



## Politics and International Studies Newsletter



### Term 3: Summer Reunions

The Department's staff and students have enjoyed a gradual return to in-person academic and social activities in Term 3. Politics staff marked this with a celebratory reunion near SOAS in June.



In July, the Department looks forward to hosting its students for an in-person End of Year celebration.

Meanwhile staff have enjoyed meeting offer holders and discussing our plans for September, as well as hosting virtual open days as part of the wider SOAS programme.

After a challenging year, we wish colleagues and students a rest and good health in the summer break!



### Appointments, Awards, Honours

**Fiona Adamson** was appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Diaspora Studies*.

**Fiona** was awarded a Senior Fellowship in the Higher Education Academy.

**Fiona** was also appointed a member of the Faculty of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House.

**Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** was elected Honorary Fellow of the European Institute for International Affairs and International Law. Based in Paris, the EIIR is an independent organisation promoting scientific research about European affairs.

In June, **Taylor Borowetz**, **Elsa Bengtsson** and **Lydia Hiraide** were elected to the Political Studies Association Early Career Network executive committee as chair, secretary and treasurer, respectively. They will serve on the committee in these roles for the 2021-2023 term.

**Phil Clark** was elected to the board of the Royal African Society.

**Sophie Elgood**, **Raksha Vekaria**, **Yvonne Henry**, and **Natalie Annan** have won the Director's Learning and Teaching Prize for Best Administrative Support in the School.

**Sarah El-Kazaz** was selected to become a member of the steering committee of the Project on Middle East Political Science.

**Hagar Kotef** was awarded a major ESRC Research Grant for a project entitled 'The Societal and Political Impacts of High Frequency Torture: Israel as a Case Study'. The grant is shared with Dr Merav Amir of Queen's University Belfast.

**Kerem Nişancıoğlu** has been elected to the role of SOAS UCU president.

**Meera Sabaratnam** was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for a project entitled 'Complex Indebtedness: A Theory of International Order Past, Present and Future'.

**Meera** has also been appointed to the School's Resources and Planning Committee to serve as an Academic Board member on the Committee.

**Mohammad Tarikul Islam** has been invited by the National Defence College in Bangladesh to act as its resource person.



## New Publications

**Fiona Adamson** and Leverhulme Visiting Professor **Kelly M. Greenhill** published the article 'Globality and Entangled Security: Rethinking the Post-1945 Order' in *New Global Studies* (online first).

**Fiona** contributed a chapter on migration and security to a new textbook, *Introduction to International Migration: Population Movements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Jeannette Money and Sarah P. Lockhart and published by Routledge.

**Fiona Adamson, Veysi Dag** and **Catherine Craven** submitted the working paper 'Mapping the Kurdish Diaspora and Refugee Community in Europe' to the European Commission on 30 April.

**Ali Alavi**'s paper, 'Iran's Relations with Palestine', which draws on his book *Iran and Palestine, Past, Present, Future*, was published by the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies in Doha.

**Ali**'s book review of *Shadow Commander* was published in the Spring issue of *Middle East Journal*.

**Rochana Bajpai** published a book chapter entitled 'Religious Pluralism and the State in India: Towards a Typology' in Karen Barkey, Sudipta Kaviraj and Vatsal Naresh's edited volume *Negotiating Democracy and Religious Pluralism: India, Pakistan, Turkey*, published by Oxford University Press 2021.

**Felix Berenskoetter** published an article entitled 'Anxiety and the Biographical Gestalt of Political Leaders' in *Journal of International Relations and Development* in June.

**Michael Buehler** co-authored an article entitled 'Limitations to subnational authoritarianism: Indonesian local government head elections in comparative perspective' with Ronnie Nataatmadja and Iqra Anugrah in *Regional and Federal Studies*. In many countries local authoritarian enclaves have persisted despite the democratization of politics at the national level. Even more intriguing, new subnational authoritarian regimes have emerged in the context of national level democratization. Michael and his co-authors examine why subnational authoritarian regimes have *not* emerged in Indonesia.

In May, **Phil Clark** published an article in *Foreign Affairs* entitled 'The Two Rwandas: Development and Dissent under Kagame'.

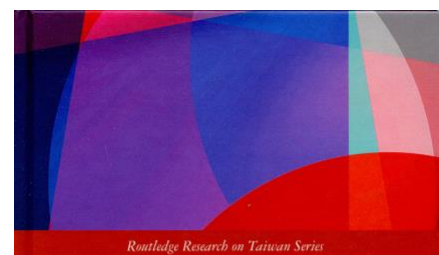
**Stephen Chan** published 'A Multitude of Decolonial Metropolises – What Navigation for Commonality and Unity?' in *Third World Quarterly*.

