

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

Welcome to the Oxford Human Rights Festival 2023. This year's festival theme selected by our students is 'Now What?'. The theme reflects a range of emotions: impatience with the pace of justice to those who have suffered human rights abuses, optimism, with a call for solidarities to the human rights defenders around the world, provocation to think about a better future and to work to reduce inequalities and affirming the dignity of every person. I invite you to join the number of events symbolising this theme through exhibitions, art, films, talks, seminar, musical band among other activities. The festival is led by student steering committee involving CENDEP students, architecture, arts and film studies students, under the coordination of Jaqueline Kearney, also an alumni of our MA Development and Emergency Practice. This year, we also have the renowned Ukrainian architect Slava Balbek to give the Annual Nabeel Hamid lecture at the opening of the Human Rights Festival. His talk will speak about his bureau's social initiatives in these war times in Ukraine.

CENDEP is currently involved in a number of research projects, all seeking to further well being, opportunities for the marginalised sections including better policies for older refugees in UK; employment and voice to young women in Sierra Leone; urban food security in conflict ridden areas exploring humanitarian- development nexus. CENDEP has a schedule of exciting events organised in the coming months, chief among them the Disaster Risk Reduction Pioneer's Summer school in July. With seats limited, do book soon.

Supriya Akerkar
CENDEP Director



NOW WHAT?

17th - 26th March 2023



@OxHRF

oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net

Oxford Human Rights Festival

The Oxford Human Rights Festival is back for its 21st installment, and we are excited to announce this year's theme: NOW WHAT? This guiding question arose from reflections on the state of human rights today, and the power of the arts and of public events to not only raise awareness, but also to promote engagement and to catalyse action. This question aims to implicate all of us, asking us to reflect on the lessons learned from the history of human rights and to question what does the future of human rights hold?

Over the past 20 years this festival has shed light on the importance of human rights globally through varied programmes of films, performances, talks, and exhibitions, and this year is no exception. This year's inaugural Nabeel Hamdi lecture will be given by Slava Balbek, a Ukrainian architect who has been fighting the demolition of historic buildings, preparing rescue kits and creating an emergency housing plan within just 10 days of the conflict in Ukraine starting. We will also be screening 'Hostile' the award winning documentary focusing on the UK's complicated relationship with its migrant communities, including a Q&A with director Sonita Gale. Another event promising to be a highlight is our evening of discussion, music and mingling inspired by the Women, Life, Freedom revolution in Iran.

We warmly invite you to join us for these events and many more between the 17th - 26th March. See oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net and our social media channels for the full programme.

CENDEP piloting a new module on Resilience, wellbeing and mental health support in crisis settings

The nature of humanitarian work is demanding and the aim of the module is to prepare students mentally and emotionally for their work in crisis settings.

The module is run by the Associate Lecturer Martina Adamcikova who has invited experts in the field to share their expertise. Students have an opportunity to learn about the latest research on mental health, psychosocial first aid skills and explore how to deal with stress, trauma and critical incidents. They also look at a practice of mindfulness, compassion and self-care.

Contact: Martina Adamcikova (Lecturer)
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"I would like to emphasize the importance of this module. The topics that are discussed are very relevant but still ignored in the field. Aid workers are not trained to deal with situations that affect them. Having this course is essential and will help the professionals. I totally endorse it!"

(CENDEP student)

Effects of Externalisation (EFFEXTS)

As reflected in many of the news stories we hear today, Europe is increasingly strengthening its borders and shifting the management of migration to external partner countries. In the EFFEXT project, we seek to understand how these agreements are shaped by partner countries, and the impacts of such policies on the lives of potential migrants.

In December, I travelled to Amman, Jordan to interview policy makers and non-governmental representatives in order to hear their perspectives on migration issues in Jordan, up to date information on how policies are being implemented, and reflections on the role of the EU. Before returning to the UK, I participated in a 2-day workshop hosted by the Issam Fares Institute (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), along with EFFEXT colleagues and regional stakeholders. It was helpful to learn from the different experiences across the project countries, and think about our next steps together.

Contact: Zoe Jordan, Senior Lecturer
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News from MA DEP

Students completing their Masters in January 2023 submitted their dissertations. Tanya Haldipur graduating with Distinction wrote a remarkable dissertation titled 'In the name of sustainability: An indigenous rights-based critique of the current sustainable development discourse' Her dissertation made a critical knowledge contribution to the climate change and sustainable development discourse from the perspective of Sami indigenous people whose livelihoods are under a threat.

Contact person: Supriya Akerkar, Director of CENDEP
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20 years! Seems like a very short time.

My ambition, as an architecture student, was to build houses for everyone who didn't have a decent place to live. After my graduation, I tried that by doing participatory action research in Bangladesh, in parallel to serving the corporate clients to sustain myself professionally and financially. I also got inspired reading books written by Nabeel Hamdi, Paul Oliver and Ian Davis, who happened to be teaching at Oxford Brookes, then. So, I came to CENDEP, 20 years ago, to know more on how I can fulfil my ambition.

CENDEP surely helped me to spread my wings, to explore uncharted territories. I learned more than what I expected to learn. I learned about the humanitarian world, and all the wicked side of the world which I didn't know much as an architecture student. I felt overwhelmed. So, did my classmates, who were there to help me out. We all learned to work together in cross-cultural and cross disciplinary teams. This helped me to decide what to do next.

After CENDEP, I decided to turn my ambition from becoming an architect to becoming someone useful! I became a community development worker, an aid-worker, a UN official, a consultant, a civil servant over the past twenty years.

