The PRDU had the honour of welcoming **Lt General Romeo Dallaire (retired)** to the campus on 18 February 2015 to deliver the annual El Hassan bin Talal Annual Lecture. The topic of his talk was *Ending the Use of Child Soldiers*.

Welcomed by the University’s Vice Chancellor, Koen Lamberts, the General addressed a full capacity auditorium of some 300 guests, with others accessing the presentation via live video feed. Also contributing to the lecture was the Executive Director of the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative, Dr Shelly Whitman.

General Dallaire’s presentation drew on his most recent book, *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children – the Global Quest to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers*, and articulated his mission to prevent the use of child soldiers in current conflicts.

Earlier in the day, students on the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies had a seminar with General Dallaire, Dr Whitman and Tanya Zayed (the Deputy Director and head of all training activities at the Child Soldier Initiative).

Following the public lecture, the Office of the Vice Chancellor hosted a dinner in honour of General Dallaire and his team. This included the VC, the Registrar of the University, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research, the University’s Director of External Relations, the Director of the Al Tajir Trust, the Commander of 4th Infantry Brigade, the Commanding Officer of the Yorkshire Officer Training Regiment, the PRDU External Examiner from the University of Northumbria, and selected faculty within the University of York from a range of departments.

Throughout his military career, General Dallaire served in command positions in peacekeeping operations around the globe. Most notably, he served as Force Commander for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) prior to, and during, the 1994 genocide. His book on the Rwandan genocide, *Shake Hands with the Devil – the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, and the subsequent films of his efforts to prevent this atrocity, stand as a testament to both the best and the worst of humankind within situations of unimaginable violence and depredation.

(continued on page 5)
In 1968, Paulo Freire wrote one of the classic texts in the theory of education: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. The book originated in his experience of teaching peasants in Brazil to read and write. He recognised that the world is rooted in structures and processes that are fundamentally unjust, exploitative and dehumanising. Further, he saw that the dominant forms of education served to sustain an unjust status quo at local and global levels. However, Freire also believed that education could catalyse a process of *conscientisation* that could reshape individuals and societies, thereby creating a better world. Despite having sold 750,000 copies, and having become a core text in teacher training programmes around the world, there is still much to learn from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* – particularly by those of us who teach and work in the fields of post-war recovery, humanitarianism, peacebuilding, and development.

When we use *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* as a mirror with which to examine ourselves and our fields of work, what do we see?

*Pedagogy of the Oppressed* is described as a ‘revolutionary text,’ simply because it recognised and responded to suffering and injustice in this world. But is this not the same ethic and impetus underpinning humanitarian and post-war development work? I suspect that each of us can remember that liminal moment in our lives when an awareness or experience of injustice or dehumanisation touched us and tipped us onto the career paths we now travel.

Yet, if we are honest, as we continue to look into Freire’s mirror, we will see some grotesque distortions within the humanitarian and post-war development industries: the opulence of the five-star conferences; the luxury cars in the parking lots of multilateral aid agencies; the palatial residences of (some) aid workers; the perquisites of a very privileged class; the commodification of suffering in the fund-raising campaigns of organisations; and on and on. Sustaining such privilege is a sub-culture of corporate instrumentalism, where the primary focus is on market share and funding, rather than on the sources or prevention of dehumanisation and suffering. And, in the process, harm is done in the name of good.

Sadly, none of these observations is earth-shattering. Anyone who has spent time in the field will have their own personal collection of incongruities. This jewel-encrusted underbelly of the development and humanitarian industries has already been filleted by critics such as Graham Hancock (*The Lords of Poverty: The Power, Prestige, and Corruption of the International Aid Business*) and Tony Vaux (*The Selfish Altruist*).

To be very clear here, none of this should obscure the fact that there are many, many, selfless and committed individuals working with passion and conviction within the fields of post-war recovery, humanitarianism, peacebuilding, and development. However, it raises serious concerns about the integrity and moral compass of this industry.

I would propose that it is time to go back to basics. To do this, we must return, and re-commit ourselves, to Freire’s unambiguous and tenacious commitment to the dismantling of those same structures and processes of injustice, dehumanisation and exploitation that he encountered in Brazil four decades ago. This will require us to see our fields work as they are, rather than as we wish them to be. If this particular commitment is labelled ‘revolutionary’, as was the case with *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, then so be it. In our teaching and our work, let’s not shy away from the building of a genuinely radical humanitarianism – one that puts the needs of humanity ahead of the corporate needs of the industry.

