



Northumbria University's Centre for Global Development (CGD), part of the Department of Geography & Environmental Sciences (GES), brings together academics, practitioners and students to promote research, consultancy, teaching, training and public engagement on issues of global poverty and inequality, the communities and individuals who experience this, and the policies, practices and approaches that seek to address it. **Check out our X (Twitter) handle: @NUGlobalDev**

Welcome to the CGD newsletter! We hope to give a flavour of some of the activities we've been involved in over the past few months. If you would like any more information about any of our activities or programmes, please do get in touch.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Participatory mapping by the Sajag-Nepal Team

This summer the Sajag-Nepal project team undertook fieldwork in the Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchok District of Nepal focusing on vulnerability, exposure and ways of knowing and understanding the landscape. Work by **Katherine Arrell and collaborators at the Social Science Baha** in Kathmandu focused on mapping and understanding mobility within and through the landscape with a view to improving our understanding of risk within the mountain hazard chain. Using participatory mapping, the research is building a more dynamic understanding of exposure which captures people's daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal movements throughout the landscape. It is anticipated that the findings will help refine local-level planning, as well as informing our understanding of multi-hazard risk and preparedness nationally. The preliminary findings were shared at a project-wide workshop in Kathmandu involving collaborators at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, BBC Media Action, NGO NSET-Nepal, and the IFRC.

New grant funded by Innovate UK, Energy Catalyst Competition

Oliver Hensengerth is Co-I on a new grant funded by Innovate UK, Energy Catalyst Competition: Floating Instream Tidal and Solar (FITS) Power Plant - Cambodian Island Community. The project led by Achelous Energy, in collaboration with Cranfield University and two Cambodian NGOs: The Energy Laboratory, and Entrepreneurs Du Monde Pteah Baitong, will undertake a feasibility study at an off-grid, river-island location in Cambodia's Mekong river, seeking to enable the future development of a distributed energy project.

WELCOME!

Welcome to our new research fellow, **Melisa Maida**. Melisa is working on the Living Deltas project, specifically focusing on how organisations and individuals are mobilizing and volunteering to adapt to climate change.

Melisa is also finishing off her PhD from Newcastle University (Human Geography), looking at how refugee and asylum-seeking families negotiate belonging. Working with the Comfrey project her research looks at different spheres of belonging - homemaking, relationships and community organising & solidarity all in tension with the precarity, hostility and discrimination that refugees experience from the UK state and in their everyday lives.

Before her PhD Melisa worked in charitable and humanitarian organisations, including Crisis UK, North of England Refugee Service and Voluntary Services Overseas.

Welcome Melisa!

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

RECLAMA (Harnessing Afro-Ecuadorian Women's Heritage) trip to Columbia

In August, members of **The RECLAMA team** visited Cali, Colombia, to undertake a range of project activities. Supported by follow-up impact funding from the British Academy, we co-organised a cultural exchange including opportunities to share creative outputs from the project with a range of organisations working with Afro-Columbian communities, youth, and women. These events took place alongside the Petronio Álvarez festival, the largest festival celebrating Afro-descendant cultures in Latin America. Read more [here](#).



Listen to Poetics of Diplomacy project recordings

Joanna Allan's AHRC-funded project Poetics of Diplomacy has involved recording Saharawi poets reciting their works, and talking about their life histories, in Algeria, Mauritania and Spain. Saharawis are the Indigenous people of Western Sahara, and poetry traditionally played a vital role in nomadic life. Over the last five decades, poetry has come to form part of the Saharawis' anti-colonial struggle. Through the project, Joanna has explored the role of poetry today in public diplomacy - when state and non-state actors engage foreign publics in a policy or national cause. Listen to the recordings, read the English-language translated transcripts and access teaching resources focused on Western Sahara [here](#).

The Network of Women Doing Fieldwork

Ana Laura Zavala-Guillen is leading writing sessions with women researchers based in the UK and Brazil to explore embodiment and emotions in the field towards a collective peer-reviewed publication. These writing sessions are one of the outcomes of the workshop 'Feeling the field', sponsored by the British Academy Early-Career Researchers Network and the Queen Mary Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences. Find out more [here](#).

