



# HIGHLIGHTS 2021

## OUR VISION

**IGDC is a learning and research community at the University of York for equitable global development. Our approach recognises that development challenges are most effectively addressed by working across academic disciplines and through inclusive partnerships. We want our research to improve the lives of future generations everywhere and transform development policy. We equip our students and researchers to become responsible and engaged global citizens. We collaborate with our global partners and work with local communities to create a just and sustainable world.**

**INCLUSIVITY**



**RESPONSIBILITY**



**INTEGRITY**



**SUSTAINABILITY**



**Transformative  
learning, research  
and partnership  
for a  
just and sustainable  
world**

## OUR PURPOSE

We offer interdisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes in global development and undertake interdisciplinary research to promote global justice and development. We encourage students from across the world to study and work with us. We facilitate collaboration among academics from the humanities and social and natural sciences, within the University of York and globally.

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**CHRISTINE  
WALLACE**  
CHAIR  
IGDC EXTERNAL  
ADVISORY BOARD

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INSTITUTE

## **WELCOME**

During what has been another challenging year for the university community, IGDC has succeeded in building on and consolidating some of the exciting innovations that it began before and during Covid restrictions. It has grown its diverse and exciting global network of researchers, students, institutions and interested supporters who together, across many countries and many disciplines, are promoting global justice and development.

One of the notable factors facilitating this continuing growth of the wider IGDC community has been the webinar series. During 2021, our webinars attracted over 1300 people from 65 different countries, with 70% of attendees from outside the University of York. Teaching too has expanded.

The new BA in Global Development is now in its second year and even the difficulties of on-line teaching have not dented the students' enthusiasm for York's unique approach to problem-based learning in this field. Research supported by the centre has continued to thrive, and we have an increasingly diverse portfolio of inter-disciplinary work with some projects spanning five or more disciplines. IGDC partnerships with other institutions have been consolidated and in the coming year we will continue to enhance our inclusivity, sustainability and partnership-working.

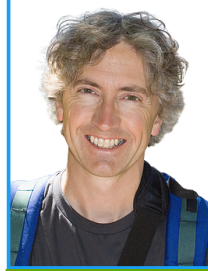
This Highlights document gives readers an opportunity to hear from the staff, students and researchers who make up the IGDC about the exciting and innovative ways in which they are contributing to enhancing knowledge, policy and practice in global development.



# DIRECTORS' INTRODUCTION

As IGDC enters its fifth year, we are pleased to provide an insight into some of the Centre's activities over the last year. The Covid pandemic has dominated this year for us, as it has for everyone, and has led to us changing many of our practices around how we do our research and teaching. Although Covid has presented numerous challenges, the situation has also prompted some innovations, such as our online webinars, a burgeoning blog series, and greater equality of participation for our overseas partners and collaborators in events, meetings and research projects. This has also encouraged us to develop some formal guidelines on how we can enhance inclusivity in our day-to-day activities and our research.

We have recently welcomed the second cohort of students into our BA Programme in Global Development. Our PhD student body continues to grow and is the focus of a network for York students who are working on global development-related issues.



**PROFESSOR  
PIRAN WHITE**  
**IGDC CO-DIRECTOR**  
Environment and  
Geography



**PROFESSOR  
HENRICE ALTINK**  
**IGDC CO-DIRECTOR**  
History



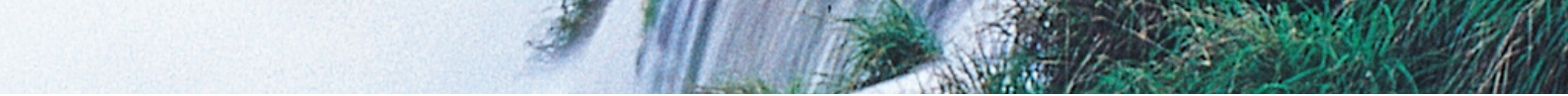
**DR SARA DE JONG**  
**IGDC CO-DIRECTOR**  
Politics



