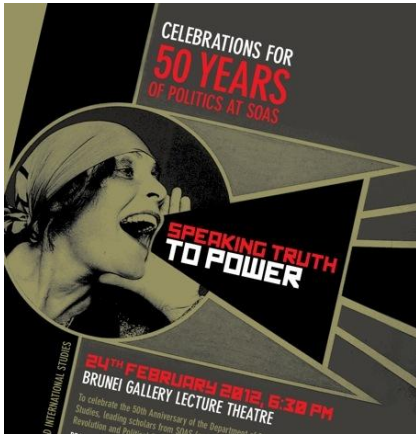


Politics and International Studies Newsletter

50 Years of Politics at SOAS



Mark Friday and Saturday 24 & 25 February in your diaries!

The Department of Politics and International Studies will celebrate its **fiftieth** birthday on 24 February, starting at 18.30 in the **Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre**. The event will include a panel followed by a party in the Brunei Suite from 8pm onwards. Students, colleagues, and alumni are especially welcome.

After the Spring: Which Way Forward for the Middle East?



A number of students in MSc Middle East Politics have organised a conference, **After the Spring: Which Way Forward for the**

Middle East? The conference, organised for **25 February**, in the **Khalili Lecture Theatre**, is set to examine the revolutionary uprisings that have taken place across the Middle East in the past year.

These uprisings have thus far produced dynamic societal developments that include new governments, transformed socio-political discussions, military intervention, and constitutional changes. This one-day conference seeks to address these issue areas, as well as others, in the hopes of better understanding the hopeful opportunities and significant challenges that lie ahead for the region and its peoples.

This student-organized conference will feature academics, activists, and journalists. Panels will include:

- Geopolitical Challenges to Political Change
- Justice, Intervention, and the Rule of Law in Transition
- Gender and Sexuality in Revolutionary Politics
- Transforming Societies? Social Change Across the Region

To register, email soas25feb@gmail.com with your full name and affiliation.

Attendance is **FREE**, with a suggested donation £5 at the door assist with costs associated with the conference.

Introductions



A Note of introduction from **Alex Craven**:

“Hi everyone - my name is **Alex Craven** and I have just joined SOAS as the academic support officer for the Politics Department. I studied History at Oxford University, and after graduating spent three years working at Wadham College in Oxford, before moving to London last September. Away from work I am a keen film buff (I volunteer at a cinema museum in Kennington) and also enjoy travelling, reading and pub-quizzing.”

The **Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice** welcomed its first Research Associate, **Nicola Dahrendorf**. Ms **Dahrendorf** is an expert on sexual violence, human rights and security sector reform. She was formerly the UN Special Advisor on sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While at **CCRJ**, **Nicola** will be working on issues related to sexual violence, land, and peacekeeping.

New Publications

PhD student **Anna Rader's** 2010 conference paper, “Overcoming the Past: War and Peace in Sudan and

South Sudan”, has been published in the new volume edited by Jeffrey Herbst, Terence McNamee and Greg Mills, *On the Fault Line: Managing Tensions and Divisions within Societies* (Profile Books, 2012).

PhD candidate **Hannes Baumann** recently published “The ascent of Rafiq Hariri and philanthropic practices in Beirut” in a volume edited by F. Mermier and S. Mervin, *Leaders et partisans au Liban* (Karthala, 2012).

Hannes Baumann has edited a features section for the December 2011 issue of *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 11(3) on “Nationalism and Ethnicity in the Arab Revolution”, available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sena.v11-03/issuetoc>

Salwa Ismail contributed an article on Syria, titled “The Syrian Uprising: Imagining and Performing the Nation.” Other contributors included Madawi al-Rasheed, Stacey Philbrick Yadav, Curtis Ryan, and Sami Hermez.

Doctoral candidate **Hania Sobhy’s** “The De-Facto Privatization of Secondary Education in Egypt: A Study of Private Tutoring in Technical and General Schools” has appeared in *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education* 42 (1): 47-67.

Hania Sobhy’s “Amr Khaled and Young Muslim Elites: Islamism and the Consolidation of Mainstream Muslim Piety in Egypt” appeared in *Cairo Contested: Governance, Urban Space and Global Modernity*, edited by Diane Singerman (American University Press) which is now out in paperback.

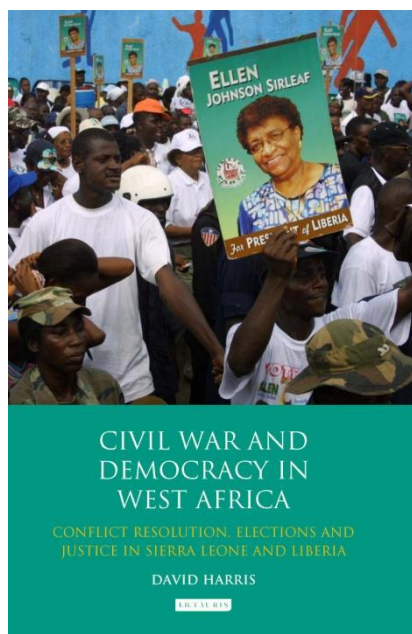
In December, **Laleh Khalili’s** “Too Early to Tell: When Is a Revolution a Revolution?” was published by Georgetown’s Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies; Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service in an occasional paper titled *Revolution in the Arab World: The Long View*.
<http://ccas.georgetown.edu/256660.html>

Felix Berenskoetter has published an article titled “Mapping the Field

of UK-EU Policing” in the *Journal of Common Market Studies* 50 (1): pp. 37-53. Using Bourdieu’s concept of the field, the article offers a typology to analyze different aspects of transnational police cooperation.

