PRDU expansion set for October 2000

As announced in the last edition of *revival*, and in line with the University of York’s support for the expansion of the PRDU, the Unit will soon become affiliated to the Department of Politics. As part of this expansion, newly appointed lecturer Dr Roger MacGinty will join the team from October 2000 (see Page 2), when the PRDU moves to newly refurbished accommodation within Politics, situated in Derwent College on the main University campus.

Links between PRDU and Politics have always been strong, with staff from the Department contributing to teaching on our MA in Post-war Recovery Studies. Closer collaboration, such as joint events, research and the supervision of post-graduate students, has already been established.

The affiliation will further strengthen these links, and will make the University of York home to one of the largest politics departments in the UK. Already, the Department’s research has been ranked ‘excellent’ (four out of five) in the last Research Assessment Exercise mounted by the Higher Education Funding Council, and it was recently ranked one of the top five politics departments in the UK by *The Guardian* newspaper.

With this expansion the PRDU can draw from a wider base of expertise in various areas of research and teaching, which are co-ordinated through four subject groups.

Professor Ron Cooke, the University of York’s Vice Chancellor (centre), congratulates Sultan Barakat, PRDU Director (left), and Mark Evans, Head of the Department of Politics, on the PRDU’s agreed affiliation to the Department.

PRDU staff will join colleagues Professor Haleh Afshar, Dr Rob Aitken, Dr Louise Haage and Dr Adrian Leftwich within the Development Studies subject group which is concerned with the broad areas of:

- development;
- international relations and development;
- conflict and its resolution;
- post-war reconstruction and recovery;
- disaster relief, humanitarian aid and the state; and
- democratisation.

There is also a particular interest in the formation of identities in developing societies based on, for example, gender, nationality, locality, and religion.
New lecturer at PRDU

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Roger MacGinty, who will take up a position as lecturer in October 2000 – teaching on the PRDU’s MA programme in Post-war Recovery Studies, as well as teaching ‘international relations’ to undergraduates in the Department of Politics. We extend a warm welcome to Roger, who comes to York from the Richardson Institute for Peace Studies at Lancaster University, UK. His arrival will enable the PRDU to enlarge the intake of MA and DPhil students whilst maintaining our high standards of teaching and research.

Dr MacGinty’s main academic interest lies in the management of transitions from conflict to peace. He is currently involved in the research project Progressing Towards Settlement, a major study of the organisation and dynamics of contemporary peace processes. Co-ordinated with Professor John Darby (University of Ulster and Notre Dame University), the project focuses on issues such as pre-negotiations, mediation, post-conflict electoral mechanisms and post-conflict policing and disarmament.

Previous research co-ordinated by Darby and MacGinty includes the ‘Coming out of Violence’ project which was based at INCORE (Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity), the University of Ulster. It examined peace processes in Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, the Basque Country, Sri Lanka and South Africa, and had partner researchers in each of these locations. The project concentrated on identifying those factors which facilitated movement of, and those which placed obstacles in the way of, political change during peace processes.

Researching in conflict areas

A three-day international Conference was recently held in York to stimulate debate on the crucial and topical issue of conducting research in conflict areas. Jointly organised by PRDU and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology as part of the Economic and Social Research Council’s Politics of Complex Emergencies seminar series, the Conference agreed on a number of instruments which could aid further focus on such research practices.

A synopsis of this Conference can be found on a separate leaflet accompanying this newsletter

The ‘enabler’ to retire

Without Charles Cockburn the PRDU would never have evolved at York. So when he retires this September, with the Unit still going from strength to strength, Charles can look back with immense pride and satisfaction at the phenomenon he has helped to create. A trained architect, Charles lectured in Nigeria in the early 1960s, before becoming Research Assistant at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Further work in Kenya and Nigeria – together with consultancy work for the UN, ILO and World Bank – preceded his appointment in 1976 as Course Director of the Housing Course for Developing Countries at Newcastle University.

In 1983 Charles came to York as Course Tutor for One World Studies at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies. This one-year MA had no set course; potential students outlined the theme of their proposed area of research. Such a ‘personalised’ course demanded a unique leader, and Charles was that man. He used his wide experience and extensive network of contacts to coax and cajole students from varied cultural backgrounds through their study.

He was, and is, an ‘enabler’, challenging his protégés with advice, views and information, and watching their response with interest. Most of his students have truly developed during their time in York because of, and despite of, his rather off-beat manner. Many turned MAs into doctorates.

Beginning in 1987, with student Akbar Zargar, issues of post-war reconstruction were pursued by a number of Charles’s students including, in 1990, Sultan Barakat. Sultan stayed on to complete his doctorate, and he and Charles were the driving force that established the PRDU in 1992.

