



Politics and International Studies Newsletter



COVID-19 Update

We would like to wish all students, colleagues, and friends of the Politics Department the very best of health at this challenging time. Although SOAS closed its doors in March 2020, we remain very much open and active, and report below on all our news in the past six months. We have been teaching, meeting, and conducting our research online, and look forward to welcoming our students back to campus as soon as it is safe to do so. SOAS will offer a blended learning experience in September 2020, and the Department has recently refreshed and updated its programmes, with new and improved modules on offer. We are presenting our plans at virtual Open Days and events throughout the summer. Please keep in touch!



Appointments, Awards, Honours

Fiona Adamson was appointed a Distinguished Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. **Fiona** was also awarded a Senior Fellowship at the German Historical Institute Innovation Through Migration Program at the Pacific Regional Office at University of California, Berkeley.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was elected Associate Scholar at the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University. **Arshin** was also nominated to the editorial board of the *Journal of Political Strategy* in Tehran.

In January 2020, **Sultana Begum** joined the Department in the role of Academic Support Officer.



Sultana Begum

Sultana previously spent twenty years working in various administrative roles at London Metropolitan University. One of these was her role as Customer Liaison Officer for the Student Hub, where she was responsible for the cohort of 900 CASS students. **Sultana** was nominated as best administrator by the Head of the Cass Foundation for her work ethic. She is looking forward to excelling in her career in higher education at SOAS.

In February, **Michael Buehler** took up a six-month research fellowship at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at Kyoto University in Japan.

Shikha Dilawri was awarded a Doctoral Fellowship (CAD 60,000) by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to conduct her PhD research project on the entanglements of race and caste in international politics, supervised by **Rahul Rao**.

Sarah El-Kazaz joins the Department as Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics of the Middle East on 1 July.



Sarah El-Kazaz

Sarah's research interests include political economy, urbanism, infrastructure and digital politics. Her upcoming book, *Building Politics: Urban Transformation and (Un)Making Markets in Cairo and Istanbul* examines the political economy of urban transformation in neoliberalising Istanbul and Cairo. Her next book project investigates the politics of digital infrastructures by following 'Cloud' technologies across the Global South. Her work appears in peer-reviewed journals including: *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and *City and Society*. She previously taught at Oberlin College, and completed a PhD at Princeton University, MA at NYU and BA at the American University in Cairo.

Julia Gallagher has been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies (JIAS), University of Johannesburg.

In May, **Yuka Kobayashi** was appointed to the Advisory Board of Stiftung Asienhaus (Asienhouse Foundation) in Germany.

Tat Yan Kong was awarded a conference grant by the **Academy of Korean Studies** (USD 15,090) to hold an international workshop on the theme 'Dilemma of Economic and Social Sustainability in South Korea: Causes and Pathways of Escape'.

In January, **Manjeet Ramgotra** was awarded an Independent Social Research Foundation Fellowship. In March she was awarded, with Simon Choat at Kingston University, an Independent Social Research Foundation Flexible Grant for Small Groups for an international conference she is planning on 'Reconsidering Political Thinkers'.

Manjeet Ramgotra and **Meera Sabaratnam** were each awarded a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) in recognition of their achievements in leading and transforming teaching practice.

In May, **Manjeet Ramgotra** was elected to serve a three-year term as Trustee on the **Political Studies Association Executive Committee**.

Meera Sabaratnam was made an Associate of the Imperial War Museum Institute for the Public Understanding of War and Conflict.

Rafeef Ziadah was elected to the council of the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES). BRISMES was founded in 1973 to encourage and promote the study of the Middle East in the United Kingdom. It is the UK's premier Middle East Studies association.



New Publications

In January, **Fiona Adamson** published 'Pushing the Boundaries: Can We "Decolonize" Security Studies?' in *Journal of Global Security Studies*, which was part of a forum in a special issue on 'Inclusion and Exclusion in Global Security Studies'.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam contributed a chapter ('Peace in the Persian Gulf') in a book published in Iran (in Persian) and edited by Seyed Javad Salehi. The title of the book in English is 'Politics, Identity and Security in the Persian Gulf'.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam published a chapter 'Contradictory Identity: Psycho-nationalism after the Middle East', in Lorenzo Kamel (ed.), *The Middle East: Thinking about and beyond stability and security*, London: Peter Lang. A version of the article appears as 'The myth of national identity: Psycho-nationalism in Iran and the Arab world', *JETRO-IDE Middle East Review*, Vol. 7, 2019-2020.

Michael Amoah's latest book *The New Pan-Africanism: Globalism and the Nation State in Africa* was issued in paperback and ebook versions, and in March, a review of the book was published in *Volume 19, Issue 1 of African Studies Quarterly*.

