



Politics and International Studies Newsletter



Looking Forward

The Department's staff and students have together weathered a difficult year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the successive UK lockdowns. Happily, SOAS was one of the first universities to decide to move to online teaching in its summer schools and during the first term, and we have made this transition successfully, keeping our community as safe as possible as a result. We would like to thank all students and staff for their hard work and good humour in making this adjustment, and look forward to being able to introduce more on-campus activities as and when the health situation allows in 2021.

Meanwhile we were delighted to welcome an expanded cohort of new students in September, as well as colleagues from the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, who will enrich the Department's teaching and research. We are excited to invite new students and researchers to join us in 2021. Please do keep an eye on our [virtual Open Day activities](#) on the SOAS website. Until then, we wish all students, staff, and friends of the Department the best of health and all good wishes for the new year.



Appointments, Awards, Honours

We were pleased to welcome several new colleagues to the Department this term.

Michael Albert joined the Department in September as Lecturer in International Relations.



Michael Albert

Michael's research interests include global environmental politics, the political economy of climate change, critiques of economic growth, and post-capitalist futures. His current book project, *Mapping and Navigating the Planetary Crisis Convergence*, brings together Marxism and complexity theory to analyse the intersections between climate, economic, food, and energy crises and anticipate possible global futures.

Michael's work appears in peer-reviewed journals including: *Global Environmental Politics*, *Global Policy*, and *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*. He completed his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University.

Natalie Annan joined the Department as Undergraduate Support Officer and comes to us from the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy at SOAS, where she was Academic Support Officer. Before that Natalie worked in SOAS Registry.

Rakhsha Bhanderi joined the Department as its new Academic Support Officer in October 2020.



Rakhsha Bhanderi

She comes to us from SOAS Law Department and indeed has worked in academic support roles for various SOAS departments for the past six years.

Sophie Elgood joined us in September 2020 as our new Department Manager. Sophie returned to SOAS in June 2020 after five years away at LSE and UCL. **Sophie** has held a range of roles including looking after the administration and finance for the Bloomsbury Theatre and UCL Museums, running the recruitment team for the Institute of Education, and most recently being part of the successful team leading the Gold Athena Swan application at the UCL Institute of Child Health.



Sophie Elgood

Kelly M. Greenhill joined the Department in September as a 2020-21 Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor, albeit remotely due to SARS-COVID 19. Professor Greenhill comes to SOAS from Tufts and Harvard Universities, where she serves on the faculty and on the research staff, respectively.



Kelly M. Greenhill

During her time at SOAS, Greenhill is working closely with her host, **Fiona Adamson**, on two projects: the first is an original database on population transfers and migration diplomacy; the second is a pair of articles devoted to 'security entanglement', a concept they are jointly developing.

Greenhill is also continuing her own ongoing research projects on rumours, conspiracy theories and other forms of extra-factual information in international politics; and on unconventional sources of great power threat reassessments.

Avinash Paliwal joined the Department in September as Senior Lecturer in International Relations, in a post shared with the South Asia Institute. He is also Deputy Director of the SOAS South Asia Institute. Previously he taught Defence Studies at King's College London and was the Defence Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Regional Security Research Centre at King's.



Avinash Paliwal

Avinash specialises in foreign and security policy analysis with regional focus on South Asia, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. His book, *My Enemy's Enemy - India in Afghanistan from the Soviet Invasion to the US Withdrawal*, details India's role in Afghanistan from the Soviet invasion to the US withdrawal. His current research is focused on India's foreign policymaking processes towards Myanmar since Independence (1947).

We are also delighted to congratulate several colleagues on their promotions: **Matthew Nelson** was promoted to Professor, **Rahul Rao** to Reader, and both **Sutha Nadarajah** and **Kerem Nişancıoğlu** to Senior Lecturer (T&R). **Carlo Bonura**, **Manjeet Ramgotra** and **Simona Vittorini** were all promoted to Senior Lecturer (Education).

