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Welcome to IDD’s 2016–17 Annual Report

Welcome to the 2016–17 Annual Report of the International Development Department. In this report, we begin by welcoming several new members of staff and by celebrating major achievements of IDD staff. News of our ongoing research, research awards in the past year, student activities and publications provide an insight into the breadth of work undertaken.

Welcome to new staff
Two new professors have been appointed in the past year, Nic Cheeseman as Professor of Democracy and International Development and David Hudson as Birmingham Professorial Fellow. In addition, IDD is pleased to congratulate Heather Marquette on her promotion to Professor of Development Politics. IDD also welcomes Niheer Dasandi, Susan Dodsworth, Rosita Armitage and Mary Menton. David Hudson and Niheer Dasandi join IDD from University College London and have worked closely with IDD on the Developmental Leadership Program since 2014. IDD benefited from the University of Birmingham’s highly competitive Fellowship Scheme in attracting David and Niheer. We are also very pleased to welcome Claire Groom to the department as the IDD Administrator and PA to the Director. Great to have you with us, Claire!

Teaching news
IDD had a record number of students in our on-campus intake this academic year and it’s been a particularly proactive group! On page 14, students report on some of the visits and activities they organised during the year – a visit to the International Development Committee of the UK Parliament, attending the International Development Conference at the University of Bristol and a Celebrating Africa event to hear from African students in the department.

Congratulations to Dr Joan McGregor
IDD is delighted to congratulate Joan McGregor on being awarded an honorary doctorate at the July 2017 graduation ceremony. Many alumni of IDD will remember Joan for her contribution to the module ‘Conflict, Humanitarian Aid and Social Reconstruction’. Joan began teaching this module in 2001 whilst working as a Peace and Conflict Advisor at Responding to Conflict (RTC) in Birmingham and continued until just a couple of years ago. Her practical experience and insights were always greatly appreciated by students. The award was made in recognition of Joan’s long commitment to conflict transformation in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The photo below shows Joan with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood and the Head of the College of Social Sciences, Professor Saul Becker.

Dr Fiona Nunan
Director, IDD

Joan with the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood (right) and the Head of the College of Social Sciences, Professor Saul Becker

Research and publications
Details of just some of the research IDD staff are involved with can be found in the Annual Report and on page 9 a list of research grants won by IDD staff over the past year can be found. We’re pleased to note the publication of three edited volumes in the past year: The African Affairs Reader: Key Texts in Politics, Development, and International Relations, edited by Nic Cheeseman, Lindsay Whitfield and Carl Death; Hybridity: Law, Culture and Development, edited by Nicolas Lemay-Hébert and Rosa Freedman; and, Making Climate Compatible Development Happen, by Fiona Nunan.

Page 15 includes a list of PhD degrees awarded in the past year and explains how the four-year PhD International Development with Integrated Study programme works. The two students who were the first to undertake this programme reflect on their experience and the benefits of this programme compared to the three-year PhD.
IDD welcomes new staff and congratulates staff on achievements!

Since late 2016, IDD has welcomed six new staff members. We are pleased to introduce them here and to congratulate staff on significant achievements over the past year.

Nic Cheeseman, Professor of Democracy and International Development

Nic joined IDD in 2017, coming from the University of Oxford, where he was an Associate Professor of African Politics. Nic’s research focuses on democratisation in Africa, covering a range of topics including populism, elections, political violence, parties, power sharing and decentralisation, and he is currently managing two major research and reference projects. He is the Founding Editor of the Oxford Encyclopaedia of African Politics and the Oxford Dictionary of African Politics (both OUP) and manages the Westminster Foundation for Democracy project, reported on in this Annual Report. In addition to research, Nic spends much of his time advising a broad range of policy makers including the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK government, various branches of the US government, and the Lagos State Government. He is also a Board Member of the UNESCO Chair on Communication Research and an advisor to, and writer for, Kofi Annan’s African Progress Panel. He also writes a column for Kenya’s Sunday Nation newspaper and is a regular contributor to the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage.

Niheer Dasandi

Niheer joined IDD in October 2016 as a Birmingham Fellow in Politics and Development, with his research falling within the politics of development and international political economy, using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. He is particularly interested in the politics of reform processes, the development-human rights relationship, and the transnational drivers of development. Before joining IDD, Niheer worked in the Political Science department at University College London as a research fellow with the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP). He completed his PhD in Political Science at UCL in 2013. Prior to this, he spent a couple of years working with UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Susan Dodsworth

Susan joined IDD in January 2017 as the Research Fellow working with Nic Cheeseman on the Political Economy of Democracy Promotion Project, having worked at the University of Oxford on the same project. Susan completed her doctoral thesis on the impact of budget support on parliaments and accountability in sub-Saharan Africa at McGill University in Montreal. As part of her PhD research, Susan conducted fieldwork in Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. She also has qualifications in law, and a Masters in Development Studies from Uppsala University in Sweden.

