and Road Initiative, and Brexit. The complex legal and regulatory issue surrounding these issues are currently the focus of the UK as it is moving away from a legal/regulatory framework under the EU. The summary of the issues discussed in the oral submission is available on the SOAS website. Following the hearing, the Committee asked Kobayashi follow-up questions focusing on legal issues around China’s Belt and Road Initiative. The Committee published the written submission in June 2018. Kobayashi’s written evidence on China and the International Legal Order is available here.

Rahul Rao played the part of a homophobic judge in a reading of Danish Sheikh’s play 'Contempt', which was staged as part of the Queer Asia conference at SOAS in June 2018. The play revolves around the infamous 2013 decision of the Indian Supreme Court that recriminalised homosexuality, which was happily overruled by a larger bench of the same court in September 2018. Rahul also chaired the closing panel of the Queer Asia film festival, which was hosted by the British Museum this year.

CONTEMPT

Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life.

Written and directed by Danish Sheikh
MSc student Jesus-Antony Baez published an article on behalf of his consultancy firm (Pax Tecum Global Consultancy) by new partner emerge85 in Dubai, a research centre formed in partnership between John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies - Foreign Policy Institute and the Delma Institute. It’s their inaugural piece focusing on the need for political will in financial inclusion via FinTech.

Professor Stephen Chan observed the 2018 Zimbabwean elections and advised the various official observer groups as well as the senior ambassadors to Zimbabwe.

Reem Abou El-Fadl convened the summer school course ‘The Middle East in Global Politics’ in July, and co-taught on the LMEI-SOAS summer school on Government and Politics of the Middle East. She also taught on the Media, Culture and Politics Summer School at Magdalen College, Oxford.

In March, Phil Clark was an expert witness in the Stockholm District Court’s prosecution of Rwandan genocide suspect Theodore Tabaro. Phil appeared via videolink from the Rwandan Supreme Court. In June, he gave briefings on central African politics to delegates from Médécins sans Frontières. In July, Phil Clark authored and read the citation for Academy Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker’s honorary fellowship at SOAS. In the same month, he coordinated the SOAS Sub-Saharan African training week for delegates from the Ministry of Defence, held at Henlow air force base. In August, Phil briefed the new Irish ambassador to Uganda and Rwanda on political dynamics in central Africa.

A new report titled Negotiating the Peace: Diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula published jointly by the Henry Jackson Society and the London Asia Pacific Centre (SOAS and King’s) was launched in Parliament on 12 September 2018. Co-edited by Dr John Hemmings, Director of the Asia Studies Centre at the Henry Jackson Society; Dr Ramon Pacheco Pardo (King’s College and VUB, Co-Director LAPC) and Dr Tat Yan Kong (Department of Politics & International Studies, SOAS and Co-Director LAPC), the report examines the negotiating positions of all six countries involved in the North Korean nuclear crisis: the US, North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, and Russia. The well-attended public Q&A session and parliamentary dinner generated very lively discussion involving the co-editors and leading practitioners including the South Korean Ambassador to the UK Her Excellency Enna Park, Ambassador Warwick Morris, Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Rt Hon. Dr Julian Lewis MP, Rt Hon. Fiona Bruce MP, Lord Hannay, Lord Anderson, Lord Jopling and Viscount Waverley.

From left to right: Dr Ramon Pacheco Pardo (LAPC, King’s and VUB), Viscount Waverly, HE Ambassador Enna Park, Dr John Hemmings (Henry Jackson Society), Dr Tat Yan Kong (Department of Politics & IS and LAPC, SOAS)

Leslie Vinjamuri gave evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on the Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention. Her comments were included in the Committee’s final report, ‘Global Britain: The Responsibility to Protect and Humanitarian Intervention’ issued in September.

Sutha Nadarajah moderated the panel discussion at the launch on 23 April of a report by the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) on recent human rights abuses by Sri Lanka’s police commando force. ITJP is administered by the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa, headed by Yasmin Sooka, a leading international lawyer and expert in transitional justice. The panel comprised Frances Harrison, Program Coordinator with ITJP (and SOAS alumni); Nina Tavakoli, a Barrister (Red Lion Chambers) and investigator with ITJP; Ann Hannah, Advocacy and Policy Director for Freedom From Torture; and Dr Rachel Seoighe, Lecturer in Criminology (Human Rights and Criminal Justice) at Middlesex University. The event, held in the Houses of Parliament, was chaired by Paul Scully, MP, and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils (APPGT).

Media and Blogs

The launch of the report Negotiating the Peace: Diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula co-edited by Dr Tat Yan Kong (Department of Politics & IS, London Asia Pacific Centre), was reported by various South Korean media outlets such as the official Yonhap news agency, Seoul Broadcasting Service and the Joongang Daily News. To accompany
the report launch, the co-editors also wrote a short article in The Diplomat.

