

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

The call for new insights into the interlinked needs for development and emergency assistance is currently at a peak. Perpetual crises and protracted displacement require new answers and the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice is working in various projects where bridging and linking relief and development in protracted long-term crises is at its core.

We work closely with organisations to develop efficient mechanisms for emergency practice in conflict and disaster settings, but more and more of our work shows that it is not enough to provide emergency assistance when crises last for years. In such cases, assistance must be meaningful for the day to day lives of people, and at the same time contribute to developing lives and secure a future. With the new academic year and a new batch of students for our Masters programmes in DEP and HAP, we are looking forward to continue in furthering these ideas through teaching and research. Welcome to all our new students that are joining us this September!

The summer has been busy with planning of a number of activities and some highlights include the launch of the Disability Hub in collaboration with the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University in Beirut; our annual Nabeel Hamdi lecture in October for which Marwa al-Sabouni, the Syrian architect will be the speaker; the Human Rights Festival in March; and the follow up of our Localisation of humanitarian assistance work in the Central African Republic. Read more about this and other activities in the newsletter.

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Student Profile: Conrad Opoka (MA DEP alumni)
- 'Mission for Justice', new book by Richard Carver
- Localisation workshop, CAR
- Launching of the Disability Hub, MENA region
- Upcoming annual Nabeel Hamdi Lecture
- Human Rights Festival 2019
- Jordan field trip for PhD Research
- Meet our staff and students
- Support our CENDEP Appeal
- Other news and events

Refugees as City-Makers: CENDEP- participation in a panel debate

CENDEP's Cathrine Brun participated in a panel debate at the American University of Beirut (AUB) to launch a new report titled 'Refugees as City-Makers' edited by Mona Fawaz, Ahmad Gharbieh, Mona Harb and Dounia Salamé at AUB. The innovative report and projects approach forced migration through a lens of individual and collective agency, focusing on the transformative impact that refugees have on urban space as home-makers, city navigators, political subjects and urban producers.

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

Have you seen the CENDEP blog?

Find information and insights about our research on development and emergency practice, teaching activities and latest news by CENDEP students, staff and associates, at

<http://cendep.blogspot.co.uk/>

Visiting faculty at Arba Minch University, Ethiopia

Richard Carver travelled to Ethiopia in June as visiting professor of international human rights law at Arba Minch University. He helped the law school at Arba Minch, in the south of the country, to develop two new Masters programmes in human rights and taught a module on vulnerability, equality, and non-discrimination. He is now supervising a number of student dissertations.

This is intended as a first step in a more systematic collaboration between Arba Minch and Oxford Brookes. The development of new human rights programmes is symptomatic of a general and rapid expansion in Ethiopia's universities, which has so far outpaced the capacity of local academics to deliver the required teaching. Academic staff at Arba Minch need both Masters and doctoral qualifications to be able to run postgraduate programmes and the aim is for Brookes to help them achieve this.



Richard Carver with Professor Sam Ponniah (left) and Arba Minch students

Jordan field trip for PhD

With support from an ISA Charity Travel Award, I'm returning to Amman, Jordan to continue my PhD research. I'm excited to return and to catch up with friends and colleagues— hopefully over a cold lemon-mint juice! I'll continue my research into how humanitarian actors can better support refugee host families in long-term urban displacement. I'll be spending more time with Sudanese men, learning about their feelings on hosting relationships. I'll be speaking to NGO representatives about their work in the city, and ways they can support host families. For more information, go to the CENDEP blog or Twitter @ZoeJordan90

Zoe Jordan

News from MA HAP

We are happy to welcome our new cohort starting this September. As for the previous intake we will benefit from a wealth of experiences of students from various background and experiences working for NGOs, UN agencies or the International Committee of the Red Cross. The previous cohort is now starting work-based dissertations aiming at enhancing humanitarian and peacebuilding knowledge as well as improving practices.

