

2016-17

SIAS NEWS

School of
Interdisciplinary
Area Studies



REFLECTIONS ON AN EVENTFUL YEAR



Welcome to the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies' newsletter for 2016-17. It has been an eventful year and it is wonderful to have this opportunity to reflect with everyone on the past few months. The faculty, administrators and students at SIAS have continued to advance our mission to engage in independent-minded and rigorous analysis of regional and inter-regional processes across the globe through our teaching, research and outreach events. We passionately believe that contemporary global challenges require in-depth and holistic regional understanding – a conviction that seems to be ever more urgent.

An exciting boost to our shared efforts was a generous and timely donation to create an Associate Professorship in Russian and Eurasian Political Economy, thereby anchoring the Russian and East European Studies programme securely for the future, and providing an intellectual and organisational platform for postdoctoral and doctoral researchers working in this field. We hope to replicate this model for endowing a post in

contemporary Chinese Studies because Vivienne Shue's retirement from SIAS has left a substantial gap in our teaching and research on China's domestic politics as they are unfolding now. We hope to build on Vivienne's legacy to secure this area of expertise for the future.

In further good news, this academic year we carried out the first round of admissions for our new doctoral programme. The calibre of the 72 applicants was outstanding and the admissions panel had a difficult job in deciding on the final offers. We look forward to welcoming eight doctoral researchers in September who will be mentored by the new Tutor for Doctoral Students, our Stanley Lewis Professor of Israel Studies, the leading political scientist and historian, Yaakov Yadgar.

In 2017 we were also joined by Dr Janey Messina, Associate Professor in Social Science Research Methods. Dr Messina (see p8) is a renowned expert in global public health and will be using her skills to equip our graduates to use original data sets and to confidently evaluate evidence in secondary and grey data in their academic and professional lives.

Staying on the topic of research training, this year we expanded our offering of field skills and safety workshops. This has become ever more necessary as fieldwork has become increasingly popular among our students. In 2016-17 many of our 114 masters' students travelled to 21 different countries to carry out first-hand research for their dissertation projects, supported by departmental small grants. To give a flavour of the diversity of their projects, topics included the influence of Chinese immigrants on Mozambican consumers of fashion and beauty products; how Ukrainian nationalists

have borrowed mobilisation strategies from their counterparts in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia; and young indigenous mothers' experiences of pregnancy in Peru.

Now is also an opportune moment to celebrate our colleagues' recent outstanding research achievements. Books published by SIAS faculty in the academic year 2016-17 cover topics such as the quest for universal social policy in Latin America (Diego Sanchez-Anochea), India as a rising power (Kate Sullivan de Estrada; p4), illicit drugs in the Middle East (Philip Robbins), the Katangese gendarmes and the war in central Africa (Miles Larmer), contested memories of China's Cultural Revolution (Patricia Thornton), resistance to pollution in China (Anna Lora-Wainwright; p2), and the China-EU relationship (Paul Irwin Crookes; p6). SIAS faculty have also won grants for timely cutting-edge research projects including on circuits of waste recycling across East Asia (Anna Lora-Wainwright), urban governance restructuring in China (Kyle Jaros), the cross-border flow of people, ideas and minerals in the Zambian and Congolese copper-belts (Miles Larmer), human rights violations and disappearances in Mexico (Leigh Payne), and LGBT mobilisation in Russia (Dan Healey; p5).

We at SIAS wish everyone a safe and restful summer or winter – depending where in the world you are – and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

On behalf of Area Studies,

Rachel Murphy

Professor of Chinese Development and Society

Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies



THE DAILY GRIND OF RURAL POLLUTION

How are people responding to perceived health hazards in newly industrialised rural China?

The sight of Chinese city-dwellers wearing face masks as they go about their daily business on polluted streets is not now unusual, but what is perhaps less well known is that residents of rapidly industrialising rural areas in China are also living with pollution every day. Dr Anna Lora-Wainwright, Associate Professor in the Human Geography of China, has investigated how the rural Chinese are responding to living in an environment with tainted water, visibly dirty air and other health hazards when their livelihood is often provided by the industries that create these environments.