In the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, **Dan Plesch** was promoted to Professor and **Pallavi Roy** was promoted to Senior Lecturer (T&R), while **Harald Heubaum**, **Vino Kanapathipillai**, and **Hanns Kendel** were all promoted to Senior Lecturer (Education).

Reem Abou-El-Fadl was appointed to the International Advisory Board of the new book series 'Political Communication and Media Practices in the Middle East and North Africa', published by IB Tauris/Bloomsbury Press.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam was appointed Distinguished Honorary Professor by the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences in China and Associate Scholar at the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University. **Arshin** was also appointed to the editorial board of the *Margalla Papers*, a journal of social sciences published by the academic faculty of the National Defence University in Islamabad. He currently sits on twelve academic editorial and advisory boards.

Fiona Adamson was appointed to the international advisory board of the Institute of European Global Studies at the University of Basel, Switzerland

Rochana Bajpai will serve as an External Examiner for the undergraduate degree in politics at the Politics and International Relations department at the University of Edinburgh.

Sarah El-Kazaz has joined the *Arab Studies Journal* as a book review editor.

Tolga Sinmazdemir has been recognised as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).



New Publications

Reem Abou-El-Fadl co-curated a series of articles for *Jadaliyya* on the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser in September. She published a piece entitled 'Beyond Pan-Arabism: Suez and Afro-Asian Solidarity in Abdel Nasser's Egypt'. In it she revisits the 1956 Suez nationalisation through an Afro-Asian telling, arguing that the politics of solidarity on both Arab and Afro-Asian scales during the Nasser era require more research and recognition.

Fiona Adamson co-authored 'State-Building, Sovereignty and Migration Management in the Global South' with **Gerasimos Tsourapas** in *E-International Relations* in July.

Fiona also co-authored 'At Home and Abroad: Coercion-by-Proxy as a Tool of Transnational Repression' with SOAS Politics alumnus **Gerasimos**

Tsourapas in *Perspectives on 'Everyday' Transnational Repression in an Age of Globalization*, published by Freedom House in July.

Fiona Adamson's article 'The Migration State in the Global South: Nationalizing, Developmental and Neoliberal Models of Migration Management' with **Gerasimos Tsourapas** was published in the September 2020 issue of *International Migration Review* 54(3): 853-882.

Rochana Bajpai published a chapter entitled 'Multiculturalism in India: An Exception?' in Richard T. Ashcroft and Mark Bevir (eds.) *Multiculturalism in the British Commonwealth: Comparative Perspectives on Theory and Practice*, University of California Press, 2019, 127-149.

Rochana also published a chapter entitled 'Liberalisms in India' in *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Theory*, edited by Leigh Jenco, Murad Idris, and Megan Thomas and published by Oxford University Press (2020).

Felix Berenskötter published an article entitled 'Anxiety, Time, and Agency' in *International Theory* 12:2 (2020): 273-290, discussing the place of anxiety in the logic of the 'ontological security' literature and its implications for conceptions of agency.

Felix also published an article co-authored with Nicola Nymalm entitled 'States of Ambivalence: Recovering the Concept of 'the Stranger' in International Relations' in *Review of International Studies*. (online first). This article explores how 'the stranger' is understood as a threat to modern conceptions of identity and how this plays out in international relations, as well as problems with this reading.

Taylor Borowetz published a commissioned book review of *Knowledges Born in the Struggle: Constructing the Epistemologies of the Global South*, edited by Boaventura de Sousa Santos and Maria Paula Meneses.

In October **Michael Buehler** and Ronnie Nataatmadja published an article entitled 'Authoritarian diasporas in Indonesia and the Philippines: comparative perspectives on elite survival and defection' in *Democratization*. The article compares the political trajectories of authoritarian diasporas in Indonesia and the Philippines, namely former regime officials that disperse across the electoral space after a regime transition. The article argues that the two variables shaping defection calculi

are the prevailing levels of party institutionalization of both the authoritarian successor party and alternative parties as well as the type of reversionary clientelistic network available to elites in post-transition politics.

