Editorial

The 15th intake of the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies (2010–11) sees the number of students who have been accepted onto the course pass the 300 mark. This issue of revival celebrates both milestones with a 4-page section containing contributions from alumni of various years (including two from our very first cohort of students in 1996–7).

We have also taken this opportunity to unveil a new identity for the PRDU, and a corresponding fresh look to our newsletter. The aim of revival has always been to disseminate and share news and best practice in the field of post-disaster recovery. When we launched it in July 1994 it was our main means of broadcast, but now we have hundreds of graduates also spreading the word around the globe and (as Sultan Barakat says on page 14), “making the world a peaceful, safer and more humane place”.

To further strengthen links between all of our alumni and friends we can now welcome you to the PRDU official Facebook page: Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU). We hope you will join us and, through this page, get in touch, offer advice and personal experiences, and share relevant events and interesting information related to this sector.

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Rebuilding higher education in post-conflict Iraq

The PRDU, in collaboration with its partners the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF), is undertaking an international project in support of displaced Iraqi academics. The IIE, which is among the world’s foremost educational organisations, founded the Scholar Rescue Fund in 2002 to address the growing worldwide trend of the persecution of academics. The SRF provides scholarships to academics-at-risk and secures work attachments with academic host institutions in the Middle East and beyond. During this, scholars are supported with professional and academic skills training.

On 26–28 January 2011 a major international conference was convened on Reconstruction of Iraqi higher education post-conflict. On the first day, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal opened the conference with a Keynote Address on the role of higher education in political and economic development of the West Asia and North Africa region. The opening session consisted of addresses by Dr Henry Jarecki, Chairman of the Scholar Rescue Fund, Professor Sultan Barakat (PRDU), Professor Munther Tikriti, Dr Sadiq Nasrullah Cultural Counsellor to the Embassy of Iraq in Jordan, and Dr Dlawer Ala’Aldeen Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the Kurdistan Regional Government.

SRF Scholars delivered research papers during three thematic sessions: ‘Reconstruction and reform’, ‘Science and Technology’, and ‘Social and Political Issues in Higher Education’. Topics addressed included quality assurance in Iraqi higher education, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder amongst displaced Iraqi academics, the revitalisation of biotechnology research in Iraq, and the role of gender in Iraqi universities. Research presentations were followed by question and answer sessions which produced a lively and constructive discussion of higher education in Iraq.

The keynote address was given by Prince El Hassan bin Talal.
The importance of MDTF design and state building.

Abstract: Housing reconstruction as socio-economic recovery and state building: Evidence from Southern Lebanon.

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Housing Studies

Evidence from Southern Lebanon, 'Housing Reconstruction as Socio-Economic Recovery and State Building: Evidence from Southern Lebanon', Housing Studies, 14th October 2010


Abstract: In the aftermath of the 2006 'July War' housing reconstruction in southern Lebanon proceeded along an owner-driven model funded primarily by Middle Eastern donors. This paper addresses the previously unexamined nature of this process, including the actors involved, amounts provided and the results achieved, before examining the ways in which implementation affected economic development, poverty alleviation, gender equity, disaster preparedness, cultural heritage and state building.


Abstract: Stabilisation is a long-standing concept and practice that has consistently engaged with and, at times, conflicted with varied understandings of humanitarianism and humanitarian action. Reviewing selected historical experience, including the Philippines (1898–1902), Algeria (1956–62), Vietnam (1967–75) and El Salvador (1980–92), this paper argues that contemporary models of stabilisation build on and repeat mistakes of the past, particularly the overt securitisation of aid and the perception that humanitarian and development actors are able to purchase security effectively.

Recent publications

PRDU conducts a systematic review for DFID

While trust funds have long existed as a financial instrument, multi-donor trust funds (MDTFs) have only recently become a common aid modality, particularly in post-crisis contexts. Designed to streamline aid delivery, lower transaction costs, and enhance donor coordination and local ownership, MDTFs channel resources and technical support from multiple sources – primarily bilateral donors – into one funding mechanism from which aid is provided. This type of aid delivery system has increased in popularity within the last decade. For example, there was a 15% increase from 2007 to 2008 in the number of MDTFs managed by the World Bank which, along with the United Nations, is one of the largest MDTF administrators. According to the latest figures, the Bank now manages $118 billion in 1,180 separate funds.

Although a great deal of money is channeled through MDTFs, very few studies have looked at their effect on the delivery of aid – a gap which the PRDU is addressing with its systematic review conducted on behalf of DFID. The review, led by PRDU Director Professor Sultan Barakat and PRDU Research Fellow Kathryn Rzeszut, examines the impact that MDTFs have had on aid effectiveness, as the concept is defined by the Paris Declaration, and builds upon earlier PRDU academic research on the subject. (See Barakat, Sultan ‘The failed promise of multi-donor trust funds: aid financing as an impediment to effective state-building in post-conflict contexts’, Policy Studies, 30:2, 107–126).

The current research consists of a meta-analysis of 39 studies and reports, the majority of which are independent evaluations of individual multi-donor trust funds, and seeks to extract major themes and concepts that explain the effectiveness of MDTFs as an aid modality. Some themes that will be explored in the upcoming report are:

1. the importance of MDTF design and method of implementation/delivery on its impact;
2. the implications of MDTFs for varied contexts, particularly those affected by conflict, disasters, and chronic crises; and
3. directions for future research.

The final report will be published in early 2011.
Higher education in Iraq (continued)

The conference brought together 100 displaced Iraqi academics supported by the Scholar Rescue Fund Iraq Project (established in 2002), many Iraqi university Presidents, and senior higher education Ministry officials from Iraq, Jordan, and neighbouring countries to discuss the core issues surrounding the role of higher education in recovery and development in Iraq. Also in attendance were Dr Allan Goodman, President and CEO of the Institute of International Education, as well as representatives of the US State Department and UNESCO-Iraq.

The conference was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Honorary Graduate and Patron of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit. Prince Hassan emphasised the significance of the conference and spoke of the vital task of the ‘reconstruction of the mind’. The conference was chaired by Professor Sultan Barakat, PRDU, and Professor Frank Hardman from the University of York’s Institute for Effective Education.

The PRDU maintains a research interest in the rebuilding of higher education systems in post-conflict contexts. Sansom Milton, who holds the PRDU Departmental Scholarship, is conducting PhD research on the reconstruction of higher education with a specific focus on Iraq (see right). In the near future, the PRDU is looking to explore similar opportunities with the IIE in supporting displaced academics in Africa.

Professor Sultan Barakat, said: “This extremely valuable process launched by the Scholar Rescue Fund in 2007 does not only help preserve the dignity and academic relevance of rescued scholars but also enables them, upon return to Iraq, to make a greater contribution to the revitalisation of the university system”.

A Conference Report is available from the PRDU upon request: please contact Sally Carter – sally.carter@york.ac.uk

PRDU to conduct study of the reintegration of returnees and displaced populations on behalf of Afghan government

The National Solidarity Programme (NSP), administered by the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), is one of the largest development programmes in the world and, from its inception in 2003, was designed to be able to address the issue of displacement in Afghanistan. The Programme is grounded in the operational concept of community-driven recovery and development, with a goal to “reduce poverty through empowering communities with regard to improved governance, and social, human, and economic capital”.