**Stephen** also published the new paperback edition of *Kaunda and Southern Africa* with Bloomsbury.

**Stephen** also published two book chapters. The first is 'The Problematic Non-Western Cosmopolitanism in Africa Today', in Albert Kasanda and Marek Hrubek's edited volume *Africa in a Multilateral World: Afropolitan Dilemmas*, published by Routledge. The second is 'The Lusaka of Lewis Nkosi: A Memoir', in Astrid Starck-Adler and Dag Henrichsen's edited volume, *Lewis Nkosi: The Black Psychiatrist Flying Home!*, published by Basler Afrika Bibliographien.

**Matthew Eagleton-Pierce** published an article titled 'Historicizing the Ideology of 'the Market' in a special issue of *Competition & Change* on new conceptual and empirical thinking on the idea of markets.

In April, **Dafydd Fell**'s co-edited book *Taiwan's Economic and Diplomatic Challenges and Opportunities* was published by Routledge. His co-editors are two SOAS alumni: **Mariah Thornton** graduated from the MSc Politics of China in 2017, and **Robert Ash** completed his undergraduate at SOAS in 1968 and retired from SOAS in 2020.



### TAIWAN'S ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Edited by  
Mariah Thornton, Robert Ash, and Dafydd Fell



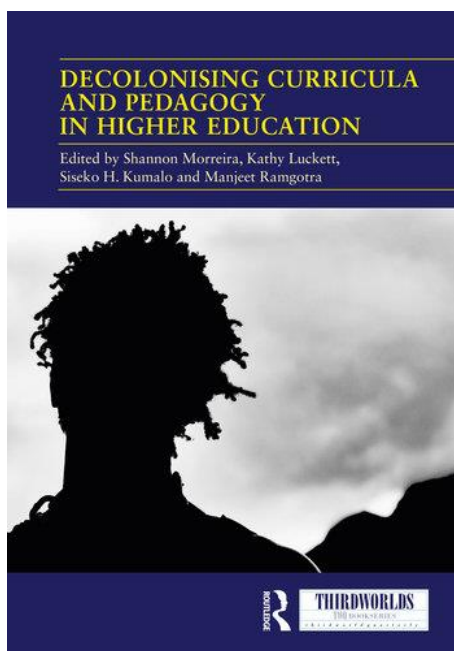
The book includes a chapter by **Mariah Thornton** entitled 'Walking toward China or toward the World? Taiwan's International Space under Ma Ying-jeou and Tsai Ing-wen'. Additionally there is a chapter by **Chen Nai-chia** and **Dafydd Fell** entitled 'Tongzhi Diplomacy and the Queer Case of Taiwan'. Chen is another SOAS alumni, having graduated in 2018 with a MSc International Politics degree.

In April **Dafydd Fell** also co-authored a book chapter with Sojin Lim, entitled 'East Asian Area Studies Teaching Programmes in the United Kingdom: A Comparative Case Study of Korean Studies at the University of Central Lancashire and Taiwan Studies at SOAS, University of London'. It was published in Bruce Jacobs, Niki Alford, and Lim's edited volume, *Assessing the Landscape of Taiwan and Korean Studies in Comparison*, published by Brill.

**Julia Gallagher** co-authored an article with Dennis Larbi Mperere and Yah Ariane N'djoré entitled 'State Aesthetics and State Meanings: Political Architecture in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire' in *African Affairs*.

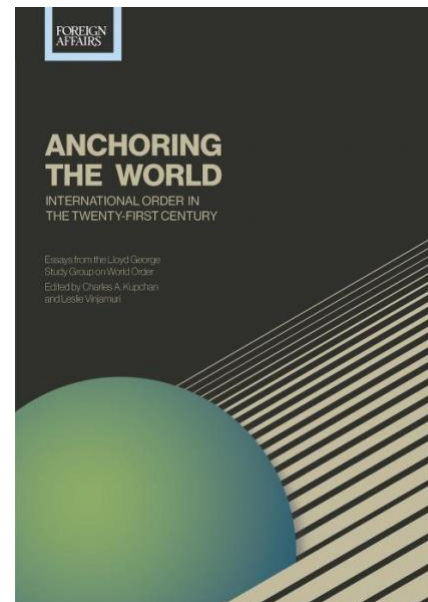
**Daniel Mulugeta** published an article entitled 'Pan-Africanism and the Affective Charges of the African Union Building in Addis Ababa' in the *Journal of African Cultural Studies*.