MSc student **Berkay Gülen’s** *The Two U.S. Think Tanks on Turkey: The Brookings Institution and The Council on Foreign Relations’ Perceptions on Justice and Development Party’s Foreign Policy (2002-2010)* has been published by Lambert Academic Publishing.

In December, **David Harris’** new book, *Civil War and Democracy in West Africa: Conflict Resolution, Elections and Justice in Sierra Leone and Liberia*, was published by IB Tauris. This is **David’s** first book and to celebrate this publication and the new publication of a former SOAS colleague, **Julia Gallagher**, a launch will be held at SOAS on 2 March.

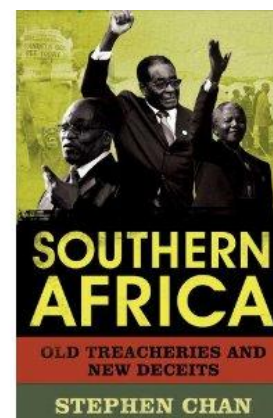


Doctoral student **Michael A. Innes** has published “After the Storm: Cote d’Ivoire in the Wake of the 2010-2011 Conflict” in *Jane’s Intelligence Review* (February 2012), pp. 31-36.

In February, **Phil Clark** published a new co-edited collection, *Critical Perspectives in Transitional Justice* (Intersentia Publishers, 2012), with Nicola Palmer and Danielle Granville. The volume of 24 interdisciplinary chapters - including an introduction by **Clark** and Palmer - critiques current theoretical and

empirical orthodoxies in transitional justice.

Professor **Stephen Chan’s** latest book, *Southern Africa: Old Treacheries and New Deceits* (Yale University Press, 2011), was the ‘best-selling’ book on Africa in the United States in January 2012, in terms of library acquisitions. It has been reviewed in *Foreign Affairs* and *The New Republic*, among other journals, and University of Texas Professor, Derek Catsam, writing in Foreign Policy Blogs, named it his book of the year. The Southern African edition, simply titled *Old Treacheries and New Deceits* (Jonathan Ball, 2011), has attracted much controversy and has been the subject of full-page newspaper features in both South Africa and Zimbabwe. President Mugabe’s office requested (and received) a signed copy. However, **Professor Chan** won’t reveal what the inscription said.



Research Centres, Clusters, and Networks

The Comparative Political Thought cluster

Rochana Bajpai, Matt Nelson, and **Charles Tripp** successfully bid for departmental funds to organize a one-day workshop in the summer of 2012. This will build on the success of the 2011 workshop and will focus specifically on methodological issues that arise in relation to the emerging field of comparative political thought. The intention is that the discussions

should contribute to efforts to answer the epistemological questions that arise when the scope of political thought itself is broadened. The workshop is also intended to inform the core course of the planned MSc in Comparative Political Thought that is presently being designed in the department.

In mid-January, the **Comparative Political Thought** cluster heard from the ESRC that the outline proposal for a major grant to establish a Centre for Comparative Political Thought in the department had been successful. We have now been invited to submit a major, fully reasoned and fully costed proposal to the ESRC for consideration in the summer of 2012.

Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice

The **Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice** hosted Professor Bruce Jentleson of Duke University who spoke to an audience of 150 students, scholars, and policymakers about the Responsibility to Protect and the use of force in Libya.

In January, the **Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice** hosted Pablo de Greiff, Director of Research at the International Center for Transitional Justice. Dr de Greiff presented a paper that aimed to theorize transitional justice to an audience of graduate students and members of the London Transitional Justice Network. This meeting was cosponsored by the Human Rights Consortium.

Appointments, Awards, Honours

In a particularly fruitful three months since the last newsletter, several of our doctoral students have successfully passed their doctoral vivas. Many warm congratulations to newly minted “doctors” **Toby Mathiessen**,

Chia-Feng Lieu, Hanan Toukan, Hania Ramadan, and Isabelle Cheng and to their supervisors.

Doctoral student **Anna Rader** has been awarded the Department’s scholarship to attend the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research training programme in Syracuse. The programme will be held over the course of two weeks in June.

MSc student **Sara Farhoudi** won the 2011 student travel grant of the Swedish Leadership Academy, the Sture Academy Programme, with her essay “Sweden’s liberal feminists of today- where are they?” The Sture Academy Programme’s travel grant goes to 20 students, journalists and researcher every year and brings them to Washington DC for a study visit in where they meet scholars and professionals involved with political policymaking on different levels.

