

Centre of Development Studies

Annual Report

2020-2021



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Centre of Development Studies

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News



October 2020

With effect from 1 October 2020, Dr Shailaja Fennell (Centre of Development Studies, Department of Land Economy and Fellow of Jesus College) was appointed to a Readership for the Department of Land Economy.



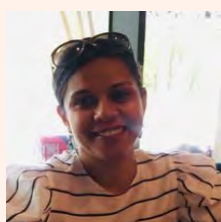
October 2020

Dr Ingrida Kerusauskaite, who teaches on Paper 30 Justice and Development in the MPhil in Development Studies, won the most competitive category in the British Expertise International Awards 2020 #BEIAwards20, the Young Consultant of the Year Award. The Awards recognise and celebrate the best of UK expertise in international development, infrastructure and capacity building.



November 2020

The Centre of Development Studies began recruiting for a permanent University Lecturer in the Political Economy of Development, and three Unestablished Lecturers in Development Studies for a fixed term of three years, to join us in October 2021. The new staff will be included in the 2021/2022 Annual Report.



December 2020

Affiliated Lecturer Prajakti Kalra was published in the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History; the paper is entitled '*Pax Mongolica: Trade and Traders in the Mongol Empire*', doi <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.493>. Ms Kalra was also published in Peripheral Histories Online; the paper is entitled '*Is Central Asian History peripheral?*' <https://www.peripheralhistories.co.uk/>



December 2020

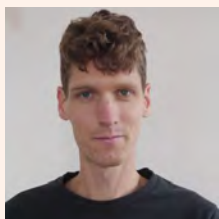
Dr Graham Denyer Willis (Centre of Development Studies, POLIS and CLAS) was awarded one of this year's Queens' Prizes for Outstanding Contributions to College Education for Geography. Nominations noted his "exemplary commitment to inclusive practice and accessibility as both a supervisor and Director of Studies" and "his approach, constant support and thoughtfulness" which had a "notable impact" on students' experience of studying at Cambridge.



January 2021

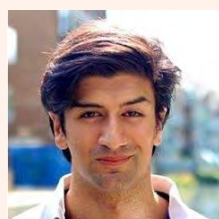
PhD student Mateus Labrunie was published in the Brazilian Journal of Innovation; the paper is entitled '*The resurgence of industrial policies in the age of advanced manufacturing: an international comparison of industrial policy documents*', <https://periodicos.sbu.unicamp.br/ojs/index.php/rbi/article/view/8658753/25787>. Mr Labrunie was also published in a Special Issue of the European Journal of Development Research; the paper is entitled '*Natura Non Facit Saltus: Challenges and Opportunities for Digital Industrialisation Across Developing Countries*', <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41287-020-00355-z>.

News



January 2021

Dr Jon Phillips co-authored a paper with Dr Saska Petrova on the relationship between infrastructure and precarity in South Africa, through analysis of a gendered and racialised political economy of energy. The paper is entitled '*The materiality of precarity: Gender, race and energy infrastructure in urban South Africa*' and was published in Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space. Doi: [10.1177/0308518X20986807](https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X20986807)



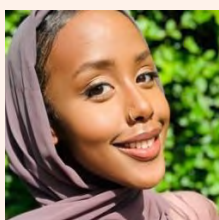
February 2021

PhD graduate Matthew Mahmoudi won the ISA Human Rights Section's Best Paper Award for 2020 with the paper "Open Source Investigations and the Technology-Driven Knowledge Controversy in Human Rights Fact-Finding", jointly written with Dr Ella McPherson and Isabel Guenette Thornton. The Award is accompanied by a one-year paid membership of ISA and Human Rights Section dues. Winning authors are also invited to submit their paper to the Journal of Human Rights for expedited review and consideration for publication.



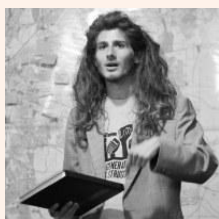
February 2021

Thanks to a generous £5000 gift from Inés Garcia, the Centre was able to establish, announce and award from a new student hardship fund for our postgraduate students. Named in honour of Inés' late husband, the Michael J Sharpston Hardship Fund will ensure students in financial need can reach their full potential.



