

Development

Annual Newsletter of the School of International Development
2013/2014



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Development

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By carbon balancing the paper on this production we have saved 228kgs of carbon and preserved 19.15sq. metres of land

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Letter from the Head of School, Dr Steve Russell



For the last time I am writing to offer a warm welcome to the Annual Newsletter of the School of International Development. The last three years have, perhaps inevitably, sped by, and it only seems like yesterday that I was writing in the 2010 School Newsletter as the incoming Head of School, where I thanked my colleagues and my predecessor, **Professor Bruce Lankford**, for the great progress and achievements of the School which would make my job that much easier.

As I anticipated, it has been a steep learning curve, and I have enjoyed much of the role.

Thanks to the efforts of so many people – colleagues and our students, our alumni, and our partners who offer training, placements and research collaborations – I think I leave for my successor, **Dr John McDonagh**, a School that continues to flourish, and which remains robust and resilient in a period of great turbulence and change in the Higher Education Sector. I have had the job of steering the School through these choppy waters, which have seen the withdrawal of government funding for our teaching programmes and the introduction of high student fees, cuts to research funding, tighter UK border controls that deter international students and rising competition to attract students.

Students remain the life and soul of the School. They are remarkably hard working and creative, and many do remarkable things, including running their own NGOs and fundraising events. The students' International

Development Society (DEV Soc) has expanded its activities and events dramatically, which creates a distinctive and vibrant culture and social life to the School.

Our staff remain our key resource of course, and their tireless work has reaped great rewards. Our research environment continues to flourish, with sustained successes in attracting research funding from the Research Councils, the latest being a grant from ESRC to research into Conservation, Markets and Justice with several colleagues leading special editions in internationally leading journals. Take a look at our new research web pages for more (www.uea.ac.uk/dev/research) and comment on DEV's new Research Blog! A big thank you to the staff of **International Development UEA** for their continued, dedicated and high quality support.

Once again, on behalf of my academic colleagues I say a big thanks to the local support staff in the School who enable the School to deliver on its aims. Thanks to **Gina Neff**, the School Manager, **Mandy Holland** and **Esther Palin**, Head of School Personal Assistants, to **Chris Hall**, and in particular, to **Holly Butwright**, who joined the School this year and who has settled in remarkably quickly and with great effect.

It is the University's 50th anniversary year and there will be a festival weekend on 28/29 September. I do hope we see many DEV alumni return to Norwich and UEA to join us in the celebrations.

I now hand over to John.

Steve Russell

New Staff



Holly Butwright joined the School in January 2013 as an administrative assistant. She graduated from the University of Warwick in 2010 with a BA in Comparative

American studies (history and culture of Latin and North America), which included a year studying at the University of California, San Diego. Whilst at university, she became involved in marketing student drama productions, and in her final year was the marketing manager for the Opera society, to try and help students connect with modern opera. In San Diego, Holly was voted in as advertising chairperson for the international house events committee, helping to run and advertise events for international students.

After graduating Holly returned home to Norfolk and decided that she enjoyed her time at university so much, that she would like to help students achieve the same satisfaction from their university experience. Before joining DEV Holly worked for the Norfolk County Council and the School of Environmental Sciences at UEA.

Holly will carry out various tasks for the department, from assisting on workshops and conferences to helping update the website and everything else in-between. Holly hopes to build on her experiences from her previous role and welcomes the new challenges that the School will bring.

Welcome from the incoming Head of School, John McDonagh



I will be taking over from **Dr Steve Russell** as Head of School on 1st August 2013. I am looking forward to the challenge but Steve will be tough to follow as he has been an excellent

School Head. In fact, the reason DEV is in pretty good shape at the moment is largely because the School has had good, clear-sighted leadership for a number of years now.

I joined DEV in 1997, at the end (I was told!) of a fifteen year period during which staffing, teaching and other activities in the School had changed very little. In terms of its many positive qualities I think DEV is much the same place but one cannot deny it has changed a great deal over the last decade and a half. Steve refers to some of the key elements of this period of change in his piece over the page. I think almost all these changes have improved DEV and, crucially, most staff and students would still describe DEV as an exciting, supportive and collegial environment in which to work and study. Above all else, I hope I can safeguard these qualities over the next few years.