David Hudson

David joined IDD on 1 March 2017 as a Professorial Research Fellow in Politics and Development. In many ways it’s a return ‘home’ to Birmingham for David – he did his PhD in POLSIS some 13 years ago. Since then he’s worked at UCL’s Department of Political Science where he carried out research in three main areas: the role of leadership and coalitions in the politics of reforms (dlprog.org); how global migration, finance and trade shapes development; and how people in rich countries engage with global development issues (devcommslab.org).

Mary Menton

Mary joins IDD as a Research Fellow on the GESPA project (Governance for Ecosystem Services & Poverty Alleviation) working with Fiona Nunan. Her interdisciplinary research has focused on land-use, community forest management and environmental governance in the Amazon. Before joining IDD, she co-founded SEED (Solutions & Evidence for Environment & Development), a partnership where she leads work on Policy & Practice (now part-time). She has also worked for CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research), and universities in the UK (Oxford), USA (University of Florida, UNC) and Brazil (Federal University of Acre).

Rosita Armytage

Rosita joined IDD in February 2017 as a Research Fellow on the ‘Islands of Integrity: The Politics of Corruption Reduction’ project, focusing particularly on the qualitative aspects of the research. Her current research focuses on elite networking and alliances; the globalisation, and sometimes localisation, of major business and investment practices; and the informal structures which entrench and reproduce inequality. Rosita has twelve years of experience as a development practitioner working on governance reform projects across Asia, primarily with The Asia Foundation, AusAID, and the East-West Center. She completed her PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University in 2016.

Claire Groom

Claire joined IDD in April 2017 as an Administrator and PA to the Head of Department. Claire has many years’ experience as an Administrator and has worked in diverse sectors including healthcare, education and campaign groups.
And in other staff news…

Laurence Cooley, previously a Teaching Fellow in the department, has taken up the role of Research Fellow to work on a project called ‘The contentious politics of the census in consociational democracies’, funded by the ESRC Future Research Leaders scheme. The project investigates the politics of the census and its relationship to power-sharing institutions in deeply divided societies. He has also been appointed a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen’s University Belfast.

Paul Jackson has been appointed to the role of Programme Leader for the Sustainable Development Programme of the British Academy. This prestigious role is to oversee the commissioning and work of social science research that contributes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Paul has also joined the RCUK Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research Strategic Advisory Group, which advises on research strategy in this area across all of the UK Research Councils.

Heather Marquette has been promoted to Professor of Development Politics and has joined the UK Department for International Development (DFID) on a part-time secondment as a Senior Research Fellow (Governance & Conflict), working with the Research & Evidence Division team.

Willem Van Eekelen won the Outstanding Teaching Award in the College of Social Sciences, with Jonathan Fisher also making it to the shortlist.

Jonathan Fisher has been appointed Research Fellow in the University of the Free State’s Centre for Africa Studies, associated with the Newton Advanced Fellowship grant.

Nick Lemay-Hébert was awarded the College of Social Sciences Outstanding International Impact Prize 2017, for his work on ‘Working Towards a Resolution: Haiti, Cholera and the UN’.

Many congratulations to all.

Edited books published by IDD’s Nic Cheeseman, Nick Lemay-Hébert and Fiona Nunan
Natural resource governance: learning from research and informing policy and practice

Governance is seen as mediating the links between ecosystem services and poverty alleviation, yet not enough is known about how governance systems and processes can be made more effective in protecting ecosystem health and alleviating poverty.

Governance for Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation (GESPA)

The arrangements for, and performance of, governance matters for the condition of natural resources and for the livelihoods of people who use them. Governance influences how much can be extracted and by whom, what types of management measures are adopted and who benefits. Given this recognition, a research team led by Fiona Nunan submitted a proposal to the UK Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) research programme in 2016 in response to a call for projects to synthesize findings and lessons from the last ten years of research funded under the programme.

The ‘Governance for Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation’ (GESPA) project runs from December 2016 to November 2017 and is undertaking two main areas of work:

1. A review of ESPA-funded projects and outputs to identify whether and how governance has been researched and to analyse findings and lessons.
2. A rigorous systematic mapping of literature on natural resource/ecosystem governance and poverty alleviation. This will enable the review of ESPA research to be located within the broader literature whilst also identifying what is known about governance in relation to ecosystem health and poverty alleviation, and what the gaps in knowledge are.