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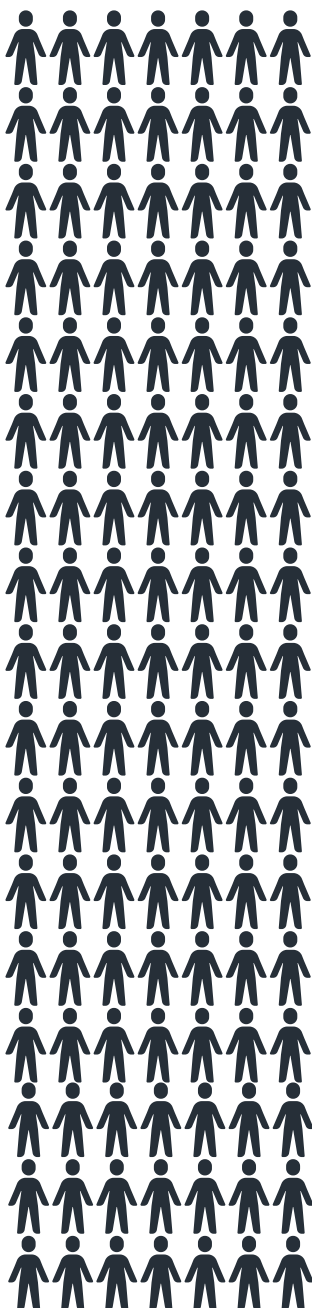
Our research continues to develop, with new projects including topics such as citizenship, environmental histories, communicating the pandemic, and climate-smart agriculture, covering many parts of the world.

We are delighted to welcome two new academic staff, Dr Saba Joshi and Dr Gideon Baffoe, who will bring exciting new expertise and perspectives to IGDC. We are however sad to say goodbye to Dr Ingrid Kvangraven, who has been with us since the start of IGDC, but we wish Ingrid the best of luck in her new role at King's College London.

The last year has been a time of great change politically in the UK, as in many countries across the world. Earlier this year, the UK government announced that it would not be meeting the UN target of spending 0.7% of its Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance (ODA). As well as having damaging repercussions for many of the world's poorest people, this has led to sudden and dramatic reductions in the budget for ODA-related research. This affects the core work of IGDC and other development-related research centres and undermines research that has informed responses to many significant social, economic and environmental challenges. We have seen first-hand the adverse effects that these budgetary cuts have had on some of our collaborators, as well as on some of our own research staff, and they pose considerable challenges for us in continuing to develop and deliver our research agenda.

As IGDC moves into its fifth year, we recognise that our activities are more important than ever. We look forward to continuing to work with all our partners towards a more equitable, just and sustainable world.

# PEOPLE



**111**  
members

Our membership has more than doubled in the last two years. The Centre now supports over 100 researchers in 19 departments and centres drawn from all three Faculties of the University of York.

Members are involved in various events, including seminars, workshops, and public seminars as organizers, presenters, and participants. They may also serve as supervisors or thesis advisors on our PhD programme.

Aside from being a part of our vibrant interdisciplinary community, IGDC members have access to dedicated support services from the IGDC staff and directors to help them find and apply for funding, develop equitable partnerships, and draft impact plans to help their research make a positive impact to help their research contribute to sustainable development.

IGDC and our staff are located in Derwent College under the direction of the founding professors and lecturers of the founding departments (Politics, History, and Environment and Geography). As a result of our continual success, we have recruited three lecturers who contribute to the IGDC's interdisciplinary BA in Global Development.

## PEOPLE: MEMBERS

# Meet some of our members

## DR JESSICA OMUKUTI



Jessica has expertise in climate justice and adaptation governance. She has also conducted research in Sub-Saharan Africa on climate finance and justice governance.

Her work at IGDC has focused on climate change governance, specifically on the governance of climate finance for adaptation in the Global South. She has contributed to developing research on disaster risk management in Latin America and the Caribbean. She has co-led work on the gendered health effects of Covid-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, particularly for women and girls.

In 2020, she was awarded the ESRC COP26 Fellowship which involves investigating the delivery of climate finance for adaptation by the Green Climate Fund. She has also spent the fellowship engaging with different stakeholders on climate finance governance for adaptation such as the British Academy and the UK Cabinet Office.

Jessica has recently moved to take up a position as Research Fellow on Inclusive Net Zero for the Oxford Net Zero Initiative.



## DR SARA DE JONG

Sara de Jong is Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre (IGDC) at York and Co-Chair of the University of York Migration Network (MigNet) (with Professor Simon Parker). Her research and teaching interests include migration, race, and gender, particularly the politics of NGOs and civil society activism.