In December, **Phil Clark** was part of a research consortium - led by the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) - that was awarded €700,000 by the Leibniz Association for a three-year project on “Institutions for Sustainable Peace”. Phil is a member of an 8-person steering committee and he will oversee the consortium’s work on justice dimensions of peace-building. The overall project will explore the role of formal state institutions in the regulation of armed conflict around the globe. The consortium’s activities will include a series of workshops, conferences, online databases, publications and researcher exchanges among the core institutions (GIGA, SOAS, Duke University, University of California at San Diego, Peace Research Institute Oslo, Uppsala University, the Australian National University, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva). Starting in December 2012, several consortium members will spend time conducting research and engaging with colleagues at SOAS, and there will be opportunities for SOAS researchers to participate in similar

exchanges at the other member institutions.

Phil Clark has also received a \$90,000 grant from the Fetzer Institute. The grant is for a 2-year research project examining issues of post-atrocity forgiveness and reconciliation in Rwanda and Uganda. The funds will cover several fieldwork trips, the production of a series of radio programmes for Rwandan, Ugandan and international audiences, a regional workshop and a booklet of photographs and personal narratives. He will also be writing several journal articles and a magazine piece based on the research.

Rahul Rao has recently been awarded a grant by the British Institute in Eastern Africa to fund a research project on queer memory and belonging in Uganda.

Laleh Khalili has joined the editorial board of a new series published by Palgrave on History of Social Movements, and also the Board of Trustees of The British Academy’s Centre for British Research on the Levant.

In December, **Leslie Vinjamuri** joined the Advisory Board of the Institute for Integrated Transitions, an NGO based in Barcelona. IFIT aims to help national transitions succeed by serving as an expert resource for locally-led efforts to establish improved political, economic and social conditions that can in turn help reduce the recurrence of authoritarianism or civil war.

Salwa Ismail’s *Rethinking Islamist Politics* has been recommended by Marc Lynch as one of five “must-read” books on the Arab uprisings: <http://thebrowser.com/interviews/marc-lynch-on-origins-arab-uprising>

Presentations and Conferences

On 7 December, **Phil Clark** (along with **Chandra Sriram** from SOAS Law and David Porter from

Coventry Cathedral) gave a keynote address at the Concordis International conference on peace and justice, hosted by Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf: <http://concordis-international.org/component/content/article/1-latest-news/327-peace-or-justice-continued.html>

On 11 December, **Phil Clark** gave a lecture on justice in Rwanda at the Centre for Global Security and Governance, University of Aberdeen.

In February, **Phil Clark** discussed his book on community justice for genocide in Rwanda at seminars at Washington and Lee University in Virginia and the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University. He also organised a panel discussion in Washington DC on the politics of memory in Iraq, Russia and Rwanda, which doubled as a book launch for his new co-edited collection, *Critical Perspectives in Transitional Justice*.

Corinna Mullin presented a paper on “Contemporary Islamist Discourses on Democracy and Human Rights” at the International Conference Islam and Democracy on 26 January 2012. The conference was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and was organised by The Prague Security Studies Institute.

Corinna Mullin participated in a workshop on the “The EU and the Arab Spring” at the London School of Economics on 20 January 2012. She presented a paper entitled “Causes and Consequences of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Understanding the Core Grievances of the ‘Arab Spring.’”

In December **Salwa Ismail** presented “The Political Economy of Public Piety in Egypt” at the Faith and Politics Group at the Chr Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway.

Polly Pallister-Wilkins presented a paper on the contradictions of the Melilla and Ceuta border fences at the “Fences, Networks, People: Exploring the EU/Africa

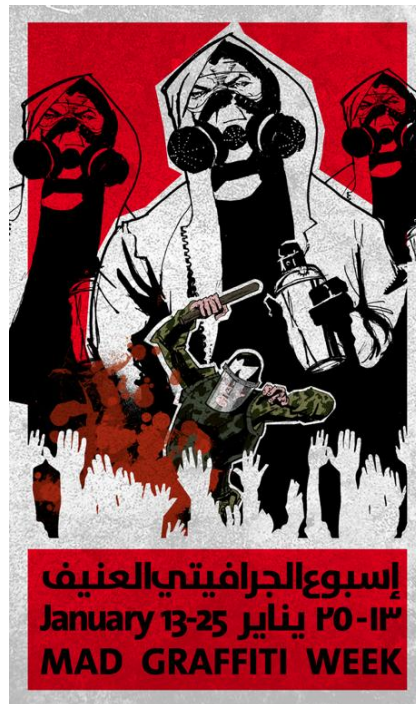
Borderland” workshop at the University of Pavia, Italy, 15-17 December 2011 as well as a paper focused on the paradoxes of EU non-arrival measures and EU efforts at democracy promotion in North Africa at a workshop on “The EU and the Arab Spring” held at LSE 20th January, 2012.

