

Annual Report

2021-2022

# Centre of Development Studies



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Centre of Development Studies

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Ice crushing machine courtesy of Dustin Barter

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# News

## Academics



**Professor Maha Abdelrahman** published an article '[The Indefatigable Worker: From Factory Floor to Zoom Avatar](#)' in Critical Sociology. The article examines the concerted efforts by state and capital, since the early 20th century, to devise seemingly technical, ideology-free methods aimed to reduce mental and physical fatigue among the workforce in order to guarantee the productivity and economic health of the nation. In 2022 Prof Abdelrahman joined the International advisory board of the project Supporting Knowledge and Mapping Regional Connections: China and Contemporary Development in the Middle East



**Dr Graham Denyer Willis** [won the prestigious Leverhulme Trust award](#) in recognition of his outstanding research as a political ethnographer. In April 2022, Graham's article '[Eating pizza in prison: Failing family men, civil punishment, and the policing of whiteness in São Paulo](#)' was published in the top anthropology journal, American Ethnologist. Graham also had his book, [Keep the Bones Alive: Missing People and the Search for Life in Brazil](#), published by the University of California Press in July 2022. Graham's incredibly productive year has been rounded off with a promotion, so from October 2022, the Centre of Development Studies will be proud to list Professor Denyer Willis on its academic staff.



**Professor Shailaja Fennell** published a chapter in The Oxford Handbook of Global South Youth Studies, entitled 'Youth Employment, Informality and Precarity in the Global South'. She also had an article, '[Poverty in South Asia: An intellectual History](#)' published in The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History. Prof Fennell also contributed to the [ASEAN Development Outlook](#) a report to chart progress towards inclusive and sustainable development in the ASEAN region. One further article published this academic year was 'Building on Bandung: What Does Cooperation Do for Regional Engagement?' in Asian Journal of Peacebuilding



**Dr Joeva Rock** co-convened a workshop on "Gene Editing and It's Alternatives in Africa" with social scientists from North America, Europe and Africa to discuss new advancements in gene editing and what it might mean for plant breeding on the African continent. This gathering was part of the larger GEAP3 research network [[GEAP3 Network](#)] In June 2022, Joeva was also awarded a grant through the Cambridge Humanities Research Grants Scheme [[University of Cambridge research funding schemes | School of the Humanities and Social Sciences](#)] to fund initial archival research of a new project entitled Bringing a Green Revolution to Africa: Unearthing the Legacy of Sasakawa Global 2000. In addition to all of that, Joeva's first monograph was published in September 2022 by Michigan State University Press, We are not starving: the Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana [[We Are Not Starving \(msupress.org\)](#)].



**Dr Jostein Hauge** published his article '[Manufacturing-led development in the digital age: how power trumps technology](#)' in Third World Quarterly. The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) then invited Dr Hauge to write [an essay based on the article](#), which was then cited in an [editorial for the Guardian](#).

# News

## Academics



**Dr Sarah Lockwood** received an Honourable Mention for the Alexander L. George Article Award with her article entitled 'Protest Brokers and the Technology of Mobilization: Evidence from Africa' in *Comparative Political Studies*. She co-authored 'Party Footprints in Africa: Measuring Local Party Presence Across the Continent', an article in *Party Politics*, and co-edited a special issue of that same journal on 'Party Structures and Organization Building in Africa'. Dr Lockwood's active research this year has involved data collection in South Africa. The first project was a follow-up survey of 800 participants in the run-up to local council elections in 2021, to gauge how the views of participants had changed since an initial survey performed in 2016-17. Dr Lockwood's second survey, jointly with a colleague from MIT, and with research assistants at the University of Cape Town, is one with over 9,000 local councillor participants, focusing on issues of accountability, accessibility and violence. This project is funded by the American Political Science Association. Dr Lockwood has recently been awarded a grant through the [Cambridge Humanities Research Grants Scheme](#) to fund a pilot for the first large-scale multi-country study of protest brokers. Dr Lockwood co-convened and hosted two 2-day conferences on Political Parties in Africa. These conferences brought together cutting edge researchers from around the world, with over 50 academics, students, and civil society participants from more than 12 countries attending. The conferences were part of the Political Parties in Africa project, based at the Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy at the University of Cape Town.