Kenneth Bush
PRDU Executive Director

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Some quotes from Paulo Freire’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

“**True generosity consists precisely in fighting to destroy the causes which nourish false charity.** False charity constrains the fearful and subdued, the ‘rejects of life’, to extend their trembling hands. True generosity lies in striving so that these hands – whether of individuals or entire peoples – need be extended less and less in supplication, so that more and more they become human hands which work and, working, transform the world.”

“**Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”**

“**This, then, is the great humanistic and historical task of the oppressed: to liberate themselves and their oppressors as well.”**

“**Looking at the past must only be a means of understanding more clearly what and who they are so that they can more wisely build the future.”**
**Effective humanitarian response focus for Summer School in York**

The PRDU’s International Humanitarian Affairs Summer School will be held in York from 13–17 July 2015. The event will focus on how to engage and work with disaster- and conflict-affected communities in delivering the question of effective humanitarian responses.

Within the growing and changing landscape of humanitarian action, there is mounting pressure to reform and improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian action. In recognition of this, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has announced the first ever World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2016. The PRDU is actively contributing to the consultation process of this Summit – which aims to establish the global agenda for humanitarian action – focusing on ensuring that the active involvement of affected communities in humanitarian delivery is a cross-cutting theme.

The aim of the Summit becomes ever more urgent as new actors and donors play bigger and more diverse roles. So far, however, we have failed to learn the lessons from humanitarian practices that continue to marginalise conflict- and disaster-affected communities. Active community participation on the ground remains weak or ad hoc, and is dependent upon the organisations delivering humanitarian assistance.

The Summer School offers an opportunity to critically analyse and examine the policy and practice, and to discuss them in an open and stimulating environment. In the evenings, a range of social activities will allow networking for all the attendees.

**Speakers will include:**

- **Director General Claus Sørensen** European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO);
- **Dr Derek Summerfield** Institute of Psychiatry;
- **Dr Rae McGrath** Mercy Corps;
- **Professor Sultan Barakat** Brookings Doha Center and PRDU;
- **Ms Colleen Duggan** IDRC;
- **Ms Dima Shehadeh** UNDP;
- **Mr Gianni Rufini** Amnesty International;
- **Dr Hariyati Shahrima Abdul Majid** MERCY Malaysia;
- **Mr George Murray** UN OCHA;
- **Mr Nate Rabe** IFRC;
- **Professor Phil O’Keefe** Northumbria University.

**How to apply**

Applications can be made by filling out the online application form on our website at [http://www.york.ac.uk/prdu/](http://www.york.ac.uk/prdu/), where you will also find more information, including a full list of speakers.

**New Research Fellow**

The PRDU welcomes a new Research Fellow, **Irene Costantini**, whose interests include state theory, the politics of statebuilding intervention in conflict and post-conflict countries, and processes of state transformation in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Prior to her PhD at the School of International Studies, University of Trento, she obtained an MSc in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Besides her academic interests, she has gained experience in managing EU-funded projects on research and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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**Altajir Trust: friend and supporter**

In 2001 the Altajir Trust awarded a grant to the PRDU in recognition of its academic integrity and breadth of research under the leadership of Sultan Barakat, and the Trust has remained a friend and supporter of the PRDU ever since. Its Director, Richard Muir, has been a sage and reliable source of counsel for the Unit, and a regular visitor to the University.

The Trust has generously funded scholarships for students from conflict-affected countries to study at the PRDU and, six years ago, took the bold decision to establish the Altajir Lectureship in Post-war Recovery Studies at the University of York. Both of these initiatives are illustrative of its commitment to “enhancing the reconstruction of war-torn nations in the Islamic world and to increase understanding of conflict resolution within Islamic culture”.

Through this support, the Trust has contributed substantively to the development of the capacities and sensibilities of the next generation of leaders and reconstruction professionals. As agreed when the Lectureship was established, the Trust is now transferring its management and funding of the Lectureship over to the University.

Richard Muir hands over the final cheque of £58,000 to Sarah Sylvester of the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

The PRDU would like to thank the Altajir Trust, and especially Richard Muir, for their steadfast support of the Unit, and for its commitment to post-war reconstruction and development.
First graduates since PRDU’s independence

It was an historical moment for the PRDU on 23 January 2015 at the University of York graduation ceremonies when, for the first time since the founding of the Unit, students graduated entirely under the PRDU banner.

