DEP MASTERS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Throughout 2011-2012 CENDEP celebrated the 20th anniversary of its award-winning Masters degree in Development and Emergency Practice (DEP). Events included the first annual Hamdi lecture (in recognition of DEP founder Nabeel Hamdi) given by the journalist and newscaster George Alagiah, and a public lecture on how to respond to disaster by the BBC’s Director General, Mark Thompson. Other events included fundraising for scholarships via the DEP20 appeal.

IFRC shelter and settlements course credit rated

In February Oxford Brookes credit rated the IFRC course ‘Shelter and Settlement in Emergencies’. Completing the course provides an award of 10 Masters degree level ‘CATS points’, which can be transferred to CENDEP’s new Postgraduate Certificate in Shelter after Disaster or to the DEP Masters degree.

Two courses run by REDR on field logistics and needs assessment were also credit rated, bringing the total number of REDR courses with awards from Oxford Brookes to five.
DEP’s 2011-12 COHORT

This year’s cohort comprises 65 full and part time students from Syria, Iran, Gaza, Israel, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Germany, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Italy, England, Wales and Ireland. As with each year, the cohort comprises a wide range of backgrounds, skills, experience and interest, with ages ranging from early 20s to mid 50s. Also, as with each year, the cohort falls roughly into three groupings: experienced aid workers looking to reflect on or consolidate their experience (often including those who may themselves have grown up in places of adversity); early and mid-career professionals (such as doctors, nurses, architects, lawyers and journalists, and those from the Military) from other disciplines considering a career change into development and emergency practice; and thirdly graduates exploring a career in humanitarian work.

The cohort reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the programme, where practice is based on a combination of understandings ranging from economics, social science and politics to design (as applied to programmes) and anthropology.

This ‘mix of talent’ enables learning from one another, where open dialogue, disagreement and debate is encouraged, and where challenging perceived wisdom and current practice is essential.
**STAFF AND VISITORS**

Core staff and module leaders

Dr Supriya Akerkar, Senior Lecturer
Kate Angus, Research Associate
Jeni Burnell, Research Associate
Richard Carver, Senior Lecturer
Visiting Professor Ian Davis
Dr Simon Fisher, Associate Lecturer
Bill Flinn, Associate Lecturer
Emeritus Professor Nabeel Hamdi
Prof Mohamed Hamza, Associate Lecturer
Charles Parrack, Senior Lecturer
Dr Brigitte Piquard, Reader
Prof David Sanderson, CENDEP Director
Visiting Professor Hugo Slim
Leda Stott, Associate Lecturer
Caroline Tindale, Programme Administrator

In January 2012 Supriya Akerkar joined as CENDEP’s Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction. Supriya, from Mumbai, has worked for ActionAid and DFID, and recently completed a PhD in human rights and gender at Northumbria University. As well as undertaking research Supriya will be Subject Co-ordinator for the DEP Masters degree.

In the autumn Hugo Slim became Visiting Professor to CENDEP. Hugo will be undertaking teaching on the DEP programme.

In March Angela Raven-Roberts became a CENDEP Associate. Dr Raven-Roberts has had a distinguished career working for UNICEF and Tufts University, and was until 2011 Executive Director of the Humanitarian Accountability Project (HAP).

Regular contributors and visitors include:

George Alagiah, Peter Apps, Joseph Ashmore, Sue Cavanna, Tom Corsellis, Dr Kate Crawford, Professor Ian Davis, Annie Devonport, Dr Giorgia Donà, Dr Alex Frediani, Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, Rumana Kabir, Usha Kar, Martin Knops, Jeremy Loveless, Sean Lownie, Professor Michal Lyons, Comfort Osilaja, Dr Caroline Sweetman, Marcie Schaal, Mark Thompson, Dr John Twigg.

Recent activities

Kate Angus worked on NGO Leadership development via CENDEP’s Business of NGO Leadership Initiative. She also has been supporting the establishment of the PG Cert in Humanitarian Action and Conflict (HAC).

Jeni Burnell focused on the Small Change Forum. She organised a one day conference in October 2011 held at Brookes and continues to work with the UK NGO Multistory combining arts and cultural activities with small change community development.

