Centre of Development Studies

Photo Credit: Nikita Hirala
3rd place in PhD Fieldwork Photography Competition 2023
TABLE OF CONTENTS

03–05
NEWS
Publications in 2022/23

06
EVENTS

07
FACTS & FIGURES

08
PhD GRADUATES 2022/23

09
STAFF

10
FIELD WORK PHOTO STORY
**NEWS**

**Academics**

**PROF. MAHA ABDELRAHMAN**


The issue takes the pandemic as a lens to revisit the concept of crisis and to examine its relevance as an analytical lens for understanding global capitalism and the way it is organized, and how crisis narratives and discourses, rather than crisis itself, have become central to capitalism and how it functions.


The article examines how a market for mental health apps, designed to help millions of refugees manage symptoms of Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder and other mental health issues, has proliferated since the outbreak of the so-called refugee crisis in 2015. These bite-size, on-the-go, mindfulness-based apps have emerged at the intersection of new investment models, state-of-the-art AI and surveillance and border control regimes. Conceived of as a more cost-effective approach to refugee mental health care, mental health apps are part of a larger endeavour to create the ‘smart’ refugee. Self-monitoring, agile, entrepreneurial and resilient in the face of adversity, the smart refugee is expected to emerge as a node in a network of information flow, constantly connected to digital technology, at once receiving and providing real-time data.

From gallons to gigabytes: China’s Digital Silk Road and the Arab World (new blog post for the Project ‘Mapping Connections: China and Contemporary Development in the Middle East’)

**DR JOSTEIN HAUGE**

“The Future of the Factory: How Megatrends are Changing Industrialization”

The book provides a novel analysis of how four different ‘megatrends’ are changing and shaping industrialization, and charts new pathways for industrial policy and global governance. It argues that industrialization remains a cornerstone of economic prosperity, but that power asymmetries in the world economy create uneven opportunities for achieving economic growth, development, and industrialization. The book is scheduled to be published with Oxford University Press in August/September 2023 and is available for pre-order. Alongside the book’s release, Dr Hauge has also been invited to talk about his book on The Bunker podcast, one of the UK’s most prominent politics podcasts.


The article grapples with how interests of states and multinational corporations involved in forced labour shape private governance outcomes.

Dr Hauge also contributed to a recently published special issue in Third World Quarterly entitled, “Designing and Negotiating Industrial Policy: Prospects and Challenges for State-led Development in the 21st Century”. The special issue has collected research contributions from scholars of industrial policy across the world. Dr Hauge’s article in the special issue is entitled “Manufacturing-led development in the digital age: how power trumps technology”.

**PROF. GRAHAM DENYER WILLIS**


Every year at least 20,000 people go missing in São Paulo, Brazil. Many will be found sometimes in mundane mass graves, but thousands will not. This book explores this phenomenon and why there is little concern for those who vanish.

Abstract: Scholars and policymakers widely view identity as a key driver of African citizens’ political engagement. In doing so, however, they have emphasized ethnicity and largely sidelined other identities, including gender, local origin, shared residency, and partisanship. In this paper, we explore which identities drive political engagement and why they do so. We employ an original survey experiment that includes various identities and other incentives that may drive citizens’ participation around Zambia’s 2021 national elections. We find that partisanship most influences individuals’ stated willingness to campaign for a candidate or meet with an MP, while ethnicity and social incentives play less significant roles. Finally, we explore the mechanisms underpinning these results and find that citizens anticipate sanctions if they fail to support a co-partisan but not a co-ethnic candidate. These findings have important implications for understanding political engagement and democratic development throughout the region.