Finally, I have now landed back in CENDEP, to teach and to give back what I've learnt. It feels like the past 20 years went very fast as it's been an eventful journey. It is great to be back now and to look forward, as I am now teaching about cities at risk, climate change, COVID-19 and trying to imagine what our future will look like beyond the next 20 years. As 20 year is a very short time, in terms of how the world is changing.

Contact person: Rumana Kabir, Senior Lecturer
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Image by Rumana Kabir

Meet a Student:

Emma Weinstein Sheffield, MA DEP alumnus (2018)

After providing humanitarian assistance in Calais; 'Jungle', studying at CENDEP felt like a natural step to gain deeper knowledge and challenge my understanding of global crises and humanitarian relief. The MA provided me with technical tools as well as theoretical understanding of current and past global issues.



Its multi-disciplinary focus allowed me to explore a variety of interests such as human rights, shelter and forced migration.

Since graduating, I have continued to bridge policy and practice to address issues within the development and humanitarian sectors. At RefuAid, I supported refugees navigate immigration policies and build lives in the UK and whilst working in CARE UK's emergency shelter team, I published research on protection, the concept of home, mental and physical health in humanitarian settings and guidance on shelter self-recovery.

Currently, I work as a Welfare and Immigration Advisor within international development and education, supporting international students through the Chevening scholarship programme. I am forever grateful to CENDEP for connecting me with incredible peers and staff and for helping me tackle global challenges through a human-centred lens.



Kitchen Garden in Nakivale Refugee Camp (Uganda) with thanks to yiceug.org

Can Spices Provide Essential Minerals for Refugee Communities in East Africa?

Micronutrient deficiency is an enormous problem in refugee settings. Transforming refugees' food systems through the scaling up of kitchen gardening and fortifying relief food with nutrient-dense spices can help improve the nutritional quality of staple foods.

Globally, spices are indispensable in the daily diet and play an important role in the socio-cultural setting of different communities. In new research by a group of academics, including Re-Alliance mentor Andrew Adam Bradford, forty turmeric and curry powder samples were collected from markets in East Africa to assess the potential of spices for providing micronutrients. The samples were analysed to determine the levels of micronutrients including potassium (K), calcium (Ca), zinc (Zn) and strontium (Sr).

The study aimed to determine if a small portion of spices of between 4 and 5 grams would contribute to an adequate intake (AI) or recommended dietary allowance (RDA) for selected minerals. The results showed a range of contributions of turmeric and curry powder to AI/RDA for Potassium, Calcium and Zinc of between 0.48 and 4.13% while turmeric was identified to contribute more than 20% AI/RDA for manganese (Mn) and iron (Fe).

The report suggests that turmeric and curry powder from East Africa are good, low cost sources of minerals and that turmeric in particular should be more widely popularised and recommended as a contribution to nutrition in refugee populations.

Access to the full report available at <https://www.re-alliance.org/post/can-spices-provide-essential-minerals-for-refugee-communities-in-east-africa>

Mary Mallett

Mary is the Operations Manager at Re-Alliance and manages the eco-san toilets project being piloted in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in western Uganda. CENDEP staff contribute to the sanitation project with Andrew Adam-Bradford taking the role as technical mentor.

Contact: Andrew Adam-Bradford, Senior Lecturer
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Shelter and Settlements Review with CARE International

CENDEP is working with CARE International UK (CIUK) to conduct a review of Shelter and Settlements (S&S) programming in three contrasting settings: the complex, conflict-related context of Afghanistan; the rapid onset devastation of the 2015 Nepal earthquakes; and the effect of Cyclone Haiyan/Yolanda in 2013 on coastal regions of the Philippines, particularly Tacloban. The project, which started in October 2022 and runs until March 2024, will document and learn from the challenges and successes of humanitarian S&S responses. The review will document what happened, why it happened the way it did, and the S&S programming's short- and longer-term consequences. CENDEP's Charles Parrack and Sue Webb, and Fiona Kelling (a CENDEP alumna), along with consultants and members of CIUK's Shelter Team (including CENDEP associate lecturer Bill Flinn), will be working closely together on this research project. It will be a rare opportunity to explore the long term impacts and outcomes of humanitarian S&S programming and will feed into ongoing research interests around the wider impacts of humanitarian sheltering and shelter self-recovery. The research methodology comprises initial documentation review followed by remote and in-person interviews and fieldwork in Nepal and the Philippines.

Contact: Sue Webb, Postgraduate Researcher
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Other News and Events

The School of Architecture and CENDEP will be hosting the Eighteenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences on the 19th to the 21st of July this year. The theme of this conference is Agency in an Era of Displacement and Social Change, and examines issues around agency and will focus on people having a voice in their own futures and leveraging this to build a better future. We have an exciting schedule of Plenary Speakers as well as a wonderful programme of presentations throughout the three days of the conference. For further information, please see the conference website at:

<https://thesocialsciences.com/2023-conference>

CENDEP and CIUK have released the report Working Together, the proceedings of the shelter and settlements, WASH and MHPSS Learning Event held online in September 2022. The aim of the event was to explore how humanitarian actors can work together more effectively to achieve common goals of holistic and healthy recovery from humanitarian crises. There was an abundance of learning and one important lesson stands out: it is to embrace the opportunity to "do different things and to do routine things differently". Our collective challenge is to work with communities towards the well-being of people recovering from the trauma of losing their homes. By working together, and by being greater than the sum of our siloed parts, we will be better able to achieve that objective.

Working Together is available at

<https://sheltercluster.org/recovery-community-practice/documents/221220working-together-report>

NOW WHAT?



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Write for CENDEP blog and newsletter

Email your contributions to cendep@brookes.ac.uk
Please mention the year you studied at CENDEP and the course you have completed. Feel free to write to us in case you would like to first discuss a relevant topic for publication. <http://cendep.blogspot.com/>

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