Introductions

The Department of Politics and International Studies is immensely happy to welcome a number of new academic colleagues:

Dr Banu Bargu has joined the Department as senior lecturer in political Theory. She received her PhD from Cornell, and has joined SOAS after having taught at the New School for Social Research in New York. Dr Bargu’s main area of specialization is political theory, especially modern and contemporary political thought. Thematically, her work has focused on theories of biopolitics, sovereignty, and resistance. Her research interests are situated at the intersection of philosophy, politics, and anthropology, with a strong regional focus on the Middle East (and especially Turkish politics). In her research and teaching, she draws upon the traditions of continental and critical theory as well as the history of political thought but with a keen interest in interrogating these traditions from the perspective of current political issues and concerns. She has worked on thinkers such as Machiavelli, Marx, Stirner, Schmitt, Foucault, and Althusser with an interest in bringing their reflections to bear on contemporary themes such as violence, the body, sacrifice, martyrdom, and aesthetics. Bargu’s research on contemporary forms of self-destruction, such as hunger striking, suicide attack, and self-immolation, aims to illustrate how these violent forms of political action relate to the changing nature of sovereign power in the modern world. Her work analyzes how life is forged into a weapon through an in-depth study of the Death Fast Struggle of political prisoners in Turkey. Her book, Starve & Immolate: The Politics of Human Weapons, is currently in production with Columbia University Press.

Dr Matthew Eagleton-Pierce joined the Department in September 2013 as a Lecturer in International Political Economy. Dr Eagleton-Pierce’s primary research interests are centred on the politics of world trade and the history of neoliberalism. He also has strong interests in the conceptual analysis of power and legitimacy, and international political sociology. His first monograph, Symbolic Power in the World Trade Organization, was published by Oxford University Press in 2013. At present, Dr Eagleton-Pierce is working on a new book called Neoliberalism: The Key Concepts (Routledge). He previously taught at the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics, and the University of Exeter. He holds a DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford.

Dr Lauge N. Skovgaard Poulsen joined the Department as a Senior Research Fellow in International Political Economy in 2013. He will join as a permanent member of
faculty from October 2014. Dr Poulsen received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics (LSE) in 2011, and has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford, since 2012. At the University of Oxford, he is also a Research Associate at the Global Economic Governance Programme. Dr Poulsen works on aspects of the international investment regime as well as the political economy of energy. He did his graduate coursework at U.C. Berkeley and LSE and has been a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution and LSE’s Law Department.

Dr Meera Sabaratnam has joined the Department as Lecturer in International Relations. Prior to this, she taught at the University of Cambridge and the LSE, and has degrees from the LSE and the University of Oxford. Dr Sabaratnam’s research includes work on post-colonial IR theory, the politics of international state-building in Mozambique and forms of debt and indebtedness in the Indian Ocean. Dr Sabaratnam currently co-convenes the Colonial, Post-colonial and De-colonial Working Group of the British International Studies Association. She is co-founder of the award-winning world politics blog The Disorder of Things, and of a non-award-winning rock covers band with other International Relations academics in London. In the Department she is teaching courses on International Theory, Security Governance and the Indian Ocean in World Politics.

Dr Kristin Surak is pleased to have joined the department as a Senior Lecturer in Japanese Politics. For over a decade, she has been investigating issues of international migration, nationalism, and globalization. Her articles on topics such as ethnic categorization, nation-building, symbolic power, capitalism and ethnicity, migration policies, and guestworker schemes have appeared in several prominent academic and intellectual journals, including the European Journal of Sociology, International Migration Review, Merkur: Zeitschrift für Europäisches Denken, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Lettre International, and the New Left Review. Earlier this year, Stanford University Press published her book Making Tea, Making Japan: Cultural Nationalism in Practice in simultaneous hard and paperback versions. For her scholarship, she has been named a Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles and a Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and she has received awards and fellowships from the European University Institute, Frankfurt University, the Sainsbury Foundation, the Japan Foundation, and the Fulbright-Hays Foundation, among others. Prior to joining the Department of Politics and International Studies, she was a Junior Professor for Comparative Sociology at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. She received a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr Hedi Viterbo joined the Department in September as Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow. Hedi received his PhD in Law from LSE and his LLM from Tel Aviv University. He is also a graduate of the Tel Aviv University Interdisciplinary Programme for Outstanding Students, where he specialised in Political Studies, Law, Literary Theory, and East Asian Studies. Before coming to SOAS, Hedi was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School, a visiting researcher at Columbia University, and a teaching fellow at Tel Aviv University. His research interests include Law and Politics; State Violence (particularly in Israel/Palestine and the United States); Childhood; and Sexuality. He will be teaching The Law and Politics of State Violence as well as Childhood, Politics and Law.
We have also been joined by **Ian Munro** as our new Faculty Officer on the Student Support team, responsible for the undergraduate students in the Politics Department. Ian studied Human Geography at The University of Westminster and has been at SOAS since April last year, having previously worked in the School of Law undergraduate Student Support team. Ian has spent several years living and working abroad, including three years in Australia, where he worked for the Arts Council, and most recently taught English in South East Asia. Ian enjoys travelling, outdoor pursuits and is currently learning German.

The Department also welcomes its new **student representatives** for the 2013-2014 academic year:

**Alexander Lee Seng Ye** and **Neelam Chhara** (Year 1 UG)

**Thomas Edward Elias** and **Joe Miller** (Year 2 UG)

**Dag Joel Johannes Svensson** and **Cristiana Moisescu** (Year 3 UG)

**Jelena Louise Ahlblad** (MSc Middle East Politics)

**Benjamin James Shook** (MSc Asian Politics)

**Murad Mohammed Khan** (MSc Politics of China)

**Kathryn Nash** (MPhil)

**James Eastwood** (PhD)

Undergraduate Students **Julia Sekula** (BA Politics & Economics) and **Joshua Mao** (LLB) have founded a new publication called *The Black Swan*. The Publication covers topics in the fields of Politics, Economics/Finance, and Law and is published on a bi-monthly basis. Popular articles include a commentary on the continuing struggles in South and North Sudan, the Economics of Revolutions, Politics of the Nile, Chinese bonds and many more. Since the first issue, the website has had over 3000 hits and they look forward to expanding into other forms of media. You can see the publication at [www.the-blackswan.co.uk](http://www.the-blackswan.co.uk).