To determine the NSP’s impact on the reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), the MRRD has contracted the PRDU to conduct empirical research and to make recommendations for future internal monitoring and evaluation processes.

Decades of conflict, instability, and underdevelopment have created a profound culture and history of displacement in Afghanistan. Beginning with the 1980 Soviet invasion, 2 million refugees fled the country to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran – a number which increased to nearly 6 million as the conflict intensified between the Soviet-backed regime and a coalition of mujahidin and tribal leaders. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces approximately 3 million refugees returned to Afghanistan, but with the outbreak of civil war the migration back to their homeland slowed considerably. With the US-led military invasion in October 2001, another 200,000 Afghans escaped to Pakistan and over 1.2 million were internally displaced in the span of only four months, and at the signing of the Bonn Agreements in December 2002 it was estimated that 5 million Afghans remained internally displaced.

This will be the second project conducted by the PRDU for the MRRD, as the unit completed a mid-term evaluation of the NSP in 2006. The new study, funded by a grant from the Danish government and led by Sultan Barakat with IDP specialist Peter Marsden, Dr David Connolly and Kathryn Rzeszut, will focus on two closely inter-related dimensions of the Programme: design, and outcomes/impact. Field research in six provinces where NSP is active, and where former refugees and/or IDPs are a significant proportion of the population, will be supported by CPAU (Cooperation for Peace and Unity), one of PRDU’s long-standing Afghan partners with a broad field presence in the country.

Higher education in post-war contexts

My PhD research investigates the role of higher education in post-war recovery. Higher education tends to be given lower priority than basic education in contemporary post-war reconstruction strategies. Yet there is a growing recognition that higher education has the potential to perform positive roles in post-war contexts. Iraq is the primary case-study although comparisons will be made with other examples including Rwanda and Afghanistan. Efforts since 2003 to rehabilitate and revitalise the higher education system of Iraq will be studied. Schemes to support displaced Iraqi academics will be evaluated and linkages between return and recovery explored in this context.

Sansom Milton
**Education in Emergencies**

Recent research highlights the fact that when a population is affected by crisis – whether natural disaster or conflict – the provision of quality, relevant and inclusive education plays a central role in its sustainable recovery. These findings are from the Programme Review and Evaluability Study (PRES), which the PRDU recently completed for UNICEF as part of the organisation’s Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transition (EEPCT) Programme.

However, the areas where education, crisis and recovery intersect have not been given sufficient attention and the issues involved are too infrequently brought together in a constructive dialogue. To address this gap, the PRDU, in partnership with staff at the Department for Education at the University of York, hosted a two-day workshop entitled *The Role of Basic Education in Conflict, Crisis and Recovery* at the King’s Manor, York, last November. This brought together leading academics and practitioners in the field of education, who specialise in post-crisis environments, to discuss the multitudinous issues surrounding the role of education in crisis, conflict and recovery. Participants included practitioners from international agencies and organisations such as UNICEF and Save the Children, and leading scholars from the University of Oxford, New York University and Columbia University.

In order to identify good practice and establish lessons learnt, participants discussed insightful case studies as practical examples of the ways in which education has been important in post-crisis recovery and post-conflict peacebuilding, as well as pointing out instances where it has failed to do so. Delegates shared their research into the role basic education has played, and can play, in crisis-affected contexts and the PRES research team presented a paper based on their recently completed research for UNICEF entitled *The Role of Basic Education in Post-Crisis Transitions*.

Papers presented at the workshop will be compiled into a special edition journal to bring together diverse perspectives on the place of education within recovery.

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**New faces at PRDU**

Kathryn Rzeszut has been appointed to a new Research Fellow position at the PRDU from January 2011. Kathryn has extensive field experience in post-conflict recovery settings including Afghanistan and Lebanon and has recently completed the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies, with Distinction. She will be working on the DFID Systematic Review (see p.2) with Sultan Barakat as well as providing support for other projects.

Dr Claire Smith will be joining the PRDU in April 2011 from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where she has been a Teaching Fellow in the Department for International Development. Her primary fields of interest are the politics of post-conflict reconstruction, ethno-religious conflict and civil war, particularly in Southeast Asia. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in conflict regions of Indonesia, Cambodia and Lao PDR and spent a year in North Maluku, in Eastern Indonesia, following post-conflict elections, and investigating local reconstruction and recovery processes. Claire is currently writing a book on post-conflict politics in North Maluku, and developing a comparative book on the politics of war and reconstruction in Southeast Asia. Claire will work closely with Sultan Barakat to develop a research agenda on recovery in the wider Asia region and contribute towards teaching on the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies.

Dr Thomas Waldman also joined the PRDU in January 2011 as a Research Fellow contributing to a project entitled *The Influence of DFID-Sponsored, State Building-Orientated Research upon British Governmental Policy in Fragile, Post-Conflict Environments*, which is funded through the ESRC-DFID Joint Scheme with Sultan Barakat as Principle Investigator. Tom’s areas of academic and practical experience have focused on international security, modern conflict and post-war reconstruction, with particular reference to Kosovo, Liberia and Afghanistan.
In July 2010, the PRDU expanded its provision of continuing professional development (CPD) through the launch of the Advanced Course on Conflict, Crisis and Transitions. In a joint partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) – the UK’s premier international development think tank – the course targeted mid-career and senior level international professionals who had previously been rarely offered the opportunity for advanced learning.

Twenty-eight participants from the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and beyond (see below) were welcomed to the University of York. The everyday challenges they faced were explored, with discussion of key concepts such as: humanitarian action, risk, conflict and fragility; transitional issues of governance and security; evidence-based policy-making; and approaches to analysing fragile and crisis-affected contexts. The course was an overwhelming success and plans are already in motion to continue and expand it in the future.


### New online MA at PRDU from 2012

Professor Sultan Barakat and Dr David Connolly have been awarded a grant from the University of York to design and establish an online Masters in International Humanitarian Affairs (MIHA), starting in 2012. The MIHA will build upon the success of the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies by delivering a new course specialising in the study of humanitarian emergencies and early recovery, covering both violent conflict and natural hazards.

Drawing upon teaching and research expertise within the Unit, and in collaboration with several other departments and centres at York, students will take an interdisciplinary approach to learning about humanitarian crises, international intervention and local resilience. In keeping up with the move towards more integrated policy and practice, this new course will be grounded in modules that bring together the interrelated fields of international organisations, education in emergencies, international law, health sciences and the built environment. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a dissertation within a particular area of interest.

The MIHA will be policy-oriented and practitioner-relevant while also providing students with a rigorous and in-depth understanding of the core academic concepts and contemporary debates. It will be run in partnership with the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Through this partnership, practitioners, policymakers and emerging scholars will join a unique forum, with participants coming from across the globe using the latest e-learning technology. Furthermore, students will be invited to come to York every July for the annual PRDU-ODI advanced summer school (see left).