**Manjeet Ramgotra** co-edited *Decolonising Curricula and Pedagogy in Higher Education: Bringing Decolonial Theory into Contact with Teaching Practice*, with Shannon Morreira, Kathy Lockett, and Siseko H. Kumalo. The book was published by Routledge in June.



**Alexej Ulbricht** published an article in *Politics* entitled 'Who can talk about abortion? Information, offence, freedom of speech, and the advertising ban in Germany'.

**Leslie Vinjamuri** co-edited the *Foreign Affairs* anthology 'Anchoring the World: International Order in the Twenty-first Century' with Charles A. Kupchan.



## Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

The **Centre for Comparative Political Thought** (CCPT) hosted a book launch for **Hagar Kotef's** new book *The Colonizing Self*, in collaboration with the SOAS Centre for Palestine Studies. Speakers included Rashid Khalidi (Columbia), Jeanne Morefield (Birmingham), and **Rahul Rao** from the Department. **Hagar** responded, and **Sarah El-Kazaz** chaired.

In Term 3, the **Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice** (CCRJ) held three successful webinars. These hosted Christian de Vos (Open Society Justice Initiative) discussing his recent book on the International Criminal Court in Africa, Glorieuse Uwizeye (Dartmouth) presenting on the physical and psychological impact on children born of genocidal rape in Rwanda, and Omar McDoom (LSE) discussing his new book on the drivers of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Throughout the term, the **CCRJ student blog**, edited by Eugenie Devevey, Hanna Uihlein, Imran Ali Khan and Ferdusara Begum Ali, published weekly blog posts and policy briefings on a range of conflict, rights and justice-related topics.



## Presentations and Conferences

**Reem Abou-El-Fadl** was invited to speak at the Institute for Historical Research Seminar Series on 'Archives of Global History', on a panel in April entitled 'Radicals and Exiles: A Global History of an Egyptian Odyssey?'

In June, **Reem** was invited to speak at a roundtable at Birkbeck College entitled 'Decolonising Archives, Decolonising History'.

**Fiona Adamson** spoke on the panel 'Pandemics and Geopolitics: Politics of Nationalism and Borders' at Columbia University, New York in March.

**Fiona** participated in the workshop 'Transnational Repression in the Age of Globalization' in April.

**Fiona** was a discussant at a book manuscript workshop on *Homeward Bound: Refugee Return and Local Conflict after Civil War* by Stephanie Schwartz at University of Southern California in May.

**Fiona** participated in the Bridging the Gap programme in Washington DC on 6-10 June.

**Fiona** was a discussant on the panel 'Transnational authoritarianism and second-generation diasporas: Between repression, co-optation and legitimisation' at the British International Studies Association conference on 22 June.

**Fiona** spoke on migration and foreign policy at the Williams College Summer Institute on 30 June.

**Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** contributed a film presentation on 'Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity' to a panel organised by the SOAS Dead Philosophers Society.

**Arshin** also delivered a lecture entitled 'The Theft of Theory' to faculty and students at the University of Mashhad in Iran.

**Taylor Borowetz** presented a paper on 'Liberté: Studying the Haitian Revolutionary Moment in the History of Liberation' at the International Studies Association annual conference in April.

In May, **Michael Buehler** delivered [a lecture on authoritarian diasporas in Indonesia and the Philippines](#) at Hasanuddin University in Indonesia and Ateneo University in the Philippines.

**Phil Clark** gave two presentations on his current book project, examining post-genocide welfare, inequality and responses to Covid-19 in Rwanda, to the Wiener Library/Ishami Foundation and to the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre.

**Phil** briefed the new Swedish ambassador to Rwanda on political and social dynamics in the country.

**Matthew Eagleton-Pierce** presented a paper on 'The City of London Corporation in the Governance of Global Finance' at the PSA Annual Conference in March.

In June, **Sarah El-Kazaz** was invited to speak as a panelist on a roundtable on 'Undisciplining the Discipline: Approaches to Studying the City' at the annual meeting of the Project on Middle East Political Science. It has since been published as an episode on the POMEPS podcast.