Professor **Salwa Ismail** has published “Urban Subalterns in the Arab Revolutions: Cairo and Damascus in Comparative Perspective” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 55(4).

[http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fropage=online&aid=9012880](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fropage=online&aid=9012880)

**Rochana Bajpai** has published two co-authored articles based on cross-regional comparative research on South Asia and Southeast Asia: “South Asian and Southeast Asian Ideologies” (with **Dr Carlo Bonura**) in the *Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies* edited by Michael Freeden, Lyman Tower Sargent, and Marc Stears (Oxford University Press 2013) and “From Ideas to Hegemony: October. Its argument is simple: Europe is declining, the United States is ambivalent about global rules, and with resurgent conservative religious forces and reinvigorated authoritarian nationalism in many parts of the world, the outlook for human rights is unpromising to say the least. It was reviewed by Chatham House’s *The World Today* and the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and he has written brief accounts for the *New Internationalist* and the *Church Times*, two very different outlets! He will be appearing on BBC Radio 4’s live *Start the Week* on Monday November 25 and will give a talk about the book at SOAS on Friday December 6. He also gave the closing address to several hundred people at the Berlin Humanitarian Congress on October 27 of which a youtube video is available ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaQkJT3n1rY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaQkJT3n1rY))

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Dr **Stephen Hopgood**’s new book *The Endtimes of Human Rights* was published by Cornell University Press in...
Ideational change and Affirmative action policy in Malaysia, 1955-2010” (with Dr Graham Brown) in Journal of Political Ideologies, 18(3).


Kristin Surak contributed an article on temporary migrant workers across the globe, entitled “Die Gastarbeiter,” to Germany’s leading intellectual journal, Merkur: Zeitschrift für Europäisches Denken (Sonderheft) 9/10. Her article, “Nation-Work: A Praxeology of Making and Maintaining Nations” (European Journal of Sociology 53(2)) was named the editors’ highlight piece for 2012. The article contributes to the “cognitive turn” in ethnicity studies by showing that ethnic categorization operates through three modalities, and by demonstrating the importance of internal heterogeneity for refining the experience and performance of group membership. Kristin’s book Making Tea, Making Japan: Cultural Nationalism in Practice was published in hard and paperback versions by Stanford University Press earlier this year. The book provides the first comprehensive analysis of the tea ceremony and its over four-hundred year relationship to political power. Though historical an ethnographic analysis, she uncovers how the practice acquired national inflections while undergoing a radical transformation of its carriers, as what was once an aesthetic pastime of elite men has survived into the twenty-first century as a hobby of middle-class women. Simultaneously, the book offers an analytical bridge between the largely separate literatures on macro-political nationalism and micro-cultural enactments of everyday nationhood by examining their shared repertoire of action. This “nation-work” is visible not only during the foundational phases of nation-building, but also in the more mundane routines of nation-maintenance thereafter.


Doctoral student Amir Khneifess contributed an entry about the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish to The Encyclopaedia of Postcolonial Studies, which was published by Wiley-Blackwell in summer 2014.

Tat Yan Kong’s article “The Political Obstacles to Economic Reform in North Korea: The Ultra Cautious Strategy in Comparative Perspective” was published online in The Pacific Review.


In August, Arshin Adib-Moghaddam’s book Iran in World Politics: The question of the Islamic Republic was republished by Oxford University Press. Adib-Moghaddam’s research article on the nature of political power in Iran titled “What is power in Iran? The shifting foundations of the Velayat-e Faqih” was published in Orient: German Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture of the Middle East 54(4).

Dr Enze Han published a book Contestation and Adapation: The Politics of National Identity in China (Oxford University Press, 2013). The book is about the complexities of national-identity contestation among various ethnic minority groups in China. Simmering grievances and occasional outbursts of social unrest among ethnic minority populations in China challenge not only the ruling party’s legitimacy and governance, but also contemporary Chinese national identity and the territorial integrity of the Chinese state. But, as Enze Han points out, of the fifty-five ethnic minority groups in China, only the Tibetans and Uyghurs have forcefully contested the idea of a Chinese national identity. He argues that whether
ethnic groups contest those national identities depends on whether they perceive a better, achievable alternative. In particular, Han argues that ethnic groups with extensive external kinship networks are most likely to perceive a capacity to achieve better circumstances and are, therefore, more likely to politically mobilize to contest national identity. In the absence of such alternatives ethnic groups are more likely to cope with their situation through emigration, political ambivalence, or assimilation. Using this theoretical framework, the book compares the way that five major ethnic minority groups in China negotiate their national identities with the Chinese nation-state: Uyghurs, Chinese Koreans, Dai, Mongols, and Tibetans. Overall, Contestation and Adaptation sheds light on the nation-building processes in China over the past six decades and the ways that different groups have resisted or acquiesced in their dealings with the Chinese state and majority Han Chinese society.

Laleh Khalili’s “Thinking about Violence” has been published in International Journal of Middle East Studies 45(4), http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9044733. Also, a lecture she gave at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam has been published by the Institute under the title of “Women in and after the Arab Uprisings.” Laleh’s reviews of Victoria Brittain’s Shadow Lives, Gilbert Achcar’s The People Want, and Fiona de Londras’ Detention in the ‘War on Terror’ have been published respectively in The Political Quarterly, Middle East in London, and Review of Middle East Studies 46(2).

