Altajir Trust grant to support PRDU

The Altajir World of Islam Trust has awarded the University of York a grant over a four-year period to support the establishment of a new lectureship in Post-war Recovery Studies, with effect from October 2001. The award aims to facilitate the further development of the PRDU’s international reputation for research and teaching, and follows the recent vote of confidence the University of York has placed in the Unit by attaching it to the Department of Politics.

The Trust’s Director, Alistair Duncan, says: “We admire the way in which the PRDU has managed to uphold its academic integrity while at the same time expanding its global network. We are particularly impressed and encouraged by the way the University of York has allowed expression to be given to this innovative and practical side of the rebuilding of war-torn societies, which could otherwise have easily remained in the realm of theory and dogma.

“The highly applied research work which has evolved out of York has demonstrated a particular breadth of vision which readily echoes the work of the Altajir World of Islam Trust in breaking down barriers of ignorance between Islamic and other cultures and civilisations, through inter-faith collaboration and understanding of practical humanitarian issues.

“The same practical qualities are reflected in the PRDU’s teaching programme, which has encouraged us over the last three years to support a number of scholars of the right calibre and motivation from various war-torn countries. We believe that such individuals, when equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, will play an important role in forging more tolerant and better informed civil relationships around the globe. Some have already started to make their mark.”
UN Day marks merger

Every year the PRDU celebrates United Nations Day on 24th October – the day on which the United Nations Charter was ratified. It has become a special day for us as it coincides with the beginning of the academic year, offering us the opportunity to formally welcome our new intake of students – both Masters and Doctorate – and introduce them to our network of friends and contacts. This year the occasion was particularly special as it marked our merger with the Department of Politics, which has significantly enhanced our ability and status as a teaching and research unit.

We have also established the tradition of inviting a distinguished speaker on UN day to share their knowledge and expertise, and this year we were privileged to have with us Larry Hollingworth MBE CBE D. Univ., currently the Project Director of the International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance, offered jointly by the City University of New York, the University of Geneva and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Larry’s work in Humanitarian Aid has coincided with the world in a state of flux. The end of the Cold War brought great uncertainty and upheaval, with the break up of states, the mass movement of people and an increase in human misery.

Characterised as ‘complex humanitarian emergencies’, the new situation demanded complex responses. But the international community and many of its specialist agencies were ill-equipped, both conceptually and technically, to deal with the new problems. Addressing the audience in captivating style, Larry highlighted milestones of the last 10 years, many of which were serious mistakes he feels we must learn from.

It was belt and braces stuff. There was no rule book – for them or the local population. During his time in Sarajevo he was viewed as ‘an expert’ simply because he was an outsider and represented the UN. Yet he had no experience of feeding a besieged city via airlifts. A surprising amount of bluff was required to instil confidence in communities that were under threat.

He also stressed the importance of the international community following through on its promises. He illustrated this with experiences from Georgia and the former Yugoslavia, where unfulfilled promises of safety had dire consequences.

He was generous in his praise for NGOs who were able to show greater flexibility and imagination than the UN in their responses to emergencies. He used the example of a small independent relief agency instituting daily body collections from a vast disease-ravaged refugee camp (Goma) on the Rwandan/Tanzania border. The initiative had a practical benefit but was also important in allowing grieving families dignity for their loved ones.

Despite the seriousness of the topic, the talk was laced with humour and self-deprecation. For example, his main advice to would-be negotiators was to smile, based on the understanding that people were less likely to attack you if you were grinning.

When the first issue of revival was published, in July 1994, the PRDU was in its early stages of development. We awaited the response with great enthusiasm. Response there was, and positive, but in fact it took a few issues before revival made a truly significant impact on the Unit. During this time its network was growing organically; you can’t rush these things.

The same organic growth is now apparent in our MA community. Not only has our student intake doubled this year (made possible by the extra resources of the Department of Politics), but many of our graduates are now in a position to further support our work. And the knowledge that they have gained and shared during their training here will gradually be filtering through the world of humanitarian aid.

Perfect score for Politics

The Department of Politics at the University of York has scored 24 out of 24 in its official Subject Review (a measure of the quality of teaching) which was carried out in November. This continues the University’s superb record in teaching quality,” said Head of Department, Dr Mark Evans.

Students, staff and guests at the United Nations Day celebrations.
The lure of crisis for the media

Those in search of understanding of the developing world are unlikely to find it from their television news or daily paper. The PRDU’s annual Media Day generated a broad and lively discussion on the issue. Andy McElroy, former PRDU student and now part of the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent communications department reports.