February 2021

Surer Mohamed, Teaching Assistant on Paper 4 Globalisation and Development, has been elected to the Harry Frank Guggenheim Research Fellowship at Pembroke College with effect from 1 October 2021. The holder of this Fellowship conducts research of outstanding quality on any aspect of the human propensity for violence and aggression, hosts a funded colloquium on their research in Cambridge, and gives public lectures in Britain and New York to attend the publication of a book.



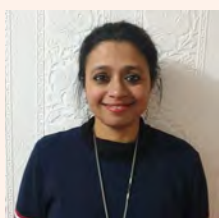
February 2021

Dr Josh Platzky Miller, Affiliated Lecturer and Paper Coordinator of Paper 360 Social Movements and Development, authored a paper in Critical African Studies, entitled '*A Fanonian theory of rupture: from Algerian decolonization to student movements in South Africa and Brazil*' doi: [10.1080/21681392.2021.1884106](https://doi.org/10.1080/21681392.2021.1884106)



April 2021

First year PhD Candidate Felipe Puccioni has had an article published by GV Law Review. Felipe analysed data from all of 33 Courts of Accountability of Brazil. The study has confirmed forecasts made by Peter Evans (2004) and Brinkeroff (2010) about the importance of public institution capabilities to the productivity and independence of the public administration. <https://doi.org/10.1590/2317-6172202105>



April 2021

Dr Sarada Chatterjee, Affiliated Lecturer and Paper Coordinator of Paper 390 Migration, Human Trafficking and Development, chaired and presented in a panel for the University of Tufts South Asian Regional Committee's interdisciplinary panel on 'Gender, labor and trafficking in South Asia'. Dr Chatterjee has also been made a Research Fellow at the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking and is involved in organising their 2021 summer symposium.

Facts and Figures

Back in March 2020, at the start of the national lockdown, we thought our numbers for the 2020/2021 academic year might be adversely affected. As the summer of 2020 progressed however, it became clear that we would be welcoming another healthy intake of students.

626 MPhil applications	2 PhD enrolments	16 Home MPhil students	<p>A wide range of papers was offered to our MPhil students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Economics • Institutions and Development • Globalisation and Development • Human Development and Education • Justice and Development • Political Economy of Development in Africa • The Development of Central Asia and Caucasus • Financial Organisation and Economic Growth • Concepts and Lineages of the Developmental State in China, East Asia, and Beyond • Whither Police? Critical Questions for Global Development • Gender and Development • Social movements and Development • Natural Resources and Development • Migration, Human Trafficking and Development
16 EU MPhil students	27 Overseas MPhil students	84 PhD applications	
7 PhD offers	59 MPhil enrolments	32 female MPhil students	
27 male MPhil students	1 African Bursary	122 MPhil offers	

The MPhil course in 2020/2021 was directed by Dr Jon Phillips, while the PhD Course Director was Dr Shailaja Fennell.

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 and one Bursary was offered and accepted this year.

Each year, our MPhil cohort is one of the most international in the University, and this year we welcomed students from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States and Yemen. Our PhD students joined us from Brazil and South Africa.

We welcomed guest lecturers from, among others, the University of Leeds, BPP University, SOAS University of London, Cornell University, the International Monetary Fund, the University of Bath, LSE and the University of Edinburgh.