We are pleased that Charles will continue to support the Unit – specifically as Chair of our Advisory Board – and wish him the happy, stress-free retirement he deserves.
Health Sector Rehabilitation in the Puntland State of Somalia: The Role of the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

The civil war which broke out in Somalia in 1991 has led to the fragmentation of the state into clan-based territorial entities. Normal government functions, administration and service provision, including health services, have ceased. Since then, health care needs have been filled by external actors and service providers in a wide patchwork of interventions which has frequently failed to meet the basic needs of the population.

In 1993, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) – supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – set up an integrated health care programme (IHC) through the establishment of a network of mother-and-child health/outpatient clinics and health posts. Today, in the absence of a central health service, 32 SRCS clinics, a referral hospital in Garoe and 12 health posts throughout the country serve the needs of 840,000 beneficiaries. Twelve of these clinics, and the Garoe hospital, are located in the Puntland State of Somalia.

Last year, to provide continued financial and technical support to this programme, the International Federation designed a joint venture with the World Bank to implement a health-sector rehabilitation project with two main objectives:

- to continue running the 12 IHC clinics and referral hospital in the state of Puntland and allow for the gradual increase in community involvement in, and responsibility for, these clinics, and to support the reconstruction of a centrally administered health service under the new regional administration/designate of health; and
- to undertake a study of the SRCS IHC programme, with specific reference to the current and future role of the SRCS as the main health service provider in Puntland.

The study will be conducted in two phases: a pre-study; and the study itself (three missions of 3–4 weeks each). The goal is to promote change and improvement in the International Federation’s programming in support of National Societies engaged in rehabilitation of the health sector following violent conflict.

Three main objectives are set for the study, to improve: practice; the understanding of the practice by its practitioners; and the situation in which the programming takes place.

Sultan Barakat led the pre-study – 18 April to 6 May 2000 – which included Dr Ahmed (President of SRCS), Sean Deely (Senior Officer, Disaster Policy, IFRC), Ray Martin (Consultant, World Bank) and Dr Hakan Sandbladh (Head of Emergency Health, IFRC). The aim of this mission was to elaborate a detailed design and plan for the health sector rehabilitation study to be undertaken during the coming months in Puntland.

The findings of the mission were presented in a detailed report for the Federation and the World Bank.

Recognising the importance of a positive utilisation of the current transitional situation in Puntland, the study addresses the following contention as its starting point:

Within the context of post-conflict recovery in Puntland, a sustainable investment in health provision by the Somali Red Crescent Society can, notwithstanding the enormous constraints and challenges, be a catalyst for far-reaching micro and macro developmental processes in the health sector. Because of its experience gained over the last ten years, the excellent relationships it enjoys with both the communities and the government, as well as its regional and international linkages through the International Federation, the SRCS is in a unique position to harness the opportunities arising as a result of the current stability.

In this context, the study sets out to tackle two hypotheses:

- An active mobilization and enablement of local communities and institutions by SRCS would enhance the quality, impact and sustainability of health services.
- An approach based on ‘collective assets’ for cost sharing in the planning, implementation and management of the integrated health care programme can lead to sustainable SRCS service provision.

Five main objectives have been set for the study:

1. To understand the wider socio-economic and political context in Somalia today.
2. To examine and document the SRCS’s role in the provision of health services over the last ten years.
3. To conduct a broader study of the health sector in Puntland.
4. To explore ways in which the SRCS can play a catalyst role in the provision of a sustainable service to the population of Puntland.
5. To draw out lessons that can be used to guide International Federation policy-making when supporting other National Societies in their post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The report recommends the use of a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods – semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders and informants; focused discussion groups with programming staff, institutional actors and community representatives; in-depth case studies; field observations; household surveys; and a literature review.

Most importantly, it recommends using the study to develop the SRCS’s local capacities by giving its staff and members the opportunity to own and actively participate in the detailed design of the study and its conduct.
Two memorandums signed

The University of York has reinforced two relationships built up by the PRDU by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Army and a Memorandum of Association with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. These set out the basis of collaboration for the next five years and it is believed that they will: consolidate and strengthen existing collaborations; facilitate cross-fertilisation between areas of expertise; and enrich the teaching activities of the institutions through the exchange of staff and students. Summaries of activities outlined in the memorandums are shown below.

The British Army

This memorandum builds on two years of collaboration which has seen the successful contribution by the Army of teaching and practical sessions in the PRDU’s MA in Post-war Recovery Studies, and the provision of free places on modules of the course to senior Army personnel. It states that the Army will provide, on an annual basis, support to the MA course by: organising a Team-Building weekend for PRDU students; delivering sessions on the MA’s Logistics week and the Security week; providing advice and support to students especially regarding demobilisation and security in the field.