Look to the media for in-depth news from the developing world and you are likely to be disappointed. A lack of explanatory journalism from the South is a distinct trend in behaviour of the media, which despite its plurality often acts in remarkable uniformity. The few items that do make the news agenda tend to focus on ‘sensational’ events, that often involve disaster or violence. Processes are sidelined and as a result there is little explanation. Such a focus tends to decontextualise the situation and forms the impression that one of the essential features of developing countries is chaos and violence. Counter processes such as grassroots peacebuilding and post-war reconstruction are not considered to be newsworthy.

The challenge for PRDU students to make their prospective work newsworthy is clear. All too often at the moment, their activity holds no interest for the Western media unless Westerners themselves are involved on the ground (peacekeepers in Kosovo, for instance). And once Westerners do become ‘the story’ many of the important messages from the local community tend to be obscured. The dearth of coverage – in terms of quality and quantity – from the developing world is part of a general decline in international news coverage, due to the belief that ‘local, local, local’ sells – somewhat of a paradox in a ‘globalised society’.

Amanda Williamson, a senior press officer at the ICRC with years of experience from the Balkans for the past six years, described how the ICRC regarded the media as a necessary but insufficient part of its communications and advocacy strategy. In an excellent address she also told of how it is almost impossible to maintain control of your message once an organisation uses the media as a filter, describing how the ICRC sometimes has to sacrifice media coverage and exposure in the interests of operational objectives. “These are always the priority,” she said. “Any communication strategy has to be complementary to what we are trying to achieve in the field. That means that sometimes seeking headlines has to be shunned.” She did, however, acknowledge that the ICRC was not subject to the same fundraising pressures as NGOs, for instance, which are often driven to seek media coverage for fundraising purposes even if the message that emerges is not complementary to what they are trying to achieve in the field.

Field Study to Croatia

In December 2000, PRDU’s staff and students will undertake their annual Field Study, this year to Croatia, led by Dr Sultan Barakat, Dr Roger MacGinty and Dr Peter Halls. The PRDU has worked with Croatian colleagues since early 1992 and several of the students have been employed there.

The war in Croatia affected the border regions with Serbia (along the Danube) and Bosnia-Hercegovina (along the Sava and in the coastal region of Dalmatia). Substantial areas were occupied, causing widespread destruction, land mine deployment, and considerable displacement of people. This displacement destroyed many formerly mixed cultural communities and created concentrations of people with specific cultural backgrounds.

Considerable progress has been made in clearance of land mines and ordinance, and in the reconstruction of housing and industry. Communities remain somewhat divided with consequential difficulties in enabling people’s return home. A significant proportion of displaced people have chosen permanent relocation to Zagreb, Croatia’s capital. Due to the period of occupation, particularly in Eastern Slavonia around Osijek and Vukovar, much agricultural land has remained fallow for nearly eight years.

The group of staff and Masters students will meet with government Ministers and representatives, agencies and academics throughout the country, visiting projects and experiencing first-hand the reconstruction and recovery activities. A full account of the Field Study will be published in the next edition of revival.

Women, War and Peacebuilding

“Most approaches to peacebuilding have either ignored or marginalised issues of gender and women. Women consistently remain a minority of participants in peacebuilding projects; they receive less attention than men in peacebuilding policies; and gender analysis rarely informs peacebuilding strategies. This is despite the many United Nations and European Commission resolutions which, for more than a decade, have criticised such marginalisation and called for gender issues and women’s needs to be given more serious attention in all policies relating to conflict and peace.”

Donna Pankhurst
(Mainstreaming Gender in Peacebuilding: A Framework for Action – International Alert publications)

Conference Announcement

As part of the international campaign Women Building Peace, the PRDU, in association with International Alert, is organising a two-day conference, to be held at the University of York on 1st and 2nd February 2001, to further develop these issues.

Those interested in attending are most welcome – particularly academics and practitioners from across the North of England.

