

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

We live in times of uncertainty and CENDEP's expertise is more needed than ever before. This is evident through the multitude of engagements that our staff are involved in Overseas and in the UK. Our research-based teaching in Development and Emergency Practice and Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding (our two Masters programmes) help equip new generations with skills to assist in emergencies and in protracted crises.

We are delighted to welcome our new students at Masters and PhD level this autumn and look forward to a year of learning through reflection, exchanging experiences and practice. At the centre of our work this year will be projects that seek to localise humanitarian knowledge, translating research on shelter recovery into practice, understanding young people's trajectories from education to employment in protracted displacement and we continue to develop the Disability Hub with our partner, the Centre for Lebanese Studies in Beirut. We will also continue our work on precarious housing in the UK.

Starting on the 3rd October, CENDEP's and our colleagues' research from across the UK will be discussed in our Work in Progress public seminar series held every Thursdays. This wealth of research is brought into our teaching and we look forward to develop the learning experience together with our students as we embark on this new academic year.

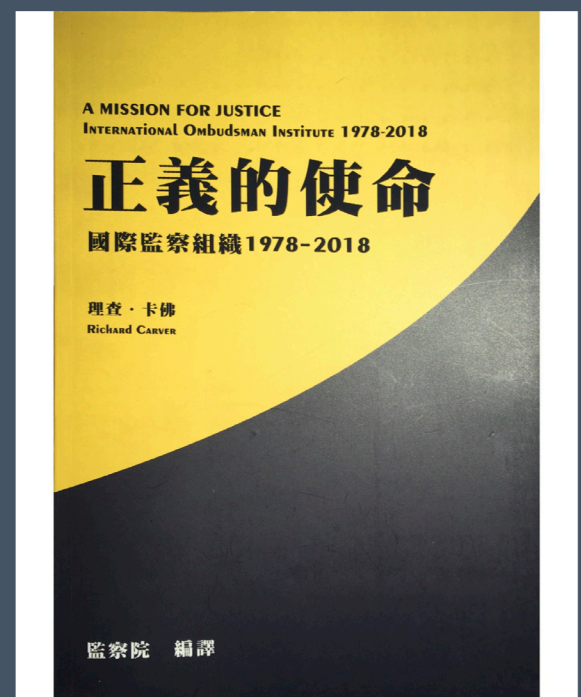
Welcome to CENDEP, we look forward to meet you all!

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Student Profile: Rob Jones (MA DEP alumni)
- Cooperation agreement with Arba Minch University
- Civic mobilisation around immigration detention: Exploring motivations and experiences, a new article by Anna Lindley
- CENDEP Work in Progress Autumn 2019 Sessions
- Meet our staff and students
- Other news and events

Richard Carver's 2018 book *A Mission for Justice: The International Ombudsman Institute 1978-2018* has now been translated into Chinese.



Cooperation agreement with Arba Minch University

Oxford Brookes University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Arba Minch University in Ethiopia. The agreement was signed in May, when CENDEP's Dr Richard Carver was teaching in Arba Minch as part of the human rights law Masters programme. Arba Minch is an important regional centre in southern Ethiopia. The university dates from 2004, as part of the country's rapid expansion of higher education.

The main partner on Brookes's side is CENDEP, while in Arba Minch it is the school of law. Richard has been a visiting professor on the human rights law programme for two years. It is now hoped to expand the Brookes involvement in teaching, with Dr Lisa Handley teaching social research methods to Masters students, as well as to faculty members of the law school. The hope is that it will be possible to develop joint research projects between CENDEP and Arba Minch, as well as having doctoral students from Arba Minch come to Brookes.

Plans are currently underway for a field trip by DEP students to Ethiopia, where they will partner with Arba Minch students in research on the effectiveness of the university's legal aid programme.



Richard Carver with Arba Minch students and faculty

Would you like to be featured in the CENDEP newsletter & blog?

We invite current students and CENDEP Alumni to contribute in the CENDEP newsletter which is published twice annually and CENDEP blog. If you are interested, write to us!

Contact: Aparna Maladkar
amaladkar@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA HAP

MA HAP welcomes another cohort of students coming from crisis areas and taught directly from their workplace. This new cohort will meet online during webinars, working in groups and share ideas and practices in discussion forum. They will use their professional experience in order to understand the links between humanitarian action and peacebuilding and also develop practical tools to meet different challenges faced in protracted conflicts.

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

News from MA DEP

We would like to congratulate our outgoing MA DEP students who are submitting their final dissertations and welcome the new incoming students on board. This year in the MarchD annual exhibition, our MarchD DEP students have put up wonderful design exhibits covering a range of topics – including designs for Low cost homes for indigenous communities post cyclones in Malaysia, Evacuation shelters after cyclones in Samoa, Incremental housing for returning Syrians post conflict, Schools to empower girls in Kenya, Refugee camp space for mental well-being of vulnerable Rohingya in Bangladesh and many others.

This year we are also joined by Lizzie Babbister, who is a qualified architect from UK and has been a practitioner working on humanitarian and shelter issues for two decades. She is also the co-founder of UK shelter forum. We welcome Lizzie on board.

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

Housing Precarity and the Experiences of Young Adults in Oxford. The New Normal?

In August, Sue Brownhill, Cathrine Brun and Aparna Maladkar presented a paper at the Royal Geographical Society with IBG (RGS-IBG) Annual International Conference 2019 on 'Housing Precarity and the Experiences of Young Adults in Oxford. The New Normal?' The paper explores how different forms of uncertainty - such as employment, education, the structures of housing provision (policy, finance, etc.) and material aspects of dwelling - among young people come together and is represented through their housing precarity. The research has adopted an innovative methodology aimed at capturing the 'dual narrative' of the interaction between housing policies and markets and the housing experiences of citizens. The paper critically discusses the use of the concept of housing precarity and argues that in situations such as the overheated UK housing market, precarity can be described as the 'new normal'. It argues for a finely focused, ethnographic approach to precarity that affords new opportunities to understand housing systems from the perspective of individuals.