Phnom Penh courtesy of Dustin Barter

# News

## Affiliated lecturers



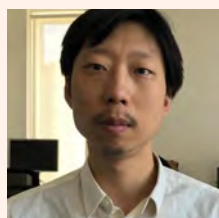
**Dr Saradamoyee Chatterjee**, affiliated lecturer at the Centre of Development Studies, published a chapter entitled '[The Higher Education Experience of Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Impact on Mental Well-Being: A Review of the Literature](#)' in A. P. Francis and M. A. Carter (eds.), *Mental Health and Higher Education in Australia*, published by Springer. In May, Dr Chatterjee presented at Oxford Migration Conference 2022, and subsequently published a short article '[Climate change and \(im\)mobility of persons with disabilities](#)'. In July 2022, Dr Chatterjee presented at Development Studies Association's annual conference (DSA2022). Her paper was entitled, 'Migration, gender-based violence, and HIV risk in urban spaces: Evidence from India and Africa.'



**Prajakti Kalra**, affiliated lecturer on Paper 400, published an article in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs, 'Locating Central Eurasia's Inherent Resilience', and co-authored with Dr Saxena an article in the Journal of Eurasian Studies called 'Globalizing Local Understanding of Fragility in Eurasia'. Ms Kalra has been appointed Silk Roads Research Affiliate in the newly launched [Silk Roads Programme in King's College](#). The Director of the Programme is Prof Frankopan. Ms Kalra also participated in the COMPASS 'Regional Research and Capacity Building Conference' in Baku and the conference on '[Connectivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus](#)' held in Cambridge under the auspices of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum at Jesus College.



**Dr Siddharth (Montu) Saxena**, affiliated lecturer on the MPhil programme and coordinator of Paper 400, brought his GCRF COMPASS project to a successful conclusion. The project was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards 2021 and received special recognition at the award ceremony. Dr Saxena and Ms Kalra received funding for a one-year collaborative project 'Development of Korean Better Digital Inclusive (K-BDI) Index and Its Application in Central-Asia', hosted by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) with Jeonbuk National University. Dr Saxena has also been invited to join Advisory Board of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). This past academic year also saw a number of prominent Roundtables, Workshops and Webinars on Central Asia. Dr Saxena presented papers and chaired sessions at an international seminar in Tashkent, 'Building a Digitally-inclusive Society in Central Asia: Digital Transformation and Digital Divide in Central Asia', and was likewise involved in The 4th Global Research Network International Workshop: 'Science in Diplomacy and Diplomacy in Science' with Hanyang University, South Korea.



**Dr Albert Park**, affiliated lecturer and co-convenor of Paper 15, published an article in the Asian Journal of Peacebuilding, 'Beyond Great Powers: Middle Power Paths to Resilient Multilateralism.'



# News

## Senior Researcher

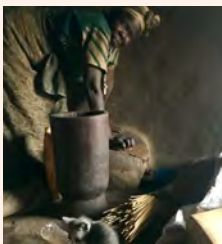


**Dr Gay Meeks** published a book with Open Book Publishers, co-authored with her husband Geoff Meeks, *The Merger Mystery: Why Spend Ever More on Mergers When So Many Fail?*. [The publication is available free to download](#). Dr Meeks' paper, 'Exploring Sen on self-interest and commitment', reflecting her talk for the second Cambridge Capabilities Conference in 2017, will be forthcoming from Cambridge University Press as Chapter 7 in the book, *Social Choice, Agency, Inclusiveness and Capabilities*, edited by Flavio Comim, P B Anand and Shailaja Fennell. Dr Meeks also published a short follow-up article on the need for M&A reform in the FT's Alphaville blog, and an article on interest rates and a couple of silver linings to the horribly looming clouds, in [LSE's British Government and Policy series](#).

## Students



**Felipe Puccioni**, a second-year CDS PhD student, hit the news in Brazil - [Parceria entre SME, TCM e Cambridge promete melhorar gestão da educação brasileira](#) as he launched his research to analyse the causal relationship between management and pupil educational outcomes in a randomised field experiment across 80 schools in Rio de Janeiro.



**Tessa Laing**, a CDS PhD student who is now writing up her thesis, has won the [POLIS Fieldwork Photography Competition](#) with this beautiful picture of breath-taking clarity. 'A friend in Amuru, Northern Uganda teaches me to grind sesame butter. Her village has several grinding machines, but she prefers to use her grandmother's stone.'