Please contact Hazel Parker at the PRDU for further details.
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. 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. One objective was to undertake a study of the programme, with specific reference to the current and future role of the SRCS as the main health service provider in Puntland. Below is a report of Phase I of the study, following the pre-study mission (reported in revivial issue 13). To understand the context in which health services are provided in Puntland today, further knowledge is needed in a number of areas. Firstly, who are the users, how do they live, and where? Secondly, there is a need for a more in-depth analysis to support the assertion that communities are ready, willing and able to participate in the management, running and upkeep of the clinics. Thirdly, any cost recovery system which involves community contribution needs to be based on a clear understanding of who can contribute what and for which services, which implies a detailed profile of the communities and their inhabitants. However, given that no census has been conducted for over a decade and that very little reliable data is available on the demographic, socio-economic or health conditions of the population, or their coping mechanisms, it is clear that a base-line survey would need to be conducted to ensure the validity of any conclusions drawn from the Study.

Phase I of the Study (22 July–9 August) was carried out by Dr Sultan Barakat (Team Leader), Sean Deely (Project Manager, Disaster Policy Department, Geneva), Dr. Ahmed M. Hassan (President SRCS) and Simon Weatherbed (Research Assistant, University of York). The team spent 15 Days in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia and a further four days in Nairobi.

One of the main objectives was to conduct a one-week training workshop on research and data gathering methods for SRCS Staff and community representatives involved in the Study. Dr Barakat and Dr Hassan facilitated the workshop, which brought together, for the first time, SRCS clinic staff and representatives of the Community Health Committees from the 12 SRCS clinic constituencies, SRCS senior management and Branch Staff, and a number of observers.

Training was based on material prepared by the PRDU, and used a participatory learning approach, building on participants’ knowledge and experience. Participants worked in small groups representing their constituencies (each group had at least one clinic staff, one Elder representing constituencies (each group had at least one clinic staff, one Elder representing the respective Community Health Committee, and one observer). A draft household survey questionnaire was translated into Somali and introduced to the participants following the successful completion of the training. They then tested it in four locations in the Garowe area, and the questionnaire was further refined. By the end of the workshop the questionnaire was finalised around five main question clusters analysing basic household data, community participation, household income data, profile of available health facilities and the impact of cost recovery on the communities.

Finally the participants agreed on an action plan for the conduct, collection and collation of the data in accordance with the parameters of the overall study time frame. The main outcome of the workshop has been the facilitation of capacity development of the SRCS clinic staff and community representatives in the principles, tools and methods for planning a social survey in post-war circumstances where little or questionable data exists. The degree of knowledge-sharing within the workshop was impressive and resulted in the development of key research concepts and the sampling framework by the participants themselves. Such participation from clinic and community members in the process of the study will add significant value to the research and the findings generated.

Evaluation of Humanitarian Mine Action

The Swedish Government, the world’s third largest donor of Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) projects, has decided to evaluate the impact and effect of their assistance worldwide, from the early 1990s to the present day. Included is a review of the relevance of the operation, its effect on target groups and beneficiaries, coordination and integration with other rehabilitation projects, cost-effectiveness and efficiency, as well as sustainability. An important part of the assignment was a review of the advantages and disadvantages of different implementing channels – such as national armies, NGOs, UN agencies and commercial companies – and how well the UN structure is able to handle and coordinate HMA activities at an international level.

The International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), one of the agencies implementing the evaluation, invited the PRDU to provide resources to the
Peacebuilding is a long-term task whose success depends on the holistic, integrated implementation of various post-war recovery programmes. Within this framework, the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants has great significance for the establishment of peace. A grant from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has initiated a one-year research programme at the PRDU which aims to assess the initial impacts of the international community’s strategy for the integration of KLA combatants into the reconstruction process of Kosovo since the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 in June 1999. Research will be conducted by Dr Sultan Barakat and Dr Alp Özerdem.

Since July 1999, IOM (International Organisation for Migration) has undertaken the implementation of the Information Counselling and Referral Service (ICRS) which aims to provide support mechanisms for demilitarised former KLA combatants in their return to post-conflict society. This overall aim includes the following activities: facilitation of access to timely, accurate and unbiased information on reintegration opportunities; assisting in the establishment of small business enterprises; training and referral to employment opportunities.

The initial estimate of KLA combatants was 8–10,000. However, by November 1999 the number of registered combatants was more than 25,000. After examination of the caseload, 16,229 were expected to require social and economic reintegration support through the Reintegration Fund (RF) of the ICRS. As funding for the programme was based on the initial estimates, the project per capita costs have been reduced. The adverse implications of this are partly alleviated through collaboration with other organisations that are able to offer financial, technical and material support.