Richard Carver travelled to Malawi and the United States to conduct research for a forthcoming book on Malawi’s post-independence history. He delivered conference papers on different aspects of national human rights institutions at the School of Advanced Studies in London and the Universidad de Palermo in Buenos Aires.

Charles Parrack led the PG Cert in Shelter after Disaster. He oversaw the new credit rating of an IFRC course and additional REDR modules.

Brigitte Piquard launched the HAC online PG Cert and led a field trip to Hebron. She attended conferences in the UK, Canada, Switzerland and at UNESCO in Paris.

David Sanderson attended an Expert Group Meeting at UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, facilitated a shelter workshop for the Qatar Shelter Initiative, and attended Oxfam’s urban conference in Mexico. He visited Japan’s Kyoto University and saw areas affected by the tsunami, and in January led the India DEP PRA workshop. He also taught courses in Madrid, Lugano and Paris.

Leda Stott has recently taken up the position of Director of the International Master in Sustainable Development and Corporate Responsibility (IMSD) at the EOI Business School in Madrid. She has also been working with GIZ’s Centre for Cooperation with the Private Sector in Africa.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

Angus K (2012) The Business of NGO Leadership: Reflections on Leadership from NGO CEOs, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford


Sanderson D (2011) Good design in urban shelter after disaster: lessons from development in Boundaries, Architecture for emergencies, P 64-69, Oct-Dec 2011, 2, Italy

**Dr Simon Fisher**

In 2011 DEP module leader Simon Fisher completed his PhD by published works. The study focusses on the need to find more effective ways for universities and NGOs to work together to deliver education and training in conflict transformation. It evaluates action-research as a highly suitable form of education for practitioners in many fields related to peace and development and seeks to chart practical ways of negotiating current barriers to this being available more widely through joint initiatives by NGOs and universities.
34 DEP Masters degree dissertations were submitted in 2011. These include:

Mainstreaming Success: civil society consultation in emergency relief and early recovery programming by Caelin Briggs. This study looks at some of the key concepts concerning consultation with civil society organisations and examines the formal and operational systems for participation and consultation within UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

An assessment of the impact of a government involuntary relocation and resettlement programme on the livelihoods of development-induced displacement populations: a study of Bujagali Hydropower Dam Project affected people in Naminya Resettlement Village, Uganda, by Phiona Nampungu. This study found that the resettlers’ livelihoods had worsened since the relocation and suggests a number of recommendations including increased community participation.

Learning from the Marché Hyppolitte Port-au-Prince, Haiti: an assessment of the philanthropic reconstruction of an urban place by David Smith. This dissertation assesses the short-term outcomes of the Marché Hyppolite (also called the Iron Market) reconstruction in Haiti’s capital city, Port-au-Prince, following the 2010 earthquake.

Within the Old City, ‘restricted areas’ have resulted in the establishment of four downtown Israeli settlements. In their daily lives, Hebronites from the Old City are facing systematic direct and indirect forms of hardships.

The Building Sumud Project aims to strengthen the understanding of the occupation of space and resilience attitudes through a multi-disciplinary perspective and methodology, which consists of three strands: a greater understanding of the research areas of home and place attachment, hardship, symbolic violence, coping strategies and adaptabilities; monitoring the interaction between social and environmental impacts of occupation; and highlighting the potential for architectural and social interaction towards conflict transformation. During the summer, students will go back to Hebron in order to initiate some lives project with age groups ranging from eight to 25. For more information about Building Sumud visit www.buildingsumud.org

Some of the attendees of an event held at Oxford Brookes to discuss Building Sumud. From left: Abdalrahman Kittana, Dr Brigitte Piquard, Professor Janet Beer, Jamila Alza’anin, Sir Terence English, Ramy Salem

In March CENDEP launched a research report, The business of NGO leadership. The report comprises the results of interviews with 10 NGO CEOs on their perceptions of leadership requirements within the fast-changing humanitarian aid sector. Issues discussed include the growing importance of corporates, the role of the state and changing donor priorities. The research was undertaken in collaboration with Brookes’ Business School and the organisations Oxford Leaders and Oxford Change Management.

The report was launched at a half day seminar at the offices of BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development), which was opened by by Brookes’ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Beer and chaired by Oxford Leaders’ CEO Charles Clayton. Over 20 people attended, including NGO CEOs and senior figures from recruitment.