Her current research investigates the protection of local Afghan staff working for Western armies and the political strategies of their advocates. She has briefed MPs in different countries and has appeared in various media outlets as an expert on this timely topic, including the New York Times, the Guardian, Al Jazeera, BBC World, and The Conversation. She is the author of the monograph Complicit Sisters: Gender and Women's Issues across North-South Divides (OUP 2017). She has also co-edited the edited volume Decolonisation and Feminisms in Global Teaching and Learning (Routledge 2018) with Rosalba Icaza and Olivia Rutazibwa.

## PROFESSOR HENRICE ALTINK



Henrice Altink is a Professor in Modern History, representing the arts and humanities within the IGDC's directorate. Her research focuses on social inequalities in the Caribbean, particularly gender, class, and race. She has published widely on gender relations in Jamaica during slavery and the post-emancipation period, race and colour discrimination and health and medicine in the decades preceding and following independence. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including newspapers, NGO reports, and government papers, her latest research, including a blog about COP26 and Caribbean islands, explores the impact of environmental and climate change on the most vulnerable groups in Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean since 1945.

# BA IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

After several years of preparations, we finally welcomed our first cohort of 19 undergraduate students to the new interdisciplinary BA degree in Global Development in September 2020. It was a challenging year for students and staff alike due to the Covid-19 pandemic leading to almost all online teaching.

The BA in Global Development is problem-based learning (PBL), which requires students to work together in small groups. Yet, all students and staff rose to the occasion and have made the first year a real success story.

In our conversations with students and from the results of surveys we have conducted, our students have indicated time and again that they really enjoy their degree so far, and they value the engagement and enthusiasm of the lectures and the support team.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University recognised the efforts of the teaching team (Drs Eleanor Jew, Ingrid Kvangraven, and Phil Roberts) by awarding them with the very prestigious Vice Chancellor's Teaching Award. After an incredibly competitive process, they received the award for their outstanding contribution by developing and delivering highly innovative teaching and assessment in support of interdisciplinary learning.

In the 2021-22 academic year, our initial cohort of 19 students continued into their second year to advance their interdisciplinary understanding of Global Development, while our second cohort of 23 students started the first year of their studies in September.





## BA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

### OLIVIA JACKSON

'Before I came to York, I worked for a non-profit organization in Harrogate and travelled solo around the world to Zimbabwe, China, Australia, and much of Europe. My passion for helping others, travelling, and the incredible diversity of people I have met along my journey, propelled me to study Global Development at York.'

This degree has been the perfect start to the next stage of my life and career, as it has allowed me to study holistically to determine options for my future.

As a course representative, I felt valued as a middle person that connected the year group to the faculty. This offered the students the chance to contribute to how the BA in Global Development can progress as it establishes itself as a new degree at the University of York. Regular meetings with the faculty of the IGDC made me feel connected and committed to the department, as the staff have shown immense commitment to the development of us as a cohort.'



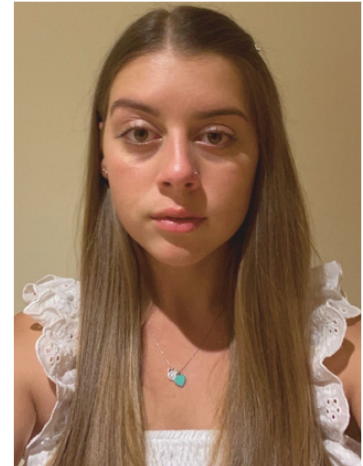
**“ This degree has been the perfect start to the next stage of my life and career, as it has allowed me to study holistically to determine options for my future. ”**

## BA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

### GEORGIA LEWIS

'When I was accepted onto the Global Development BA at York, I was incredibly excited. Despite covid having a major impact on the end of my sixth form education and beginning of my university degree, The IGDC department made my transition and first year as smooth as possible.

The IGDC has provided us with multiple talks throughout the year with inspirational individuals who have similar mindsets to us, one of which was the motivating international journalist Ismail Einashe'



**“ The IGDC made my transition and first year as smooth as possible... and provided us with multiple talks throughout the year with inspirational individuals ”**

'As one of the representatives for the Global Development students, the opportunity has given me a greater understanding of how important the student voice is and how the politics department embrace it. Furthermore, the conventional meetings throughout the year with other politics department representatives enabled an effective interaction between student to academic relations. I am keen to begin this term with the upcoming new challenges which will shape my future.'