In November, **Michael Buehler** published an article entitled 'Regulating the Regulators: Regulators, contracts and corruption in Indonesia's upstream oil and gas sector' on how to fight corruption in natural resource-based supply chains for a special issue of *Inside Indonesia on Energy Policy*.

Stephen Chan has completed work for new editions of his earlier books, *The End of Certainty* and *Kaunda and Southern Africa*. The new editions will be published by Bloomsbury. Cambridge University Press has issued the paperback edition of his book with Julia Gallagher, *Why Mugabe Won*, and a Farsi translation of his book, *Meditations on Diplomacy*, is currently being prepared in Tehran.

Matthew Eagleton-Pierce published a book chapter on the City of London in *Accumulating Capital Today: Contemporary Strategies of Profit and Dispossession Policies* (Routledge, 2021), edited by Marlène Benquet and Théo Bourgeron. The chapter examines the institutional politics of the City via the case of the City of London Corporation, a poorly understood power centre within one of the world's biggest financial ecosystems.

Dafydd Fell published a book chapter entitled 'The Impact of Social Movements' in Kharis Templeman, Yun-han Chu, and Larry Diamond's edited volume *Dynamics of Democracy in Taiwan: The Ma Ying-jeou Years* published by Lynne Rienner.

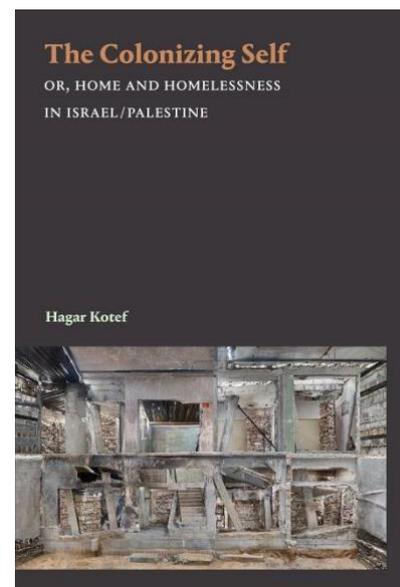
Dafydd also published a book chapter entitled 'Televised Election Debates in Multi-party Taiwan' in Julio Juárez-Gámiz, Christina Holtz-Bacha, and Alan Schroeder's edited volume, the *Routledge International Handbook on Electoral Debates*.

Dafydd Fell and SOAS Politics PhD student **Kwan, Tommy Chung Yin** published a book chapter 'The Relationship between Mainstream and Movement Parties in Taiwan: Case Studies of the New Power Party (NPP) and the Green Party Taiwan-Social Democratic Party Alliance (GPT/SDP)' in David Chiavacci, Simona Grano, and Julia Obinger's edited volume *Civil Society and the State in Democratic East Asia Between Entanglement and Contention in Post High Growth*, published by Amsterdam University Press.

Julia Gallagher published two book chapters: 'State-house: reading statehood through metaphors of home', in Philipp Meuser and Adil Dalbai (eds) *Architectural Guide to Sub-Saharan Africa*, DOM (2020) and 'The monster that hid under a desk?: Zimbabwe and the West', in Miles Tendi, JoAnn McGregor and Jocelyn Alexander (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Zimbabwean Politics*, Oxford University Press (2020).

As a Guest Researcher with The Graduate Center of the Study of Culture of the University of Giessen, **Paul Kaletsch**, a SOAS Politics PhD student, published a book review on Chiavacci and Obinger's 2018 edited volume *Social Movements and Political Activism in Contemporary Japan: 'The Post-Fukushima Protest Cycle and Its Historical Context'*, *KULT Online* 42 (2020).

Hagar Kotef's new book, *The Colonizing Self, Or: Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine* came out with Duke University Press in December. Our former colleague Laleh Khalili endorsed the book, writing: 'This sophisticated, beautifully written, and harrowing book upends a great many comfortable myths. Hagar Kotef theorises the violent process through which homes, relics and ruins, organic farming, and even convivial hospitality become not just the milieu of struggle, but the very sites through which the settler colonial force of the Israeli state expands and consolidates its power.'