Doctoral candidate **Alexej Ulbricht** presented his paper “Trash and subversion: the political aesthetic of Deichkind” at the 8th Annual Historical Materialism Conference at SOAS.

On 12 January 2012, **Charles Tripp** spoke on “The People reclaim the State and the Nation” as part of a roundtable at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris on the Egyptian uprising of 2011.

On 25 January 2012, **Charles Tripp** spoke on “Art and Uprisings in the Middle East” as a member of a panel on the “The Middle East: Myth and Malcontent” as part of the One World Week event at the University of Warwick.

<http://www.oneworldweek.net/Pages/Forum/MiddleEast.php>



In December, **Laleh Khalili** participated in a workshop titled “City/State/Resistance: Spaces of protest in the Middle East and Mediterranean” at the Royal Holloway University of London. The workshop podcast can be seen

at <http://backdoorbroadcasting.net/2011/12/city-state-resistance-spaces-of-protest-in-the-middle-east-and-mediterranean/>

In December, **Laleh Khalili** presented her “Counterinsurgency Fictions” at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Reading University, and at the Comparative Literature Department of Queen Mary University of London. She presented “The Uses of Happiness in Counterinsurgencies” at the Institute for Historical Research in London, and at the Department of Politics and International Studies at Warwick University in January and February, respectively.

In January, **Laleh Khalili** was invited to give the Erskine May Lecture at the Bedford School. Her lecture was titled “What explains the variations on the trajectory of Arab uprisings?”

In November **Felix Berenskoetter** participated in a panel discussion organised by the UCLU European Society on the EU’s response to events in Libya. Also Together with Karen Smith (LSE) and Eva Gross (VUB), **Felix** organised and convened a workshop at the LSE (on 20 January) which discussed relations between Europe and states/societies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the context of the Arab Spring.

Felix Berenskoetter is attending a workshop on “Friendship in International Relations” at Harvard University (on 24 February) where he is presenting a paper on the link between friendship and power.

In December, **Leslie Vinjamuri** participated in the first stage of the ‘Justice in Context’ project at the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York. This project brings together high level UN officials, scholars, government officials, and human rights advocates to assess the impact of transitional justice projects across Latin America and Africa and to explore the potential of transitional justice in the Middle East. During

this trip she also interviewed experts at Human Rights Watch as part of her research on the global strategies of international human rights NGOs.

In February, **Leslie Vinjamuri** participated in a working group at the European Council on Foreign Relations that considered the past and future role of the UN Security Council in referring cases to the International Criminal Court.

Dr **Dafydd Fell** was invited to speak at Taiwan Election Seminar held at the Wilson Center in Washington DC on 13 December 2011. Here is the event's videolink: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/taiwan-elections-2012>. He then returned to London to join a panel at SOAS the next day titled "Looking Ahead to Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections."

While in Taiwan to act as an election observer, **Dafydd Fell** was invited as a Visiting Researcher at the College of International Studies, Tamkang University, Taiwan. He gave a talk titled "The Development of Taiwan studies in Europe" at Tamkang University on 4 January 2012. In addition he gave a lecture titled "Why is the study of Taiwanese politics so popular abroad?" At the Graduate Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat Sen University on 28 December, at the Graduate Institute of International Politics, National Chungshing University on 5 January, and at the College of Social Sciences, National Chengchi University on 3 January. On his way back from Taiwan Dr Fell stopped off in Washington DC to give a talk at a workshop on Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections on 17 January. This was jointly organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Brookings Institute. The videolink to the event is: <http://csis.org/multimedia/video-taiwans-january-2012-presidential-and-legislative-elections-panel-one>

Bhavna Dave participated at a Symposium on "Migration Bridges

between Russia and Central Asia" at the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics in Khujand, Tajikistan 24-29 November 2011. She presented her research on Tajik migrant networks in Almaty and Astana at the symposium which was organized by the Institute of Social Political Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Education of Tajikistan.

Bhavna Dave organised a roundtable "Kazakhstan between Stability and Transformation: Elections, Politics and Protests" under the auspices of the Centre of Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus at SOAS on 2 February 2012.

Upcoming Politics Department Seminars

Dr Leigh Jenco (National University of Singapore), "Theorizing the culturally unprecedented: Cultural difference as historical discontinuity after May Fourth"

Monday 20 February, 4-6 in Room T101

Ms Rachel Brulé, (Stanford), "When Reform Works: A study of property rights reform's impact on women's empowerment in rural India"

Wednesday 29 February, 4-6 in room 4418

Dr Robbie Shilliam (Queen Mary), "Slavery, abolition and constructivism"

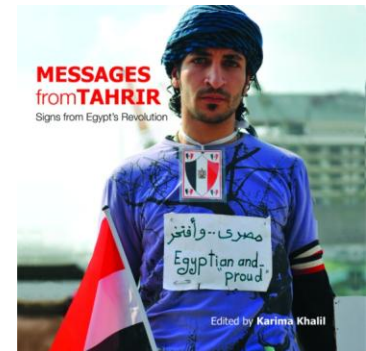
Wednesday 7 March, 4-6 in room 4418

Dr **Dave Rampton** and Dr **Suthaharan Nadarajah** (both SOAS), "Liberal peace and biopolitical war in Sri Lanka"

Wednesday 14 March, 4-6 in room 4418

On 25 November 2011 the Department hosted Dr Karima

Khalil who gave a talk on 'Messages from Tahrir', based on her recent book *Messages from Tahrir* (Cairo: AUC Press, 2011).