Centre for Taiwan Studies

In October Dr Chang Bi-yu joined the Centre of Taiwan Studies as a Senior Teaching Fellow and Deputy Director of the Centre. Dr. Chang will be teaching on a number of undergraduate and postgraduate Taiwan Studies courses in the Politics Department.
India and India-China relations. He will give two talks at the Centre of Taiwan Studies this term. http://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem85318.html

Dafydd Fell and Chang Bi-yu organized the following Centre of Taiwan Studies seminars since the last newsletter:

6 September, Professor Thomas Gold (UC Berkeley), “The Changing Field of Power in Post Martial Law Taiwan”

11 September, Liu Shih-chung (Director DPP Department of International Affairs), “Update on Cross-Strait Relations and the Implications for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)”

30 October, Wu Yi-chen (SOAS, Polities), “Developmental state as development aid donor: How Taiwan offers an alternative approach for aid industry – a case study of Saint Lucia”

4 November, Tseng Shu-hsien (Director General, Taiwan’s National Central Library) and Dafydd Fell (SOAS), Roundtable on Resources for Research in Taiwan and Chinese Studies & Reception to mark the Opening of the Taiwan Resource for Chinese Studies Centre at SOAS Library

13 November, Joe Karackattu (SOAS Centenary Visiting Fellow and Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai), Charles Chen (SOAS), Roundtable on Cross-Strait Relations since ECFA

14 November, Screening of documentary Madame Chiang Kai-shek: A Legend across three centuries with Q&A with Producer Lin Leh-chyun

15 November, Screening of documentary Lee Teng-hui: The First Chinese Democracy with Q&A with Director Lin Leh-chyun

As of September 2013, Prof Salwa Ismail is the new head of the Department of Politics and International Studies. Salwa and the Department would like to thank Dr Fiona Adamson for the tremendous work she has done on behalf of the Department during her tenure as HoD.

Congratulations to newly minted doctors, Sami Everett and Mehmet Ugur Ekinci, who received theirs PhDs.

Mehmet is now working as a Researcher at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) in Ankara.

The Department also congratulates Phil Clark who has been promoted to Reader in Comparative & International Politics, Laleh Khalili, who is now Professor of Middle East Politics, and Julia Strauss who is now Professor of Chinese Politics.

Recent doctoral student Sanaa Alimia will be starting a three-year postdoctoral research position at the Centre of Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO) in Berlin in April 2014. Building on her doctoral work, she will be working on her project “Contesting Modernity in Urban Pakistan: Street Politics, and Moral Lives,” which fits in with ZMO’s current research programme Muslim Worlds – World of Islam: Concepts, Practices and Crises of the Global.

PhD Student Myung Ja Kim has been awarded a Meiji Jingu Japanese Research Scholarship for her work on Zainichi identity in Japan.

PhD Student Veronica Ferreri has been granted the Orient Institut Beirut Research Fellowship for 2014.

Recent doctoral student Sanaa Alimia started a Visiting Associate Professorship at the University of Peshawar’s Political Science Department (Term 1) in September. Here she is teaching “Critical Migration Studies: Migration in a Global Racialised World” to MPhil and Masters students.

Rochana Bajpai has joined the editorial board of Oxford Development Studies as an assistant editor. She has also been awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for a new project on representation and democracy in the context of minority representation in Indian Parliament, and will be on research leave during 2013-15.

Felix Berenskoetter has won a Venture Research and Workshop Grant from the International Studies Association (ISA) for his project “Concept Analysis in International Relations” ($13,000).

Matt Nelson was selected as a Co-PI for a two-year project Mapping Pakistan's Internal Dynamics for the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in Seattle.

On 9 October Dafydd Fell joined the SOAS Director Paul Webley at a ceremony for signing a two year cooperative agreement with Taiwan’s Council for Indigenous Affairs. This will support a part-time research post to produce a publication using historical archives at the SOAS library on Taiwan’s indigenous peoples. http://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem87993.html

From left to right: Niki Alsford, Dafydd Fell, Paul Webley, Bob Ash

On 4 November Dafydd Fell joined the SOAS Pro-Director Nirmala Rao and the Director of Taiwan’s
National Central Library at the signing ceremony for the opening of the new Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies. This resource centre will include a large annual donation of Chinese language books and DVDs, as well as new electronic databases for Chinese and Taiwan Studies. These resources are designed to support Taiwan and China Studies teaching programmes at SOAS. 
http://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem88593.html

From left to right: Wai Hing Tse (SOAS, Chinese Specialist Librarian), John Robinson (Director, SOAS Library), Dr. Tseng Shu-hsien (Director General, National Central Library, Taiwan), Professor Nirmala Rao (SOAS Pro-Director), Dr. Shen Lyu-shun (Representative to the UK, Taipei Representative Office), Dr. Dafydd Fell (Director SOAS Centre of Taiwan Studies, Professor Michel Hockx (Director SOAS China Institute), Ms. Chen Yu-wen (Taiwan's Ministry of Education) and a Taiwanese librarian.

Presentations and Conferences

Meera Sabaratnam presented “Decolonising the subject: Double Consciousness and the Politics of Anti-corruption under the Liberal Peace” at research seminars at the University of Sussex, City University and Queen Mary, University of London.

In November, Julia Strauss gave a talk at the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan on “Performances and Realities in Regime Consolidation: The Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries and the White Terror in Su’nan and Taiwan, 1950-1954.”

In September, Najia Mukhtar (3rd year PhD student) presented “Ideas about Religious Difference in Pakistan” at the 7th global Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging conference at the University of Oxford.

In September, PhD student Indrė Balčaitė participated in “Counter-conduct in Global Politics” workshop at the University of Sussex and gave a presentation “Absent but dangerous: Defiance of the Thailand-Myanmar border among the Karen migrant workers” based on her fieldwork.

At the same conference, James Eastwood, a third year doctoral student in the department, presented a paper titled “Militarising the ‘culture of the self’: ethical pedagogy in the Israel Defence Forces.” James also presented a paper at this year’s European Association of Israel Studies annual conference (16 September) under the title, “Israeli pre-military academies and the ethics of Israeli militarism.”

The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) held its first annual graduate conference on 28th October 2013 in the Brunei Gallery at SOAS. The conference showcased the work of young scholars from Europe, UK, the US, Pakistan and India, across a range of disciplines. Panel themes included: Muslim Representations of Self and Others, Muslim Thought and Practice, Mobilisations and Activism and South Asian Muslims in Transnational Contexts. A key-note address was given by Professor Francis Robinson (University of Oxford) followed by a lively plenary discussion amongst discussants and with the audience. Podcasts will shortly be available on the MUSA website.

MUSA is a research network launched in May 2013 and run by SOAS students, Najia Mukhtar (PhD Politics), Johann Chacko (PhD Politics), Francesca Fuoli (PhD History) and Sameen Mohsin Ali (PhD Politics). To find out more about MUSA please visit http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/musa/

On 24 October, Salwa Ismail took part in the panel The Arab Uprisings: Results and Prospects organised by the London Middle East Institute at SOAS to mark the book launch of Gilbert Achcar’s The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprisings http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tprRA0reBd4&featur e=youtube_gdata

Professor Ismail also presented her ongoing research on revolutionary activism in Egypt at the inaugural meeting of the ERC-funded project When Authoritarianism Fails in the Arab World, in Amman, Jordan in early October.