Hagar Kotef published an article with Yuval Evri entitled 'When Does a Native Become a Settler' on Palestinian Jews, who lived in Palestine during the Ottoman Empire and before, and whose writing

allows us to think with and beyond the framework of Settler Colonialism. It came out in *Constellations*.

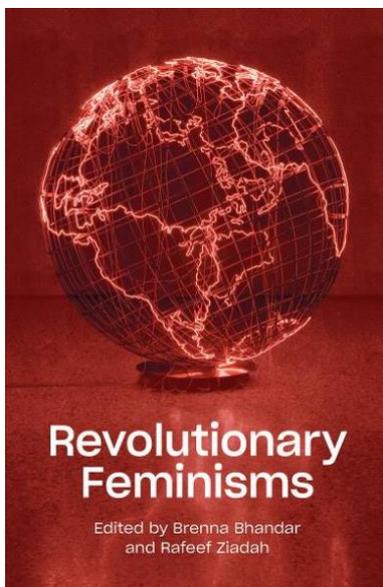
Rahul Rao published an article entitled 'Neoliberal antiracism and the British university' in *Radical Philosophy* 2.08 (Autumn): 47–54.

Rahul also published a review of Jordy Rosenberg's novel *Confessions of the Fox*: 'The Ineffable Somethingness of Love and Revolution', *Jindal Law and Humanities Review* 1 (2020): 108–112.

In August, **Manjeet Ramgotra** co-authored 'Confronting the complexities of decolonising curricula and pedagogy in higher education', with Shannon Morreira, Kathy Lockett, Siseko H. Kumalo in *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal*, 5:1-2 (2020).

Meera Sabaratnam published an article entitled 'Is IR Theory White? Racialised Subject-Positioning in Three Canonical Texts', open access, in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*. It develops a framework for reading whiteness and examines three highly influential texts in IR by Kenneth Waltz, Robert Keohane and Alexander Wendt. An introductory blog was published on *The Disorder of Things*.

Rafeef Ziadah co-edited the book *Revolutionary Feminisms: Conversations on Collective Action and Radical Thought* with Brenna Bhandar (Verso, 2020) and hosted a number of virtual book launch events. The book is a timely and unique intervention tracing forty years of anti-racist feminist thought by interviewing key thinkers such as Angela Y. Davis, Sylvia Federici, Gail Lewis, Avtar Brah, Vron Ware and Ruthie Wilson Gilmore among others.



Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

The **London Asia Pacific Centre** (SOAS and King's) co-chaired by **Tat Yan Kong** co-hosted the 2020 Korean Global Forum for Peace 2020 Korea-Europe Webinar with the Ministry of Unification of the Republic of Korea on 11-13 November 2020. At this event, **Felix Berenskoetter** gave the opening remarks and **Tat Yan Kong** moderated the second session.

Julia Gallagher's ASA group launched a search for 'Africa's favourite building'. We've had loads of nominations but we still want more!

In Term 1, the **Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice** (CCRJ), co-directed by **Phil Clark** and **Sutha Nadarajah**, hosted four webinars on the International Criminal Court; fair legal systems around the world; mercy, law and victims' rights in Iran; and justice for victims at the ICC.

CCRJ's student editorial board launched a new series on Islamophobia on the Centre's blog Reimagining Peace + Justice. This year's editors, all students on the MSc Conflict, Rights and Justice programme, are **Eugenie Devevey**, **Hanna Uihlein**, **Imran Khan** and **Ferdusara Ali**.



Presentations and Conferences

Reem Abou-El-Fadl contributed to a roundtable in October celebrating the life of Egypt's foremost Africanist Helmi Sharawy. She presented her work as editor of his Arabic memoir, *Sira Misriyya Ifriqiyya* ('An Egyptian African Story'), which was published by Dar Al-Ain Press in Cairo in 2019.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam gave a keynote lecture on Surveillance and the future of techno-society at the first AI-themed Ophthalmology conference in the world organised in Tehran by Tehran University of Medical Sciences, the Farabi Eye Hospital and UCO, chaired by Dr Soheil Adib-Moghaddam.