The report (photo, right), whose production was supported by the Workforce Development Fund, is available at CENDEP’s website.

Filippo Artoni, RedR UK’s Programme Manager for Learning and Development writes, the programme is a very interesting initiative as it is believed to be one of the few ones in the world. The idea of online learning is something in the future that might change the way the humanitarian sector and people working in it may be trained.

This provides valuable education and learning to those working in remote areas who might not be able to access it otherwise.
Jeni Burnell writes, Small Change - a community development approach - explores how people’s resilience can be increased by nurturing strengths and building resources. The approach is based on a common sense assumption: to achieve something big, start with something small and start where it counts. Developed by CENDEP’s Emeritus Professor Nabeel Hamdi, Small Change explores how small, practical and mostly low budget interventions, if carefully targeted, can act as catalysts for bigger, long-lasting change; change designed to improve where people live and their opportunities.

The Small Change Forum was launched in October 2011 with the one day conference ‘Ingenious people make better places’ at Oxford Brookes, attended by 70 practitioners and academics. Hosted by CENDEP and Small Change partner community arts organisation Multistory, the forum applies small change thinking to the UK development context using culture and participatory arts. To these ends, Multistory is piloting small change creative projects in England tackling issues such as reinvigorating high streets, negative youth stereotyping and creative community planning as part of the current Localism Agenda.

As the forum grows new projects, research and training is being developed. It’s an exciting time for the team who have adopted the small change philosophy - start small but think big.

EUPHRA - IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Kate Angus writes, Oxford Brookes University, represented by CENDEP, is the UK partnering university institution in a new European Union (EU) funded project, ‘European Universities on Professionalization on Humanitarian Action’.

The project is designed to ensure European Universities are engaged in the development of professionalisation within the humanitarian sector. This includes engaging in the new work taking place concerning the development of a Qualifications Framework for Humanitarian Action.

Several aid agencies in the UK have developed their own competency frameworks and some are involved in the process of trying to harmonise their work through the CBHA/ELRHA developed Core Humanitarian Competencies Framework.

The EU project runs for three years and places Oxford Brookes and CENDEP at the centre of a network of 30 European Universities working in the Humanitarian sector.

The project builds on and links to the programmes that CENDEP currently run in humanitarian action and the development of programmes for senior humanitarian leaders.

ERASMUS MUNDUS COMES TO BROOKES

The Erasmus Mundus programme, equivalent the US Fulbright programme, is a co operation and mobility initiative in the field of higher education. The programme aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through co operation with non-European countries. One key objective of the programme is the promotion of intercultural understanding. This year six students and staff - from Thailand, India, Philippines, Bhutan and Sri Lanka - were placed by CENDEP within the School of Architecture and Department of Planning.

Working for the Ragamuffins Project, Cambodia

Katherine Weatherburn (DEP 2010-11) writes. I am now the Fund Development Manager for the Ragamuffins Project, a creative arts therapy organisation specialising in the relief of emotional pain and psychological damage in children and adults in Cambodia.

I have also been asked by a local NGO to deliver training to Cambodian university graduates who will embark on internships in rural communities in Cambodia specialising in health, education, youth development and good governance.

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DEP HELPS OUT AT ALNAP’S INDIA URBAN DISASTER CONFERENCE

Katie Shute (DEP 2011-12) writes,

Following the January DEP field trip to Tamil Nadu in India, five students attended the humanitarian network ALNAP’s global meeting in Chennai. The students were rapporteurs for the meeting which was titled, ‘The Urban Challenge: Adapting humanitarian response to a changing world’.

The three day event was co-hosted with World Vision India and was attended by over 130 delegates from NGOs, academic institutions, donor agencies, national disaster management agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the United Nations. CENDEP is a full member of ALNAP.

The event examined humanitarian responses to rapid urbanisation and the increasing risk of urban disasters. Attendees interacted through a variety of group sessions and plenary discussions, as well as engaging in a half day simulation led by David Sanderson concerning an unfolding urban disaster.