In disciplinary terms our research interests have become even more diverse than they were fifteen years ago and yet a richness, with critical mass and reputation, has been maintained or developed in a number of areas. Some really exciting things are now happening with these research clusters and this seems set to continue into the future. Things have begun to change quite dramatically with our teaching too in recent years, partly in response

to market forces, but also to reflect better the breadth and focus of what we now do. Perhaps the most significant new teaching initiative is the undergraduate BA in Geography and International Development on which we will welcome our first students this coming September. Plans are also underway for a new BA in Media and International Development with its first intake in September 2014. At PG level there is a new MA programme in Development Management in the pipeline. I think it is really encouraging that we are able to respond to opportunity and demand in this way with our teaching programme and all credit to Steve for pushing these initiatives through. DEVco remains strong and integral to our research, training, and consultancy work and the volume of external activity we all engage in suggests this will also continue. I think we have just about adapted to the waves of administrative reorganisation and integration rolled out from the centre, but only because our local, faculty and hub-based support staff remain excellent, though perhaps depleted in number and more fragmented in roles!

Looking ahead to the next few years? It will be important to consolidate our new strengths in research and teaching but I hope there will be opportunity for me, as Head of School to support the development of even more new ideas and initiatives too, in the way Steve has done so successfully. He has certainly earned the right to some time without distraction to focus on other things and we wish him a peaceful transition back to the normal life of an academic.

John McDonagh

PhD Workshop Experimental Development Economics: Lab in the field

On 18th May DEV's Behavioural and Experimental Development Economics Research Group (BEDERG) organised a research skills training workshop at UEA London for PhD students from across Europe's primary universities. It introduced students to experimental development economics, and targeted those who are planning to use economic experiments as a data collection tool outside the traditional university-based laboratory, a research practice called "lab in the field". Co-organised with UEA's Centre for Behavioural and Experimental Social Sciences (CBESS) and School of Economics (ECO), the event proved popular. Because of overwhelming interest and only 65 places,

the number of participants needed to be drastically restricted. Lectures and materials were provided by members of BEDERG and CBESS who are leaders in this field. Students were familiarised with some of the main topics in this up-and-coming research field (time and risk preferences, social preferences and public goods) and were given numerous practical tips for the design of experiments and the organisation of fieldwork. Post-workshop evaluations were very positive. Seeing the number and calibre of participants and applicants, as well as the positive reception of the workshop, has encouraged the organisers to think this could be turned into an annual event.

New Staff



Dr Jessica Budds joined DEV in January 2013 as Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development. Jessica is a human geographer by training, and will contribute in particular

to the new BA Geography and International Development degree starting this autumn, as well as to the MSc Water Security and International Development.

Jessica comes with nearly 20 years' experience of conducting policy and academic research on poverty and natural resource issues, focusing in particular on urban centres and water governance and with a regional specialisation on South America. The principal themes of her work comprise the application of economic and market principles to water management, as well as the implications of the increasing diversion of water to large-scale economic development.

Her current research includes a project on the implications for water of the expanding mining industry in the Andes, the advancement of the concept of the 'hydrosocial' cycle to represent society-water interactions, an analysis of the concept of ecosystem services, and new work on the scalar politics of hydroelectric power development in the Himalayas.



Dr Maren Duvendack is a Lecturer in DEV and a Research Associate with ODI. She has a PhD in development economics from the University of East Anglia. Her key

research areas cover impact evaluation, microfinance, applied micro-econometrics, replication and reproduction of quantitative analyses as well as research ethics.

After completing her PhD Maren joined the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC as a Postdoctoral Fellow focusing on evaluating the policy impact of agricultural research before joining the Overseas Development Institute in London as a Research Fellow.

Maren has extensively worked on microfinance impact evaluations in India and Bangladesh. She has co-authored two systematic reviews on microfinance impact funded by DFID and 3ie. She has recently become interested in the link between microfinance, empowerment and reproductive health. She has worked on evaluations for the World Food Programme and the Gates Foundation and is currently evaluating the impact of AusAid funded public works programmes in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Short Courses

The Training Office of International Development UEA has just embarked on another season of scheduled short courses which sees around 100 participants spend up to a fortnight at UEA to undertake professional development training in a range of subject areas.

Sarah Gore and **Debra Lee** staff the office, working with faculty to devise and deliver a programme of short courses, respond to enquiries and every other element of bringing the programme together. The current regular courses are Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners, Gender and Development, Impact Evaluation for Evidence Based Policy and Climate Change and Development.

The training office is set up to be flexible enough to respond to specific requests for one-off or bespoke courses, independent of the scheduled programme. Earlier this year it facilitated the organisation of a two-week training course in Gender Transformative Research Design in response to a request from Worldfish. This is part of a longer term relationship between **Professor Nitya Rao**, Worldfish and the Cgiar Gender Network. It will see 17 participants from the Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Zambia, the Philippines and Bangladesh come together at UEA in early July for a course which will be delivered by a team drawn from faculty and external contributors.

The courses are intensive (and occasionally intense) and participants seem to gain from each other as well as from the timetabled speakers and contributors. It is a privilege to work with such international groups who relish the experience of spending a week or two of university life in the company of fellow development professionals engaged in similar work, albeit in a different corner of the world.