The findings of the IOM/ICRS Socio-Economic Demographic Survey indicate that the caseload is predominantly male (96.67%), young (88% under the age of 39), and well educated (only 24.52% have less than high school education). It is estimated that the 25,723 registered combatants support more than 200,000 dependents (around 10% of the total Kosovo population). For the majority of combatants, the affiliation period with the KLA was relatively short compared with other demobilisation and reintegration processes in countries such as Mozambique, Angola and El Salvador. In terms of future employment, 32% wanted a military-related job, such as armed forces and police. Almost half of the respondents would welcome training in order to successfully reintegrate into civilian life. Therefore ICRS support has largely been in the form of self-employment grants, vocational training, and psycho-social and educational support.

Some combatants were also supported through the Service Referral (SR) component of the programme, including a 12-month training programme for the Kosovo Protection Corps. The KPCs future role is envisaged by the international community to be in terms of a civilian, un-uniformed, multi-ethnic corps aimed at providing assistance in rebuilding the infrastructure and community of Kosovo, responding to disasters affecting the population and territory of Kosovo, conducting search and rescue operations, and providing assistance to UNMIK and KFOR when required. The KPC training programme, initiated in February 2000 and funded by the US Government, was designed to train 5,052 selected members, 2,000 of whom will be reservists. It includes courses in Medical First Aid & Rescue, Civics & Human Rights, Emergency Operations, Resource Management and Finance Management. The issue of the 2,000 reservists remains contentious, the fear being that, unless they have access to alternative employment opportunities, they could pose a serious risk to security in the province.
Frances ALESI
Uganda
(Altajir Scholar)
Background in Business Administration before working with refugees

After graduating, I started my career in humanitarian work with Aktion Afrika Hilfe e.V (a German NGO) in Moyo, Uganda, as Community & Gender Mobiliser. My responsibilities included: mobilising the refugees and nationals to increase their awareness of economic, social, and physical elements of poverty affecting their local development efforts, by analysing problems/needs and deciding on appropriate participatory actions; helping them realise their own potential capabilities, to mobilise their physical, financial and human resources toward self-reliant development, with a focus on greater involvement of women.

Basel ALMISSHAL
Palestine
Background in architecture

Conflict has been a feature of my life. I was born in the Al-shati refugee camp in Gaza Strip. In the wake of the 1948 war, my family was forced to leave their village and seek refuge in the temporary, then permanent, camp. It was disconcerting to see my people continuing to live in extreme poverty. I was studying Architecture when the Palestinian Authority assumed power in the mid 1990s. As a Palestinian architect, I began to ask: What part could I play in the current process of reconstruction? What role can architecture play to revive post-conflict communities? How can architecture be integrated into a comprehensive vision for reconstruction?

Mary AMBEAULT
Canada
Background in Adult Education and group processes

I have worked with communities, police forces, First Nations, colleges and universities, youth entrepreneurs, young offenders and human resource departments, developing and delivering training tailored to their needs, primarily in the areas of communication, business skills, and conflict resolution. I am on the external staff at the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Centre where I facilitate a two week course on negotiation to domestic and foreign military, diplomats, humanitarians and civilians.

Richard BROWN
UK
Civil Engineer with military and civilian experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo

After 25 years in the UK rail industry, and extensive experience in the UK’s reserve forces, I took a role as a military civil affairs officer based in Sarajevo (1997-98). I was responsible for initiating several major infrastructure, industrial and environmental projects and also worked very closely with the various rail authorities in BiH. I worked alongside BHHR (B-H Heritage Rescue) to reestablish a modernised Sarajevo Zoo, a project with which I am still involved. In 1999, I was appointed by UNMIK as General Manager of ‘Railways of Kosovo’ with the aim of rebuilding the rail system (in every sense). This has been one of the toughest assignments in my career to date, but by mid-2000 we had a working system with a reasonably efficient workforce.

Saman DE SILVA
Sri Lanka
Background in architecture and conservation

I joined the UNESCO-Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle project in 1992 after graduating from the University of Moratuwa. I was one of the architects involved in the recovery activities after the bombing of the temple of the Sacred Tooth Relics in Kandy. Having worked with various multi-disciplinary professionals, I recognise the need for special training to carry out such recoveries. I think current developments in Sri Lanka favour a political settlement in the near future, leading to the need for rehabilitation work. Conservation architects will play a major role in preserving Sri Lanka’s numerous ancient and colonial sites for the uplifting of cultural, social and economic aspirations of the people who have experienced two decades of war.