FIRST COHORT IN SHELTER AFTER DISASTER

In semester two the first cohort of students attended CENDEP’s new Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) in Shelter after Disaster. Jemma Houston from the cohort writes, becoming an architect was a chosen career path that ran alongside a keen interest in the humanitarian aid sector. Having completed four and a half years in the commercial architecture world I was keen to develop my knowledge and interpersonal skills through working with different groups of people - in essence, doing work I ‘believe’ in.

With this in mind I transferred my current skills and started work with the NGO Article 25 as a project architect. Currently I am overseeing a schools prototype in west Africa, Burkina Faso, a country which is placed at the bottom of the UN Education Index.

The Shelter after Disaster PG Cert will allow me to broaden my understanding of the wider issues affecting shelter, expanding my knowledge particularly with regards to immediate relief efforts to longer-term effective development.

In line with my plans to work full time in the humanitarian aid sector I see this course as an indispensable step towards my future goal. In completion of the course I will feel confidently equipped with the skills to become a more effective practitioner.

THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE - NEW MODULE BEGINS

Richard Carver writes, the year 2011-12 saw the launch of a new module within the DEP Masters programme, ‘The Refugee Experience’ aims to give an understanding of the factors affecting support to refugees and other forced migrants from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives, including history, international relations, law, anthropology and psychology. A theme running through the module is the primacy of protection – guaranteeing refugee rights is the most effective way of supporting other needs such as livelihoods and psychosocial wellbeing.

The module was particularly rich because of the extensive experience of refugee issues among the student cohort, as well as the participation of distinguished guest lecturers. Several students are themselves refugees, while a number of others have worked for agencies concerned with refugee protection or assistance. A combination of informal classroom discussion and formal student presentations allowed this experience to be shared.

The module had several guest lecturers. Dr Giorgia Doná of the University of East London is a leading authority on psychosocial issues affecting refugees and the class benefitted enormously from her insights on support for refugees’ needs in this area. We were especially fortunate to have the participation of Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond who gave lectures and is now supervising several dissertations. It is not an exaggeration to say that Barbara is the doyenne of refugee studies as founder director of the Oxford University Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) in the 1980s. DEP students benefited not only from her wisdom in lectures, but also from internship opportunities offered by Fhamu Refugee Legal Aid Network (http://www.frIan.org), the organisation that she now directs.

DISSEMINATION RESEARCH IN DHAKA

Lucy Faulkner (DEP 2010-11, photo above right) writes, last summer I spent two months undertaking participatory research for my Masters dissertation in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. My research focused on climate change adaptation to WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) practice for low-income community inhabitants residing in two locations in Mirpur, north-east Dhaka. Working in conjunction with local partners, I was warmly welcomed by both local communities who kindly gave me their time, hospitality, and the opportunity to gain insight into their resilience. This enriching experience enabled me to put what I had learnt in the classroom during my MA into practice and into reality. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend such an experience to any future DEP student.
In March eight DEP students worked with Annie Devonport, the Humanitarian Programmes Advisor at the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to analyse outputs generated by its East Africa Crisis Appeal (EACA).

The EACA was initiated as a result of the increasing levels of malnutrition and a rise in the number of refugees and internally displaced people who were leaving the area in search of food and protection. As a result of the DEC appeal, the UK public donated £75 million. These funds were divided among the 14 DEC member agencies spread out across four countries - Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. The appeal was divided into two phases, the first phase lasting six months and the second 18 months. The students were provided with information regarding the first phase of the EACA, which ran from the end of July 2011 to the end of December 2011. The DEP students aggregated the data provided and filtered information into overall achievements. These results were incorporated into the DEC’s annual report to inform the public about how their donations made a difference to those affected by the famine.

Research for real: lessons from recovery in Nagapattinam

Grace Le (DEP 2011-12) writes, in January 2012, 22 DEP students joined by five landscape architecture students from the USA’s University of Georgia travelled to Nagapattinam, India, to take part in a 10 day participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) workshop. Students learned to use a range of PRA tools such as mapping, transect walks, timelines and matrices in the context of meeting communities affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

Most of our time was spent with members of a fishing village and a farming community, gaining an understanding of villagers’ perceptions of the national and international response to the tsunami, the recovery afterwards, the nature of ongoing engagement from NGOs, and their current priorities and hopes for their communities. It was a privilege to visit two other tsunami-affected communities who benefited greatly from the advocacy of local NGOs in accessing help with homes, livelihoods and education; one was a community of widows and their children, and the other was a nomadic community whose tents and belongings had been washed away in the tsunami.