## Staff changes



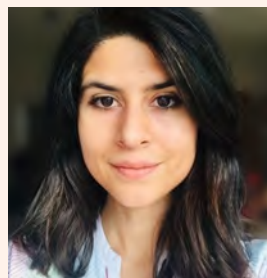
Dr Jostein Hauge



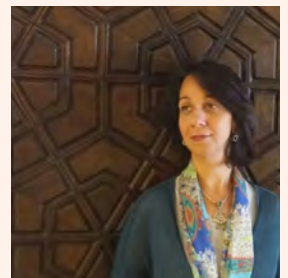
Dr Sarah Lockwood



Dr Joeva Rock



Dr Natalya Naqvi



Dr Maha Abdelrahman

2021-22 saw an expansion in the staffing at the Centre of Development Studies to support the growth in the MPhil cohort. The Centre was fortunate to welcome four new University Teaching Officers on board. Dr Jostein Hauge, Dr Sarah Lockwood, Dr Natalya Naqvi and Dr Joeva Rock all brought a broad range of development expertise to run papers on the MPhil course.

In Easter Term Professor Maha Abdelrahman was appointed CDS Director.

# Events

## CDS Seminar Series

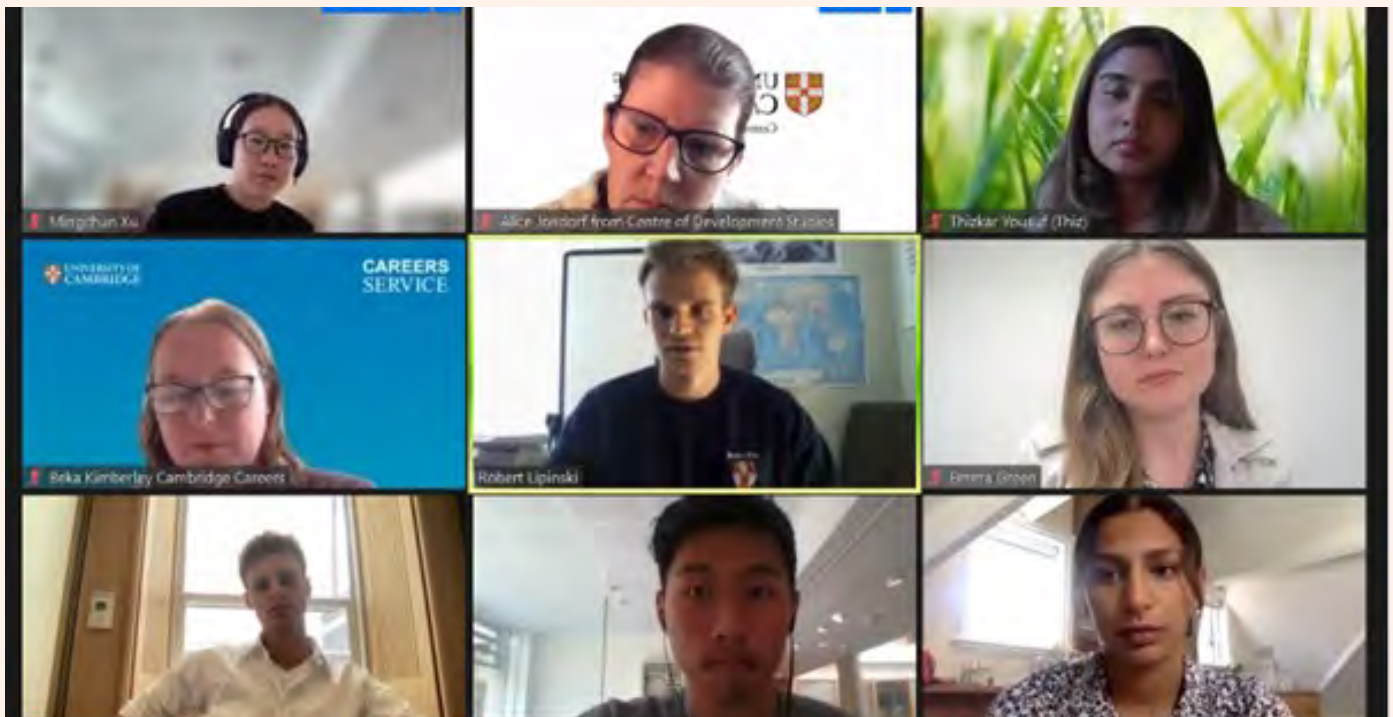
Because of the ongoing impact of the Covid situation, the seminars for 2020-21 were all run online. This allowed for a great range of international speakers such as Michelle Jurkovich from the University of Massachusetts in Boston, Pia Raffler from Harvard and Jason Hickel from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The seminars were well attended by MPhil students, with some engaged questions and thoughtful discussion.

