

## Visiting professorship in Ethiopia

**Richard Carver (Senior Lecturer) writes:**

Last year, I was approached by academics at Arba Minch University in southern Ethiopia, who were looking for help in developing two new human rights Masters degrees. I shared teaching materials from DEP and offered other advice. In double-quick time, the law faculty at Arba Minch have got this off the ground. I have been invited to be a visiting professor and will be in Ethiopia in May and June 2018 to teach a module on vulnerability and human rights, as well as to deliver a public lecture.

## 2nd Nabeel Hamdi Lecture

The 2nd Nabeel Hamdi Lecture took place at Oxford Brookes in December 2017. Human rights campaigner and activist Peter Tatchell gave a talk about how the international community has failed Syria. He discussed the flaws and limits of international human rights law in relation to the conflict in Syria and looked at some of the options that could have been used to defuse war and save lives, but were not actioned by the UN or any countries.

## Events during Oxford HR Festival

**Disability workshop by Supriya Akerkar**

**13th March 2018 (Tuesday) at the Glass Tank**  
CENDEP will be hosting a workshop on disability inclusion in humanitarian responses. The workshop will discuss main findings from the research led by Dr Supriya Akerkar on age and disability inclusion. Participants will include speakers from Help Age International, Islamic Relief and Christian Aid, UK who have initiated inclusive responses within their own organisations.

**Longitudinal studies in Shelter workshop** conducted by Charles Parrack

**14th March 2018 (Wednesday)**  
The topic and the need for more studies to examine long term impacts of humanitarian shelter responses has been brought up in various global shelter community of practice meetings over a number of years. At the Global Shelter Cluster annual meeting in Geneva 2017 the Shelter Projects Working Group found strong interest in longitudinal studies and as a result proposed to advance discussions on a more organised approach to methodology, procurement, dissemination and sectoral learning / evidence.

## Other news and events:

Spring 2018 Work in Progress seminars have commenced from the first week of February. The seminars will take place on Thursdays from 16.30 onwards. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for details of the programme and venue.

Richard Carver's (Senior Lecturer) new book on the history of the International Ombudsman Institute will be launched at the UN in New York in May 2018.

## Meet our staff

- Supriya Akerkar, Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator
- Abeer Al-Mutawakel, Research Assistant
- Jeni Burnell, Research Associate
- Matt Bannerman, Research Lecturer
- Cathrine Brun, CENDEP Director
- Richard Carver, Senior Lecturer
- Ian Davis, Visiting Professor
- Simon Fisher, Associate Lecturer
- Bill Filim, Associate Lecturer
- Nabeel Hamdi, Emeritus Professor
- Lisa Handley, Visiting Research Academic
- Louise Harris, Visiting Research Academic
- Paul Knox-Clarke, Associate Lecturer
- Anna Lindley, Visiting Fellow
- Aparna Maladkar, Research Assistant
- Charles Parrack, Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster
- Brigitte Piquard, Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict
- Katie Reilly, Research Assistant
- Hugo Slim, Visiting Professor
- Caroline Tindale, Programme Administrator

## Meet our PhD students

- Elisa Ferrato
- Fatima Hashmi
- Zoe Jordan
- Salem Al Qudwa
- Aleyda Valdes
- Adi Walker

## CENDEP Appeal

Support CENDEP alumni and students through one time or monthly donations to start a life-long career that will bring long-term, exponential benefits to communities facing hardships worldwide. Your gift will make a meaningful difference to scholarships, field visits and research, empowering communities that require assistance to building resilience, autonomy and security.

More information at:

[www.brookes.ac.uk/support-cendep](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/support-cendep)

## Contact us

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# CENDEP NEWSLETTER

March 2018

## Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

### Welcome to the Newsletter:

Identity is the theme for the 16th Oxford Human Rights Festival. The festival is run by MA DEP students in collaboration with students across the university and is skilfully supervised by Angela Haherrell. The theme is pertinent amidst the turbulent times of humanitarian organisations. Working with the festival creates an enhanced understanding of identities and ethics at play in the humanitarian practice.