We received a very warm welcome from all the communities, and spent time listening to the varying perspectives of men, women, older people and children, ably assisted by three social work students from Madras Christian College who acted as our translators. With the aim of increasing the level of joint ownership of the gathered information, we presented the initial findings from the PRA workshop activities to the communities, which generated more discussion and helped to clarify our understanding. On the final day of the workshop we also met with local government and NGO representatives, and the regional disaster response coordinator to invite them to share their expertise and to help shape the recommendations for a final report on our findings, which can be found on the CENDEP website.

We are very grateful to John Devavaram and the NGO Resource Centre for Participatory Development Studies (RCPDS) for hosting the workshop and introducing us to the very enjoyable ‘rapid but relaxed’ world of PRA.
Bethanie Cunnick writes, this year we celebrated 10 years of the Human Rights Film Festival by screening ten thought-provoking films over five days, each focusing on a different region, namely Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The festival opened at a local independent cinema, the Ultimate Picture Palace, with the inspirational film Pray the Devil back to Hell. The informative discussion following the film was led by CENDEP’s newly-appointed Visiting Professor, Hugo Slim, Ruairi Nolan from organisation Peace Direct who believe in the power of local peacebuilders, and the newest member of the CENDEP team, Dr Supriya Akerkar.

Highlights of the 2012 festival included Marcie Shaoul who joined us from the Commonwealth Foundation for the screening of Kuchus of Uganda; harrowing feature film The Whistleblower followed by a discussion lead by Former Political Adviser for Bosnia and Herzegovina Sir David Madden and Caroline Shephard from local organisation OxCAT (Oxford Community Against Trafficking); Director of Liberty and Oxford Brookes Chancellor Shami Chakrabarti (photo right) who spoke at the screening of award winning French film Welcome; and former Burmese soldier Myo Myint who joined us for the discussion via Skype at the screening of the documentary Burma Soldier. Films were screened each day at 1pm at the Oxford Hub building, Turl Street and at 6.30pm at the Ultimate Picture Palace.

We also took the opportunity to promote a number of local organisations such as Jacari, Oxford Burma Alliance, OxCAT, Free West Papua, UNICEF Oxfordshire and the Oxford Amnesty Group. This year we worked in conjunction with the national organisation Student Hubs which engages students from both Oxford University and Oxford Brookes with social action.

We also linked up with Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict for the opening night and the Oxford Forum for International Development (OxFID) the UK’s highest profile student-led conference who helped us to promote the event.

The Human Rights film festival is run as an initiative of students from CENDEP who organise the event which, thanks to funding from Brookes’ Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment, continues to be free of charge and open to all.

Brooke Gibbons (DEP 2011-12) writes, during the semester christmas break seven DEP students and three students from Université Paris-Est Créteil travelled to Hebron in the West Bank. This is the second year the Masters students have made this trip which was led by Dr Brigitte Piquard. The purpose was to continue field work focusing on notions of architecture and conflict for the pilot study of the Building Sumud Project.

The multidisciplinary group of students, both social scientists and architects partnered with the Palestinian Polytechnic University and Al Quds Open University and were supported by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC).

During the week long trip, the students were billeted within the Old City of Hebron living with Palestinian families, and in one case side by side with an Israeli settlement. From these locations students experienced day to day life within an occupied territory and witnessed some of the coping mechanisms used by families under such tense situations.

With the help of the HRC, the students interviewed families, small business owners in the souk and educators about their life in the Old City of Hebron. The purpose was to examine the influence of Israeli occupation, more specifically the unique situation experienced in Hebron, and how this encouraged resilience amongst the population.

The students were divided up daily into smaller groups, each comprising at least one social scientist, architect and translator, and were sent off into different areas of the Old City to conduct field interviews.

The students gathered first hand knowledge from the people about how they used their homes and courtyards to meet their family’s needs, their notions of heritage and attachment to their homes and neighbourhoods, as well as their overall resilience strategies.

The Palestinians in the Old City were extraordinarily welcoming - in every home the students visited, they were invited to share a cup of sage tea or Arabic coffee while stories of love and loss, strength and resilience were recounted without hesitation.