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Building on four years of collaboration, which has seen the successful completion of a number of research and training projects in reconstruction aspects in Bosnia Herzegovina and Sri Lanka, the Memorandum aims to make a major contribution to sensitising this area of research nationally in the UK and Norway, and internationally. Joint activities will fall into 3 categories:

RESEARCH: jointly seeking research funding and dissemination of research findings; exchanging and hosting doctoral research fellows; exchanging honorary and adjunct professorships where applicable; providing sabbatical leave.

TEACHING: developing curriculum areas with a particular focus on research methodology in war zones, and action-orientated research theories; developing other electives on issues of post-war recovery and development, to be utilised in MA courses in York and Trondheim; raising funds for, and conducting, field trips to war-torn countries; examination provision for doctoral and MPhil candidates.

NETWORKING & CONSULTANCY: providing an international forum for discussion and consultation; establishing a joint consortium to offer a consultancy service to development agencies, international NGOs, bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, as well as local and national governments.

Reports on two conferences (see right & page 2) show recent aspects of this collaboration.

Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa

Dr Sultan Barakat renewed his commitment to the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa when he contributed to two courses within their International Training Programme in Conflict Management. In April he taught on the ‘National Capacity Building’ course, and in July on ‘The Civilian Personnel of Peace-keeping/ Humanitarian Operation and Election Monitoring Missions’ course.

Links between Pisa and York are growing, with Fabrizio Pagani (Assistant Director of the Conflict Management Programme in Pisa, and Legal Adviser of the Italian Minister for European Policies) teaching “International Legal Aspects” on PRDU’s MA in Post-war Recovery Studies. Carel Richter (PRDU DPhil student) has taught in Pisa recently on behalf of the PRDU, whilst Barbara Carrai (Executive Director of one of the training programmes at the Scuola) will be returning to the PRDU in January 2001 to complete the final part of her MA, which she is taking on a modular basis.

Hans Skotte reports from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology’s conference on ‘Recovery and Development’, which was held from 5–6 April 2000.

The conference was set up by NTNU’s ‘Arena for Development Research’ – a forum for dialogue between practitioners and the research community – in order to explore possible common fields of interest. The ongoing ‘professionalisation’ of NGOs calls for academic training, which in turn will have to rely on field-based research to be relevant and useful. All the major humanitarian organisations were present, as were representatives from research institutions, seasoned field professionals, a number of military personnel, and a large contingent of academics and students from NTNU.

The keynote address was given by the director of the Norwegian Red Cross, Sven Mollekleiv. He challenged the university to help develop alternative approaches to interventions which might prevent disasters from having such devastating effects.

Reconstruction was addressed from the perspectives of: political science by Dan Smith of PRIO; the architect/planner by Hans Skotte; and traumatised refugees in cross-cultural exile by Professor Nora Ahlberg. Dr Sultan Barakat presented his ‘20 Dilemmas on Reconstruction’, mainly related to the role of the international agencies working in war-torn societies.

Academic research findings were presented, with cases from Angola, Sri Lanka, Bosnia, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan, and Lebanon. Dr Roger Zetter of Oxford Brookes University illustrated the type of contribution academia can make to the agencies.

Professor Ragnhild Lund (NTNU) closed the conference by highlighting the call for relevance in NTNU’s proclaimed vision of being ‘creative, critical and constructive’. The conference showed that the challenges of recovery and development must be approached in an interdisciplinary manner. “It is not enough to know the technical dimensions of how to build shelters, we must also understand the strategic interests of the people we set out to shelter”, she concluded.
The contested landscape of Cyprus

The link between land and war is very clear – most battles have been fought for possession of land. A contested landscape includes linkages between three aspects: culture, conflict and landscape. Furthermore, the role that landscape can play in the peace process has not been sufficiently examined, though it is often a major part of the problem.

The subject of this research is the effect that conflict can have on the landscape, with special reference to Cyprus. The study will focus on the development of a framework to measure and recognise the physical, socio-political and environmental effect of conflict on landscape, and to develop guidelines towards post-conflict resolution.

Cyprus was divided into two following the armed conflict of 1974 between the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots (with the backing of Greece and Turkey respectively). The obvious contested landscape of Cyprus is the buffer zone which separates the island from east to west. However, the entire island can be seen as the scene of contention, with its long history of foreign invasions and influences.

In April 2000 I undertook a preliminary visit to Cyprus to see whether it would be a suitable case study for research into Contested Landscapes. A wide variety of organisations directly (and indirectly) involved with the Cyprus issue were contacted, in order to obtain a range of information and to gain a comprehensive view of the situation. It was a very interesting visit that made the relevance of the research very clear. Everyone I spoke to, and most of the literature about Cyprus, acknowledges the importance of the land issue. The landscape plays a role in the peace process. In one conversation, the way the Cypriots view the buffer zone was summed up thus: line of fear, line of terror, line of shame, but also line of communication and line of protection.

