

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

As every year, the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice is organising the 20th Oxford Human Rights Festival from 11-20th March 2022. The theme for this year's festival is **'Movement'** signifying the global changes in the movement of the people with displacements due to conflicts and wars, climate change and disasters, accompanied with resource scarcity and security issues. The festival celebrates the human spirit of people affected by these events by giving solidarity and voice to them.

We start the festival with the inaugural Nabeel Hamdi Public Lecture to be delivered by Yasmeen Lari, the alumni of the School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, and the first female architect in Pakistan. Throughout the festival, CENDEP students and staff in collaboration with students and staff across the School of Architecture, social sciences, films, OxArch and marketing have organised talks, walks, theatre, films exhibitions that highlight current injustices and voices of the people on move. We also welcome our other supporters from Oxford city.

Congratulations to Dr Richard Carver, who has now joined CENDEP as its Visiting Research Fellow after his retirement in January 2022. Congratulations are also due to CENDEP staff Dr Brigitte Piquard, Sue Webb, Charles Parrack, Dr Zoe Jordan and Prof Cathrine Brun for successfully completing their research projects this year despite Covid19 challenges.

Supriya Akerkar
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- 20th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2022
- Student Profile: Leah Wainaina, MA DEP
- Post-flood self-recovery in Malawi
- From Education to Employment? End of project report
- Education to Employment Seminar
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- Latest news from MA DEP
- Meet our staff and student

Alaa, a young woman from Amman, Jordan, draws her 'River of Life', explaining key events in her personal, educational, and work histories (part of Education to Employment? project)



Write for CENDEP blog and newsletter

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

20th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2022

The 20th Oxford Human Rights Festival launches this year on 11 March with the **Nabeel Hamdi lecture**. Our opening hybrid event (in-person and online) will be a lecture and discussion led by the award winning architect, Pakistan's first female architect and alumna of Oxford Brookes University, **Yasmeen Lari**. She will be staying with us for a week and engaging with students and staff throughout her stay.

Exploring the theme of movement the festival offers a broad range of events that have been brought together by post graduates from CENDEP, Architecture, Film and the Art School. We are excited to host a virtual reality experience of an award-winning, non-fiction transmedia series called '**Queer in the time of forced migration**' and welcome the public to experience the voices of **Actors for Human Rights** who will be delivering a workshop and performance in the Brookes Forum.

This year our exhibitions include an installation by **Hip Hap Collective** called '**Murmurations**' and '**Conflict textiles**'. Murmurations display origami butterflies across the walls of the Oxford Country Library in the Westgate - a reminder to the right to education in times of forced migration and displacement. We also have exhibitions at Brookes on Yasmeen Lari's work, **Tap Social** displays the story of the Vanamare Tribe, and **Common Ground** hosts photography focusing on water accessibility. An accompanying walk will start from Brookes and end up at the exhibition.



We encourage you to support our 20th year. Places are limited so please visit our website to register and share with friends and colleagues.

<https://www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net/book-tickets.html>.

News from MA DEP

We would like to congratulate our students for their excellent organisation of the Oxford Human Rights Festival, working closely with persons across university and outside. A word of thanks to them also for their forbearance in keeping up with excellent studies despite Covid19 challenges. As passionate believers of social justice agenda, they bring in a particular flavour to the School of Architecture and the university, in general, through their course work projects, which are aligned with rethinking development and humanitarian discourses and practices for a better world.

Students' projects include areas of gender equalities, diversities and inclusion, conflict transformations, disaster resilience and recovery, human rights and refugees, among others. Students of various nationalities work individually and together on these projects and develop their collaborative and interdisciplinary working skills. We are proud to highlight the diversity of our student culture who belong to various nationalities.

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**
sakerkar@brookes.ac.uk

Post-flood self-recovery, Malawi

To continue building research relationships made during the Self-recovery from Humanitarian Crisis project, CENDEP's Sue Webb visited Malawi in February. Cyclone Ana hit Malawi in January, causing significant flooding and damage to homes. The work with CARE Malawi involved developing their evolving shelter strategy, which will incorporate a self-recovery approach, and supporting Catholic Relief Services who are developing a curriculum for artisan builders. Currently, one of the barriers to self-recovery is seen as a lack of technical skills and knowledge of environmentally sustainable materials. The curriculum will include low-cost housing designs that will allow post-disaster housing to be both safer and healthier.



Aftermath of Cyclone Ana in Chikwawa, Southern Malawi

Meet a Student:

Leah Wainaina, MA DEP alumna (2018-19)

As a Commonwealth Scholar, I was lucky enough to be supported to undertake the MA DEP course. Prior to joining the programme, I had very minimal experience in the humanitarian sector and was keen to expand my knowledge to better understand the workings of the sector and progress my career as an aid worker. Joining the GENDEP programme allowed me to build on my knowledge and skills as a humanitarian by creating an interface between the world of academia and practice that continuously shape the way I navigate the humanitarian landscape to date.

My experience at Brookes was amazing. The people there were warm, friendly, inclusive and welcoming. The lecturers were very engaging and supportive, I really enjoyed the thought-provoking sessions and real time examples and scenarios including the field trip to Lebanon, that helped me to better understand the situation within the humanitarian development nexus.

After graduating, I joined Humanity and Inclusion in Dadaab Refugee camp whereby I worked as a Project Manager in Inclusive Education supporting children with disabilities to access safe, quality and inclusive education. I worked with communities and partners to advocate for the rights of children with disabilities and breakdown the barriers preventing them from accessing essential services on an equal basis. Currently, I work as a Regional Project Coordinator at Save the Children implementing a project focused on children on the move aimed at strengthening national and regional child protection mechanisms. I enjoy working with the community and I am glad that through the MA DEP programme, I was able to build on the skills set required to promote high impact programming and empower community members to participate in all spheres of life as well as map out a clear career path for myself within the humanitarian sector.'