In March, **Felix Berenskötter** published a co-authored journal article with Arash Pashakhanlou entitled 'Friends in War: Sweden Between Solidarity and Self-help, 1939–1945' in *Cooperation and Conflict*.

In March, **Michael Buehler** published "'Try to be more like Norway on a Sunny Day!'" Regulatory Capitalism and the Challenges of Combatting Corruption in Indonesia's Upstream Oil and Gas Sector Supply Chains," in *Oil, Gas & Energy Law Intelligence*. The article evaluates strategies to contain corruption in supply chains in the upstream oil and gas sector and calls for solutions that take political realities on the ground into account.

Phil Clark published a chapter entitled 'The Impact of the International Criminal Court on Peacebuilding in Africa' in T. McNamee and M. Muyangwa, *The State of Peacebuilding in Africa: Lessons Learned for Policymakers and Practitioners*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2020.

Phil also published a chapter entitled 'The International Criminal Court in Africa and the Politics of International Justice' in Nicholas Cheeseman, *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of African Politics*, 2020.

Phil published with Mark Freeman (director of the Institute for Integrated Transitions) an article in *Peace Science Digest* entitled, 'Building Peace from the Middle: The Critical Work of National Brain Trusts', which applies Phil's theoretical work around 'go-between leaders' in peace negotiations to IFIT's brain trust model used in seven countries around the world.

In May, **Matt Eagleton-Pierce** published an article co-authored with Samuel Knafo, titled 'Introduction: The Political Economy of Managerialism'. The article serves as the introduction to a special issue of *Review of International Political Economy* on the nexus between managerialism and political economy processes. It argues that managerialism is not simply a technical means for the pursuit of policies, but has come to shape the very ways in which policy and governance are conceived and conducted.

Julia Gallagher's book, *Zimbabwe's International Relations: Fantasy, Reality and the Making of the State* (Cambridge University Press), has been issued in paperback.

Hangwei Li published an article entitled 'Home Away From Home: The Social and Political Role of Contemporary Chinese Associations in Zambia' in the *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*.

Hangwei also published a working paper 'From Politics to Business: How a state-led fund is investing Africa. The case of the China-Africa Development Fund' at the Global Development Policy Center.

Daniel Marwecki published a new book entitled *Germany and Israel: Whitewashing and Statebuilding* (Hurst Publishers, 2020). The book deconstructs the myths surrounding the odd alliance between Israel and post-war democratic Germany. Thorough archival research shows how German policymakers often had disingenuous, cynical or even partly antisemitic motivations, seeking to whitewash their Nazi past by supporting the new Israeli state. German economic and military support greatly contributed to Israel's early consolidation and eventual regional hegemony. This initial alliance has affected Germany's role in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict to the present day.

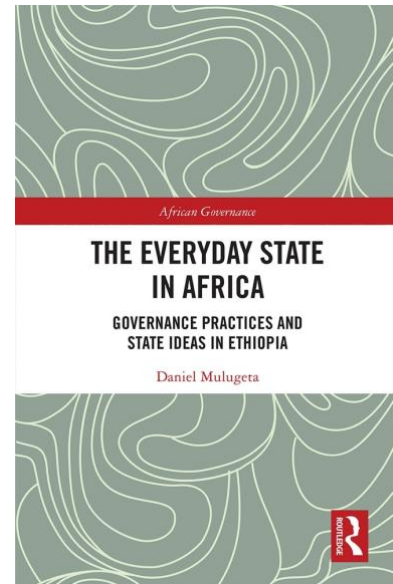
Daniel also wrote an article for *Le Monde Diplomatique* about the book which appeared in the May edition of the English paper (French, German, Spanish and other versions of the article were published in April).



Daniel Mulugeta published his book *The Everyday State in Africa* with Routledge. The book reconceptualises the idea of the state in Ethiopia, focusing on the cultural and political processes of state formation, and revealing the complexity of state–society relations as they unfold in the everyday context of local life.

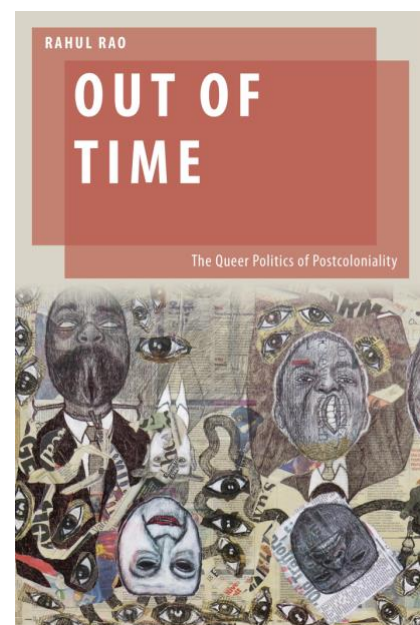
The book places the lives, subjectivities, and experiences of farmers, pastoralists, women, traders, shopkeepers, daily

labourers, the rural youth, state functionaries, and NGO workers in two rural localities in different regions of Ethiopia at the centre of ethnographic enquiry.