MSc student Katherine Berjikian has published a piece on Israeli pinkwashing in Al Jazeera.

Laleh Khalili was interviewed on DemocracyNow about the Palestinians March for Return in Gaza.

Laleh was also interviewed by the Funambulist magazine about weaponised infrastructures; by The New Arab about Israeli operations in the Golan Heights; and by Al Bawaba of Jordan about an Israeli-proposed port for Gaza in Cyprus. She also appeared as a ‘guest of the show’ on BBC World Service’s Weekend Programme. She also appeared on Christian Amanpour’s show to speak about military budgetary allocations in the US.


Alastair Fraser was a guest of LBC radio on 30th August to discuss Theresa May’s diplomatic initiatives, and dancing, in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

Manjeet Ramgotra wrote an article on ‘Can democracy vote itself out of existence?’ for The Conversation.

Dafydd Fell published two opinion pieces. In April 2018 he published ‘Can the KMT Reinvent Itself? Lessons From the Past’ Taiwan Sentinel. (Later republished in Nottingham University’s Taiwan Insight) and in May, ‘Prospects for Taiwan’s 2018 Local Elections’ Taiwan Sentinel. In addition, Dafydd published his first Chinese language essay titled 從恨到愛 我對台灣婚紗 一直有複雜感情 in the Taiwanese Feminist blog platform Womany.net In the essay he reflects on his changing views on Taiwanese style wedding photography and interestingly it was more popular than his usual political science publications!

In June, a symposium on Meera Sabaratnam’s latest book was published on The Disorder of Things blog, featuring contributions from Marta Il‡íguez de Heredia, Amy Niang, Lee Jones and Megan Mackenzie, and a response by Meera. In July, Meera participated in a BBC Asian Network show titled ‘Is the Curriculum too White?’ hosted by Kieran Yates. She also participated in a discussion on British Tamils hosted by Mobeen Azhar in September.

Yuka Kobayashi wrote an article on US-China trade: China is building bridges with the World while the US puts up Walls’ for The Conversation. The piece outlined the links between the US-China trade dispute and the Belt and Road Initiative. In July, Kobayashi was interviewed by Araby TV on China’s Belt and Road Initiative in the Middle East.

Leslie Vinjamuri has continued to appear regularly on Bloomberg TV, CNN, BBC News, BBC World, and Sky News to talk about key issues in US politics and foreign policy. She has also been a guest on RTE Today Programme (Irish Radio), BBC’s The World Tonight with Ritula Shah to discuss Trump’s speech at the United Nations General Assembly and has contributed on multiple occasions to Radio 4’s World Update. She was quoted in The New York Times and The Atlantic surrounding Trump’s visit to the U.K. Leslie was a guest on ‘CNN Talk’ to discuss the work of Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege, the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winners and the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Leslie was a friend of the presenter for BBC News during Donald Trump’s visit to the United Kingdom and also on the Senate Judiciary deliberations on (then) Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Reem Abou El-Fadl co-edited with Professor Hassan Hakimian the April-May 2018 issue of The Middle East in London, the SOAS London Middle East Institute’s magazine. All contributions focus on Egypt, and range from analyses of the 2018 elections to a study of psychoanalysis and criminality in Cairo during the early twentieth century.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was commissioned to write several opinion pieces including for TRT World and The Independent. Arshin gave a feature length
interview about being a scholar and his newest book *Psycho-nationalism: Global thought, Iranian imaginations* (Cambridge University Press). The interview was conducted by Dr. David Orsi. 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. He also co-signed an open letter to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo against the Iran policies of the Trump administration. The letter was published as a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times. (see @Adib_Moghaddam)

Adélie Chevé published articles for the French magazine *Regards* on, among other topics, the planned battle of Idlib, reconstruction in Syria and Europe’s approach to migrations.

In April, Phil Clark published an op-ed in the *East African* on genocide commemorations in Rwanda; *The World Weekly* and *World Politics Review* interviewed him about the upcoming elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and he was on Sky News discussing violence in Ituri province of north-eastern Congo. In May, Deutsche Welle and the *African Business Report* quoted Phil Clark on the referendum in Burundi over whether to change presidential term limits; the *New York Times* quoted Phil Clark on whether the International Criminal Court will investigate crimes against the Rohingya; *The Canary* quoted him on Rwanda’s shirt sponsorship deal with Arsenal; he did the Australian news review on *Monocle24*, looking at the result of the Timorese elections and Australia’s call for an apology and reparations from the Russian government over the shooting down of flight MH17.

In June, *the East African* interviewed Phil Clark about Rwanda’s foreign policy after its meetings with Russian and Chinese leaders; he did the *Monocle 24* news review on abortion legislation in Northern Ireland, the Ethiopia-Eritrea peace deal and the energy crisis in Australia; *Deutsche Welle* interviewed him about the International Criminal Court releasing the Congolese rebel leader and former Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba; he was a panelist on *Monocle 24*’s ‘Midori House’ programme discussing the slowdown in the Chinese economy, the Bemba case at the ICC and the start of the World Cup.

