New Publications

Professor Charles Tripp’s *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East* is now out with Cambridge University Press (http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item6838416/?site_locale=en_GB). He gave an interview about the book to Jadaliyya, which can be found at http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/11413/new-texts-out-now_charles-tripp-the-power-and-the-

Professor Charles Tripp also published “Performing the Public: theatres of power in the Middle East” in *Constellations* 20(2), http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cons.12030/abstract


In April, Gerasimos Tsourapas, together with Elena Lazarou and Maria Gianniou, published “The EU’s Strategies for Norm Promotion in the Mediterranean: The Cases of Egypt and Israel/Palestine” in *Insight Turkey* 15(2), http://www.insightturkey.com/the-limits-of-norm-
Dr Dafydd Fell published “Impact of Candidate Selection Systems on Election Results: Evidence from Taiwan before and after the Change in Electoral Systems” in The China Quarterly 213.

Professor Stephen Chan’s latest book, The Morality of China in Africa (Zed Books), was published to much acclaim (and controversy).

Research Centres, Clusters, & Networks

Centre for the International Politics of Conflicts, Rights and Justice

CCRJ co-directors Steve Hopgood and Leslie Vinjamuri worked with Jack Snyder (Columbia University, and SOAS Research Professor) on Human Rights Futures, a project that brings together several significant scholarly critiques of ‘orthodox’ human rights advocacy. This next stage of the project is being pursued collaboratively with Columbia University’s project on Religion and Human Rights Pragmatism (funded by the Luce Foundation).

CCRJ is sponsoring openGlobalRights, a new ezine on openDemocracy, edited by James Ron (University of Minnesota) and Leslie Vinjamuri (SOAS). openGlobalRights (OGR) launched in June with a debate about Emerging Powers and Human Rights with posts by leading international scholars and advocates published in English, Arabic, Turkish, French, Portuguese, Chinese, and Spanish. Leslie Vinjamuri (with James Ron) published an article, “Time for a new kind of debate on Global Rights” http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/leslie-vinjamuri-james-ron/time-for-new-kind-of-debate-on-global-rights#1; Steve Hopgood’s article “Human rights: past their sell-by date” http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/stephen-hopgood/human-rights-past-their-sell-by-date, was published in this theme as was Jack Snyder’s article “Human rights in the vernacular” http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/jack-snyder/human-rights-in-vernacular. The editors at openGlobalRights encourage SOAS students and academics to post their responses to these and other ezine articles in the comments section following each article. SOAS student, Mazen Zoabi is the Arabic Language Editor for the ezine. The next debate will be on funding for human rights. The homepage for openGlobalRights is http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights

CCRJ co-directors Leslie Vinjamuri and Steve Hopgood hosted Professor Peter Katzenstein, Cornell University, on Civilisations as part of the International Relations Speaker Series. SOAS Open Air Radio has posted their interview with Professor Katzenstein. CCRJ also hosted Professor Lise Howard, Georgetown University, on “The Tyranny of Getting to Yes and UN Peacekeeping” (with the CISD). CCRJ also hosted lectures by Professor Christopher Zurcher (with the Department of Development Studies), and Professor Peter Rush (Melbourne).

Together with CCRJ member Phil Clark, Hopgood and Vinjamuri are also preparing for the arrival of the first cohort of masters students for the new MSc in the Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice.

Centre for Taiwan Studies

On June 21 Dafydd Fell joined the SOAS Director Paul Webley at a ceremony for signing three major funding agreements between the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies and Taiwanese government ministries. This includes

(1) a grant of £109,000 over three years for the continuation of the Taiwan Studies Teaching Fellowship (mainly working in the Politics Department). This project is sponsored by Taiwan’s Ministry of Education.

(2) a grant of £182,000 over three years to support the SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies conference, seminar, research and publications programme. This is sponsored by Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
(3) a grant of £20,000 under Taiwan’s Ministry of Culture Taiwan Spotlight programme for a series of film screenings and Q&As under the title Understanding Taiwan Through Film and Documentaries. The films chosen will be closely related to Taiwan teaching courses at SOAS. SOAS is the first university in the world to receive funding under the Taiwan Spotlight programme.

Despite breaking his foot on 6 February Dafydd Fell and Monique Chu organized the following Centre of Taiwan Studies Seminars since the last newsletter:

6 February, Documentary Screening: “Our Life Saving Vinegar” and “Memoir Of Miss Kuan” and Q&A with film maker Jeng Hsiao-ta (SOAS)

20 February, Mike Hoare (SOAS), “How the UK learnt to deal with Taiwan: Trade and politics 1960-1980”

20 March, Dr. Lin Ping (National Chungcheng University & SOAS), “Memories of a Future Home: Taiwanese Teenagers in China”

29 April, Prof. Bruce Jacobs (Monash University), “Democratization in Taiwan and Implications for the Future”

On 22 February Dr Fell also hosted a speech by Taiwan’s Minister of Culture Dr. Lung Ying-tai. Dr. Lung is also one of the most read authors in the Chinese-speaking world. The speech was titled “Face to Face with Lung Ying-tai” and also included an audience Q&A. The event attracted the largest ever audience for a Centre of Taiwan Studies event of well over 350. For a video of the event see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6X7I7eP3Dg

Muslim South Asia Research Forum

On 9 May 2013 Politics PhD students, Najia Mukhtar and Johann Chacko, together with History PhD student Francesca Fuoli launched the Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) at SOAS. MUSA is a cross-disciplinary initiative focused on bringing together PhD students and early career researchers working on any aspect of Muslim societies in the countries of South Asia and their diasporic communities. Housed at SOAS and reaching out to young researchers and practitioners internationally, MUSA hosts regular networking events and a one-day, annual graduate conference. Its Facebook page serves as a central notice-board of all events, activities and initiatives relevant to the study of Muslim South Asia. To find out more about MUSA please visit http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/musa/

Appointments, Awards, Honours

Congratulations to newly minted doctors, Sanaa Alimia, Benedetta De Alessi, Mehmet Ugur Ekinci, Abdullahi Haroon, Renee Horne, Steve Itugbu, Shirin Shafaie, Kostas Tsimonis, and Alexej Ulbricht, and Elian Weizman, all of whom passed their vivas in the last few months.

