

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

The academic year is coming to an end; yet another excellent cohort of Development and Emergency Practice (MA DEP) students has contributed to the Centre's activities this year.

In March, we organised the 16th Oxford Human Rights Festival, and the theme 'Identity' brought out new and thought-provoking insights. The innovation of lunchtime talks helped to bring Brookes staff, students and the public together. Under the supervision of CENDEP's Angela Hatherell, DEP students successfully collaborated with students from film, business, law and events management courses.

Despite being an online master, the Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding (MA HAP) students are successfully contributing towards our reflection-in-action approach to teaching. This issue includes information about MA HAP formal launch, workshop on longitudinal methods in shelter, the Centre's participation in the research about precarious housing in the UK, and our recent fieldtrip and research in Lebanon where we continue our collaboration with the Blue Mission organisation. Fieldtrips continue to play an important role for our DEP masters programme and represent an integral part of our research and collaborations around the world.

I would like to thank CENDEP staff, our excellent masters and PhD students, and our partners and supporters who made such an eventful year possible.

Cathrine Brun,
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Student Profile: Fida Alobeid (MA HAP)
- Longitudinal studies in shelter: Charles Parrack
- Upcoming workshop: Transferring and Valuing Local Humanitarian Knowledge
- Field trip to Lebanon
- Precarious Housing Research
- PhD by Practice: Cathrine Brun
- Support our CENDEP Appeal
- Other news and events



Collecting narratives based on experience of change in the context of displacement during field trip in Saïda, Lebanon

Have you seen the CENDEP blog?

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

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

Longitudinal studies in Shelter

On 14th March, CENDEP hosted a one-day workshop on longitudinal studies in shelter. It was great to have a diverse group of attendees with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences from the humanitarian sector, shelter and academia.

Long-term effects of shelter programming can be both positive and negative but these effects cannot be quantified at the end of project evaluation; they require time to develop and change in response to the intended user. This workshop and Global Shelter Cluster findings made it clear that many organisations are willing to carry out long-term studies, but do not have the time or funding to do so. Understanding the consequences of our actions will enable better design and implementation of improved shelter programmes at reduced costs and with greater effectiveness.

The group suggested different ways to measure shelter, from technical standards like Sphere Standards, to quantifiable measures like value for money, to less tangible, but equally important, indicators like happiness levels and sense of ownership. The shortlist included safe shelter and settlements, user satisfaction, enabling informed decisions, adaptability, saving lives and value for money. Uninterrupted sleep and beauty were shortlisted as overall proxy indicators of a successful shelter.

Based on the day's findings, it is likely that these studies would have a varied audience including funders, agencies and universities with wide opportunities for learning and improving practice. Whether it is called 'longitudinal studies' or 'long-term impacts', the interest for putting it into action is strong, and we look forward to continuing the conversation. One of the next steps is to put into action a pilot project including a pilot dissemination for a thematic area...watch this space!

Contact: **Charles Parrack**,
cparrack@brookes.ac.uk

PhD by Practice

CENDEP is now offering a PhD by Practice along with the conventional dissertation-based Doctor of Philosophy and a PhD by Design.

A PhD by Practice is a PhD undertaken through workplace-based research or through action research. 'By practice' typically means a number of different approaches such as developing or implementing an innovative project; developing new tools (technical or analytical); adapting practices to new environments; formulating a new policy (institutional or thematic). The outcome would be a practical piece of work and a critical reflection of that work. The relationship between practical and critical work will vary from project to project.

Contact **Cathrine Brun** for more information:
cbrun@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA HAP

Since January, the community of practices and learning composed of two HAP cohorts has been exchanging and developing skills and knowledge on conflict and culture sensitivities, protection and stabilisation. Using their outstanding field expertise, 35 learners from 18 countries are reflecting on their practices.

In order to depict the first year of mutual learning, UNITAR and CENDEP formally launched the master's programme through two events: Skype discussions were held on 13th March with our students who are practitioners working as Protection Officer in Syria, Human Rights Observer in Afghanistan and Gender Specialist in New York; and on 23rd March practitioners from UN agencies, the NGO community of Geneva and students from the different universities in Geneva met at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to discuss 'PeaceAble Syria: An intimate glimpse'. One of our Syrian students shared her experiences, and the importance to strengthen her capacities through the MA HAP programme.

The application process for September 2018 is open for the next intake.

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

News from MA DEP

Having finished their coursework, MA DEP students have started working on their dissertations. The choice of their dissertation topics showcases their passion for tackling real life challenges in the world of development and humanitarianism.

Some of the topics include: Early warning systems and drought response in Kenya; Learning from Nepal earthquake; Media, human rights and prevention of torture; Modern slavery and human rights response in the UK; Palestinian women, identity and refugee camps; Conflict and tensions between displaced groups in the EU; CSO views and international law in Myanmar.

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

Precarious Housing research

CENDEP's Aparna Maladkar, Julia Wedel and Cathrine Brun are part of a new university funded pilot project about precarious housing in the UK. The project is led by Sue Brownill (Built Environment) and also includes Maja Cederberg from the Sociology department.

The interdisciplinary project seeks to develop a better understanding of what precarious housing means to young people in Oxford and develop a set of methods to use in studying precarious housing in the UK.

