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Led by Professor Sultan Barakat, the PRDU research work began on 3 October 2005, and will focus on evaluating the key elements of the three year programme: 1) reconstruction and poverty reduction; 2) community empowerment; and 3) the institutional capacity of the MRRD and its partners.

PRDU’s technical proposal was selected ahead of three other major international consulting firms. As Professor Barakat highlights, “… the successful tender for such an internationally prestigious programme was yet another sign of the growing influence and success of the PRDU at York”.

The investigation work will involve a number of academic staff from the Department, including Professor Mark Evans and Dr Roger Mac Ginty. Richard Brown and Dr Arne Strand, former PRDU students will work alongside PRDU Research Fellows – Dr Richard Jones, Dr Margaret Chard, Ms Palwasha Hassan, Mr Waheed Omer, Dr David Connolly and Mr Mirwais Wardak. The evaluation will employ 10 additional national consultants.

Dr Richard Jones, who has recently returned from Kabul where he met many of the key stakeholders in preparation for the mission, says “While poverty reduction lies at the heart of the government’s social policy, it can only be achieved by empowering poor communities to strengthen their social capital and bonds, make decisions that affect their lives, and use resources in the best interest of their communities”.

The PRDU is well placed to research the extent to which the NSP is meeting its objectives. As Professor Barakat concludes, “We already have extensive experience of working in Afghanistan and we are looking forward to fielding a large team of international and national experts to assess lessons learned and define recommendations that are relevant to the remainder of the NSP programme”.

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**PRDU News**

**Post-conflict Recovery Training for Senior Sudanese Civil Servants**

![Participants at the September training programme work towards a vision for recovery for the whole of Sudan.](image)

Professor Barakat and Dr Richard Jones, assisted by Dr Margaret Chard, have recently undertaken two-week-long post-conflict recovery training programmes for senior civil servants, NGO workers, managers and other professionals from Sudan. The courses were held in London and focused on analysing conflict; understanding recovery as a development challenge; undertaking needs assessment; and implementing recovery programmes.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring that recovery brings with it tangible benefits, and much of the discussions centred on the necessity of improving livelihoods, health, shelter and addressing the specific needs of women. Extensive seminar work allowed participants to undertake their own conflict analysis and needs assessment of different areas of Sudan. This enabled the group to construct a vision for recovery for the whole of Sudan.

The course drew on the extensive experience of the PRDU to demonstrate the processes and pitfalls of recovery from lessons learned in Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Uganda, Rwanda and Iraq.

Dr Mohamed Osman, who organised the course, said “thanks to this instructive course the participants feel they are now well equipped to meet Sudan’s post-conflict challenges, and we hope to follow this course with more training in Sudan”.

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**OBE award for Haleh**

Professor Haleh Ashfar was recognised in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours and has been awarded an OBE. Haleh teaches Politics and Women’s Studies at the University of York, and is part of the PRDU’s Teaching Faculty. Her areas of interest are Islam, economics and development, women and war, and gender relations in the Third World. Born and raised in Iran, where she worked as a journalist and a civil servant, she has since served as the Chair for the British Association of Middle Eastern Studies, and as Deputy Chair of the British Council’s Gender and Development Task Force. She is currently the Honorary President of the United Nation Association’s International Services.

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**PRDU to evaluate the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Thematic Co-financing Programme**

Sultan Barakat and Dr Richard Jones will soon be commencing a major evaluation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ “Thematic Co-financing Programme” for Poverty Reduction and Peacebuilding. The evaluation team includes a number of eminent experts from the Netherlands including Dr Guus Meijer, Dr Abdullah A. Mohamoud and Drs Willemijn Verkoren, led by Professor Gerd Junne (University of Amsterdam).

Thematic co-financing is a new system for funding Dutch and international Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in development cooperation. It recognises the autonomous role of CSOs in the north and south in addressing poverty reduction, undertaking civil society building and influencing policy. The 2004–2007 cycle of the Programme has allocated 41.2m Euros which is now the subject of the evaluation.

The Ministry is keen to learn how effective and efficient the programme has been to date, whether elements of the programme need to be tailored to new realities and how the sustainability of the NGOs financed can be achieved in the long term. To this extent the evaluation will be focused on the Dutch Ministry, the funded international NGOs and their local partners in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa.

The role of the PRDU is to conduct research with Saferworld and International Alert and their respective local partners in Ethiopia and Burundi specifically to evaluate the degree of mutuality between Northern and Southern partners, internal monitoring and evaluation, the capacity of the northern partners to learn from their southern counterparts and to assess if thematic co-financing as a funding mechanism can be improved. As such the evaluation is also required to focus on other donor funding mechanisms as potential benchmarks for thematic co-financing.
Margaret Chard is a PRDU Research Fellow. Over the past year her main task has been assisting with the editing of the TWQ special issue on Iraq (see page 12).

Her doctoral research studied the impact of capacity building for the development of social institutions in war-torn countries through a retrospective participatory enquiry with the Ministry of Education in Mozambique. The study concluded that support for capacity building by multiple donor and financial partners in Mozambique from 1975 to the present made an essential contribution to the development of good governance and eventual sustained peaceful development. However this impact was achieved because support was given in the context of a national vision and strategy for education as the motor of development.