Arrivals

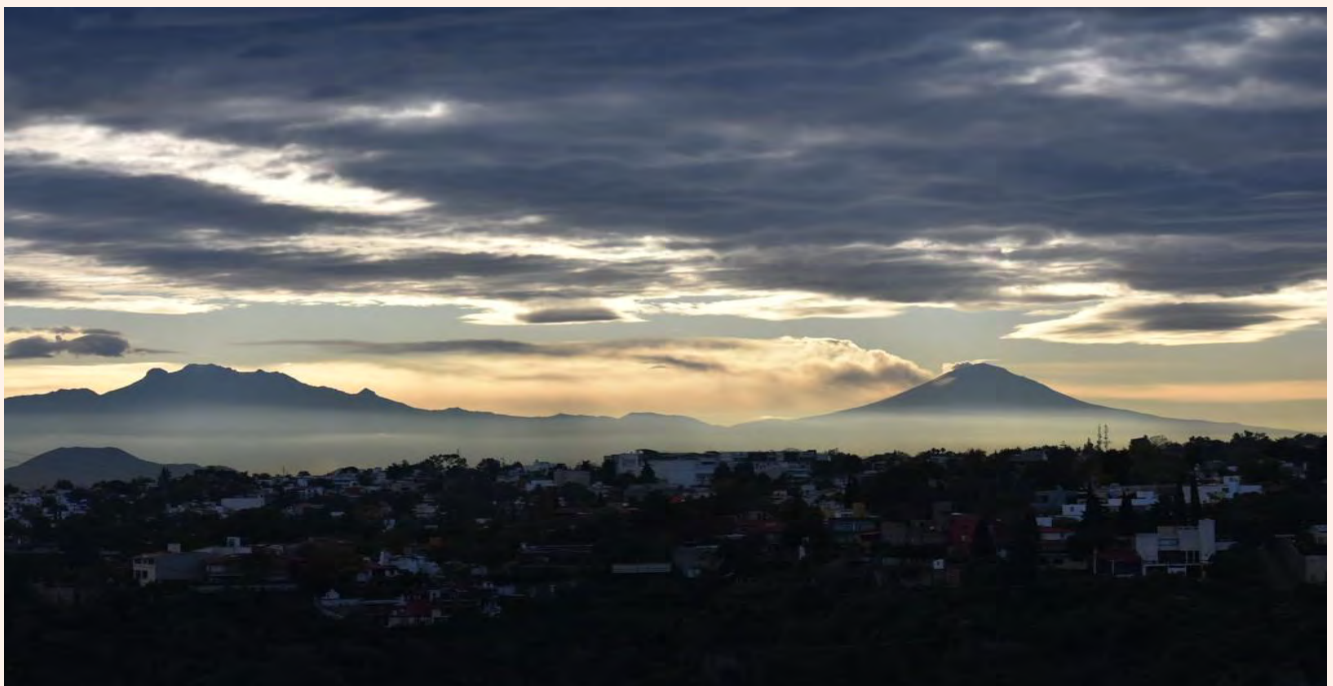


The Centre was delighted to welcome Professor William Hurst as the new Chong Hua Professor of Chinese Development in January 2021. Before coming to Cambridge, Professor Hurst was professor of political science at Northwestern University, where his research and teaching focused on political economy, the politics of law and legal institutions, labour politics, contentious politics, and aspects of international relations. In all these areas, his work has centred on the study of both China and Indonesia.

Professor Hurst's first book, *The Chinese Worker after Socialism* (Cambridge 2009), employed a subnational comparative method to examine the economic, social, and political experiences and implications of the more than 30 million workers laid-off from China's state-owned enterprises during the 1990s and 2000s. His second monograph, *Ruling Before the Law: the Politics of Legal Regimes in China and Indonesia* (Cambridge 2018), was the first study to compare the world's largest and fourth largest countries. Based on extensive field research in both urban and rural areas of multiple provinces in each country, it is also the most comprehensive analysis of the grassroots politics of law and courts in either country, comparing civil and criminal adjudication from before 1949 up through the present day.

Besides these two books, he has also published four edited volumes and several dozen articles, chapters, essays, and other shorter works, many of which have explored areas of comparative urban politics, US-China relations, and local politics and governance in rural China, among other topics. His new and ongoing research is mostly on the political economy and social implications of land and land tenure systems in Mainland China, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Malaysia - especially during the critical transformative period of roughly 1945-1965, and the long-term influences of conflicts and reforms then that persist to this day.

Since joining CDS, Professor Hurst has been teaching on the MPhil in Development Studies in Lent Term 2021; he is paper coordinator of 'Concepts and Lineages of the Developmental State in China, East Asia, and Beyond'. Professor Hurst has also taken over as Centre Director from Dr Ha-Joon Chang as of Easter Term 2021, and is due to begin supervising PhD students joining the Centre in Michaelmas Term 2021.