The ESPA programme draws on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment definitions of ecosystems and ecosystem services, with ecosystem being defined as ‘a dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and the non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit’ and ecosystem services as ‘the benefits people obtain from ecosystems’ (MA, 2005: V). The natural resources, or ecosystems, researched by ESPA include mangrove and other forests, fisheries, lakes, mountain areas, the agriculture-forest interface, pasture land and systems, deltas and urban areas, in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and South America.

Once the GESPA team have completed the analysis of projects and the systematic mapping of literature, the findings will be shared and tested at a workshop of researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in Ghana and will be written up into a range of outputs, including case study briefs for practitioners and students. Working with Fiona are Mary Menton, a Research Fellow employed by the project in IDD, Kate Schreckenberg, Centre for Environmental Science, University of Southampton, Connie McDermott, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, Mark Huixham, School of Life Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University, and Rebecca Asare, Nature Conservation Research Centre, Ghana.

Analysing natural resource governance: IDD hosted DSA Study Group workshop

In keeping with the theme of natural resource governance, Fiona Nunan hosted a workshop for the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Study Group of the Development Studies Association (DSA) at the University. The study group was formed in late 2015 and brings together members of the DSA undertaking research in environment, natural resource management and livelihoods and climate change. The group arranges panels at the DSA and other conferences and has at least one meeting or workshop a year. This year’s workshop was on ‘analysing natural resource governance: learning from contrasting approaches’, at which papers were presented on different theoretical and analytical approaches to investigating the governance of renewable natural resources.

Find out more about the DSA: www.devstud.org.uk
IDD hosts UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Africa Study Day

Jonathan Fisher reports on IDD delivering the annual Africa Study Day to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In March 2017, IDD hosted the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Africa Study Day – at Sandhurst Military Academy. This is an annual dialogue, learning and impact event for civil servants and diplomats based in the FCO’s Africa Directorate. This year FCO participants were joined by a range of other Whitehall ministries IDD works closely with, including the Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Defence, as well as the Cabinet Office.

Combining one of IDD’s core research strengths and an area of major interest to FCO policy-makers, the Africa Study Day this year focused around conflict, security and governance.

Opened by the UK’s Minister for Africa (Tobias Ellwood MP) and the FCO Africa Director (Neil Wigan OBE), the day began with a presentation by Dr Suda Perera on peace and instability in Democratic Republic of Congo, drawing together work undertaken at DLP on this issue since 2013. This was followed by reflections from Professor Paul Jackson on post-conflict reconstruction in Sierra Leone. New IDD staff members Professor Nic Cheeseman and Dr Susan Dodsworth then turned participants’ attention to the state of democratisation and governance in contemporary Africa before event organiser Dr Jonathan Fisher considered the rise of illiberal but ‘developmental’ states across the continent, and the difficult trade-offs policy-makers face in engaging with such governments. The day ended with an informal roundtable discussion and was punctuated with vibrant debate and exchange over coffee, food and drinks.

The event was a great success both in terms of stimulating discussion and in creating dialogue around the real world implications of the research undertaken in IDD. The FCO was delighted ‘to hear so many [participants] asking questions and chatting about what they had learnt in the sessions. It was also good to hear clear and constructive policy challenge points in almost every session’. The FCO’s Africa Director has since told us that he ‘was really pleased with the level of audience engagement on the day, and the enthusiastic feedback I’ve received since is further testament to your impact’. IDD’s hosting of this event is one part of a multi-layered and longstanding link between the Department and the FCO. IDD is currently in discussion with the Africa Directorate on providing bespoke training as part of the FCO’s Diplomatic Academy and IDD’s Dr Jonathan Fisher was previously an Honorary Research Fellow in the FCO’s Africa Research Group.
The Political Economy of Democracy Promotion Project

Nic Cheeseman and Susan Dodsworth outline their work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and report on a high-level conference held as part of the project.

The Political Economy of Democracy Promotion project is a new collaboration between IDD and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the UK’s most prominent democracy promotion organisation. WFD, funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, works to support parliaments, political parties and civil society organisations around the world. The project – led by Professor Nic Cheeseman – aims to identify the conditions under which democracy promotion activities are successful and how they can be improved. It has already produced several policy papers on topics including trade-offs in parliamentary strengthening and strategic approaches to political party support. The project has also featured several events, designed to establish new avenues of communication between academics, policy-makers, and practitioners working on democratisation. This includes a high-profile conference held in London in March 2017.

The conference – Deliberating Democratisation: Examining Democratic Change and the Role of International Democracy Support – was held over two days in central London. It brought together leading figures in the field of democracy support from Europe, North America, Africa, and beyond, including a mix of academic researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. The conference provided participants with an opportunity to exchange ideas and explore new ways of working, bringing together the distinct communities of practice that have developed around legislatures, political parties, and civil society.

The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, opened the conference.