Graduating Politics UG student Greg Walton has been appointed to The Telegraph’s graduate trainee scheme. Starting in September he will spend two months at the Press Association’s training centre in Yorkshire covering advanced media law, ethics and multimedia journalism units before moving to a regional title like the Yorkshire Post or the PA’s London office to complete a 3-4 month
training placement. Thereafter, grads return to The Telegraph’s London newsroom and spend six months rotating between the paper’s various departments, one month on each of the desks which might include Home News, Foreign News, Sport, Investigations, Features and Business. At the end of this probationary period, editorial graduates will typically be appointed to a permanent reporting role. Many congratulations to Greg!

Laleh Khalili’s *Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies* (Stanford 2013) has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 Susan Strange Best Book in International Studies by the British International Studies Association. Laleh has also been appointed to the editorial board of the Middle East series at Stanford University Press and of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

Julia Strauss has been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship at Ohio State University for the academic year of 2013-14.

Matt Nelson has been re-elected for a three-year term on the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Board of Trustees.

Dr David Taylor has been appointed the director of the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations at the Aga Khan University, effective 1 May.

Recent Politics and Development Studies graduate Keiko Ono has been selected as one of the 2013 Pacific Young Leaders on Disarmament Announced by the Federation of American Scientists: [http://blogs.fas.org/blog/2013/05/inaugural-class-of-pacific-young-leaders-on-disarmament-announced/](http://blogs.fas.org/blog/2013/05/inaugural-class-of-pacific-young-leaders-on-disarmament-announced/)

Keiko was also the co-president of the SOAS Student Union.

Congratulations to Dr Hedi Viterbo who will be joining the Department from September for the next three years as the Leverhulme Early Career Fellow. Hedi, who received his PhD in Law from the LSE, and who has been a visiting scholar at Harvard for the last year, will be working on a comparative study of military, law and society in Israel and the US.

We are also happy to welcome Dr Kristin Surak, who will be joining the Department in the fall as a senior lecturer. This is a new position subsidised by the Japan Foundation’s Staff Extension Programme. Kristin is a political sociologist, currently based in Duisburg-Essen, whose research focuses on Japan, migration, and nationalism. She will be developing a new course on Japanese Politics next year.

The Department also enthusiastically welcomes Drs Meera Sabratnam and Matthew Eagleton-Pierce as lecturers in international relations and international political economy respectively and Dr Lauge Poulsen who will be a research fellow in 2013, and will join in a permanent post from 2014. Meera is joining us from Cambridge and works on the security-development nexus and is developing a project on financial, political and social debts and obligations that underpin South-South relations. Matthew is currently at Exeter and researches international political economy, particularly the politics of world trade. Lauge is currently at Oxford and is an expert on the politics of bilateral investment treaties.

The Department also happily welcomes Dr Banu Bargu, who joins us as a senior lecturer in political theory. Banu joins us from the New School for Social Research in New York and works on theories of biopolitics, sovereignty, and resistance in the Middle East (and especially Turkey).

Starting in September, Steve Hopgood will be the Associate Dean for Research for the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences.

In June, SOAS doctoral candidate Margarita Dimova and Phil Clark secured a fellowship from the London International Development Centre (LIDC) for a cross-college project with Birkbeck and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) on drug injection in Kenya. The two have been working with Dr Andy Guise, Research Assistant at LSHTM and Dr Paul Turnbull, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck on the proposed project, “Mapping the social context of transitions to injecting drug use and HIV risk in Kenya”.

Doctoral student Eddie Walsh is one of the 2013 recipients of the Vivian Award from the National Press Club for his service to the foreign press. [http://www.pr-inside.com/soas-doctoral-student-receives-prestigious-service-r3575459.htm](http://www.pr-inside.com/soas-doctoral-student-receives-prestigious-service-r3575459.htm) Eddie has also been accepted as one of the Student Ambassadors to the New York Forum Africa 2013 this June.

Doctoral student James H. Sunday was recently named Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Having lectured for the past year in the same department, James will be playing a role in the Joint MA Program in Comparative & Middle East Politics and Society between AUC and Universität Tübingen in Germany.

Mark Laffey, Suthaharan Nadarajah and PhD student Vino Kanapathipillai have been awarded £3000 for a workshop on “The politics of corporations”, to be held in September.

Mark Laffey has been appointed a member of the selection committee for the best book in international theory of the International Theory Section, International Studies Association.
The Department of Politics and International Studies has been ranked in the QS World Top 100 rankings. Founded in 1990, QS Quacquarelli Symonds is the leading global provider of higher education and careers information, independent research and solutions.