Contact person: **Brigitte Piquard**
bpiquard@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA DEP

It is time to welcome our new DEP cohort this September. Our outgoing students have paid tribute to the DEP course. Harry Tuke, an outgoing architect with DEP specialisation, says: 'I enjoyed the course as it gave an incredible insight and delved into the issues of development and humanitarianism. The tutors are very supportive and have a good relationship with us'. The faculty members cherish their time with this outgoing group, and will be connected with them through social media, LinkedIn and through our ever-growing alumni network. We wish them all the success in times to come.

We are joined this year by new faculty who bring specialist insights: Lucy Heaven Taylor will bring rich experience in organisational planning and safeguards against sexual exploitation; Dr Anita Fabos and Zoe Jordan will bring insights from refugee studies in urban and protracted conflict contexts. We welcome them.

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**
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Oxford Human Rights Festival 2019 - join our team!

In 2003, MA DEP students founded the Oxford Human Rights Festival with the aim of raising awareness of human rights issues. Since then the Festival has seen many fascinating and informative films, performances, talks, workshops, and exhibitions, as well as famous faces. In 2017, Ken Loach opened the Festival with a screening of his highly acclaimed film 'I, Daniel Blake' and in 2016 Ziauddin Yousafzai, father of equal education activist Malala Yousafzai, spoke at our screening of their film 'He Named Me Malala'.

This year's theme is **ACTIVISM** and we will explore this to show how people fight for issues in the UK and around the world. The Festival is curated and led by students, we start planning at the beginning of Semester One, and it takes place 11-15 March 2019.

If you're interested in getting involved:

Email: OxHRF@brookes.ac.uk

Follow us on: Instagram and Twitter @OxHRF

facebook.com/oxfordhumanrightsfestival

www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net

Meet a Student:

Conrad Oroma Opoka, CENDEP Alumni

I work with UNHCR- the UN Refugee Agency Sub Office, Pakele in Adjumani District, Uganda, serving in a National Professional Officer capacity as Assistant Programme Officer. The operation provides assistance to people who have been forced to flee their homes mainly in South Sudan due to violence and persecution. We respond to over 450,000 South Sudanese refugees in 20 settlements with life-saving support, safeguarding fundamental human rights and building better futures.

Joining the MA as a practitioner allowed me to take a step back, reflect and gain a deeper understanding of our actions and impact as humanitarian and development workers. Providing a unique academic setting coupled with the expertise of lecturers and students, I was able to get a global perspective especially on best practices in different contexts including disasters and emerging policy issues that were new to me.

I was a Programme Associate with UNHCR when I joined CENDEP, and in less than a year after completion, I was able to move to the APO role. The MA DEP has not only given me a complete edge amongst my peers and colleagues, but also a lot to share for our response.

Launching the Disability Hub

CENDEP and the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University are proud to announce the launch of the new Disability Hub. The main objective of the Hub is to establish a research and advocacy group to advance the field of disability studies in the Middle East / MENA region.

The hub aims to achieve the following:

- o Contribute to knowledge production on disability studies through research.
- o Create a knowledge hub on disability issues to rethink existing approaches including the discourse on disability including practice and policy
- o Analyse discourses, practice, and policy on disability
- o Offer a strong informed voice that can inform the disability agenda in the region

CENDEP has been to Beirut to launch the Hub with the CLS. Following a public consultation, we held workshops with stakeholders and potential partners. Within this initiative, we are also offering a fully funded PhD position on the topic on Disability and Participation in the Lebanese refugee crisis.

More information:

<http://www.lebanesestudies.com/programs/disability-hub/>

Localisation of humanitarian assistance work in the Central African Republic

As part of our on-going action research and capacity strengthening efforts, CENDEP and Caritas Centrafrique organised a workshop in Oxford on June 25, 2018 on 'Transferring & Valuing Local Humanitarian Knowledge'. The aims were to provide reflections on the importance of national staff's specific knowledge within protracted conflict settings and to discuss how the humanitarian community can better identify, collect, harness and disseminate tacit knowledge for more contextualised and truly localised humanitarian response. 36 participants representing UK NGOs, think tanks, Caritas national branches, local cluster representatives, national staff of Caritas Centrafrique, academics and students met to discuss this vibrant topic.