Her general conclusion is that recovery, development and social change do not necessarily occur as a result of external interventions for capacity building. Success is conditioned by the interaction of external assistance with the particular economic, cultural and political context and above all the will and aspirations of those assisted.

David Connolly joined the team to work on the National Solidarity Programme project in Afghanistan (see cover story). He is currently preparing his PhD – Responsible sovereignty and Internally Displaced Persons: Challenges for Political and Humanitarian Responses in Aceh and North Sumatra – for publication. It examines the effectiveness of using joint political and humanitarian responses in ensuring the adequate protection and assistance for two main types of IDPs in Aceh and North Sumatra – repetitive displacement and illegal resettlement. UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were used to gauge the short- and long-term needs of both case study groups.

The thesis recognises that joint responses, from 1999–2002, helped Indonesia assume greater responsibility for its IDPs by facilitating a promising framework for peace to Aceh’s secessionist armed conflict, and through the limited improvement of relief and development programmes. But the research found that the protection and assistance for the IDPs remained inadequate overall. The introduction of martial law in May 2003 marked the collapse of the peace process and the nadir of relief and development. In understanding how the political and humanitarian responses became inoperative, the thesis argues that their privileged neutrality was gradually discredited by two sets of interlocking challenges: manipulative constraints from state sovereignty and weaknesses in the practical application of the joint responses.

A record number of graduands returned to York for the graduation ceremony on the 15 July 2005. Seven of the students have been awarded distinctions and we would like to congratulate Fay Ballard, Mark Brailsford, Amanda Burns, Felipe Camargo, Neil Garvie, Katie Jefferson and Karen Rogers on their achievement.

One of the external examiners stated: “I was very pleased to find a high standard of dissertations overall. In general, they were well-structured and well-researched and field trip material was used effectively and well-integrated throughout. There was sound use of theory and analysis in most cases. The higher-scoring dissertations had a higher level of sophistication throughout, and the hard efforts involved in producing these should be rewarded accordingly.”

The other students graduating this year are: Saifullah Abid, Sarah Carrade, Hamayoon Ferhut, Veronica Grazioli, Gareth Hughes, Anthony Makana, Pango Mashimango, Junko Masuda, Sarah McLaughlin, Indika Perera, Habib Ur Rahman, Ioannis Semerzides, Amson Simbolon and Sitara.

After nearly five years Anna O’Connell has left the PRDU to develop her acupuncture practices. Sultan Barakat says, “Anna joined the PRDU at a critical time. She helped us set up systems and implement ideas that have paved the way to the smooth administration of our Unit. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all her support and work over the years, and would like to take this opportunity to wish her every success with her future career”.

We would also like to congratulate Sally Carter on her promotion to Administrator. Sally, who has worked as our Administrative Assistant for the past 18 months, will be the main contact for the Unit. She will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies and will work more closely with Professor Barakat on research and consultancy projects.

David receives a gift, and much praise, from Sultan at her leaving party.

Anna receives a gift, and much praise, from Sultan at her leaving party.
PRDU Research

Mine Action: Time to Move on?

PRDU graduands, Kjell Björk and Rebecca Roberts, report on a roundtable discussion organised by the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) and the PRDU, The University of York, which took place at the King’s Manor, York on 25 and 26 May 2005.

Background

Since its emergence in the 1980s, mine action, reinforced by the 1999 Landmine Convention, has become a recognised humanitarian intervention. Mine action refers to activities aimed to reduce the social, economic, and environmental impact of mines and unexploded ordnance. It includes demining, mine risk education, advocacy against the use of anti-personnel mines, victim assistance, and stockpile destruction. International institutions and procedures such as the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), the International Management System for Mine Actions (IMSMA), and the Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) have been developed with a view to enhancing the quality of mine action. NGOs, commercial organizations, the UN, as well as mine-affected states, have developed specialist mine action capacity.

The positive impacts of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and the Landmine Convention have been significant, yet problems remain. To examine the appropriateness of mine action, PRIO and PRDU invited a number of individuals from a variety of backgrounds with a range of different experiences in mine action to express their own views on the current state of mine action.

Summary

The discussion was wide ranging and a variety of different views were expressed. The main issues were grouped by the participants under four headings: Political Dimensions; Ownership; Integration; and Implementation. These headings are used in the following report to summarize the discussion. The roundtable has enabled PRIO/PRDU to identify gaps in existing knowledge about how mine action might best be delivered. Using findings from the discussion highlighted in this report PRIO/PRDU aim to develop a research agenda to respond to the issues raised by the participants.

The diverse range of participants including representation from academic staff, commercial mine action interests, donors, NGO’s and UN ensured a wide approach to the addressed problems. This in turn enabled PRIO/PRDU to identify research areas that can have a direct impact on issues and concerns that the mine action community has identified as relevant.

The symposium concluded that with the 10th anniversary of the Landmine Convention approaching and the fear that interest in and support for mine action will wane, now is an appropriate time to assess the state of mine action, review current practices and question whether interventions could be improved. Although the technical aspects of mine action have not changed greatly, the softer side such as community liaison and measures used to establish the impact of mines and mine action have evolved in an effort to understand and respond to communities’ needs. The roundtable discussion provided the opportunity to explore issues surrounding mine action and highlighted the need for a continuous reflexive relationship between research and practice to maximize the potential of all types of relief and development interventions.