Between March and May, **Dafydd Fell** held a twelve-part World Book Tour on *Taiwan's Green Parties: Alternative Politics in Taiwan*. The book was published in March, over eight years after he began the research project. **Dafydd** then began the tour with an [online talk](#) for the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies. This was followed by an appearance on ICRT, Taiwan's English language radio station's [Taiwan This Week](#), and an introduction to the book at a new publications panel at the European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference held at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

In April, **Dafydd** spoke about the book at the University of Central Lancashire's Northern Institute of Taiwan Studies. He then gave the book's first talk in North America, at the University of Notre Dame's Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies.

The next week saw a more interactive [event](#) at Zurich University's Taiwan Studies Lecture Series, entitled: 'A Discussion of Environmental Politics in Taiwan Starting from the Book *Taiwan's Green Parties: Alternative Politics in Taiwan*'. In this case the author of a book *Environmental Governance in Taiwan* that was frequently cited in **Dafydd's** book, Simona Grano, led the discussion on *Green Parties in Taiwan* and environmental politics in Taiwan.

The next stop was the European Research Center for Contemporary Taiwan at Germany's Tübingen

University in May, as part of its [Taiwan Colloquium Summer 2021 Series](#).

The next event was part of the University of Alberta's Taiwan Studies Programme's [Taiwan Expert Series](#). The tour came to an end with two book talks in May, first at the Center of Taiwan Studies at Ljubljana University in Slovenia and then at the University of Washington's Taiwan Studies Programme.

Some tour events have been recorded as podcasts. These include an interview on the book that was recorded for [Taiwan's Ghost Island Media](#) on April 23 and also a podcast interview for the SOAS Radio Research Forum which was [released in June](#)

In June, **Dafydd** held an event featuring authors of books on Green Parties in Africa, the Americas and Asia discussing their research experiences. It was part of the 2021 SOAS Taiwan Studies Summer School.

In April, a number of SOAS Politics students gave papers at the European Association of Taiwan Studies Conference. These included PhD students **Leon Kunz** speaking on 'Staging Civil Disobedience in the Sunflower and Umbrella Movement' and **Tommy Chung-Yin Kwan** speaking on 'The Political Generation Matters: How did Activists' Perceptions towards Political Parties Shape the Party-Movement Relations?'

MA Taiwan Studies student **Dominika Remžová** spoke on 'Between Retribution and Restoration: Contextualising: Transitional Justice Legislation in Post-transition Slovakia and Taiwan' while SOAS MA Gender Studies **Ting-Sian Liu** spoke on 'Telling Histories through Transformative Justice: A Case Study of Gongsheng Music Festival.' BA Politics student **Mingke Ma** spoke on 'Historical Institutions and the Political Transformation in Hybrid Regimes: A Comparative Study of Singapore and Taiwan'.

In May, **Dafydd** spoke at the North American Taiwan Studies Conference on their Meet the Editor Panel about his co-edited book *Taiwan Studies Revisited*. There were several other SOAS speakers at the conference, including MA student **Eva Mazzeo** speaking on 'The "Hong Kong Factor" in Social Media Discourses during Taiwan 2020 Presidential Election Campaign: A Preliminary Research'; **Bi-yu Chang** speaking on 'The "Tianran du" Generation and Education Reform'; and Politics PhD student **Chung-yin Kwan** speaking on 'Narrating the Taiwan Party System: The Barren Ground for Small Parties'.

**Julia Gallagher** gave a talk on UK-Africa Policy at the Woodrow Wilson Center on UK relations with Africa after Brexit and the publication of the *Integrated Review*, on 28 April.

**Tat Yan Kong** co-presented a paper (with Yin-Wah Chu, Hong Kong Baptist University) entitled 'Inclusive development in Taiwan' at the King's-Nanyang Workshop *Debate on Advancing Inclusive Industrial Growth* in May.

**Hagar Kotef** gave a talk as part of the international conference 'The Psychic Life of International Politics', organised by the International Institute of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro in April.

**Hagar** discussed her new book, *The Colonizing Self*, in seminars, panels and invited lectures, including the HOMiNG seminar in Berlin, the Western Political Science Association, the University of Virginia, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and at SOAS.

In May, **Hagar** participated in the opening panel of The Open Society Research Platform alongside Achille Mbembe and Prem Kumar Rajaram. The panel was entitled 'Does "Open Society" Travel Beyond the West?'

**Manjeet Ramgotra** presented a paper on 'The Sovereign, the Self and the Public Thing: Rethinking the Republic in the Postcolonial Moment' at the PSA annual conference in March.

**Rahul Rao** gave the keynote lecture for the 'Intimate Archives: Interventions on Gender, Sexuality and Intimacy' webinar hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in April.