On 18 January, Professor Dvora Yanow of University of Amsterdam presented "Conundrums in migrant policies: State-constructed categories and the politics of difference" in the departmental seminar.

The departmental seminar presenter on 1 February was Dr Philippe Bourbeau (Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Belgium), who talked about "The securitization process: power and context."

On 8 February, Professor Abdulkader Sinno of Indiana University and Intissar Kharegi presented "Islamist Moderation: Explaining Changes in the Positions of the Tunisian al-Nahdha Movement."

Current Research

This term, Dr **Lawrence Saez** is a visiting professor at SciencesPo. He is teaching a special seminar on the political economy of Asia (with special emphasis on India) at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA). During his sabbatical leave at SciencesPo, Dr **Saez** will be writing two books. One book is on the political economy of energy security. It focuses on energy security measurement and modelling. The book is slated for publication with MIT Press. The other book will be on doing political analysis using Gretl, a software package widely used in times series

econometrics. The book is expected to appear in the quantitative methods series by Sage.

Outreach

In December, **Phil Clark's** expert report on rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo was a central piece of defence evidence which led to the acquittal of Callixte Mbarushimana at the International Criminal Court: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/doc/doc1286409.pdf>

Over the turn of the year 2011/2012, **Anna-Maria Airaksinen** (BA Politics & Economics) and **Sara Heinrich** (BA Chinese & Politics) have been part of the general coordination team that brought to life the youth training programme UWC Short Course "Together for Development!" in Swaziland, the first of its kind on the African continent. Over the course of two weeks, they coordinated an international team and 51 young participants (aged 16-21) from more than 30 countries. The programme consisted of lectures and workshops critically discussing different aspects of local and international development and offered opportunities for the young change makers to gain first-hand experience in local NGOs. All participants left the Short Course with a detailed plan for their own projects which they will implement with the mentoring support of team members in their local communities. More information and testimonies can be found on the website (<http://www.empower-training.de/SwaziShortCourse/Welcome.html>) and the blog (<http://togetherfordevelopment.blogspot.com/>).



In November, **David Harris** conducted a webinar on Sierra Leone for around 20 people across the world for the Institute of Philanthropy.

On 10 December 2011, **Charles Tripp** gave a talk on the occupation of public space in the Arab uprisings at the Occupy London encampment at St Paul's Cathedral, as part of the event 'Occupy London through the lens with Syria – English Winter, Arab Spring' in solidarity with the Syrian uprising.

In January 2012, **Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** delivered a talk upon invitation of Lord Lothian (Michael Ancram) and the Global Strategy Forum at Whitehall and joint a panel discussion with Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Sir Jeremy Greenstock and Jonathan Fryer (<http://www.globalstrategyforum.org/events/show.aspx?id=5&ref=107>).



Dafydd Fell was in Taiwan from 18 December 2011 to 16 January 2012 to observe its January 2012 elections. In the final week prior to the election he joined an international election observation group visiting party headquarters, think-tank and campaign events. He spoke at a post-election seminar on 15 January at the Institute for National Policy Research in Taipei.

Media Appearances

In January 2012, **Arshin Adib-Moghaddam** published an article on the Arab revolts, Islam and post-modernity in the progressive German magazine *INAMO*. Another article on Iranian-American relations and the security architecture in West Asia was

published by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) as a part of the proceedings of the 13th Asian Security Conference hosted by the Indian Defence Minister in New Delhi.

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam appeared on Al-Jazeera's hour long flagship programme *Empire* speaking on the probability of military conflict with Iran and the prospects of peace (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKz7-jZHv_E) and he wrote an opinion piece on the same subject for *The Guardian* (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/nov/22/iran-sanctions-economy-government>).

Doctoral student **Bala Liman** wrote two blogposts on Nigeria, published at <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/ideas/2011/10/nigeria-ensuring-un-rule-of-law/> and <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/ideas/2012/01/1528/>

Dafydd Fell wrote the following two pieces on Taiwan's 2012 elections for the University of Nottingham School of Politics *Ballots and Bullets* blog: <http://nottspolitics.org/2011/11/21/forecasting-the-legislative-elections/> and <http://nottspolitics.org/2012/01/05/dafydd-fells-campaign-impressions/>

Bhavna Dave was interviewed by Radio France International, Voice of America (<http://www.voanews.com/russian/news/VK-OSCE-On-Kazakhstan-Elections-2012-01-16-137421908.html>) and Radio Free Europe (http://www.azattyq.org/content/kazakhstan_yertisbaev_in_chatham_house/24450857.html) to comment on parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan.