The roundtable meeting helped identify areas which require further research. Despite various socioeconomic studies, there is still a lack of detailed knowledge about the long-term development impact of mine action. It is important that ownership of research is passed on to mine affected countries to inform their own response to the mine threat and encourage feedback to refine conclusions and enhance knowledge. PRIO and PRDU seek to build on the work of the roundtable and consult with practitioners to identify research areas which would inform practice and help to fill some of the gaps in our knowledge about the impact of mines and mine action.

The full report can be viewed at: http://www.prio.no/page/Project/11/T/9244/42370.html

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organisers would like to thank the participants for making the time to attend the meeting and for their valuable contributions. We are also grateful to the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for funding and to The University of York for hosting and organizing the event.

The participants included: Sayed Aqa United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Sultan Barakat and Kjell Björk PRDU, University of York; Stanislas Brabant Handicap International – Belgium (HIB); Kristian Berg Harpviken Assistance to Mine-Affected Communities (AMAC) project, PRIO; David Hewitson European Landmines Solutions (ELS); Steffen Kongstad Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Gary Littlejohn Centre for International Cooperation and Security (CICS), University of Bradford; Rebecca Roberts AMAC, PRIO.
PRDU Research

A Farewell to Arms on the Threshold of Peace

Post-Conflict Recovery & DDR of Former Combatants in Afghanistan, El Salvador, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Somaliland.

Dr Alpaslan Özerdem is currently working on a research project that carries out a comparative analysis of different approaches to disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants within the context of peacebuilding. The main objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how different approaches to DDR of former combatants are planned and implemented, and what lessons can be learned from their comparative analysis.

It is now widely recognized that the DDR process forms one of the most crucial aspects of peacebuilding, and the two are closely related. However, the current practice of considering DDR from a security risk perspective results in programmes which can only be considered as ‘keep-busy’ initiatives. Experience shows that the DDR process needs to be tailor-made to address the characteristics of its socio-economic, political and physical environment, and should be seen as an investment in the productive potential employment of former combatants rather than as a bribe to keep them ‘busy’ and ‘out of trouble’.

There have been different approaches in undertaking DDR programmes around the world. While some are planned and implemented solely by the international community with the involvement of local authorities and former combatants at a minimum level, others ensured a much higher level of local participation. Some opted for a compartmentalisation of the process by involving different type of actors at each stage, while others were carried out by an organisation specifically established for this purpose.

Those experiences can also be categorised in terms of the kind of war-to-peace transition scenario that took place – from a sole government in power and a clear winner following conflict, to no government in power with ongoing internal conflict.

Based on the criteria of overall DDR approach; geographical context; intensity, duration and scope of conflict; types of war-to-peace transition; and characteristics of the five caseloads, this research, provides an effective framework for a comprehensive and insightful comparative analysis. The field research in Kosovo and Afghanistan has already been carried out and the remainder will be completed by December 2005. The research findings will be disseminated as a book which will be published by I.B. Tauris in late 2006 in the International Library of Post-war Reconstruction and Development series which is edited by Sultan Barakat.

No War, No Peace

While many studies have chronicled the tortured path of peace processes and have dissected the composition and implementation of peace accords, few studies have examined the quality of peace that follows peace accords. PRDU lecturer Roger Mac Ginty’s study, tentatively entitled ‘No War, No Peace: Rejuvenating stalled peace accords’, critically examines contemporary peacemaking with a particular focus on those factors that thwart the transformation of peace accords from high-sounding documents into real quality of life changes on the ground.

Tacitus, the ancient historian, commented on the Roman policy to ‘make a desert and call it peace’. To a large extent the word ‘peace’ is also being abused in the modern era and applied to situations of poverty, continuing violence and chronic inter-group tension. The past decade has seen a significant number of peace accords attempt to manage the conclusion of long-running civil wars. In many cases, vast international peace support efforts have accompanied these peace accords. Ever more sophisticated peace support programmes have been implemented by a widening array of actors including revamped international organisations (NATO, EU, OSCE, AU) and a growing number of NGOs, many of which have developed conflict transformation capabilities.

In this study, Mac Ginty conceptualises the ‘no war, no peace’ situations prevailing in many post-peace accord societies in which a peace accord or attendant ceasefire manages to staunch much organised direct violence but fails to deal with the indirect violence of intimidation, inter-group tensions and militarization that often co-exist with a peace accord. The project also examines how the failure to realise a peace dividend (a near universal failing of peace accords) prevents the widespread enjoyment of peace.

The key to understanding why so many contemporary peace accords deliver such poor quality peace is to interrogate the nature of the contemporary peacemaking processes. Mac Ginty argues that a particular variant of peace, the ‘liberal democratic peace’, is prioritised in many internationally-supported peacemaking and peace support interventions. This version of peace prioritises a particular type of liberalism (based on the individual and the promotion of free markets) and a particular type of democracy (based on electoral competition and the ‘good’ governance agenda) and results in a highly specialised form of peace. This version of peace reflects prevailing ideological mores and the stances of leading interventionist actors in the international system but excludes more traditional and locally acceptable versions of peace and peacemaking. Support from leading states, international organisations and international financial institutions means that the liberal democratic peace has a near monopoly position.