Inquiries regarding the MIHA should be sent in the first instance to Ms Sally Carter: sally.carter@york.ac.uk

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### Participant List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Affiliation/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stine Agaard Kristiansen</td>
<td>Desk Officer for Horn of Africa and Yemen</td>
<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Allan</td>
<td>Campaign Coordinator</td>
<td>Maternal Mortality Campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriela Alvarez</td>
<td>Programme Specialist</td>
<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women – UNIFEM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adejoke Babington-Asaye</td>
<td>Associate Investigator</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Brooks</td>
<td>Humanitarian Support Personnel – Public Health</td>
<td>Oxford GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Chandler</td>
<td>Director – Fragility &amp; Conflict Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Recovery Group</td>
<td>Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Fetham</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Freelance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Ferenz</td>
<td>Senior Adviser, Governance, UN and Multilateral Affairs (PS)</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>José Iván Davalos</td>
<td>Senior Operations Officer</td>
<td>IOM – Afghanistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akiko Kawabe-Shizaki</td>
<td>Project Formulation Advisor (Peacebuilding), Afghanistan</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jayne Khayega Mibakaya</td>
<td>Humanitarian Affairs Officer</td>
<td>UN-OCHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maaike Laurentia Van Min</td>
<td>Brussels Representative</td>
<td>Marie Stopes International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Päivi Laurila</td>
<td>Head of International Programmes (acting)</td>
<td>Finnish Red Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephan Lidsba</td>
<td>Adviser – Peace and security, AU FSOD</td>
<td>German technical Cooperation (GTZ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Martinez</td>
<td>Program Officer for Latin America</td>
<td>American Jewish World Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean McGearry</td>
<td>Researcher, evaluator and trainer/facilitator</td>
<td>Self employed Consultant &amp; associate with the Glencree Reconciliation Centre, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy Oliver</td>
<td>Information officer</td>
<td>United Nations - IRIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janette O’Neill</td>
<td>Director, Africa Programs</td>
<td>Episcopal Relief and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vittorio Oglietti</td>
<td>Field Coordinator</td>
<td>Médicos Sans Frontières - Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Osborne</td>
<td>Governance Advisor</td>
<td>Department for International Development (DID)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ted Patterson</td>
<td>Head; Policy Research &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion Pichaye</td>
<td>HG Asia Desk Officer</td>
<td>Solidarités International - INGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Saiz</td>
<td>Humanitarian Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yasuko Shimagura</td>
<td>Sr. Operations Officer (Solutions)</td>
<td>UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Simmons</td>
<td>Country Director</td>
<td>FAR Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iesha Singh</td>
<td>Regional Programme Manager – East Africa</td>
<td>Merlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clare Tunbridge</td>
<td>Deputy Country Director – North Sudan</td>
<td>Medair (Swiss-based International NGO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Wallis</td>
<td>Regional Liaison Officer – Asia</td>
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Culture cannot wait!

Aparna Tandon, Project Specialist at ICCROM in Rome, reports on an annual international course which aims to help understand how and when to intervene to protect endangered cultural heritage while humanitarian efforts are under way. Professor Sultan Barakat is a member of the Course Team.

In the ‘new wars’ of today the rules of engagement have changed drastically. Causing intentional damage to heritage with an aim to raise hostilities is now part of the wider war strategy. Illicit trade of cultural artifacts is on the rise and is currently feeding several armed conflicts. However, there is substantial evidence that supports the idea of using cultural heritage to promote peace and to rebuild war-torn economies.

Is it possible to prevent the destruction and the misuse of cultural heritage in the areas of conflict? Who can intervene? When and how to intervene? Questions such as these were premise of the six-week international course First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict organised at ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property), Rome, and held from 17 September to 29 October 2010.

The 19 participants came from Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Serbia, Sweden and the United States, many of which have on-going conflicts. They had diverse backgrounds, both cultural and professional. Initial discussions on participants’ experiences of the impact of conflict on cultural heritage served as the basis for further exploration of topics such as: ethics of conservation; risk management; culture and humanitarian aid; civil–military cooperation; international cooperation and legal frameworks; cultural heritage and post-war recovery. Hands-on training for recovering cultural materials, emergency simulations and workshops on communication and personal safety were included to provide the practical skills that are required for an initial response.

Culture cannot wait until ‘normalcy’ is restored, and the culture sector cannot work in isolation, were key messages that echoed all through the discussions. Participants left with a renewed sense of purpose and new ideas on working in their own contexts to make a difference. “We learned not only to preserve objects but also to build bridges, between countries, cultures and people”, said one of the participants while summing up her experience of the course.

ICCRome thanks UNESCO, The Blue Shield, Istituto Superiore Per La Conservazione ed Il Restauro, the Dutch National Archives, PRDU – The University of York, INTERSOS and all other cooperating organisations for supporting the project.

This year the course will be held from 26 September – 28 October 2011. The application deadline is 28 March, and further information can be found on the ICCROM website at www.iccrom.org/eng/news_en/announce_en.shtml

### Keynote speech at the Amman Model United Nations Conference

Professor Sultan Barakat travelled to Amman in October 2010 to deliver a keynote speech to the Amman Model United Nations Conference (AMMUN). The Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the UN, providing a venue for politically aware students from a number of nations to discuss key issues of international importance and to experience the process of international decision-making.

### PRDU/ISPI start new professional course in Milan

The PRDU delivered a short professional course on State building and post-war recovery from Monday 20th to Saturday 25th September 2010 in partnership with the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan. The 6-day intensive course involved practitioners and policymakers from several UN agencies and international NGOs working in Chad, Uganda and Somalia, as well as agency staff and academic researchers based in the Italy, UK and United States.

Participants and faculty together addressed the relationship between recovery, conflict transformation and state building. Specific topics included physical reconstruction, community-driven governance, civil–military relations and diplomacy. Mr Graham Day (former Deputy High Representative in Bosnia Herzegovina) and Col/Dr Dusan Marinic teamed up with Professor Sultan Barakat and Dr David Connolly to deliver the course. PRDU Associate, Mr Gianni Rufini, played a central role in designing and organising the event.

The PRDU and ISPI have been collaborating regularly through reciprocal MA teaching and specialist workshops since 2007. This short professional course formed a new joint initiative within the partnership and there are plans to run the course again in mid-2011.
Haneef Atmar was one of the first cohort of students enrolled on the PRDU’s MA in Post-war Recovery Studies in 1996–7 (along with Nick Macdonald – see p.10). He graduated with a Distinction, and his dissertation ‘Institutional Development of Southern NGOs: What Role for Northern NGOs?’ was subsequently published by PRDU/Norwegian Church Aid in 1999 and has remained a significant reference resource ever since. Last November, Haneef returned to the University of York to give a frank and honest account of the state of his home country – past, present and future.

His Excellency Haneef Atmar, former Minister of the Interior for Afghanistan, travelled to York to deliver the third annual El Hassan bin Talal lecture in post-war reconstruction and development on the 23rd November. After being introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, Professor Brian Cantor, Mr Atmar spoke of both the successes and failures of the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and gave his own personal policy recommendations for the future.

Mr Atmar graduated from the University of York in 1997 as a member of the first cohort of students on the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies. After graduating, Haneef went back to humanitarian work in Afghanistan, rising to Deputy Director General of the International Rescue Committee for Afghanistan. He then went on to hold a number of highly influential cabinet positions in Afghanistan. First as the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) during the launch and implementation of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), referred to as the ‘largest people’s project in the history of Afghanistan’, tasked with promoting responsible social and financial growth in rural areas where over 80% of the Afghan population live. Following this, Mr Atmar served as the Minister of Education, overseeing major educational reforms and increasing access to basic education, and most recently he served as the Minister of the Interior until June 2010.