In September, Carlo Bonura presented “Conceptual Engagements in Contemporary Islamic Political Thought in Southeast Asia: Toward a Theory of Conceptual Transposition” at the Manchester Political Theory Workshop. At the Workshop on Indonesian Cinema sponsored by the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at SOAS in October, he presented “A Montage of Ambivalence: Post-Authoritarian Indonesia in Amir Muhammad’s The Year of Living Vicariously,” which used the work of Walter Benjamin to examine the Malaysian film
director's documentary about the ambivalence of Indonesian politics after the fall of Suharto.

Felix Berenskoetter was invited to give a talk on “Deep Theorizing in International Relations” at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs in Oslo on 12 September. In the summer of 2013, Dr Enze Han was a visiting scholar at Thammasat University in Thailand. In August, Dr Han gave a talk at Yangon University, Myanmar, on Sino-Myanmar Relations. In early September, Dr Han also gave a talk at Chiang Mai University on the same topic.

On 10 October, Dr Steve Heder, Department Research Associate and former faculty member, gave a lecture on his observations, titled “Elections and Mass Demonstrations in Cambodia: ‘Change or No Change?’”

Peter Brett (4th year PhD student) gave a paper on ‘The International Politics of Legalisation’ at the European Consortium for Political Research annual conference in Bordeaux in September (The paper is co-authored with Line Gissel from the University of Aarhus).

Laleh Khallili chaired the first meeting of the International Relations Speaker Series. Dr Rabab El-Mahdi, of the American University of Cairo, delivered a lecture to an overflow audience. Her lecture was titled “Did the Arab Spring ‘wither Away?’” Laleh also presented an exploratory paper on her new project titled “Military Mobilities and Mobilising Movements in the Gulf” at a conference on “Work and Transport” at re:Work, an institute of Humboldt University in Berlin.

In October, Yuka Kobayashi was invited by the Asia Centre, Paris, to give a talk on the ‘Senkaku/Diaoyu Dispute’. This was part of a conference examining China’s foreign policy at its borders organised by François Godement.

Doctoral student Behar Sadriu presented at a workshop titled “Islam in Europe through the Balkan Prism” under the auspices of the Religio-West project (http://www.eui.eu/Projects/ReligioWest/Home.aspx) at RSCAS, EUI, Florence, and the Faculty of Islamic Studies, at the University of Sarajevo.

Matt Nelson presented a paper, “The Trouble with Takfir: Accounting for the Non-Prohibition of Apostasy in Pakistan and Malaysia” at the APSA Annual Meeting in Chicago (August). He also presented a paper “Booti Mafia: The Political Economy of Public-Sector Exams in Pakistan” at a conference on Governing Youth in South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal in September. In October, Matt joined Rochana Bajpai for a standing-room-only panel titled Beyond Subaltern Studies at the Annual South Asia Conference at UW-Madison. Nelson's paper addressed the meaning of “democracy” across Western/non-Western contexts. In Madison, he also attended the annual Board of Trustees meeting for the American Institute of Pakistan Studies.

In July, Rochana Bajpai gave a talk on varieties of liberalism in India at the international conference on Liberalism and Diversity, University of Nottingham. In August, Dr Bajpai presented her work on comparative political thought as interpretive social science at the APSA annual meeting at Chicago, as part of a roundtable titled ‘Conceptualizing the Empirical: A conversation among Interpretive empirical researchers and Political theorists’ (organized by Profs Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow). In October, she presented a paper ‘Rethinking Hegemony: Group Rights in the Indian Constituent Assembly’ at an international workshop at Princeton University titled ‘Fortunately there were rebels’. Rochana also delivered a paper titled ‘On the scope of comparative political thought’ at the Association of Political Theory annual meeting at Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Rochana also organized a panel titled ‘Beyond Subaltern Studies: New approaches to the study of ideas’ at the annual South Asia conference at Madison, Wisconsin in October. Featuring papers that offered critiques of subaltern scholarship and postcolonial approaches to democracy (Matt Nelson) and hegemony (Rochana Bajpai), the panel attracted considerable interest.

Leslie Vinjamuri spoke on an author meets critics panel reviewing the recent publication of The Persistent Power of Human Rights, edited by Thomas Risse, Thomas Ropp and Kathryin Sikkink. Leslie also delivered a paper at the Center of Excellence for International Courts at the University of Copenhagen at the first meeting of the project on “Context of International Courts in their Social and Political Contexts,” a joint initiative led by Duke University, Northwestern University, and the University of Copenhagen. She also delivered a paper at a meeting in the Hague on International Justice and Ongoing Conflict sponsored by the European Council on Foreign Relations and the Hague Institute for Global Justice. The meeting produced a series of case studies on the role of justice and accountability in ongoing conflict. Leslie’s case study on the pursuit of justice during the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo has been published on the website of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Finally, Leslie delivered a lecture at Cambridge University on “Contestation, Backlash, and the Politics of International Justice Twenty Years on.”

Dr Dafydd Fell gave the following presentations: “The electoral impact of the Taiwan Green Party” at conference on Environmental Governance, Northumbria University (July); “The Politics of the Nuclear Referendum Issue in Taiwan,” at the Tenth Sino-European Symposium on Cross-Straits Relations, Shanghai Institute for Strategic Studies (July); and “Explaining Patterns of party switching in multi-party Taiwan” at American Political Science Association Conference, Chicago (August).

In July, Professor Charles Tripp gave a talk on the art of resistance at the launch of the Culture of Defiance exhibition on Syrian art of the uprising at the Rich Mix centre, Bethnal Green. Also in July, Prof Tripp presented a paper on “Violent Communication in Iraq: intended and unintended consequences” at a 2-day conference organized by the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. In September, he took part in a panel discussion at the Royal Society on “Britain and the
Occupations of Iraq” as the prelude to a 2-day conference that he was co-organising at the British Academy on “Gertrude Bell and Iraq – a Life and Legacy.” In October, Prof Tripp gave a talk on “Kurdistan: the prospect from the river valley – Arab Iraq and the ‘Kurdish Question’” as part of the event *Kurdish Prospects in Turbulent Times* at the Mosaic Rooms, London. In October, Charles Tripp gave a talk on “Contesting Public Space in Egypt: the arts of resistance” as part of the panel on *Contemporary Cultures of Opposition in the Middle East*, organized by the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies at SOAS. Also in October, he gave a talk on “Syria and the Art of Resistance” as part of the event *An Evening for Syria* held in aid of Médecins sans Frontières at the Frontline Club, London - [http://forsyria.org.uk/](http://forsyria.org.uk/).