In December, PhD Candidate **Shirin Shafaie** participated in a roundtable with Patrick Hayes (Spiked Magazine) hosted by Phil Rees on the breakdown of diplomatic communication channels between Iran and the UK and

possibility of an oil embargo on Islam Channel's *The World This Week*.

Shirin Shafaie also organised an Iranian movie screening (The Night Bus) with the Centre for Iranian Studies and **Dr Elaheh Rostami-Povey** at SOAS on 12 December 2011, and gave a talk on Iran's Treatment of Iraqi POWs.
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/iranianstudies/events/films/12dec2011-monthly-film-screening-the-night-bus-.html>

In late December **Shirin Shafaie** was interviewed by InPEC on the IAEA November 2011 report and the reasons behind the failure of diplomacy between Iran and the West, "Iran, Israel and the US: Who's Threatening Who?"
<http://inpec.in/2011/12/22/iran-israel-and-the-us-whos-threatening-who/> She was also interviewed by Russia Today in late December in a piece titled "Iran spots US Navy near drill, 'ready for confrontation'"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaK7z0fnUp4>

In January, **Shirin Shafaie** was interviewed by Al-Jazeera regarding the possibility of an Iranian oil sanction (by Majles) against Europe. She was also interviewed by Russia Today regarding "Iranophobia: 'Why negotiate when West can cash in on tension?'"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWQIjF6u1c0>

Shirin Shafaie was interviewed by Russia Today in February on "US intelligence: Iran could launch terror attacks on America"
[\(http://rt.com/news/us-attack-iran-allegations-271/\)](http://rt.com/news/us-attack-iran-allegations-271/) and on Obama blocking Iranian assets
[\(http://rt.com/news/us-block-iran-assets-619/\)](http://rt.com/news/us-block-iran-assets-619/)

In January, **Shirin Shafaie** participated in a debate with Sir Richard Dalton and Mark Fitzpatrick on Islam Channel's *The World This Week* hosted by Phil Rees. The debate concerned Iran's nuclear capabilities
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeNZiu_QlaI

At the end of December, **Salwa Ismail** was interviewed by BBC News channel on the situation in Syria. In early February, **Ismail** was interviewed on BBC World Service Radio for a programme on the continued protests in Egypt.

In December, **Phil Clark** debated Jan Egeland, former UN under-secretary for humanitarian affairs, on the BBC World Service on the subject of offering amnesties to state perpetrators in Yemen, Uganda and elsewhere:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/consol/p00mn5l0> (38:08)

In December, **Phil Clark** discussed conflict issues in DR Congo and Cote d'Ivoire on Monocle magazine's The Globalist radio programme:
<http://www.monocle.com/monocle24/?openepisode=10600043> (6am programme, starting at 34:32)

In December, **Phil Clark** was quoted by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting on new ICC arrest warrants in Sudan:
<http://iwpr.net/report-news/icc-seeks-new-sudan-arrest-warrant>

In December, **Phil Clark** was interviewed on Radio France International about the new ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda:
<http://www.english.rfi.fr/africa/20111214-fatou-bensouda-new-head-icc>

In January, **Phil Clark** appeared on France 24 TV news to talk about the French report into the shooting down of the Rwandan president's plane in 1994:
<http://www.sendspace.com/file/59fj2z> (2:40)

In January, **Phil Clark** appeared on Monocle magazine's The Globalist radio programme to discuss issues of education reform, conflict resolution and development in Africa:
<http://www.monocle.com/monocle24/?openepisode=10600055> (6am programme, starting at 6:34).

In January, **Phil Clark** was interviewed by Reuters about the arrest of four Rwandan generals:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/20>

[12/01/19/rwanda-army-idUSL6E8CJ3SH20120119](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/19/rwanda-army-idUSL6E8CJ3SH20120119)

In January, **Phil Clark** appeared on Austrian national radio to discuss the ICC cases against senior government suspects in Kenya:
<http://fm4.orf.at/stories/1693642>

In February, **Phil Clark** was interviewed by AFP about the elections for the African Union chairmanship:
<http://www.tv5.org/cms/chaine-francophone/info/p-1911-UA-sommet-Gabon-Ping.htm?&rub=2&from=back&xml=../doc/newsmlmmd.30598110f33a09b276c5502dfb8c4cc8.3a1.xml>

In February, **Phil Clark** appeared with **Dave Harris** on SOAS Radio's "Regional Spotlights" show to discuss African elections in 2012:
<http://soasradio.org/regional-spotlights>

Rahul Rao has written about recent initiatives by the British and US governments to advance LGBT rights in other parts of the world:
<http://kafila.org/2012/01/01/on-gay-conditionality-imperial-power-and-queer-liberation-rahul-rao/>

Corinna Mullin appeared on BBC World News on 23 November 2011. She was interviewed by news presenter George Alagiah regarding the reaction of Bahraini civil society to the launch of the Bahrain Independent Commission Inquiry (BICI) into government repression of pro-democracy protests.

