

*Welcome to our Summer 2017 newsletter!*

*In January of this year, I took over from Dr Katy Jenkins as Programme Leader of the MSc International Development. Having been part of the teaching team since its inception, I look forward to working with the staff team, and with current and future students, as the programme continues to develop and respond to the changing world we live in.*



*This newsletter gives a flavour of some of the activities the team behind the programme have been involved in. If you want any more information about any of our activities or about the MSc programme, please do get in touch.*

**Dr Darryl Humble**  
*Programme Leader, MSc International Development*

### **International Development team continue to build their strong international profile**

The MSc International Development teaching team continues to develop a wide range of international activities, and their expertise is recognised internationally in diverse arenas. See below for a selection of high profile recent activities and grant successes:

- **Dr Sarah Coulthard** has been successful as a co-investigator on the newly funded Synthesis bid '*ESPA Insights into Resilience and Wellbeing: Research Frontiers for Sustainable Development*'. This is a £200,000 NERC-ESRC-DfID funded Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Programme (led by Exeter University).
- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith** has joined the advisory board for Voluntary Service Overseas' evaluation of the UK government's International Citizen Service Programme.
- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith, Dr Katy Jenkins and Dr Oliver Hensengerth** have all been appointed to the Global Challenges Research Fund Peer Review College.
- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith and Dr Mark Griffiths** have launched a new collaborative research project with the Indian NGO Pravha and JNU University in Delhi, in partnership with Open Lab at Newcastle University, exploring the experiences of volunteers from poor and marginalised communities in Delhi and Rajasthan. This project is a Newton Funded research grant.
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** was appointed to the Peer Review Colleges of the Arts and Humanities Research Council.
- **Dr Oliver Hensengerth** has been appointed to the Peer Review Group of the Economics and Social Research Council.
- **Dr Darryl Humble** has been appointed as a visiting faculty member at the Department of Sociology at the University of Kerala to explore opportunities for partnership and innovation in teaching and research.

## Programme Highlights

It's a bumper year for students on the MSc programme, and we are delighted to welcome such a strong and diverse cohort of students, with students from countries including South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria, USA, Bangladesh, Jordan and the UK. This year has seen the roll out of our new improved modules, drawing even more on staff expertise and introducing some fantastic new opportunities for student engagement. The group poster presentations for Contemporary Development Challenges were a real highlight, with all groups developing a workable solution to a real world problem. In addition we've had a range of guest speakers, including Traidcraft and the Swedish Red Cross.

An exciting development this year has been the first run of a placement dissertation with a number of students exploring opportunities to work in partnership with development organisations. This is new for the 2016/2017 academic year, and has enabled new partnerships such as a placement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies looking at volunteer innovation in humanitarian crises.

In addition to the taught sessions, a wider group of staff from the department ran a session on 'co-production in the research process'. Staff drew on their own experiences and offered practical insights into the processes, strengths and limitations of conducting research in partnership with public sector and civil society organisations. A key message that came through was 'invest in the relationship, keep communications strong and ... hold your nerve!' The session was followed by an enjoyable staff-student meal.

The remainder of the summer will see current students working towards the completion of their dissertations, as well as taking part in a range of careers enhancement sessions with guest speakers talking about careers in development.

## Recent Publications

**Griffiths, M.** (2017) From heterogeneous worlds: western privilege, class and positionality in the South. *Area* 49 (1) 2-8.

**Griffiths, M.** (2017) Hope in Hebron: the political affects of activism in a strangled city. *Antipode* 49(3) 617-635.

**Griffiths, M. & Brown, E.** (2017) Embodied experiences in international volunteering: power-body relations and performative ontologies *Social & Cultural Geography* 18(5) 665-682.

**Hensengerth, O.** (2017) 'Water Governance in the Mekong Basin: Scalar Tradeoffs, Transnational Norms and Chinese Hydropower Investment'. In Nyiri, P. and Tan, D. (eds.) *Chinese Encounters in Southeast Asia How People, Money, and Ideas from China Are Changing a Region*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, pp. 174- 191.