Syrian artist Tammam Azzam’s electronic art superimposing Klimt’s *The Kiss* on war-ravaged building in Syria

In November, Charles Tripp gave one of this year’s Wright Lectures at the University of Cambridge on “Fighting to reclaim the city in the Middle East: emerging publics and theatres of violence” at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Sami Everett organised and participated on a transnational interdisciplinary panel at MESA 2013 in New Orleans called “Perspectives from Year 1 of the Revolution; Algerian Discourses of the past in the Present.” A précis of his MESA talk can be found here: [http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/14893/testing-diversity-researching-the-invisible-the-je](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/14893/testing-diversity-researching-the-invisible-the-je).

On 23 October, Sami organised an inter-faculty screening of Kamal Hachkar’s “Tinghir-Jerusalem: echoes from the Mellah” followed by a roundtable involving the film director, Gil Anidjar, Moshe Behar and Guila Kessous took place and was extremely well attended.

In July, Phil Clark (along with Nicola Palmer at King’s College London) hosted two workshops in Kigali, Rwanda, and Gulu, Uganda, to discuss researching after atrocity and a radio programme on forgiveness and reconciliation in the two countries. The workshops were funded by the ESRC and the Fetzer Institute. Also in July, Phil participated in an American Bar Association teleconference debate on transitional justice in Africa.

In September, Phil Clark facilitated a roundtable discussion on collective responsibility for international crimes at a conference on the UN War Crimes Commission, organised by Dan Plesch and Shanti Sattler from the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy.

In October, Phil Clark (along with Jason Mosley, University of Oxford) hosted an international conference, “Rwanda under the RPF: Assessing Twenty Years of Post-Conflict Governance”, in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre at SOAS. The event attracted 300 attendees and garnered more than 600 mentions on Twitter at the hashtag #RwandaLondon. Papers from the conference will be assembled in a special issue of the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, co-edited by Phil Clark and Jason Mosley, in early 2014. Also in October, Phil gave a lecture on the gacaca genocide trials in Rwanda at University College Maastricht in the Netherlands, and gave a presentation on causes of, and justice responses to, the Rwandan genocide at an event hosted by the Foundation for Justice, Law and Society at the University of Oxford.

In November, Phil Clark gave a presentation at a University of Johannesburg conference on the legacies of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The event assembled the current and former Presidents of the ICTR as well as the current Chief Prosecutor and former members of the Chambers, Registry, Prosecution and Defence. In the same month, Phil (along with Chris Cramer, Jonathan Di John and Dan Plesch) participated in a joint University of Johannesburg-SOAS School of Leadership in Johannesburg. This launched a nine-month programme of trainings designed for southern African parliamentarians and civil society leaders – the first of what is expected to be an annual course. Later in November, Phil Clark (along with Nadine Ansorg from the German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg) organised a workshop on “Comparing Institutions for Sustainable Peace” as part of a three-year research programme run by a consortium of nine international universities.

In September, Dr Lauge Poulsen was invited to Xiamen Law School to discuss the implications of an EU-China investment treaty. Participants included Chinese academics and senior officials. The month after, Dr Poulsen was in Pakistan to conduct fieldwork and Indonesia to present at the annual meeting of developing country investment negotiations. In November, Dr Poulsen presented his work at the Law Department at London School of Economics, where he is a visiting scholar.

Recent doctoral student Sanaa Alimia ran a workshop session on Modern Teaching and Research Methods in the History Department at Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad in September. Here she engaged with academics to present a session on “Critical Research Methods: Challenging Dominant Ways of ‘Knowing’ the Past.” In November, she gave two lectures at the Bacha Khan University, Charsadda and Abdul Wali Khan University,
Mardan where discussed the prospects of improvements in the relationships between the Afghan and Pakistani states. At the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS), Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad, Sanaa spoke on “Afghans and Pakistanis – Stepping Beyond the ‘National Order of Things’ in the Moral Order of Informal Pakistan.”

Manjeet Ramgotra presented her research on “India’s Republican Moment: Freedom in Nehru’s Political Thought” at the American Political Science Association Annual conference in Chicago last September and on “Republic and Empire in Montesquieu’s Spirit of the Laws” at the Millennium Annual Conference at the LSE in October.

Rahul Rao was invited to give a public lecture on his research on sexuality and memory in Uganda, at the Carl von Ossietzky Universität, Oldenburg, on 6 November.

We have thus far had a very rich programme of seminars, organised by Enze Han. On 9 October, Dr Ian Cooper (Oxford University) presented on “Democratic Consolidation in Africa: The Role of Presidential Succession Crises.” On 16 October, Dr Kelly Kollman (University of Glasgow) spoke about “Same-sex Unions and Marriage: the Success and Costs of Transnational Activism.” On 23 October, Dr. Mayling Birney (LSE) discussed “A Rule of Mandates: How China Governs.” The Department’s own Dr Matthew Eagleton-Pierce spoke on “The Concept of Governance in the Spirit of Capitalism” on 13 November.