Fieldwork photo courtesy of Emilio Garciadiego Ruiz

Events

The Centre welcomed alumnus Anders Kjemtrup back to speak to the 2020/21 MPhil cohort on Thursday 26 November, via Zoom. Anders was part of the MPhil cohort in 2014-2015 and holds a MSc and BSc in International Business and Politics from Copenhagen Business School. He co-authored the first Danish textbook for high-school students on development studies in 2018-2019. Anders spoke to the current cohort on the current development landscape and shared advice for those interested in working in consulting. There was also a chance for the students to ask questions, including on career advice and research topics.



While staff and students could not meet socially in person, the Centre organised an online Winter Social/ Quiz at the end of Michaelmas Term, led by the MPhil Course Director Dr Jon Phillips, and attended by over 20 staff and students.

Having taken a break during Michaelmas Term, the Centre's Seminars Series returned online in Lent Term, with Professor Carlos Lopes (Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town, South Africa) being the first speaker on 21 January. Seminars continued weekly, with speakers including Taffere Tesfachew (former Director, Division for Africa UNCTAD), Professor Esther Dweck (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Jonathan Goodhand, Patrick Meehan and Frances Thomson (SOAS University of London), Professor Emeritus Peter Evans (University of California Berkeley), Professor Jonny Steinberg (University of Oxford) and Professor Yuen Yuen Ang (University of Michigan, USA).



Fieldwork photos courtesy of Saltanat Kuermannal and Amir Lebdioui

Current and recent Visitors

Dr. Caroline Souza

1 October 2020- 30 September 2021

Sponsor: Dr Graham Denyer Willis

Area of research: Socioeconomic Development, particularly on education, poverty, social justice and social inequality, Human Development and Capability Approaches, and public policy .

Azman Mokhtar (Distinguished Visiting Fellow)

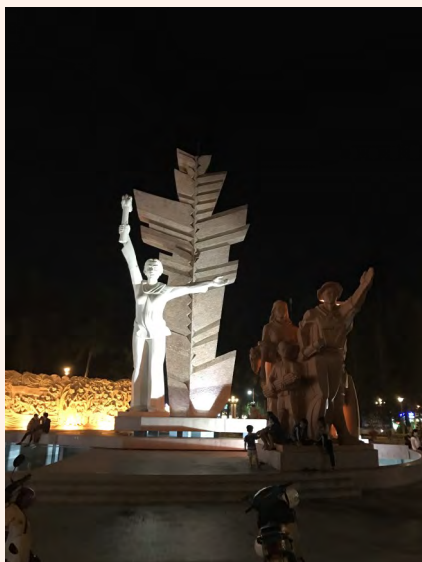
15 February 2020 - 14 February 2021

Sponsor: Dr Ha-Joon Chang

Area of Research: Finance and its impact on society. Project: 'Reclaiming the Financial Commons'

PhD Graduates 2020-2021

Although the temporary suspension of Degree Ceremonies has meant a delay in their graduation, the following students completed the PhD programme and had their viva outcomes approved by the Postgraduate Committee.



Fieldwork photo courtesy of
Duy Anh Le

Taskeen Adam, *Addressing Injustices through MOOCs: A study among peri-urban, marginalised South African youth*

Shama Ams, *Governance and Legal Reforms in Countries Emerging from Conflict*

Rohan Clarke, *The Myth of Paradise: A Reappraisal of Commonwealth Caribbean States' Sovereignty and Development Sustainability within the Transnational Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Legal Order*

Shreyashi Dasgupta, *The Accommodation City: Private Low-income Housing and Urban Space in Dhaka and Mumbai*

Matthew Fright, *The Moments of, and Movements for National Accounts: Contextualising Changes to British National Accounting during the 1930s to 1950s*

Avneet Kaur, *An examination of Barefoot College and Prime Minister's Skill Development Programmes in India*

Dima Krayem, *Between the State and the 'State of Exception': Syrian Refugee Governance in Lebanon*

Yunxiang Liu, *Industrial Upgrading and China's Electric Vehicle and Wind Turbine Industries*

Saite Lu, *Essays on Global Imbalances and the Financial Crisis*

Sigrid Lupieri, *Whose vulnerability Counts? Syrian Refugees and the Politics of Health in Jordan*

Matthew Mahmoudi, *Race & Mobility in the Digital Periphery: New Urban Frontiers of Migration Control*