Dr Monika ERÖS-SARNYAI
USA/Yugoslavia
Background in Medicine

I was born and grew up as an Ethnic Hungarian in Vojvodina, Yugoslavia. I studied medicine in Hungary and later joined the Medical Ethics Department, where I participated in an international study on the effects of social stress on...
mental health. I have lived in the US for the past 9 years, doing clinical research into alcohol and drug abuse, and cancer. Through my work I have become aware of the importance of the relationship between health, social environment and human rights. Witnessing the war in my home country was a key factor in my joining this MA. I am interested in developing effective interactions between aid/refugee organisations, displaced people and ordinary citizens living around them.

Guido GALLI
Italy
Academic background in Political Science and International Relations

I have experience and expertise in: needs assessment and training with NGOs in the field of Development Cooperation in Latin America; Electoral Monitoring in Mexico; the Guatemalan peace-process, as Political Affairs Officer within the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala; Human Rights monitoring & promotion; demobilisation /reintegration of former combatants; resettlement of uprooted people; institutional strengthening; local capacity building with community-based organisations (women, Mayans, local authorities); staff management in areas affected by war & natural disaster.

Joy Kyra
GEBRE-MEDHIN
Netherlands
Background in humanitarian issues

Growing up in France, close to the international environment that is Geneva, I developed a great interest in the humanitarian field. I undertook a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and in Communication at the University of Montreal (Canada). At the same time I undertook two internships: first within the NGOs Liaison Office of the UN Office in Geneva, where I wrote detailed reports in English and French; then, with the Psycho-Social and Mental Health Department of the International Organisation for Migrations, where I created a database of articles which examined mental health issues, summarised psychological literature and created a glossary of terms used in IOM documents.

Sarah HOLT
UK
Background in Human Geography

I graduated in 1999 with a BA in Human Geography. During my final year I spent a month on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat, where I studied the impact of the volcanic crisis on forced migration, population ageing and re-development. I recently experienced reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in the post-conflict area of Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina, as a volunteer with United Methodist Committee on Relief. I found that the recovery processes following large-scale environmental disasters and war are similar, and this brought about my interest in the MA at the PRDU.

Christopher JACOBS
UK
Background in the military

Following a Politics degree at York I have served in the British Army in a number of roles and undertaken tours with UNFICYP, UNPROFOR and SFOR, each of which included humanitarian work. As my interest in humanitarian and development issues broadened, I initially studied for a Postgraduate Diploma in Development Management with the Open University.

Mark KNIGHT
UK
Military background before working in the field of humanitarian intervention and emergency planning

I served with the British Army for five years. On leaving, I studied for a BA Honours degree in International Disaster Engineering and Management. My first experience of emergency interventions was in Sierra Leone in 1998, as part of a management team running a Disarmament and Demobilisation Centre. In early 1999 I joined a childrens’ NGO working in Kukes, Albania, gaining invaluable experience with refugees in a volatile environment. I then returned to Sierra Leone, before a resumption of hostilities necessitated the team’s withdrawal. I returned to Albania with the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Election Observation team, whose main task was to monitor Local Government Elections.

Robert LUKOCZKI
UK
Background in Development Studies and logistical support

Following 10 years as a logistician for a variety of UK haulage firms, and as a fundraiser, I began studying in the field of development. After graduating with an MA in Third World Project Planning in 1999, I undertook an environmental workcamp to China, promoting issues of desertification and cross-cultural youth awareness. Since then, I have worked in Albania and Kosovo as a social project volunteer, helping to organise community activities such as sports events, a Children’s Rights Day and Aid distributions.