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Rahul Rao published a new book entitled *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* (Oxford University Press, 2020). Focusing on the infamous Anti Homosexuality Act that circulated in the Ugandan Parliament between 2009 and 2014, the book seeks to understand the encounters and entanglements that produce and contest contemporary queerphobias.



Placing the Ugandan experience in conversation with contemporaneous developments in India and Britain, it

investigates the impact and memory of the colonial encounter on the politics of sexuality, the politics of religiosity of different Christian denominations, and the political economy of contemporary homophobic moral panics.

Rahul published an article entitled 'Nationalisms by, against and beyond the Indian state' in *Radical Philosophy*, 2.07 (Spring 2020), on the many faces of nationalism evident in struggles around India's anti-Muslim Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Rahul also published a review of *Postcolonial Intellectuals in Europe: Critics, Artists, Movements, and their Publics*, edited by Sandra Ponzanesi and Adriano José Habed.

Dara Salam wrote a commissioned book review of *Chains of Persuasion: A Framework for Religion in Democracy*, by Benjamin R. Hertzberg. It will be published in *The Review of Politics*.

Kristin Surak published an article on demand for so-called golden passports, 'Millionaire Mobility and the Sale of Citizenship' in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Kristin published a book chapter on inequality and the sale of citizenship, 'What Money Can Buy: Citizenship by Investment on a Global Scale' in the book *Deepening Divides: How Borders and Boundaries Drive Our World Apart* (ed. Didier Fassin).

Kristin also published a chapter on the imperial succession in Japan and the country's current situation, 'Japan, Land of the Rising Right' in *The Emergence of Illiberalism* (eds. Boris Vormann and Michael Weinman), as well as a review of *Citizenship 2.0 Dual Nationality as a Global Asset* (by Yossi Harpaz) in the *American Journal of Sociology*.



Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

Fiona Adamson, Catherine Craven and **Veysi Dag** participated in the first annual meeting of the EU Horizon 2020 Migration Governance and Asylum Crisis (MAGYC) project in Beirut, Lebanon on 5-6 December 2019. At the meeting, **Veysi** presented some of the initial results of his field research on Kurdish refugees and diaspora organisations in Europe.

The **London Migration Research Group (LMRG)**, which is co-convened by **Fiona Adamson** and coordinated by **Catherine Craven**, welcomed **Dr Paul Apostolidis** of the London School of Economics for a seminar on 'Migrant Day Labourers and the Politics of Precarity' on 3 March.

The LMRG also hosted **Dr Carol Bohmer** of Dartmouth College and King's College London on 2 February to speak on her recent book *Political Asylum Deceptions*.

Julia Gallagher and the **African State Architecture** team held a week-long workshop at JIAS, in collaboration with the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg, 'The Politics of Architecture in Africa', with eighteen scholars working on the politics of buildings across the continent.

The team is now working on an edited collection of papers from the workshop, provisionally entitled *Architecture and Politics in Africa: Making, Living and Imagining Identities Through Buildings*.

The **London Asia-Pacific Centre** (SOAS and KCL) will be launching a new social science book series entitled *Studies in Contemporary Asia Pacific* to be published by Hong Kong University Press. **Tat Yan Kong** (Co-Chair of LAPC) will be the Co-Editor of the new series (with Ramon Pacheco Pardo, KCL).

In Term 2, the **Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice** hosted a launch of Phil Miller's book, *Keenie Meenie: The British Mercenaries Who Got Away with War Crimes*, a seminar by Roman David entitled, 'A Transformative Theory of Justice', and a workshop with the NGO Rodeemos el Dialogo on their work with the Colombian diaspora on peace and reconciliation issues.

Dafydd Fell and **Chang Bi-yu** have organised several **Centre of Taiwan Studies** events, including in January, a Post-Election Roundtable on Taiwan's January 2020 National Elections, with Michael Reilly (University of Nottingham), Professor Ian Inkster (SOAS), **Dr Dafydd Fell** (SOAS), **Jeremy Huai-Che Chiang** (Non-Resident Research Associate at the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation and MPhil Candidate at the University of Cambridge).