Victoria Tse, *The Ethics of Labour Migration: From Social Protection to Commodification Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Legal Order*

Jing Xu, *The Growth and Internationalisation of Global and Chinese Banks: The cases of HSBC and ICBC*

MPhil Graduates 2020-2021

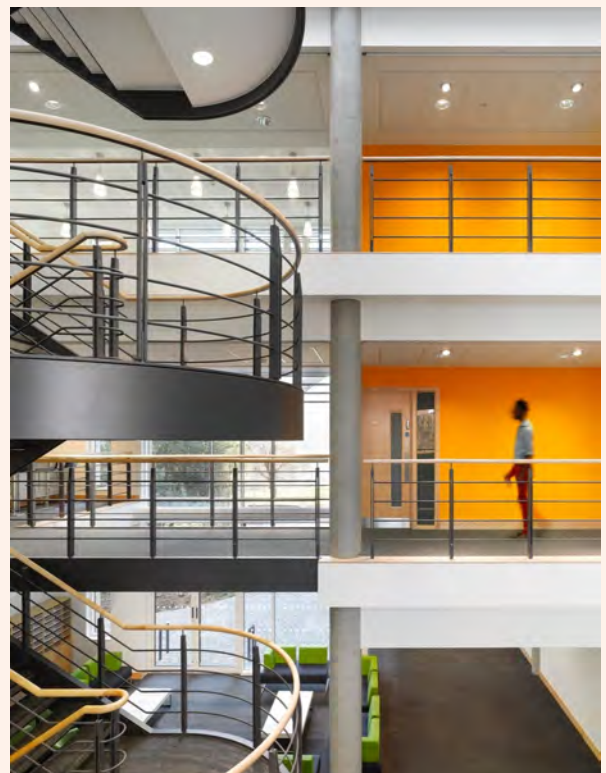
Many congratulations to our MPhil students who are graduating with their degree this summer or are expected to graduate later this year.

Aantjes, Max	Graydon, Jessica	Reeser, Victoria
Abdelrhman, Mohamed	Kim, Soh Won	Reilly, Felix
Aboagye, Mark	Kramer, Djihad	Salman, Dana
Alakitan, Muhammed	Kuipers, Stijn	Schaumlöffel, Brian
Albertone, Baptiste	Lee, Rebecca	Shah, Bhavi
Ang, Yi Heng	Li, Chenxuan	Shende, Jai
Beck, Rachel	Liang, Baolin	Shirra White, Lara
Benti, Meron	Liu, Jiani	Skrdlik, Josef
Bogaards, Maurits	Lupoli, Mia	Streanga, Laura-Andreea
Bownass, Benjamin	Mahajan, Kanika	Suvarnanetra, Fueangvit
Boyd, Dorian	Malley, Christopher	Valachova, Lucia
Cardy-Phillips, Rory	Mattoo, Shashank	Wang, Juexuan
Chen, Juntong	Mocanu, Dan	Wiley Jr, Johnny
Chou, Yu-Lin	Moke, Kakoko	Williams, Alice
Cinotto, Pier Ferdinando	Moral Waldmeier, Lena	Wilson, Ella
Ford, Emily	Morgan, Isadora	Wu, Tianyi
Gambarè, Carlo	Mosetti, Antonio Umberto	Zeng, Yue
Gammon, Sara	Noyal Thomas, Nicole	Zhou, Yufan
Gautron, Juliette	Ntow-Aninkora, Nadia	Zorila, Marina-Teodora
Gonzalez, Pascual	Qubaty, Shady	

The Centre of Development Studies awards a prize to the student who achieves the highest overall mark in the MPhil. This year the prize was awarded to Max Aantjes.

Congratulations also to Max for receiving the Centre of Development Studies' Dissertation Prize for the highest mark overall in the dissertation assessment. Max's dissertation researched inequality in educational outcomes during COVID-19 in Ecuadorian indigenous students.