Kenneth Bush, PRDU’s Executive Director, read out the names of the graduands as they marched across the stage to be congratulated by the University’s Chancellor, Greg Dyke. In addition to the MAs in Post-war Recovery Studies, the degree of PhD was conferred on Andrea Varisco for his research on The Influence of Research on Statebuilding Policy with Special Reference to Security Sector Reform: The Case of Sierra Leone. Congratulations to all the PRDU graduates (some of whom are pictured below):

Timothy Bidey, Joana Couto, Genevieve Davies, Thomas Leathers, Sayed Najafizada, Ahmad Naveed, Diana Osorio Vanegas, Hosai Rahim Wardak, Simon Randles, Maxine Rubin, Judith Sweeney, Thomas Ullathorne, Michael Wilkins, Hirofumi Yoshitake, and Danielle Zagar.

These graduates join a network of over 500 alumni working in every aspect of post-war reconstruction and development around the globe. Well done!

Guido Galli Award goes to Tim Bidey

Guido Galli was a friend and a former student at the PRDU who 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. Guido was a wonderful and caring person who enriched the lives of all who came in contact with him. He was dedicated to social justice and always full of new ideas, and 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, and as a fitting and lasting tribute we have created the annual Guido Galli Award. At the end of each academic year a chosen student receives a financial award and assistance with publishing their dissertation through the PRDU. This year’s congratulations go to Tim Bidey for his exceptional dissertation, performance and engagement on our MA in Post-war Recovery Studies.

Israel’s damaged democracy

On 24 March, PRDU Lecturer Jacob Eriksson was on hand in Venice, Italy, to oversee the second annual lecture of the European Association of Israel Studies (E AIS). EntitledIsrael: Why Are We So…?, the lecture offered some stark insights into the state of Israeli democracy, political culture, and society, inviting the audience to complete the title with their own chosen adjective.

The speaker, Avraham Burg, is a seasoned Israeli politician, having served as chairman of the Jewish Agency, and a member and speaker of the Knesset. In an honest evaluation laced with humour, Burg lamented the trajectory from what he described as a socialist and democratic founding vision of 1948 to an increasingly neo-conservative and damaged democracy. This damage was evident in the recent election campaign which was stained by Netanyahu’s remarks about Israeli Arabs ‘heading to the polling station in droves’.

Burg observed a number of characteristics which made Israeli democracy challenging. A majority of Israeli immigrants come from undemocratic backgrounds, and the Jewish belief of being a chosen people stands in contrast to democratic ideas of equality. Burg described this belief as a tool of the weak which was necessary in the diaspora, but questioned its relevance to Israel today as a strong State.

Burg clearly communicated his concern, observing that Israel has lost the ability to contain these contradictions. The permanent immediacy of the Israeli condition of existential fear, as he put it, is hurting the State. It was a clear and fascinating 45-minute warning which deserves to be heeded.

Erratum

In Revival issue 32 the article ‘War in Reel Time’ stated that the film Pretty Village, Pretty Flame was directed by Emir Kusturica. The director was in fact Srdan Dragojevic. We apologise for this error.
CARE-RISK: UK-Malaysia partnership

In early February 2015, Dr Jo Rose, Teaching Fellow with the Masters for International Humanitarian Affairs, attended the British Council Researcher Links Workshop, CARE-RISK: UK-Malaysia partnership in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop had an intensive agenda that focused on emerging research themes and developing collaborations between institutions. There were a series of keynote presentations delivered, for example, by Nate Rabe, the IFRC Coordinator for Humanitarian Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific Zone, and Dr Hariyati Abdul-Majid, Executive Committee member of MERCY Malaysia. Jo, who achieved the award for best Poster Presentation, discussed the role of affected communities in disasters and conflicts.

Through the workshop, Jo (pictured above with a fellow participant) initiated several partnerships with both international academic institutions in Asia and international humanitarian organisations that will offer greater opportunities to PRDU and our students.

York International Development Conference

At the York International Development Conference (7 March 2015) Dr Janaka Jayawickrama, Programme Director for the MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs, presented on community perspectives on disaster, conflict and uneven development. Janaka’s participation in this conference generated a great deal of student interest regarding the PRDU’s teaching and research.