The @SOASPolitics Twitter account was ranked 8th in the UK in a recent league table: http://nottspolitics.org/2013/05/30/politics-departments-on-twitter-a-league-table/

Presentations and Conferences

Rahul Rao has presented ongoing research on queer sexualities in Uganda at a number of venues including a symposium on Women, Sexuality and Christian fundamentalism held at SOAS and a seminar at the University of Warwick in March 2013, the International Studies Association Convention in San Francisco in April 2013, and the SOAS Gender Studies Workshop ‘Border Crossings’ in May 2013.

Rahul Rao delivered a keynote lecture entitled “Queer Questions”, exploring resonances and dissonances between the “Woman Question” and ongoing controversies over queer sexualities, at the 2nd Annual Conference of the International Feminist Journal of Politics held at the University of Sussex in May 2013.

On June 13th, PhD candidate Indrė Balčaitė gave a paper at the Mahidol University International College in Bangkok. The paper titled “A borderless Karen village: sketches of Płong Karen migrant workers’ parallel lives in a village in Myanmar and in Bangkok” was based on Indrė’s extended ethnographic fieldwork in Myanmar and in Thailand (September 2012-June 2013).

Also in June, Indrė participated in a joint post-fieldwork seminar “Research on the Move in a Borderland in Flux: flows and liminalities in the Shan-Karen Realm” at her fieldwork affiliation institution Regional Centre for Social Research and Sustainable Development of the Chiang Mai University in Thailand. Alongside other two researchers of the Thai-Burmese borderland – Thai PhD students Busarin Lertchavalitsakul and Jiraporn Laocharoenwong (both of University of Amsterdam), Indrė presented a paper titled “Lives across the border: Routes of the Burmese Płong Karen migrant workers in Greater Bangkok”.

Anna Rader won a place at the Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law’s summer school and workshop on political community at the University of Aberdeen in June 2013. She presented work-in-progress on practices of identification in Somaliland.

In March, Mehmet Ugur Ekinci attended Music and Diplomacy Conference at Harvard and Tufts Universities and presented a paper entitled “Projecting Identity through Melodies: Musical Self-Representations of the Ottoman Empire and Republican Turkey”.

Bhavna Dave gave two lectures on the Central Asian migrants in Russian cities and the transformation of citizenship in Eurasia at a workshop on “The Integration of Migrants, Diasporas in Russian Society” at Irkutsk State University, Russia in May.

Dafydd Fell presented “Measuring and explaining the impact of third parties in Taiwan’s party system” at the Tenth European Association of Taiwan Studies in Lyon, France; and “Taiwan’s Green Party”, “Publishing in Taiwan Studies” and “Implications of Taiwan’s Nuclear Power Station Referendum” at the SOAS Taiwan Studies Summer School.

Doctoral student Priya Kumar presented her exploratory research on Tamil and Palestinian ‘webspace’ at Royal Holloway’s annual Media, War and Conflict conference (April 11-12). The presentation employed a real time ‘surfing’ approach; focusing on questions of virtual narratives, viral videos, and transformative agency.


In May, doctoral student Bala Mohammed Liman attended the “New Research in Nigeria” Workshop and presented a paper titled “Conflict and Identity in Nigeria: The Emerging Culture of Conflict in the Middle Belt area of Northern Nigeria” at the Department of International Development, Oxford University.

In April, Mark Laffey and Jane Hayward (Tsinghua University) presented “What about China? The limits of postcolonialism in international theory” at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco. Also at the ISA, Mark Laffey was an invited participant in the ISA Theory Working Group one day workshop on “Theorizing Hierarchy in Anarchy: Political, Economic and Social Perspectives.”
Mark Laffey visited Kent State University in Kent Ohio in early May to conduct research for a research project with Jutta Welhes (Bristol) on “The Imperial Wound: Memorywork, Foreign Policy and the Shootings at Kent State.”

In May 2013 Politics PhD student, Najia Mukhtar, presented a paper based on her PhD research, at the South Asia by the Bay Annual Graduate conference at Stanford University in California (USA). Her paper explored the theme of love in discourses that are critiquing religious extremism in contemporary Pakistani society.

In May doctoral student Konstantinos Tsimonis gave a presentation on “China, Modernity and Democratization” in Panteion University Athens. In June he attended the China Postgraduate Network in Leicester University, and presented a paper under the title: “Cadre agency and the representation of ‘youth’ in the Chinese political process”.

On 6 February, doctoral student Hagar Taha presented “Providing Aid or Complicating Conflict? Impact of International Organisations on Local Initiatives of Conflict Resolution in Darfur” to the Sudanese Programme at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University. She also presented “Gaining Access while Protecting Interlocutors: Research Ethics in Politically Fragile Contexts” at GSGP Europe Spring Conference, Clare College, Cambridge in March.

Hagar also presented “Constructing Trust and Identifying the Researcher: Accessing Information in the African Context” at the Researching Africa Day at the African Studies Centre, at the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, St. Antony’s College, Oxford.

Fiona Adamson participated in the Presidential Theme Roundtable “Migration and Diffusion” at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in San Francisco in April.

Doctoral student Peter Brett participated in a roundtable at “Teaching Africa in International Studies”, a HEA-sponsored workshop held at Senate House on 17 June. In June, Peter delivered a paper titled “The judicialisation of politics and judicial threat in southern Africa” at the European Conference on African Studies, held in Lisbon.