The prevalence of the liberal democratic peace, and the near ubiquity with which contemporary post-peace accord societies are compromised by continuing violence or economic dysfunction, raises a fundamental question: what do we mean by peace? In other words, can traditional and long accepted definitions of peace be sustained if the reality of peace is so continually compromised? Mac Ginty’s research should be published in book form in 2006.
MA in Post-war Recovery Studies …

Elena AHMED
United Kingdom
Background in teaching, volunteering and children’s welfare

I graduated from the University of Leeds in 2003 with a BA (Hons) in English. During my degree years I volunteered extensively, helping Afghanistani refugees and Bangladeshi school children with literacy. I then taught English for a year in Japan before embarking on a 2-month internship with a human rights NGO in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I have spent the last 6 months working with UNICEF New Zealand. This developed my interest in post-war reconstruction, which I hope to specialise in for my future career.

Raba’a OTOOM
Jordan (ACE Scholar)
Background in organisational development

Working for the IFRCRCs in Jordan since 1999, my work focused on the capacity building aspects in disaster management, Heathland care in the community, humanitarian values and advocacy. My work covered 17 Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies in the Middle East and North Africa region. My time at the PRDU will help me to link my extensive field work with the combination of theory and practice, and should be of great benefit to the MENA region, where so many countries are in a state of reconstruction after conflict.

Elizabeth BAXTER
United Kingdom
Background in humanitarian and post-conflict law

I studied Law at King’s College London which made me realise I didn’t want to become a lawyer! Instead, I went to the Balkans and studied in Pristina. I then worked as an intern for the OSCE in Albania, focusing on human trafficking. In 2003 I moved to Sarajevo, working for the Defence Reform Commission, whose purpose was to reach political and legal agreement on reform of the armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. My time there opened my eyes to how difficult and often painful it can be for societies to overcome the effects of civil war.

David DEL CONTE
USA
Background in humanitarian assistance

Upon completion of my degree in Ethnic American History from the University of San Diego in 1997, I embarked on a full-time career in humanitarian assistance. Working initially for INGOs before moving to the United Nations (UNDPKO, UNHCR, UN-OCHA), I have served in Central America, the Balkans, South Asia and, most recently, in Darfur, Sudan. Concurrent to this, I completed the required coursework for an MA in Emergency Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jeni DIXON
United Kingdom
Background in teaching and writing

Niece of an Israeli kibbutznik family, cousin of Israeli soldiers, ‘adopted’ daughter of Palestinian and Bedouin families, close friend of a Palestinian political prisoner, English teacher, editor, writer, activist – I’m not always sure who I am! British born and raised, yet passionately embroiled in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I obtained my BA in History and Politics from York in 2001, before starting work with the Alternative Information Center (a joint Israeli-Palestinian NGO) in Jerusalem and the Bedouin minority in the Negev.

Erica FAVRETTI
Italy
Background in international relations

In July 2005 I graduated in International and Diplomatic Sciences – International Relations at the University of Bologna with a thesis on the militarisation of Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania between 1994 and 1996. During my studies I volunteered with different NGOs working with immigrants and refugees in Italy. I developed an interest in reconstruction after conflict after attending courses on humanitarian aid at ISPI in Milan. My main aim is to further specialise in this field in order to gain the necessary skills for my future career.

Laura HUTCHINGS
United Kingdom
Background in humanitarian relief work

After graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 2000, with a MA (Hons) in Arabic, I delayed reality for a year and organised and embarked upon a charity expedition from London to Beijing by motor bike and sidecar! Since then I have volunteered with the Jordan Red Crescent Society, worked as a Field Coordinator for International Rescue Committee in Chad, been Project Coordinator for Merlin in Sri Lanka, and the Liaison Officer for the UN Humanitarian Information Centre in Iraq, Indonesia (Banda Aceh) and Niger.

FARHADULLAH
Afghanistan
(Altajir/OSI/FCO Scholar)
Background in Civil Engineering and Project Management

I have several years’ experience in construction, teaching and management in Afghanistan and Pakistan. I have also done extensive community development work, developed surveys, and conducted assessments in Afghan communities to identify and prioritise development needs. Through working for three years with the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), I have helped the NGO community to establish and strengthen an information-sharing mechanism amongst aid organisations.

Ketevan KHURTSIA
Georgia
Background in humanitarian reporting & planning

For the last seven years I worked with the IFRCRCs as its reporting officer for operations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan – based in Tbilisi, Islamabad, Kabul and Ankara. I was directly involved in humanitarian response, community development and national society development as part of civil society. My responsibilities included producing high quality, on-time appeals and reports. I now want to challenge and develop myself academically to supplement this practical experience.
Mariko KIMURA
Japan
Background in education

I graduated from Tsukuba University with an MA in Education. While working at a private company, I joined two NGOs – I assisted in evaluation projects in Sri Lanka for JEN (supporting refugees); and I was a volunteer teacher in the ‘Speaking Out’ project, for Save the Children Japan, which helps make children aware of their rights in post-war/disaster countries. My interest is the role of education in the re-integration of a nation after a war. During this MA course I hope to deepen my understanding of these issues.