**Rahul** also participated in the opening panel of an international seminar on 'The Psychic Life of International Politics' organised by the International Institute of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro in April.

**Rahul** gave several talks on his book *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* (2020): in April, as part of the 'Global Politics Remix 2021: Decolonial, Black and Queer Perspectives Lecture Series' organised by UCL European and International Social and Political Studies; in May to the Gender Institute of Royal Holloway University of London; to the Queer Research Network Manchester; and to the Law and

Society Association Convention as part of a panel organised by the International Law and Politics Research Network.

**Rahul** was in conversation with Jordy Rosenberg on the subject of 'Queer/Postcolonial/Marxist Imaginaries', as part of the Queer Cultures seminar organised in May by the Faculty of English, University of Cambridge in association with the British Sociological Association Post/decolonial Transformations Study Group.

**Meera Sabaratnam** delivered the keynote address at the Central European University Doctoral Studies Conference in April on 'Why Decoloniality Matters'. She also spoke at the International Studies Association Annual Convention on questions of hierarchies and disciplinary pluralism.

In May, **Meera** spoke at the symposium 'Race Matters: Research Questions in International Relations' hosted by Cornell University. She also presented her paper 'Modernity, Violence and Contrapuntal Analysis: World War I in East Africa' to a research seminar at the Department of International Relations of the Australian National University.

In June, **Meera** spoke at the British Council's 'Going Global' conference on Decolonising the Curriculum and to CNA's Inclusive National Security Forum on race and national security.

**Mohammad Tarikul Islam** presented 'Interplay of Disaster Management and Sustainable Development: Legislative and Institutional Role of the Government of Bangladesh' at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Bangladesh in May.



## Current Research

**Ali Alavi** is contributing to a book project at Palgrave Macmillan on Palestine's International Relations.

**Dafydd Fell** is now working with three Taiwanese scholars on a Chinese version of *Taiwan's Green Parties*. His three co-authors are all former Green Party Taiwan Convenors and candidates.

**Mohammad Tarikul Islam** is currently researching localizing SDGs in South Asia amidst COVID-19 Pandemic.



## Outreach

In May, **Michael Buehler** briefed members of the Office for Conflict, Stabilisation and Mediation at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on political and economic developments in Asia.

In June, **Michael** advised Indonesian scholars on how to publish in peer-reviewed journals during an AIFIS writing workshop.

In June, **Tat Yan Kong** briefed Irish diplomats on the politics and economics of Hong Kong and Macao, and on China's relations with Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

In April, **Meera Sabaratnam** gave a talk to the 'Women Empower' group based at a London school where she discussed questions of decolonising education and culture with sixth formers.

As Senior Fellow at Youth Policy Forum in Bangladesh, **Mohammad Tarikul Islam** has vetted the summary of the 800-page eighth Five Year Plan document of the Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh. He has also been actively guiding a youth-led local development initiative in Tangail, a rural region of Bangladesh.



## Media and Blogs

**Reem Abou-El-Fadl** published her response to a roundtable in *Jadaliyya* on the anniversary of the Gezi Park uprising in June. Her piece was entitled 'Mirror Images: A Decade on from Gezi and Tahrir in Turkey and Egypt'.

**Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** was interviewed about world affairs by several newspapers including on Palestine for the [Daily Express](#), on his book *What is Iran?* for [Russia Today](#), and on the future of US democracy on the frontpage of the [Tehran Times](#).

**Arshin** was commissioned to write an [article for The Conversation](#) covering the recent elections in Iran. This became one of its 'most read' articles for June.

In May, **Ali Alavi** was on Euronews' 'Good Morning Europe' programme, discussing the Syrian presidential election. He was also interviewed by Indus News on the security situation in Afghanistan amid the US and UK withdrawal.

In June, the Smithsonian Channel interviewed **Ali Alavi** for a documentary programme about the history of naval conflicts in the Persian Gulf. He was also on Bulgarian National Radio to discuss the impact of the Iranian presidential elections on the Middle East.

On April 8 **Dafydd Fell** published an essay titled ‘Taiwan’s Green Diplomacy And The 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis: The Legacy Of Penny Kemp’s Taiwan Visit’ for the University of Nottingham’s blog *Taiwan Insight*. This has since been republished by the Global Greens and Green World, the publication of the Green Party of England and Wales.

**Taylor Borowetz** published a commissioned essay on ‘Positionality in IR: Concepts, History, and the Haitian Revolution’ in *E-International Relations*.

In April, **Phil Clark** gave a Q&A for Al Jazeera on the terrorism trial of Paul Rusesabagina, the hotelier featured in Hotel Rwanda.