In late March, doctoral student Sanaa Alimia participated in Yale University’s Annual Modern South Asia Workshop where she presented a comparative paper on “The Theatre of the Check Post in South Asia: Humiliation, Harassment and Resistance: Afghans in Pakistan & Kashmiris in India”. On 12 June, Sanaa presented “The Transnational City in Pakistan Karachi and Peshawar Shared Afghan and Pakistani Spaces” at UCL’s Forced Migration: Global Perspectives and Practices Graduate Conference. In June, Sanaa participated in a two-day conference at the University of Peshawar in association with the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The conference was on the Dynamics of Change in Conflict Societies: Pakistani Region in Perspective, and Sanaa presented “How Identity Cards and Enumeration are Changing Cross-Border Relationships between Afghans and Pakistanis”.

On 27 June, doctoral candidate Margarita Dimova gave a presentation on drug policing dynamics in Kenya at the European Conference on African Studies in Lisbon. She organised and co-chaired the panel on “Drug Trade, Control and Consumption in Africa”, together with leading academics in the field Dr Axel Klein, Dr Gernot Klantschig and Dr Neil Carrier. Earlier that month, on 17 June, Margarita Dimova gave a presentation on ethnographic methodological strategies in challenging research terrains at the “Anthropology in London” conference.

Simona Vittorini and David Harris presented a paper titled “What does development cooperation mean? Perceptions from India and Africa” at Oxford’s Annual South Asia Day.

Simona Vittorini delivered a lecture and acted as panellist for the Indiafrica Shared Future collaborative workshop that was held in Delhi on 4 and 5 April 2013 at the Young India Fellowship Campus and India Habitat Centre http://www.indiafrica.in/PEIndiaCollaborativeWorkshop

In June, doctoral student Gerasimos Tsourapas presented a paper titled “Return Migration in Egypt: Politics, Culture, and Hegemony” at the University of Oslo, Norway.

In June, Arshin Adib-Moghaddam gave a talk at Chatham House as a part of a panel chaired by Lindsey Hilsum of Channel 4 News. He also participated in a panel discussion at SOAS on Akbar Ahmed’s newest book which was chaired by Gavin Esler of the BBC.

Leslie Vinjamuri gave a public lecture and a seminar on the subject “Are Universal Norms Universal” in the Foresight Lecture Series at the Otto Suhr Institute, Free University of Berlin and the Alfred Herrhausen Society.

In April, Leslie Vinjamuri gave a keynote lecture at the Amnesty International Film Festival’s Fifth Annual Symposium on the justice cascade.

Tat Yan Kong gave a presentation titled “The North Korean Political System in Comparative Perspective” at the Engage Korea Conference at Oxford University on 4 May http://www.engagekorea.org/index.html

In February, Salwa Ismail was an invited speaker at the Central European University in Budapest. She gave a talk on Damascus in the Syrian Uprising.

In March, Salwa Ismail gave a presentation on Popular Cairo and the Egyptian Revolution to the newly established Tahrir Society at SOAS

Salwa Ismail presented a paper titled “Revolutionary Alternative to ‘the Failed State’ and ‘Democratic Transition’” at the international conference, Transformations politiques et réenigee religieuse dans le monde arabe, at University of Turin in Italy. In May, Salwa was an invited speaker to the Public Islam Series at the University of Copenhagen. She gave a talk titled, “Revolutionary Activism and Figurations of Public Space in Egypt”. In June, she presented her work on the political economy of
public piety at the workshop on Religion and the Morality of the Market at King’s College, London.

Salwa Ismail also participated in the Annual Syria Studies Conference at St Andrews University held between 17-20 June. Also in June she gave a presentation on religion and subjectivity at the Thinking Across Boundaries workshop organised by the Comparative Political Thought Group in the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS.

In February, Charles Tripp gave a lecture on “Paths of resistance in the Middle East: nonviolence and the emergence of the public” for the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arabic World at the University of Edinburgh. He also took part in a panel discussion at the LSE with Professor Fawaz Gerges and Dr Kristian Coates-Ulrichsen on the Arab Uprisings of 2011-13. Also in February, Professor Tripp gave a seminar on “Islam and the Moral Economy” at the École doctorale Économie, University of the Sorbonne, Paris as part of the seminar series ‘Économies du monde musulman.’

In February, Charles Tripp gave a keynote lecture “Fighting for space: theatres of violence and emerging publics” at the start of the three-day international conference at SOAS on Urban Violence in the Middle East: histories of place and event, organized by the Department of History, SOAS.

In March, Professor Charles Tripp gave a presentation of the main themes of his book The Power and the People: paths of resistance in the Middle East to the Contentious Politics workshop at LSE, and also gave a presentation on aspects of “Political Participation, Pluralism and Citizenship Rights” at the 4th annual conference of the Stanford Program on Arab Reform and Democracy in Tunis.

In June, Charles Tripp gave a presentation on “Art, conflict and collective memory” at the workshop on Art and Memory, organized by the Art and Conflict project at the Royal College of Art. Also in June, he gave a presentation in the panel on “Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the GCC States” at the 11th GCSP/Crown Center/GRC Annual Conference on The Middle East: change and upheaval at Gstaad, Switzerland. He also gave a presentation on “What are they thinking of? Comparing thought in practice” on the panel “Comparison, Texts, Performances” in the Comparative Political Thought workshop Thinking Across Boundaries: comparative political thought in practice held at SOAS.

Carlo Bonura presented an essay titled “The What-has-been and the Now of a Communist Past in Malaya in the films of Amir Muhammad” at the Politics of Storytelling in Island Imperial Formations workshop held at the University of Washington, Seattle, on 10-11 June.