Fiona Adamson and **Veysi Dag** presented the paper 'Diasporic Solidarity in Times of Crisis: Refugee Governance From Below' at the American Political Science Association (APSA) in August. They also presented 'Mapping the Kurdish Refugee Diaspora in

Europe' at the H2020 MAGYC virtual workshop 'Toward More Sustainable Migration Governance' at the University of Economics in Bratislava in September. **Fiona** and **Veysi** also participated in the EU MAGYC 2020 Annual Meeting in December.

Fiona participated in the Foreign Policy Centre webinar 'Everyday Transnational Repression' in September.

Fiona spoke on 'Pushing the Boundaries: Can we "Decolonize" Security Studies?' to the Cornell University Peace and Conflict Studies Reading Group in October.

Fiona also spoke on 'Migration Diplomacy' at SEESOX of Oxford University on 5 November.

Rochana Bajpai delivered an invited lecture 'Diversity, Plurality and the Political', at the Department of Political Science, the M.S. University of Baroda, India in January 2020. The event was covered in the local press.



Rochana also presented the research paper 'Democratic Authoritarianism in India in Comparative Perspective' at the Centre for Ethnicity and Citizenship Seminar series, Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, University of Bristol in June.

Rochana presented the paper 'Hegemonic construction and democratic decline: Comparing trajectories of democratic authoritarianism in South Asia', co-authored with **Yasser Kureishi**, at the London CPT research group seminar in September.

In December, **Rochana** was an invited participant in an expert meeting on Federalism and Indian Democracy organised by Tom Asher and Partha Chatterjee for Columbia World Projects.

In July, **Felix Berenskötter** participated in a workshop on 'Anxiety in International Relations' organised through the EISA.

In September, **Felix** gave a keynote entitled 'Borders and Boundaries in the Construction of Selfhood' at the Politics Department Doctoral Conference.

In November, **Felix** gave a keynote on 'The politics, and the political, of concept analysis' for a webinar on *Conceptual Analysis and Thematic Corpora*, organised by the Genealogies of Knowledge Research Network, in collaboration with Aston University.

In September, **Taylor Borowetz** and **Dani Solomon** organised the annual Politics Department Doctoral Conference: Contested Boundaries and the Boundaries of Contestation. The program attracted presenters from around the world alongside original keynote lectures. On the day of the conference, the site was visited over 1000 times with attendees in 23 countries. Because the conference was hosted on a stable website, and most of the presentations were pre-recorded, the panels are still accessible at soaspolitics2020.wordpress.com

Taylor presented her research on 'Anticolonial Entanglements: The Concept of Emancipation in the Haitian Revolution' in October at the Millennium conference.

In July, **Phil Clark** presented at a workshop held by the United Nations University's Centre for Policy Research on the UN Security Council's engagement with transitional justice processes around the world.

In September, **Phil** participated in a Kigali workshop as part of the British Academy project, 'Research-Led Peace Education as Crisis Prevention in Central'.

In November, **Phil** gave a presentation on a panel entitled, 'Building Peace from the Middle: The Innovative Model of Country Brain Trusts', organised by the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT) during Geneva Peace Week.

Shikha Dilawri, a third year SOAS Politics PhD student, presented the paper 'Beyond Analogy: Interrogating the "Global Colour Line" through Exploring Entanglements Of "Race" and "Caste" in the Indian Diaspora' at the Millennium Conference in October.

Dafydd Fell had two online book launch events for his co-edited book *Taiwan Studies Revisited*. The first was in July as part of the SOAS Taiwan Studies Summer School and the second at the Washington based Thinktank the Global Taiwan Institute on 23 September.

Dafydd also gave a paper titled 'Populists, Splinters and Movements: Challenges to Mainstream Parties in Taiwan' for the online 2020 Nottingham Taiwan Studies Programme and Taiwan Foundation for Democracy Joint Online Conference Program, Democracy in An Age of Globalisation and Populism: Taiwan, UK and USA.