Daniel LEVINGE
United Kingdom
Background in politics

I graduated from the University of York in 2005 with a BA Honours in Politics. At the University of Bergen, Norway, where I spent my second year, I studied globalisation, political mobilisation and political economy. My aim is to work in the development sector, and I hope that this course will help me to develop the practical expertise and field experience required. I developed a particular interest in post-conflict environments, whilst working as a teacher for a year in Sri Lanka, travelling to war-torn Jaffna shortly after the 2002 ceasefire.

Kristina MASALA
Italy/Czech Republic
Background in European integration

It all started when I graduated in 2002 from the University of Kent, Canterbury with a BA Honours in European Studies and Languages (Italian and French). I then worked in Prague on the coordination of a PHARE project for the European Commission involved in the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU. Until now my main focus has been the integration and strengthening of Europe. At PRDU I hope to expand my horizons and learn more about foreign intervention in countries facing post-war challenges.

David MILLER
United Kingdom
Background in humanitarian assistance

I graduated with a degree in Development Studies from the University of Kent. After graduation I joined the British Army where I served for five years. I have spent the last three years working for Merlin, a British-based INGO specialising in the provision of healthcare in conflict, post-conflict and natural disaster situations. I have worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and in HQ positions in London.

Anna MUZZARELLI
Italy
Background in humanitarian assistance

Having taken short courses in Human Rights, Conflict Resolution, and International Law, my most recent work experience took me to Pakistan, in 2002, as Community Services Officer (with an Italian NGO) in two Afghan Refugee Camps. When the refugees began to be repatriated I moved to Kabul where I was employed as a UVN by UNHCR, working on a project of assistance to particularly vulnerable individuals. I remained in Kabul until the autumn of 2003 and was actively involved in the reconstruction process.

Sachiyo NOMURA
Japan
Background in international relations

I came to the UK in 2001 to study English Language and International Relations at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. I achieved a wide understanding of politics, and my main interests are war studies, Third World politics and humanitarian interventions – the last of which was the subject of my dissertation. I hope to work internationally in the field of Third World development after this course, and I have specific interests concerning the improvement of life conditions for the young and the elderly.

Marvori ODILKHONOVA
Tajikistan
(Altajir/OSI/FCO Scholar) Background in gender and rehabilitation

In 2001 I graduated in Gender and Culture from the Central European University in Hungary. In 2002 I joined UNDP’s Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Programme, which aimed at reintegration of former combatants into civilian life through involving them in rehabilitation of social and economic infrastructure and income-generating activities. The programme also focused on supporting and improving the status of women and youth in war-affected areas of Tajikistan.

Ferdinand PAREDES
Philippines
Background in electrical engineering and humanitarian assistance

A licensed electrical engineer, I have worked with the UN Peacekeeping Operations, UNHCR and IOM since 1995. I have been involved in the Emergency and Post Conflict Operations in which my primary duties are: Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration Programme (DDR); Refugees Repatriation and Reintegration Programme; Refugees and IDPs Camp Management; and the Community Development Programme. I am a fixed-term staff member of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Philippe PATRY
Canada
Background in social service, law and mediation

After completing a BA in Social Service, I then graduated in Law, and became a Crown Prosecutor specialising in cases of domestic violence. For the last three years, as a Member of the Immigration and Refugee Board, I presided over hearings at the Refugee Protection Division and the Immigration Appeal Division (I was instrumental in implementing the ADR programme on a full-time basis). I recently obtained a Certificate in ADR from the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation.
Then we don’t have based in the middle of nowhere!

and disaster situations, usually in a variety of conflict, post-conflict and national defence policy with regard to such situations. Most recently I was the in-country Director for NATO’s evolving Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan. I have come to the PRDU to better understand humanitarian issues and perspectives, in order to better utilise my previous experience and skills in the field of Reconstruction Aid.

My formal education has been in Anthropology, Economics, Public Administration and International Relations. I served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines, and worked for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the Balkans, primarily on elections. I hold a reserve commission in the US Army as a Civil Affairs officer and was deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo and northern Iraq, facilitating Civil Military Cooperation with local authorities, IOs and NGOs in delivering Humanitarian Assistance.

In July 2005 I graduated from the University of York with a BA in Politics and Social Policy. After completing my BA I did an internship with the UNDP in Zambia. Born to an English father and Zambian mother, and raised between Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and England, I have always been interested in issues of development and inequality. I am particularly interested in the impact war and conflict have on children and women. Africa has thus far been my main focus but I hope that this MA will expand my horizons.

I graduated in 1994 with a Masters in Tropical Parasitology & Medical Entomology. Following this I started work for a medical NGO focussing on malaria control programmes. After a number of years of hands-on field positions I moved into project management which has been my focus for the past six years. Since starting my career in humanitarian assistance I have been based primarily in Asia, in a variety of conflict, post-conflict and disaster situations, usually based in the middle of nowhere!