Education to Employment Seminar

The Centre for Lebanese Studies and GENDEP organised a seminar on the 25th Feb, hosted and co-organised by the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University. We summarised the findings from this three-year research programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (Global Challenges Research Fund) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Kishore Kumar Singh of the International Labour Organisation and Dr. Jasmin Lillian Diab, Director of the Institute for Migration Studies (LAU) acted as discussants.

A key take-away from the discussion was the need for a paradigm shift from access to schooling to a focus on *recognition and entitlement* to quality schooling for all.

From Education to Employment? End of project report

In February 2022, we wrapped up the “From Education to Employment? Young people’s trajectories in protracted contexts” research project. Over the last three years, we have worked with young people – refugees and nationals – across Jordan and Lebanon to understand how their legal status affects their education and employment, and the connections between their education and work.

We have learned so much from the young people we worked with. Legal status affects young people’s access to education and employment, even more so than gender, economic status, or family background. Many young people attach a huge value to education, and pursue schooling despite the legal, financial, and social barriers they face. Yet, unfortunately, education does not always lead to employment, and even those who do find work may be underemployed or working in poor conditions.



Participants in the Lafeef creative writing workshop share their work at an event in Beirut

Seeing young people’s education and employment as non-linear and multidirectional trajectories, allows us to explore young people’s movement in and out of education and employment, and the key turning points that they identify. This opens new possibilities for how we can support young people. Ultimately, however, our work shows that an apolitical approach to education is not working. Many refugees are stuck in a position where development is not obtainable through education and employment. To move forward, we need greater efforts to recognise refugees as part of the societies in which they reside.

Although the project may have come to end, we are planning events across the year to share our findings with policy makers, colleagues and students, and members of the public. These will include documentary screenings and an exhibition of young people’s short films, drawings, and creative writing, alongside a short book, showcasing some of the creative work produced by the young people, and reflecting on the findings from the project. In the future, all publications and a selection of the interviews and art works will be available on our website. www.educationtoemployment.org

Contact: **Zoe Jordan** (zjordan@brookes.ac.uk) if you would like a copy of the book

Effects of Externalisation: EU Migration Management in Africa and the Middle East

We have recently started a new research project looking at the policy processes related to EU-initiated migration policy in six partner countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Ethiopia, Senegal and Ghana. While previous research has analysed EU migration policy from the perspective of the EU, rather less has considered the priorities and interests of partner countries in these policy agreements, and how migration policies in these countries are created, put in practice, and impact on potential migrants' lives and aspirations.

The project is led by the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Norway, along with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and the Global Development Institute (GDI) at the University of Manchester, and an advisory board of policy makers and migration experts from the six partner countries. Although the project start was delayed by COVID, we met face-to-face for the first time in November 2021, and will be conducting fieldwork over the summer.

CENDEP will be leading on the work in Jordan. You can follow our updates via the project website <https://www.cmi.no/projects/2473-effext> and on the CENDEP blog.

Contact: **Zoe Jordan** (zjordan@brookes.ac.uk)

Publications

Akerkar Supriya (2022) Gender and Older People, Programme and Ageing Unit (PAU), United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), New York.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2022/03/Gender-and-Older-People-Supriya-AKERKAR.pdf>

Other news and events

Dr Supriya Akerkar will be a panellist on the UN organised event, Shameful Contrast: Inequality at the Intersection of Age and Gender, on 15th March. The event is hosted by AARP, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Permanent Mission of Argentina UN Women and the UN Special Procedures Office of the UN Independent Expert on the Rights of Older Persons. Register via https://publicprivatestrategies.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8Ju2eBKuSb6YePeBv-76GA

Meet our staff

- Martina Adamcikova, *Associate Lecturer*
- Supriya Akerkar, *CENDEP Director and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Cathrine Brun, *Professor*
- Richard Carver, *Visiting Research Fellow*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Anita H Fabos, *Associate Lecturer*
- Maria Faraone, *Senior Lecturer*
- Elisa Ferrato, *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, *Senior Lecturer*
- Melissa Kinnear, *Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- EL Laskar, *Festival Co-ordinator*
- Anna Lindley, *Visiting Fellow*
- Aparna Maladkar, *Research Assistant*
- Vesna Matovic, *Associate Lecturer*
- Charles Parrack, *Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster*
- Brigitte Piquard, *Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict*
- Lucy Heaven Taylor, *Associate Lecturer*
- Caroline Tindale, *Programme Administrator*
- Hala Caroline Abou Zaki, *Postdoctoral Researcher*
- Sue Webb, *Postgraduate Researcher*
- Sherin Alshaikhahmed, *PhD Student*
- Fatima Hashmi, *PhD Student*
- Grace Khawam, *PhD Student*
- Kate McAuliff, *PhD Student*
- Oscar Natividad Puig, *PhD Student*
- Aleyda Valdes, *PhD Student*
- Tobias Vokuhl, *PhD Student*

New Staff

A warm welcome to Vesna Matovic, who comes with rich humanitarian experience and is currently working as the Head of Peacebuilding, Training and Learning with International Alert, UK. Vesna will be joining us as an Associate Lecturer for both of our postgraduate, MA DEP and MA HAP, courses. She will be teaching conflict transformation and peace building issues.

Contact us

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Centre for Development and Emergency Practice
Oxford Brookes University
Headington Campus
Gipsy Lane
Oxford, OX3 0BP
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 483200
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 483298
Email: cendep@brookes.ac.uk
Twitter: @CENDEPBrookes
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Cendep/
Blog: <http://cendep.blogspot.com/>