With the proliferation of small wars all over the world it becomes essential to look at these conflicts through the ‘landscape eyes’ of the local and regional contestants.
Sri Lanka – Facts & Figures

The armed conflict between the Sri Lankan army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been raging since the early 1980s, killing 50,000 and displacing more than 1 million people.

Direct cost of the conflict is around 640 million US$ a year.

Although the armed conflict has been mainly fought in the country’s northern and eastern provinces, its impact on the whole country has been enormous.

Side effects of the conflict include: a murder rate of 9 per 100,000; approximately 30,000 child prostitutes.

Sinhalese constitute about 74%, the Tamils about 18% of the population.

A number of administrative, legislative and constitutional policies implemented both during the British colonial period and after independence in 1948, played a significant part in the development and escalation of the armed conflict: the ‘Sinhala Only’ law of the late 1950s made Sinhalese the official language of the country; legislation in 1970 placed restrictions on university places given to Tamils; and the 1972 constitution’s declaration made it the state’s duty to ‘protect and foster’ Buddhism.

More than 400 welfare centres exist, where governmental organisations care for some 158,000 displaced persons.

A change in security conditions since 1994 has made the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas controlled by LTTE very difficult.

The humanitarian crisis is handled by ten different governmental authorities.

Sri Lanka was the first country where UNHCR became directly involved in internal displacement issues; they have now been working there for 13 years.

Other UN agencies working in Sri Lanka are UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA and WHO.

Joining the army is an attractive economic option for those, mainly rural, youths who have fairly restricted employment opportunities.

1 litre of fuel in Colombo costs 50 SLR, while in Jaffna it is 1,200 SLR.

Blockades are imposed by both LTTE and government forces, e.g. farmers in the LTTE controlled areas can only sell their products in the Jaffna region.

Alp Özerdem reports on the visit to Sri Lanka, December 1999, hosted by FORUT.

According to a legend in Sri Lanka, Adam’s Peak was the place where Adam first set foot on earth. If this legend is to be believed, he certainly chose a heavenly place where nature, history and culture have been very generous. It may be due to this very richness, in a small island shaped like a teardrop falling from the southern end of India, that Sri Lanka’s history recounts many invasions, battles and armed conflicts. Such a conflict was the reason behind our field visit, during which the students had a chance to observe first-hand the humanitarian assistance and reconstruction initiatives in this war-affected country. The group was hosted by FORUT, a Norwegian/Swedish development agency based on the principles of Solidarity, Peace, Temperance and Democracy.

Itinerary

On the first day FORUT had organised a seminar which brought together representatives from governmental, non-governmental and international organisations. Here the PRDU delegation heard reports of life in Sri Lanka, and the challenges of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction.

Some of the issues are summarised under ‘Facts and Figures’.

The group then started their field work in the Puttalam region, focusing on displacement issues centred around Muslims who are not involved in the conflict itself, but who are often its victims. Dr Hasbullah (from the University of Peradeniya, Kandy) explained how internal displacement had taken place, mainly from the Jaffna peninsula to the south and from the

Students gathering data on a FORUT funded micro-credit project in Puttalam.

The final visit was to the historical city of Kandy, where Dr Shantha Hennayake (University of Peradeniya) gave a very informative lecture on the conflict in Sri Lanka and its impacts on sustainable development.

The PRDU group in Sri Lanka.
Adam first set foot on earth

Observations
After ten days the group returned to Colombo and, in seminar discussions, reflected on their observations and findings, from which the following extracts are taken:

“The war in Sri Lanka is sustainable because it is affordable in both financial and human terms, so there is no need for anyone to seek a political solution. The current government is content to fight a low intensity counter insurgency operation with aims of containing the terrorism and forcing the LTTE to the negotiating table. Financially the cost is roughly equal to the amount of foreign aid, and the country still enjoys a 4% growth rate.” (Ian Oliver)

“The most ‘socially excluded’ people we met were those living in line houses above a tea plantation near Matale. Although not as directly affected by the war as the others, they had very low levels of social capital, being geographically marginalised in the hills. Self-esteem and hope were so low that when new housing was built for them, they didn’t move from the houses they were sharing with 2, 3 or 4 other families – the new housing was no great improvement to their lives.” (Michael McKeen)

“The Government, where possible, is assisting villagers to return home under protection. Those we spoke to in Medawachchiya were in no doubt that, despite the risk from the war, they were less dependent, healthier and happier in that situation than in any IDP camp. IDPs make their own efforts to break out of dependency. One group reunited their families, at first in ad hoc accommodation, then in temporary shelters in an organised camp. They then replaced the shelters with durable housing and from their own resources built the community centre in which we met them. (Margaret Chard)

“The existence of welfare centres and distribution of dry food rations has created dependency on behalf of some IDPs. They still, after 9 years, view their situation as temporary and prefer to rely on food rations rather than getting financial help to build a house in a government resettlement area, where their food ration is cut six months after resettlement.” (Mônica Ribeiro)