The conference featured two key-note addresses by Marina Ottaway, a Fellow at the Wilson Center and a long-time analyst of political transformations in Africa, the Balkans, and the Middle East, and Professor E. Gyimah-Boadi, from the Ghana Center for Democratic Development. Several panels and round-tables provided an opportunity to examine the constraints faced by those working on democracy support, including the need to mitigate risk, manage uncertainty and respond to the expectations of funders.
Islands of Integrity: Understanding the politics of corruption reduction

Caryn Peiffer, Rosita Armytage and Heather Marquette report on their research grant from the British Academy Sustainable Development Programme.

This study examines services or institutions that have managed, against the odds, to become ‘islands of integrity’ in contexts of systemic corruption. It asks whether successful corruption reduction can be attributed to improved institutional operation or better enforcement, to key individuals or coalitions of willing actors, or a combination of all these. It also considers what the international community can do to support these processes.

The researchers will use statistical analysis of Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer database to identify ‘islands of integrity’. They will then explore five of these in depth, and will use fieldwork to drill down into two of these cases to develop a ‘deep dive’ understanding of how positive change happened. The research aims to find out what these success stories can tell us about how corruption can be reduced in challenging contexts, and how these lessons might inspire new and effective anti-corruption interventions in other countries.

List of external research grant awards 2016–17

- Programme Leader: British Academy Sustainable Development Programme (under the Global Challenges Research Fund), Paul Jackson, Jan 2017–July 2018.


The following externally funded research awards were made to IDD staff in 2016–17. More information about the research and the non-IDD partners involved can be found on our website.

The Developmental Leadership Program

In 2017, the Developmental Leadership Program celebrates its tenth year of research on how leadership, power and political processes drive or block development.

Insights into the politics of development

Research by the Developmental Leadership Program examines how leadership and politics drive change around the world. It explores how people collaborate to overcome political obstacles – to bring in reforms to tackle poverty or protect human rights, for example.

David and Niheer’s study asked what lessons could be learned from Myanmar reformers’ politically savvy, strong leadership and smart institutional design and how it had been possible for them to negotiate unprecedented change in the telecoms sector. Their findings highlight the importance in this process of partnership, ideas and narratives, the politics of accountability, and a pragmatic approach to trade-offs.

Looking beyond current thinking

Why do the poor in Africa pay more bribes than the wealthy? DLP’s growing body of work on corruption was reflected in a journal article by Research Fellow Caryn Peiffer and Professor Richard Rose (University of Strathclyde), which offers a new perspective on this problem. The widely accepted view suggests that the poor are generally more vulnerable to corruption because they are seen as ‘easy targets’ by bribe-seeking bureaucrats.

This study, published in the Journal of Development Studies in December 2016, found that previous research has not taken into account differences in how often people use certain kinds of services. Where both state and non-state providers offer services such as health or education, the poor use state services more than those who can afford private services – and this explains why they are more likely to be asked for bribes. The findings, which were reported in The Washington Post, were based on analysis of Afrobarometer survey responses from 51,605 people across 34 African countries.

DLP’s researchers look beyond individual champions of reform to help us understand leadership as a group process and examine the role of coalitions in achieving change. In Myanmar, for example, DLP’s David Hudson and Niheer Dasandi examined how politicians, business people and staff of international agencies collaborated to achieve reform that has made mobile phones affordable for ordinary citizens. Acting together, these groups and individuals ushered in a dramatic ‘digital revolution’ that will support the country’s future development.

Findings from two strands of DLP research were presented by Sarah Phillips (University of Sydney) and Suda. Sarah considered the problems of definition posed by a political settlements framework, in the context of her analysis of Somaliland’s relatively peaceful status quo reached largely without donor assistance.

Suda’s presentation shared evidence from her extensive fieldwork in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the politics of armed groups. She argued for the importance of the informal processes that often underpin political settlements to be given greater attention.

International support for stability in the DRC is often focused on the formal, elite level. The underlying problems that feed into and perpetuate instability in the region – lack of infrastructure, lack of options to earn a living or grow food – often go unaddressed. The consequence may be a perverse political settlement, one that actually sets up incentives for the use of force – as, for instance, when joining or supporting an armed group becomes one of the few feasible ways of ensuring survival for a significant number of citizens.
Taking DLP research to policy-makers and practitioners

DLP researchers are active in international policy networks. They also share evidence with many development agencies – the UN Development Programme, the World Bank and the OECD, for example – and with the UK and Australian governments. They help policy-makers and development practitioners understand how to support change.

More than half the participants at the 2017 Doing Development Differently (DDD) conference were officials, policy-makers and practitioners from Indonesia’s government, civil service and local organisations. They had gathered to discuss how the concept of ‘thinking and working politically’ (TWP) translates into international and everyday development practice.