After graduating in medicine, I started my career with a national NGO which specialised in delivery of health services. Since then I have worked with national and international organisations in humanitarian assistance, development projects, co-ordination of NGO activities, advocacy and research. In 2003, under a USAID project, I was involved in establishing a Policy Management Unit in the Office of the President. My recent work was on programmes for rural population with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

I graduated from King’s College London in 2004 with a degree in War Studies. Whilst at university I participated in a UNA voluntary placement in Russia, working with disadvantaged children in a large orphanage. Since graduating I have worked as an advisor with the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, providing guidance on immigration and other issues to refugees now living in the UK. I am also a member of the Territorial Army. Academic interests include civil liberties, the democratic process in war affected societies, and human rights.

I was the DFID Country Representative in Burundi from 2002–5, working closely with the Government, senior military, the World Bank and the UN. I was previously a Senior Humanitarian Specialist in DFID’s Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, and managed the DFID partnerships with the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the World Food Programme. I have also spent 15 years as a member of the Government Information Service, working as a press officer in a variety of Departments.

Alumni of the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies can now keep in touch with us and each other through a new Yahoo discussion group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MAinPost-warRecoveryStudies

Share ideas and information on contemporary post-war recovery issues and employment opportunities. Haven’t received an invitation to join the group? Then we don’t have your current e-mail. Please, therefore, drop a line to Dr Alpaslan Özerdem (ao102@york.ac.uk) as we would like all our Alumni to benefit.
A group of 21 students – accompanied by Professor Sultan Barakat, Dr Roger Mac Ginty and Dr Alp Özerdem – focussed on the question of how the Palestinian refugees in Jordan have been coping with their prolonged displacement. The group worked on three refugee camps – Baqa’a, Jerash and Irbid – during the visit which was hosted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Jordanian Government’s Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA).

**Background**

There are 1.8 million Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, more than 300,000 of them are still accommodated in 10 refugee camps. Both the Baqa’a and Jerash camps were established after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, while the Irbid camp started to host refugees after the first war of 1948. In Irbid, refugees were first accommodated in tents until the early 1950s when UNRWA started to replace them with shelters, consisting of a brick room with asbestos roofing. Additional rooms were built as families expanded and, four generations later, the camp is highly congested.

Most refugee camps in Jordan have merged physically, and visually, with nearby towns. The camps established after the 1967 war such as Baqa’a and Jerash remain less developed than those established earlier, as some still lack basic infrastructure and services. On the other hand, Palestinian refugees in Jordan, and Unilex refugees elsewhere, are certainly in a much better situation than those in Lebanon and Syria. All of them enjoy full Jordanian citizenship, except for about 110,000 people with origins in the Gaza Strip.

**Itinerary**

Our visit began with an orientation workshop in Amman, which brought together representatives from UNRWA, DPA, Jordanian Red Crescent, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Civil Society Development Centre (CSDC) of the Jordanian University of Science and Technology (JUST), and other national and international organisations. Our group was presented with various reports on the challenges of being a Palestinian refugee in Jordan and how different organisations and agencies have been responding.

The students were then divided into three separate groups and started their field work in the three chosen refugee camps. The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was the main methodology of data gathering used, and on each day the groups were encouraged to try out different PRA techniques. The three groups were assisted by a group of students from JUST in the translation task during field research, and this enabled a cross-fertilisation of ideas and knowledge between the students of both universities. Each day began with a morning briefing session, and ended with a debriefing session to discuss issues that were raised and decide on a group research strategy for the following day’s visits.

Apart from their field study, the group was also hosted by the British Council in Amman for a briefing session on education and development challenges in Jordan, and had the great honour and pleasure of meeting and exchanging their initial findings from the field study with His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, who is an Honorary Graduate and Patron of the PRDU.

**Observations**

Over a period of 55 years, Jordan has been ‘home’ for many Palestinian refugees, providing a relatively high level of legal stability through its provision of Jordanian nationality. It became apparent during the field study visit that the protracted displacement has, nevertheless, imposed a wide range of challenges on refugees. For example, the plots of land on which camps were set up are either state land or, in most cases, land leased by the government from local landlords. This means that refugees in camps do not ‘own’ the land on which their houses were built, but have the right to ‘use’ the land for a residence. Another major challenge faced by most refugees in the three camps was access to meaningful employment opportunities. This was particularly difficult for those from the Gaza Strip. After all these years, the most important issue for almost all refugees interviewed during the study visit was the right to return to their homes in Palestine, which are now often part of Israel.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The students’ programme owed much to the help, expertise and friendship of local and expatriate staff at UNRWA and DPA who hosted this visit.

Special thanks to His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan; Matar Saqer, Abdullah Qudsi, Mahmoud Abdullah (UNRWA); Sameer Ghawee (DPA); Dr Osama Nusier and his fantastic students (CSDC/JUST); Dr Hadid Badran; Hind Saman the British Council in Amman; Professor Majdi Tawfiq and Dr Firas Sharaf University of Jordan; Abdel Rahim Biqal Deputy Mayor of Amman.

The PRDU field study group is particularly indebted to the UNRWA and DPA staff at the camps of Baqa’a, Jerash & Irbid, as well as the Palestinian refugees who generously contributed to our study and helped to make this visit a successful learning process.