# PHD IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The PhD programme in Global Development took in its first cohort in September 2019. The programme welcomes researchers who want to contribute to a more just and sustainable world, where they will be supported by at least two supervisors from different disciplinary perspectives. PhD students are encouraged to approach their work via interdisciplinary concepts and approaches in order to generate new insights for work towards equitable solutions.



## ENOCH ADRANYI

Enoch has been a Global Development PhD student with IGDC since 2020. His research investigates the implications of expanding artisanal and small-scale gold mining on agriculture and rural livelihoods in non-traditional mining areas in Ghana.

Enoch's research approach draws on theories and methods from the natural and social sciences to examine the human-environment relationships and how they shape development outcomes. His experience covers a range of sectors, including environmental non-profits, finance, and research. He also has held previous research engagements in sustainable land use, forest conservation, ecology, and environmental impact assessments.



## CHARLOTTE BAGSHAW

Charlotte started her Global Development PhD in January 2021. She holds a MA in Global Development from the University of Leeds and a BA in Human Geography. She is interested in the intersection of human rights, global norms, child labour and advocacy groups. Her PhD explores advocacy networks who utilise human rights to address instances of child labour within the Malawian tea and tobacco sector.

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PHD NETWORK

It has long been an ambition of the IGDC to support a vibrant and inclusive postgraduate network that reflects the centre's interests and ethos among York's student body. Despite the past year's challenges, the postgraduate network has developed into an ambitious and energised student community, organised by Lilian Saka and Joseph Gascoigne.



**LILIAN  
SAKA**

The core of the postgraduate network in the last year has been its Friday Forums where monthly meetings are held, each discussing topics concerning global development and how it relates to our research.

Past discussions have brought together diverse perspectives on the Covid pandemic, inclusive research and decolonisation, and the concept of hope in academic research. The objective of these discussions has been to share our research with fellow students and explore approaches and theories used in different departments and disciplines.



**JOSEPH  
GASCOIGNE**

A significant outcome of one of these Forums has been a Students' Guide to Inclusive Research - a version of the IGDC's original guide that we have tailored to the needs and interests of the postgraduate community. Three network members have also collaborated on a blog post published on the IGDC website:

- [Blog: The Covid-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Academic Research](#)
- [Blog: Hope - a useful category of analysis in global south research?](#)
- [Blog: The Quintana Roo sit-in represents a historic step towards legalisation of abortion in Mexico](#)

In the next academic year, the postgraduate network will expand its Friday Forums to include even more students from across the University. We will also encourage other members to host forums on topics that warrant greater attention and interest from their fellow students. We will also work towards more tangible outcomes from our collaborations, such as blog posts and publications. These will enable us to share our insights with as broad an audience as possible. We also look forward to more in-person events in the 2021/22 academic year.





# RESEARCH

IGDC's research develops new knowledge and understanding to enhance social justice, global health and environmental sustainability around the world. The impact of Covid-19 across the world has highlighted the vital importance of our partnerships with in-country organisations in our research activities. Together with our partners, we have developed innovative ways of engaging participants and others in our research, to ensure that our research continues to inform policy and practice for transformative change.