Meet a Student:

Rob Jones, CENDEP Alumni

Since graduating from CENDEP in 2018, I am working as the Knowledge and Learning Officer for Practical Action. We help people across three continents to find innovative solutions to some of the world's toughest problems, focussing on energy access, agriculture, urban WASH and waste management, as well as climate change and resilience. Specifically, I work in the Influence and Impact Unit to develop our learning agenda, crystallise our knowledge base and ensure that we're consistently using evidence to continuously improve and achieve wider, more systemic change.

Previously, I worked with several humanitarian and development organisations, but felt as though I was missing some of the technical and theoretical understanding needed to progress in my career. The MA DEP was recommended to me by several colleagues, and it was clear that the programme had an excellent record of fostering leaders in the sector. The pure depth and breadth of the syllabus on offer meant that I was able to dive into topics that I'd always wanted to explore, such as forced migration or disaster risk reduction. Thanks to the diverse passions and encouragement of the academic staff, I found new areas of interest that will influence my career for years to come, such as understanding the importance of valuing local knowledge.

The most special thing about being part of CENDEP, however, has been the friends and colleagues I met during the year. The programme attracts a diverse range of people from different countries and backgrounds that make the experience so much more human, as well as far more challenging and rewarding than I ever thought possible.

CENDEP Work in Progress sessions

Autumn 2019 Work in Progress sessions will start from **Thursday, 3rd October**. As usual, the Autumn sessions will see eclectic mix of sessions on various issues including migration, disaster risk reduction, international law, protracted displacement and disability issues in the humanitarian context.

Ben White, writer and analyst, specialising in Palestine/Israel will question the role – and rule – of international law in Gaza during the lecture '**Gaza: Beyond International Law?**'. The lecture will be held on Thursday, 17 October 2019, 18:00 to 19:00 at the Main Lecture Theatre, John Henry Brookes Building (JHB), Headington Campus.

Usual WiP sessions will be held on Thursdays from 16:30 onwards in Room JHB 307.

Project update: From education to employment?

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (GCRF) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) the project 'From education to employment?' looks at what shapes the trajectories of young people from education into employment in displacement settings. The project is a collaboration between CENDEP and the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS) at the Lebanese American University.

Following the launch of the project in Oxford, Beirut, and Amman, the first stage of data collection is now underway in both Lebanon and Jordan. In this first stage, quantitative surveys are being completed with young people in order to identify broad trends in their employment and education trajectories.

At the same time, we have been busy organising the 'Youth marginalisation, education and labour market trajectories in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region' to be held in Beirut on the 28th – 29th November 2019. We're looking forward to exciting and engaging discussions with researchers from across the region, and the opportunity to present some of our ideas.

To join the conversation, follow CENDEP and the Centre for Lebanese Studies on Twitter. We will also be sharing reflections on the conference, as well as news and updates about the project on our Education to Employment blog.

Twitter:
[@LebaneseStudies](https://twitter.com/LebaneseStudies)
[@CENDEPBrookes](https://twitter.com/CENDEPBrookes)

Blog:
<https://wordpress.com/posts/e2e.home.blog>



Downtown urban Amman

Civic mobilisation around immigration detention: Exploring motivations and experiences

Anna Lindley has published an article that considers how people mobilise around immigration detention in the UK to challenge the status quo. While there is a burgeoning literature critically mapping the spatial logics of immigration detention around the world, there is relatively little systematic research on geographies of resistance, particularly the role of 'outsiders' – members of the public with relatively secure status.

Drawing on qualitative interviews and survey research, it offers in a fine-grained analysis of what nourishes civic mobilization, considering the concerns and positionalities of volunteers. It examines their experiences of taking action, visiting detention centres or campaigning for change, highlighting rewards and challenges. Probing divergences as well as convergences in people's approaches to the issue, a picture is built up of a vibrant detention movement working across multiple spaces and scales against government efforts to isolate, contain and exclude 'unwanted' migrants. How this civic mobilization challenges moral distance and political closure offers a fresh insight to the geography of detention and study of pro-migrant mobilisation.

Other news and events:

Next March 2020, CENDEP will be hosting the Oxford Human Rights Festival 2020 around the Theme of Resilience. It is an opportunity for students and staff across the department to get involved. The Festival is open to everyone. If you are interested, contact our new OxHRF Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Laskar for further details. Email: OxRRF@brookes.ac.uk
Twitter: @OxHRF
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordhumanrightsfestival>
Instagram: <https://instagram.com/OxHRF>

Dr Supriya Akerkar was invited as an expert panelist at a meeting organised by the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA), Ageing Unit at New York on 15-17 May 2019. Supriya presented a paper on opportunities and challenges in using current normative frameworks and guidelines for improving humanitarian assistance to older people. The proceedings and recommendations from the expert panel meeting will be shared with the UN Working Group on older people and Secretary General to consider for implementation.

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*
- Melissa Kinneer, *Associate Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- Elizabeth Laskar, *OxHRF Co-ordinator*
- 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*
- Hala Caroline Abou Zaki, *Postdoctoral Researcher*

Meet our PhD students

- Elisa Ferrato
- Fatima Hashmi
- Zoe Jordan
- Grace Khawam
- Salem Al Qudwa
- Aleyda Valdes
- Kate McAuliff

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/>

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.co.uk/>