Cover Story

(continued from page 1)

It is a matter of public record that, as commander of the UN Peacekeeping in Rwanda from 1993–94, he refused to withdraw his troops from the country – instead remaining to fulfil what he felt was an ethical obligation to safeguard those who sought protection. Through his actions, and those of his multinational peacekeeping force, General Dallaire is credited with saving 32,000 people. However, it is estimated that between 800,000 and 1.1 million innocent children, women and men were slaughtered in just over 100 days.

General Dallaire has demonstrated unwavering strength, commitment and integrity in the field of humanitarianism. In 2014, he stepped down from the Canadian Senate to devote himself to his work as the president of The Romeo Dallaire Foundation. As the founder of the Child Soldiers Initiative and as a member of the UN Secretary General’s Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention, General Dallaire is an outspoken advocate and campaigner for genocide prevention and human rights.

The PRDU would like to thank the Office of the Vice Chancellor, and University’s External Relations Department for their continuing support of the El Hassan bin Talal Lecture. Those wishing to support the work of the Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative may do so at: https://www.justgiving.com/DallaireInitiative

Before presenting the El Hassan bin Talal Annual Lecture, General Dallaire and Dr Whitman participated in a seminar with the PRDU’s MA students. (photo: Ian Martindale)

Janaka also participated in a panel discussion on development aid with (left) Mr Richard Dowden, Director of the Royal African Society; and (centre) Mr Geoff Tansey of the Food Ethics Council. (photo: Jonathan Neo)

(continued from page 1)
Dr Janaka Jayawickrama, Programme Director of MIHA, reports on a high-level experts meeting in Istanbul (21 March 2015) organised by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TiKA) and Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA). A select group of academics, policy makers, and development actors (bilateral and multilateral) assembled to critically assess the past, present and future of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in Turkey – a country which has transformed itself from being a recipient of development aid only decades ago, to being one of the world’s biggest donors.

The centrality of Turkey as a global humanitarian donor is rarely appreciated. A glimpse at the statistical evidence quickly illustrates the scale and scope of this radical change – not only in Turkey’s role in humanitarian affairs, but more broadly in the structure of global humanitarianism.

- In 2014, Turkey provided US$1.6 billion for humanitarian emergencies, making it the third-largest government donor of official humanitarian assistance.
- Turkey’s annual humanitarian assistance increased by 57% in 2013, with most of this going to countries classified as fragile and in receipt of long-term humanitarian aid.
- Estimates of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from non-DAC donors (such as China, India, Turkey, South Korea, and Brazil) vary widely, from $11 billion to $41.7 billion. (http://aiddata.org/track-emerging-donors)

The meeting was organised and hosted by the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Dr Ahmet Davutoğlu, and convened by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Prof. Numan Kurtulmu. Distinguished speakers included: Antonio Martins da Cruz, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Lusíada University, Lisbon, Portugal; Ambassador Jung-Soo Doo, the Vice President of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); Mr Kamal Malhothra, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey; Ms Mayumi Endoh, JICA Country Director of Turkey, Japan; and representatives from China and Mexico.

Conclusions from the conference emphasised the importance of targeted, demand-driven technical and development cooperation rather than conventional supply-driven development aid. An example of how this transition might be facilitated was illustrated in the presentation by Ms Endoh, who explained the transformation of JICA’s development assistance to Turkey into a development partnership, where collaborative programmes are collectively conceived and implemented, including the development of: a partnership for disaster risk reduction; triangular cooperation to assist third countries; and tackling and addressing trans-border global issues such as climate change and refugees.

The significance of the meeting in Istanbul extends well beyond the geographical scope of Turkey itself. Participants recognised that there is both the opportunity and the political will – in Turkey and among ‘Emerging Donors’ – to develop and establish a new paradigm and architecture for humanitarian and development aid. In light of these facts, the questions we need to ask ourselves are these:

- Are we engaging humanitarian crises with a set of assumptions, tools, and institutions, which were formulated for a world that no longer exists?
- What should we be doing right now to ensure that we engage the right humanitarian issues with the right tools, with the right partners, in the right way, for optimal effect?

The meeting in Istanbul proved an exciting opportunity for the PRDU to influence the discourse and practice in the changing landscape of humanitarian and development aid, and to collaborate with new and like-minded partners around the world.
A founding principle of the PRDU is that post-war recovery requires significant investment in national and sub-national capacity development while armed violence is still raging. The crucial question is: how should a country prepare for peace in the midst of armed conflict?