In February, **Dafydd** and **Chang** co-organised the following speaker events: Institutionalization Foretold: Re-examining Sunflower Discourse with Martin Boyle (Kent), Taiyu Social Comedy or the Destruction of the KMT Myth? with Wafa Ghermani (Cinémathèque Française), Re-examining "Vengeance of the Phoenix Sisters" and its Generic Hybridization with Ru-Shou Robert Chen (National Chengchi University, Taiwan), Taiwan Retro Cinema: Nostalgia, Memory and Consumption with Corrado Neri (Université Jean Moulin), and several film screenings: 'Encounter at the Station' (難忘的車站), 'Six Suspects' (六個嫌疑犯), 'Panay' (太陽的孩子), Lokah Laqi (只要我長大), and Pakeriran (巴克力藍的夏天).

Presentations and Conferences

In November 2019, **Reem Abou-El-Fadl** participated in a panel on 'IR and Global Context: Turkey's Place in the World' at a symposium entitled 'Critical Turns in the Study of Modern Turkey' at the University of Graz.



Reem with fellow speakers at Graz

In January, **Reem** was invited to present her research on the 1970s Egyptian student movement at the opening session of the EUME-IHTP-Portsmouth series on 'A Global History of the 1980s: The View from the Global South' at Portsmouth University.

Fiona Adamson delivered a seminar on 'Transnational Citizenship or Long-Distance Repression? Turkey's Diaspora Engagement Policies' at the Institute for Diplomacy and International Governance (IDIG) Speaker Series at Loughborough University, London on 23 January.

Fiona Adamson, Veysi Dag and Catherine Craven participated in a virtual workshop on multi-scalar governance and migration hosted by Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) in June. The workshop was part of the EU H2020 MAGYC project.



The SOAS MAGYC Team at a virtual conference

On 18 January, **Rochana Bajpai** participated at the international conference 'Seventy Years of the Indian Republic' hosted by the SOAS South Asia Institute. She was a panellist at the concluding session 'Is the Indian Constitution under threat?', responding to the keynote

lecture delivered by Aruna Roy, the Ramon Magsaysay award winning social activist from India.



SOAS South Asia Institute Conference

In January, **Felix Berenskötter** co-convoked the Interpretivism in International Relations BISA Working Group conference 'Translation in/of World Politics: Language, Practices, Power' at SOAS. This conference started from the observation that, despite the recognition that the study of 'world politics' must deal with the reality of multiple worlds, the academic field of International Relations pays little attention to the translations that mediate encounters of (and across) these worlds.

Over two days, participants from different disciplines discussed a variety of translation practices occurring in the 'inter' of international relations, their political nature and place in politics. They explored the transfer of political concepts and ideas from one context to another, the role and power of the translators, and the possibilities and limits of translating/translation in world politics. For a brief report, see [here](#).

In January, **Phil Clark** gave a presentation on post-genocide reconciliation in Rwanda at DFID headquarters in London and at SKEMA Business School in Paris.

Bhavna Dave delivered a lecture entitled 'Labour Migration from Central Asia to Russia: Laws, Policies and Effects' as part of an Erasmus+ project Eurasian Insights: Strengthening Central Asian Studies in Europe (www.eiscas.eu), co-funded by the European Union, 2018-1-PL01-KA203-050674.

Bhavna spoke about the impact of Sino-Russian relations on Asia at a panel on 'Balance in Asia' as part of a Chatham House conference on Security and Defence on 12-13 March.

In January, **Dafydd Fell** spoke about Taiwan's party system in the aftermath of its national elections on a [Post-Election Roundtable on Taiwan's January 2020 National](#)

Elections organized by the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies.

In February, **Salwa Ismail** took part along with human rights activist Sema Nassar in a panel on detainees in Syria. **Salwa** spoke on the Syrian regime's deployment of detention and torture as mechanisms of government. The panel was organised by the SOAS Syria Society as part of 'Syria Awareness Week'.

In March, **Yuka Kobayashi** took part in University of Tübingen's conference on Climate Justice where she presented her work on the intersection between China's climate change diplomacy and the Belt and Road Initiative. This workshop will be the basis for collaboration with the University of Tübingen and the University of East Anglia of notions of Climate Justice in Europe and China.

Tat Yan Kong and Yin-Wah Chu (Hong Kong Baptist University) presented their paper *East Asian capitalism and the sustainability of development: South Korea and Hong Kong compared* at Hong Kong University on 6 November 2019 and at Hong Kong Baptist University on 8 November 2019.

Manjeet Ramgotra presented her research on Machiavelli, 'Freedom and the expansive republic in Machiavelli's political thought' in November 2019 at the Fourth Biennale of the Ideas in Politics International conference held at Charles University, Prague.