For further information on our courses visit www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/dev-co/professional-training or email devco.train@uea.ac.uk

Left Sarah Gore, right Debra Lee.



Ethnographic Film-making Course

For the last four years DEV has worked with Postcode Films facilitating film projects with undergraduates and postgraduates who are interested in using film as part of their research, both in academia and at a professional level. The workshops cover the practical skills of film-making, the responsibilities of visual representation and the art of story-telling in a short film.

More than fifteen short films have been produced about the local area, creating and improving local partnerships between residents, community groups, students and the university itself. Each film reflects a particular reality of a local person or group, but seen together they form a substantial and unique portrait of contemporary life in East Anglia. From the rural lives of a bell-ringing group, the coastal industries of crab fishing and seal boat tourism, to the experiences of Norwich's refugee community and a choir for local blind people, the traditions and evolving communities of the region are explored.

Students from the course have used the skills learned to gain work in media development organisations, on broadcast documentary programmes and for international NGOs. Several of the films have been screened at film festivals across the UK.

Sam Lay, MA in Media and International Development: "I had a great time on the course. It was a good mix of theory and practice, and it set me up perfectly for a two month work experience placement making documentaries in Nepal for Media Service Nepal." www.mediaservicenepal.org

Leah Braverman, MA in Media and International Development: "Postcode Films really helped me land an internship working in digital productions at the United Nations Research Institute for



Dev students film with activists at the Occupy Norwich camp in 2012.

Social Development (www.unrisd.org) this summer. Not only was the organisation impressed with the ethnographic film I made during the Postcode films, but one of my first tasks was to create a short film in a week highlighting an international conference held at the International Labour Office, which Postcode Films certainly helped prepare me for!" www.postcodefilms.co.uk



Unique new BA degree in Media and International Development

Recent events such as Kony 2012 and the Arab Spring help to illustrate how important the media can be in international development. Media are central to encouraging charitable donations, promoting democracy and human rights and in delivering public health messages during emergencies. The media can also promote mass mobilisation and participation, communicate development 'messages' and facilitate the flow of information locally, nationally and internationally.

In recognition of the growing demand for those working in international development to understand how the media works (and for those working in the media to have an international outlook), DEV is planning to establish a unique new undergraduate degree in 'Media and International Development' starting in September 2014. It will be the first course of its kind in the UK to integrate the study of these two subjects – with core areas of the degree addressing foreign media coverage, communication for development work and the development of the media in the Global South.

This degree will draw on the expertise of two of the most successful areas of teaching and research in UEA. UEA is ranked joint second in the country for Communication and Media Studies by The 2013 Complete University Guide, and came 3rd in the 2013 Guardian University Guide league table for Geography and Environmental Studies. This cross-School teaching will also allow for a unique range of choice and specialisation, with students able to choose module options linked to both

international development and the media, such as *Women, Islam and the Media and Development in Practice*.

It is hoped that this new undergraduate degree will replicate the success of the relatively new masters in Media and International Development (MAMID) which has grown rapidly to become one of the biggest masters in the School in just five years. Alumni from this masters were amongst the many professionals working in this area to be consulted regarding the design of the new degree. **Ana Libisch** who graduated from the MAMID course in 2012 and who is now the Project Coordinator for the Latin American office of Inter Press Service (a global news agency), commented that "For organisations like Inter Press Service, to have graduates in Media and International Development will be wonderful. This is what we do. I think that this kind of degree is perfect for all the people who are interested in working in the international field."

This new degree also responds to calls from current undergraduates for more teaching in the area of media and communications.

Kimberley Dix, current DEV undergraduate student said "The world of media is progressing rapidly and combined with international development is opening up new sectors for jobs. Increasingly I am seeing a need for more development students with IT and social media skills and communications knowledge."

For further information visit www.uea.ac.uk/dev or email course director Dr Martin Scott: Martin.Scott@uea.ac.uk

Celebrating 5 years of media and development in DEV

DEV's MA in Media and International Development is celebrating its fifth birthday in 2012/13. During this short time it has grown rapidly to become one of the biggest masters degrees in the School. Its success has also led to similar courses in this area being established in other universities.

To celebrate its achievements, DEV has been running a series of events including a 'media and development speaker series' and a student symposium. The speaker series included seven different guest talks on issues ranging from press freedom and entertainment education to media coverage of famines and NGO's use of social media. There have also been talks on how to get a job in this area as well as skills sessions relating to ethnographic film-making and the practicalities of making documentaries about the Global South.

Alongside this series of lectures, DEV lecturers **Martin Scott** and **David Girling** have been writing a series of blogs on topics relevant to media and development. Some of the most popular have been *Celebrity Advocacy*, *Social Media and International Development* and *Media, Power and Cameron: What's next for media and development?* The blog on *Reporting the Kenyan Elections: Five Things We Can Learn From Last Time* was re-tweeted widely in Kenya before the elections and was mentioned in the national media.