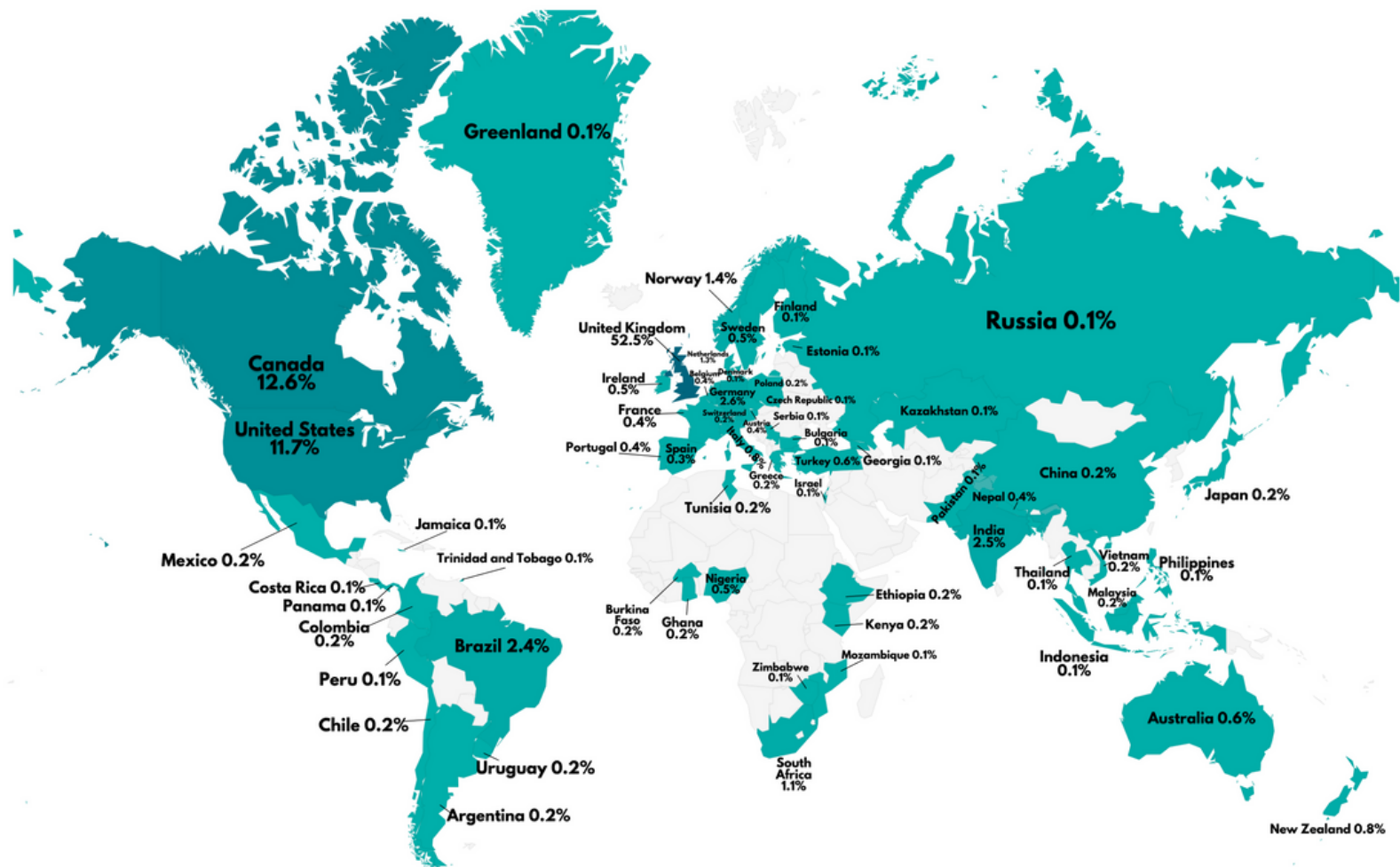
Further from our success from the first instalment of our Covid-19 webinar series, our second instalment successfully continued into this year with:

- ▶ [Reflections on public health system responses during Covid-19 in low- and middle-income countries.](#)
- ▶ [Migrants and refugees facing Covid-19: UK and global concerns](#)
- ▶ [Unpaid Care Work and Covid-19: A Missed Opportunity to Recognise, Value and Take Action?](#)

Although Covid-19 pulled focus, forcing change and adaptation to research and its methods, it encouraged us to devise new ways of disseminating and sharing our research, forging and cooperating with new partners in the UK and globally.

## RESEARCH WEBINARS AND OUTREACH

**IGDC's webinars during 2021 reached 65 countries globally with over 1300 attendees.**



153

# YouTube Subscribers

**Views 2.3k up 67%**

**Impressions 24.1k up 32%**

## New Subscribers 92

## Current subs 152



1,985

# Twitter Followers

## 271 new followers in 12 months



# WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS



## RACIST DISCIPLINES? CRITICALLY EXPLORING APPROACHES TO RACE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



In the wake of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in the summer of 2020 and the protests that followed, academics across the social sciences were forced to scrutinize their own biases and racism with their own disciplines and institutions.

In the context of Black History Month in the United States, IGDC held a roundtable event seeking to explore how race is dealt with across three distinct disciplines. Experts from Political Science, Economics and English addressed how these problems manifest themselves in their own field and the movements in the fields that aim to address the disciplines' shortcomings.

We were joined by **Professor Kiran Trehan**, the University of York's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Partnerships and Engagement who introduced and welcomed our panel - **Professor Darrick Hamilton**, **Professor Robbie Shilliam**, and **Dr Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe**.