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A n important component of the MA in Post-war Recovery is the practical experience students gain during their 6-8 week placements. It gives them the chance to work for a host organisation of their choice, often in a country or field new to them. Each student gives a placement presentation, assessed as part of the MA. Extracts from some of the 2004/2005 presentations are shown here.

The PRDU would like to express its sincere gratitude to all of the host organisations for their valuable support:

ACSF/Swisspeace Tajikistan
Action Support Centre South Africa
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) Kabul
Care International Afghanistan
Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Indonesia
Christian Aid Tajikistan
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Afghanistan
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Uganda
DFID London
FORUT Sri Lanka
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) South Africa
Global Risk Strategies Kabul, Afghanistan
International Alert London
International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Afghanistan
Masisukumeni Women’s Crisis Centre South Africa
Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation Afghanistan
Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit (FCRU) London
Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation Sri Lanka
United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) Khartoum and Darfur, Sudan
Unity and Cooperation for Development of Peoples (UCODEP) Jerusalem
World Food Program Israel
World Food Program Jerusalem

Post-tsunami in Aceh

I carried out my work placement with Catholic Relief Service (CRS) in Meulaboh, Aceh, Indonesia. Having been affected by a protracted armed conflict, the area was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on 26 December 2004. My main responsibility was to assist in three areas: to link CRS with local governments at all levels; to empower civil society groups – one of the most important factors for the reconstruction and development of the town and its surrounding areas; and to create space for future peacebuilding activities.

There are three main lessons I took from my placement. First, that most NGOs and International Organisations in Meulaboh, especially in the sector of Shelter/Housing programmes, were in competition with each other to get permission from national and local governments to build as many houses as possible. This created conflicts among communities and even humanitarian workers themselves, e.g. regarding the type of houses and speed of building. Second, the need for good governance was imperative. An Achenese staff member once said that “in Aceh, even to give away money is difficult”. The bureaucracy is very slow and makes the reconstruction process too complicated. Finally, there are no ready-made answers in reconstruction and we cannot use blueprints or templates for our work.

The MA in Post-war Recovery Studies has given me an effective methodology of understanding challenges in the field and responding to them accordingly, which meant that I survived my work placement well! Jamal Sitepu, Indonesia

Researching in Uganda

My work placement concentrated on researching the reintegration of ex-combatants from the Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRFFI) and the West Nile Bank Front (WNBF), in the West Nile Region of Northern Uganda. It was conducted under the guidance of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Arua, Uganda. GTZ’s Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Project is comprised of two major components, agricultural assistance and conflict management. The conflict management component seeks to build positive relationships between community members through cultural activities between national and refugee populations, as well as, training for ex-combatants and support of cooperative farming initiatives. Through this component I was able to investigate the success of reintegration efforts in the districts of Yumbe and Arua.

Under the guidance of GTZ, I designed and implemented a qualitative research project assessing the effectiveness of reintegration programmes for the UNRFFI and WNBF. The research allowed me to take several trips to the field, including a two-week stay in the district of Yumbe. During this time, I conducted 69 interviews with former combatants, local government officials, community members, implementing agencies, and local community-based organisations. I also spent a week in Kampala conducting interviews with national officials. The information gathered through my research will be used to produce a field report for GTZ on the current state of reintegration within the district of Yumbe.

The opportunity to work with GTZ and conduct original research helped me to gain greater insight into the complexities of reintegrating ex-combatants. The experience highlighted critical gaps in reintegration practice and enabled me to develop greater understanding of these issues. As such, my research will be utilised in my dissertation for the MA course in Post-war Recovery Studies, contributing to further debate on the topic of reintegration.

Lara Cunan, USA

CRS team checking water quality in a well in an IDP’s barrack in Meulaboh.
DDR in Afghanistan

My work placement was in Afghanistan with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), evaluating their three DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration) programmes in the Western, Northern and Central regions of the country.

My main tasks were to assess the implementation of the programmes and recommend methods to maximize their impact. During my work I had the opportunity to travel to the countryside and meet with former combatants in their communities, which gave me a better understanding of the challenges and difficulties regarding their reintegration. Moreover, I learned about the complexities of Afghan society, and the peacebuilding and recovery process.

Four years after the formal end of the war, Afghanistan’s recovery seems to be particularly difficult to achieve, and a risk of relapse into conflict cannot be excluded. The level of aid conditionality imposed by the donor countries and the apparent lack of coordination are not helping the peacebuilding process.

In this context of fragile peace, to carry out a DDR programme is a real challenge and an enormous task. To undertake its evaluation was a challenge, as well. I was able to put into practice the numerous theories learned on the MA course. Moreover, it was a new learning experience, enriched by theoretical instruments and new practical skills learned at the PRDU, which allowed me to build upon my previous 17 years of work experience in war-torn societies. Simonetta Rossi, Italy

Post-tsunami relief in Sri Lanka

The tsunami of 26 December, 2004 devastated the Eastern and Southern coast of Sri Lanka. The East Coast town of Batticaloa was one of the worst hit regions of the country, and is also one of the few post-conflict environments to be affected by a natural disaster.

