

JUSTICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES DURING CONFLICT AND BREAKING THE MOULD **A YEAR IN DEVELOPMENT**



WELCOME

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As I write this, teaching in the School has just finished for the year, students are revising for exams or starting dissertation work and academics are busy marking or writing. The atmosphere is one of continued hard work, combined with expectation for the summer ahead: internships and work experience for some; field courses, dissertations and research work for others. Hopefully most will fit in a holiday too at some point over the summer!

The long awaited results from the 2013 Research Excellence Framework (the periodic national research quality assessment) were announced just before Christmas last year. We did very well again, coming 4th out of 25 Development Studies and Anthropology Departments in the UK, substantially improving on our results compared with the last assessment in 2008. The UEA as a whole also did a lot better than in 2008 and we are expecting this to feed into even better league table positions over the coming months.

The admissions year started well with strong undergraduate recruitment with over one hundred first year students joining the School last September; the largest intake for many years. Numbers on the Geography and International Development degree rose to the low forties with other degrees holding their ground. The School is absorbing this growing intake well and the signs are that we should expect more modest growth next year. The new **BA Media and International Development** will launch in 2015 and we are now planning to split the current **BA in International Development with Social Anthropology and Politics** into separate Politics and Social Anthropology programmes launching in 2016 ...so lots of plans! Post-graduate recruitment was similar to last year; unpredictable but in the end quite good across most of our programmes. It was also something of a bumper year for PGR recruitment, with 19 new research students starting in the School.

We are working with the UEA Careers Service and external work placement providers to build up the employability support we give students to a level we are now extremely proud of. In February, the Working in Development Forum, a long established fixture in our calendar, was well attended by both students and representatives from various employers in the sector. This year it was complemented by a "Not Working in Development" event which focussed on alternative career paths for our students. We also launched the Development Work Placement module in three of our MA programmes as an alternative to a research based dissertation. Interest has been strong and we plan to roll this out across all of our MA/MSc programmes next year. This year, postgraduate students accepted placements with DFID, BBC Radio Norfolk, Mudeka Foundation, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, WaterAid and Future Radio to name just a few. In addition, we had over 50 undergraduates on the Development Work Experience module this year; we are always looking for new placements.

During the last year, some people have moved on and we have a few new faces within the School.

Sarah Gore left the DEVCo Training Office, with **Vanessa Tarling** taking on the role as Training and Skills Development Manager. **Lisa Howlett** also left DEVCo and has been replaced by **Anne Rayner**. In the DEV General Office, **Shaun Gibbs** moved on to an (even more) exciting new job at the Foreign Office in London and has been replaced by former UEA student **Alys Barr**. **Claire Frost** has left DEV and with **Esther Palin** seconded to the Law School, **Leanne Rhodes** has stepped into the breach and is now working as PA to the Head of School. **Mark New** and **Ulrike Theuerkauf** have joined DEV as academics and have settled in very well. **Danny McAvoy** left to return to Australia and **Seb Taylor** will be leaving DEV in July to take up a new position in London. The trend of slow growth continues with staff feeling the constraints of available space in the Arts Building rather keenly. **Sally-Ann Wilson** and her team have consolidated the Commonwealth Broadcasting Authority and WorldView into the Public Media Alliance (PMA) in Arts 1.80. They are now a global organisation focusing on work around key pillars of public media including Environment, Climate Change and Resources and Gender and Diversity, so lots of potential development oriented synergies with DEV.

Early highlights from last year were the hugely successful Earth Systems Governance conference organised by **Heike Schroeder** last July, followed by the barn-storming lecture given by environmentalist and writer **Sir Jonathon Porritt** for the annual Piers Blaikie lecture. Jonathon talked about his new vision for sustainable living and new directions for Green politics in the UK. It went down extremely well with the audience and he was great fun to host. On the 20th July 2015, we have **Jakob von Uexküll**, founder of the Right Livelihood award and the World Future Council, hosting this year's Blaikie lecture; all are welcome! We are also looking forward to the Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities conference organised by DEV's Gender Research Group. This international conference, also in July, promises to be a major and high profile event. Further details of the conference can be found on the School's website. In addition, the Global Environmental Justice Group, among other things, developed an Environmental Justice MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). This is currently running and is a fascinating way of delivering learning and interacting with a large number of interested participants from around the world. We were thrilled to learn over 4,500 people registered for the course.

Once again, School Manager **Gina Neff**, the Head of School PA, and the DEV General Office have worked extremely hard to somehow keep everything running smoothly with patience and good humour. 2014/15 has been an important transition year for DEVCo, moving from a charitable company into University Centre. Inevitably this has involved some large adjustments, and a thousand small ones too, but again the DEVCo team is efficiently managing these changes, whilst still keeping up the phenomenal support they provide for the School.

So a final thanks to everyone in DEV for their contributions. I hope this year continues on a good track for everyone and that the School maintains its strong trajectory into the future.

John McDonagh Head of School

**AMAZING PHOTOGRAPHY
 BY ALUMNA LISA MURRAY –
 SEE PAGE 11**



DEVELOPMENT

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By Carbon Offsetting the paper on this production we have created 4.1 sq. metres of new native woodland in the UK to remove 0.164 kg of Carbon Dioxide

NEW TO DEV

DEV WELCOMES VANESSA AND ALYS



Vanessa Tarling joined DEV as Training and Skills Development Manager in February 2015 having previously worked as an Outreach Officer at UEA. A chemist by training, Vanessa studied at the

University of Surrey, including an industrial year working at INRA (National Institute of Agricultural Research) in France. Vanessa also completed a PGCE before moving to Norfolk in 2001 and has been project lead for UEA's Next Steps Scheme, providing schools with experience placements to help current undergraduate and postgraduate students decide whether a teaching career is for them.

Since living in Norfolk, Vanessa has worked organising events, conferences and symposia at the Norwich Research Park before joining UEA in 2007. Vanessa is looking forward to running DEV's summer program of professional short courses with her team, and hopes to build on her experiences from her previous role, welcoming the new challenges that her new role will bring.



Alys Barr joined the School in March 2015 as the new Administrative Assistant in the DEV General Office. A former UEA student with a BSc Hons in Ecology, she worked as a Travel Expert and Social Media Assistant

for a global travel company before returning to UEA as a member of staff. Alys is responsible for managing the DEV website, research blog, and all aspects of social media. She is also tasked with creating marketing materials and helping organise key events, workshops and seminars throughout the year, alongside coordinating and editing this newsletter!

Alys is now well settled into her new role and is thoroughly enjoying the variety her workload provides; particularly the multiple opportunities to work in areas of interest such as video editing, events management, web development and marketing.

...AND A NEW PROFESSOR APPOINTMENT FOR MARK



Professor Mark New is jointly appointed as Professor for International Development at DEV and as Director of the African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town. Over the last twenty

years he has been at the forefront of climate change research in several fields: detection of climate change trends, climate modelling and scenarios, assessment of uncertainty in climate projections and impacts, especially water, food and ecosystems, resultant adaptation strategies, and the implications of the failure of climate mitigation policies for climate impacts and adaptation. His current research focuses on two main areas – barriers and enablers to adaptation responses to climate change, and resource nexus issues in the face of climate change, inequality and sustainability.