Manjeet presented her research on 'The languages of republicanism: self-government and the public thing' at the Democracy: Genealogies, Concepts, and Practices International Conference at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town in December 2019.



Manjeet Ramgotra at University of the Western Cape

Manjeet also took part in the Association of Political Theory in Africa Summer School at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town in December 2019 where she taught a session on 'Decolonial critiques of democracy' and participated in a panel on 'Feminist critiques of democracy'.

Manjeet gave a paper on 'Time, Modernity and Space: The Significance of the Ancient/Modern Binary' at the '200 Years of Modern Liberty: Bicentenary Celebration of Benjamin Constant's Lecture on Ancient and Modern Liberty' in December 2019 at Durham University.

Rahul Rao hosted one of the *SOAS Transnational Dialogues on Covid-19*, a virtual event across four continents featuring Donna Patterson (Delaware State University), Vidya Krishnan (independent journalist, India) and Phoebe Mbasalaki (University of Cape Town). Panelists discussed what a range of state responses to the pandemic reveal about their underlying social contracts.

In January 2020, **Joshua Rigg** presented the paper 'Engaging Dégage: Conceptual Travel Across the Mediterranean' at the Interpretivism in International Relations BISA Working Group conference 'Translation in/of World Politics: language, Practices, Power' at SOAS.

Kristin Surak presented her book *MTMJ: 日本らしさと茶道* at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Tokyo, Japan, as well as her research on *iemoto* (grand master) systems of knowledge transmission. She also presented her research on investment migration and its broader implications for citizenship and inequality at the International Christian University in Tokyo, and she presented her research on guestwork programmes in East Asia at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.

Meera Sabaratnam gave the Annual Mead Lecture at Trinity College, Connecticut in November 2019 on the topic '*Decolonising the University: A Struggle for Our Times*'. She also gave the keynote address at the University of Leeds' Annual Student Education Conference in January.

Tolga Sinmazdemir presented the first draft of a new paper titled 'Violence and Voting Behavior: Evidence from the Case of Turkey-PKK Conflict' in the 'Lifecycle of Intergroup Conflict' workshop organized by the European University Institute (EUI) on 16-17 April.

Before the COVID-19 shutdown, **Julia Strauss** was able to present the talk 'Building the Post-1949 State in China and Taiwan', drawn from her recently published monograph, *State Formation in China and Taiwan: Bureaucracy, Campaign, and Performance* (Cambridge), at Duke University (16 January), the University of California San Diego (20 February), California State University, San Bernadino (24 February), *Case Western University* (27 February), and the University of California, Berkeley (5 March). In the post-COVID world, paradoxically, she was able to reach a larger audience, with the talk zoomed through the University of Southern California's US-China Institute (9 April).

Members of the Department in collaboration with the Queen Elizabeth II Academy at Chatham House, led by **Leslie Vinjamuri**, hosted a workshop on 22 May to discuss selections of Columbia University Professor Jack Snyder's manuscript on Human Rights for Pragmatists. Professors from McGill University, Cambridge University, SOAS, University College London, the London School of Economics, the European Council on Foreign Relations and the Academy Fellows at Chatham House participated.

In February, **Simona Vittorini** attended the international conference 'Understanding Africa: Continuity and Change' organised by the Indian International Centre Research Division, in New Delhi, India.

Rafeef Ziadah presented in a webinar organised by the Who Profits Research Centre on the Political Economy of COVID-19 in Palestine.

Politics Department Seminars Terms 2 and 3, 2019/20

29 January 2020

'Vignettes on Social Reproduction: Gender, Empire and Capital in an Egyptian Century'

Sara Salem (Assistant Professor in Sociology, London School of Economics and Political Science) and Mai Taha (Assistant Professor at the Department of Law, American University in Cairo)

19 February 2020

'Black Power's Technology Question: Fully Luxury Automated Communism or Survival Pending Revolution?' (John Narayan, Lecturer in European and International Studies, King's College London)

26 February 2020

'Memory, Identity and Competition: Dersim as a Conflict Zone in Turkey'

Pinar Dinc (Marie Curie Fellow at Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University)

11 March 2020

'Tradition and Anti-colonialism: A Fanonian Critique of the Muslim Brotherhood'

Jasmine Gani (Senior Lecturer, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews)

25 March 2020 (postponed)

'Bordering Britain: Law, Race and Empire'

Nadine El-Enany (Senior Lecturer in Law, Birkbeck)

6 May 2020 (postponed)

'Sensible Politics: Visualizing International Relations' William A. Callahan (Professor of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science)



Current Research

In March, **Phil Clark** was a Co-Investigator on a successful British Academy 'Education and Learning in Crises' grant worth £360,000 (led by Dr Nicola Palmer at King's College London). The grant will continue the work of the Aegis Trust's 'Research, Policy and Higher Education' programme, which Phil established in Rwanda in 2014, to bolster the Rwandan research community and to increase the number of Rwandan researchers publishing in international journals.