In this context, we congratulate Dr. Supriya Akerkar with the launch of the Good Practice Guide for embedding older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian policy and practice. This year has seen the strengthening of our international networks: a collaboration between Brigitte Piquard and Caritas Centrafrique resulted in the launch of a toolkit to collect data on the ground by humanitarian organisations; Richard Carver is now a visiting professor at the Arba Minch University in Ethiopia; Charles Parrack is advising Catholic Relief Services in Cox's bazaar. During the fieldtrip to Colombia we worked with local organisation FEECOP and we are developing new stages of our partnership with Blue Mission in Lebanon. We would like to thank everyone who supports us and contributes to our events. In December, we organised the second Nabeel Hamdi lecture in collaboration with the Human Rights Festival and a number of seminars and workshops are taking place during this academic year that you can read more about in this newsletter. We look forward to continue this interaction with CENDEP's colleagues and friends.

Cathrine Brun,  
CENDEP Director

## What's new at CENDEP?

- Recent field trip to Colombia
- The ADCAP Good Practice Guide
- UK Network on the Prohibition of Torture
- Capacity building in CAR
- 16th Oxford Human Rights Festival
- Student Profile: Zac Skeates (M.Arch)
- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Meet our staff and students
- Support our CENDEP Appeal
- Other news and events

Read more (page 2) about collaboration of Brigitte Piquard of CENDEP with national NGO, Caritas Centrafrique in Central African Republic



## Read our CENDEP blog

Information and insights on research about development and emergency practice, teaching activities, Work in Progress sessions, latest news from CENDEP students, staff and associates

<http://cendep.blogspot.co.uk/>

## Merging local Knowledge and Humanitarian Capacity Building in the Central African Republic

How can we make the exceptional knowledge gained through experiences by local staff of national NGOs visible, useful and transferable to others? How can we assume that reporting on this knowledge follows current humanitarian discourse on evidence-based quality assurance?

To investigate innovative responses to these questions, Luk Delt of Caritas Centrafrique, a Central African NGO representing the entire CAR region through its impressive network, and Brigitte Piquard of CENDEP decided to work together to develop field-adapted tools and methodologies as well as to train and support local staff to help in managing and sharing data, knowledge and reports. This is currently followed by proxy-mentorship and contextualised research in order to monitor progress, re-evaluate lessons learnt and plan knowledge transfer. This will lead to further collaborations on up-to-date issues in humanitarianism such as transformative resilience, conflict sensitivity and transformative programming for which local NGOs are typically well equipped due to their on-going field presence.

**Brigitte Piquard**  
*Reader*

## UK Network on the Prohibition of Torture

In November, I was invited to address the founding meeting of the UK Network on the Prohibition of Torture held in London. This meeting gathered participants from academia, civil society, and statutory bodies with responsibility for protection against torture. The focus is on combating torture within the UK and internationally.

The Global Governance Institute at University College London has an excellent summary of the proceedings on its website, showing the many potential modes of collaboration between academics and activists. In my presentation I referred to one of the conclusions from Lisa Handley's and my research, namely the poor quality of data on torture and ill-treatment. It was surprising to be told by representatives of UK statutory bodies that they faced precisely these problems – and appealed to scholars for help in compiling better statistics. We share a common interest in accurate, consistently recorded data, whether to aid our research or to enable us to fulfil our protective role.

**Richard Carver**  
*Senior Lecturer*

## News from MA HAP

HAP welcomed its second cohort last January. Students from Afghanistan, DRC, Iraq, Liberia and Syria joined the existing community of practices and learning. New modules on leadership and self-management in conflict settings and protection of civilians are being delivered, followed by work-based learning on stabilisation. The master will be officially launched in Oxford and in Geneva, in mid-March 2018 to practitioners and organisations directly concerned by its innovative content.

Contact person: **Brigitte Piquard**  
bpiquard@brookes.ac.uk

## News from MA DEP

The current MA DEP programme 2017-18 has participating students from 14 countries, contributing their rich experiences through programme debates and discussions. The current students are from Australia, Bangladesh, DRC, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Norway, Palestine, Romania, Slovakia, South Sudan, Uganda, UK & USA. Students bring their international experiences to reflect on a range of topics including politics of aid in development and humanitarianism: ongoing conflicts in places like Central African Republic, and shelter and reconstruction challenges in Nepal among other issues.