See www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/dev-blog

Finally, the first 'media and development student symposium' at UEA took place on 23rd March 2013 – involving over 40 student presentation on subjects ranging from twitter use during disasters to the re-branding of Islam. A link to all the presentation topics is available here – www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/news-and-events/media-and-development-speakers

The active alumni network for this course has produced internship opportunities and even jobs. Former students have gone on to secure jobs in media and development for organisations including Inter Press Service, UNICEF, IDS, Oxfam, World Relief and Video Volunteers.

Students from MAMID class of 2010.





The Mango Tree: Living with HIV in Uganda

Between 2011 and 2013 **Dr Steve Russell** and **Professor Janet Seeley** carried out a study in Uganda which looked at people's management of HIV as a long term condition on antiretrovirals (ARVs). It examined how people were coping with life on ARVs, the factors which enabled them to adjust and make progress, and the challenges they faced. It collected detailed qualitative data from 38 participants on ARVs. It also surveyed 263 people on ARVs, randomly recruited from both government and TASO facilities, to collect quantitative data on their quality of life and mental health outcomes. These outcomes were compared with other people living in the community.

In June this year, Steve returned to Uganda with **David Girling**, DEV's Director of Research Communications, for two weeks to make a documentary about four of the participants in the study. Steve and David met up with Ugandan film-maker **Denis Namanya** and two of the original fieldworkers in the study, **Stella Namukwaya** and **Richard Muhumuza**.

In Uganda it was not until 2004 that ARVs became more widely available, due to lower prices and increased international funding. By 2012, about half of those needing the treatment were getting it. ARVs have transformed people's lives.

HIV has become a manageable chronic condition. People have recovered their health, can go back to work and care for their children. Some people on ARVs say they have come back from the dead, from being bed ridden at home to walking proudly in the street.

The words of one of our participants inspired the name of the film: "I can now plant a mango tree and live to eat the fruits from it."

The documentary is about the changing face of HIV in Uganda, a country where 1.4 million people are living with the virus – 7.3 per cent of the population. It tells the story of four people's journey from sickness back to health. How they found the courage to go for a test, the support they received from close family and professionals, and their chance for life again.

Once the film is complete Steve intends to take it on a tour of universities and present it at conferences. It will also be distributed via various agencies in Uganda and posted on DEV's YouTube Channel. It's aim is to help people understand the transformative effects of ARVs for people living with HIV, and the crucial need for ongoing funding of the treatment.



Impact Evaluation

In the School of International Development modern impact evaluation is a growing area of research strength and teaching capacity. The current wave of enthusiasm for impact evaluation in international development emphasises quasi-experimental and experimental research designs, micro-econometric analyses, qualitative and mixed methods, and systematic reviews. Staff at the School have been and continue to be involved in all these areas.

In 2011 a unique MSc Impact Evaluation for International Development was established to address the evident need for impact evaluation capacity. The MSc offers familiarisation with and skills in the basics of modern evidence-based policy-making and impact evaluation. It is unique in Europe and receives a growing interest from students both from the EU and overseas.

In addition, the School established a professional short course in "Impact Evaluation for Evidence-Based Policy in International Development". This two week course offers practical impact evaluation training to individuals working in international agencies, governments in developing and developed countries, think-tanks, NGOs and other donor organisations. We also conduct tailored courses on demand, and the short course is being offered overseas to build evaluation capacity in particular in developing countries.

Also with regards to research the team have been involved in several impact evaluation studies, funded by 3ie, AusAid, World Food Programme, Gates Foundation, ESRC, the British Academy and DFID, among others.

In conclusion, a dynamic multidisciplinary team in UEA is currently driving the growing field of impact evaluation. Together these activities and capacities provide an exciting environment for teaching and study of impact evaluation and a wealth of experience for research and consultancy.

For further information visit www.uea.ac.uk/dev or email Dr Ben D'Exelle: B.DExelle@uea.ac.uk or Dr Maren Duvendack: M.Duvendack@uea.ac.uk

Conservation, Markets and Justice

Led by Dr Adrian Martin, a group of DEV faculty and researchers have won a grant from the ESRC to conduct research into *Conservation, Markets and Justice: a comparative study of local and global conceptions*. The research will explore the different ways in which local people and conservation professionals think about social and environmental justice as a means to better understand conservation conflicts and the tensions between biodiversity conservation and local wellbeing.