In the lecture, Haneef used his extensive experience as both a humanitarian and a political figure in Afghanistan to provide comprehensive, honest and thought-provoking insights into the key issues facing Afghanistan today. In front of a full lecture theatre, he emphasised the significant progress Afghanistan has made since 2001, particularly in two aspects: building governance and a state system; and in terms of improvements in social and economic spheres of life for Afghans. He then went on to question why “Afghanistan, unfortunately, is not yet a secure and prosperous country”, setting out what he saw as the seven key failures and challenges for the country. These seven failures were:

1. the breakdown of regional consensus;
2. sanctions for insurgency groups, particularly in Pakistan;
3. diversion of international resources to other contexts;
4. failure in statebuilding, particularly in terms of a lack of investment in training future leaders and bureaucrats, and a lack of early investment in developing police capacity;
5. failure in governance and rule of law, particularly the misuse of international aid resources, and an incapacity of the government to secure justice;
6. failure in development spheres; and
7. a breakdown of resolve between national and international leaders.

He then set out a number of policy recommendations to address the current situation of rising violence and increasing costs for both Afghans and international partners that all parties involved need to focus on. Mr Atmar emphasised the need for an initiative for peace, reconciliation and reintegration based on renouncing violence, cutting ties from Al Qaida and protecting women’s rights. Of central importance was securing justice, as well as the inclusion of the disgruntled and disaffected in the state, devolution of authority to the sub-national level and the key issue of achieving accountability in the Afghan governance system.

Mr Atmar concluded that there is a need for pro-poor economic growth in the country, with a need for not just Afghans to reform but also international actors. “The war in Afghanistan can be, and must be, won given the stakes”, he said. “The current strategy is the right one but its focus needs to be wider. It will have to work on regional consensus, and effectively take action against sanctuaries. It is the responsibility of the Afghans to address problems of governance, corruption and accountability and both international and national partners cannot afford to label each other, they must honestly work together”.

In addition, Mr Atmar also took the opportunity to pay tribute to the Afghan and International soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the Afghan people, asserting that he believed the war could be won and that “winning in Afghanistan is winning for our future generations”. 

Sultan Barakat (left) greets Haneef Atmar before the lecture.
PRDU celebrates Masters milestones: 15th year, 300th student

Research Fellow Kathryn Rzeszut (PRDU MA graduate 2009–10) reflects upon the growth and progress the MA course has made since 1996, when the first nine students began what has proved to be a remarkable journey.

Last October, the PRDU welcomed the 15th cohort of its Master of Arts in Post-war Recovery Studies. This year’s class is one of the largest and most diverse in our history – 30 people from a variety of professional and academic backgrounds representing 12 different countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Finland, Italy, Jordan, Sierra Leone, and Singapore.

From its inception, the purpose of this MA has been, and continues to be, to provide humanitarian practitioners with the enhanced interdisciplinary and practical skills necessary to design, implement, and manage successful assistance and development projects in fragile, conflict-affected societies. This goal is achieved within a strong academic framework which critically examines the theories and debates surrounding conflict and peace, humanitarian interventions, the culture of international organisations, and the nexus between relief and long-term development. The PRDU’s staff of distinguished scholars, as well as the network of renowned experts and experienced practitioners who serve as guest lecturers, ensure that students are challenged, both academically and in their application of practical skills.

Since the first class arrived at the University of York in 1996, other universities have followed the example and developed similar programmes focused on conflict and development, but the PRDU’s MA in Post-war Recovery Studies remains unique and on the cutting edge of this rapidly expanding field.

This is because of its strong emphasis on the practical application of theory, which includes a two-week field study visit to a conflict-affected country during the first term and a two-month job placement with an organisation working in a post-conflict context during the second term.

Central to the mission of the PRDU is our commitment to building the capacity of communities affected by conflict, and the Master’s course is a key component of our efforts. Since 1996, nearly a third of the graduates have come from countries recently affected by conflict. Many of these graduates have continued on a professional path that has led to high positions within their governments or international organisations in which they have been able to work effectively towards the peaceful and sustainable development of their homeland.

The PRDU invites you to share in the commemoration of this significant milestone and to celebrate all of those faculty and staff members, associates, and students who have participated in the growth and success of the Post-war Recovery Studies MA over the past 15 years.

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**Students by country of origin**

- Afghanistan: 111
- Australia: 46
- Bosnia: 43
- Brazil: 38
- Canada: 26
- China: 15
- Colombia: 13
- Democratic Republic of Congo: 12
- Denmark: 4
- Estonia: 4
- Finland: 4
- France: 4
- Gambia: 4
- Georgia: 4
- Germany: 4
- Ghana: 4
- Greece: 4
- India: 4
- Indonesia: 4
- Ireland: 4
- Israel: 4
- Isle of Man: 4
- Italy: 4
- Ivory Coast: 4
- Jamaica: 4
- Japan: 4
- Jordan: 4
- Lebanon: 4
- Mexico: 4
- Montenegro: 4
- Netherlands: 4
- New Zealand: 4
- Norway: 4
- Pakistan: 4
- Palestine: 4
- Philippines: 4
- Serbia: 4
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The University of York has been named University of the Year in the 2010 Times Higher Education (THE) Awards. Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Cantor received the award at a ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

The judges were impressed by the University’s drive to combine academic excellence with social inclusion and its record in scientific discovery. They also said that York was investing more in the arts and humanities than any other university.

Professor Cantor said: “This is brilliant news for everyone at York. It is a tremendous tribute to the hard work, dedication and ability of staff, students, alumni, friends, colleagues and partners, here in York and throughout the world. They have all contributed to this success.

“The University of York’s success is founded on three principles: we are an academic community dedicated to excellence; we have a deep commitment to social equity; and we have an exciting, modern and innovative spirit. It is a privilege for me to work for such an outstanding University.”

It is the second time the University of York has won a University of the Year award – it was given a similar accolade in 2003 by the Sunday Times. Since the founding of the University in 1963, York has powered its way to a consistent top ten ranking in the UK and is one of just six post-war universities to appear in the World Top 100.

In pursuit of sustainable development, with the PRDU

Steven A. Zyck (PRDU MA graduate 2005–6; PRDU Research Fellow 2008–10) champions the unique qualities of the PRDU’s teaching and research which, he argues, have helped to pioneer major new trends within post-conflict studies.

From the first time I came across the PRDU – at a party at the Egyptian consulate in Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina – I realised that this institution was unique. The students were intelligent and eloquent in discussion and debate, and I knew then that I wanted to become one of them. Four years later I was enmeshed in the MA programme in Post-war Recovery Studies, and three years after that I started a nearly three-year stint as a PRDU Research Fellow. During that time I was proud to lecture to PRDU students and participate in nearly 20 research and training projects in the Middle East, the Balkans, Afghanistan and beyond.

As I worked within the PRDU, I came to more fully recognise how the Unit’s teaching and research have been unique in its constant emphasis on developmental methods and state institutions in conflict-affected countries. To understand this progression and the PRDU’s importance, it is perhaps necessary to quickly review a few major trends in post-conflict studies.