“Why does dependency occur in Sri Lanka? One possible reason is that some international assistance disempowers local people and local capabilities. Another possible reason is attitudes. Attitudes can prolong dependency. In Sri Lanka there exists an uncertainty amongst the IDPs. This uncertainty results in people hesitating to undertake projects to better themselves and their community.” (Evan Hoffman)

“We were struck by the lack of dialogue at local and national level… we observed and sensed a huge gap between the decision-makers and the people. The pressure to stop the war from below needs to be increased. Closing that gap is essential for better government as well as improving the chance for peace. NGOs can play a vital bridging role here. Sri Lanka, despite 16 years of violence, is still an international blindspot: pressure to stop the war is not as intense as it could be. The IDPs we visited often said ‘please tell our story to the world’.” (Andy McElroy)

“The villagers we met all wanted peace, but feel they have no opportunities to participate in it. There needs to be international pressure to bring both sides together, or at least to facilitate contacts. At a lower level, where organisations could be involved, changes in education should be encouraged – most important is language learning, especially in the marginal areas and for the border regions of the north. (Nick Nobbs)

“Another aspect that has to be looked at in order to develop a sustainable peaceful society is the psychological welfare of the people. We heard a lot about the physical reconstruction of the country, but not about the psychological reconstruction. In most camps we visited there was depression. People did not see a way forward after spending many years in camps.” (Carol Westrik)

“The devolution of powers to lower governments in Uganda, where I come from, has promoted a kind of unity in diversity. Issues such as the land tenure system, the national language, and local government administration necessitate a revisiting of the constitution in Sri Lanka. Total reconciliation may also require legislation such as the enactment of a bill that gives a blanket amnesty to anyone giving up fighting against the government.” (Geoffrey Mugumya)

“There are similarities between the conflicts in my country, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Sri Lanka. Both wars have characteristics of ethno-nationalism and religion, an absence of trust, and large numbers of IDPs and refugees. In both countries the warring communities had lived in harmony for centuries, and the majority of people want peace. From my experience, three conditions were fulfilled before peace could take place: pressure from the international community; clear signals from the people to their politicians that they wanted peace; and compromise. Unfortunately, during our visit we have not seen any of these conditions in Sri Lanka. However, ordinary people on ‘opposite sides of the front line’ do maintain contact during the war, and there are reasons for optimism.” (Zilha Kapizasovic)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The students’ programme owed much to the help, expertise and friendship of local and expatriate staff at FORUT Sri Lanka, with special praise for the tireless work of their Programme Director Mohamed Marikkar, also a current MA student. The PRDU party was led by Dr Alp Özerdem, and augmented by Esther Charlesworth & Carol Westrik (PRDU DPhil candidates) & Hazel Parker (PRDU Administrator).

FORUT: Viranthi Ahamat; Mr de Silva; Sanam Fernande; K. Kugatunau; Kobirje Kulapatne; T.L. Makeen; Adam Poulter; Regina Ramalingam; S. Ramalingam; H.M. Somaratne; Dankert Vedeler; R.P. Wilkwardane; Depthi Lamahewa

Dr W. Gooneratne Director, RDSC; Dr Wilbert Gunawardena University of Colombo; Dr Shantha Hennayake, Dr Hasbullah University of Peradeniya; Mr T. Lankanesan Ministry of Rehabilitation; Dr Jehan Perera National Peace Council of Sri Lanka; Jeevan Thiyagarajah Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies; Mr Patrick Vanderbruene Humanitarian Advisor, UNDP; Mr Peter Witham Resident Representative, UNDP

A camp in Kalawewa, which has accommodated internally displaced persons from the North since 1990.
PRDU’s Masters programme in Post-war Recovery Studies provides a balance between academic work undertaken in York, and practical experience derived from a group Study Tour (this year to Sri Lanka – see pages 6 & 7) and individual work placements of 6–8 weeks. The placement gives students an opportunity to work for a host organisation of their choice, often in a country or field of work which is new to them. Whilst this is a learning experience for the students, it is a mutual contract whereby the host can benefit from the student’s contribution to their organisation. Upon their return to York, students are required to give a presentation of their placement experience, which forms an assessed part of the MA programme. The PRDU would like to express its sincere thanks to all of the hosts mentioned here, for their valuable support.