Simona Vittorini has received an additional grant from the India-UK Development Partnership Forum (IUKDPF) funded by the Department for International Development, under the India-UK Global Partnership Programme on Development (GPPD). With colleagues from the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai – Dr Renu Modi and Dr Meera Venkatachalam – she will work on a project entitled 'The Construction of Indian 'Exceptionalism' in Cultural Diplomacy for Africa's Development'.



Outreach

Reem Abou-El-Fadl joined *Shadow Heroes* as a Collaborator. *Shadow Heroes* deliver creative translation workshops in secondary schools and universities which introduce students to a range of languages and perspectives from outside western Europe, promoting linguistic and cultural awareness, and critical thinking.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam acted as a consultant for a BBC World documentary about the history of Iran's relations with the United States.

Arshin attended the 2019 Prize-winners dinner in The Guildhall as a member of The National Panel for The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

In February, **Phil Clark** appeared as an expert witness in the Detroit case of Rwandan genocide suspect Oswald Rurangwa. Phil gave testimony on the history and aftermath of the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi and present day law and politics in Rwanda.

In March, **Phil's** recent book on the International Criminal Court (ICC) was cited by Defence counsel for Central African Republic (CAR) militia leader Alfred Yekatom in his request to be prosecuted in CAR rather than at the ICC.

In March, **Phil** participated in an Open Society Foundation expert workshop, designed to give recommendations for the current institutional review of the International Criminal Court.

Bhavna Dave attended Raisina Dialogue 2020 in New Delhi (14-16 January) organised by Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, India, where she was also a participant in a panel discussion on the ‘New Arc of Cooperation in Rising Rimland.’

Julia Gallagher’s exhibition, *State-ments*, about how citizens view their state buildings, went on show at five locations around Johannesburg and Pretoria in December 2019 and January 2020. You can see the film about it [here](#).

In February, **Yuka Kobayashi** briefed the incoming UK Ambassador to China on key issues in China’s foreign policy and international relations. In March, she was invited to share her research on China’s Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia to the Whitehall strategic coordination group (CO, DFID, FCO) for UK’s policies towards Southeast Asia.

In June, **Yuka** gave an online lecture at Parliament to brief the All Party Parliamentary China Group.

Rahul Rao participated in a teach-in on ‘Hindutva and the University’ hosted by the South Asia Forum, Queen Mary University London, on 22 January, where he spoke about the assault on Indian universities by state and non-state agents of the Hindu Right in the wake of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. Organised by Ida Birkvad, a former student of the SOAS Politics department, the teach-in also featured SOAS alumni Akanksha Mehta and Mehroosh Tak, as well as Meena Dhanda.

Rahul also spoke at a teach-in organised by the Oxford Students’ Palestine Society on 27 February 2020, entitled ‘Understanding the 21st Century Colonial Alliance’, about the growing closeness between India and Israel evidenced not least in the similarity of their occupation strategies in Kashmir and Palestine respectively.

In January, **Manjeet Ramgotra** participated in the “‘What’s Happening?’ Democratic Renewal’ Political Studies Association panel discussion at the British Academy. She spoke on ‘Decolonising Politics’.

In February, **Meera Sabaratnam** debated ‘Decolonisation in the 21st Century’ at Chatham House with Dr Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A Museum and Dr Katharina Rietzler from the University of Sussex.



Media and Blogs

Reem Abou-El-Fadl was interviewed about the politics of Egypt’s COVID-19 foreign aid by Agence France-Presse, and about the tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, as well as Egypt’s position on civil war in Libya, by Al-Bawaba News.

Fiona Adamson’s work with Gerasimos Tsourapas on ‘migration diplomacy’ was quoted in the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe [Report Health Diplomacy: Spotlight on Refugees and Migrants](#).

Fiona’s piece ‘Understanding Migration Diplomacy’ (with Gerasimos Tsourapas) appeared in *The Global* on 4 June.

Fiona’s piece ‘As Lockdown Restrictions Start to Ease, It’s Time to Think About Mobility Justice’ (with Christiane Froehlich) appeared on Chatham House’s blog on Americas’ Global Role on 25 June 2020.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was interviewed by all major networks, including NBC News, TRT World, CNN, LA Vanguardia, and the Daily Express about the killing of Qasem Soleimani.

A major feature about **Arshin’s** work appeared in Iran’s *Asr-e Andisheh Magazine* (The Age of Reflection).