This was the question that led the UN to invite Kenneth Bush, PRDU Executive Director, to Colombia in December 2014 and March 2015 (with further visits in preparation). As the Government of Colombia and FARC (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) enter into what is hoped to be the final stage of peace negotiations in Havana, Cuba, Dr Bush was invited to work with Colombian colleagues on the question of how to ensure that the post-agreement formulation and delivery of conventional government programmes (such as water, health and education) serve to foster good social relations within violence-affected communities, and (at a minimum) do not exacerbate tensions or re-ignite conflict.

Working with a team from Javeriana University, the initiative is contributing to the development of essential mechanisms to ensure the timely and effective delivery of public services throughout the country – particularly to communities where decades of armed violence have cultivated deeply-rooted grievances, political marginalisation, and disconnection from the normal functioning of the State.

When asked how he became involved in the project, Dr Bush responded: “It was one of those calls out of the blue that makes working in post-war recovery such an exciting and satisfying experience. The phone rang; I picked it up and, just above the din of squawking Canadian geese outside my office window, the head of the International Organization for Migration in Colombia asked how my work on Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA) in other countries around the world might be applied to the Colombian context. From that initial conversation, things moved very quickly.”

In the two initial field trips to Colombia, Dr Bush met with a wide range of actors and organisations working for constructive change in the country, including: officials from the President’s office; the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace; the Ministry of Post-Conflict; the Department for Social Prosperity; the Colombian Agency for Reintegration; the Victims Unit; local government leaders; as well as bilateral donors such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and USAID.

However, the most moving and impressive groups and individuals he met were those from regions ravaged by six decades of armed violence. He explains: “During my trips, I have travelled to communities from the southern border with Ecuador to the northern border with Panama, and from the Pacific to the Caribbean coasts. I have visited farmers involved in coca eradication programmes; coffee growers; campesinos; massacre survivors; local government officials; former child soldiers; and the full spectrum of Colombians who have suffered unimaginable depredations of dirty war. What they all understand – better than most international actors – was expressed by a very impressive community leader in Leiva, Narino: “Peace is not going to come from Havana, it is going to come from this very soil we are standing on... Or it is not going to come at all.”

Dr Bush concluded: “These trips to Colombia have served to consolidate PRDU relationships with the broadest spectrum of actors in Colombia. It is a privilege for us to be asked to contribute to the peace process at this critical juncture in Colombia history. I am confident that the personal and institutional relationships which have evolved over six months will serve as the bridge for continued PRDU involvement with our good colleagues at Javeriana University, and international actors. But to be clear, our role here is to support those in Colombia – who, frankly, are the real experts in conflict, peace and post-war recovery in their country – not to sell pre-packaged solutions.”
On 1 December 2014, WFP announced the suspension of the provision of food vouchers to over 1.7 million Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. As a Cash Transfers Programming Manager leading World Vision International’s Food Assistance Unit for the Syria Response in Jordan, such developments impacted negatively, not only on our food assistance programme, but the entire programming for the response.

At that time (according to UNHCR data), Jordan hosted 618,615 registered Syrian refugees, with 85% residing in host communities. Za’atari camp had 81,776 refugees (74% of its full capacity) while Azraq camp had 11,197 refugees (9% capacity), and the two camps could only hold a maximum of 135,000 refugees (22% of the refugees in Jordan).

WFP’s suspension of its food assistance to Syrian refugees residing outside of camps, due to insufficient funding, shook the humanitarian landscape. An influx of refugees into the two camps was therefore expected, but with devastating implications. WFP’s position was inconsistent, indicating that its food assistance was not connected in any way to services provided by other humanitarian organisations. However, there was a significant level of integration in the response as other agencies targeted the same refugees. If refugees targeted by other agencies in host communities moved to camps, then agencies had to be prepared to face a ‘new target group’. Equally, an influx of refugees into camps meant that camp-based agencies would be overwhelmed in meeting basic needs such as water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), education and non-food items (NFIs). Conflict between original camp residents and ‘newcomers’ was likely whilst there were insufficient resources to address refugee needs. Some refugees were likely to return to southern Syria, creating more structural challenges around access and vulnerability.

Implications for the World Vision Jordan Programme
An influx of refugees into camps would result in a spike in needs across all sectors within the camp, likely overstretching World Vision’s resources for WASH and NFIs. In the host communities, Child Friendly Spaces, remedial classes and other interventions would certainly lose beneficiaries.