Julia Gallagher and the **ASA Research Team** held a one-day webinar in conjunction with BISA, entitled 'Architecture and Politics in Africa making, living and imagining identities through buildings' in September. Twelve scholars from Africa, Europe and the US presented papers and the day was attended by sixty participants.

In November, **Salwa Ismail** contributed the final seminar of the Middle East Studies Forum at Deakin University. The talk titled 'Governmental Violence and the Formation of Political Subjectivities' is based on her book *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

In December, **Salwa** delivered a keynote speech to the Conference 'Ten Years On: The People and the Protests' organised by SEPAD, University of Lancaster. **Salwa** spoke on 'Political Subjectivities and Collective Action in the Arab Uprisings'.

Hagar Kotef presented work in 'Reflections on Organic Food, Ethics, and Violence', a panel discussion organised by the Food Research Group, Israel, and 'Space, Land, Home: a special panel on place and violence in Israel/Palestine', at the School of Cultural Studies, Tel Aviv University.

Manjeet Ramgotra was invited to speak about decolonising the politics curriculum at a Diversification Workshop in the Politics and IR Department at RHUL on 3 September. **Manjeet** also presented on Decolonising the Curriculum at The LePage Centre for History at Villanova University on 9 September.

Manjeet attended the APSA conference in September where she presented on 'Orientalism, women and the west: Montesquieu's uneven depiction of women in hot and temperate climes' at the Wollapalooza! III Destabilizing the Canon with Feminism pre-conference short course in the Women, Gender and Politics Section; and gave a paper on 'The languages of republicanism: *swaraj* and *res publica*' at APSA on 13 September.

Manjeet acted as discussant for a session at our annual SOAS Politics and International Studies doctoral conference on 'Contested boundaries and boundaries of contestation' 24 September. **Manjeet** was also invited to be a discussant at 'A book launch and conversation with Professor Annelien de Dijn, author of the new book *Freedom: An Unruly History*' hosted by the Independent Social Research Foundation on 12 November.

Rahul Rao presented his book *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* to audiences at Jindal University, Goldsmiths, Westminster, Queen Mary University of London, SOAS, Glasgow, Leicester, Sussex, Melbourne and the University of Florida; he also presented some of the research in the book as part of an [AfroQueer podcast episode](#).

Rahul also spoke at events organised by the University of Warwick, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Erasmus University and the Max Planck Research Group 'Empires of Memory' on the toppling of statues of figures associated with colonialism, slavery and racism in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the global BLM protests that this inspired.

Rahul participated in the 'South Asia from Afar' seminar series at the University of Oxford in July.

In August, **Meera Sabaratnam** was on a keynote panel at the ECPR Annual Conference, discussing decolonising political science.

Jo Tomkinson presented a draft paper titled 'Rewriting Ethiopia's place in the world: the history of the Ethiopian aviation industrial complex' on the 26 November at a workshop called the *Global History of State Enterprises, 1950 to present* (organised by researchers based at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

The Department was pleased to reconvene its **Politics Department Research Seminar Series** for Autumn Term 2020, organised by **Rafeef Ziadah** and featuring several members of the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES, 2020-21

TERM 1, WEDNESDAYS 15.00-16.30, via BLE Collaborate

14 October
Black Resistance to British Policing: Racism, Violence and the Legacies of Empire
Adam Elliott-Cooper (University of Greenwich)
Discussant: Kerem Nisancioglu
This presentation will look at the relationship between colonial power and 21st century policing.

21 October
Book Discussion on 'Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality'
Seminar co-sponsored with Centre for Comparative Political Thought
Rahul Rao (SOAS)
This book seeks to understand the encounters and entanglements across geopolitical divides that produce and contest contemporary queerphobias.

4 November
The Corporation, Law and Capitalism: A Radical Perspective on the Role of Law in the Global Political Economy
Michael J Albert (SOAS)
As evidence accumulates that the pursuit of endless capital accumulation is incompatible with climate and earth system stabilization, the need to explore alternative political-economic trajectories becomes more urgent.