## Alumni careers event

We ran a well-attended event with MPhil graduates engaging with current MPhil students to share experiences of their working lives. We had five representatives from a range of professional spheres, There were alumni in the public sector, with Robert Lipinski currently at the World Bank, Stijn Kuipers at the Dutch Ministry of Economics and Lena Morel working for GIZ, the German development agency. We also had Emma Green, a development consultant in the private sector, and Katharina Oemmelen working at a social enterprise.

Three students led interviews and Q&As to draw out personal responses from the alumni that gave real insights into the realities of applying for jobs, working in a variety of roles and how the MPhil course has provided critical thinking approaches that feed into the professional environment.

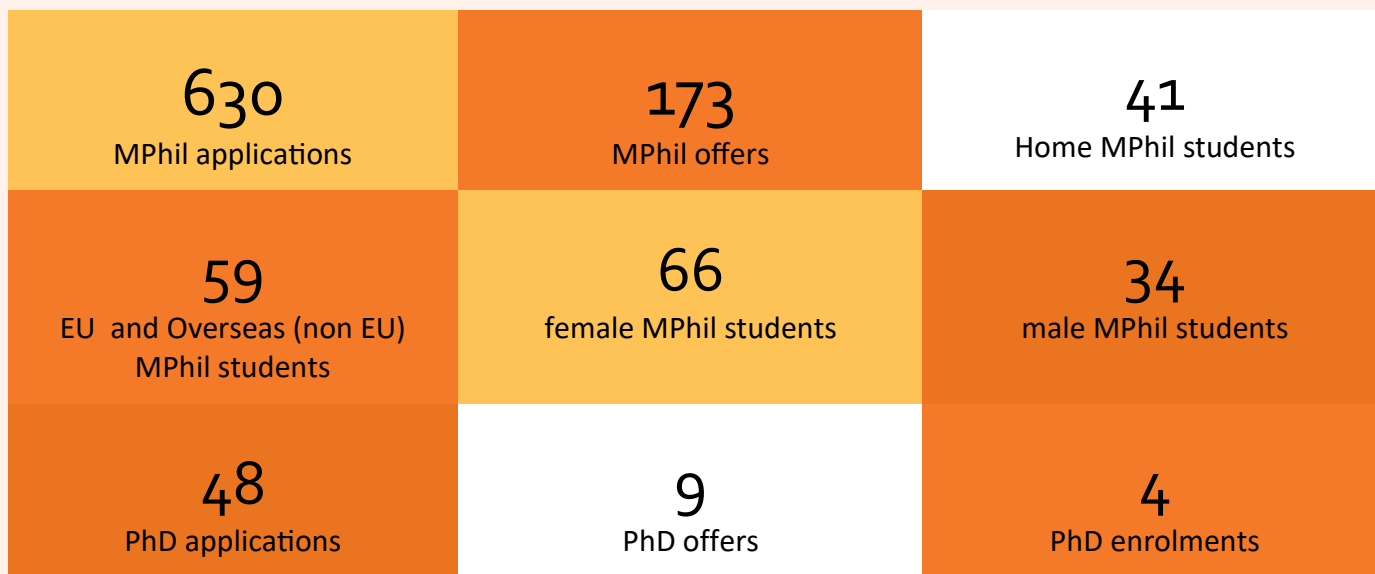
The enthusiasm and passion from some of our contributors was perfectly balanced against the pragmatism of others. We hope to run similar events each year.



Online alumni careers event - June 2022

# Facts and Figures

Our MPhil programme expanded for the academic year 2021-22. We had a total of 100 students successfully enter the course.



As ever, we had a very international mix among our MPhil cohort, with students coming from 33 different countries, including Bangladesh, Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Kosovo, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

## MPhil African bursary holders for 2021-22

The Centre of Development Studies offers a scholarship for MPhil applicants whose primary citizenship is African. All applicants with African citizenship are automatically considered for this award. We were fortunate enough to have two holders of the CDS African Student Bursary this year, **Frida Aloo** and **Favour Emma-Nwachukwu**.