The situation puts humanitarian actors in a space where they must look at how best they could deal with risks associated with partnerships with UN agencies. It also calls for re-thinking the way emergency cash programming is packaged, creating a toolkit more aligned to addressing protection and basic needs as a contingency measure or preparedness plan to address complex emergencies.

Using cash transfers programming as a contingency/preparedness plan
Use of cash transfers programming across all sectors has become increasingly relevant because it allows beneficiaries to easily re-visit their priorities in instances where there are abrupt changes in resources of which they could take advantage – as would have been possible in the Syrian response following WFP’s suspension of its food assistance.

Questions to ask ourselves
- How do we manage information or coordinate effectively for improved humanitarian intervention and effectiveness?
- How do we use and manage information for early warning in our humanitarian intervention?
- Are there coordination issues regarding the current humanitarian landscape in Jordan?
- Should there be reforms to the roles of UN agencies in responses to emergencies?

A Syrian refugee completing her shopping in Amman, Jordan, using food vouchers from the World Food Programme. (photo: DFID)
Our new, restructured, MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs (MIHA) programme that will be delivered within a 2-year period rather than the previous 3-year timeframe, has been welcomed by humanitarian organisations around the world, as well as prospective students.

Since September 2014, the PRDU has been engaging in dialogue with various humanitarian organisations including the United Nations, international agencies and various humanitarian workers – both international and local. A consistent message was received regarding our MIHA – the programme needed a major structural change and a reduced delivery period.

In response to this, the MIHA team have created a new, restructured programme that will be delivered within a 2-year period.

Unique as an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary postgraduate degree, the MIHA examines the changing nature of humanitarianism and is offered exclusively online. The PRDU delivers the MSc in collaboration with humanitarianism experts from the UN, IFRC, INGOs, academic institutions and community groups in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and many others working throughout the world on humanitarian policy and delivery. The MIHA provides an academic setting for professionals to:

- **develop** a systematic and pragmatic understanding of the variety of responses to humanitarian needs in complex operational contexts, including violent conflict, natural hazards and political crises.
- **examine** and analyse contemporary humanitarian issues, challenges and dilemmas using social, political, cultural, economic and environmental perspectives, and the lived experiences of affected communities. To explore changing policy debates as well as the technical approaches to the main humanitarian challenges.
- **gain** advanced academic and policy skills, and to learn how to connect theory to maintain good practice.

With this new structure MIHA students will be able to access the extensive experience and knowledge base at the PRDU through a unique learning and teaching process, whilst gaining a globally-recognised postgraduate qualification. Students can enjoy the use of a dynamic range of learning tools available to them throughout the duration of their study, including: participatory learning and teaching methodologies; experiential and problem-solving approaches; interactive online discussions; collaborative exercises and case study materials; webinars for each module with leading academic, policy or practice experts; bespoke study materials; private study exercises; and access to the extensive online library at the University of York.

Where are they now?

We are always pleased to get news from our alumni, such as this report from the field (name withheld by request).

Much has happened in the short period of time since I completed the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies. I immediately returned in a full-time capacity to a human rights organisation based in Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, for whom I had previously worked as an intern. As a Legal Advocacy Officer I am responsible for overseeing a variety of research and advocacy efforts. It is a position with a notably varied workload, including the preparation and delivery of legal briefings to UN bodies, drafting advisory papers for the Palestinian National Government, and participating in national and international networks.

For a number of reasons, the working environment is an extremely challenging one. However, I feel my time within the PRDU has prepared me well for these challenges. My confidence in conducting independent field-based research has improved greatly, as has my ability to process and analyse complex research findings. In addition, I have begun to implement a number of procedures within my Organisation with a view to developing our internal reporting, monitoring and evaluation practices. These are direct results of my studies at the PRDU, and should have a real, positive impact on our ability to achieve the Organisation’s mandate.

Human rights work in the Middle East is an area with many inherent uncertainties, but I have found that my studies in York have provided excellent foundations upon which to begin building my career. There are exciting opportunities ahead, and I am looking forward to the future.
In November/December 2014, Lecturer Dr Tom Waldman led the current cohort of MA students on their 14-day Field Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by PRDU colleagues Dr Alex Lewis and Ms Erica Cushworth.