Carlo Bonura will participate in a panel discussion for the UK release of The Act of Killing a film by documentary maker Joshua Oppenheimer on 13 July Little Theatre Cinema in Bath. The film is a controversial attempt to examine the 1965-66 massacres in Indonesia by having some of the perpetrators re-enact their killings.

On 9 March, doctoral student Merve Kutuk presented a paper titled “Passing For Life: Meaning and Management of the Dressed Body in Veiled Women’s Life Narratives in Turkey” at Body Projects: Body Modification and the Female Body Conference, organised by the Centre for Women’s Studies, University of York, UK. Also, in July, Merve participated in a workshop on “Rethinking Gender in Revolutions and Resistance” hosted by the University of Warwick. Based on her ongoing field research in Turkey, she gave a presentation on Muslim women’s subjectivity in the face of masculinist attitudes in Turkish-Islam with a particular focus on body politics in the AKP’s ten years in government.

Sami Everett, final year PhD candidate, delivered a lecture on the postcolonial memory of Jewish people from the Mzab (Algeria) in contemporary Paris for the Francophone studies MA at Portsmouth University in March. Sami also participated and presented at a three day conference on the subject of “Attitudinal change towards Muslims and Jews in France” at SciencesPo, Paris in April.

In February, doctoral student Jeremy Taylor presented “Sino-Japanese relations and the question of energy competition” at the 16th Annual Harvard East Asia Society (HEAS) Graduate Student Conference at Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts.

Emanuelle Degli Esposti, currently completing an MSc in Middle East Politics, presented her research paper “Narrating the Diaspora, Creating the Nation: Discourse, Identity, and the State in the Making of the Iraqi Shi’a Diaspora” at the First Annual Oxford Migration Studies Society (OMSS) Conference on 3 May.

In June 2013, Professor Lawrence Saenz organised an international workshop on the topic of the political economy of energy security. He also chaired a workshop about the results of the general elections in Pakistan at SciencePo Aix. In July 2013, he was the keynote speaker.
Politics & International Studies Newsletter, no. 9

at the conference on rising global powers held at the University of Nottingham.

Julia Strauss gave the following talks: “Frames, Repertoires and Performances: Comparing Campaigns of Regime Consolidation in China and Taiwan, 1949-1954” at Princeton State Building Network workshop at St Johns College, Oxford; “Performances and Realities in Regime Consolidation: Campaigns of Terror in Su’nan and Taiwan, 1950-53” at the East Asian Studies Seminar, at Göttingen University; “Modes of Regime Consolidation in the Early People’s Republic of China: Campaigns, Performances and Institution Creation in Su’nan” at the Confucius Institute, Free University of Berlin. Julia also participated in the annual Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR) at Syracuse University in June.

In March, Phil Clark gave a lecture at the Royal College of Defence Studies on conflict in central Africa; he also gave a presentation on issues of victims and justice in Rwanda at an ESRC-funded workshop at the University of Cambridge titled, “Spaces of Transitional Justice: Law, States, Victims”. In the same month, he gave two lectures at the University of Edinburgh, the first on issues of expertise and methodologies in reporting on mass violence and the second on the politics of the International Criminal Court in the African Great Lakes.

In May, Phil Clark gave a seminar on post-genocide justice and reconciliation in Rwanda at Durham University. Also in May he participated in an expert roundtable on transitional justice in Nepal, hosted by the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

In May, Phil Clark gave a presentation at the University of Oxford on governance, justice and human rights in Uganda in response to a lecture by Norbert Mao, leader of the Democratic Party in Uganda. In June, he gave a presentation on multi-institutional approaches to transitional justice in central Africa at a workshop in Oslo hosted by the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA). He also participated in an expert roundtable on human rights in post-conflict state-building, hosted by the British Academy.

Enze Han is a visiting scholar at Thammasat University, Thailand for the summer 2013, during which he is conducting research on Sino-Southeast Asian Relations.

During the Easter break, Salwa Ismail carried out field research on new forms of political activism in public space in Cairo. She interviewed media activists and citizens engaged in struggles against the demolition of poor city neighbourhoods.

Simona Vittorini went to India for fieldwork in March-April 2013. This project involved interviews in Delhi with Indian parliamentarians, government ministers, Indian industry professionals dealing with or working in Africa, journalists and researchers. This fieldwork was part of a collaborative research project between Dr Vittorini and Dr David Harris on India-Africa relations that aims to analyse the rapidly growing Indian interest and contributing to the scholarship on India-Africa engagements.

Bhavna Dave will be spending 5 months as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies, Chiba, Japan from October 2013 to work on her project on Migrants and “guestworkers” in Kazakhstan and Russia.

In March/April Charles Tripp carried out field research in Tunisia on the ways in which public space has been reclaimed by performances and by artistic interventions. These have drawn on the repertoires of the 14 January Revolution and serve to remind the current provisional administration of the many claims made upon them by a plural public.

Professor Stephen Chan was on leave in Africa for much of the early part of the year, but was consulted in Cape Town by African Central Bank Governors and Chief Investment Officers, and in Marrakech by global...
independent auditing firms, on issues to do with economic diplomacy. He spent time in Zimbabwe with the troika of Western ambassadors (US, UK and Australia) working on electoral issues, and was Visiting Professor at the Zambia Open University. He also found time to do a lot of karate, collapse from malaria, and have a knee operation.