Mark is a member of the South African Global Change Science Committee and the Future

Earth Africa Science Committee, and is also an editor for the journal *Environmental Research Letters*. He is involved in a number of research projects, including (i) ASSAR which aims to understand barriers and enablers for effective and widespread adaptation to climate change in Semi-Arid regions of Africa and Asia, (ii) DIWCC, which is looking at resource trade-offs and socio-economic development in water-constrained catchments and (iii) the SARUA Curriculum Innovation Network, which is developing Masters level climate change and development curriculum, material and training for southern African universities.

Mark has a BSc Hons in Geology from the University of Cape Town, an MPhil in Environment and Development and a PhD in Geography, both from Cambridge University. Prior to his current posts, he was, from 1999-2011 Lecturer, Reader and then Professor of Climate Science at the School of Geography, University of Oxford, and from 1995-1999 Senior Research Fellow at the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia.



HELLO TO ULRIKE

Dr Ulrike Theuerkauf joined DEV as a lecturer in Politics and International Development in January 2015. She has a Magister Artium in Political Science, Sociology and Philosophy from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany), a Master of Research in Political Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a PhD in Government also from LSE. Before joining UEA, Ulrike has held teaching positions at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, LSE and the University of Warwick, and most recently worked as Fellow in Government at LSE. Her key area of research is the relationship between (formal and informal) political institutions and the risk of ethnic civil war, using mainly – but not exclusively – quantitative analysis. In addition, she is also interested in issues of democracy and democratisation as well as the effects of institutional design and political representation more generally.

Some of her research findings to date have been published in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Civil Wars*, *Ethnopolitics*, *Electoral Studies* and *Comparative Political Studies*. Ulrike will contribute to the teaching of several Politics- and methods-related modules in the School and work closely with other members of the State, Governance and Conflict research cluster.

NEWS AND RESEARCH

/ GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUP
/ DEV RESEARCH IS INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT
/ PUBLIC MEDIA ALLIANCE
/ WATER SECURITY RESEARCH CENTRE UPDATE
/ BETTERING KACHIN'S LANDSCAPE

GETTING POLITICAL WITH OUR NEW DEGREE COURSE

The School of International Development is launching an exciting new **BA in International Development with Politics** (with Overseas Experience option) in September 2016. The programme will be the result of splitting the existing **BA International Development with Social Anthropology and Politics** into two separate degrees – with an exclusive Social Anthropology and Politics focus respectively.

The new degree will provide students with an understanding of key issues in international development from an explicit political science perspective. Central themes of the degree include dynamics of state-civil society relations, democracy and democratization, and the risk of intrastate violence in developing countries. The programme will put particular emphasis on teaching students how to critically analyse the motivations and behaviour of key development actors, using major theoretical approaches and research methods in the study of development.

This degree will be particularly suitable for students who are interested in understanding the uneven patterns and trajectories of development between and within countries, and how different structural and agency-based factors shape the development process.

Dr Ulrike Theuerkauf



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUP

FROM RESEARCH TO OUTREACH – WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND BEYOND ACADEMIA

A group of researchers at UEA are working on global environmental justice, linking it with questions of biodiversity conservation, climate change, ecosystem management, forestry, disaster risks and water. The objective is to show that sustainable environmental management requires balancing between the needs, interests, rights and aspirations of a range of people and those of both nature and future generations.

The application of the concept of justice is powerful as it resonates with the needs and duties of everyone in regards to environmental management. It is about ensuring:

- Meaningful participation of all concerned parties in decision making processes over environmental management
- Recognising and respecting the rights of people
- Fairly distributing benefits stemming from environmental management.

In addition to justice being a powerful theoretical concept, it also provides shared meaning and agendas for collaboration with activists and an effective basis for communicating with practitioners and policymakers alike. Justice speaks to a wide audience and serves as a stepping stone for negotiating more socially sustainable forms of environmental management.

Building on the potential of environmental justice, the group has been developing a range of outreach activities that aim to widely disseminate and increase the impact of academic research. These activities include building bridges between disciplines and institutions by bringing together activists, practitioners and researchers to envision new forms of environmental management. On a number of occasions, Justice Talks have been organised inviting key activists and practitioners to UEA. These are events where students and researchers can engage in debate with leaders from outside academia and learn from their practical experiences, often stemming from concrete field cases and justice struggles. With a similar objective of knowledge sharing, the group has organised two International Think Tanks; the next three are currently being planned for 2016. These exchanges have been encouraging and collaborations are often followed-up;

for instance, DEV Masters students have been offered internship opportunities within activist organisations.

Furthermore, outreach means connecting with students and people working in development. Postgraduate researchers in UK universities have been offered one day seminars on environmental justice. DEV is also putting together short courses for professionals on climate change and water security involving scholars working on environmental justice. In addition, a course **Forest Governance: Operationalising Equity and Justice in REDD+, PES and FLEGT** is being developed in collaboration with the Centre for People and Forests – RECOFTC.

Most importantly, the public at large has an opportunity to receive an introduction to environmental justice concepts and discuss the way in which different people understand and conceive environmental justice by participating in a massive open online course (MOOC). The first edition of the course has been very well received as more than 4,500 people signed up and already posted more than 2,500 comments just in the first week of the course. The course is also an excellent occasion for current and former DEV students to revise key concepts and reflect on issues of justice relevant to their living and/ or working environments. The next edition of the MOOC will be run in autumn this year.

Research on justice has the potential to reflect the diverging views and values people have on environmental management, and the different ways in which people are affected by environmental change. To make a practical impact, the group makes continuous efforts to communicate these research results to the public, and to exchange with and to build capacities of activists, policy makers and practitioners. We believe that together we can make a difference to advance environmental management that increases disadvantaged people's social recognition, their participation in decision-making and their access to benefits. Justice matters for considering people's views and values in environmental management.

Anni Arial and Professor Thomas Sikor



THE OPEN ACCESS COURSE

The massive open online course (MOOC) on environmental justice is run through the FutureLearn platform. The course is composed of online lectures, readings, exercises and discussion. Over a period of ten weeks students review different conceptions of environmental justice, discuss politics of justice and analyse common institutionalisations of justice. A particular attention is paid to thematic questions of forestry, biofuels and biodiversity conservation. Finally, practical approaches such as the use of participatory video are introduced and students are also invited to undertake learner assignments.

The course is led by **Professor Thomas Sikor** and brings together a number of UEA scholars including **Dr Tina Blaber-Wegg**, **Dr Vasudha Chhotray**, **Dr Iokiñe Rodriguez**, **Dr Nicole Gross-Camp**, **Dr Adrian Martin** and **Dr Oliver Springate-Baginski**.

www.uea.ac.uk/study/short-courses/online-learning/environmental-justice

TESTIMONIES OF JUSTICE

A series of 18 videos have been produced with activists, researchers and professionals reflecting on justice challenges in their area of work. You can watch these videos on DEV's YouTube Channel ([devschooluea](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdevschooluea)) and learn more about the kind of injustices activists' organisations face, what drives these injustices, what is done to overcome them, what difficulties are faced by activists in their work, what needs to change to achieve justice and what a just future would look like. People interviewed include Nnimmo Bassey, Patrick Bond, Jenny Franco and Larry Lohmann to name just a few.