22 January, Dr Dann Naseemullah (Johns Hopkins University), “Indirect Rule and Political Representation: Duvergerian Dynamics in Pakistani National Elections”

29 January, Dr Lee Jones (Queen Mary), “How do economic sanctions (not) work? Lessons from Myanmar”

19 February, Dr Steffen Hertog (LSE), Topic: TBA

26 February, Dr Paul Kirby (University of Sussex), “Rape as a Weapon: Instrumentality, Political Economy and Wartime Sexual Violence”

5 March, Christopher Paik (NYU, Abu Dhabi), “Literacy Improvement and the Effect of Colonization in Korea”

19 March, Prof Page Fortna (Columbia University), “Choosing Terror”

20 March (5-7pm, Room 4429), Dr Anna Stavrianakis (University of Sussex), “(h)ither Militarism?”

**Remaining Politics Department Seminars for Term 1**

20 November, 3-5, Room 4426, Dr Dina Bishara (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), “The Politics of Ignoring: Protests in Mubarak’s Egypt”

27 November, 5-7pm, 22 Russell Square T101, Dr. Jeremy Horowitz (Dartmouth College), “Core and Swing Groups in Kenya’s Multiethnic Democracy”

11 December, 3-5, Room 4426, Dr John Chalcraft (LSE), “Inspiration Across Borders: How significant were border-crossing models of protest in the Arab Uprisings of 2011”

**Politics Department Seminars for Term 2**

**Wednesdays 3-5, Room 4418**

15 January, Dr Reinoud Leenders (Kings College London), “The Syrian Crisis and Social Movement Theory: The Origins of Mobilization, Political Violence, and Militarisation”

**Outreach**

L. Muthoni Wanyeki, a new MPhil/PhD student, presented at the opening of a Wilton Park conference on “media and fragile states” on 9 October. The conference, convened by the BBC Media Trust, brought together two different constituencies—development communications/freedom of expression organisations and the aid/policy community working on fragile states (mainly from OECD governments). The aim was to begin a conversation about the value of media investments in post-conflict situations with a view to upping such investments in the long term. Wanyeki also presented at a Chatham House seminar on Kenya, the African Union (AU) and ICC on 20 October. The seminar, attended by representatives from relevant Chatham House staff, diplomatic missions based in London and the private sector with interests in Kenya, examined the reasons for and possible outcomes of the joint Kenyan and AU request to the United Nations (UN) Security Council for a deferral of the Kenyan cases before the ICC. That request was under informal discussion by the UN Security Council on the same day.

In 2013-2014, Leslie Vinjamuri is an Associate Fellow on the U.S. Programme at Chatham House. In October, she participated in a high level meeting of policymakers, journalists and academics from across Europe on Elite Perceptions of the United States hosted by the U.S. Programme.
Professor Stephen Chan appeared as expert witness at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Washington DC, an arbitral tribunal under the World Bank, in a seven day case, Von Pezold et al v the Government of Zimbabwe - seeking restitution and compensation for lands seized in Zimbabwe. The case was brought under a Bilateral Investment Treaty, which ostensibly provides mutual protection for the investments of citizens of each country in the other. The Von Pezolds are German. The suit is for half a billion US dollars. Professor Chan was also received at senior level by the US State Department for discussions on the Zimbabwean issue.

Matt Nelson completed a review of UKBA’s Country of Origin Information Report (and associated Guidance Note) focusing on Pakistan. These documents (totally c. 450 pages) are used to assess asylum claims.

Doctoral student Michael Edward Walsh served as an official rapporteur at the 2nd NATO Emerging Security Challenges Experts Working Group Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. In September, Phil Clark participated in a Chatham House roundtable on the Rwandan parliamentary elections. In October, he participated in an expert roundtable at Gray’s Inn Chambers on the domestication of International Criminal Court crimes, organised by the Planethood Foundation and Middlesex University. In November, Phil gave a presentation at an event on Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, organised by the Khulumani Support Group to discuss reparations for apartheid victims, 15 years after the submission of the final South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

In July Charles Tripp gave a talk on “Art and Power in the Arab Uprisings 2011-2013” for the Summer Club organized by SOAS Students Union for Year 9-11 students from secondary schools across London http://soasunion.org/2013/06/26/soas-summer-school/

After his ECCC testimony, Steve Heder remained in Cambodia to research events surrounding the Cambodian national assembly elections, for which voting occurred on July 28, 2013. After informally observing polling, Dr Heder also followed post-election demonstrations by the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), which was officially awarded 55 seats to the ruling Cambodia People’s Party, but alleged widespread fraud. He was present to do research at large-scale but peaceful CNRP demonstrations and other popular protests which were violently repressed by government participation of Jon Snow, Omid Djalili, Paul Webley and several members of the House of Lords.

Over the summer, Meera Sabaratnam has been writing on police use of stop and search powers and the politics of race, at http://thedisorderofthings.com/2013/09/23/stop-and-search-race-and-the-politics-of-suspicion/. She was invited to speak at the event “Stop and Search: Know Your Rights!” organised by the University of Westminster’s International Community Project, alongside activists and police representatives.

Research Associate Steve Heder, who previously taught South East Asian politics at SOAS, testified as a fact witness at the United Nations-assisted Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) over a seven-day period, starting on 9 July and concluding on 18 July. He was the final witness in the first segment of the ECCC’s trial of two former Khmer Rouge, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during Khmer Rouge rule over Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. Dr Heder’s testimony was requested by both prosecution and defence. Prosecution explained that it wanted his testimony because he is “widely considered one of the world’s foremost authorities on the history, politics, evolution and authority structure” of the Khmer Rouge. Defence agreed that that Dr Heder was “the world’s leading academic” on the Khmer Rouge and ought to be considered an “indispensable” witness who should be questioned on “all topics which are relevant to this trial.”

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam spoke on Iran at the British Council upon invitation of the director with the participation of Jon Snow, Omid Djalili, Paul Webley and several members of the House of Lords.

Syrian political art, “Asad’s dialogues”
security forces attempting to restrict population movement in the capital, resulting in one death and many injuries.

Dr Heder then returned to Southeast Asia, going to Thailand to research pro- and anti-government demonstrations in Bangkok in early November 2013.


On 11 August, Salwa Ismail, along with Amartya Sen and Yasheng Huang, was featured guest of the BBC World Service programme The Forum on the theme of Sharing Prosperity and Power. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dnm5k

Ismail also presented the Sixty Second Idea to Improve the World segment of The Forum. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dw9ry

On 9 July, Salwa Ismail was a guest of BBC Radio 3 Night Waves programme. She discussed the mass mobilisation of 30 June in Egypt and the military’s intervention to depose President Morsi. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01ck2b6


Leslie Vinjamuri gave a radio interview on Monocle on the African Union’s response to the ICC’s work in Kenya.