Georgina McALLISTER
UK
Background in Humanitarian Aid

I worked for War Child from 1992–94, first as Bosnia Liaison in London, then as Field Representative, based in East Mostar, responsible for bread production/distribution, and R&D. In 1995 I worked in New Zealand for Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) as coordinator for projects in Asia and the Pacific. As a mature student (1996–99) I embarked on study in peace studies at Bradford, focusing on political models enabling transition from conflict to peace, with particular interest in identity and the state. As part of my research, I travelled to Lebanon in 1997, where I also worked with the SCF-UK programme in Ein el-Helweh refugee camp, Saida, teaching English.
always felt an urge to search for a more
various architectural projects. I have
Since graduation I have worked on
shaping the physical built environment.
impact of socio-cultural aspects in
great interest in understanding the
My undergraduate research
at combating desertification.
DERU (Desert Ecological Research Unit
research assistant for an NGO called
where I also worked as a volunteer
taught in Scotland, Greece and Namibia,
interests in refugee issues and changing
broadened and intensified my existing
Seekers in London. The experience has
teaching English to refugees and asylum
skills to adequately and appropriately
senior managers will require unique
As man-made disasters become
increasingly complex, relief workers and
senior managers will require unique
My academic background lies in
Economics and Linguistics. During my
career in adult education I have worked
in Greece, Indonesia and the UAE. In
Jakarta I worked with a World Bank
funded programme at the Ministry of
Finance; and in Abu Dhabi with The
Higher Colleges of Technology. The last
10 years specialised in delivering
technical literacy and language
competence programmes to the oil and
gas industry, the military and local and
national government. During this time I
have also volunteered on a number of
refugee education programs and it is
this work which developed my interest
in humanitarian issues.
My career development has led me
to working with needy communities
around the world – in private, public
and charity sectors. I got involved at
senior management level with the
humanitarian world over two years ago,
designing and implementing relief and
development projects in Africa, Asia
and Europe. At various stages I have
been faced with addressing the needs of
people affected by floods, earthquakes,
famines and conflict at the grassroots
level. The numerous complex issues
facing post war communities trying to
rebuid their lives provided some of my
most challenging work, and the need for
qualified, professional specialists in this
area is all too apparent to me.
Angola and the Great Lakes Region. I worked closely with logistics departments, other UN agencies, and international and local NGOs. My years working in the emergency office have taught me that no single formula or model can solve all the demands of complex emergencies. We can only rely on skills acquired to respond effectively, making sound and informed decisions.

A career army officer with the Jamaica Defence Force since 1974, I was the Commanding Officer of a Service (Logistics) Battalion before coming to York. At all levels of command I have been intimately involved in internal security operations in aid of the Civil Powers. Primarily, these operations are aimed at restoring law and order in politically polarized inner-city communities. I have also worked in post-disaster relief and recovery. I am a graduate of the Lester B Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Centre, and have participated in a multi-national peacekeeping operation in Grenada.

After graduating in Politics from York University, I worked in Personnel and Health Services Management in Great Britain. Since 1987 I have been working overseas for a Christian international development agency, seconded to personnel management and leadership positions for different organisations in south and central Asia. This included three years in Afghanistan as Personnel Director of the IAM (International Assistance Mission), during a period of chronic instability and intensive civil war. Although Kabul-based, my work entailed extensive travel to the different regional centres around the country where the IAM was working in the fields of Health, Education, Rehabilitation and Economic Development.

As an undergraduate I studied BA Econ (Hons), and whilst I gained a general background in Economics and Social Anthropology, I finally specialised in Politics. Of particular interest was the area of ethics and human rights in international politics, and my final year dissertation, The State Use of Torture, coincided with this interest. Since graduating in June 1999 I have spent the past year teaching English both in the U.K. and abroad. During my time here at York I hope to gain a deeper understanding of recovery issues, but more specifically I hope to gain the practical skills and experience required in the field of humanitarian assistance.

I joined the UN in New York in 1993 where I worked for the Office of Conference Services and the Department for Public Information. I then spent 18 months in Croatia with the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia, and nine months with the United Nations Special Mission for Afghanistan, based in Islamabad. In January 99 I was seconded by the UK Foreign Office to the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. I also served with the subsequent OSCE Mission in Kosovo as part of UNMIK. The bulk of my mission experience has been in protocol, visitor support and mission administration.

I have just completed my Bachelor of International Relations and Law at the University of Kobe, Japan, which included spending a year in Australia examining the reason why peacekeeping operations failed in Yugoslavia. Since then I have had the opportunity to work at the Tokyo branch of the United Nations Information Centre. This year I toured through Vietnam and Cambodia seeing for myself the results so far of the post-war recovery activities. I now want to analyse in more depth the process of solving conflict, focusing on peacekeeping operations.