Many so-called solutions to biodiversity loss fail to achieve their objectives and we will explore one reason for such failure: that there is a moral tension between national and global demands for biodiversity conservation and local demands for both material needs and social freedoms. The research is comparative in four ways. First, it will compare local conceptions of justice with those that (implicitly) frame global conservation interventions such as REDD+ or more local ones such as ecotourism projects; second, it will conduct empirical research in three countries: China, Tanzania and Venezuela; third, there will be a market-based conservation site and a more traditional conservation site in each country; and fourth, we will use four different methods to try and elicit local conceptions of justice and to explore the contexts in which these are constructed and deployed. On the deductive side, we will use experimental economics and questionnaire surveys. On the more inductive side we will use qualitative interviews and participatory videos (visual anthropology).

The Venezuela site will involve work with the Pemon people in the Canaima National Park landscape, in partnership with the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research. The Tanzania site is in Kilwa district, adjacent to the Selous game reserve, working with the Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (an NGO established by **Steve Ball**, a UEA masters graduate). The China site is in Tengchong county, Yunnan, working with the Kunming Institute of Botany. **Dr Adrian Martin**, **Dr Bereket Kebede** and **Professor Thomas Sikor** are the faculty investigators, together with three post-doc researchers: **Dr Nicole Gross-Camp** (DEVco research fellow), **He Jun** (recent DEV PhD, based in China) and **Iokine Rodriguez** (DEV fellow, based in Venezuela/UK). It is a 3 year project and ESRC's contribution is £640,000. We are especially delighted to have the go ahead for this project as it contributes to DEV's growing body of work on environmental justice.

Armed conflict and economic performance in Rwanda

While the human consequences of conflict can be devastating, the effect of conflict on economic performance in the medium and long term remains unclear.

From an economic theoretical perspective there is no consensus about the impact of conflict on economic performance. Neoclassical growth theory predicts that an economy recovers relatively quickly. Alternative models argue that catch up may take a long time, for instance because human capital recovers only slowly, or that countries can be trapped in a low level equilibrium where conflict and poor performance coexist.

Current evidence, relying on cross-country data, provides support for either of these views, with some work finding evidence for relatively rapid catch up, while other studies indicating that convergence may be slow or countries may be stuck in a 'bad' equilibrium. One possible explanation for these apparent contradicting findings lies in the nature of the data that is employed. Using cross country data, these studies leave a number of factors that may affect the relationship between conflict and economic performance unobserved.

The speed of economic recovery may, for instance, depend on the type of damage caused by the war. The destruction of physical capital may for instance have different consequences than human capital destruction. The identity of the parties at war may also matter, in particular whether the conflict was between states, often relying on professional armies, or within a state between fractions of society (some of them non-army forces). While any of these factors may play a role, each of them remains typically unobserved in cross country data, making estimates fragile and complicating identification of causal relationships. This study is part of a wider project analysing the interplay between conflict and economic performance at the micro level.

Using micro level data from Rwanda this study focuses on the impact of different forms of violence on economic performance within one single country six years after the conflict. Exploiting the (sadly) unique setting of Rwanda, which experienced distinct forms of violence during the same period, the study compares the effect of genocide, which mostly destroyed human capital, and civil war which typically affected physical capital. The results are confirmed when using a small pre and post conflict panel data set.

Three key findings emerge from the study. Comparing between high and low conflict-intensity

areas, the study finds that households and communities that have experienced more conflict in 1994 have lower consumption six years after the end of the violence. The result remains after controlling a wide range of household and community characteristics, including factors of production and displacement, and accounting for reverse causality and simultaneity using an instrumental variable approach, with distance to the Ugandan border and distance to Nyanza, the former capital of the ancient Tutsi monarchy, as identifying instruments.

Further analysis suggests that the economy is still in transition, with the returns to land and labour significantly different between zones that experienced low and high intensity conflict, which is consistent with on-going recovery.

The findings also provide evidence that these returns, and by implication the process of recovery, depend on the form of violence. Returns to land are lower, and returns to unskilled labour higher for genocide affected areas, a direct consequence of the decrease in labour force, as the genocide targeted adult males in particular. Returns to skilled labour, on the other hand, are higher in genocide affected areas, because the genocide targeted the highly educated, while civil war damages factors that augment skilled labour.

Considering a relative short period after the conflict (6 years) has both advantages and disadvantages. The study results confirm that the economy is still in transition – and a new steady state has not been reached, but cannot reveal whether the ongoing process of recovery will lead to the pre-war steady state, as predicted by neoclassical growth models, or in a new, lower steady state, as implied by poverty trap models. A detailed analysis of the time path of recovery is the subject of ongoing research in which more recent data is being analysed.

The above findings have important lessons for policy-making. Post-war countries typically experience a large inflow of aid. Knowing the underlying mechanisms of post-war recovery is therefore useful as it helps our understanding how aid may help speed up post-war recovery. If pathways to recovery depend on the type of violence, then specific policies are needed to promote post conflict recovery. These and more issues are explored in on-going further research by the authors.

