New courses in leadership in development and emergency practice

2013 sees the launch of four new short courses led by leading experts. The five day courses are aimed at those working in or considering working in senior management within humanitarian aid. The courses are:

Leadership in development and emergency practice with Charles Clayton, Director of Oxford Leaders
- Prior leadership perspectives
- Managing uncertainty
- EINA leadership issues
- Organisational structures

Leadership in organisational development (OD) and human resources (HR) with Hazel Douglas, Managing Director, Oxford HR
- Identifying and developing core and specialist HR issues
- Organisational change
- Working effectively

Leadership in financial management for aid agencies with John Cammack, Director, John Cammack Consultancy
- Financial management for global organisations
- Financial management
- Applying a leadership framework

Co-ordination of humanitarian action, with Richard Lufti (left) and Joseph Ashmore, Sue Cavanna, John Cammack Consultancy
- Building understanding of humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- Developing coordination beyond their own sector
- Recovery and preparedness planning

See the CENDIP website for further information and course dates.
Sustainable housing in association with DEP students Ashleigh King, Chelsea Fisher, Hugh-Davis, Aida Mizanne and Megan Passey for their contributions to this project.

In January 2013, the Small Change Forum also launched its international case study series ‘Community Development Journal’ (Oxford University Press). The first publication was Small Change: understanding cultural values and attitudes to buildings and housing in communities. It introduced the Forum and explored the role of architecture as a tool for change. CENDEN continues to work with Forum partner community agencies and organisations to develop its UK development programme. Further information is available at the Forum’s website www.smallchangeforum.org

Kate Argus writes, Oxford Brookes University is a UK member of the three year (2011-13) European Union’s Urban and Regional Development Project, which is funded by the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme.

The project was developed by the Network on Humanitarian Assistance (NOCHA) and is managed by Deusto University, Spain. Its aim is to respond to a need identified to articulate the role of the Higher Education sector in Humanitarian Action. The project seeks to develop a Qualifications Framework within Europe, and to include in the development of the ‘voces of the humanitarian organisations, agencies and universities across Europe.

CENDEN was chosen as the UK member of this project and is co-led for Mapping and Potentials. To date we have mapped information from over 1400 organisations and charities from across the UK to develop this framework. Initial results show that there are discrepancies between the target group of actors and organisations and those involved across the UK. However, there are important intersections in the way we respond to the needs of communities.

Work in the coming year will focus on a deeper understanding of the discrepancies and the implications for the development of a Qualifications Framework.

Further information can be found at http://euphra.org/

Vulnerable communities participatory assessment South Africa fieldtrip

Nadia Sarge (DEP 2011-12) writes, In January 2013, students and staff from the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at The North West University’s African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDE), and the University of Johannesburg’s Centre For Community Design (CENDEP) embarked on a participatory rural fieldtrip (rural) workshop. The workshop was held in Gipsy Lane near Cape Town in South Africa.

The purpose of the visit was to learn and see some participatory methods such as focus group discussions, transect walks and field trips. The visit aimed to identify and understand the main threats in the area and to understand the importance of participatory methodologies in the design of effective intervention programmes related to dealing with the effects of disasters. As part of this, the humanitarian-ethical research to develop programmes that can be more effective in contributing to the well-being of communities.

The field trip was an amazing opportunity for me as it was the first time I had the chance to participate in such a travelling learning experience in South Africa. It wasn’t my first break from the city as I have previously studied architecture in the UK and worked in South Africa.

We received a warm welcome from our hosts, Dr Yvet Coetzer and Dr Yvonne Mabunda. Most of our time was spent visiting communities and meeting with locals. Amusingly, with so many positive interactions, we worked under the guidance of Dr. Yvonne Mabunda. We were also invited to engage in more activities, which included visiting a rural project.

With this information in hand, the team Small Change extended the community, which included poverty and displacement, to visit the Brookes Shelter after Disaster (Oxford University, UK) and Diocesan Girls’ High School (Oxford University, Zimbabwe). This was to learn about the community and the specific needs of the community. The visit was followed by a visit to the Brookes Shelter after Disaster in Gipsy Lane Campus. The aim is to use the building as a vehicle for the development of a project to help understand how communities can use disaster shelters.

The shelter has been built to explore systems and methods of construction and disaster planning. The shelter was designed by Kim and current Brookes students helped the installation. The shelter was built by students from South Africa and by the Brookes Shelter after Disaster design team.

The shelter is a model of technical knowledge that can be used to assess the effectiveness of the design and construction.

Putting practice into theory

Alfred Seh (DEP 2011-12), photo below, left, photo before embarking on a journey. At a number of the screenings there was also a ‘live paint’ performance by first year architecture students who were able to include the powerful and inspirational stories. The festival was supported by the University of Oxford.

The programme also included featured film ‘Africa’s Unrest’ and ‘The Frontliner’ and documentaries ‘The Price of Giving’ and ‘Over the Wall: Football Beyond Borders’.

A highlight of interested speakers invited us to an evening of activism by Chris Armitage and the ‘Frontliner’, and ‘The Price of Giving’ and ‘Over the Wall: Football Beyond Borders’.

The festival was successful in bringing together a variety of organisations and individuals, including the Chancellor’s Office, Oxford University, Deusto University and the Islamic Center. It was a great opportunity to meet with partners from various sectors and to learn about the work of the Catholic Church.

From Gaza to Oxford and back

Janice Alessio (DEP 2011-12), bottom photo, left, photo after joining the Oxford Brookes University Human Rights Film Festival in the United Kingdom. My plan was to return to the humanitarian sector in Gaza and work towards establishing a film screening and reading centre. However, one month after I completed my DEP programme, I received an offer to work at the University of Gaza. The offer was to be a lecturer in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design. I accepted the offer and planned to work as a lecturer in the academic sector for a year.

I arrived in Oxford with my family and we spent our first week visiting different universities and meeting with students. I was impressed by the level of activism and commitment among the students, and I thought it was a great opportunity to learn and to contribute to the field of human rights.

I am very grateful for the support I received from the University of Oxford. The support has been invaluable in helping me to continue my work in the field of human rights.

The festival was supported by the University of Oxford. To find out more about the festival, please visit the festival’s website: www.oxfordhumanrights.org