The issue of gender-blind TWP was a central feature of the workshop agenda. DLP’s Caryn Peiffer helped facilitate a break-out group that considered the principles of TWP and gender in the context of real-world problems, such as cultural resistance to the inclusion of women and other groups in mainstream decision-making.

Ed Laws, a DLP Research Associate and GSDRC Research Fellow at IDD, shared DLP findings and resources in the ‘marketplace’ area of the workshop. Delegates were particularly interested in DLP’s Everyday Political Analysis (EPA) framework and the ease with which it could be applied to some of the ‘real-world’ examples and case studies discussed in the workshop’s plenary sessions.

Ed said: ‘I came away from the conference with the sense that DDD proponents are now moving beyond flexible and responsive ways of designing and implementing projects, to engage more explicitly with local political actors, interests and coalitions in support of positive change.’

Submissions to parliament’s International Development Committee

DLP researchers have given evidence at two recent inquiries by the International Development Committee (IDC) which monitors and evaluates the work of the UK Government’s Department for International Development. Heather Marquette and Alina Rocha Menocal shared findings on tackling corruption overseas, highlighting the importance of policy coherence and the need to understand why people resort to corruption in different contexts.

Suda Perera also gave evidence to the committee on its inquiry into how donors might help improve stability and development in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Suda was asked whether it was really possible, as she had suggested in her written evidence to the IDC, to engage with armed groups without being compromised. She pointed out that many members of DRC’s current political elite, including President Joseph Kabila himself, had risen to power through armed struggle.

Contributions from all three researchers were cited in the committee’s final reports and recommendations to government and DfID.

Gender and Politics in Practice

How might a gendered understanding of power and politics make development work more effective? For much of the rest of this year and into 2018, DLP’s research efforts are largely focused on its leadership of a new research programme, Gender and Politics in Practice. Many development initiatives tend to look at gender issues separately from power and politics. Through a series of case studies, this research asks what we can learn from more integrated approaches. It is funded by the Australian government, and partner organisations include Palladium, ODI, RMIT, The Asia Foundation, the University of Cambridge, UCL and the University of Southampton. The first outputs from the project are expected in autumn 2017.

A decade of DLP research

To mark DLP’s tenth anniversary, the team are working on a synthesis paper that will highlight key findings from the many strands of DLP research over the last decade. These include women’s leadership, reform coalitions, the role of higher education in leadership for development, the role of ideas, and how ‘thinking and working politically’ can make development more effective.
GSDRC providing new ‘Knowledge for Development’ services

IDD’s Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) team is leading the ‘helpdesk and foresight’ services of a major new knowledge programme supporting staff at DFID.

This year the GSDRC team significantly expanded its support for the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID), joining a consortium of organisations led by the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex delivering DFID’s new five-year ‘Knowledge for Development’ (K4D) programme.

The GSDRC has been providing a research ‘helpdesk’ for development policy-makers and practitioners for more than 15 years. The helpdesk service delivers fast syntheses of research and evidence as well as expert thinking to support specific policy and operational needs.

GSDRC manager Brian Lucas is now overseeing helpdesk research services for DFID covering the full range of subjects that DFID works on worldwide. In addition to the four research fellows in IDD, the K4D research team includes 11 other researchers based at partner organisations. Collectively, the K4D team delivers approximately 20 research reports each month. Reports related to the GSDRC’s core topics – governance, social development, conflict, and humanitarian issues – are now also available on gsdrc.org.

The GSDRC team also supports organisational learning and professional development in DFID through contributions to a series of K4D ‘learning journeys’. These involve convening workshops and discussions both online and face-to-face, as well as preparing other learning materials and literature reviews.

K4D services are delivered in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, the Education Development Trust, Itad, the University of Leeds’ Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and the University of Manchester’s Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute.

Research summaries and in-depth analysis of policy and practice

The GSDRC website provides free access to more than 660 Helpdesk Research Reports, 40 in-depth literature reviews and conflict analyses, 40 topic guides, and 60 e-learning resources, with more being published every month. Recent reports have addressed topics including the Syrian crisis, modern slavery, child labour, violent extremism, public financial management, migration, and more.

Our research reports are widely cited in academic publications and by multilateral and bilateral agencies, and feedback from clients shows that our reports have been used to inform planning, implementation and evaluation of projects as well as to support development of strategy at the country and international level.