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<th>STUDENT</th>
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<td>Margaret CHARD</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>British Council</td>
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<td>Evan HOFFMAN</td>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>Volkswagen-Stiftung Psychology Program</td>
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<td>Zilha KAPISAZOVIC</td>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce of Canton Sarajevo</td>
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<td>Andrew McELROY</td>
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<td>Michael McKEAN</td>
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<td>Mohamed MARIKKAR</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Geoffrey MUGUMYA</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Nicholas NOBBS</td>
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<td>Ian OLIVER</td>
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<td>Mônica RIBEIRO</td>
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<td>Ehsan ZIA</td>
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<td>Conciliation Resources, London</td>
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Reviewing the reintegration of returnees to Guatemala

March came, and I was finally heading off to Guatemala for an eight-week placement with the UNHCR Office in Guatemala City. Before starting the MA, I had worked with CARITAS/UNHCR in the Integration Centre for the Refugees in Brazil, and now I would be working with the reintegration of returnees which sounded interesting, since the process concerns the reintegration of people into their country of origin after years in exile.

During my weeks in Guatemala I prepared the End of the Mission Report (UNHCR is closing its operations in the country after a 12-year presence), gave support on the preparation of a linkages report, monitored the implementation of a Reproductive Health Training Programme aimed at the capacitation of midwives from returnee communities, and undertook field trips to different returnee communities to monitor projects.

These communities, known as fincas, are formed by peasant returnees who organised themselves while in exile in Mexico, and who were able to negotiate the acquisition of land for agriculture. This enabled them to return during an on-going conflict, thus making them key players in the peace negotiations that led to the signature of the final Peace Accords, made between the Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) in December 1996, after a 36-year civil war. Despite the acquisition of land being a step forward, there are still some grey areas open to negotiation.

The placement was very good and extremely helpful for my dissertation, which will be a review of the policy of the reintegration of returnees, and an analysis of whether the main achievements have so far proved compatible with the theory.

It was an exciting experience going to Guatemala, a country I had previously known little about, and being given the opportunity to do some rewarding work in the company of warm people, in beautiful surroundings – in a country that is trying to get back on track.

Mônica Ribeiro (Brazil)
... structure, statistics and summaries

Studying trauma programmes in Bosnia

My area of research focuses on psycho-social and trauma programmes. All of the possible issues to consider were narrowed down during a pre-study which I conducted. I examined programmes according to the key principles of sustainability, accessibility, cultural sensitivity, gender sensitivity, and participation. These principles appeared to be the most important when studying trauma in a post-war context.

In order to study these principles first-hand, at the field level, I undertook a placement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The majority of my time was spent in the cantons of Mostar and Sarajevo where several psycho-social programmes were operating. It was ideal because many of the programmes differed from one another according to the schools of thought they followed, and therapy styles they practiced. This meant that many different ways of practicing sustainability and accessibility were being used.

I conducted interviews with programme managers and practitioners from ten local and international NGOs. I also had conversations with a psychiatrist, an academician of trauma, and a community health worker, and was able to observe a music-therapy session. All of these experiences and interactions were very rewarding both personally and academically.

The next step is to compile this information and analyse it, to derive principles in my dissertation. The analysis should lead to principles that are pragmatic, relevant, and general enough to be applicable to any trauma programme, anywhere in the world. Perhaps by applying these principles to their structure and design, future programmes can maximize their potential and thus be the most effective at providing psycho-social recovery and trauma therapy.

Evan Hoffman (Canada)

Environmental impact of refugees in northern Uganda

I spent my two-month work placement in Moyo, a small town in the West Nile region, northern Uganda, about four miles from the border with Sudan. Political turmoil, conflict, and cross-border movement have been commonplace in Moyo for decades. Currently there are some 40–50,000 Sudanese refugees in Moyo District, many of whom have been there since 1993.

My placement was with the District Planning Unit of Moyo District Local Government. I conducted research which focussed on the impact of refugees on the natural environment. Moyo has a rich and varied environment combining flat, fertile plains, heavily forested valleys, the Albert Nile and its rich wetlands, and high mountains that dominate the eastern skyline. The major environmental impacts caused by refugees are:

- Over-exploitation of natural vegetation and soils;
- Contamination of water, soil, and air.

In Moyo, these impacts are widespread and clearly visible. Deforestation has occurred at an alarming rate, with all seven of Moyo’s forest reserves affected by encroachment and settlement by refugees.

Several NGOs and the Moyo District Environment Office are involved in environmental protection and rehabilitation. The following have been introduced:

- Tree nurseries have been established within the refugee settlement, provoking the refugees with free tree seedlings for planting;
- Energy-saving stoves (that use less wood) have been distributed to the refugees;
- Fuel-saving kilns (that use less wood) to smoke fish;
- Establishment of an Refugee Environmental Protection Committee to monitor deforestation;
- Environmental education, delivered at workshops and refugee schools, encouraging good environmental practice.

The greatest environmental damage occurs during the emergency phase of a refugee crisis. In Moyo this phase has passed, and long-term environmental management solutions are now being sought. The success of such work often depends on the willingness and attitude of the refugees themselves to utilise natural resources in a sustainable manner, for it may be several years before peace in Sudan, and repatriation, is a possibility.