Corinna Mullin participated alongside British journalist and author Tim Butcher in a panel discussion on world news BBC World Service Sunday morning panel on 27 November 2011, 7-9am.

Corinna Mullin co-authored two articles published on openDemocracy: "The Bahrain 'Spring': the revolution that wasn't televised" (6 December 2011), available at:
<http://www.opendemocracy.net/corinna-mullin-azadeh-shahshahani/bahrain-%E2%80%98spring%E2%80%99-revolution-that-wasn%E2%80%99t>

televised; and “Bahrain: a response to the President’s Office” (11 December 2011), available at: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/coinna-mullin-azadeh-shahshahani/bahrain-response-to-president%E2%80%99s-office>

MSc Student **Lana Asfour**’s piece on Lebanon appeared at <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2012/01/syria-lebanon-lebanese>. **Lana** can also reveal that she anonymously wrote a piece titled “Syrians under Siege” for the **New York Review of Books** in April last year, <http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2011/apr/29/syrians-under-siege/>

Tom Young’s blog post on “Liberal Wars” was published in December at <http://www.europeanideas.eu/pages/politics/humanitarian-intervention/liberal-war.php>

Laleh Khalili’s blog post on the recent US Strategic Review Document, titled “COIN vs. CT” was appeared in January in <http://merip.org/coin-vs-ct>

Laleh Khalili has been quoted in MEED on developments in Egypt: www.meed.com/sectors/economy/government/a-military-stalemate-in-egypt/3117246.article.

On the eve of the anniversary of the Egyptian uprising **Laleh Khalili** appeared on a one-hour long SkyNews special alongside Simon Henderson of Washington Institute, Tariq Ramadan of Oxford and Undersecretary of State for the Middle East, Alistair Burt. A clip of the event can be seen at <http://news.sky.com/home/video/16155932>

In December, **Lawrence Saez** published an opinion piece in *The Kathmandu Post*, titled “A Republic If You Can Keep It” <http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2011/12/01/oped/a-republic-if-you-can-keep-it/228860.html>

Doctoral candidate **Marco Jowell** has recently written a piece for African Arguments entitled

Intervening in Somalia: risky business with no end sight. The piece critiques recent international interventions in Somalia in the context of AMISOM and regional military action. <http://africanarguments.org/2012/01/17/intervening-in-somalia-risky-business-with-no-end-in-sight-by-marco-jowell/>

Notices

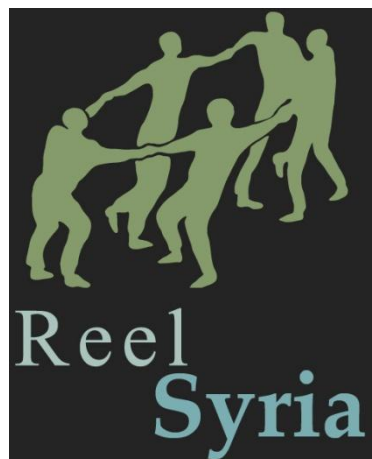
Politics MPhil Conference

Add 13 June to your diaries. Politics MPhil students are organising their annual conference, to be held all day on 13 June in a room to be announced later.

ECPR

SOAS is a member of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), which holds annual Summer and Winter Schools, and which department members (including postgraduate research students) have access to at discounted rates. More information available here: http://www.ecprnet.eu/methods_schools/summerschools/

Reel Syria



MSc student **Dan Gorman** invites you to Reel Syria, a 3-day festival of Syrian films, music and theatre, to be held in London, 15-17 March. At a time when Syria is undergoing

massive changes, many within the arts community are speaking out. The festival will give the participants the opportunity to engage with events there and hopefully get a deeper understanding of the country and the region. Building on Reel Festivals 2011, this project aims to present another side of Syrian culture, through Syrian film, music, theatre and literature.

As with all Reel Festivals, a wide variety of events will be held in a wide variety of venues, and bringing some of the best films, music, discussions and talks to you direct from Syria. The festival will also provide a forum for participants from Syria itself. For more information, please visit www.reelfestivals.org

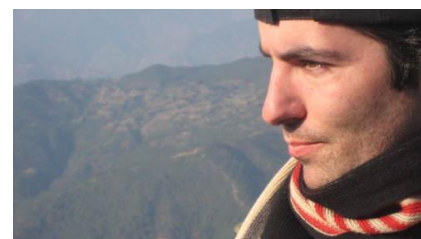
Events

In December, **Shirin Shafaie** gave a talk at the Stop the War Coalition anti-war rally with George Galloway, Tony Benn, Lindsey German, Abbas Edalat http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3p_V9rJPHnw She also gave a speech to the anti-war protesters on 28 January 2012 at a rally organised by Stop the War Coalition in front of the US Embassy in London <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iFAFigA-OoM>

Notes from Alumni

The SOAS factor

Bijan Frederic Farnoudi



Watching the popular British talent show “X factor” the other day, I

asked myself what my specific talent at such a show would be. I don't sing, break-dance or play-act. However I am good at adapting to different mentalities, getting a feel for people, their languages and cultures. I call it the SOAS factor.