DEV RESEARCH RANKED FOURTH IN THE COUNTRY

“THE SCHOOL RANKED 4th IN THE COUNTRY FOR OVERALL RESEARCH, WITH 74% OF OUR RESEARCH RANKED WORLD LEADING OR INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT.”

These days, everything seems to get measured and graded; universities are certainly no exception. As well as various assessments of our teaching quality and student satisfaction (where we have scored pretty highly in recent times), we also need to be able to demonstrate how good our research is.

Every five years or so, the research performance of all UK universities is assessed by the Higher Education Funding Authority, through an exercise known as the Research Excellence Framework (REF). This is a very important opportunity for us to be able to compare how well we are doing compared to other academic departments across the country. It's also a fiendishly complex and time consuming exercise, not least because it is not always easy to establish a clear and objective rating of the quality of different pieces of research. Each academic is allowed to submit no more than four papers, produced over a five or six year period, so it is essential to work out which are your strongest.

Last December, the results of the latest assessment (covering 2010 to 2014) were published. In DEV we were delighted to see that the School was ranked 4th in the country for overall research, with 74% of our research ranked “world leading” or “internationally excellent”. This strong result was based on our performance in three areas: the quality of our research publications, the strength of our research environment and the impact our research has on people and organisations outside the academic world. The full set of results are available at: <http://results.ref.ac.uk/Results/ByUoa/24>.

As part of the impact aspect of the assessment, we submitted three detailed case studies of DEV making a real difference in the outside world. This included ground breaking research that identified, for the first time, that fishing workers in parts of sub-Saharan Africa face particular risks of HIV/ AIDS infection. Another case study demonstrated that providing older people in poor countries with a small pension is often an effective antipoverty strategy, since these benefits are then shared across entire households. A third impact case study showed how providing regular cash transfers to vulnerable population groups in southern Africa can be a more effective means to reduce famine and hunger than ad hoc food distribution. The study also identified exciting new mechanisms to deliver these benefits, including mobile phone technology.

DEV's successful REF result came as part of a very strong performance by UEA as a whole. The University rose from a national ranking of 28th in 2008 to 21st, when compared to other mainstream British universities. According to UEA Vice-Chancellor Professor David Richardson: “REF2014 is the culmination of six years of hard work by our research staff and I am thrilled their efforts have been recognised with such positive results, confirming UEA as a premier research institution”. The next REF assessment will be in 2020 and we are already making plans to build on this great result; I need to get back to writing those papers!

Professor Peter Lloyd-Sherlock



PUBLIC MEDIA ALLIANCE REACHES OUT

The Public Media Alliance (PMA) is the largest global association of public service broadcasters; its members include global media giants such as the BBC and CBC-Radio Canada but also a myriad of smaller broadcasters worldwide. Founded in 1945, the organisation was known as the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) and became renowned for providing media training and support to Public Service Broadcasters throughout the Commonwealth.



Kristian Porter | Public Media Alliance

The Public Media Alliance is based in the Arts Building, room 1.80.
www.publicmediaalliance.org

In 2014, the Board and members of the CBA agreed to broaden the scope of the organisation, enabling it to focus on Public Service Broadcasting globally rather than just Commonwealth-wide. It's a critical time for the industry as 'broadcasting' evolves beyond radio and TV into multi-platform Public Service Media. These changes are also reflected by the organisation's change of name; it is now the 'Public Media Alliance'. The key focus for the Public Media Alliance is the shared public media space; a space where citizens have equality of access to engaging independent and impartial media coverage.

In the UK, the BBC often comes to mind when thinking of Public Service Broadcasting and historically, many broadcasters have evolved to follow the BBC model.

Yet with the emergence of new digital technologies, traditional broadcasting such as radio and television, only forms part of the media landscape. With the growth in new media technology and an emergence of competing media outlets, the real value of a trusted and shared public media space is often taken for granted by nations who have a public broadcaster, but envied by those where media freedom is heavily restricted. As such, one of the key focus areas for the PMA is to support members to transition digitally whilst still adhering to the core principles of Public Service Broadcasting.

The work of the Public Media Alliance is diverse and includes research, training workshops, conferences and events, international bursaries and content development. Key areas of work with broadcast professionals includes disaster preparedness, climate change communication, media and gender and the development of children's media. The PMA acts as an essential bridge between academic research, global public media and industry practice. It also provides funding and support for international documentaries via its WorldView project, which

has supported more than 500 films over the past twelve years. The films produced include three Oscar nominated documentaries; '5 Broken Cameras', 'Enemies of the People', and most recently, the fantastic 'Virunga'.

The success of the Public Media Alliance can also be seen in the field. Recently, the non-profit organisation has completed two gender workshops, one in Tanzania and one in India, both aimed at addressing the imbalances of gender representations in the news media. Furthermore, the organisation's Project Coordinator **Amy Richardson**, a former Media and International Development student, has recently returned from Tonga where she managed the second phase of the Pan-Pacific Digital Media Training Project which was attended by filmmakers from across the Pacific. The project aim was to improve the capacity of the region's emerging filmmakers to share Pacific stories via film.

At present, the Public Media Alliance is led by former UEA and International Development student **Sally-Ann Wilson**. Prior to its permanent move in 2014, PMA had a project base in DEV for ten years. This link enabled Sally-Ann to set up the department's MA Media and International Development in 2008. At that time, the only other place to run a Media and Development Masters programme in English was Malmo, Sweden. Building on these roots, the organisation has already employed three former MA students from the course.

Looking to the future, PMA and WorldView are collaborating with NGO WaterAid on a two year media project profiling water. The Public Media Alliance is also hoping to secure funds to work with multimedia producers from Southern and East Africa on science and climate change coverage later in the year. If successful, there will be media production workshop running in September in Kigali, with screenings at a Pan-African event in the Rwandan capital in October.

“THE PUBLIC MEDIA ALLIANCE ACTS AS AN ESSENTIAL BRIDGE BETWEEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH, GLOBAL PUBLIC MEDIA AND INDUSTRY PRACTICE.”

WATER SECURITY RESEARCH CENTRE UPDATE



NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR UEA'S MSc IN WATER SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The WSRC has recently finished accepting applications for the September 2015 intake of the **MSc in Water Security and International Development**. Drawing upon the skills and experiences of researchers in DEV and the School of Environmental Science, the 12 month Water Security and International Development MSc offers world class education in water security policy and science in developing country contexts. The Water Security Research Centre calls upon more than 30 water scientists based at UEA, alongside specialist staff at the forefront of water research, including **Mark Zeitoun, Bruce Lankford, Jessica Budds, Marisa Goulden and Dabo Guan**.

The new **Ashton Partnership Scholarship in Water Security** offered the successful scholarship recipient an award of £6,500 as a reduction to tuition fees for the academic year.



URBAN SERVICES DURING PROTRACTED CONFLICT – A CALL FOR A BETTER APPROACH TO ASSIST AFFECTED PEOPLE

Dr Mark Zeitoun (DEV) and **Professor Paul Hunter (School of Medicine, UEA)** are working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on a project exploring how protracted conflict in urban areas affects essential services, particularly drinking water and health. Learning from the experiences of water and public health engineers in Iraq, Gaza, Syria and Libya, the work stresses the shortcomings of classic humanitarian responses that have been developed for acute conflicts in more rural areas.