Academic enquiry into post-conflict contexts has evolved from a minimalist position, in which the primary concern was preventing conflict-reversion in the immediate aftermath of conflict by managing tensions and getting the guns out of combatants’ hands as quickly as possible. Thanks in part to the writings of PRDU faculty and students, this model was eventually and justifiably supplanted by a far more technical approach in which academics realised that security was best pursued not though stop-gap, quick-impact measures or humanitarian relief but through the pursuit of genuinely sustainable development. As so many PRDU staff and associates have stated, long-term development is crucial in producing meaningful peace dividends and in allowing populations in war-torn societies to understand the commitment of the international community to their recovery.

The PRDU then pioneered the next phase of thinking regarding post-conflict recovery by introducing the lens of statebuilding and governance to all elements of international interventions. According to such a perspective, projects in all sectors – from health and education to justice and anti-corruption – were not important merely for the technical outcomes they produced (e.g. school enrolment or trained judges) but for the implicit messages they conveyed regarding the nascent or recovering state institutions. While much of the international development and peace studies community was to reach this same conclusion, the PRDU recognised and promulgated this notion a decade before governance and state-centric reconstruction became in vogue. National ownership was hence to take on new meanings, and state capabilities were to receive an unprecedented degree of attention from scholars and practitioners. By leading training for civil servants in Afghanistan during the 1990s and around the world over the course of next decade and a half, the PRDU not only emphasised the importance of capacity enhancement but also made a tangible contribution.

It is hence not surprising that PRDU alumni are those who created and led innovative programmes such as the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in Afghanistan, which enabled internationally-funded assistance to help bridge the divide between the state and the citizenry after 30 years of conflict. Nor is it surprising that the PRDU has consistently endeavoured to build local and, in particular, government capacities in post-conflict contexts. It has done so not only through its flagship MA programme but also through its two FCO-sponsored Chevening Senior Fellowship Programmes and the launching of the ‘Advanced Course on Conflict, Crisis and Transitions’ with the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in 2010 (see p.5). Many of us who care deeply about the PRDU look forward to the day in which this progression is taken to what I believe should be its logical next phase, with the launching of online courses (see announcement of new online course on page 5 – ed.) and the establishment of subsidiary institutes throughout West Asia, North Africa and beyond.

The PRDU is among the most innovative, entrepreneurial and socially responsible arms of the University of York, and it has both the opportunity and the responsibility to broaden its already impressive global impact. The consistently entrepreneurial spirit of the PRDU and its Director, Professor Sultan Barakat, certainly makes such an outcome within reach.
Nick Macdonald, one of the first students enrolled on the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies in 1996–7 (along with Haneef Atmar – see p. 7), reflects on the last 15 years following a ‘hunch’ which brought him to the PRDU.

In retrospect, it’s easy to think that the choices we make are inevitable, that the path we followed was the only possibility, but I remember very clearly the moment when I decided to apply for the newly created MA programme at the PRDU. I was on a train to York, returning from an interview for a PhD programme in neurology at Durham. I’d been offered the place, and felt an overwhelming sense of disappointment. I enjoyed psychology, and was interested in it, but I did not have the passion for it that I felt as I read about the humanitarian situation in Bosnia.

Following a hunch I declined the doctoral opportunity – it’s a decision I’ve never regretted. I’d first heard about the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies from a friend who was coming back from an assignment in Rwanda with Médecins Sans Frontières. Having finished my BSc in Psychology at the University of York I applied, and was accepted onto, the PRDU’s new MA. I don’t think I had ever worked as hard before as I did that year, or been exposed to as many new ideas, fields and places.

After graduating the Balkans seemed the obvious place to look for work, and I found my first job with small local refugee organisations funded through the Quakers in Serbia, then Croatia. In 1999 I started work with Catholic Relief Services running a programme delivering humanitarian aid to conflict displaced people in Kosovo, moved to Albania during the NATO bombing running refugee food supplies to the camps there, and then back to Kosovo to work on humanitarian aid to returnees. It was a rude awakening. Conflict theory, participatory planning and human rights law all seemed a long way away from the cab of an armoured jeep leading convoys through military checkpoints in Kosovo.

It wasn’t until I took a post in one of the civil wars in Indonesia, with the woman who was to become my wife, that we had the breathing room to take stock and look at the way in which we were operating in war-torn environments. We followed a hunch we both had that, even in unstable and fast moving environments there might be more local capacity than we usually assume, and persuaded Mercy Corps and a small donor to pilot an approach of delivering assistance to conflict-affected people using small grants to local NGOs. At first we were laughed at, but two years later nearly all aid to the region was using this approach.

Craving a change of scene I took a job in the US supporting Mercy Corps’ programmes in Central Asia, the mainstay of which at the time was a large cross-border peace building programme based around community-driven development and grants to community groups for civic improvement projects.

In the waning days of 2004 my wife and I were talking with Mercy Corps about travelling to Sri Lanka to do an assessment of the viability of a small grants programme focusing on peace-building, but the Indian Ocean Tsunami meant our trip was re-purposed, and instead we ended up being some of the first internationals on the ground there.

After another couple of emergencies in 2005 I took a change of direction and started working more in the disaster risk reduction area, eventually moving in to the job I hold now, Director of Performance Analytics and Learning. The role is to figure out what we need to do as an organisation to be more effective in our work, tackling problems like staff retention and turnover, and the most effective deployment of assets in emergencies.

The jobs I have held in this field have been diverse, intense, often difficult and draining, but they have been jobs I have been excited to get out of bed in the morning to do. I look back on my time at the PRDU as a period that opened a huge range of opportunities to me to work in an important, challenging and fascinating field.
Edmund Addington  
**United Kingdom**

**Background in politics and conflict resolution**

I have worked in conflict and post-conflict environments for the last five years, since graduating from Leeds University in 2005. I have helped with elections in several countries, and have worked with the UN in Kosovo overseeing the transition to independence. I am interested in the role reconstruction can play in sustaining peace, and how political processes can help. I have seen the difficulties involved in post-conflict reconstruction and how complex the problems can be, and now wish to develop my understanding of the subject.

Simon Boorman  
**United Kingdom**

**Background in history and politics**

I graduated from Keele University in 2004 with a bachelors degree in American Studies and International History. I have since travelled through Eastern Europe and South East Asia, visiting many places affected by local and international conflict. I am particularly interested in diplomacy and the practical application of theories on conflict resolution.

John Chan  
**United Kingdom**

**Background in communications**

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Chemistry and have spent the last 14 years based in Hong Kong working in communications, publishing, advertising and journalism. In that time I travelled and worked extensively across the whole of Asia and developed a keen interest in fragile and conflict-affected regions, especially in the context of disaster recovery. I am drawn to the PDRU by the theoretical insights and knowledge that the programme imparts, and the skills that may be acquired through the eminently practical components of the course.

Nicoletta Antonini  
**Italy**

**Background in international cooperation and development**

I graduated from University for Foreigners in Perugia with a BA in International Communications. I’ve always had a strong interest in politics, human rights and development issues but I finally found my path after taking a Development Instructor diploma and working with an NGO in the rural areas of Rajasthan, India. I am interested in conflict resolution and reconstruction issues, and am taking this MA to work directly with people in need. I would like to focus on the Middle East and on issues concerning women’s rights, child soldiers and refugees.