The above is a summary of Serneels P., M. Verpoorten, 2013, *How does conflict affect economic performance?*. Evidence from Rwanda, Journal of Conflict Resolution, forthcoming. The study was carried out by Pieter Serneels and Marijke Verpoorten. Pieter is Reader in Economics at the University of East Anglia. Marijke Verpoorten is Associate Professor at University of Antwerp. For further information please contact P.Serneels@uea.ac.uk; Marijke.Verpoorten@ua.ac.be

Justice matters... The Global Environmental Justice Group starts new series of short films

Why and how does social justice matter in contemporary environment and development issues? This question lies at the core of DEV's Global Environmental Justice Group. It is also the central theme of a series of short 'testimonies of justice' with environmental activists and development practitioners produced by the Group and DEV Director of Research Communications **David Girling**.

The Group has developed the idea of filming testimonies in response to two kinds of reactions they have typically encountered when speaking about social justice in relation to environmental issues. On the one hand, conservation biologists and other conservationists tend to express sympathy for the goal of social justice but ask why it matters for their immediate work. To many of them, environmental conservation is about understanding ecological dynamics and then instituting the right policies to protect habitats or manage ecosystems in a sustainable manner.

On the other, environmental managers support addressing ethical concerns but voice reservations about the openly political nature of the term 'justice'. Wouldn't, they ask, we fare better with the term 'equity'? After all, equity has become part of the standard vocabulary in environmental policy and management, and we should concentrate our efforts on making decision makers and other powerful agents to live up to their commitments. So, why justice?

The films show how issues of environment and development have become a matter of social justice to activists and practitioners. Concerns over justice motivate their campaigns and everyday work. Justice provides them with a vocabulary across sectors and contexts, from the struggle against 'land grabs' to efforts seeking to legitimise local people's experiential knowledge in resource management. Justice serves them as a useful concept because it combines matters of distribution and participation with attention to recognition, i.e. acknowledgement of people's collective identities, historical experiences of dispossession and marginalisation and contemporary claims of social and cultural diversity.

Duncan Green from Oxfam.



Four films are currently (late June 2013) available, featuring:

- **Jenny Franco** from the Transnational Institute (Netherlands)
- **Saskia Ozinga** from FERN (UK)
- **Ilokiné Rodríguez** from the Centre for the Study of Social Transformation, Science and Knowledge Systems (Venezuela)
- **Duncan Green** from Oxfam (UK)

Each film poses the same questions to activists, i.e. about the kind of injustices they address, what they do to overcome these injustices, what difficulties they encounter in their work, what needs to change to achieve justice, and what a just future would look like.

The films include some real jewels. For example, Jenny Franco explains how she tries to help activists and people affected by land grabs to imagine alternative futures. Injustice, she says, takes the form of people's 'restricted imagination about what's possible'. One of the first things that needs to change is people's awareness, understanding and imagination about what's possible.

The Group plans to continue the series in the coming years in order to build up a library of testimonies from around the world. Six further testimonies are planned on the occasion of the First International Think Tank on Global Environmental Justice, which brings environmental activists from around the world to UEA between 20-22 June 2013.

The hope is that the testimonies will eventually no longer be needed to convince people about the intimate relationship between social justice and environmental sustainability. Once people have accepted that environmental stewardship requires social justice, and vice versa, the library may become a useful historical resource for academic research on the development of global environmentalism. This day, one fears, isn't around the corner, yet.

You can view the films on Youtube:
bitly.com/testimoniesofjustice.

For further information contact:

Professor Thomas Sikor, t.sikor@uea.ac.uk

Acknowledgement: The films have been produced with financial support from the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation Programme (ESPA; project NE/I003282/1) and International Development UEA.

Assessing post-disaster interventions

Evaluating the effectiveness of post-disaster interventions is an important but challenging task. Practitioners and donors share an interest in being able to assess the outcomes and impact of projects and donated funds for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. However, it is widely acknowledged that assessing the benefits of interventions following disasters is inherently complex, and that better guidance is needed to assist agencies in undertaking evaluations that are robust but affordable.

A collaboration between DEV (**Roger Few**, **Daniel McAvoy** and **Marcela Tarazona**) and Oxfam (**Vivien Walden**) aims to research, pilot and publish a guide to support agencies responding to disasters. The purpose of the Contribution to Change guide is to outline an approach that can be used to identify the significance and effectiveness of interventions in assisting people's recovery. The approach is based on assessing the changes over time in people's lives, with a focus on the extent to which their resources, livelihoods and wellbeing have recovered since the disaster and the role that interventions appear to have played in that recovery process.