**The programme is now open for admissions for 2018-19 academic year. All enquiries about the programme can be sent to [clindale@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:clindale@brookes.ac.uk)**

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**  
sakerkar@brookes.ac.uk

## Field trip to Colombia: Resilience through Coffee Growing

In January 2018, a group of 11 DEP students and CENDEP staff travelled to Colombia to finalise the first phase of a project on symbolic violence and transformative resilience for climate change mitigation and conflict transformation. The aim was to collect positive narratives of cafeteros (coffee growers) identified through our collaboration with FECOOP (Fundacion para la educacion cooperativa), our field partner for over three years. The wealth of local initiatives and knowledge will be portrayed in a book of testimonies of personal resilience experiences on different themes including education, land attachment, family and community relationships and environmental conservation.

**Brigitte Piquard**  
*Reader*

## Meet a Student:

**Zac Skeates**, MArch student with specialisation in DEP in the first year (80 credits)

In 2016, I spent 3 months on an International Citizen Service (ICS) volunteering programme, living in a rural community in Bangladesh. During this time I began to see that my host communities problems laid in their resilience against the seasonal monsoon floods. It affected all areas of their lives: the infrastructure in the local towns; their children's schooling; the vulnerability of their jobs. I felt under-trained to provide any qualified advice, and so realised that the DEP course could continue my training as an architect, but more so, 'improve my expertise to aid these families who had become very close to me.

I hope to go back after I have finished my education as an architect, to then offer a greater level of support that can make real change. Following this, I would also like to work within the shelter cluster or community development programmes, for which the DEP course has given me firm foundations.

## Good Practice Guide: Embedding Inclusion of Older People and People with Disabilities in Humanitarian Policy and Practice (2018, in press)

By **Supriya Akerkar and Rhea Bhardwaj**  
(CENDEP, Oxford Brookes University)

The publication is a result of the research on the Age and Disability Capacity Programme (ADCAP) funded by DFID & OFDA, coordinated by Help Age International. ADCAP was conceptualised as a niche initiative to tackle exclusions of older people and people with disabilities in humanitarian response. ADCAP has partnered with six international development organisations who have sought to overcome these exclusions in their programmes.

The good practice guide shares good practices and challenges that have emerged through the experience of these international development organisations. Older people and people with disabilities face social, environmental and organisational barriers to access and participation in humanitarian action. Using the collection of practical examples and successful approaches to age and disability inclusion, other organisations can use the guide to design inclusive programmes and train their staff.

**Supriya Akerkar**  
*Senior Lecturer*

## 16th Oxford Human Rights Festival

The Oxford Human Rights Festival returns to Oxford Brookes on **12th March 2018**. The Festival was first initiated by MA DEP students in 2003 and the organising committee now includes students from across Brookes including Event Management and Business Studies, Film Studies and Law courses.

'**Identity**' is the theme this year, and we look at what makes us who we are, and what happens when part of our identity becomes illegal or grounds for persecution or exile. Highlights include screening of Oscar nominated animation 'Loving Vincent' with panel discussion on mental health organised by the School of Nursing; performance of the acclaimed 'Borderline'; 'tragi-comedy about, devised and performed by a group of refugees and asylum seekers in the Calais Jungle; performance by "advocates for social change disguised as rock stars" Delta 7, a group who challenge perceptions of people with disabilities.

This year we are also showcasing research being undertaken at Oxford Brookes around the theme of 'identity' in a series of lunchtime seminars held at the Glass Tank. Dr. Supriya Akerkar (CENDEP) will share findings from her current research on 'Age and Disability Capacity Project (ADCAP)'. The series includes talks on Psychology, Law, and Brookes LGBT+ Forum and Disability Forum.

For the full programme and to book tickets go to:  
[www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net](http://www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net)  
Twitter and Instagram @OXHRF  
Facebook [facebook.com/oxfordhumanrightsfestival](https://facebook.com/oxfordhumanrightsfestival)