In August, Phil Clark did the Australian news review on *Monocle 24*, focusing on the leadership battles between Malcolm Turnbull, Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton; he was interviewed on KT Radio about the state of international research on Rwanda; CNN interviewed him about women and democracy in Rwanda; *Deutsche Welle* quoted Phil Clark on conflict around lakes and borders in central Africa; he was interviewed on Al Jazeera’s Newshour about the arrest of Ugandan and former pop star Bobi Wine; did did the *Monocle24* review of the Australian newspapers, focusing on the fallout from the toppling of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull; he was quoted in the *Mail and Guardian* on conflict around borders in Africa’s Great Lakes region; was interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Euronews* and the Exchange Rates website about Theresa May’s visit to Africa.

In September, *Deutsche Welle* and *Junge Welt* in Germany interviewed Phil Clark about the parliamentary elections in Rwanda; the *Khmer Times* quoted Phil Clark about conflict around borders and lakes in central Africa; he was interviewed on BBC regional stations (Derby, Leicester, Merseyside and Nottingham) about Theresa May’s trip to Africa; the *Financial Times* interviewed Phil Clark about the Rwandan presidential pardon of opposition leader Victoire Ingabire and 2000 other convicts; CNN and RFI interviewed Phil Clark about the trial of Rwandan opposition leader Diane Rwigara.

Kristin Surak published the piece ‘No Sex, Please’ on the Verso Press blog. She was also interviewed by Radio France International on elections in Japan and by the BBC World Service on the change of the age of adulthood in Japan, and published the piece ‘Japan’s Womanomics’ in the summer print edition of *Jacobin Magazine*, addressing neoliberal transformations in childcare policy in Japan.

In May, Michael Buehler’s book *The Politics of Sharia’s Law* was discussed by the Jakarta Feminist Discussion Group as reported in the *Jakarta Globe*. In June, Michael Buehler and Patrick Winn discussed organized crime in Southeast Asia and the role of Asian governments in it. In August, his research was mentioned in a newspaper article on the role political Islam will play in Indonesia’s 2019 presidential election and in another article on endemic corruption within Indonesia’s state apparatus. In September Michael discussed with the *Christian Science Monitor* how the world should respond to the army’s campaign of murder, rape, arson, and ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Between May and October, Michael Buehler was also a regular on *Monocle24*, discussing, among other issues, Corruption in Cambodia’s Education system; corruption in post-earthquake relief efforts in Lombok; plans to extradite former Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra; environmental pollution in Indonesia’s capital Jakarta; constitutional changes in the Philippines; anti-corruption training
offered by Hong Kong’s ICAC across Southeast Asia; the rise of vocational training in Singapore; corruption investigations into the purchase of Battersea Power Station in London by the Malaysian government; the consequences of anti-biotics misuse in Southeast Asia; the similarities between ethnic violence in Sri Lanka and Myanmar; on Timor-Leste’s new government and the challenges it faces; as well as face recognition based surveillance in Singapore.

**Julia Gallagher** took part in the *World Service programme The Real Story: a new dawn for Zimbabwe* in July, and was interviewed about Theresa May’s visit to Africa on BBC Radio London’s Breakfast show in August.

Former SOAS PhD student **Dr Sameen Moshin Ali** gave an interview to *The News on Sunday* on the politicisation of the bureaucracy in Pakistan and how successful administrative reforms can be implemented.

**Felix Berenskoetter** was quoted in *Al Bawaba*, a Jordanian news outlet, on Angela Merkel’s visit to Israel.

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**Announcements**

Our librarian, **Victoria Bird**, has been appointed to the post of Acting Deputy Head of Teaching and Research Support in the Library for a term of 6 months, until the end of 2018. **Vicky** will retain the bulk of her role as Assistant Librarian for Politics, Economics, Finance and Management, along with her responsibilities for the Centre of International Studies and Diplomacy and Centre for Financial and Management Studies, during this time. **Vicky** will contact academic colleagues, as usual, to prepare for the start of the new academic session.
Many of us in the Department fondly remember our former undergraduate student David Suber. David has just completed an animation project titled ‘Scirocco: A Case Against Deportations’, which he put together along with another SOAS alumnus Hannah Kirmes-Daly. David explains: ‘The film is based on Suber’s six-month’s field-work on the consequences of readmission agreements between Italy and Tunisia. With the support of the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, the animation is designed to represent the main finding of the research: migrants deported to Tunisia re-migrate to Europe soon after their forced return, thus defying the very first logic of deportation policies. The animation was realised through drawings and soundscapes collected in Tunis’s suburbs of Ben Arous.’