Sisse Budolfsen  
**Denmark**

**Background in international development**

During my BA in International Development Studies and Educational Studies from the University of Roskilde, Denmark, I did a one year exchange at Kathmandu University, Nepal, studying Buddhist Philosophy and Tibetan language. My final dissertation in 2009 included a field study in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, looking at identity and mechanisms of self-representation amongst the inhabitants. As a project coordinator in Action Aid Denmark, I was responsible for training and organising volunteers for placements in the Middle East and Asia.

Tsutomu Date  
**Japan**

**Background in law and politics**

Since graduating from the University of Tokyo and joining the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in 2006, I have engaged in international operations planning, equipment procurement and intelligence affairs. Through my MOD experiences, I am certain that national security officials should deepen their insight into global security matters, such as complex conflict and reconstruction assistance. I am certain that this MA will provide me with the knowledge and abilities to tackle increasingly complex and challenging security environments in the future.

Rana Arafat  
**Jordan**

*(Majlis El Hassan Scholarship)*

**Background in government administration**

I have always had a great interest in politics and in particular those related to the Middle East. Due to the importance of the region, primarily due to the natural resources, geopolitical interests have seen immense power-play at work affecting local populations and causing humanitarian crises. I look forward to the new challenges this course will bring and I hope it will provide me with the knowledge and skills to understand the recovery process of war-torn societies and experience first hand the work that is done in this field.

Jonathan Bunting-Williams  
**Sierra Leone**

**Background in teaching**

My interest in post-war recovery has developed as a result of 10 years’ work with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in: Sierra Leone (as Emergency Education Officer); Liberia (as International Consultant for the Accelerated Learning Program, and with the International Rescue Committee as the Education Coordinator for Liberia); and in Uganda (as an Education Specialist). Whilst undertaking a course in management, I focused on “developing the capacity of governments to manage education programmes in post-conflict situations.”

Nasir Ahmad Ebrahimkhail  
**Afghanistan**

*(OSI/Al Tajir/University of York Scholarship)*

**Background in development**

My experience in development programming includes working with Amnesty International, CANADEM, Canadian Embassy (Ambassador’s Office) and the Canadian International Development Agency in Afghanistan. During my work with CIDA, I managed projects with local and international NGO partners, UN Agencies and Afghan government institutions, and provided socio-economic and development analysis and support to CIDA. I would like to play a leading role in the revival of post-war societies, particularly Afghanistan.
Parwiz Habib
Afghanistan

I pursued my undergraduate studies in economics at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India. In late 2009 I joined the Afghanistan Ministry of Commerce and Industry as a WTO (World Trade Organization) officer. Since 9/11 the international community has been trying to stabilize Afghanistan, but there are still many challenges to economic recovery and institution building in my nation. Learning from the post-war experiences of other countries will be of great significance to my career as a political economist.

Ahmad Haris Jahangeer
Afghanistan

As an Afghan civil society activist I have been involved in many conflict transformation initiatives, by means of serving in national and international organisations. My field experience, along with my academic background in law and political science, greatly inspired me to come to the PRDU. I hope that this Post-war Recovery Studies MA will provide me with the academic and practical capability to help people of my country in building a peaceful, democratic society.

Nancy Hamad
Lebanon

I graduated as an architect in July 2006, and 15 days later the Israeli–Lebanese war started – a major turning point in my life. Through my work during and after this war I was able to experience the human aspect of my profession, and through reconstruction projects I was able to find a strong link between myself as an activist and as an architect. That’s where my journey in architecture started to take another path, and my interest in post-war recovery grew. I became involved in various reconstruction projects, and in Palestinian refugees camps in Lebanon.

Dai Jing
Singapore

I did my undergraduate degree at The University of York studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics. As part of my course, I did a module in War, Peace and Justice – through which I learned about some of the theories of conflict, and was introduced to this MA. I wanted to go further into this area of study, especially from a more practical approach, which is why I chose this course. I hope to take what I learn into my future work in the Singapore Armed Forces.

Mahboobullah ILTAF
Afghanistan

My degrees, and a number of training courses in professional development and leadership, helped me to carry out my responsibilities as Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) Sector Specialist and Program & Economic Advisor with the Government at the policy level. This gave me an insight into politics, development and policymaking at the national level. I had previously been involved in the public sector in post-war reconstruction and development issues through UN, Mine Action and Capacity Development Program agencies.

Patrick Keating
United Kingdom

I graduated from the University of York (2010) with a BA in History. I completed my dissertation on Counter-Insurgency and also did a number of modules, including an elective module with the Department of Politics, all of which touched on conflict and recovery. I wanted to continue my study of these areas but in a more practical environment, and the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies seemed ideal.

David Milburn
United Kingdom

I graduated from the University of York last year with a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Over the last five years I have spent a good deal of time in East Africa travelling and doing volunteer work. My experiences and subsequent reading, along with modules I took in my undergraduate study, deepened my interest in developmental issues and post-war recovery. I hope this course will develop my knowledge and understanding of these issues, as well as providing more practical experience beyond that which I have experienced in Africa.

Richard Milburn
United Kingdom

I graduated from the University of York with a BA in History. I completed my dissertation on Counter-Insurgency and also did a number of modules, including an elective module with the Department of Politics, all of which touched on conflict and recovery. I wanted to continue my study of these areas but in a more practical environment, and the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies seemed ideal.

Majda Rasul
United Kingdom

I graduated with a BA in Law in 2009 and have since completed my legal training. I have a particular interest in the impact of conflict on a child’s right to education. I am also keen to explore the relevance of empowerment and self-determination in societies devastated by war – especially in relation to women. My belief in the capability of law to protect the rights of persons in a vulnerable position comes from working with victims of domestic abuse and wrongly convicted inmates.
In 2009, I graduated from Bayreuth University (Germany) with a BA in ‘African Culture and Society’ and Economics. During my studies I had the chance to do internships at the German Embassy in Eritrea and at UNHCR as well as to travel to different African countries and the US. I developed a growing interest for development cooperation, conflict resolution and related issues during my travels and my studies. The MA programme appeals to me because it gives students the chance to put the theories about post-war recovery into practice.

Brigitte Rohwerder
United Kingdom

Growing up in Northern Ireland, and spending three months volunteering in the Centre for Peace in Osijek during my gap year, resulted in my interest in post-war development. This has influenced my choice of studies and I graduated from the University of St Andrews with an MA (Hons) in International Relations in 2010. I would like to further my knowledge of the issues, challenges and opportunities for aid surrounding the post-war context, and especially look forward to exploring the practical side of post-war recovery studies.

Yuka Shimada
Japan

After receiving a BA in Journalism at San Francisco State University, I worked on newspapers in Tokyo, covering several war-related stories and editing the world news pages. I have developed a genuine interest in conflicts, particularly the community-based reintegration of former soldiers, and hope to become more directly involved in the peacebuilding field. This MA provides me with an opportunity to establish the strong academic foundation and practical knowledge I need to work in a war-torn country.