The work was presented in a report and has been discussed at the ICRC in Geneva, Chatham House, the Overseas Development Institute and the 2015 Conflict, Security and Development conference at King's College London. The report highlights the fact that armed conflict deprives millions of people of essential urban services, sometimes for decades. More specifically, this report calls to move from assistance paradigms founded on rural or disaster-relief experience ('relief-recovery-rehabilitation') to a paradigm that takes into account the realities and needs in current urban conflicts. It provides the reasoning for this call, by explaining how the quality of essential urban services can degrade to a point of no return, through cycles of accumulated impact upon people's health and wellbeing. Final objectives are to advocate greater legal protection of essential urban services through the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, and to identify what is required to best address the challenge to ensure the right response, in the right place and the right time.

For further information on the Water Security Research Centre see www.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity

or contact Centre Coordinator Susan Conlon at watersecurity@uea.ac.uk

ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES APPROACH – A WAY OF RE-ENGAGING POLICY MAKERS WITH LARGE SCALE IRRIGATION?

Professor Bruce Lankford gave two presentations at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) workshop on revitalising large scale irrigation systems, held in Sri Lanka in April 2015. The workshop brought together approximately 40 international experts to discuss how an ecosystem services approach might enhance both the policy attractiveness of re-engaging with large scale irrigation and the subsequent delivery of higher performing management for the benefits of food security and environmental goods. The two presentations covered a) "Large scale irrigated agriculture – A suitable case for treatment?" and b) "A theory of change for transformation to ecosystem inclusive irrigation services". Outcomes from the workshop will feed into the major CGIAR research stream called WLE; "Water, Land and Ecosystems".

Following his presentations, Bruce is working on journal articles to throw new light on large scale public irrigation systems as a global gap on food security policy. Bruce has generated a number of key arguments as a combined way of seeing these systems as global strategic assets. For example, Large Scale Irrigated Systems (LSIS) comprise about 115 million hectares or about one third of all area under irrigation and about 10% of total global agricultural area. Over an irrigating season of 180 days, 115 million hectares can account for 1,325 km³ of water or about 40 Hoover Dams (35 km³ capacity). A minor reduction in this depletion releases water for other needs including ecosystems and growing cities. With moderately higher yields, LSIS can help meet global food concerns.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER KACHIN LANDSCAPE



This two year project is funded under the International Water Management Institute Water Land Ecosystem programme.

For more info:
[wle-mekong.cgiar.org/
wle-gm-projects/mk29](http://wle-mekong.cgiar.org/wle-gm-projects/mk29)

Kachin is Burma's northernmost region and one of its most troubled. In 1947 on the eve of Burma's Independence from Britain, Aung San, the leader of Burma's Independence movement signed the 'Panglong Agreement' with ethnic leaders: a commitment to a federal model of government in ethnic areas. But soon after, Aung San was assassinated and with his death, the federal vision degenerated into armed conflict: poorly armed local people were forced to defend their land against predations of the national 'Tatmadaw' military. The conflict, off and on, continues to this day unresolved and hardly noticed outside the country.

The conflict has given rise to an extremely lucrative 'conflict economy': abundant natural resources including jade, gold, timber, opium, agricultural and forest land, and hydroelectricity opportunities have all become commercial attractions for which the Burmese military frequently exercises violence to appropriate, along with its business partners. There may be light at the end of the tunnel however. Currently a fragile ceasefire agreement is taking shape, and forthcoming National elections planned for November also promise the prospect of a more democratic national government, which may in turn may transform Kachin's political relationships.

I've been working in Burma for the last five years and have just initiated a new project to work with Kachin activists and wider Kachin civil society to understand how the conflict has affected natural resources and the rural livelihoods based on them. It also seeks opportunities to promote better resource governance and peacebuilding at a time of rapid transformation. We are working with Shalom Foundation, the leading Kachin NGO, as well as with Friends of Wildlife, IUCN, Tim Forsyth from the LSE, Kevin Woods, and Mark Zeitoun.

The two year project seeks to capitalise on the political changes sweeping the country, which have so far had little impact on the Kachin conflict. At our recent launch workshop in Myitkyina, the state capital, local citizens reeled off a long succession of grievances around the abuse of Kachin's once remarkable natural resource heritage: plunder of timber; land grabbing, water grabbing, water pollution by mercury and toxic agro-chemicals, unregulated over-fishing, plunder of jade mines and so on; it's a long list. Grievances are mainly against the Tatmadaw military and their 'crony' or proxy companies. The strongest feelings are aroused by the Ayeyarwady river; the now-retired dictator Than Shwe made a multibillion dollar deal with China Power Investments in 2007, in return allegedly for massive kick-backs, to build a vast hydroelectric dam on a tectonically active site above the state capital, and send the electricity to China. The dam issue has rallied both Kachin and civil society across the country. Currently, the project is on hold thanks to national civil society campaigning, but following the National Elections in November, one of the new President's first tasks will be to decide whether to cancel it altogether or allow it to proceed.

Whether the conflict is actually reducing or not, and whether resource decisions become decentralised or not, it remains important that Kachin civil society and political representatives have a developed agenda for natural resource governance, in order to reduce the inequities of the conflict economy, to build peace and to ensure citizens benefit from it.

Dr Oliver Springate-Baginski

/ PHOTOGRAPHY
/ NATURAL CAPITAL
/ COMMUNITY POLICING
/ BREAKING THE MOULD
/ WORKING IN WATER
/ NUTS ABOUT FAIRTRADE



ALUMNI STORIES TO TELL

FROM DEV TO PHOTOGRAPHY

When I joined DEV in 2008, I had little idea what a job in development actually entailed or how to go about getting into the sector, but I always knew I wanted to be involved in development on the ground. After graduating in 2010, I decided a career in programmes was the way forward and set about building my field experience, not a route I'd ever imagined would lead to a photography career.

After a research placement with a small charity in Tamil Nadu and a stint of ESL teaching in Vietnam to replenish my funds, I was still feeling unsure of how to navigate my route into development. As such, I moved back to London to try and understand how to land a long term programmes role. Having always been told in DEV to 'network, network, network' and to get a foot in the door any way you can, I began volunteering in Farm Africa's programmes department. Despite the work being pretty mundane (updating databases and filing country reports certainly wasn't my dream job), my enthusiasm and commitment finally paid off when Farm Africa sent me to Ethiopia to work (expenses only) on a resilience research project.

I spent the majority of my time in Ethiopia in the field. As much as I loved working in diverse communities, I found the subsequent time spent at my computer writing up the research rather less enjoyable. Realising that most field based programmes jobs entailed a fair amount of lengthy report writing, I started to question if this kind of role was really for me. At the same time as these doubts starting to set in, the pictures I'd been taking out in the field started to get noticed by the communications and fundraising departments back in London. When a Guardian journalist was sent to write a report on a Farm Africa project, they decided to commission me to do the photography.