Also in April, **Phil** published an op-ed for *The East African* on foreign commentators casually predicting future violence in Rwanda:



Also in April, **Phil** was a guest on TRT World and Indus News discussing the Rwandan government-commissioned report into France’s involvement in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

He was then on Al Jazeera ‘Newshour’ discussing the International Court of Justice case determining Uganda’s reparations to the DRC for war crimes.

In April, **Chai FM in South Africa interviewed Phil** about post-genocide justice, welfare and reconciliation in Rwanda. Also in April, **Deutsche Welle interviewed Phil** about President Tshisekedi’s imposition of martial law in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In May, TRT World interviewed **Phil** twice: on Yoweri **Museveni’s swearing-in** for a sixth presidential term in Uganda, and on the **Rwandan government’s recent report** into French complicity in the 1994 genocide. Then the **Law360 website quoted Phil’s** testimony in the Boston trial of Rwandan genocide suspect Jean Leonard Teganya. **Phil** was on Monocle 24’s ‘The Globalist’ programme, **doing the news review** on the Belarus hijacking, Covid in the US, the Nyiragongo volcanic eruption in Congo and the political impasse in Samoa.

In May, the **BBC World Service, BBC World News (TV), the Washington Post, the Philadelphia Tribune, and TRT World (TV and website)** interviewed **Phil** about President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to Rwanda where he asked for forgiveness for France’s involvement in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

In June, **Deutsche Welle interviewed Phil** about why UN peacekeeping missions have struggled in African conflict zones. **Phil** was also on **CNN** discussing former president Laurent Gbagbo returning to Côte d’Ivoire after beating charges at the ICC.

**Rahul Rao’s** book *Out of Time: The Queer Politics of Postcoloniality* was featured on **BIC Talks**, a podcast of the Bangalore International Centre.

**Meera Sabaratnam** was quoted on **NBC News** in June in a story about the Maori discovery of Antarctica. In May, the newspaper **Eastern Eye** interviewed **Meera** about the government’s plans for Covid vaccine passports.

**Mohammad Tarikul Islam’s** current research, as well as advice for other early career scholars, have been featured in **E-International Relations**.

**Mohammad** was also interviewed by Khabarhub, an English news portal in Nepal, on why local government is slow in engaging people to implement SDGs. He was also interviewed on ‘How to Bridge the Gap Between the Government and the Rural People’ by Higher Education Digest Magazine. **Mohammad** recently contributed to The Business Standard, the popular English daily of Bangladesh.



## Announcements

In March, **Anna Kensicki** passed her PhD viva with minor corrections. Her thesis explores the production of place through space and time in one of the most highly contested cities in the world. It is entitled 'Jerusalem Narratives: A Phenomenological Analysis of Space and Time in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conflict'.

In May, **Sirada Khemanitthathai** passed her PhD viva with minor corrections. **Sirada** has been working on migration diplomacy in authoritarian sending states, focusing on the case of Myanmar. Her PhD is titled 'The Emigration State in Transition: Foreign Policy Goals in Myanmar's Emigration Policy and Practices'.

In June, **Catherine Craven** passed her PhD viva with minor corrections. Catherine's thesis examines the global governance of diaspora populations through the case study of the Tamil diaspora, with a focus on the sectors of international development, transitional justice and security.

Warmest congratulations to **Anna, Sirada, and Catherine!**

**Catherine** has also already secured a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Birmingham with Professor Nando Sigona on the project 'Rebordering Britain and Britons after Brexit' (MIGZEN). Many congratulations to Catherine!

The Department's regular international football pool is once more running for the belated Euro 2020 tournament. Fourteen intrepid staff members have staked their reputations for the highly coveted Departmental trophy. At the point of this newsletter going to press, we are mid-way through the tournament with still everything to play for!

Last but not least, the Department is sad to announce the departure of three long-serving and cherished colleagues, **Stephen Hopgood, Rahul Rao, and Rafeef Ziadah**, whom we will bid farewell at the end of this academic year.

**Steve** is the third longest serving member of the Department and is now looking forward to taking on new challenges, following twenty-six years of service at SOAS. **Rahul** is heading for the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he will take up a position in Political Theory. **Rafeef** is moving to King's College London to take up a position in the Department of International Development.

We wish them every success in their new roles, and thank them warmly for their many contributions to the Department and SOAS over the past several years.

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](mailto:ra47@soas.ac.uk). Please continue to follow the Department's news and get in touch using the links below.