For more information contact:
precarioushousing@gmail.com

Meet a Student:

Fida Alobeid, MA HAP

I am Fida Alobeid, and I work as a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Syria Country Office based in Damascus. I joined the Oxford Brookes and UNITAR MA HAP programme in September 2017 to enhance my technical capacity in humanitarian response and peace building.

It is important in our work as humanitarian actors to possess field experience and theoretical knowledge in order to ensure quality implementation of our programmes. Joining this programme will allow me to promote my career, and to be involved in the peace building process in Syria once the war ends, a field of study that is not generally common in Syria and the Middle East.



Fida Alobeid (MA HAP student) sharing her experiences at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in March to discuss 'PeaceAble Syria: An intimate glimpse', which was also attended by CENDEP's Brigitte Piquard

Lebanon fieldtrip

For the second year in a row, in May 2018, CENDEP staff and students conducted fieldwork in Saida, Lebanon in collaboration with the Blue Mission. The research falls under the initiative 'Refugees in fragmented towns and cities'.

In our previous research with Blue Mission, we established an initial knowledge base through interviews with main organisations and institutions in the town of Saida and its surroundings. This year we collected narratives from different groups based on their experience of change in the context of displacement. We discussed people's strategies for housing, education, employment and social cohesion. Our interviews covered the experiences of displaced and non-displaced alike.

In a country challenged by displacement, fragmentation and geopolitics, we found a richness and diversity of experiences in people's narratives, but also a shared concern from many people about the lack of voice and recognition. In line with CENDEP's strategy on local humanitarian knowledge and promoting field experience, we continue to work with Blue Mission to make sense of the findings, and advocate for the right to a voice for all groups concerned.



Discussing people's strategies for housing, education, employment and social cohesion during Saida field trip, Lebanon

'Transferring and Valuing Local Humanitarian Knowledge - Learning from Experiences in Central African Republic' workshop

Since 2017, CENDEP and Caritas Centrafrique have been collaborating on making local grounded knowledge of the national staff and communities more visible and valued, especially from the field experiences in Central African Republic. The adaptation of research methods directly applicable to field practices, tools for contexts analysis and reporting create an opportunity for sharing local experts' visions and experiences.

To share this experience and learn from other experts, a workshop has been organised on 25th June 2018. It will constitute discussions on localisation of aid and will include experts and the national staff of Caritas Centrafrique in Bangui. The workshop will also include round table discussions on the localisation of contextualised knowledge in protracted conflicts; discussions on the use of research methods as a means for empowerment and on the role of contextualised and local knowledge in resilience enhancement and conflict transformation.

The workshop is free and by invitation. Please follow link below for further details and registration:
<https://www.alnap.org/upcoming-events/workshop-transferring-and-valuing-local-humanitarian-knowledge-learning-from>

Publications

Akerkar S and Bhardwaj R. 2018. Good Practice Guide: Embedding inclusion of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian policy and practice, ADCAP, London.

Download at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Good%20Practice%20Guide%20ADCAP.pdf>

'A Mission for Justice: The International Ombudsman Institute 1978-2018' book

Richard Carver's new book, a history of the International Ombudsman Institute, was published in April and launched at the United Nations in New York. The book was the product of two years of archival research into the institute's 40-year history, as well as extensive interviews with many participants.

The history shines a critical light on some aspects of the IOI's history, including a financial scandal that threatened to sink the organisation in the 1980s. The IOI was the brainchild of a US lawyer, Bernard Frank, who was well before his time in seeing the potential role of the ombudsman as a human rights actor. The IOI in 2018 has succeeded in fulfilling many aspects of Bernard Frank's vision.

Other news and events:

Dr Maria Faraone is an architect, social urbanist, practitioner, researcher and senior lecturer. Her research focus is resettlement of marginalised communities and the role that the built environment plays in establishing two-way integration towards autonomy, particularly related to participatory processes. Working with refugees, institutions and local governments in Europe (Germany, Italy and the UK) and with Roma NGOs she seeks to understand situations of resettlement-integration by way of research and through community workshops. She is also developing related educational programmes: Roma Live Project (secondary school programme) and Creativity Foundation Programme for RIBA for bridging the gap for access to university education.

Dr Supriya Akerkar has been invited as a panellist for the 'The reality of intersectional factors in gender inequality' session at the European Development Days in Brussels on 6th June. Supriya will present her current research on age and disability inclusion in humanitarian responses through presentation titled 'Understanding and responding to intersecting discrimination: ADCAP experience'.

Cathrine Brun will give a keynote presentation on 'Revisiting the relationship between people and place in refugee studies' at the international conference 'Conflict and migration in the Middle East' in Beirut in June, which is organised by a consortium of institutions including the Institutional Français du Proche-Orient and the Lebanese American University.

Meet our staff

- Supriya Akerkar, *Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Abeer Al-Mutawakel, *Research Assistant*
- Jeni Burnell, *Research Associate*
- Matt Bannerman, *Research Lecturer*
- Cathrine Brun, *CENDEP Director*
- Richard Carver, *Senior Lecturer*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Maria Faraone, *Senior Lecturer*
- Simon Fisher, *Associate Lecturer*
- Bill Flinn, *Associate Lecturer*
- Nabeel Hamdi, *Emeritus Professor*
- Lisa Handley, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Louise Harris, *Visiting Research Academic*
- 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*
- Katie Reilly, *Research Assistant*
- Hugo Slim, *Visiting Professor*
- 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:

www.brookes.ac.uk/support-cendep

Contact us

cendep

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