Considering my lack of photography experience, I was pretty nervous. I'd bought a low end DSLR in my third year at UEA but beyond the basics of aperture and shutter speed, I knew very little about photography and never considered myself to be particularly good at it. I'd never heard of a raw file, had never used Photoshop and the idea of using extra lighting was totally alien. I spent the week prior to the shoot watching as many YouTube

videos as the internet in Addis would allow and somehow managed to pull off the assignment.

With positive feedback from the Guardian picture editor and my first real pay cheque earned in 'development', I felt I had finally found the role for me. International development organisations not only need professional photographers, they need photographers with a knowledge of the sector who have proven field experience. I used the money from this shoot to upgrade to a full frame DSLR, continued to build my portfolio around Ethiopia and began approaching organisations as a 'professional' photographer.

I'm currently based in South East Asia where I've started doing freelance work as a photographer and interviewer for Robin Wyatt Vision, an organisation that specialises in communications for the international development sector. My role for RWV involves travelling around the region visually documenting development projects and interviewing beneficiaries and key stakeholders. The interviews are recorded and sent off to a writer who produces articles for the NGO which, alongside my visual stories, show the impact of their work.

I really appreciate the variety of topics I was taught in DEV, particularly in this line of work where you only have a short period of time to wrap your head around the project. I was recently working on a climate resilience project for the Rockefeller Foundation in Indonesia. They were using the sustainable livelihoods framework to identify their next intervention; having used the same approach in DEV, I was able to get to grips with the project pretty quickly. I also found the development work experience module to be a great opportunity as I was able to spend four months working with an anti sex trafficking organisation in India and used the time there to undertake primary research for my dissertation. Not only did this equip me for subsequent research roles in India and Ethiopia but I'm feeling particularly well prepared for my next assignment with an anti trafficking organisation in Vietnam. Although I still have a long way to go, it's great to be undertaking work where I can put into practice everything I learned at UEA.

“INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS NEED PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECTOR.”

LISA MURRAY

Lisa Murray | BA International Development with Overseas Experience | 2010

See more of Lisa's photos:
www.lisamurrayphoto.com

See Robin's photos:
www.robinwyatt.org/photography





VALUING NATURE

WHAT IS NATURAL CAPITAL? AND HOW DO WE ACCOUNT FOR IT IN ECONOMIC SYSTEMS DRIVEN BY FINANCIAL LANGUAGE?

Hannah Pitts | MA Globalisation, Business and Sustainable Development | 2014



Concepts of society, economic development and individual utility are all deep rooted in norms of spending and saving. We all, whether individuals, countries, or businesses, seek to minimise risk and maximise opportunities based on the information we have about our financial environment.

Financial capital is just one part of a much bigger picture. Economic activity also depends on the planet's natural capital. Natural capital is defined as the stock of natural resources from which people can derive benefits; it's a stock that we consume, manipulate, invest and save in the same way as we do our financial assets. Yet we don't account for or manage this expenditure at all – there is no natural capital balance sheet. Is this something we could see in our lifetime?

I left DEV – **MA Globalisation, Business and Sustainable Development** – in spring 2014 to start an internship at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) based in Geneva, Switzerland. Founded on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the WBCSD is a CEO-Led organisation of nearly 200 corporations who speak and move as a consolidated business voice on sustainability issues. The WBCSD emphasises the value of sustainability as being more than simple philanthropy or PR, emphasising instead how sustainability is strategically essential for a company to secure long term profitability and investment.

I now work permanently at WBCSD on a project called the Natural Capital Protocol, led by an organisation called the Natural Capital Coalition. When released, the Natural Capital Protocol will be a significant step towards integrating natural capital into business accounts. The final document will provide basic guidance on how companies can measure and value their dependencies and impacts on natural resources that do not have a standard market price.

Why? Of course there are many environmental reasons for why companies need to start taking their natural impacts seriously; even just raising awareness can be a critical element of this. However, there is also a strategic business case: by

having a better understanding of its relationship with natural capital, a company could identify and reduce a potentially risky dependence on an unstable resource (such as extracting water from a finite aquifer) or save costs that arise from a negative impact (such as depleting soil productivity to the point that fertiliser needs to be purchased). In many cases, it may also highlight the financial benefit of good environmental choices. For example, rehabilitating a disused site as a natural wetland may provide services such as water regulation and flood protection that are of greater value to the company than the revenue of selling the same site on to a property developer.

But should we value nature? George Monbiot recently gave an emotive speech on why we should not be pressured into reducing the wealth of life into the financial language of the corporate world. Of course, there are similar arguments within DEV; economic aspiration is not the only parameter for development, and we see there are many other ways of measuring a functional society besides income. Would we therefore also be justified in putting a monetary figure on our civic values, or on the importance of a quality education? Of course these doubts are valid, sensitive and important.

Nevertheless, my studies at DEV opened my eyes to business as a fundamental and growing player in sustainable development, and how collaboration with the corporate world is an unavoidable caveat for progress. The business focused modules at DEV taught me how integrating sustainability within central business strategy is critical to differentiating weak greenwash from real, long term commitment. Putting natural capital on a company's balance sheet is one important step in shifting perceptions away from the current definition of 'externalities' towards a wider, truer appreciation of value. DEV first introduced me to how business and sustainability could truly overlap, and I am now passionate about how collaboration with business might lead us to a future where wealth, profit and value is more than financial alone.



COMMUNITY POLICING IN LEBANON

Having an accountable police service which operates in the interests of the population is fundamental to achieving sustainable development. It is a pre-requisite for social justice, democracy, peace, and the effective maintenance of security for all citizens; making security sector reform a wholly developmental issue.

Lebanon isn't there yet. A 2014 opinion survey highlighted that public trust in the country's Internal Security Forces (ISF) is extremely low. Just 18% of the population fully trust the institution, and 34% hold no trust in it at all. Yet its role in Lebanon's development couldn't be more important. The ISF is responsible for policing a nation which is at the apex of the Middle East, and deeply connected to regional conflict. For example, UNHCR estimates that there are up to 1.4 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon – about a quarter of its total population. This puts obvious strain on a country which already has finely balanced political and governance systems, carefully structured to give representation to its myriad of communal and religious groups. In this context, the value of fair and effective policing is high. However, throughout the capital of Beirut, the ISF's grim reputation is symbolised in Hbeish. The old name for a police station in the city's vibrant Western quarter, Hbeish is a word synonymous with the corruption and human rights abuse which has marred its past, provoking a mixture of fear and indignation among the local population upon its utterance.

But, things are changing. After completing my MA at the School of International Development (DEV) last summer, I embarked on a three month internship with Siren Associates. This UK not-for-profit consultancy works throughout the Middle East, specialising in civil policing transformation and broader security sector reform. Siren has

spent the past two years establishing a Policing Pilot Project at the station, now renamed Ras Beirut. The project has overseen its complete refurbishment, recruitment of a new workforce, implementation of a new team structure and operational procedures, as well as extensive training and continuous mentoring. Importantly, the project seeks to put community policing into practice in Lebanon, helping to develop a scalable model which is based first and foremost on the needs of citizens. This includes establishing a dedicated local crime analysis unit – the only Lebanese police station to do so.

There is evidence that the project is working. Linked to the visibility of police on newly established foot and bicycle patrols, public trust is beginning to rise. Crime rates also fell by 30% between the first and second half of 2014. Roll out to other police stations is now being planned and there's hope that replicating its success more widely could be a mechanism for change within the ISF and Lebanon more generally.