Jeremy Tomlinson
United Kingdom

I am British/American and have grown up between the UK and US, also having lived several years in New Delhi, India and Abuja, Nigeria. I attended boarding school at the United World College of the Atlantic until 2007 which is where I was introduced to the field of peace and conflict studies. My interest in conflict has since developed throughout my BA in International Studies at the University of East Anglia where I concluded my degree by writing my dissertation on rape as a tool of genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

Tomi Viertokoski
Finland

I graduated from the Technical University of Tallinn in 2009 with a BA in Social Sciences. Alongside my degree I also took a six-month business programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as an exchange student. My main interests are conflict and security studies with an emphasis on terrorism. Through this MA I wish to better understand, and work with, the challenges facing post-war areas.

Anna Shaw
United States

While doing my politics degree here at York, I began to focus on conflict and development. I am particularly interested in issues of justice and reconciliation, and wrote my undergraduate dissertation on the role of the International Criminal Court. The PRDU provides a unique way to explore post-conflict societies, which will give me a more in-depth understanding of the complexities of reconstruction. This understanding should provide a good basis for a future career in this field.

Caroline Ruetsch
Germany

After growing up in Germany I studied for, and recently completed, a BA in Politics at Durham University. A series of modules during my final year gave me insight into ethical questions relating to humanitarian intervention in violent conflicts. My dissertation contrasted the approaches of two humanitarian organisations to their work, and explored how these differences might translate into practice. I think this MA offers an excellent balance between theoretical and practical aspects of post-war recovery studies.

Anna Shaw
United States

While doing my politics degree here at York, I began to focus on conflict and development. I am particularly interested in issues of justice and reconciliation, and wrote my undergraduate dissertation on the role of the International Criminal Court. The PRDU provides a unique way to explore post-conflict societies, which will give me a more in-depth understanding of the complexities of reconstruction. This understanding should provide a good basis for a future career in this field.

Charlotte Walker
United Kingdom

Having worked on development projects in West Africa, and taken a degree in International Relations and French, I have developed a particular interest in the links between conflict, development and migration. After graduating in 2009 from the University of Leeds, I spent several months in Seville on the EU’s Leonardo Da Vinci programme with a charity working with refugees and vulnerable migrants. Following this, I completed an internship with the British Red Cross, working on refugee integration and awareness of refugee and asylum issues in the UK.

Samiullah Wardak
Afghanistan

I graduated in 2004 from Preston University, Peshawar, Pakistan with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA). My interests are in the fields of food security, rural development, migration and post-conflict studies. I have nine years of professional experience while working for the Government of Afghanistan, UN, donors and International Organisations. I have good practical experience in a post-conflict situation and am looking forward to enrich my practical experience with theoretical knowledge.
I graduated with a BA in Development Geography from King’s College London in 2010. My interest in post-conflict issues (particularly the rebuilding of infrastructure) has grown since undertaking undergraduate research in the Kurdistan Region in Northern Iraq. I have also spent the last two years working with the Legal Transition Programme at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which has afforded me a deeper insight into the role that a reformed legal structure can play in furthering development both after conflict and during transition.

After graduating with a BSoSc in Economics, I have been employed in the security sector for the last decade. My work has concerned vulnerable victims of crime, white-collar commercial crime, strategic budgetary planning and management, overseeing and managing ground operations, and capacity building of the security agencies. In 2008, I spent a year in Timor-Leste and the experience sparked my interest in reconstruction and capacity building. The practical elements of the MA should help me contribute further in the field of post-war reconstruction.

I was born in Rome in 1983, of Afghan parents. I was a Saudi until September 1999, when I was granted Italian citizenship. In 2000, I completed (with honours) a French ‘Baccalauréat’ ES (i.e. in Economics and Science) at the Institut Saint-Dominique, a French High School in Rome. In 2005 I received a BSc (with honours) from the University of Sussex in Computer Science and Management Studies and finally completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies (BTEC) from the College of Central London.

Guido Galli, a friend and a former student at the PRDU (2000–1) lost his life in the Haiti earthquake on 17 January 2010, whilst working as a Senior Political Affairs Officer for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Guido was a wonderful and caring person, dedicated to social justice and always full of new ideas. Above all he enriched the lives of all who came in contact with him through his humour and zest for life. His memory reinforces the challenging career choices of so many of our MA and PhD alumni, and their admirable efforts towards making the world a peaceful, safer and more humane place.

Guido was an excellent scholar who graduated from the PRDU with a Distinction. As a lasting tribute we have created an annual Guido Galli best dissertation award. At the end of each academic year a chosen student will receive a financial award and assistance with publishing their dissertation through the PRDU. Congratulations to the first recipient of the award, Julia Smith who wrote her dissertation entitled Papa will come home: Dependencies and adaptations by households situating indigenous cooperatives in Liberia as proxy indicators of growth.

I first met Guido over ten years ago when we both arrived in York to study for the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies at the PRDU. Like most of the other students on the course, Guido had already been working overseas for several years in some of the most impoverished, war-torn and conflict-affected countries in the world. We immediately hit-it-off and during the course of the year, as we studied and went on field-trips together (including travels through some of the war-torn parts of the former Yugoslavia) and a stint working in Geneva, we became firm friends.

After graduating from York, Guido took up senior assignments within UNAMA (the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) where he worked for several years. When I went back to undertake work in Kabul myself on behalf of the PRDU I would often stay with him. Since then, I’ve visited him when he was working at UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva. Latterly, Guido was appointed as the Senior Political Affairs Officer within the UN Stabilization Mission to Haiti.

In a brief tribute like this it’s impossible to do justice to a person like Guido. He was one of those charming, talented, immensely charismatic, larger-than-life personalities, whose presence immediately filled a room. Everyone remembers him as a man full of warmth, life and fun. He created joy everywhere he went. He was the original life and soul of a party: whether it was an impromptu drink after work; dancing at a nightclub in York or an Afghan wedding in Kabul; going for a lazy boat-ride on Lake Geneva; swapping stories in a smoke-filled Jazz club in Zagreb or a meal out in downtown Manhattan – wherever he went, Guido was at the centre of things. He brought warmth and love, and it was always good to be with him.

In Guido’s company, you were seldom far from laughter. He was a born clown, very adept at using humour to deflect tension; but he was also someone with a profoundly compassionate heart, driven by a passion for justice and a deep concern for the poor and underprivileged. Guido was an extremely experienced and highly regarded aid-professional. He was also a gifted linguist, fluent in English, Spanish, and Italian, not to mention a respectable grasp of French and Farsi.

Many people across the world loved Guido and grieved deeply for him when he died. It was very telling to me that, within a week of an on-line virtual memorial being established, it had already received over 7,000 visits! He was loved so much because he was a person of immense kindness. He was always interested in other people, and cared for them. He cared for the people he knew; but he also cared about the people he would never meet. In the course of a professional life which led him from Guatemala to Afghanistan to Haiti, via Stockholm, New York and Geneva, his capacity for hard work improved the lives of literally thousands of people.
Job placement offers more than professional skills building

One of the unique aspects of the PRDU’s MA course in Post-war Recovery Studies is the 6-8 week job placement, which affords students the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience working for an organisation in a post-conflict environment while adding value to the host organisation. Back in York, each student then gives a placement presentation, assessed as part of the MA. The ideal placement also provides the opportunity for field research on which the student can later base their dissertation.