The Field Visit allows our MA students to gain first-hand, ground-level understandings of recovery and reconstruction in the aftermath of war, and develop the methodological, logistical and ethical skills and sensibilities required for work in conflict-affected settings. This unique feature of the PRDU programme helps to create a well-rounded graduate, able to connect theory with practice in a complex and politically volatile environment.

The 1992–95 conflict was an outcome of the steady disintegration of Yugoslavia following the death of Tito in 1980, and the end of the Cold War. Over 100,000 people were killed, millions were displaced, and tens of thousands of women and men were systematically raped. The war caused untold suffering and divided previously integrated communities.

Since 1995, Bosnia has made significant strides – open conflict has not returned, and some measure of normality has been achieved. But is 20 years long enough to truly overcome the legacy of such brutal conflict? Have victims obtained justice for the crimes committed against them? Have displaced peoples been able to return and reintegrate into society? Are people from different ethnicities able to live together in peace? Are the required institutions and governance structures in place that will facilitate political development, social stability and growth? This trip was designed to enable students to explore such questions.

Students were well prepared – both academically and practically – for their time in the country, having received prior briefings from PRDU staff on areas such as: international responses to the conflict; the Dayton Peace Accords; the cultural and historical context of the region; the 2014 elections; and the EUFOR Althea mission.

We spent our first week in Sarajevo, where we met with inspiring local youth reconciliation ambassadors, national government officials, academics, international and local NGO representatives, as well as World Bank, ICTY and UN agency staff. We also visited the Tunnel Museum, the eerily abandoned bobsleigh track from the 1984 Winter Olympics, and a moving photo exhibition on the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

We then travelled north to Banja Luka in Republica Srpska. Highlights from this leg of the trip included: a panel session at the University of Banja Luka; a variety of gender-focused presentations provided by CARE International, United Women Banja Luka and the Gender Center; and a meeting with the Banja Luka City Administration, which led to one student being interviewed by a local TV station!

The final leg involved a picturesque journey southwards to the city of Mostar. We met with a small but hugely inspiring local NGO, Youth Power, as well as Nansen Dialogue, which focuses on promoting conflict transformation and inclusive democratic processes. Our final day involved a fascinating tour of former Yugoslav bases and the Partisan Monument, followed by a short trip to the historic garrison town of Pocitelj.

Visiting these three very different parts of the country provided the students with the means to triangulate the varied perspectives, opinions and experiences they encountered. This underscored the often contrasting and competing narratives that exist in the aftermath of divisive ethnic conflict, and how the violence of the war is often transformed into less prominent but still hugely damaging forms of division, exclusion and intolerance.

The students used their time in the country to

Challenging, discomforting, exhausting and rewarding: Field Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina

(continued on page 11)
Gender

With the war having taken a great toll on the men, women, and LGBT persons of BiH, our aim was to understand the current status of reconstruction and recovery from a gendered perspective, writes Charlotte Dickenson. A packed schedule saw us interview around 40 employees of various NGOs, INGOs and government staff.

From our pre-trip research we knew that Bosnia had a culture couched in centuries of patriarchal norms, and that even during Tito’s Communist era, little in reality had liberalised for women. With the rise of nationalism, women’s place was strictly in the home, and to be mothers to a new generation of proud nationalist children.

Contrary to the narrative of oppressive patriarchal norms, BiH today has a growing set of legal frameworks and has adopted international standards. It is one of only 19 countries in the world to have adopted a national Gender Action Plan but, in reality, very little has changed in the gender relations of the country since the war. We found that there was a hierarchy of issues with regards to gender amongst government and NGO staff. Issues relating to female victims of rape or domestic abuse had the most support, followed by programmes to help rural and Roma women. There was little help for male victims of rape, or men with PTSD, and just one organisation working specifically for LGBT rights. Many of our interviewees believe that the country’s accession to the European Union explains why the government seems so willing to sign legislation, yet does little in practice to implement or enforce these standards.

Just 20 years since the end of the conflict, and with the country still suffering from the recent global economic crisis, we understand that gender issues have slipped down the agenda for many employees in the government and NGO sectors. However, with growing donor fatigue, and many INGO’s leaving the country in the next 3–5 years, it is hugely important that they leave behind a large footprint, and that the government steps up to the job of supporting the recovery of BiH for the men, women and LGBT persons still suffering from the legacy of the war.