Michael McKean (United Kingdom)
BUILDINGS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE COVERED WITH THE GRAFFITI OF
mineclearance agencies, either with survey markings for
minefields, or with ‘ticks’ showing areas cleared. Agency
and clearance team numbers are to be seen everywhere,
boasting of who cleared what. There are also many signs
stating ‘drugs are against Islam’. It must be somewhat
frustrating to run a UN poppy eradication programme
trying to convince people that they can make a living
another way, when a UN imposed embargo helps prevent
any other way. They can perhaps always smuggle, fight, or
try to get a job clearing mines.

I spent my placement period looking at aspects of
mineclearance being carried out in the country and
comparing it with elsewhere, (specifically with the HALO
Trust). Of key significance is the completion, last December,
of the immense project clearing west Kabul after 3 years
of bitter inter-factional fighting in the early 1990s. All the
HALO and UN backed teams that have worked on it since
mid-1995 are now redeployed elsewhere. This is a huge area
where clearance was often measured in cubic, rather than
square, metres due to the need to fully check the rubble of
collapsed buildings. At the start, to anyone outside the
activity, this task looked never ending. But it is done, and the
teams have moved on; a classic example of enough resources,
and clearance team numbers are to be seen everywhere,
with a level of uncertainty about the future, working despite
and the USA, or all four. This interesting argument, which is
continuous civil war, between the Taliban and the Northern
Alliance (the internationally accepted legitimate government)
is a proxy war between either Pakistan and Iran, or Russia
and the USA, or all four. This interesting argument, which is
what we expect from the current rulers of Afghanistan are
apparent throughout the country: women in burkhas, men
arrested for having too short a beard, poppy plantations, the
gun culture. What generally isn’t shown to the west is the
rural reality, where women make do with a chador or shawl,
girls have no real education, tribal links are supreme, and
subsistence farming is the main form of livelihood.

It is generally believed within the country that the
continuing conflict, believing that aid simply makes the Taliban
more open, more respectful of human rights, more peaceful. I reminded him he was still young, and asked
why he didn’t work for the Afghanistan he wanted. He
claimed that life was too short, and it was easier for him just
to go and live in Pakistan, like so many of his fellow Afghans.

I am in no position to judge this response, only to lament
the results: an almost complete deracination of the people
with the highest capacity to create positive change in the
country. Once the Afghans leave, they find themselves behind
yet another mud wall; one that colours perceptions of their
homeland, of the conflict that continues, and of the future.
The vocal Afghan diaspora in North America lobbies against
any development assistance for Afghanistan under the
present regime, believing that aid simply makes the Taliban
stronger. The Taliban see any aid as a form of western
cultural imperialism, believing that God will provide.

Development continues in an ad hoc fashion. Land mines
continue to be cleared, water supplied and crops supported. It
is a dangerous environment for those seeking to effect change,
with a level of uncertainty about the future, working despite
UN sanctions, against pervasive poverty and economic
distortion. But the risks are worth taking, for the hope exists
that in time doors will open through the mud walls, and the
distortions will be destroyed.
Professional Development Training in Post-war Recovery Studies at the PRDU, 2000–2001

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For further information please contact us using the details on the front cover of revival.

Western media condemned

Andy McElroy (MA candidate) represented the PRDU at a recent conference on the role of the media in incipient conflicts. In his MA dissertation, Andy analyses Western media behaviour and news selection agendas to discover why international issues, specifically development stories, are afforded less and less coverage.

That most cherished of all journalistic ethics – objectivity – is under siege like never before. So long the cornerstone of the profession, the big ‘O’ is now regarded by many as a myth which obscures the subjectivities of all reporters.

The essence of this debate was seized upon at the Conflict, Peace Forum conference – a roundtable of top media professionals and academics, held at Taplow Court, Berkshire, in March – with delegates saying it lay at the very heart of the crisis in journalism. This crisis has been prompted by a series of major changes in journalism, such as the concentration of media ownership, the increasing sophistication of news management techniques and commercialisation of the media.

Maja Petreusjevska (BBC World Service) spoke of her sadness at the behaviour of Western reporters covering the Kosovan refugee crisis in Macedonia last year. “Kosovo broke my dream – before that I had this illusion that journalism is a fair and good job. I was like a student who has their ideals and then grows up in the real world to find them shattered ... It was disgusting – like a mocking circus ... inexperienced reporters were sent and they saw the Kosovo crisis as a chance to make their name” she said. Serbian academic Denis Kostovicova agreed, adding that Western journalists covering Kosovo were often guilty of applying the same assumptions they had used in Bosnia to the conflict.