In April, Phil Clark conducted field research in Rwanda and Uganda, completing a project on post-conflict forgiveness, reconciliation and rescue, funded by the Fetzer Institute. As part of the project, a 24-minute radio documentary directed by Clark was broadcast in Luo on Mega FM in northern Uganda in May. Kinyarwanda and English versions of the documentary will be broadcast in Rwanda and internationally later this year.

Professor Lawrence Saez was on research leave at the Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan. There he conducted research on hybrid models of capitalism and the development of a welfare state in Asia. He delivered lectures on this topic at the Academia Sinica and at the University of Nottingham's campus in Ningbo, China. Professor Saez also conducted fieldwork research for a book manuscript at the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Leslie Vinjamuri is participating in three collaborative research projects on the politics of international justice. The first, iCourts, is looking comparatively at the social and political context that shapes international and regional courts and is a joint initiative led by the Centre of Excellence for International Courts, at the University of Copenhagen, Duke University, and Northwestern University. The second initiative, led by the European Council on Foreign Relations, looks at the impact of courts and is a joint initiative led by the University of Cambridge, Duke University, and Northwestern University. The third project, iCourts, is looking comparatively at the social and political context that shapes international and regional courts.

In a third project, with Jack Snyder, she is evaluating recent scholarship, and contemporary practice in international justice.

**Outreach**

MSc Student in African Politics, Ewurasi Brako attended the New York Forum Africa 2013 in Libreville, Gabon. Working alongside SOAS Undergraduate and Postgraduate students and in collaboration with Harvard Business School MBA students she produced background papers ahead of the forum and worked during the 3 day forum to draw up a road map as a guide and spur to action for business and political leaders. The forum was an opportunity to meet and network with business and political leaders in recognition of Africa’s economic achievements and to understand the opportunities. Participants included Cherie Blair, Lord Mandelson and President Ouattara. The forum was organized by Richard Attias and Associates and the Government of Gabon.

On June 27, Sanaa Alimia gave a public lecture at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad regarding the “Future of Afghan” Refugees in Pakistan 2014 and Beyond”. Sanaa’s lecture was attended by various members of the diplomatic community, national media, government officials, and members of the academic community. Her lecture triggered debates in the Pakistani and international media, with articles discussing her calls for a revaluation of the ambiguous status of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Reports on her presentation were published in India’s Sach Times (http://sachtimes.com/?a=content_id&id=8734), Pakistan’s The Nation (http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/28-Jun-2013/govt-urged-to-adopt-amnesty-for-regional-stability) and in Dawn News (http://s.dawn.com/2013/06/28/policies-targeting-afghan-nationals-must-end/)

Matt Nelson was one of two academics invited to participate in a conference in Berlin, sponsored by the British and German Foreign Offices, regarding current political trends in Pakistan (April)

Matt Nelson’s work was featured in a parliamentary debate at the Palace of Westminster concerning UK development assistance for Pakistan (July).

Since March, Phil Clark has been involved in an online debate with Jason Stearns (director of the Rift Valley Institute’s Usalama Project) on the role of human rights groups and international observers during mass conflict. The debate is hosted by King’s College London, Oxford Transitional Justice Research at the University of Oxford, and swisspeace and can be viewed here: http://otjr.csls.ox.ac.uk/index.php/debates/20-test-debate-debating-on-the-website.html

In March, Phil Clark gave a TEDx talk entitled, “Doing Justice and Seeking Forgiveness after African Conflicts”: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOAMDEUv0uc&feature=youtu.be
In April, Phil Clark was an expert witness in the trial of a Rwandan genocide suspect in the Stockholm City Court. In May, he gave an expert briefing to new staff in the Irish Embassy in Uganda.

In May, Phil Clark was quoted in a UK House of Commons report on Rwanda: http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06636.pdf

Also in May, The Africa Report quoted Phil Clark on the challenges facing the ICC in Sudan and Kenya. He was also quoted in The Africa Report in July on the ICC’s slow progress in its African cases: http://www.theafricareport.com/North-Africa/justice-slow-progress-for-african-cases-at-the-icc.html

In April, Charles Tripp visited GCHQ before it could visit him and gave a talk on “The Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings and their implications for the MENA region” to the Middle East section of the organization.

In March, Charles Tripp took part in a panel on ‘The Invasion of Iraq – high and low politics in the run up to war’, together with Dr Loulouwa Rashid, Amir Amirani, Dr Omar Dewachi and Prof Saad Jawad as part of the Red Iraq Festival. In June, he took part in a panel discussion on “Shari’a Law and State Law” with Prof Baroess Haleh Afshar, Dr Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron and Prof Sami Zuhaida organized at SOAS by the Islamic Reformulations project and CIMEI.

In October 2012, Lawrence Saez spoke at the United Nations Geneva to comment on the UN’s universal periodic review of human rights in India. In November 2012, he attended the World Economic Forum’s global agenda council summit in Dubai.

Mehmet Ugur Ekinci has started writing for SETA Foundation (Ankara) on Turkey’s relations with Southeast Europe.

Doctoral student Jeremy Taylor published a Think Africa Press article on the political implications of South Sudan developing an alternative oil pipeline: “Oil politics, Asian Suitors, and Alternative Pipelines in South Sudan” http://thinkafricapress.com/south-sudan-oil-politics-asian-suitors-alternative-pipelines-south-sudan


Peter Brett (3rd year PhD) wrote a review essay, “The New Historiography of Human Rights” for E-IR (http://www.e-ir.info/2013/02/18/review-the-new-historiography-of-human-rights/)

Bhavna Dave commented on Prime Minister David Cameron’s visit to Kazakhstan on Sky News on 1 July.