Laleh Khalili was on the BBC’s Weekend Programme on 20 July. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01c2m22

Dr Rebecca Steinfeld, who is a Visiting Scholar in the department until January 2014, broadcast a 15-minute radio essay on circumcision, “Cutting Tradition,” on BBC Radio 3 on 7 November. In it, she asked what the place of religious traditions involving genital cutting is in today’s world, and where to draw the line between parents’ rights to religious freedom on the one hand, and children’s rights to bodily integrity and an open future on the other. She also asked whether comparisons of male and female genital cutting are justified. She ended by considering how best to resolve the tensions between these competing sets of rights. The broadcast, which is part of a BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker 2013, was presented on BBC Radio 3’s Free Thinking Festival of Ideas at the Sage in Gateshead in October. To listen to the talk or read the transcript, please click here: http://www.rebeccasteinfeld.com/2013/11/cutting-tradition-bbc-radio-3.html

Doctoral student Lucas Robinson’s review of Graeme Smith’s The Dogs Are Eating Them Now: Our War in Afghanistan, appeared in Policy Options in November/December. The Hill Times (Ottawa) published his article “The Politics of International Development” (28
October 2013 and The Globe and Mail (Toronto) published his article titled “Canada seems to have forgotten diplomacy is about communicating” (17 July 2013).


In September, Phil Clark was a guest on the BBC Weekend programme (http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01fd0s6; http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01fd0s8) and on Monocle24, doing the newspaper round-up on a range of issues (http://monocle.dl.groovygecko.com/m24/106007050.mp3 (4600)), and he took part in a half-hour debate on peace in Congo on the Press TV “Africa Today” programme (http://www.press.tv/Program/327199.html).

In September, Phil Clark was interviewed by Deutsche Welle about the latest fighting between the UN intervention brigade and M23 rebels in eastern Congo and the shelling of Rwanda (http://www.dw.de/phil-clark-un-sees-rwanda-as-part-of-congos-problem/a-17056855), and also the Rwandan parliamentary elections (http://www.dw.de/popups mediaplayer/contentId_17099376_mediald_17099412), by Voice of America, Radio France International and the Umuske newspaper in Rwanda about the decision by the Kenyan parliament to withdraw from the International Criminal Court and the start of the ICC trials of the Kenyan president and vice-president (http://www.voanews.com/content/kenya-may-vote-to-withdraw-from-icc/1743641.html; http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20130909-phil-clark-professeur-specialiste-questions-justice-internationale-school-of-orient&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter; http://umuske.ru/kwika-muri-icc-kwa-kenya-bizatuma-perezida-kenyatta-adakurikirwa/), The Standard in Kenya and Deutsche Welle on the impact of the Westgate attack on the ICC trials of the Kenyan president and vice president (http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000094503&story_title=nairobi-attacks-create-dilemma-for-international-criminal-court&pageNo=1 and http://www.dw.de/popups mediaplayer/contentId_17130862_mediald_17130932 (04:05)).

The October Rwanda conference co-organised by Phil Clark was front page news in the New Times in Rwanda, with the Politics department highlighted as a principal sponsor (http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=15500&a=70980) and was also featured on BBC Focus on Africa, with a debate about consensual democracy and authoritarianism (https://soundcloud.com/rwandansrights/london-conference-rwanda-under), in the Times Higher Education’s campus round-up, the Independent magazine in Uganda, the African Arguments website and Wereilu blog (http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/campus-round-up/9/2007947/article;http://www.independent.co.uk/the-last-word/the-last-word/8311-inside-africas-politics-of-patronage); http://africanarguments.org/2013/10/08/debating-rwanda-under-the-rpf-gap-between-believers-and-unbelievers-remains-wide-by-magnus-taylor/; http://www.wereilu.com/?p=54).

In November, Deutsche Welle and TVC News in Nigeria interviewed Phil Clark about the defeat of the M23 rebel group in eastern Congo and current peace talks in Pretoria (http://www.dw.de/popups/mediaplayer/contentId_17210049_mediaId_17210927 (04:50)), and he took part in a one-hour SAFM radio debate in South Africa, discussing the 15th anniversary of the handing over of the Truth Reconciliation Commission’s final report and Rwanda’s divergent approach to transitional justice. Also in November, Phil Clark took part in a half-hour debate over “The ICC vs. African Justice” on Press TV’s Africa Today programme, http://www.presstv.com/Program/334495.html.

Mohammad Ali Shabani authored several articles published by Al-Monitor and was quoted as an expert by the New York Times, the Washington Post and AFP among various other news outlets. He also authored an essay on Iran’s view of sectarianism in the region in the European Council on Foreign Relations’ publication Gulf Affairs.

Events

In October, Charles Tripp took part in a conversation with Professor Gilbert Achcar organized by the London Middle East Institute to mark the launch of Charles Tripp’s book The Power and the People: paths of resistance in the Middle East (Cambridge, 2013).

In October Dr Rebecca Steinfeld facilitated a discussion and dinner on the Politics of Food for the SOAS Israel Society.

On 19 September, Rahul Rao and Laleh Khalili, along with Paul Kirby of Sussex participated in an event at SOAS organised by playwrights Tanya Singh and SOAS alumnus, Omar El-Khairi. The event, titled Taranis, included rehearsed readings of two work-in-progress scripts, The Poppy and the Plough by Tanya Singh and A Soldier Dreams of White Tulips by Omar El-Khairi, followed by a panel discussion with the authors, Rahul, Laleh, and Paul and questions by the audience which included students, actors, former veterans (who had been research interlocutors for the playwrights). It was an intensely moving event, and the participants all look forward to seeing the plays on stage.

Notices

A message from Politics student Ellie-Rebecca Richardson:

“My name is Ellie-Rebecca and I am student and SOAS Team Leader for Childreach International. This year there is an amazing opportunity for SOAS students to take part in Expedition Everest which involves a sponsored trek up to base camp Everest and exploring the wonders of Nepal on the way!

“This 22 day trek of a lifetime not only offers you a physical challenge, pushing your body to its fullest but offers a cultural trip as it takes you through colourful villages, exploring beautiful temples and staying with various tribes! Nothing can match the spectacular views that will surround you every step of the way, from steep valleys and three-tiered waterfalls, to forbidding snow-capped peaks. You will be captivated both by the indescribable scenes of the Himalayas that are visible at all times, and the fascinating culture of the people you meet along the way. Whilst in Nepal you will also be given the opportunity to visit a Childreach International project in the Kathmandu region to understand the work we do and meet some of the children whose lives are changed by your fundraising.