Siren is run by Jonathan McIvor, an early DEV graduate who still draws on the principles of development which the University imparted to him in the 1970s. Above all, Siren works on the principle that development should only happen by and with organisations, not for them. Its approach is therefore based on collaborating with the ISF, building relationships to support rather than impose solutions. My experience has been a highly valuable one, and with Siren's close links to DEV, I'd encourage interested students to find out more about the project and the organisation's work at www.sirenassociates.com

Ben O'Hanlon | MA International Relations and Development Studies | 2014

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: REFILOE MABEJANE


"The owl of Minerva takes flight at dusk", said Professor Cecile Jackson when I found myself plagued with anxiety surrounding my studies. I have never forgotten that quote, and still revert to it today when I feel out of my element. My memories of my time in DEV are a cocktail of characters from over 50 countries, who greatly enriched my understanding of the world beyond Lesotho and South Africa.

Many have since become lifelong friends. When the earthquake hit Japan in my first year of life after DEV, I felt directly affected due to my friendship with Mana and Masa, both Japanese natives. In 2014, when 276 girls were abducted from a school in Nigeria, I wondered if Aye and Ify and their families were affected. Recently, militants attacked a University in Garissa, Kenya, and my thoughts turned to my friends Sarah and Daisy, compelling me to write to them and express my solidarity.

Professionally, the degree opened doors for me into the International Development Cooperation Agency world I had been dreaming about when I enrolled. My dream of working for the United Nations came true the year after I graduated, when I became Project Coordinator for a 12-month project and later worked in the Governance Unit of the United Nations Development Programme. I also got to work with Irish Aid, another established international development agency. There I worked on the impact evaluation of the 2008-2012 Country Strategy, a major experience in my professional life to date. After the evaluation, which spanned over six months, I continued working in programme management with Irish Aid and gained valuable experience in managing for development results.

I am currently working in the field of policy and advocacy for ActionAid International Lesotho, my most meaningful role by far in terms of my Masters degree. I am proud to be able to use my Gender and International Development expertise within an organisation that holds gender equality and the empowerment of women as its core focus.

Refiloe Mabejane | MA Gender Analysis in International Development | 2010



**“SOMETHING ONCE
USED TO REMIND
DALITS OF THEIR
LOWLY PLACE IN
SOCIETY, IS NOW
GIVING THEM AN
INCOME TO EDUCATE
THEIR CHILDREN.”**

DAVID SKIVINGTON

BREAKING THE MOULD WITH CLAY POTS AND A NOVEL

What does a simple clay cup have to do with oppression? While it may seem of little significance, the tradition linked to these objects has served to reinforce caste-based discrimination for centuries. Traditionally in parts of India, after a member of the Dalit caste had drunk from the cup, they were expected to smash it to prevent a member of a higher caste accidentally using the same vessel and becoming polluted by the lower caste. This simple act around the common activity of drinking chai served as a daily reminder of their place within the constrictive societal hierarchy.

The Dalits were previously known as 'untouchables' or 'out-castes' due to their position outside of the four main castes of the Hindu caste system. However, they chose the name Dalit for their group to represent how they felt about themselves. The word is originally from the Sanskrit language, translated as 'broken' or 'ground down', much like the clay pots surrounding the chai stalls. Historically, Dalits have been denied basic rights such as an education, entry to police stations or places of worship and even access to water. These practices of untouchability and caste discrimination are banned within India's constitution, yet despite many laws these practices still occur, leading to the feeling of brokenness among many.

However, this view is slowly changing and the Dalits have become empowered in many ways, including increased political representation. My **MA Development Studies** dissertation at UEA focused on Mayawati's election to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; the first Dalit woman to hold the post in any Indian state. This indicates the changes which are slowly occurring in India, increasing pride within the Dalit people.

An interesting example I saw of this changing attitude was through a charity called Life

Association. They work alongside skilled Dalit potters in the Dharavi slum of Mumbai, taking their work, marketing and selling it as a high end gift item in Britain. This provides valuable work for the potters and their families at a fair price. The profits also fund schools, orphanages and a home for disabled children in India. Through the education provided, the children are able to learn about their rights as citizens as well as increasing their employability.

What is it the potters produce and sell? Clay pots! Instead of drinking from them, the pots are transformed into candles and are filled with scented beeswax by Dalit women also employed by the charity. Something which was once used to remind Dalits of their lowly place in society is now giving them an income to educate their children and create a better future. These candles are more than just a product, they are a vehicle of change for the Dalit people. So, what does a simple clay cup have to do with oppression? A lot less now that it has been reclaimed as a symbol of freedom.

USING MY EXPERIENCE

I recently completed my debut crime thriller novel *Scar Tissue*, which is set in Kolkata, while volunteering in Andhra Pradesh. I had previously volunteered in Kolkata, and was approached by human traffickers offering me young girls for sex. This shocking experience led me to research the issue of human trafficking, particularly within India, which is estimated to contain nearly half of the world's slaves. The novel is written as a way of raising awareness on sex trafficking and caste based discrimination and is available on Amazon.

I am currently working on my second novel which is based on the practice of the Devadasi, temple prostitution, within the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is due to be released this summer.

David Skivington
MA Development Studies | 2008

For more info:
www.dalit.co.uk
Tweet David:
[@DavidSkivington](https://twitter.com/DavidSkivington)



CHARLIE AND BECCA WORK IN WATER



FROM MASTERS TO MONACO

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in natural resources management, and working for a few years conducting water chemistry analyses, I became interested in the differences in perceptions on global water issues between natural scientists and social scientists. I recognised my own shortcomings in the social sciences when it came to thinking critically about global water issues, and understood I would need further experience or education to truly make an impact. After some searching, I found the **MSc Water Security and International Development** programme at UEA. The specific focus on water and international development drew me in and following conversations with **Dr Mark Zeitoun**, I knew it was exactly what I was looking for.

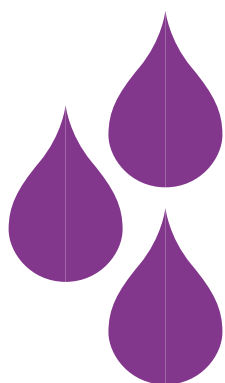
One year later, I found myself walking the cobblestoned streets of Norwich, admiring the city's charm and beauty and enjoying a pint with new friends. In addition to the wonderful experiences at UEA, the Masters degree I obtained is directly responsible for my new position working for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Monaco conducting water quality research. The water security coursework and subsequent degree taught me to think critically and broadly about possible solutions to a variety of water related issues. It also helped to enhance my writing abilities and to develop confidence in my communication skills, as well as vastly expand my knowledge of global water resources. The teaching staff of the Water Security course also took great care to assist me in developing professional relationships and contacts within the field. These contacts and connections have proven invaluable and have increased my interest in water resources beyond what I could have imagined.

For anyone looking to start a career in water or to advance their knowledge of water resources, my advice is to dive in (no pun intended!) and immerse yourself in this programme; I promise you will not be disappointed. The staff and students are all fantastic and the memories and friendships you leave with last a lifetime.