Both fields in social sciences and humanities have long suffered from being largely founded on Eurocentric understandings of the world that often paper over colonial legacies, legacies of the slave trade and racism, and that neglect insights and contributions from the non-Western world. This has led to campaigns to decolonize the university and decolonize the curriculum.

# RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUS

## LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD POSITIVE FUTURES FOR THE COLOMBIAN PARAMOS



IGDC researchers are working alongside researchers from the Humboldt Institute in Colombia to understand how an understanding of past practices and relationships can improve future management of páramos ecosystems around Bogotá. The project, led by IGDC Co-Director Prof. Piran White, involves historians, anthropologists, ecologists and environmental economists working together to generate new interdisciplinary understandings of the links between changes in human populations, biodiversity, agricultural practices, and water regulation and supply.



Teaming up with the Colectivo Almanagues Agroecológicos, the organization Tierra Libre, and an audiovisual production team, together with artists of communities of the Sumapaz and Chingaza páramos, we organized a second festival to celebrate campesino life and knowledge. Hosted by the cultural restaurant Casa de Citas, the live events in November 2020 reached 20,000 people across two evenings, as well as being featured on local radio and as part of an online panel debate hosted by Bogota's Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural (IDPC). We are currently working with our collaborators to produce a CD and accompanying video to highlight the artists and the cultural heritage of the region.

# RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUS



## THE 'MIGRATION MARKET' IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: THE IMPACT OF MARKETISATION ON REFUGEE CAMPS AND SETTLEMENTS

An emerging global initiative, led by the World Bank and UNHCR, seeks to encourage the private sector as key actors in refugee contexts in the Global South, increasing public-private partnerships and creating new 'markets'.

An increased role for private actors is seen as essential to bridge the funding challenges precipitated by the 'refugee crisis', whilst also providing economic opportunities for refugees in protracted situations.

This project, led by Dr Sophie Mackinder, Dr Kelly Devenney and IGDC Co-Director Dr Sara de Jong at York with colleagues from Oxford, seeks to explore the assumptions, rationales and discourses (both economic and social) behind the initiative, and traces the impacts of the incorporation of the private sector into refugee economies on the lives of refugees themselves.



# PARTNERSHIPS

Effective partnerships are critical for IGDC's learning and research. Over the past year, we have worked with existing and new partners to strengthen and expand our learning and research activities. This has included the development of new joint teaching activities and the formation of two major new research networks to translate existing research and develop new research projects to help transform development.





# YORK-MAASTRICHT PARTNERSHIP

The Global South is one of the key themes of the York-Maastricht Partnership (YMP), a major strategic investment between the universities of York and Maastricht, intended to develop a deep and lasting relationship built around excellent research, teaching and knowledge exchange. The IGDC closely collaborates with colleagues at Maastricht University. IGDC Co-Director Prof. Henrice Altink runs a project with Dr Lutz Krebs that explores how the BA in Global Development at York and the BA in Global Studies at Maastricht, both taught through problem-based learning, can accommodate an increasingly diverse classroom, while co-director Sara de Jong is part of the 'European democracies in crisis' project that examines voices, actions and reactions from below.

Further, in June 2021, IGDC organised a session for the York Festival of Ideas in which Professor Raf de Bont from Maastricht University presented his latest book *Nature's Diplomats* (2021) on the origins and legacies of the modern environmental movement with a Question and Answer session led by co-director Henrice Altink and IGDC member Dr Hanne Cottyn.





## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND POPULATION HEALTH IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

People living in low-lying coastal regions in Low-and-Middle-Income countries face considerable risks and adverse health impacts from climate change. In the Bay of Bengal, a range of direct and indirect risks arising from climate change, affecting water, air, food quality and quantity, ecosystems and agriculture, are having profound effects on people's physical and mental health. With collaborators from Jadavpur University, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, the Professional Institute for Development and Socio Environmental Management (PRISM), the Southern Health Improvement Samity (SHIS), and Stockholm Environment Institute Asia, IGDC researchers are building a network of community-based organizations, healthcare providers, policy makers, advocacy groups, research and academics. The network's goals are to promote understanding related to the impact of climate and environmental risks on population health, strengthen Information Systems across key domains of climate and weather, natural hazards, environment and health, and give voice to community perspectives. Through these activities, the network aims to identify effective policy actions and public health interventions to respond to the growing challenges of climate-related risks to public health and health systems in the region.





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