Dafydd Fell published “The Nuclear Referendum issue in Taiwan” on the University of Nottingham, China Policy Institute blog at http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/chinapolicyinstitute/2013/03/27/the-nuclear-referendum-issue-in-taiwan/

On June 22, Salwa Ismail was a panellist on the BBC World Service’s Weekend Programme.

Doctoral student Khaled Shaalan has published a piece on why the Western media is getting Egypt wrong: http://www.madamast.com/content/why-western-media-are-getting-egypt-wrong

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam’s commentary was published by Al-Arabiya (Dubai), CNBC (USA), Deutsche Welle (Germany), Channel 4 (UK) Global Post (USA), Khabaronline (Iran), Majalla (UK), Mehr News Agency (Iran), Operamundi (Brazil), Tehran Times (Iran) and Die Welt (Germany). His analyses, opinion pieces and interviews were published in Persian by the BBC World Service: http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/world/2013/04/130404_l45_syriran_disaster.shtml

In English by Al-Jazeera: http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/04/2013418105738840937.html

in English and Arabic by the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies: http://studies.aljazeera.com/en/reports/2013/05/20135139554264452.htm and http://studies.aljazeera.com/reports/2013/05/201359113837501211.htm

and in Italian by the Italian Encyclopaedia Institute: http://www.treccani.it/magazine/piazza_enciclopedia_magnazine/geopolitica/L_Iran_di_Rouhani.html?nt=1

In addition he gave a feature length interview to E-IR on his most recent book: A Metahistory of the Clash of Civilizations as part of an ongoing series marking the 20th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Huntington’s “The Clash of Civilizations?” in Foreign Affairs: http://www.e-ir.info/2013/05/07/interview-arshin-adib-moghaddam/
Laleh Khalili published a piece situating the November 2012 General Assembly vote on Palestine on the History Workshop blog: http://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/mr-abbas-goes-to-new-york

In April, the RwandanStories blog published a series of video interviews with him on the International Criminal Court in Africa (http://facultimedia.com/tag/phil-clark/)

In May, Phil Clark was interviewed by Deutsche Welle on the latest escalation of violence in eastern DR Congo, which coincided with the visit to Congo of the UN Secretary-General and President of the World Bank: http://www.dw.de/un-seeks-to-restore-credibility-in-drc/a-16832288 and he was quoted in The Observer in Uganda regarding the International Criminal Court in Africa and the prospects of political transition in Uganda: http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25459:mao-slams-icc-double-standards&catid=34:news&Itemid=114

In June, Phil Clark published a blog piece on the Fetzer Institute website on issues of forgiveness, reconciliation and rescue in Rwanda and Uganda: http://www.fetzer.org/blog_complexity-forgiveness-and-reconciliation-central-africa

In July, Phil Clark was interviewed by Monocle24 about Kevin Rudd’s ousting of Julia Gillard as prime minister in Australia and the Labor Party’s chances at the federal election in September: http://monocle.dl.groovygecko.com/m24/12200063.mp3 (12:40)


In addition, Sasan was quoted by Al-Arabiya English, and Metro Montreal (in French). He was also interviewed on ABC’s Newsline programme, and on Monocle 24 Radio.


Doctoral student Seyed Ali Alavi was interviewed by Radio Voice of Russia, UK edition in May 2013 on Iran’s elections and the disqualification of Ahmadinejad’s ally: http://english.ruvr.ru/2013_05_23/Experts-speak-on-Iran-s-elections-disqualification-of-Ahmadienjad-s-ally-070/Ali also participated in an interview with Radio Voice of Russia on Iraq 10 years on: http://ruvr.co.uk/2013_02_20/Iraq-10-years-on/

While based in Greater Cairo, doctoral student James Sunday has frequently provided comment for media both in Egypt and abroad, most recently in USA Today.
regarding the 30 June Tamarud (“Rebel”) campaign which is calling for early presidential elections:  
Professor Charles Tripp has written a piece about “Resistance within Resistance” for Jadaliyya:  
http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/10812/resistance

Events

Comparative Political Thought Inaugural Workshop

On Friday, 14 June the Comparative Political Thought Research Group organized a one-day workshop on Thinking Across Boundaries: comparative political thought in practice. It brought together colleagues from the universities of California-Riverside, Leiden, Notre Dame, Oxford, Nottingham, Sussex, Westminster, UCL, LSE and SOAS itself to discuss key questions relating to the methodologies appropriate to the definition of this emerging field. The workshop sessions examined issues arising from comparisons across space and across time, as well as approaches that focused on subjectivity, on texts and on performance in order to better understand what it means to think politically.

On Thursday, 13 June the workshop had been preceded by a public lecture by one of the key figures in the initial development of the field of comparative political theory, Professor Fred Dallmayr of Notre Dame University who spoke on “Brave New Horizons: Why Comparative Political Theory Now?” The session was chaired by Lord Bhikhu Parekh of the University of Westminster.