We wish all our students well and look forward to seeing them again in the future. We encourage all our graduates to join both our Alumni mailing list and also our [Alumni website](https://www.devstudies.cam.ac.uk/Alumni) (please click to follow the link or visit <https://www.devstudies.cam.ac.uk/Alumni>), set up by two CDS alumni Sebastian Manhart and Will Fairbairn, and which now hosts over 500 alumni from over 75 countries. Alumni can use the platform to look at the career paths of former CDS students and build a network of contacts in different fields.



Alumni Profiles

Fadi Amer, MPhil in Development Studies, 2019-20



I'm currently working as an Assistant Coordination Officer at the United Nations Refugee Agency in Tunisia. My work comprises taking the UNHCR's mandate beyond traditional humanitarian work through partnerships with, as my portfolio currently comprises, development actors, the private sector, and academia.

The MPhil was tremendously helpful in helping me see the 'big picture' of refugee protection and meeting the UN's new strategy of multidimensional cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This includes, for example: i) understanding the complex geopolitics of shared migration pathways between vulnerable nationals, economic migrants, and refugees; ii) taking into consideration the various intersectional vulnerabilities that refugees face; and iii) finding ways to improve livelihoods even in the absence of formal national asylum legislation, all while society itself faces deep structural issues, both political and economic.

As wonderful as my time in Tunisia has been, my immediate plans moving forward are to come back to CDS to continue my studies at the doctoral level. I intend to study the structural economic transformation that took place in Lebanon in the mid-20th Century, shedding light on the process of 'free market' creation and hoping this will identify pathways for reform as my country goes through an extremely difficult period in its history.

What comes next is hard to predict, but I believe this time at CDS will put me in a strong position to not only participate in the community of knowledge-creators but also to pair *pensée* with praxis and make a meaningful difference in the world.

Rosanna Jackson, MPhil in Development Studies, 2019/20



I had the pleasure of being part of the 2019-2020 cohort. While this period was the start of a global pandemic, this was still a time of fast learning and intense personal growth.

Thanks to having completed this competitive and intellectually driven programme, I shifted careers from foreign diplomacy in the public sector to mission-oriented work in the private sector in renewable energy. I work at the Carbon Trust in their Programmes and Innovation Team collaborating mainly with Asian stakeholders, as a Japanese and Mandarin speaker, to support the shift to low carbon economies. The MPhil has greatly contributed to my understanding of unbundling assumptions and becoming able to recognise the boundaries of influence across the local-global levels. The MPhil very much taught me 'how to think, and not what to think'. I use this mindset of 'how' – e.g. how will developing South East Asian economies be able to find their comparative advantage in a global supply chain of onshore/offshore wind power – to challenge mainstream ideas and question assumptions. My team and our clients have appreciated and highly value these skills.

Moving forward, in the short-term I intend to continue improving my language skills, especially Mandarin which I look forward to using more (previously I worked only in a Japanese-speaking environment). In the long term, I hope to better understand the Asia-Pacific region and their challenges in meeting carbon neutrality. Please feel free to reach out to connect or collaborate (rj404@cantab.ac.uk).



I am currently working as a social protection consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this role, I support the development of social protection policies and programs in rural communities, particularly fishery-dependent ones. This entails providing policy and programmatic support to partners to strengthen the linkages between social protection and natural resource management and coordinating the development of evidence around the institutional and legal barriers to access social protection in the fisheries sector. Additionally, I am leading the development of a global database that accounts for social protection programs and policies that target and reach the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and I am also the lead consultant on the project "Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture."

The MPhil in Development Studies allowed me to understand in depth the debates surrounding rural development, including the different pathways to economic growth and their impacts on inclusivity, poverty reduction and inequality. Similarly, it gave me the tools to conduct institutional analysis that enable me today to technically support key partners in the implementation of suitable sustainable development policies and programs. Overall, the MPhil gave me the tools to think critically and innovatively about how to solve some of the challenges that rural areas face.

Moving forward, I hope to build a career on policy making at the international level that supports the design and implementation of evidence-based social protection policies and programmes, and contributes to poverty, vulnerability, and inequality reduction.

If you are a member of the Centre's Alumni and you wish to write a Profile for next year's Annual Report, please contact the Centre Administrator, Dawn Bradley, at dmb49@cam.ac.uk. We will be delighted to hear from you.



Fieldwork photo courtesy of Dustin Barter



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