

## Newsletter, Spring 2016

# MSc INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to our Spring 2016 newsletter! Staff and students on the MSc International Development programme at Northumbria University have had a busy and productive semester. This newsletter gives a flavour of some of the activities we've 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 Katy Jenkins, Programme Leader for the MSc International Development*

### Student and Alumni news

- Laura Blackett (2013-2016) has been selected to take part in the Merit360 programme in New York in August 2016 – well done Laura! She will be working with an international group of young leaders to develop a strategy to inspire the global community to take action on the SDGs.
- Shabina Sadiq (2014-2015) is now working for The Leprosy Mission as their Neglected Tropical Diseases Advisor.
- Vladimir Debnar (2010-2012) has set up the Kenya-based Kisima Trust Project, developing a range of projects to support communities in Kenya.

### Impact and Esteem for the MSc International Development Team

- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith** gave an address to 800 presidents, secretaries general and other senior leaders from 190 countries at the International Federation of the Red Cross General Assembly in Geneva in December 2015.
- The IFRC Global Review of Volunteering co-authored by **Professor Matt Baillie Smith** and Shaun Hazeldine at the IFRC has been recognised by the UN Secretary General as making a “substantial contribution to strengthening volunteering in the wider humanitarian sector”. The findings from the Global Review led to the development of a resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian volunteers at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, signed by 150 attending governments.
- **Prof Matt Baillie Smith** was interviewed by DEVEX on the topic of paid volunteering: <https://www.devex.com/news/the-complex-picture-of-volunteer-payment-87630>
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** contributed an invited blog piece to the Oxfam Policy and Practice blog, on women anti-mining activists. You can read it here: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/blog/2015/12/womens-everyday-resilience-in-opposing-large-scale-mining>

## Programme highlights

It has been another hectic semester on the MSc International Development!

Students have enjoyed an engaging programme of teaching, guest speakers and other activities, some highlights are below...

- MSc staff and students enjoyed a curry night together in February. In March, we held an international development-themed film night, when we watched and discussed 'The Last King of Scotland'.
- Students took part in a simulated river basin role play in 'Conflict, Aid and Changing Geopolitics', using a polystyrene river basin model to learn more about cooperation and conflict in international river basins.
- The staff team have been busy re-designing the MSc International Development programme, to ensure it continues to deliver cutting-edge content. The re-vamped programme will be delivered from Sept 2016.
- Students have enjoyed this semester's Centre for International Development seminar series, with guest speakers including Megan McInnes from Global Witness, and Dr Hugo Romero Toledo from the Universidad Católica de Temuco, in Chile.
- Students have been undertaking placements with a range of organisations, and with the staff from the Centre for International Development, as part of the 'Management and Practice in Development' module.
- During May, MSc students are taking part in a series of careers development events on Working in International Development, including guest speakers, bespoke CV advice, and hints and tips on breaking into the sector.

For more information about our MSc International Development programme, please [click here](#), or contact Dr Katy Jenkins, Programme Leader ([katy.jenkins@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:katy.jenkins@northumbria.ac.uk)). You can also visit the Centre for International Development website <http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/cid>

## Recent Publications

The last 6 months have seen some high impact outputs from the MSc teaching team:

**Baillie Smith, M.** (contributing author) 2015, World Disasters Report. Focus on local actors, the key to humanitarian effectiveness. IFRC, Geneva

**Baillie Smith, M.**, Laurie, N., Brown, E., Griffiths, M., **Humble, D.** (2016), "Education, International Volunteering, and Citizenship: Young People's Subjectivities and Geographies of Development", in *Geographies of Global Issues: Change and Threat* N. Ansell, N. Klocker, T. Skelton (eds) Springer Singapore: Singapore. pp 1-20.

**Coulthard, S.** (contributing author) (2016) 'Engage key social concepts for sustainability' *Science* 352:6281, 38-40

Hazeldine, S. and **Baillie Smith, M.** (2015) *IFRC Global Review of Volunteering* IFRC: Geneva.

**Jenkins, K.** and Rondón, G. (2015) "Eventually the mine will come": Women anti-mining activists' everyday resilience in opposing resource extraction in the Andes' *Gender and Development* 23:3, 415-431

Skinner, A., **Baillie Smith, M.**, Brown, E. and Troll, T. (2016 forthcoming) (eds) *Education, Learning and the Transformation of Development*. London: Routledge.