In the past year, the GSDRC has undertaken research for several UK government departments, the Australian government, the European Union’s Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).
New topic guides

GSDRC topic guides synthesise findings from rigorous research on crucial areas of development policy and practice. This year ten new guides were added to the series, including:

- **Conflict analysis**: What approaches and tools can practitioners use to ensure that interventions ‘do no harm’ and support prospects for peace?
- **Countering violent extremism**: What do we know about factors that attract people to violent extremism, and approaches to countering extremism in different contexts?
- **Urban governance**: With half of the world’s population living in cities, urbanisation is both an opportunity and a challenge. How can the governance challenges of urban areas be addressed?
- **Open data, transparency and accountability**: How can open data and transparency initiatives be designed and implemented to support accountability?
- **National climate change governance**: How do climate change governance and the political economy of climate policy operate at the national scale? How can climate and sustainable development policies be equitable, effective, coherent, and adaptable?
- **Transitional justice**: How can the legacies of mass violence and human rights violations be addressed to avoid fuelling future conflicts?

Military personnel of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on patrol in an armoured personnel carrier, 2007 (UN Photo/Jorge Aramburu).

New Academic Director

The GSDRC is delighted to welcome IDD’s Dr Jonathan Fisher, Senior Lecturer in African Politics, as its new Academic Director. Jonathan brings to the GSDRC an extensive range of research leadership experience and strong networks in academic and policy communities. He takes over the role from Professor Heather Marquette, who has provided strategic guidance and mentoring to the GSDRC team for the past seven years.

Stay up to date with GSDRC resources: visit gsdrc.org to sign up for the email bulletin or follow on Twitter or Facebook.
IDD students take the initiative

These are just some of the activities and events that have been organised by IDD students over the past academic year. Their initiative, enthusiasm and organisational skills contributed to a busy and exciting year.

Attending an International Development conference

On 25 February, a group of students attended the Bristol International Development Conference 2017, organised by Bristol Hub and hosted by the University of Bristol. Myles Wickstead (former DFID) and Sara Pantuliano (Overseas Development Institute – ODI) opened a day in which a great number of professionals from the fields of international development and political science discussed a vast array of topics within the categories of ‘Refugees and Conflict’, ‘Women and Girls’ and ‘Climate Change’. The interactivity of the sessions allowed the students to ask questions, share views with the presenters and their audiences and reflect on their learning in a different context.

Celebrating Africa!

As part of activities marking the celebration of Africa Union Day, students of African descent studying in IDD organised an ‘Africa Day Celebration’. The aim of the event was to reflect on the development trajectories of Africa taking into account the successes, failures and future projections for the continent. The first part of the programme featured presentations on good governance and corruption in Africa, health care delivery, entrepreneurship, economic development and conflict. The second part of the program was an African food exhibition where local dishes from Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi, Sudan, Nigeria and other African countries were on display and for much appreciated consumption!

IDD students visit the House of Commons Select Committee on International Development

On Tuesday 28 April, a group of 20 students travelled to London to sit in on a session of the House of Commons Select Committee on International Development. The Committee monitors the policy, administration and spending of the Department for International Development (DFID) and also pays attention to the work and activities of the multilateral agencies and non-government organisations that DFID contributes to. During the session, the founder of Bridge International and Lord Bates, Minister of State (DFID), were examined. After the session, the students met with the committee clerk, Sarah Hartwell-Naguib, and Committee Specialist Rachael Cox, a University of Birmingham alumn. They talked not only about the work of the committee, but they also offered advice on careers. The session and the discussion afterwards gave a fascinating insight into the work of the committee. In the afternoon, the group headed across to the Commonwealth Secretariat Building for a session with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and a tour of the building.
Postgraduate research at IDD

IDD has a vibrant community of postgraduate researchers. Most enrol on the three year PhD programme, but some enrol on the four-year PhD with Integrated Study programme. This programme is introduced here, with two of the first students on this programme, who are now coming to the end of their studies, looking back on how the programme worked for them.

**PhD with Integrated Study**

The four-year PhD with Integrated Study provides an extra year of study for research students, with that extra year used to receive research training and complete other modules that are relevant to a student’s research interests. This provides often much-needed time and space to dedicate to research training and gaining additional specialist training before embarking on the PhD itself. This is particularly helpful for overseas students who have not studied in the UK before, as this gives them the time needed to get used to the UK education system, as they prepare to start on their PhD study. Students are required to complete 120 credits at Masters level — this usually involves completion of at least six modules, as most modules are worth 20 credits, though some are worth 40 or 10. The marks are then used to assess progress of students but are not part of the overall award, which is still based on the 80,000-word thesis, produced towards the end of the PhD registration.

Entry to the PhD with Integrated Study programme requires at least a good Masters degree and a proposal for the PhD that shows promise and appropriateness for a PhD.

The department also has to have a suitable supervisor available. Mohammad Roudo, researching the influence of performance management regimes, specifically the Minimum Service Standards (MSS), on local government in Indonesia, and Deny Juanto, researching the integration of performance information in the Indonesian public sector, reflect on how they came to join the programme and their experience so far.