HYDRO-HEGEMONY FOR BECCA

I graduated with an **MSc in Water Security and International Development** from UEA's Water Security Research Centre and School of International Development in 2013. Originally coming to Norwich from Michigan State University, I focused my undergraduate years on the political anthropology of food in the Middle East and North Africa. Following my thesis research on "Virtual Water, Equivocal Law, Actual Hegemony: Expanding the Framework of Hydro-Hegemony to Inform Virtual Water Trade and International Law" as supervised by **Dr Mark Zeitoun**, I took a year to further consider the relationship between law and socioenvironmental justice at the University of Edinburgh, completing an LLM in International Law. My legal thesis, supervised by **Professor Alan Boyle**, explored sovereignty, self-determination, legal negotiations, and the environment (*Sign Here for Statehood: The Role of International Environmental Agreements in Building Legal Recognition for Taiwan and Palestine*).

I'm now a PhD Researcher at King's College London, where I work with **Dr Naho Mirumachi** and **Dr Alex Loftus** to explore environmental peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa. I first considered King's College for doctoral work when Alex came to deliver a WSRC Seminar at UEA. I met Naho at the Sixth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony, sponsored by the WSRC and organised by Dr Mark Zeitoun. At present, I'm a Visiting Fellow at the University of East Anglia, working as the Water Security Research Centre's Alumni Coordinator and regularly visit Norwich for lectures and seminars. I am also working to convene the Eighth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony in October, which will focus on law, hegemony, and activism. Alongside this, I am coordinating a project on the social aspects of the hydro cycle, developing a participatory tool for water resources modelling (the hydro spiral) with fellow WSRC alums **Ruth Macdougall** and **Charlie Thompson**.



Charles Thompson
MSc Water Security and
International Development | 2013

Rebecca Farnum
MSc Water Security and
International Development | 2013

ELEPHANT HATS MADE OUT OF CARDBOARD BOXES IN THE NAME OF TRADE JUSTICE HERE'S WHY HELEN IS NUTS ABOUT FAIRTRADE



Above: Educational outreach for Earth Day.
Organised by Abbots Mill Project
and Canterbury UNA

Helen Long | BSc Environmental
Geography and International
Development | 2014

Info on Liberation:
www.chooseliberation.com
To buy nuts:
www.liberation.traidcraftshop.co.uk
Talk to Helen:
helen@chooseliberation.com

**“WE ARE NOT CHANGING
THE WORLD OR SAVING
LIVES, BUT SIMPLY DOING
BUSINESS AS HONEST
PARTNERS.”**

HELEN LONG

Since leaving DEV last year, I have landed a job which combines my interests in trade justice and cardboard boxes. Currently beneath my desk, you will find a moderately ordered collection of these renewable resources which were previously banished to the recycling bin. Now, I add value by turning them into elephant hats.

I work as a campaigner at Liberation Foods CIC (Community Interest Company), a Fairtrade nut company based in London but owned by farming cooperatives around the world. Liberation produce flavoured nuts, fruit and nut mixes, and peanut butter. Farmers are paid a premium, which in Kerala they decided to spend on a ‘friendly, but elephant proof’ fence!

Part of my work is to send nut sample packs to activists in universities, local Fairtrade groups and shops. These are delivered in cardboard boxes which I then use to create animal hats, otherwise called ‘educational’ outreach.

I found this job, not through development websites, but by simply typing ‘part time Fairtrade job’ into a search engine. It was advertised on ‘Indeed’ as well as on the Liberation social media pages. I have since learnt the importance of following such feeds, and looking for jobs in unexpected places.

Not long ago, I didn’t expect to be doing a job that I liked. In my final year at DEV I struggled with health problems, sitting my exams late and writing an awful dissertation. Initially after university, I worked as a nursery assistant, the same job I had before I started studying. I now use this childcare experience for promotional activities. Compared to nursery work, being a ‘Campaigner’ is better paid and much less exhausting!

Whilst at UEA, I often wondered what the point was of writing all these essays, when only a handful of people would ever read them. Since then, I have found a practical use, and have published some articles on the internet; one of which I brought to my interview. Also at my interview, I demonstrated

my interest in nuts by saying that I had been selling homemade wild hazel milk, but had never made any money. Perhaps they valued my honesty. I have also used references from my degree to make a food supply quiz for a presentation, and to inform my answers to audience questions. The job advert stated that the company was looking for a person with an interest in researching the lives of small scale farmers in developing countries. I was able to say that I had spent three years doing just that.

I also talked about the skills I use in my other work at Skillnet Group CIC. Here, I applied for a job as a Supporter for people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions, for which I wasn’t really qualified. However, I was offered an internship to acquire experience. This led to hearing about an internal vacancy for getting an allotment group up and running. I helped promote the group, fundraise and organise community tree planting and maintenance events. At one event, we mulched the trees with the use of cardboard; its potential is manifold. Now, as well as being a Campaigner at Liberation Foods, I have taken over supporting the allotment group as Project Lead. I was first invited to work for Skillnet in 2010, when I met them through Greenpeace and revealed that I’m vegan. Therefore, contrary to my A Level Economics teacher’s advice, political activism and ‘hippyness’ turned out to be good career moves...

In my view, Fairtrade, DEV, and Skillnet Group all have something in common. Skillnet Group consists of ‘people with and without learning difficulties working together to achieve equality.’ We promote human rights by running social enterprises in a ‘co-produced’ or democratic way. In DEV, one similar message I took away was to not interfere with people’s lives and patronise them, but to learn trust. Again, in Fairtrade we are not changing the world or saving lives, but simply doing business as honest partners.

STUDENT WORD

LEVERHULME SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AILIE'S FIELDWORK



In 2013, I started my self-funded PhD in the School of International Development, armed with just hope and the determination that I would somehow make ends meet. During my first year I wrote endless letters and grant applications; I think my supervisors probably became quite sick of the amount of reference requests. I was also working part-time, which was difficult to juggle and at times really stressful, but it paid off. I received just over £5,000 in small grants, with my big break arriving halfway through the year when I was awarded one of Leverhulme's study abroad studentships. The scholarship included my flight, visa fees and a stipend, and covered research costs for me to undertake a year of fieldwork in Uganda. It was a huge relief to secure funding and to know that I could adequately plan an extended period of fieldwork. I flew out to Uganda in February this year during the height of the dry season. Although I had previously spent four months as an Intern for the Medical Research Council at the rural study site, it feels different coming back this time as I have a definite purpose and a research project to lead. Being here for a whole year means I can gain a deeper understanding of the place and language, build relations, experience seasonal change and simultaneously collect and analyse data. Central to my research is to explore sexual and reproductive health behaviour in long-term relationships in villages of varying levels of HIV prevalence. I am investigating perceptions of HIV risk, family planning, gender and sexuality.

I am also examining household structures and living conditions as I am interested in whether space, time and privacy shapes sexual experiences and behaviour.

I recently had two book review articles published in separate development journals. The first is on the edited volume: *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*, published in *Progress in Development Studies*. The second review is of Janet Seeley's *HIV and East Africa: Thirty years in the shadow of an epidemic*, which has been published in *Development in Practice*. Janet was previously a professor at the School of International Development and is now at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Both reviews can be sourced from the following citations.