25 November
Arming the War in Yemen
Anna Stavrianakis (University of Sussex)
This talk focuses on UK arms export policy as a way into thinking about the insecurity generated by the war in Yemen.

2 December
The Politics of Ecosocialism in an Age of Climate Emergency: Towards A Utopian Realist Approach
Michael J Albert (SOAS)
As evidence accumulates that the pursuit of endless capital accumulation is incompatible with climate and earth system stabilization, the need to explore alternative political-economic trajectories becomes more urgent.

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and investment activities in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was of interest for the UK to formulate their foreign policy strategies for the next decade. In September, October, November, Yuka was invited to comment on draft regulations for a new global environmental agreement and advised various governments on their Asia strategies.

In September, **Meera Sabaratnam** gave a briefing on Mozambique to the incoming Swedish Ambassador.

In December, **Meera** contributed a topic on 'Decolonisation' to the new *Connected Sociologies Curriculum Project*, which provides free online teaching materials for A-Level.



Media and Blogs

Reem Abou-El-Fadl was interviewed by 'Live with the Arab Studies Institute' in October, discussing the *Jadaliyya* series which she co-curated in September, marking fifty years since the death of Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam has given over 20 exclusive interviews to the global media including on the sad death of Diego Armando Maradona, Argentina's legendary football star, whom **Adib-Moghaddam depicted** as a post-colonial personality on a par with Muhammad Ali.

Arshin also worked with Agence France Press (AFP) on a major 10-year special of the Arab Spring.

Michael Buehler was cited in the *New Statesman* on the youth protests against the King in Thailand.

In July, **Phil Clark** was on *TRT World* discussing two former Congolese rebel leaders and ICC suspects being sent to Ituri province as peace envoys.

Also in July, *Al Jazeera* quoted **Phil** on mass protests in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The same month, the *Daily Nation* (Kenya) and the *Citizen* (Tanzania) quoted **Phil** on Kenya's attempt to block the four nominees for the new Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.



Outreach

In July and November, **Phil Clark** participated in SOAS's training of the Ministry of Defence's Cultural Specialist Unit, delivering sessions on political and conflict dynamics in East and Central Africa.

In August and December, **Phil** presented his research at two expert workshops organised by the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT) – the first on restorative justice approaches for Colombian judges involved in prosecutions and the truth commission after the conflict with the FARC rebels, and the second on the role of middle-tier leaders in peace processes for peacebuilding actors in Sudan.

In November, **Phil** gave a briefing on Central Africa for the incoming Irish ambassador to Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In August, **Yuka Kobayashi** was invited to comment on the UK's *Integrated Review*. **Yuka's** expertise on China's international relations, particularly their trade

In August, [La Croix \(France\)](#) quoted **Phil** on escalating violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo over the last year.

Also in August, [Bereia \(Brazil\)](#) quoted **Phil** on the increasing political influence of churches in sub-Saharan Africa. The [Refinery29 website](#) quoted **Phil** on Rwandan genocide suspect Felicien Kabuga, profiled in the new Netflix series, 'World's Most Wanted'.

In September, the [New York Times](#), [Deutsche Welle](#) and the [World Politics Review](#) interviewed **Phil** about the arrest of Rwandan atrocity suspect Paul Rusesabagina, the manager featured in 'Hotel Rwanda'.

Also in September, **Phil** was a [panellist on Indus News](#), discussing International Peace Day (39:29).

In October, [Voice of America](#) and [KT Press](#) (Rwanda) interviewed **Phil** about whether former 'Hotel Rwanda' manager Paul Rusesabagina will get a fair trial on terrorism charges in Rwanda.

In October, **Phil** did the newspaper review twice on Monocle 24's The Globalist programme, available [here](#) and [here](#). Also in October, [The New Times](#) and [KT Press](#) (both in Rwanda) quoted **Phil** on whether it is possible for high profile atrocity suspects to get a fair trial in Rwanda.

In November, [JusticeInfo.net](#) quoted **Phil** on the recent arrest of three Rwandan genocide suspects in Belgium.