The Contribution to Change methodology is designed for use in situations following rapid-onset natural hazards such as flash floods, storms, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. One key advantage of the approach is that, by rooting the analysis in the wider context of people's recovery, it encourages agencies to reflect on the relative impact and consequences of interventions. Ultimately, this should encourage organisational learning and better practice.

The guide is currently in press and will be available from late 2013.



Marco Arena is giving the acceptance speech, and Connor Botkin is holding the "Fondazione Mike Bongiorno" award. (photo: Leigh Vogel, Connect4Climate)

International Video Award

Connor Botkin and Marco Arena, who are studying on the MSc Climate Change and International Development, were recently shortlisted for an international Connect4Climate award. The global competition is designed to encourage students to create a 30 second viral video about climate change. Connor and Marco's entry was shortlisted as one of the 5 finalists from the 248 submission received from 65 countries. Part of their prize was to attend the International GrandPrix of Advertising Strategies in Milan. During the ceremony, the winner was decided through an electronic voting system, where audience members were shown 30 second ads in quick succession and then voted for them. Connor said "Although we did not win the audience vote (it went to a Lebanese duo for a cheeky video on the benefits of showering together to save water), we were presented the winners of the *Fondazione Mike Bongiorno* award, which had previously been selected by the panel of judges."

Both Connor and Marco received an internship and scholarship money as well as the award.

Connect4Climate (C4C) is a coalition and community that cares about climate change. Since their launch in September 2011, they have built a Facebook community of over 500,000 users engaged in climate change conversations and resource-sharing, and a coalition of more than 160 partners committed to climate change communication and action.

To see the finalists videos:
www.youtube.com/user/Connect4Climate

DEV students attend UN Climate Conference in Bonn

UEA sent a delegation of seven DEV MSc students and one DEV lecturer to the biannual meeting of the subsidiary bodies of the UN climate convention.

This session discussed the implementation of the convention and technical/scientific matters arising from it and made some limited progress toward a new international climate deal for 2015. We followed the discussions and conducted interviews for a research project on the role that constituencies play in the intergovernmental negotiating process. Constituencies represent the interests of business, environmental NGOs, indigenous peoples, local governments, trade unions, researchers, women, farmers and youth.

We found that each of the constituencies has its own culture, set of objectives and organisational structure. The youth group (YOUNGO), for example, draws strong membership from the UK, has a structure that is uniquely consensus based and more geared toward direct action. The indigenous peoples organisations (IPO) constituency impressed us with the high level discussion among very diverse communities

on issues such as the non-carbon benefits in the REDD regime. Gender has received some well-deserved attention over the past year and there has been some attempt to increase gender balance in the leadership of the various UNFCCC negotiating bodies.

Some reflections on our week in Bonn:

"Bonn has been an informative but confusing experience that has greatly improved my understanding of international climate negotiation processes and complexities. It is a great complement to my knowledge gained studying in DEV." (Sandy Robinson)

"Observing the negotiations has increased my confidence and ease in understanding the UNFCCC process. Having studied the climate change modules at UEA I am also able to appreciate the challenges and limitations of these political processes." (Sarada Ramaswamy)

"With delegates from nearly 200 countries, global institutions, and NGOs, it's been an amazing opportunity to view the negotiation process as well as interact one on one with leaders in the climate arena."

Connor Botkin (pictured below right)

Left to right Abdullahi Bala, Marco Arena, Sarada Ramaswamy, Heike Schroeder, Tim Damon, Sandy Robinson, Lucy Garrett and Connor Botkin.





Happisburgh in 1996, 2006 and 2012 during which time it has lost a number of sea front properties (© Mike Page)

Adapting to coastal change: understanding different points of view in coastal erosion management

by Mark Tebboth

The devastating flooding in central Europe in June of this year is a powerful example of the destruction that extreme weather can cause. Yet, finding agreement on the best way to protect citizens, infrastructure and nature from the sort of events witnessed in Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic is a difficult, sometimes impossible, balancing act. Stakeholders and decision makers often hold very different views on the causes and solutions to problems like flooding or coastal erosion and this can lead to indecision or inaction. Happisburgh, a small village on the East Anglian coast, has lost a number of homes and other structures in recent years (compare the pictures from 1996 and 2012) and is suffering from the consequences of coastal erosion. However, despite the urgency of the situation, it has not been possible to arrive at a solution that is acceptable to all involved.

The inability of stakeholders to agree a way forward can be explained, in part, by the different ways in which the issue of coastal erosion is framed. For example, the Coastal Concern Action Group (CCAG), a local pressure group based in Happisburgh, highlights the problems caused by a lack of investment in sea defences. Conversely, the UK Government tends to emphasise the inevitability of coastal erosion, citing causes such as nature or climate change. By highlighting different causes as primarily responsible for coastal erosion these two stakeholders gravitate towards different solutions: increased and more appropriately targeted investment if a lack of investment is the problem and a different management approach if coastal erosion is inevitable. How is it that these two stakeholders, with access to similar information can have such different perspectives?