Tam, A. (2015) Book Review: Visvanathan, N., Duggan, L., Wieggersma, N. and Nisonoff, L., *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*, *Progress in Development Studies*, Vol. 15, No.1, pp. 203-205

Tam, A. (2015) Book Review: Seeley, J., *HIV and East Africa: Thirty years in the shadow of an epidemic*, *Development in Practice*, Vol. 25, Issue 3, pp. 443-445.

Ailie Tam

PhD candidate, Social science research | 2013-2017

ILONA USES ROLEPLAY AS A LEARNING TOOL

On March 25th, during a workshop with disaster relief charity RedR UK, I was forced to go to Pakistan. Slightly awkward with a headscarf wrapped around my head, I was there, finally feeling like I was a part of this development world that I had been learning about. However, I'd drawn the short straw, and I was not there as part of the crisis relief team as my friends and colleagues were, but as a Pakistani woman in the aftermath of the devastating Kashmir earthquake of 2005. I was someone who had just lost her house, half her family and who had just walked miles in search for help. Although not actually in Pakistan at all, but in UEA's Julian Study Centre as part of a role play, for the first time I was called upon to get from my seat and physically engage with the information; the number of missing, the radius of the effect, the local culture and the appropriate ways of behaving. This was all in an attempt to engage with the subject of humanitarian disasters in a new and profound way. For my colleagues who were playing the role of the disaster relief workers, a role that development studies helps

us prepare for, and one that many may be aiming for in the near future, the possibility of this situation occurring was plausible.

It may all seem like child's play; a role-playing game that we should leave in the primary school playground. However, the challenge (which it was!) was set by a professional disaster relief charity, as part of a professional skills workshop 'Essentials in Humanitarian Practice'. A central part of this five day course was practical learning – putting you 'at the forefront' as active individuals working together as a team – rather than passive listeners in a lecture theatre.

The value of this practical approach, getting people off their chairs and out of passivity, reminded me of the idea behind a workshop at the University back in the autumn on Forum Theatre. This movement, also called Theatre of the Oppressed, was one that originated in Brazil with a man called Augusto Boal, and has since been applied in many developing

countries. The workshop at UEA was led by Dr Sanjoy Ganguly of India's leading centre for Forum Theatre. At its heart lies the same principle; moving spectators and calling into action those who sit, watch and listen, to make a change.

Whilst acting may not be your thing, and trying to experience life as one of the many poor and oppressed people you study may seem a far cry, it may be worth taking a few moments to think beyond the cognitive bounds of development studies. Consider bringing the 'problem' away from the paper and the lecture theatre and into a practical reality, especially where we are concerned not with maths, but with very real circumstances, and very real people.

Ilona Brinton | BA International Development with Social Anthropology and Politics with Overseas Experience | First Year

SEE & DO

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

GENDER RELATIONS AND RISING INEQUALITIES CONFERENCE IN JULY 2015

The extremes of income inequality, which are emerging across developed and developing nations, will be a major challenge for development in the coming decades as we seek poverty reduction and social justice.

To engage with the gender dimensions of this scenario, DEV will be hosting a major international conference this year on the theme of 'gender relations and rising inequality' between the 6th and 8th of July. It will bring together gender analysts, researchers and scholars for a sustained consideration of changing gender relations in contexts of rising inequality, and aims to stimulate new ways of thinking about gender relations and research priorities.

The conference has a wealth of panels and most are convened by DEV and UEA academics.

Dr Sheila Aikman (DEV) and **Professor Anna Robinson-Pant** (EDU) are convening a panel on gender relations and education aspirations which will consider the gap experienced by many girls and young women between their aspirations and expectations of education/schooling and their lives and opportunities outside of school.

Dr Emma Gilberthorpe (DEV) is convening a panel of papers which will examine how extractive industries operating in middle and low income countries deal with issues of gender and equality in their approach to employability, social responsibility and community development.

Dr Maria Abranches (DEV) and colleagues will be presenting papers on migration, at both contexts of origin and destination, and exploring gender inequalities not just relating to migrants' experiences abroad, but also those that arise or are challenged when kinship relations are maintained across borders.

Dr Ben Jones (DEV) and his current research team are convening a panel which looks at how different aid donors, old and new, each with different institutional histories, approach the issue of gender equality.

Professor Nitya Rao (DEV) and Paola Cagna (ex-DEV) will be presenting a panel of papers on women's advocacy and mobilisation and considering why it has often focused on certain issues, while there is little advocacy on other issues with great centrality to women's lives and wellbeing.

Professor Cecile Jackson (DEV) has organised a panel on consumption, which looks at how gender relations are experienced and manifested through goods, and how, where people are increasingly familiar with the consumption of global others, goods have become a principal means through which exclusion is now experienced.

Professor Ruth Pearson (ex DEV, now Leeds) and **Dr Sara Connolly** (UEA) are focusing on post crisis economic growth and the rise in income and class inequality which has important implications for changing gender relations. Factors including labour market (de)regulation and the withdrawal of social security increasing challenges of child and elderly care offer substantial challenges to the achievement of gender equality.

Dr Maren Duvendack (DEV) is presenting a panel of papers on microcredit which is often heralded as a silver bullet to reduce poverty and empower women. More than one hundred million people living in poverty, mainly women, have been given access to loans, savings, insurances, remittances and other financial services. This panel will debate the impact of microfinance on poverty reduction as well as the extent to which targeted financial services can empower women.

Professor Sohela Nazneen (Manchester) and **Professor Sam Hickey** (Manchester) are presenting a panel which sets out new thinking on how 'informal institutions' and 'political settlements' shape the ways in which women gain political inclusion, how they are able to exercise agency and how gender equity concerns are both promoted and resisted.

Dr Geraldine Terry (ex-DEV) brings together a panel of papers on the multiple levels and forms of gendered inequalities that permeate the social dynamics shaping responsibilities, vulnerability and adaptive capacity in relation to environmental and climatic change.

Finally, on the theme of gender and violence, **Dr Colette Harris** (ex DEV, now SOAS) addresses how contemporary increases to inequalities appear to produce attitudes and encourage behaviour, particularly amongst men, that facilitate participation in violence.

For more info:
www.uea.ac.uk/devresearch/research-themes/gender
or contact gender.conference@uea.ac.uk
www.uea.ac.uk/devresearch/research-themes/gender

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www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/dev-co/professional-training

29th June – 4th July
CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

13th-17th July
ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE FOR GENDER EQUALITY: PRACTICAL SKILLS AND APPROACHES

24th Aug – 4th Sept
FOREST GOVERNANCE – OPERATIONALISING EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN REDD+, PES AND FLEGT

7th – 11th Sept
WATER SECURITY FOR POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

We can also create bespoke courses based on your specific requirements, if desired.

For further information, please see the website or contact devco.train@uea.ac.uk

JOIN DEVSOC!

UEA's International Development Society holds a mixture of academic and social events, often raising money for charities with their DEV's Got Heart campaign. This year's events included the Christmas Ball and DEV's Got Talent which raised £266.68 and saw first year student Yuki Matoba steal the prize thanks to a brilliant unicycle performance! Another event involved student-led research talks by DEV Masters and PhD students, which proved to be a great success.

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