Also in November, **Phil** did two morning news reviews on Monocle24's 'The Globalist' programme, available [here](#) and [here](#) (35:16)

In December, Deutsche Welle interviewed **Phil** twice about the political crisis in the DR Congo parliament. The interviews are [here](#) and [here](#).

Yuka Kobayashi worked together with BBC's Vincent Ni and former WSJ Asia editor Andrew People on their Asia Matters Podcast. In August, [she was interviewed](#) alongside Tokyo University's Akio Takahara for the Japan's Foreign Policy episode

(commenting on Sino-Japanese infrastructural competition in Southeast Asia).

In September, **Yuka** [guest presented](#) their India episode where she discussed India in Covid era – and rising Sino-Indian tensions with Pratap Mehta (Ashoka University).

In November, for the episode on US- elections and its impact in Asia, **Yuka** [was interviewed](#) alongside Dewi Fortuna Anwar (SOAS alumnus and advisor to the Indonesian government) and Jaewoo Choo.



Announcements

In 2021, **Salwa Ismail** will be co-convening a workshop whose call for applications is now open:

'Lived Citizenship, Uprising and Migration: Everyday Politics, Imaginaries and Contestation' Workshop, 30 September- 1 October 2021, Harnack House, Berlin

Organised by Hania Sobhy (MPI-MMG), Salwa Ismail (SOAS) and Nadine Abdalla (AUC)
Keynote address: Peter Nyers (McMaster University)

The workshop explores new ways of thinking about the everyday experiences that shape political outcomes in the Arab region and its diasporas. Through the theme of lived citizenship, it explores how people experience and shape the everyday realities of socio-economic, political and spatial governance, contestation and legitimation in the region and along journeys of migration. Interested scholars are asked to submit a 150-word bio and a 300-word abstract to LCAU2021@gmail.com by [15 January 2021](#).

The complete workshop description and key details of application and participation are available [here](#).

Also in 2021, SOAS Politics seeks to support one Early Career Researcher for the current round of **Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships**.

SOAS Politics has world-leading expertise in the international and comparative politics of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with active research Centres on Conflict, Rights and Justice; and Comparative Political Thought; and expertise on topics such as migration; international political economy; the

geopolitics of infrastructure; postcolonial theory and religion and politics.

Interested applicants should meet the Leverhulme Trust's eligibility criteria and submit an initial application consisting of the following materials:

- 1) a curriculum vitae
- 2) a 1-page synopsis of the proposed research and
- 3) a short statement of interest in being based in SOAS Politics.

All materials should be sent to politics-dao@soas.ac.uk with a cc to fa33@soas.ac.uk by 5pm, Friday January 14, 2021. The successful applicant will be informed by January 21, 2021, with the full Leverhulme application due on February 25, 2021.

Last but not least, we were very sad to say **farewell** to a number of dear colleagues this year, and we wish them all the very best.

Rafid Mahdi, our former Department Manager, left to a new position at University College London.

Monwara Seetul, our former Undergraduate Support Officer, left for a career break.

Sultana Begum, our former Academic Support Officer, moved to International Foundation Courses and English Language Studies (IFCELS) at SOAS.

Kristin Surak, former Senior Lecturer in Japanese Politics, has moved to a position in the Department of Sociology at the London School of Economics.



Alumni News

Recent BA graduate **Felix Hulse** had his Independent Study Project published in E-International Relations, entitled 'Virtual Invasion: "Just War" and Orientalism in Call of Duty: Modern Warfare'.

Merve Kütük-Kuriş, SOAS Politics PhD graduate (2016), published an article about a modest fashion shopping mall. The article is based on follow-up fieldwork she conducted in Turkey, and is featured in a special issue she co-edited with a colleague. A link to the whole issue can be found here.

Kathryn Nash, SOAS Politics PhD graduate, was awarded the prestigious and permanent Chancellor's Fellowship at Edinburgh University.

Finally, many congratulations to our students who graduated 'remotely'. We hope to see you at the graduation ceremony next year! Please join the SOAS alumni network and stay in touch 😊



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.