The different views held by institutions such as CCAG or the UK Government are, in part,

determined by their implicit beliefs or how they think the world works. These beliefs help institutions to make sense of the world around them and can act as short cuts when trying to understand complex issues. In the case of Happisburgh, this might explain why dredging is seen as a critical issue for one party (CCAG) but is barely on the radar of the other (UK Government).

In policy conflicts, revealing some of the more underlying beliefs that stakeholders rely on to support a particular point of view can helpfully inform governance and communication approaches leading to more realistic, acceptable and better designed solutions. For Happisburgh, this could mean a reframing of the issue of coastal erosion to focus on the more recent successes that have been realised through the Pathfinder Programme, rather than past failures. Such an approach offers potential to rebuild trust and understanding between the different stakeholders, increasing the chances of a more positive outcome.

The author: Mark Tebboth is a PhD student at the School of International Development affiliated with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. His master's dissertation on the framing of coastal erosion in Happisburgh won the inaugural Piers Blaikie Prize for Best Dissertation on the politics of the environment: <http://tinyurl.com/mtprofile>.

Tebboth M. 2013 Understanding intractable environmental policy conflicts: the case of the village that would not fall quietly into the sea *The Geographical Journal* doi: 10.1111/geoj.12040

A version of this article is also available on the Geography Directions blog blog.geographydirections.com

DEV student attends conference in US

In April 2013, DEV student **Rebecca Farnum** was honoured to attend the American Middle East Network for Dialogue at Stanford (AMENDS), where she collaborated with leading youth activists from across the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States on political, economic, and social change in the region.

As the 2011 uprisings unfolded, two undergraduate students at Stanford University – one American, one Bahraini – decided they wanted to get to know more about what was really happening in the Middle East. They pulled together other students, professors, and funders. And so AMENDS was born.

This year, the team received some 300 applications for about 35 delegate spots. Delegates were selected for their potential to affect real change in the region and on the basis of ongoing projects they are heading around a variety of social, economic, environmental, and political issues.

The delegates engaged in five days of dialogue with each other and participated in a series of workshops on communication, design, and funding. They met with respected professors and entrepreneurs. The conference culminated in a series of TED-like talks in which delegates shared their initiatives with each other and an audience invited from across Stanford and the Valley. Becca's talk explored environmental peacebuilding in the region.

Becca is a 2012 Marshall Scholar currently at DEV pursuing a MSc in Water Security and International Development. She is currently writing her master's dissertation on issues of trade and environmental law for virtual water flows under the supervision of **Dr Mark Zeitoun**.

For further information about AMENDS visit amends.stanford.edu

Corporate Social Responsibility

by Katherine Russack

Often when I say I work in corporate social responsibility (CSR) people immediately think of my role as nice to have, the person who raises money for the charity of the year or organises employee volunteering. When they hear what a role in CSR entails they are usually very surprised at how varied it is. Covering everything from carbon accounting and employee diversity, to advising on labour policies in the supply chain.

The vast majority of large companies now have policies on CSR and produce annual reports about it, which may well be audited, just like financial reports. Even small and medium sized companies may have information about it; it is a common language amongst business. However, the variety of approaches to this area is very broad as organisations' approach it in very different ways. This is something I witnessed through a variety of roles since leaving UEA both in the not-for-profit sector and more recently in the for profit environment.

Reflecting on how organisations manage their suppliers and risks in supply chains is something that is both topical and increasingly held up to scrutiny from outside stakeholders.

Some organisations want an extensive tick sheet of CSR issues to be satisfied from their suppliers, covering environmental, social and economic elements. However, they do not question how these criteria are met. This approach pushes responsibility of issues down the supply chain, which will be effective to an extent, but is unlikely to bring the best long-term outcomes. It creates barriers in knowledge transfer; if the organisations had a greater understanding of the impacts created directly or indirectly by their work, they would be able to change their practices to reduce risk throughout their supply chains.

If organisations that bought from the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh knew of the working conditions there, would they have continued to work with them in the same

way? Lack of awareness and knowledge can create and maintain inequalities throughout the supply chain.

Others want to work with their suppliers to develop bespoke programmes, or at least have more engagement to understand how objectives are achieved. The most interesting approach I have seen recently is when one company invited its suppliers, and the suppliers of those suppliers to meet for a discussion about how they can all work together to improve CSR outcomes. It is these more innovative approaches that encourage different parties to speak to one another, understand common issues and work on them jointly, improving results for all involved.

CSR has moved a long way from being a nice-to-have philanthropic activity, to an integral part of the work a company does. The question is how open will organisations be about the way they work to maximise the benefits that CSR can bring?