Arshin in Asr-e Andisheh

Arshin published a short article on the Covid-19 pandemic for *The Conversation* entitled “‘Bani-Adam: the 13th century Persian poem that shows why humanity needs a global response to coronavirus’”.

On Christmas Day 2019, **Michael Amoah** was interviewed on Al Jazeera English television about a jihadist insurgency in Burkina Faso. **Michael** was interviewed the following February about [French Troops in Africa](#). Also in February, **Michael** was invited by SOAS Comms to blog on [The New Pan-Africanism and](#)

presidential term limits following Malawian president Professor Peter Mutharika's speech at SOAS on 21 January in which he gave a public assurance not to exceed his maximum terms of office. In March, **Michael's** latest article Sleight is right featured in a special OUP blog on How African presidents rig elections to stay in office.

In December 2019, **Michael Buehler** was quoted in the *Asia Times* on President Widodo's plans to appoint a team of new generation advisors to counterbalance aged machine politicians in the new Indonesian cabinet.

In January, SOAS Politics PhD student **Adrian Chiu** published this essay on the Hong Kong factor in Taiwan's 2020 elections in the online journal *Taiwan Insight*.

In February, **Phil Clark** was a guest with Grace Blakeley on the *BBC World Service 'Weekend'* programme, commenting for two hours on international news stories.

In February, **Phil** was interviewed by *The Economist*, *Monocle24 Radio* (11:52), and the *Just Security* blog about whether Sudan will extradite former President Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court.

In April, **Phil** was on *Al Jazeera Newshour* and quoted in the Italian newspaper *Sicurezza Internazionale*, discussing the rebel murder of national park rangers in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Between January and April, **Phil** did numerous morning newspaper reviews on *Monocle24's The Globalist* programme. Examples are [here](#) and [here](#).

In June, **Veysi Dag** published 'The Role of Diasporic Structures in Crisis Governance During COVID-19 Global Pandemic' in *ISRF Bulletin* as well as in *Jadaliyya*. **Veysi** also published 'In times of crisis, diaspora groups know what to do' in *openDemocracy*.

In January, **Bhavna Dave** published a blog post 'Putin forever? How the Russian president is planning ahead' for the SOAS blog.

In January, **Dafydd Fell** and Michael Hsiao's co-edited volume **Taiwan Studies Revisited** was reviewed by the Taipei Times. In March, **Dafydd** was quoted in the *Financial Times* article 'Taiwan's KMT to drop Beijing-friendly policy to regain voter trust' on Taiwan's opposition party.

In April, **Dafydd** was interviewed in *Ketagalan Media* on the recall vote campaign against the Kaohsiung Mayor. In May, **Dafydd** gave an online talk at Stanford's Hoover Project on Taiwan on 22 May on *Movement Parties in Taiwan's Electoral System*.

In February, **Salwa Ismail** was a guest of the *Richardson Institute's SEPAD Podcast Series*. She spoke with Dr

Simon Mabon (Lancaster University) about her research and writings, and in particular about her latest book *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

In April, **Salwa** was a guest of the *POMEPS Middle East Politics Podcast*. She discussed with Professor Marc Lynch (George Washington University) some of the main themes in her book *The Rule of Violence*.

In March, Centre of Taiwan Studies Professorial Research Associate **Ian Inkster** published a piece in the Taipei Times on how and why Taiwan has dealt so well with the current COVID-19 crisis. In April, **Ian's** piece 'In the battle against the coronavirus, East Asian societies and cultures have the edge' was published by the *South China Morning Post*, and his comparative examination of responses to COVID-19 in Taiwan, East Asia and the wider world 'COVID-19 - Taiwan in East Asia' was published in *Taiwan Insight*.

Yuka Kobayashi was interviewed by *Fortune* magazine (April) and *BBC Radio 4* (May - *World News Tonight*) on the Corona Virus and AI and Sino-Japanese relations.

In April 2020, **Yuka** and her UG International Relations in East Asia (IREA) class took part in a TV documentary on UK-China trade relations. This documentary programme, on Guangdong TV examined the history of UK-China trade relations.



Current student in the IREA class **Jiaxin Sunny Xue** assisted in the production and the clip features **Tianqi Jiang, Adam Fudala, Biancamaria Pacci** and **Ken Burkholder** from the class.



Tat Yan Kong was interviewed on the political situation in Hong Kong by Pressian News (Korea) on [30 December 2019](#) and [1 January 2020](#).

In April, Centre of Taiwan Studies Project Officer and SOAS alumnus **Max Lembke-Soh** had his article on issues around BBC coverage of Taiwan “The Hualien Quarantine Story Fiasco Revealed How the BBC Fails Taiwan” published by [Ketagalan Media](#).