**Favour** had this to say about her experience:

The CDS African Student Bursary allowed me to connect with some of the most brilliant people and truly immerse myself in the rich and diverse culture of Cambridge. Studying MPhil in Development Studies provided an in-depth understanding of the economics, institutions, and politics of development, equipping me with the fundamental knowledge on overcoming poverty and creating healthy and sustainable societies. Studying at Cambridge exposed me to various cultures, opinions and experiences, enabling me to analyse development issues profoundly and compassionately. It has been a truly wonderful experience!

My long-term career goal is to be involved in the evolution of financial markets as they intertwine with economic development, proffering policies that promote financing for development in African countries without dependence on aid. However, for the next steps, I am currently working as an EMEA Summer Analyst for Neuberger Berman, an asset management firm in London. The MPhil in Development Studies program has been a critical stepping stone in my pursuit of sustainable wealth creation for African countries.



# PhD graduates 2021-2022

The following students completed the PhD programme and had their viva outcomes approved by the Degree Committee - July 2021–July 2022

**Mustafa Basbay:** Fiscal policy and economic growth at different stages of development: an eclectic approach

**Gracelin Baskaran:** Essays on the economic and financial challenges facing South Africa's commodity sector

**Callie Berman:** Knowing fish: a cultural case study and portrait of resource understandings in Caspian Eurasia

**Emilio Garciadiego Ruiz:** A reign of burnt wounds and crowded cells: exploring how political power is upheld at street level through observations of the municipal police in Mexico City

**Paola Velasco Herrejón:** Energy justice from the bottom up: a capability approach to community acceptance of wind energy in southern Mexico

**Halimatou Hima Moussa Dioula:** Ilimi Haské: Learning in an Unequal World

**Nabila Idris:** The politics of social protection in Bangladesh: The making of the National Social Security Strategy

**Adham Khudaykulov:** The nexus of state regulation and economic development in transition economies: an empirical assessment using Central Asian countries

**Ana Ramirez:** Negotiating power over oil and gas resources in Senegal: The political economy of oil and gas in a 'new producer' country

**Emma Wilson:** Identity and resilience: the politics of social inclusion in peace processes



Police blockade South Africa courtesy of Sarah Lockwood

# Alumni Profiles



## **Dima Krayem, PhD in Development Studies 2021**

I am currently a Senior Economist at the Resident Coordinator Office, United Nations in Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to joining the RCO, I was the Senior Project Manager at Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-cards, where I was coordinating life-saving assistance from three UN agencies – the UNHCR, the World Food Programme and UNICEF for two years.

In the past three years, my work has focused on providing and coordinating emergency aid in Lebanon amid the country's historic and unprecedented economic and financial collapse producing an acute human tragedy. My work also focuses on analyzing the macroeconomic dynamics in the country, and how to best preserve value of assistance in the context of a financial collapse and a severe inflation depreciation spiral.

My PhD was focused on adopting a political economy approach to the Syrian refugee presence and examining the different governance institutions in Lebanon. The PhD has been immensely important and useful in providing me with an in-depth and multi-layered understanding of Lebanon's current economic and financial collapse as a culmination of structural crises. The PhD has also allowed me to critically examine and understand the Syrian refugee experience within a history of ruptures, continuities, power structures and political struggles that exist far before a refugee influx and continue to impact marginalized populations. In my work, this understanding has been immensely helpful in adopting a critical lens on humanitarian assistance, untied to more sustainable and rights-based approaches and solutions to providing public services and protecting marginalized populations.

In the immediate future, I will be joining the World Bank as Senior Economist for Lebanon in August 2022.



## **Lena Moral, MPhil in Development Studies 2020-21**

From internships at Un-Habitat and Embassies around the world to working as a part time English Teacher and Social Media Manager for grassroots NGOs, I've taken the experience from each opportunity to not only value knowledge but also skills. In particular, I've gained confidence to be proactive. I'm currently working as a Communications Specialist at the German Development Agency on a variety of topics, and am still pursuing my interests in Animal Welfare, Mental Wellbeing and Intersectional Feminism. My approach is to advocate for a less conventional career

ladder and to see professional progression more as a web of experiences and moments that lead me towards my values and passion.





Food seller, Cambodia courtesy of Dustin Barter





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