**Humble, D.** and Mani, H. (in press) On the front line: working for change in India's civil society. *Work, Employment and Society*.

**Jenkins, K.** (2017) "Women's Anti-Mining Activism and Development." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

**Jenkins, K.** (in press) 'Women Anti-Mining Activists' Narratives of Everyday Resistance in the Andes: Staying put and carrying on in Peru and Ecuador' *Gender, Place and Culture*

**Mol, H.** (2017). *The Politics of Palm Oil Harm: A Green Criminological Perspective*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Mol, H.** (2017). Agro-industry expansion through 'Strategic Alliances': The shifting dynamics of palm oil-related dispossession. In Rodríguez Goyes, D., Mol, H., South, N. and Brisman, A. (eds.) *Environmental Crime in Latin America: The Theft of Nature and the Poisoning of the Land*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

## International Events

- **Dr Katy Jenkins** was an invited international panellist at the 'Conflicts over nature and global change' International Symposium, Freie Universität Berlin, 1st & 2nd December 2016. She also co-organised a panel with Dr Juan Pablo Sarmiento-Barletti at the Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference in Lima, Peru, 29 April – 1 May 2017, entitled 'Challenges and Opportunities of the Politicisation of Identities at the Extractive Frontier in Latin America'.
- **Professor Baillie Smith** was an invited speaker at the International Association for Volunteer Effort in Mexico on November 2016 on the topic of the future of international volunteering research. He was also invited to speak at the launch of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Global Alliance on Volunteering, Nairobi, Kenya. In May this year he also spoke at the 2017 'Pint of Science' Festival on the topic 'Never mind the gap year'.
- **Dr Mark Griffiths** was an invited discussant on a panel 'Decolonising methodologies and South', at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London. He also organised and chaired (with Dr. Eleanor Brown (York)) a panel session on Educating citizens in a globalising world: exclusion, inclusion, and innovation for social justice at the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes Conference, April 2017, in Bergen, Norway. He also organised and chaired a session (with Dr. Mikko Joronen (Tampere)) on Resistance in Palestine at the AAG Annual Meeting in April in Boston, USA.
- Findings from the Volunteers in Conflicts and Emergencies Initiative (ViCE), have been being shared with diverse stakeholders in the humanitarian and development sectors. The project is a joint initiative with the Swedish Red Cross, involving three staff from the Centre for International Development - **Professor Baillie Smith** (project co-director), **Dr Nisha Thomas** and **Dr Mark Griffiths** – and is focused on listening to the voices of volunteers in conflicts and emergencies. The project aims to generate findings that can help us better understand volunteers' experiences and develop strategies to improve the ways they are trained and supported, and the ways other development actors engage with them. Pop Innovation Labs have been run in Sudan, Honduras and Mexico to enable practitioners and others to explore the data and the findings and use it to develop solutions to the challenges they face. The end of 2017 will see a major international launch of key project findings, alongside an advocacy and awareness raising campaign.

## Links and Collaborations

**Dr Oliver Hensengerth** is currently in Vietnam for two funded projects: a GCRF NERC-AHRC-ESRC project on "Building **RE**silience to **M**ulti-source Flooding in Southeast/South Asia through a **T**echnology-informed **C**ommunity-based approach (**REMATCH**)", and a Royal Academy of Engineering - Newton Fund project on "Soft engineering approaches to disaster risk reduction: A case study on flood management in the Mekong River Delta in Vietnam". In Vietnam he works with the Institute of Management for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cantho University, Thuyloi University (previously Water Resources University), and An Giang University and participates in workshops, field trips, and capacity-building events for early career researchers in Hanoi and the Mekong Delta.



***If you have any questions, comments, or if you'd prefer not to receive future newsletters please email [d.humble@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:d.humble@northumbria.ac.uk)***