Elena Chernyavskaya, a project manager at the Dusseldorf-based European Institute of the Media, gave a worrying insight into the multi-million dollar media aid industry – funded by the West. “Media aid is big business and there is an enormous emotional impetus behind it of protecting the messenger and preserving the so-called gatekeepers of democracy,” she said. “But the result is that it is creating big, financially unaccountable organisations”.

Deputy director of Oxfam’s international division Nick Stockton bemoaned the day the first journalist walked through the doors of an NGO to be employed as a press officer, saying their presence is often “absolutely counter-productive – spin is the greatest enemy to what we are trying to do ... I am at times profoundly embarrassed and deeply angered by the way my organisation raises its money.”

Despite the overall gloomy tone of discussions, there were voices of optimism that the media was a positive force for change. David Rowan, editor of The Guardian’s internet site, said the Web made access to information potentially far more democratic. “The barriers to purvey information are fewer: you don’t need a printing press or distribution network, and the ability to block communication is reduced,” he said.

Sky reporter Jake Lynch called for a journalism that would reconnect the news with its reader/viewer/listener; a journalism that is evocative, treating those on the receiving end not as passive consumers but as individuals who could become active and involved in the issues presented – the reconstruction in post-war societies, for instance. If the media embraced such a challenge it would move beyond the current divisive debate over objectivity and again become respected, and more importantly, relevant to the world it reports.

To order, contact Hazel Parker at the PRDU PRDU Publications


The author studies the philosophy & practice of NGO institutional development, making practical recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. A theoretical understanding of the concept of NGO institutional & organisational development is developed.

From Rhetoric to Reality

The role of aid in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan
Edited by Haneef Atmar, Sultan Barakat & Arne Strand (1998; 100pp [illustrated]; £20.00; ISBN 0 904761 66 5)

Practitioners, policy makers and donors discuss the challenges of the current operating environment in Afghanistan and develop initiatives which could enhance local capacities for peace. This report sets out specific challenges, recommendations and commitments.

Urban Triumph or Urban Disaster? dilemmas of contemporary post-war reconstruction Workshop Report
Sultan Barakat, Jon Calame & Esther Charlesworth (1998; MIT/PRDU, University of York; 152pp [illustrated]; £20.00; ISBN 0 904761 64 9)

Who benefits from rebuilding programmes; why does foreign aid so often get lost in the bureaucratic labyrinth; can the comparison of different cities’ experiences be useful?

Water under Fire Workshop Report
Alp Ozerdem and Sultan Barakat (1997, 59pp [illustrated]; £13.00; ISBN 0 904761 63 0)
Explores and identifies the main components of post-war reconstruction of water supplies, and thereby reaches conclusions that could form a basis for guidelines regarding future interventions. Six keynote papers together with an introduction by the authors and a list of recommendations.

The Revitalisation of the Historic Settlement Počitelj
Sultan Barakat & Craig Wilson. PRDU publication in accordance with the World Monument Fund and the Kress Foundation. (1997, 104pp [illustrated]; £20.00, ISBN 0 904761 62 2)

Complete research & survey of the war-damaged settlement, with findings and proposals for future action. The research method provides invaluable insight to NGOs and academics working in the field of cultural heritage restoration/reconstruction.
MA facts at a glance

The following graphs show various facts and figures relating to the intake of 51 students (30 male, 21 female) during the first four years of the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies since its launch in 1996.

Where are they now?

Tatjana Zulevic – PRDU MA Graduate 1998/99 and Altajir Scholar – reports on her current work as Program Logistcian with the International Medical Corps in East Timor.

IMC’s health programme in Oecusse (in the Ambeno District of East Timor) aims to decrease mortality of the population by increasing their access to primary healthcare and by improving the capacity of local health counterparts to provide effective healthcare. This capacity is being upgraded through training, education, and the provision of essential medical supplies.

Physical improvements are being made to the Oecusse Hospital, and rural health centres and health posts in the enclave, with IMC’s reconstruction project. All rehabilitation projects are coordinated with local and national health authorities, as well as the United Nations Transition Authorities in East Timor (UNTAET).

I am responsible for the overall in-country management and distribution of all equipment and supplies required by the projects. As a member of IMC Management team – together with the Program Director, Medical Coordinator and Finance/Administration Officer – I am also responsible for overall programme planning for IMC’s operational activities in East Timor.

My most essential tasks are to: coordinate with the Site Managers for ordering necessary supplies; coordinate the transport of all supplies and equipment to and from sites; receive all goods delivered to assure they are received in the correct quantity and in good condition. I am also responsible for the management of the fleet, the internal and external communications network, the security system, and the supervision of the Logistics staff and Program Site Manager in Oecusse.

Even though the working conditions have been quite hard, with long working hours 7 days a week in a very basic environment, the experience has been enormous. Progress is slow which is leading to various frustrations amongst the population. Access is very bad, and many places are only reachable by helicopter. We are faced with many obstacles, but the challenge has therefore been greater.