In April, **Hangwei Li** published an article entitled ‘Mistreatment of Africans in Guangzhou threatens China’s coronavirus diplomacy’ at *The Conversation* and it was reposted by 12 media platforms, including Quartz and Business Times Africa. **Hangwei** also published an article titled ‘Coronavirus diplomacy: China’s opportune time to Aid Africa’ with Zambian lawyer Jacqueline Musiitwa in the Africa Report, which was reposted by the United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Rahul Rao published an article entitled ‘Test of Faith’ in *The Caravan* on new performances of secularism in struggles against India’s Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. He was also interviewed on BBC Radio 4’s ‘Law in Action’ programme about how the Indian Supreme Court is likely to respond to petitions challenging this law.

On 10 June, **Rahul** also appeared on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme, to discuss the Rhodes Must Fall movement. He followed this up with a [blogpost](#) on some of the more troubling aspects of the radio discussion.

On 5 March, Centre of Taiwan Studies Research Associate **Ming-Yeh T Rawnsley** (蔡明燁)’s co-organized project on ‘Lost Taiwanese Cinema’ was [featured in the Taipei Times](#).

Dara Salam published an article in January, titled ‘Turkey’s invasion of Northeast Syria and the failure of US foreign policy’ on the *Inside Arabia* website. This article was translated into Urdu and published in JeddoJehad newspaper.

In November 2019 and January 2020, **Dara** was interviewed by Indus News/Scope programme on the Iraq protests and the country’s political turmoil. In November 2019, **Dara** was quoted in Annahar Newspaper on the Iraq and Lebanon protests. He was also quoted in Radio France International blog on the Lebanon protests.

Julia Strauss was interviewed by the [New Books in East Asian Studies](#) series on her recently published book, *State Formation in China and Taiwan: Bureaucracy, Campaign, and Performance* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Julia Strauss did an interview and podcast for the New Books in East Asian Studies Series on *State Formation in*

China and Taiwan: Bureaucracy, Campaign and Performance, [available here](#).

Kristin Surak’s work on investment migration, financial reporting, and the Global South was quoted in the KnightFrank World Wealth Report 2020.

Rafeef Ziadah interviewed Professor Laleh Khalili on her new book *Sinews of War and Trade* for the [London Review of Books](#) podcast.



Announcements

In April 2020, we bid farewell to our colleague Dr Christina Maags. She has taken up a permanent position as Lecturer in Chinese Studies at Sheffield University. She will be missed, and we wish her well.

March 2020 saw the arrival of two new babies to the Department. Congratulations to our colleagues!

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce is delighted to announce the birth of Hayder Humayun Eagleton-Pierce on 10 March. His parents are overwhelmed but enjoying his social smiles!



Mark Laffey and **Meera Sabaratnam** joyfully welcomed a son, Hari, into the world in March 2020. He looks forward to his first Zoom seminar soon.





Alumni News

Our BA International Relations alumnus **Italo Brandimarte** has received a full scholarship to study for his PhD at the University of Cambridge on the subject of war, technology and empire beginning in 2020.

Jeremy Chan was a MSc in International Politics student between 2017 and 2018. Shortly after graduating and while working at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, he published an op-ed on Canadians views of Asian tech investment in *The Globe and Mail*. He also wrote an analytical piece on Hong Kong's extradition bill protests when they first erupted back in June of 2019. He now works as a financial reporter in London.

In June, SOAS BA Law and Politics graduate **Charahzade Douah** co-wrote a piece in *TIME* magazine on the anti-racist protests currently happening in France.

In April, SOAS BA Chinese and Politics graduate **Ninon Godefroy** helped host an online meeting between Minerva School students and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen.

In March, SOAS MSc Asian Politics graduate **Ashutosh Nagda** published an article on India-Taiwan relations, 'What role for Taiwan in Act East 2.0?' for the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies.

In January, SOAS alumnus **Sam Robbins** published an essay entitled 'Why are Taiwanese politicians collaborating with youtubers?' at the online journal Taiwan Insight.

In May, SOAS PhD **Igor Rogelja** was appointed Lecturer in Global Politics at University College London.

Two alumni of the MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice were recently awarded PhD scholarships: **Pietro Stefanini** (for the PhD programme in Politics at the University of Edinburgh) and **Megan Manion** (as a PhD fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota).

Warmest congratulations to our distinguished alumni, and more from us in the new academic year!

The Department of Politics and International Studies is one of the most cutting-edge departments of Politics 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

This newsletter is produced three times per academic year by Reem Abou-El-Fadl. Please send any announcements to ra47@soas.ac.uk. Please continue to follow the Department's news and get in touch using the links below.