**Congratulations!**

Many congratulations to postgraduate researchers who have been awarded their PhD in the last year:

**James Connell:** Are emerging donors different from established donors? A comparison of existing policies and practice

**Ellie Gore:** Between HIV prevention and LGBT rights: an ethnographic study of queer political activism in Accra, Ghana

**Edward Houston Shearon:** Experiencing everyday justice: A study of end-user experiences of justice in South Kivu, DRC

**Ourathai Yosinta:** Organisational culture and good governance in the public sector: The case of Provincial Administration in Thailand

**Mohammad Roudo**

I found the PhD with Integrated Study on the University of Birmingham website and knew this was the route I wanted to take as I was aware that I needed more training in research design and methodologies. The additional year to learn more about research design and methodologies significantly improved the quality of my PhD proposal and the way that I have carried out my research. I had more time than those students on the three-year PhD to deepen my knowledge in social science research and to gain better understanding of how to apply this in my research. However, the programme needs full commitment from students, particularly in the first year since you have to complete assignments, tasks and even exams with good results.

I strongly recommend this programme to other potential PhD students, particularly those who do not have a strong foundation in research design and methodology. I also recommend it to those potential students who want to refresh their knowledge of social science research as well as overseas students who need time to improve their English and writing skills. The first year of this programme was very useful as a foundation for the next three years and to successfully accomplish the PhD thesis.

**Deny Junanto**

I think the PhD with Integrated Study programme is a unique pathway for a doctoral researcher. The programme combines modules and research activities that may be suitable for students like me who want a better foundation in terms of research methodology and relevant knowledge for our research. Even though it is taking me longer to finish this programme, as it is a four-year programme compared to the ‘regular’ PhD registration, the extra year was very helpful in providing wider academic perspective and skills before eventually starting research in the second year. I definitely recommend this programme to those who want further grounding in social science research and in their specialist area before they jump into the fascinating life of research.
IDD Staff

Academic staff and experience
IDD has over 50 years’ experience of teaching, research and consultancy in international development, governance and public sector management. Staff members have worked extensively in developing and transitional nations across the world.

Dr Philip Amis PhD Kent – Urban studies and poverty, informal sector, local government, aid management and evaluation methods. Experience in East Africa and India.

Dr William Avis PhD University of Sheffield – Urban governance and poverty, post-colonialism, identity and conflict in north east India and big data and the data revolution. Experience in East Africa and India.

Dr Danielle Beswick PhD Manchester – contemporary UK-Africa relations, UK Conservative Party and international development, statebuilding, African foreign and security policy and African agency.

Dr Adrian Campbell PhD Brunel – Power, organisations, public administration reform, human resources strategy, urban and regional governance, empires and rising powers; experience primarily in Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia.

Dr David Cobley PhD Birmingham – Social development, particularly in relation to disability, and research methodology.

Dr Laurence Cooley PhD Birmingham – Political scientist with interests including power sharing, census politics and the governance of sport in deeply divided societies, and the external relations of the European Union, with a particular focus on the Western Balkans. Currently an ESRC Future Research Leader.

Dr Niheer Dasandi PhD University College London – Political scientist focusing on the politics of developmental reform, the development-human rights relationship, measurement of state preferences in world politics, and the international political economy of development.


Dr Susan Dodsworth PhD McGill – Political scientist focussing on the politics of development. Specialises in the unintended side-effects of new aid modalities in sub-Saharan Africa, and the political economy of democracy promotion in developing states.

Dr Jonathan Fisher DPhil Oxon – African security, the politics of aid and intervention, Africa’s place in the international system, knowledge construction in conflict, donor politics and post-liberation regimes, particularly in Eastern Africa.

Dr Tom Hewitt PhD Sussex – Expertise in development theory and distance learning. Interests in governance and the politics of development.

Professor David Hudson PhD (University of Birmingham) – Political scientist focusing on the role of coalitions, leadership and power in reform processes; the drivers of global migration, finance and trade; surveys and experiments on how people in rich countries engage with global development issues.

Dr Iffat Idris PhD Hull – Wide-ranging experience of working with international development organisations, notably UN System and World Bank. Governance (esp. transparency and right to information), capacity development and disaster response. Interests in conflict, extremism and peace-building.

Professor Paul Jackson PhD Birmingham – Political economist with main interests in conflict, post-conflict reconstruction and security sector reform, decentralisation, local governance and the state, including public management, politics and security.

Dr Ed Laws PhD University of York – Political settlements, conflict, peacebuilding and statebuilding, the politics of universal health coverage, and environmental sustainability in the informal sector.

Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hébert PhD Sciences Po Paris – Peacebuilding and statebuilding, humanitarian interventions in post-conflict or post-disaster contexts, and local narratives of resistance to international interventions.