Skinner, A. and **Baillie Smith, M.** (2015) *Reconceptualising global education from the grassroots: the lived experiences of practitioners*. DEEEP: Brussels

## Staff News and Activities

Members of the MSc teaching team conduct cutting edge international development focused research, working with NGOs, governmental organisations and communities all around the world. See below for some research highlights from this semester:

- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith** has secured funding to work in partnership with the Swedish Red Cross on a new global project on volunteers in complex humanitarian environments – the Volunteers in Complex Humanitarian Environments (ViCE) Project. Local and national volunteers often play a critical role during conflicts and emergencies, particularly when the international humanitarian system withdraws and local infrastructures are damaged. This project is gathering data through listening studies with volunteers and other stakeholders in Sudan, South Sudan, Ukraine, Honduras, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The project will help us understand the motivations of volunteers and their role in the wider humanitarian system, helping us to raise awareness and understanding of their roles and develop policies and practices that support them more effectively.
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** has recently been awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Fellowship for a project entitled 'Women, Mining and Participatory Photography in the Peruvian Andes. The Fellowship will run for 14 months from February 2017, and will involve developing a participatory photography project with women from communities opposing large scale mining developments in Peru.
- **Professor Steve Taylor** gave his inaugural professional lecture at Northumbria University in April 2016. This was entitled 'Migration, Caste and Development: Indian Punjabi Transnationalism'.
- **Dr Oliver Hensengerth's** Newton Fund project Proactively Living with Floods: Development New Approaches to Flood Management in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam held its first workshop in Ho Chi Minh City in January 2016. The grant is co-owned by Prof Dao Xuan Hoc at the Water Resources University in Vietnam. The workshop was further supported by the UNDP Vietnam. The second workshop took place in May 2016 at Northumbria University. Participants came from the National Flood Forum and the Environment Agency, and the Universities of Sheffield, Southampton, Cologne, Nottingham-Ningbo, and Cantho. The second day of the workshop involved an excursion to Keswick in the Lake District to meet with the Keswick Flood Action Group in the context of last year's winter floods. The trip formed part of the project aims to study UK approaches to flood management, in particular the inclusion of local communities in flood policy making and implementation.
- **Dr Darryl Humble** is undertaking ongoing data collection with small scale NGOs and community development programmes in South India, with an emphasis on working in and for development in a neoliberal context.
- **Professor Matt Baillie Smith** and **Nisha Susan Thomas** were invited to the ViCE Listening Study Closing Meeting held in Dubai from 23-29 April 2016, organised by Swedish Red Cross, as part of the global research project on Volunteering in Conflicts and Emergencies.
- **Dr Siobhan Daly** will be carrying out some research on the relationship between feminism, social movements and philanthropy with members of the International Network of Women's Funds. The Faculty of Arts, Design and Social Sciences now has a Memorandum of Understanding with this international network.

## **International Invited Talks and Seminars**

- **Dr Sarah Coulthard** gave an invited talk at Aberdeen University in November 2015 as part of a Scottish Universities Insight Institute funded project '*Flourishing Communities and Productive Seas*', which addressed the role that social wellbeing might play in Scotland's first National Marine Plan
- **Dr Darryl Humble** gave an invited lecture in December 2015 at the Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, entitled '*Emerging Themes in British Sociology*'
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** was an invited international panellist at the COES Annual Conference on *Urban and Territorial Conflicts: Contesting Social Cohesion?*, in Santiago de Chile, November 2015
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** was an invited speaker at a workshop entitled '*At the Interface of Nature and Culture Studies in Latin America: Towards a new frame on society, politics, development and the environment*', Institute for Latin American Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, March 2016
- **Dr Katy Jenkins** was an invited discussant at a workshop at the University of Bristol on '*New digital methodologies in humanities, social sciences and modern languages: learning from Quipu*', December 2015

## **Institutional links and collaborations**

The MSc staff team continue to develop links and activities with a range of overseas institutions:

- Three Chilean colleagues from the Universidad Católica de Temuco and Universidad de Chile, visited the Centre for International Development in April as part of **Dr Katy Jenkins'** three year British Academy International Partnership and Mobility project, on social transformations brought about by large scale mining in the Atacama Desert, Chile.
- In December 2015, **Dr Darryl Humble** visited the Department of Sociology, Mizoram University in North East India for discussions on partnerships to facilitate future research and teaching collaborations.

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