Completing my work placement with FORUT, a Norwegian INGO, enabled me to gain first-hand experience in a post-conflict and disaster setting. FORUT was active in the education, psychosocial, and livelihood sectors – running a water purification plant; reconstructing pre-schools and training pre-school teachers; distributing tool kits; running training courses in water pump repair, boat engine and small boat repair. Working with a small INGO within multiple sectors exposed me to numerous elements of complex emergencies. It enabled me to work in the front lines of programme implementation and enabled me to complete several different responsibilities.

Parallel to these tasks with FORUT, I interviewed a number of international and local organisations to see how they incorporated conflict into their post-tsunami relief, reconstruction and development programmes and how their strategies affected the peace process at the local level in Batticaloa.

Completing research on conflict sensitivity while simultaneously attempting to integrate programmes as part of the FORUT staff team illustrated many of the operational difficulties of implementing post-tsunami programmes that integrated elements of peacebuilding as well. Post-disaster emergency programming is difficult enough without having to integrate conflict sensitivity as well.

Working with FORUT and being able to research such a unique area was an amazing opportunity. Not only was I able to gain practical working skills, I also saw first hand the operational challenges of implementing conflict-sensitive post-tsunami relief, reconstruction and development initiatives in Sri Lanka.

Steve Cumming, Canada

Women and Gender in Tajikistan and Afghanistan

I had two interesting work placements, which gave me a greater understanding of women and gender issues at two different levels and contexts. My first placement with Christian Aid in Tajikistan was a short but valuable experience. My role was to review and evaluate the work of their partner, Nijot Kodakan (NK), in Kulyab in the south of the country. My tasks were to review and analyse the work, approaches and methodology of the NK in respect to their community development and poverty eradication projects, from a gender perspective.

My second placement was with GTZ in Afghanistan, assisting the Gender advisor in her work in the “Gender Mainstreaming”, project. The work of the project comprised a close partnership with five ministries in Kabul: the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Finance, Commerce, Martyrs & Disabled, and Labour & Social Affairs. The aim of the project was to provide technical support to analyse and develop these ministries in terms of their ability to mainstream gender into their policy, structure, mandate and programmes.

My work included meeting with ministers on the related project, assistance in development of material for ministries in refining their mandate and structure, and support in organisation of the Gender Budgeting workshop for the concerned ministries, which included administrative tasks such as translation of workshop material, preparing invitations and renting the venue. Palwasha Hasan, Afghanistan

Gender Budgeting workshop, Kabul, 2005.
This special double issue of Third World Quarterly on Iraq – Vol 26 (4/5) 2005 – is now available. It was commissioned with the brief of examining the process of reconstruction in Iraq after the invasion. Yet it has been necessary to devote much of it to the analysis of the global, regional and internal politics leading up to the decision to invade, as well as its aftermath. This is because uniquely, Iraq was deliberately deconstructed in order to be reconstructed to a new model. Post-conflict reconstruction in any context was never, of course, a purely technical national. His vision reconstruction is carried out has always been a crucial factor for rebuilding the institutional, economic and social life of a nation and in that sense is profoundly political. However, the invasion of Iraq and dismantling of the Iraqi state was justified on the grounds that its reconstruction will lead to a ‘new’ ‘free’ and ‘democratic’ Iraq. This has placed reconstruction at the heart of the political agenda of the occupying powers. Therefore reconstruction has to succeed to prove that the military strategy was correct. This is what challenges both the principles and practice, which have underpinned our understanding of post-war reconstruction until now.

The contributions to this journal reflect the many ways of viewing the complex reality of post-Saddam Iraq and the huge challenge that rebuilding that nation represents. Iraq is revealed as a diverse society shaped by many cultural and ethnic strands in a long and complex history, within the Middle East Region and with global strategic significance. As in any nation, there is evidence of both a strong national identity and deep conflicts of interest that have to be negotiated. The motives and approaches of the international actors are seen to be equally diverse and often contradictory. Our hope is that this volume will contribute to an understanding of the danger of prescribing simplistic solutions to Iraq’s problems and looking for instant transformation, because what we have learnt from many past experiences of recovery from repression, violent conflict and sudden regime change, is that a better future has to be negotiated and bought by the national stakeholders to their own vision. The role of outsiders is to understand and support their efforts.

This text is an extract from Sultan Barakat’s introduction to the publication. Visit www.thirdworldquarterly.com for further details.

After the Conflict

After the Conflict, edited by Professor Sultan Barakat, brings together a team of leading researchers and professionals with wide involvement in post-conflict scenarios. Drawing upon their extensive experience – which includes Afghanistan, Rwanda, Kosovo, Somalia and Indonesia – they set out the requirements they have found to be necessary to successful long-term reconstruction.

The need for a clear and shared national vision, of proper long-term commitment, the importance of engaging previously excluded groups such as former combatants and returning refugees, and the involvement of external expertise and funding but in locally inspired and managed reconstruction schemes are among the important issues they explore.

Mission Statement

The PRDU links theory and practice for the enablement and development of war-affected societies.

The Unit’s work focuses on three core areas:

Conceptualisation: Facilitating the development of a vision for reconstruction with participatory needs assessment, context analysis and strategy development.

Institution Development & Transformation: Supporting the development of human resources, appropriate administrative systems and institutional responses in the transition from crisis management to long-term development programmes.

Participatory Evaluation: Promoting people-centred evaluation of progressive goals and strategies and the dissemination of good practice.