After my graduation as an architect from Birzeit University in 1998, I worked with UNESCO on a 10 month project entitled Establishment of Norms and Standards for School Buildings in Palestine which resulted in the publication of the first handbook of its kind in Palestine, with national Palestinian standards. After that I joined the architectural department in Birzeit University as a teaching assistant. I intend to research the role of architecture, using Palestine as an example, and study the reconstruction of war-torn cities focusing on Jerusalem – a city exposed to so many challenges.
New doctoral research at the PRDU

Assessing the impact of capacity building programmes

Having worked in Mozambique during the civil war in the 1980s and in the post-war period in the 1990s in a number of different capacity building, staff training and institutional development programmes, last year I took time to reflect and put this experience in context by studying at the PRDU. This gave me the opportunity to focus on a question that I have frequently asked and never had satisfactorily answered: “Are capacity building and institutional development interventions for the recovery of social institutions in post-war societies making a significant contribution to sustainable peaceful development and good governance as claimed?”

Many programmes are funded and promoted on this basis, but their impact on longer-term development has never been systematically assessed, nor is there any agreed method for doing so. My first task will be to develop a reliable methodology for such an assessment, before using it to determine whether these programmes achieve the desired outcomes of those that fund and promote them, or of those who receive the assistance.

Margaret Chard

Improving humanitarian intervention

The aim of the DPhil is to provide a more effective strategy for humanitarian intervention in states where sovereignty is contested. In particular, the research focuses on assisting the return of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) to their original settlements based on field-research in some of the provinces experiencing conflict in Indonesia. Universal principles surrounding IDPs, based on a comparative analysis of secondary sources, will be established. This is necessary in order to critique present definitions of IDPs and to formulate future legal provisions, which would ultimately grant a special category status to IDPs.

Furthermore, the field-research will promote the importance of a ‘needs based’ approach to solving the IDP crisis. Policy recommendations must be inherently ‘culture sensitive’ and take into consideration regional dynamics. Interviews with politicians, NGOs, and IDPs in provinces within Indonesia will provide insightful considerations for future policy development.

My overall ambition is to improve upon existing international policies and strategies used by third-parties when intervening on behalf of IDPs.

David Connelly
Awarded a Derwent College Scholarship to study at York

Stabilisation and Development Strategies within the Great Lakes

Main research areas are resettlement/repatriation strategies and micro level capacity building methods for the Great Lakes region of Africa. This focus cannot be viewed without extensive research into poverty reduction programmes and the role of the international community. The great instability that characterises the area necessitates research into stabilisation and development (S&I) strategies. These policies will enable people to benefit from some form of mitigation from the effects of conflict.

My research will centre around the following objectives: identification of pre-conflict catalysts for Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC, with particular attention being paid to the role of structural adjustment; selection of key resettlement programmes in order to study the effectiveness of community level policies for creating the stable environment so crucial to repatriation; research into effective poverty reduction programmes that take into consideration the human element of development; investigation into the role of the international community, which is vital to any stabilisation and development within the region.

Richard Jones

Capacities/vulnerabilities of Palestinian refugees living in camps in Lebanon

Despite poor living conditions, restrictions on their basic human rights and their right to work, the Palestinians living in refugee camps in Lebanon continue to survive. The purpose of my research is to identify what methods the Palestinians have developed to enable them to cope in this environment, and whether these coping mechanisms can be enhanced by incorporating them into UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) and NGO development programmes.

To identify the coping mechanisms I’m using capacities and vulnerabilities analysis, because it helps to highlight any obstacles preventing a community from exploiting its strengths fully. Once identified, appropriate development programmes can be designed that aim to remove or reduce these obstacles in addition to building on existing capacities.

Rebecca Roberts
Partially funded by scholarship from the Department of Politics, University of York. Fieldwork funded by Shamal, Palestinian Daapora and Refugee Centre, Jerusalem and the Institute of Palestine Studies, Beirut. Research conducted in coordination with UNRWA.

The Management of Peace Processes

In recent years, the resolution of violent conflicts has undergone significant change. The UN dominated interventions of the late 1980s and early 1990s have been replaced by a new form of peace process. This typically involves the protagonists more directly in the process. External interventions from regional and neighbouring states have become more prominent than UN sponsored attempts to move protracted ethnic conflicts towards some sort of political accommodation.

There are few truly comparative analyses of how these peace processes are managed and how they tackle obstacles such as violence during negotiations, the refusal of protagonists to recognise the legitimacy of each other’s negotiators, and re-integrating combatants into civil society. The Management of Peace Processes seeks to redress this. It is the result of a research project that monitored five peace processes and transitions (Israel/Palestine, South Africa, the Basque Country, Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland) over two years.

Based on interviews with senior politicians and policymakers involved in all five peace processes, it identifies factors that facilitate or block political movement in deeply divided societies. The book uses a comparative frame-work to highlight issues of negotiation and constitutional change, political violence, economics, external influences, public opinion and symbolism.