However, during the process of securing a placement, drawing up a research plan, and adjusting to life in a new country, it is easy to lose sight of the most important aspect of work in post-conflict environments – the people.

From March to May 2010, I worked with UNDP Lebanon’s Poverty & Social Development Portfolio team at the country office in Beirut, conducting two project monitoring and evaluations. One examined projects related to youth mobilisation, the other looked at women’s local economic development (LED). The final reports for the evaluations were well-received by UNDP staff and relied upon in subsequent project strategy meetings.

The information that I collected during my field visits indubitably made a remarkable recovery. The country is still receiving a great deal of aid which, despite having become increasingly politised and (Millennium Development Goal) MDG- rather than needs-centric, is relatively well coordinated and utilised under the government’s Agenda for Change. In spite of the newly restored peace, normality, infrastructure and political institutions, there has been no discernable economic development. The vibrant colours and natural beauty of the country and its apparently carefree people mask deeper grievances, rooted in poverty. Unemployment is rife and affects 70% of those under 35.

Ten years on from civil war, and with a lot of help from the international community and humanitarian sector, Sierra Leone has made a remarkable recovery. The country is still receiving a great deal of aid which, despite having become increasingly politised and (Millennium Development Goal) MDG- rather than needs-centric, is relatively well coordinated and utilised under the government’s Agenda for Change. In spite of the newly restored peace, normality, infrastructure and political institutions, there has been no discernable economic development. The vibrant colours and natural beauty of the country and its apparently carefree people mask deeper grievances, rooted in poverty. Unemployment is rife and affects 70% of those under 35.

Humanitarian organisations such as the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, with whom I was engaged for my placement, endeavour to tackle this problem with a combination of skills training, microfinance and small business development. However, these efforts fail to make any significant impact, as the severe macroeconomic backdrop shapes the nature of consumer and labour markets.

One powerful solution in this context may be the system of microfranchising: a new development tool which is having a considerable impact elsewhere. It is market-driven and highly flexible, and complements and leverages the use of microfinance. It diversifies risk for the vulnerable and for companies who wish to invest in emerging markets, and is thus more sustainable than stand alone aid.

Microfranchising: next step on the development ladder for Sierra Leone?

Microfranchising: next step on the development ladder for Sierra Leone?

The PRDU is sincerely grateful to all of the host organisations for their valuable support:

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<td>Tomoko Shimada</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</td>
<td>East Timor, Indonesia, Geneva</td>
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<td>Julia Smith</td>
<td>West Africa Network for Peacebuilding</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
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<td>Yuki Umemogage</td>
<td>Youth Initiative for Human Rights</td>
<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
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<td>Jennifer Weatherall</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mission</td>
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<td>David Wiley</td>
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Microfranchising: next step on the development ladder for Sierra Leone?

Ten years on from civil war, and with a lot of help from the international community and humanitarian sector, Sierra Leone has made a remarkable recovery. The country is still receiving a great deal of aid which, despite having become increasingly politised and (Millennium Development Goal) MDG- rather than needs-centric, is relatively well coordinated and utilised under the government’s Agenda for Change. In spite of the newly restored peace, normality, infrastructure and political institutions, there has been no discernable economic development. The vibrant colours and natural beauty of the country and its apparently carefree people mask deeper grievances, rooted in poverty. Unemployment is rife and affects 70% of those under 35.

Humanitarian organisations such as the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, with whom I was engaged for my placement, endeavour to tackle this problem with a combination of skills training, microfinance and small business development. However, these efforts fail to make any significant impact, as the severe macroeconomic backdrop shapes the nature of consumer and labour markets.

One powerful solution in this context may be the system of microfranchising: a new development tool which is having a considerable impact elsewhere. It is market-driven and highly flexible, and complements and leverages the use of microfinance. It diversifies risk for the vulnerable and for companies who wish to invest in emerging markets, and is thus more sustainable than stand alone aid.

For humanitarian organisations, it represents an opportunity to engage in low-cost, high impact employment generation with a predetermined exit strategy. The inclusion of several interdependent parties encourages participation and coordination and can have widespread and unexpected impact on each stakeholder groups’ value chains. IRC’s “YouthWORKS”, Sierra Leone’s first humanitarian-led microfranchise initiative is so far proving extremely successful at providing employment and services to the vulnerable whilst building capacity and attracting investment in the private sector.

Kathryn Rzeszut United States

Jamal Abbasi United Kingdom
I spent my two months in Dili interning for the Administration of Justice Support Unit (AJSU), part of the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The unit had never had an intern before, but were keen to help me with my research, as well as show me how their office was helping the Timorese re-establish a well-functioning criminal justice system.

Within my first week there I was accompanying the unit’s Corrections Officer on an inspection of the Gleno Prison Facility and it was just the first of many opportunities to experience the justice system first-hand. I was able to witness the debates revolving around proposed laws on legal aid and human trafficking, while also experiencing the successful passage of new legislation on domestic violence. As part of my duties, I helped establish protocols for improved dialogue between the Office of the Prosecutor General and the PNTL, while also interviewing UNPOL officers and listening to the challenges they faced (see Nick Martin’s article opposite).

I enjoyed participating in the legal and forensic training given to a local NGO, and university lectures given to the Political Science students at the Universidade Nacional Timór Lorosa’e.

No internship is complete without a little bit of downtime and even there I had experiences that will be hard to match. From dancing the conga with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, to singing with the local choir at the ANZAC dawn service, to being Quiz Mistress for our final Quiz Night at Dili Beach Hotel Bar, I was made to feel welcome and included by both the nationals and internationals living within the country. My time in Timor-Leste was an opportunity to go beyond my comfort zone and gain experience living a different way of life.

Eileen Carlson United States

Timor-Leste: community policing

Timor-Leste is a young country, which is struggling to come to terms with its newly afforded independence. Following centuries of occupation, the UN was tasked with the unprecedented and sometimes considered contentious role of creating a state from a nonentity. This tumultuous process has proved hugely challenging and has at times raised inconvenient questions about the UN’s capacity to carry out effective state building. Since independence in 1999, the country has suffered several violent outbreaks, most notably the 2006 crisis, which saw the near collapse of the security sector. This crisis increased the UN’s emphasis on security sector reform in an attempt to remedy its past failings.

My work in Timor-Leste primarily focused on the New Zealand UN Police (UNPOL) contingent’s role in the creation and development of the National Police of East Timor (PNTL), in the area of community policing. Being placed within the UN’s Security Sector Support Unit (SSSU) in Dili allowed me to conduct useful research as well as gain an insight into working for a large international organisation. Through working with UNPOL in both Dili and in the districts, I was able to acquire a unique understanding of the challenges faced by international police officers working in an unfamiliar and difficult context. I also witnessed the challenging task of building a national police force from scratch. Using this research I produced a well received report for UNPOL, the UN Military Liaison group and the UN SSSU into the state of community policing in Timor-Leste. The experience was an extremely valuable one which allowed me to apply my previous academic experience to a post-conflict environment.

Nick Martin United Kingdom

3 MA's and a PM – Eileen, Xanana Gusmao (Prime Minister of Timor-Leste), Nick and Bertram Chambers.