Affiliated Lecturers

PRAJAKTI KALRA


DR SIDDHARTH (MONTU) SAXENA


PROF. BARRY RIDER


Senior Researcher

JAQUELINE MEEKS


PhD Students

TAKAHIRO KAMISUNA


DUSTIN BARTER


SEMINARS

The Centre of Development Studies Seminar Series is broad in scope, focusing on pressing theoretical, empirical, and practical issues in the field of development studies. Attendance is open to the public, although we construct the Series primarily with our MPhil students in mind. Over the years, it has attracted world-leading scholars from across the social sciences; from economics and political science to sociology and anthropology, to name a few. Our seminar series in 2022/2023 was no exception, displaying breadth both with respect to topics and disciplines. Below, you can see a summary of the seminar series in 2022/23, where we have included speaker names and the title of their presentations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03 Nov 2022</td>
<td>Joeva Sean Rock</td>
<td>We are Not Starving: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana (book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Nov 2022</td>
<td>Richmond Juvenile Ehwhi</td>
<td>Urban Governance, Partnership Formation and Citizen Engagement in Africa’s New Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Dec 2022</td>
<td>Andy Sumner and Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez</td>
<td>Global Inequality and Global Poverty in the Aftermath of the Pandemic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Jan 2023</td>
<td>Brian Dowd-Uribe</td>
<td>The Method in Madness: Explaining Unfounded GM Crop Optimism for Poor Small Farmers in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Feb 2023</td>
<td>Graham Denyer Willis, Pedro Mendes Loureiro</td>
<td>The Prison Consensus: Incarceration, Space, and Inequality in Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Mar 2023</td>
<td>Tuba Bircan</td>
<td>Ethics of Remote Sensing and Satellite Data for Migration and Humanitarian Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 2023</td>
<td>Kathryn Hochstetler</td>
<td>Political Economies of Energy Transition: Wind and Solar Power in Brazil and South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May 2023</td>
<td>Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven, Surbhi Kesar</td>
<td>Standing in the Way of Rigor: Economics’ Meeting with the Decolonization Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May 2023</td>
<td>Boram Lee</td>
<td>Silent Networks in the Electoral Spotlight: Activist Coalitions and Diffusion of Global Corporate Norms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Jun 2023</td>
<td>Robert Mattes</td>
<td>Mapping State Capacity in Africa: Professionalism and Reach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FACTS & FIGURES

**MPHIL APPLICATIONS**
- 618

**MPHIL OFFERS**
- 162

**MPHIL ENROLLED**
- 79
  - Home Students: 18
  - EU and Overseas (Non-EU) Students: 61
  - Female MPHIL Students: 50
  - Male MPHIL Students: 29

26 different countries represented: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, South Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, UK, USA

**PHD APPLICATIONS**
- 100

**PHD OFFERS**
- 5

**PHD ENROLLMENT**
- 3
These following students completed the PhD programme and had their viva outcomes approved by the Degree Committee July 2022 to July 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sam van Noort</td>
<td>Essays on the Political Economy of Democratization and Democratic Backsliding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakkamol Siriwat</td>
<td>Living in Parallel Worlds: Socialization into Patani Malayness and Ethnonationalism among Youth in Thailand’s Deep South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shatanati Kuermanaili</td>
<td>Nature, Nurture and Values in Development: Water as a Resource in Central Asia (Kazakhstan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikita Makarchev</td>
<td>To what extent and how has the behaviour of SOEs in China and Russia changed under evolving government–SOE relations?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georges Quist</td>
<td>Africa’s National Development Banks: Lessons from Côte d’Ivoire and Rwanda</td>
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New Staff

Two members of the academic team joined the Centre of Development Studies for the academic year 2022/23.

Dr. Niyousha Bastani
Assistant Professor

Niyousha’s primary research focus has looked at psychological and educational approaches to counter-extremism. Her overlapping research interests include the colonial histories of psychology, the politics of race, anti-Muslim racism (especially in the UK), education, liberalism, and the political thought of Sylvia Wynter. Her most recent research interest is in global usages of psychology for anti-imperial resistance, especially in Iran in the 1960s-80s. She is also interested in the uses of digital technologies for political rule, especially in the UK, and has contributed to collective research on this topic for the group No Tech for Tyrants.

She holds previous degrees from McGill University and the University of Cambridge. Her doctoral research is funded by the Cambridge International Trust, St John’s College (Cambridge), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship. She was previously Editor in Chief at the Cambridge Review of International Affairs.

Dr. Tamara Wattnem
Assistant Professor

Tamara Wattnem’s research focuses on the politics and implications of the deepening of extractivism in Latin America – particularly industrial agriculture, mining, and hydrocarbon extraction. She is currently engaged in two interrelated projects. The first analyzes the distinct trajectories of energy and mining policy throughout Mexico’s neoliberal era, with special attention to the role and reach of resource nationalism. The second project focuses on how and when the International Labor Organization’s Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention – more commonly known as the ILO Convention 169 – is used as a tool to both resist and legitimate extractivism. She has also written about global trends in seed legislation that erode farmers’ rights to save and replant seeds.

She specializes in theories of development and economic change, environmental sociology and critical agrarian studies. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin Madison.
Ocean Defenders

South African small scale and subsistence fishers have been at the forefront of ocean conservation and climate change efforts in South Africa, having successfully opposed a number of ocean seismic surveys in the provinces of Kwa-Zulu Natal, the Western Cape, and the Eastern Cape. Coastal subsistence fisherfolk recognise that their way of life is entirely reliant on the health of the ocean and access to its marine resources. Having observed the ocean on a daily basis for years, they are acutely aware of its changing conditions and the impact this has had on marine life.

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