Bored with the accounting and number-crunching of my business studies, I left friends and family behind to start anew at SOAS and a degree in comparative religions ('02). Being of mixed heritage, I felt like a fish in the water at SOAS. After adding a Masters in International Politics ('03), life and work took me to 10 different countries in as many years. Did the SOAS experience prepare me for that? Most definitely yes. After all, at SOAS you meet people from 10 different countries just walking into the classroom.

After stints with the UN and as a journalist I applied to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) where I have now been for 6 years in several field-posts including Jammu & Kashmir, South Sudan, Nepal and, for the last two years, Afghanistan. Back at HQ since 2011, I am in charge of ICRC public relations for Europe and North America.

Student experience on Taiwan related courses at SOAS

SOAS is the world's leading institution for taught courses on Taiwan. The **Centre of Taiwan Studies** manages three courses in the Politics Department, one in Economics and another in the China Department. There are three further associated courses in the Languages and Culture Faculty too. As with other courses at SOAS students benefit from being taught by scholars who are passionate about their work, have published widely, and are rich in fieldwork experience. However, there are also some features that are unique to the

student experience on Taiwan related courses.



Firstly, we try to create a sense of community amongst students working on Taiwan from a range of programmes and departments across the School. One way we do this is to link the topics covered in the public **Centre of Taiwan Seminars** with the various courses. This means that we get both postgraduate and undergraduate students coming to seminars and then talking about them in class.

Secondly, we try to make sure there is some interaction between PhD students working on Taiwan and both the undergraduate and postgraduate students. For instance, we often invite PhD students to come into class as guest speakers to discuss their research findings. Similarly, we encourage the taught class students to discuss their research ideas with PhD students. This is mutually beneficial to both the research and taught course students.



Thirdly, we run the annual **Taiwan Studies Summer School**, which

gives the postgraduate students the chance to get feedback on their dissertation projects, experience discussing their work with students and academics from a range of countries and institutions. We also encourage the students to join the European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) conference which is held in a different European country each year. Every year one or even two of our students gets accepted on the MA panel and a number of PhD have given multiple papers on the regular panels. This experience of presenting at international conferences has helped students refine their research design and improve their communications skills.

On occasion we have even helped students with funding to go to Taiwan for short field visits and arranged research supervision with partner institutions there. It has been encouraging to see how a number of our graduates that presented at the Summer School and EATS have gone on to start PhDs and also published revised versions of their Master dissertations. Another unique feature of the programme is that we enter a team to the annual Overseas Taiwanese Sports Day (see winning team picture). Lastly, we try to follow this unforgettable year by keeping in touch with students after they graduate. For instance, each year we run an alumni session when one of our team is in Taiwan. So we are trying to make sure the students either taking the MA Taiwan Studies or the individual Taiwan courses have a sense of belonging to a coherent programme and community that cuts across departmental divisions.

For more information on the Centre of Taiwan Studies See: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/taiwanstudies/>

The Department of Politics and International Studies is one of the most cutting edge departments in the United Kingdom, and uniquely positioned for the study of the politics of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

There are at present nearly 500 students studying for degrees (BA, Certificate, MSc and MPhil/PhD) in the Department. The Department also hosts visiting students who are here as part of a year's 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.
- Political Theory: political Islam, non-western political thought, multiculturalism.

The current officers of the department are:

Head of Department:

Dr Fiona Adamson, fa33@soas.ac.uk

Undergraduate Tutors:

UG Tutor Corinna Mullin
 UG Admissions Tutor - Bhavna Dave
 Year 1 Tutor – Rahul Rao (Term 1) Steve Heder (Terms 2 and 3)
 Year 2 Tutor – Tom Young
 Year 3 Tutor – Arshin Adib-Moghaddam
 UG Exams Officer and Exam Board Chair – Steve Heder
 Deputy Exams Officer and Exam Board Chair – Tom Young

Postgraduate (MSc) Tutors:

PG Tutor - Leslie Vinjamuri
 PGT Training Coordinator – Phil Clark
 MSc Convenors
 African Politics – Phil Clark
 Asian Politics – Dafydd Fell
 International Politics – Mark Laffey
 Middle East Politics – Charles Tripp
 Politics of China – Yuka Kobayashi (Term 1) and Dafydd Fell (Terms 2/3)
 State, Society and Development – Yuka Kobayashi (Term 1) and Dafydd Fell (Terms 2/3)
 PGT Exams Board Chair – Lawrence Saez
 Deputy Exam Board Chair – Tat Yan Kong

Postgraduate (Research) Tutors:

Research Tutor - Matthew Nelson
 MPhil Research Methods Course Convenor 2011-12 – Felix Berenskoetter

This newsletter is produced three times per academic year by Laleh Khalili. Send any announcements or notices to lk4@soas.ac.uk

Department of Politics is on twitter; please follow @soaspolitics

On Facebook, you can find us at SOASPolitics!