Reconciliation

In the three places we visited we found different perceptions towards the war, reinforced by the likes of media and education, reports Shotaro Ono. This was an invaluable experience to understand the complexity of people’s perspectives in a post-war country, and to appreciate that there is no single path to reconciliation.

Although there have been many efforts to nurture reconciliation through international assistance and the activities of NGOs, we noted the different ways of using terminologies of war. For example, the Bosnian War was described as a “war of aggression” and as a “civil war”. We had a unique chance to spend a National Holiday (Statehood Day) in Sarajevo, but were told that only some parts of the country celebrate it as such. These experiences made us recognise how the war continues to be interpreted differently according to ethnicity.

There also seem to be differences in people’s expectations regarding assistance from external organisations. The famous Mostar bridge – rebuilt to the exact same design, using the same materials – has been considered a symbol to reconnect the divided ethnicities. However, the perception of some people from Mostar was very different, and we witnessed psychological divisions between the two different ethnic groups living on each side of the bridge.
Palgrave Critical Studies in Post-conflict Recovery

As reported in Revival 31, the PRDU, and Macmillan Publishers, are pleased to announce a forthcoming book series edited by Dr Kenneth Bush and Professor Sultan Barakat entitled Palgrave Critical Studies in Post-conflict Recovery. If you have a project that may fit with the series (see below), please contact kenneth.bush@york.ac.uk or fill in the application form on our website http://www.york.ac.uk/prdu/

This new series seeks to consolidate and galvanise our thinking about, and responses to, the new challenges and possibilities within the post-conflict period: short-term, medium-term and long-term.

It aims to meet the need for the infusion of timely, focused, theoretically rigorous, and applied research into real-time decision-making environments – the cumulative impact of which will be the drawing of the boundaries of the theory and practice of Post-conflict Recovery.

It welcomes submissions from researchers, practitioners, activists, and community workers in the Global North and in the Global South – indeed, from anyone across the broad and varied spectrum of stakeholders working on, or in, conflict and post-conflict settings.

Policy in the Middle East

The following on-line publications are all authored or co-authored by Sultan Barakat – PRDU Chairman; Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center; and Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center for Middle East Policy.

Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen: The moral questions (Markaz, The Brookings Institution, 31 March 2015, Blog post)

Saudi Arabia’s new king, Salman bin Abdulaziz, recently vowed that the Saudi-led military campaign against Houthi militias in Yemen would continue until the country is “stable and safe”. Given Yemen’s various declared objectives, this means that “Operation Decisive Storm” will need to go on for a long, long time before its declared objective is achieved. A stable and safe Yemen is the sort of objective that Saudi Arabia could have pursued six months ago after the Houthis seized control of Sanaa. Now, however, Yemen sits on the brink of civil war, and the Saudi-led intervention does nothing to avert it. The real question is why Saudi Arabia waited so long to act – and why it has intervened in this particular fashion?

Fortress Jordan: Putting the Money to Work (Brookings Doha Center, 3 February 2015, Policy Briefing)

co-authored with Andrew Leber

Since September of 2014, Jordan has joined other Western and Arab coalition partners in striking Islamic State (IS) positions in Syria. How have conflicts on Jordan’s borders, and now the country’s direct intervention, strained its resources? How have the country’s leaders presented their participation at home and abroad? In a timely Policy Briefing based on field research, the authors assess Jordan’s vulnerabilities to regional conflicts and domestic pressures. Despite broad public support for action against IS they note a growing gap between state and society, and contend that reducing threats to Jordanian stability lies not in “taking the fight to IS” abroad, but in strengthening Jordanian society at home.

Back to Gaza: A New Approach to Reconstruction (Brookings Doha Center, 12 January 2015, Policy Briefing)

co-authored with Omar Shaban

The initial drive to rebuild the Gaza Strip following last summer’s destructive war between Israel and Hamas has gradually stalled. Only a tiny percentage of funds pledged at an October donor’s conference have reached Gaza, and thousands remain homeless. What factors have caused these failures in the reconstruction of Gaza? How can the Palestinian leadership and the international community work to avoid past mistakes? In this Policy Briefing, Sultan Barakat and Omar Shaban draw on their extensive post-war reconstruction expertise to provide policy advice on approaching the daunting task of rebuilding the devastated Gaza Strip. The authors outline a reconstruction strategy that seeks to engage and empower local stakeholders in Gaza, while improving transparency to ensure accountability to the Palestinian people.