Amongst other conclusions, the need for platforms for information and knowledge sharing and transfer of both international best practices and national expertise was highlighted. This could lead to new leadership roles for national NGOs, both in technical or coordination forums and consortiums. Following this idea, some decisions and activities have been planned including organising a similar workshop at Bangui in November; the systematic integration of an action-research component for projects; and increase in training opportunities to other Central African national NGOs with Caritas Centrafrique.

The full report is available at

https://charter4change.files.wordpress.com/2018/07/transferring-valuing-local-humanitarian-knowledge_report.pdf

Brigitte Piquard,
Reader

Localisation workshop at Oxford



Publications

Mission for Justice

My new book 'Mission for Justice' was launched in New York in April. It is a history of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), published to mark that organisation's fortieth anniversary.

While the book was commissioned as an official history, and is based upon unprecedented access to the IOI's archives, it is highly critical of several episodes in the institution's past. The book exposes a previously unreported corruption scandal from the 1980s and the sometimes-acrimonious internal debates on the direction of the organisation. It is critical of the lack of diversity in the IOI's leadership throughout much of its history, although this partly reflects the white, male dominance of the ombudsman institutions that constitute the IOI's membership.

The book describes how the IOI has ultimately realised the vision of its founder, US lawyer Bernard Frank, who held the unusual view in the 1960s and 1970s that the ombudsman should be seen as a human rights institution. This view was not shared by many throughout the IOI's history, but is now central to the organisation's mission. This is particularly important today, when ombudsman bodies are under increased attack from authoritarian governments.

Richard Carver
Senior Lecturer

Other news and events:

The annual Nabeel Hamdi lecture will take place on the 30th October 2018 at 18.30. Marwa al-Sabouni, the Syrian architect based in Homs, will be the speaker. Marwa is the author of 'A Battle for home: The Memoir of a Syrian Architect'. The talk will feature 'The role of architecture in conflict: Reflections from Syria'. The lecture is held in collaboration with the Human Rights Festival.

Leave no one behind: young people with disabilities as agents for change. CENDEP is currently in the process of appointing a doctoral candidate to study young people with disabilities as agents for change in the context of the refugee crisis in Lebanon. The Scholarship is fully funded by Oxford Brookes University's Global Challenges Funds and in close collaboration with the Centre for Lebanese Studies in Beirut.

Work in Progress: In October and November, CENDEP will organise weekly Work in Progress seminars where staff, students and friends of CENDEP will present and discuss on-going work. The seminars will take place on Thursdays from 16.30 onwards. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for details of the programme and venue.

Meet our staff

- Supriya Akerkar, *Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Jeni Burnell, *Research Associate*
- Cathrine Brun, *CENDEP Director*
- Richard Carver, *Senior Lecturer*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Anita H Fabos, *Associate Lecturer*
- Simon Fisher, *Associate Lecturer*
- Bill Flinn, *Associate Lecturer*
- Nabeel Hamdi, *Emeritus Professor*
- Lisa Handley, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Louise Harris, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Zoe Jordan, *Associate Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- Anna Lindley, *Visiting Fellow*
- Aparna Maladkar, *Research Assistant*
- Charles Parrack, *Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster*
- Brigitte Piquard, *Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict*
- Hugo Slim, *Visiting Professor*
- Lucy Heaven Taylor, *Associate Lecturer*
- Caroline Tindale, *Programme Administrator*

Meet our PhD students

- Elisa Ferrato
- Fatima Hashmi
- Zoe Jordan
- Salem Al Qudwa
- Aleyda Valdes
- Adi Walker

CENDEP Appeal

Support CENDEP alumni and students through one time or monthly donations to start a life-long career that will bring long-term, exponential benefits to communities facing hardships worldwide. Your gift will make a meaningful difference to scholarships, field visits and research, empowering communities that require assistance to building resilience, autonomy and security.

More information at:

<https://www.brookesalumni.co.uk/support-us/brookes-alumni-fund/CENDEP/cendep-appeal>

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