Developing the UK-South Asia Climate Action Network

In September 2023, members of CGD came together with colleagues from South Asian diaspora organisations, Dhaka University and the International Institute of Migration & Development (Kerala) in the final activity of an internally funded project which considered how diasporic experiences, perspectives and practices intersect with responding to the climate crisis. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the mutual desire to develop a network through which to build future collaborations and share, explore and exchange perspectives. Find out more about our work [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS & PODCASTS

Here are some of the things we have been talking and writing about over the last few months:

- From Ana Laura Zavala Guillen [Women in the Geographies of Marronage - Territorial Intimacy as a Freedom Strategy: The Case of María de Los Santos and Her Bonga](#).
- By Laura Beckwith et al., [Listening to Experiences of Environmental Change in Rural Vietnam: An Intergenerational Approach](#).
- From Tristan Berchoux et al., [Effect of planning policies on land use dynamics and livelihood opportunities under global environmental change: Evidence from the Mekong Delta](#).
- By Alexandra Hall & Steve Taylor [Consumer culture and symbolic capital in a differentiated Pakistani transnational community: 'It is a fake type of izzat'](#).
- By Sofia Zaragocin et al. [Questioning development from Black feminisms in Ecuador and moving towards a Black feminist political ecology in the Americas](#).
- From Steve Taylor et al., [Diasporic Engagement and the Climate Crisis in Kerala: Inclusive Disaster Relief and Reconstruction ?](#)
- From Matt Baillie Smith & colleagues, [a short animation on volunteering for climate adaptation and disasters](#).

STUDENT VOICES

Reflections from my PhD research by Maxine Mpofo

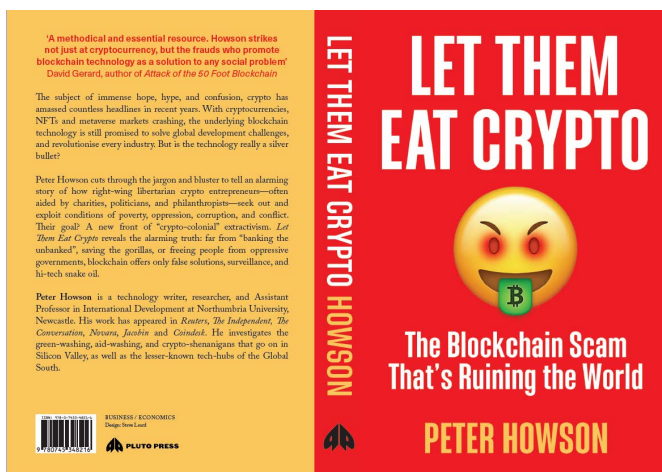
Guided by Ubuntu and decolonisation, my thesis uses co-creative research methods to explore the participation of diverse young people with physical disabilities in the development of rural Zimbabwe. The collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches I use to interrogate the intersectionality between young personhood, disability, development, and participation have led to me working within and beyond academia. My analytical lenses are enriched by being in and engaging with multiple spaces which present opportunities for co-learning. I am member of the Northumbria Design Feminisms Research Group and have participated in the GDF IDRT research work. This year, I secured funding from Cost EU to participate in the Decolonising Development: Knowledge and Practice Summer School held in Kassel, Germany. I will be attending the International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations Conference (IVCO 2023) in Malaysia this October. At the end of this year, I will be facilitating a participatory session titled: Little Acts of Decolonising Education and Volunteering at the 4th World Scout Education Congress in Paris. Engaging with diverse communities, development scholars and practitioners in these convivial spaces continues to widen my network and enhance my research, writing and communication skills. I cannot wait to share some of my learnings at the CGD brown bag lunches when I am back in NCL.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7pm at The Bound in Whitley Bay:

Peter Howson will launch his new book 'Let Them Eat Crypto'. The book tells 'an alarming story of how right-wing libertarian crypto-entrepreneurs seek out and exploit conditions of poverty, oppression, corruption and conflict'. A big **congratulations** to Pete on the book's publication and get your tickets for the launch [here](#).



CONGRATULATIONS



Young Scientist Award

Congratulations to **Becky Richardson** who presented her PhD research at the 13th International Conference of the International Society for the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRIM). The title of her presentation was "Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction; the use of creative methods to understand hazard scenarios and risk communication pathways for children living in informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya". She was awarded 1st prize for her presentation as part of the Young Scientist Award. She will win a medal and part of the prize is to give a full-length academic presentation to the IDRIM society in December.

Paper published!

Congratulations to **MSc International Development** student **Ana Moreno Merino** on the publication of her article: [Can SDG 10.7 Transform the World by 2030? in Migration & Development Journal.](#)

WELL DONE BECKY & ANA !