Annual Politics and International Studies MPhil Conference

The 2013 annual MPhil student conference “Under Construction: Trajectories of the Political” was held on 5 June 2013, and showcased the broad range of disciplinary approaches to studying politics at SOAS. The Organizing committee consisted of Gerassimos Tsourapas, António Raissie, Ed Marques, Eddie Walsh and Sruthi Muraleedharan. Featuring the work of first-year students it aimed to deconstruct dominant paradigms, methodologically and thematically, in researching the politics of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The panels were on the following themes: state-society relations, rethinking subjectivity, regional power dynamics, non-traditional security threats, transitional justice and visions of democracy.

By contextualizing the theme of “Under Construction: Trajectories of the Political” with the larger purpose of research and the role of researcher in the discipline of politics, Dr Fiona Adamson inaugurated the conference. The panels were chaired by colleagues from within the department; while the audience included postgraduate students, senior PhD students, and Departmental staff members, who all made the Q&A sessions after each panel a very interesting and thought provoking exercise for the participants. The day-long conference concluded with the closing remarks by our research tutor Dr. Matt Nelson outlining the major conceptual themes that emerged from the deliberations.

An annual departmental event, the conference allows first year students to further develop and map the trajectories of their various research projects.

Centre for Taiwan Studies Workshops and Summer Schools

On Monday 17 June Dafydd Fell hosted a special workshop for SOAS students and a delegation of students from National Sun Yat Sen University. The programme involved joint content analysis of Taiwanese election advertising.

Between 19 and 21 June, Dr Fell and Monique Chu ran the Seventh Centre of Taiwan Studies Summer School. This year’s topics included Environmental Politics, Taiwanese in China, Judicial Politics, Marriage Migration, Fieldwork, Publishing in Taiwan Studies, Maritime Disputes. A highlight of the sessions was a screening of the documentary Gongliao How are you? followed by a Q&A with the film’s director Tsui Shu-hsin. As in previous years postgraduate students from the Politics Department presented on their research projects. These were: Elena Korshenko (“Comparing small parties in recent Japanese and Taiwanese elections”); Ifigeneia Kourou “Comparing the effects of electoral system reform in Japan and Taiwan”; and Chen Yi-fu (“The impact of the PRC on Taiwan’s media”).
Films

Lina Shaikhouni, MSc Middle East Politics student, organized a screening and discussion of the film *Syria through a lens: the life and works of Syrian film-maker Bassel Shehadeh* (Bassel was killed in May 2012 in Homs). http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/10283/london-event_syria-through-a-lens-screening-(28-fe

Southeast Asian Regional Security Workshop

On 7 June, SOAS’s Department of Politics and International Studies organized a workshop on Southeast Asian Regional Security in the Context of Sino-US Rivalry.

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Notices

MSc Politics of Conflict, Rights & Justice

Duration: Full Time: 1 Year, Part Time: 2-3 Years

The programme is designed for Masters students who are interested in the politics of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice especially in conflict and post-conflict states. It is also highly relevant to anyone working or intending to work in international NGOs, international organizations, think tanks and advocacy groups in the areas of rights, humanitarian assistance and transitional justice. It also looks more broadly at the future of global human rights in a world where, many claim, the influence of the West is declining and asks critical questions about the legitimacy and effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms and humanitarian intervention.

For more information, including on how to apply, see http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/msc-conflict-rights-justice/

MRes in Politics with Language

Duration: Two calendar years (full-time).

The MRes Politics with Language is a two-year degree programme designed to prepare students for further research, particularly PhD research, in politics with an area specialism. It allows students to combine the study of politics with advanced methodological training in the social sciences and extensive study in an African/Asian/Middle Eastern language. As such, the programme provides two years of intensive language study at SOAS (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Swahili, etc.) along with two years of high-level social science methodology training at neighbouring Birkbeck College. Applicants are also invited to apply for ESRC funding to support a 2+3 programme of MRes/PhD study.

For more information, including on how to apply, see http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mrespolitics

MSc in Comparative Political Thought

Duration: Full Time: 1 Year, Part Time: 2-3 Years

The programme is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the diverse strands of political thinking in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and the different approaches to comparison in political thought. It is highly relevant to students who wish to embark on doctoral studies in the area of non-Western political thought. It is also relevant for practitioners working in or intending to work in governments, international organizations, think tanks and advocacy groups who wish to acquire deeper knowledge of ideas and values that inform political practices in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

For more information, including on how to apply, see http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mse-comparative-political-thought/
Dr Steve Heder is scheduled to testify this July as a witness for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts (ECCC) of Cambodia. The political scientist has been summoned by the ECCC Trial Chamber as an academic and author to provide evidence in the cases of two persons, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, indicted as senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 under the supreme leadership of the late Pol Pot. The indictment accuses Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan of responsibility for genocide, other crimes against humanity and war crimes. Dr Heder taught Southeast Asian politics at the School between 1997 and 2012. His research interests include authoritarianism, nationalism and racism, democratisation and civil society, and state and other political violence. The scholar is author of a number of books and articles about the Khmer Rouge researched and published since he joined the School, some of which have been entered into evidence in the cases about which he is to testify. His books include Seven Candidates for Prosecution: Accountability for the Crimes of the Khmer Rouge and Cambodian Communism and the Vietnamese Model. Volume 1. Imitation and Independence, 1930-1975. Dr Heder also worked for the United Nations between 2006 and 2011 to assist the ECCC trials and was previously a journalist in China, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Taiwan for Time Magazine, Newsweek, and NBC News. He is the co-editor of a volume, Propaganda, Politics, and Violence in Cambodia.

Are you a graduating Politics student? Let us know what you will be doing after graduation. Email Laleh Khalili at lk4@soas.ac.uk!