“Childreach is a grass roots charity and works with local charities overseas to run some incredible projects in countries such as Tanzania, Nepal and India. All of our projects are focused on educating, protecting and empowering children, making them agents of their own
change and unlocking their potential. Here’s a link to the charities main page if you wish to find out more [http://www.childreach.org.uk/]. This means that not only will you have the most amazing experience of your life on Expedition Everest but you’re also helping children improve theirs!

“Throughout the year we will have many socials to get to know each other along with fundraising events for the charity and your travels. As this trip is for charitable purposes you will not be funding the trip yourself, instead the funds raised at our events (and your own) will expense your travels and be money towards the charity. Bonus!

“If you’re interested or would like to hear more about this event then please feel free to email me at 598998@soas.ac.uk.”

We also have a number of new programmes:

**BA in International Relations**

We are very excited to announce the start of our new BA programme in IR, starting in 2014. The SOAS BA International Relations degree provides a uniquely global and comparative approach to the study of world affairs. Through a study of world history and global power relations, students gain a better understanding of the sources of conflict and cooperation among states, shifts in the international economy, as well as the roles of culture, identity and ideas in world politics. Students finish the degree equipped with the conceptual tools and theoretical frameworks to understand contemporary world events.

The BA International relations programme is structured around a combination of disciplinary, regional and specialised courses, with opportunities to take other Politics option courses (e.g. Political Theory, government and Politics of the Middle East, Islam and Democracy) or a language.

For more information, including on the application process, see [http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/baintrel/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/baintrel/)

**MSc in Comparative Political Thought**

Duration: Full Time: 1 Year, Part Time: 2-3 Years

The programme is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the diverse strands of political thinking in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and the different approaches to comparison in political thought. It is highly relevant to students who wish to embark on doctoral studies in the area of non-Western political thought. It is also relevant for practitioners working in or intending to work in governments, international organizations, think tanks and advocacy groups who wish to acquire deeper knowledge of ideas and values that inform political practices in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

For more information, including on how to apply, see [http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/msc-comparative-political-thought/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/msc-comparative-political-thought/)

**MSc Politics of Conflict, Rights & Justice**

Duration: Full Time: 1 Year, Part Time: 2-3 Years

The programme is designed for Masters students who are interested in the politics of human rights, humanitarianism and international and transitional justice especially in conflict and post-conflict states. It is also highly relevant to anyone working or intending to work in international NGOs, international organizations, think tanks and advocacy groups in the areas of rights, humanitarian assistance and transitional justice. It also looks more broadly at the future of global human rights in a world where, many claim, the influence of the West is declining and asks critical questions about the legitimacy and effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms and humanitarian intervention.

For more information, including on how to apply, see [http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mse-conflict-rights-justice/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mse-conflict-rights-justice/)

**MRes in Politics with Language**

Duration: Two calendar years (full-time).

The MRes Politics with Language is a two-year degree programme designed to prepare students for further research, particularly PhD research, in politics with an area specialism. It allows students to combine the study of politics with advanced methodological training in the social sciences and extensive study in an African/Asian/Middle Eastern language. As such, the programme provides two years of intensive language study at SOAS (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Swahili, etc.) along with two years of high-level social science methodology training at neighbouring Birkbeck College. Applicants are also invited to apply for ESRC funding to support a 2+3 programme of MRes/PhD study.

For more information, including on how to apply, see [http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mrespolitics](http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/mrespolitics)
Alumni News

Oliver Burnham, a BA Politics 2013 alumnus, successfully applied for the Civil Service Fast Track scheme. He reports: “The process was intense and tested me in so many ways. My appointment started in the spring where I will go through the first of four six-month rotations throughout the central departments, which is designed to give a broad overview of the organisation. After that I will begin two one-year placements. As a civil servant I will work on policy creation and implementation throughout the country. I would really recommend it, it’s a tough process but it teaches you a lot about your strengths and weakness especially with the feedback.”

Are you a graduating Politics student or one of our alumni? Let us know what you will be doing or have done after graduation. Email Laleh Khalili at lk4@soas.ac.uk!

The Department of Politics and International Studies is one of the most cutting edge politics departments in the United Kingdom, and uniquely positioned for the study of the politics of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

There are at present nearly 500 students studying for degrees (BA, Certificate, MSc and MPhil/PhD) in the Department. The Department also hosts visiting students who are here as part of their work towards degrees in other countries (notably the United States, EU, Korea and Japan).

Apart from providing students with a firm grounding in the discipline, the department has particular strengths in the following areas:

- Regional Politics: Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Africa.
- International Relations: IR theory, security, human rights, transnational justice, international migration, IPE.
- Comparative Politics: comparative political sociology, comparative political economy.
- Political Theory: political Islam, non-western political thought, multiculturalism.

The current officers of the department are:

- **Head of Department**
  Prof Salwa Ismail

- **Undergraduate Admissions Tutor**
  Dr Meera Sabaratnam

- **Undergraduate Tutors**
  Dr Arshin Adib-Moghaddam
  Dr Carlo Bonura (Student Welfare Tutor)
  Dr Banu Bargu (First Year Tutor)
  Dr Tom Young (Second Year Tutor)
  Dr Matthew Eagleton-Pierce (Third Year Tutor)

- **Postgraduate Tutor**
  Dr Dafydd Fell

- **Postgraduate Admissions Tutors/Programme Convenors**
  Dr Phil Clark (African Politics - Terms 1 and 3)
  Dr Tom Young (African Politics - Term 2)
  Dr Enze Han (Asian Politics)
  Dr Mark Laffey (International Politics)
  Prof Charles Tripp (Middle East Politics - Term 1)
  Prof Laleh Khalili (Middle East Politics - Terms 2-3)
  Dr Yuka Kobayashi (Politics of China)
  Dr Tat Yan Kong (State, Society and Development)
  Dr Leslie Vinjamuri and Dr Stephen Hopgood (Conflict, Rights and Justice)
  Dr Rahul Rao (Comparative Political Thought)
  Dr Matthew Nelson (MRes in Politics with a Language)

- **Research Tutor**
  Dr Felix Berenskotter

This newsletter is produced three times per academic year by Laleh Khalili. Send any announcements or notices to lk4@soas.ac.uk

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On Facebook, you can find and befriend us at SOASPolitics
Also find our blog at soaspolitics.org