Each of the conflicts studied will be the subject of a separate book by the project team, with the books on the South African transition and the Northern Ireland Peace Process to be published by Macmillan/Palgrave in 2001.


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; 106pp [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; 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?

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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 Kness 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.

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**Where are they (PRDU graduates) now?**

**Rebuilding communities in northern Iraq**

Drew Gilmour (MA graduate 1996/97) and Jolanda van Dyke (MA graduate 1997/98) outline their work in Iraq.

I’ve been working with UNCHS Habitat, the UN’s resettlement agency, since December 1999. We are tasked to rebuild entire communities from the ground up to enable thousands of internally displaced persons to go home. It is a gargantuan and rewarding task. Reconstructing villages that work takes more than a few housing projects. We must tend to infrastructure needs like water, sanitation and transport as well as educational, health and economic requirements.

Of course Habitat’s job is merely to facilitate the process of local people rebuilding their own communities. As experience has shown here, and around the world, attempts by foreigners to control the process usually end in failure. As the agency’s operations manager, I review and facilitate the processing of hundreds of projects, all of which are conceived, designed, and implemented by skilled specialists drawn from the local community.

I’ve come to believe that a properly conceived and executed community rehabilitation project is not a technical exercise, but a very human art form. Sometimes, when we get it right, the payoff is not a handsome set of sterile, though functioning buildings, but a revived community where people look to the future. Quite a kick to see it in action.

Since July 1999 I have been working as a programme officer for the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq (UNOHC1). My work is challenging and includes both practical fieldwork and theoretical planning and coordination. As UNOHC1 is a coordinating agency much of my work consists of organising and attending meetings on the development of poverty alleviation programmes and the promotion of effective links between relief and development. The ‘new’ phrase is ‘trying to achieve multi-sectoral coordination’ between UN agencies, which is an interesting and sometimes frustrating task.

Life could be pretty boring in Erbil, northern Iraq; every night there is an eight o’clock curfew. So I have become an active member of the ‘Edge’ (the UN club) organising parties, video nights and setting up a table-tennis competition.

Jolanda with locals during a survey of the drought stricken Kolya region.

**Doing something positive for my country**

Dzenana Mulalic (MA graduate 1998/99) reports on her current work as Executive Assistant to the Head of OHR Brussels Office.

The Office of the High Representative (OHR) is the chief civilian peace implementation agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement designated the High Representative to oversee the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of the International Community. High Representative is also tasked with coordinating the activities of the civilian organisations and agencies operating in the country. Strategic focus is political stability, development of workable democratic institutions and the economic resurgence of the country. The operational context is fast-moving and creative. Right now the emphasis is on deepening the economic reform process and creating the conditions for self-sustained, private sector-led economic growth – moving an important country along the process of ultimate integration into the new Europe.

OHR headquarters is in Sarajevo, with offices in 17 other locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one in Brussels. Staff profiles cover a wide professional spectrum, with 210 international contract and secondees and 440 locals. Initially, my responsibility was directed towards the military issues of the BiH; creation of a one state army. The BiH Presidency, in co-operation with the international community, established a body called the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM). I was the OHR representative at the SCMM sessions together with other international staff from OHR, OSCE, SFOR and UNMIBH.

My main tasks were to: advise/interpret/translate for the Military Adviser of the High Representative; give full support and assistance to the local military authorities; and liaise with Military Advisers to the Presidency on a daily basis. This would be regarding issues such as: defence and security policy at state level; participation of BiH at the UN peacekeeping operations; reductions of military potentials; restructuring of the Entity Armed Forces; and appointing of BiH military attaches. Despite all the efforts of the IC and readiness by the local authorities to deal with this complex issue, it still remains one of the most difficult ones to solve.

Currently, I’m working at the OHR Brussels Office as the Executive Assistant to the Head of Regional Office. My responsibilities are to make sure that European institutions, including NATO, keep Bosnia and Herzegovina on their agendas. That requires regular contact with the European Parliament, European Union, Commission and Council of Europe. I also liaise closely with the BiH Mission to the EU and the Embassy and attend meetings with the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) member countries. The job gives me an excellent opportunity to learn more about the European institution structures, to experience first-hand what diplomacy is all about, and to meet with key players on the international political scene. The most important and challenging aspect of my role is being in a position where I can do something positive for my own country.