Dr Robert Leurs PhD Manchester – Participatory development, strategies for rural development, methodologies of social analysis and the role of NGOs in development.

Brian Lucas MSc Manitoba, MSc London School of Economics – Information and knowledge management, research communication and impact, and information and communications technologies.

Heather Lyne de Ver MSc University of Bristol – Developmental leadership, the politics of development, and the relationship between higher education and leadership.

Professor Heather Marquette MA, PhD Dunelm – Director of the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) and Senior Research Fellow (Goverance & Conflict) with DFID’s Research & Evidence Division. Political scientist specialising in development politics, governance and corruption/anti-corruption, including attitudes and values, and aid policy.

Claire Mcloughlin MA Leicester – Non-state service providers, the relationship between service delivery and state-building, and policies and approaches to aid in fragile situations.

Dr Fiona Nunan MA, PhD Birmingham – Environmental and natural resource governance, livelihoods and policy in developing countries, including institutional analysis and co-management. Focus on fisheries and coastal ecosystems in East Africa and South Asia.

Dr Suda Perera PhD (Kent) – Conflict analyst specialising in armed groups in the African Great Lakes. Interests in migration and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa, non-state actors, political settlements, and data collection in conflict zones.
Dr Caryn Peiffer PhD (Claremont Graduate University) – Political scientist focusing on political development, the measurement, causes and consequences of corruption, and the impact of state-business relations on reform processes.

Dr Martin Rew PhD Cambridge – Social anthropologist and specialist in gender and religion in India, particularly in relation to issues of violence against women and social movements.

Dr Martin Ottmann PhD University of Nottingham – Political scientist with interests in civil wars, peace agreements and post-conflict transformations combining advanced statistical research methods with qualitative field research.

Willem van Eekelen MSc Rotterdam and Sussex – Development economist specialising in capacity and impact assessments of the development and humanitarian sectors and their various stakeholders.

IDD Associates
These former academic staff members continue to engage in consultancy, research and training in association with the department.

Emeritus Professor Richard Batley
The management and politics of service provision, non-state services, and public-private partnerships.

Dr Donald Curtis Honorary Senior Research Fellow Institutional development and governance, environmental management, and rural development.

Emeritus Professor Ken Davey Local government, central local financial relations, and public finance.

Nick Devas Honorary Senior Lecturer Economist and urban planner whose specialisms include local government, municipal finance, intergovernmental fiscal relations, and public finance.

Dr Michael Hubbard Honorary Senior Research Fellow Economist specialising in public economic management, agricultural economics and international aid management.

Andrew Nickson Honorary Senior Lecturer Public administration reform, decentralisation, and the reform of basic service delivery.

Dr Ita O’Donovan Urban local government, particularly strategic change, urban regeneration and public-private partnerships.

Emeritus Professor Carole Rakodi Social scientist and urban planner.

Dr Malcolm Wallis Specialist in Public Management.

Dr John Watson Honorary Senior Lecturer Project analysis, delivery and evaluation.

Honorary Staff

Munawar Alam South Asian Advisor to the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

Shivit Bakrania Specialist in conflict, security and development.

Dr Eleanor Chowns Honorary Lecturer interests in public service delivery, collective action, aid policy and practice, NGOs, and evaluation.

Dr Andrew Coulson Honorary Senior Lecturer, Institute of Local Government Studies, political economy of Tanzania, agriculture and land in Tanzania.

Dr Elena Denezhkina Honorary Research Fellow of the School of Government and Society Interests include urban and regional development strategy; globalisation and cities; partnership and hierarchy in urban development; power politics, defence industry and development in Russia.

Professor Mark Duffield Honorary Professor Emeritus, social scientist and specialist in security and development, development aid and the politics of intervention.

Huma Haider Honorary Research Fellow – interests in transitional justice in the context of peacebuilding; coexistence and reconciliation in divided societies; and the role of refugees/IDPs and diaspora communities in transitional justice and peacebuilding.

Ms S Herbert Honorary Research Associate – interests in conflict, statebuilding, aid policy and the politics of aid, inequality and Latin America.

Dr A Monaghan Honorary Research Fellow.

External contributors to teaching programmes

Moustafa Osman Head of Disaster Preparedness and Response, Islamic Relief.

Professional staff

Edward Avenell DLP Administrator.

Debra Beard Postgraduate Administrator.

Claire Groom Department Administrator and PA to the Director.

Sarah O’Connor Communications (GSDRC/DLP).

Andrea Potter Distance Learning Administrator.

Cheryl Stonehouse Communications Support Officer.
Publications

Books


Book chapters


Journal Articles


Conference papers


Nunan, F. (2017) ‘Analysing governance through the social-ecological systems framework: mapping the complexity of mangrove forest governance’

Other publications