‘Many towns and villages in rural China developed rapidly during the 1980s and beyond, when China’s more neoliberal leaders placed a focus on the country getting wealthier and accepted that some people would get rich first,’ explains Anna. ‘Smaller industries and private enterprises were allowed to flourish and things became more and more deregulated, often creating environmental problems. Even today, when international pressure is causing China to make prominent efforts to tighten up and implement its environmental legislation, it’s such a huge country that the ethos promoted in the centre doesn’t necessarily make it out to far-flung provinces.’

The presence of chemical industries, mineral mining, fertiliser plants and paper mills, not to mention the rocketing trade in breaking up, recycling and incinerating electronic waste pouring in from all over the world, is taking its toll on the

environment. Whether this is contributing to the incidence of skin irritation, nosebleeds, epilepsy, arthritis and a wide variety of cancers and other serious diseases is a politically sensitive subject.

In her new book, *Resigned activism: living with pollution in rural China*, Anna explores people’s complex responses to living alongside often very visible pollution. Some individuals choose not to think about the effect their living conditions



Rural Chinese are living in an environment with tainted water, visibly dirty air and other health hazards”

may be having on their health; others are philosophical because they feel they can do nothing about it. But, Anna reports, many individuals are trying to take control for themselves and their families: ‘They do things like buying bottled water or sending their children to live elsewhere. Pregnant women may decide to leave the area and people are careful about what they eat. Ironically, they think that growing their own food is safer, but they may be planting their crops in soil polluted by the local lead, zinc or phosphorous mine.’

Some people are adopting more community-based strategies – blockading

roads, trying to liaise with the directors of local industries or lobbying town or village officials to exert control and seek compensation. ‘For them, it’s not about driving the industry away – it’s too important to the community – but about seeking compensation for crops damaged by acid leaks, for example,’ says Anna.

So while local communities are not necessarily passive and isolated victims of pollution, the big problems for them, she says, are lack of access to scientific evidence to support their claims and the fact that they’re not well connected. In the cities, environmental protest among homeowners and the middle classes attracts journalists’ attention, but in rural villages – apart from the intense coverage given to alleged ‘cancer villages’ – that isn’t likely to happen. Sometimes a company seeks to divide the community by treating individuals differently: ‘In one place I looked at, the locals were entitled to compensation packages but the migrant workers who had arrived from poorer areas because they needed the work didn’t get the same.’

Struggling to make their concerns heard in the face of what Anna terms ‘the daily grind of living with pollution’, many rural Chinese are feeling powerless and live in a state of ‘resigned activism’.



From left: Pollution in rural China; recycling capacitors; Anna interviews a Chinese worker



© Anna Lora-Wainwright



A PORTRAIT OF PERSECUTION

A stage adaptation of Jonny Steinberg's book, A Man of Good Hope, is going global

South African prison gangsters, exiled Liberian refugees, an Aids pandemic and beleaguered white farmers have all featured in the books of Jonny Steinberg, Professor of African Studies. By interviewing people living in often the most extreme circumstances, he explores how political transition changes the way people understand their lives, how they relate to others and how they simply survive.

Now, one of those books, *A Man of Good Hope*, has been turned into a vivid and exuberant musical stage play by the award-winning Isango Ensemble, a theatre company based in Cape Town. Following a highly successful run in autumn 2016 at the Young Vic Theatre in London and subsequently at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, the production is currently touring venues across Europe, Australia, China and the United States.

A Man of Good Hope tells the story of Asad Abdullahi, a young Somali man who fled Mogdishu in 1991 at the age of eight, having watched his mother being shot dead by a rival militia group as civil war erupted in Somalia. Separated from his uncle when a mortar exploded as refugees were clambering onto a truck fleeing the city, the young Asad is loosely and temporarily attached to a series of adults until he finds himself homeless and alone in Kenya. With immense determination and remarkable resilience to the hostility and xenophobia he constantly encounters, the young refugee works his way to South Africa – en route, he hopes, to the US.

When Jonny Steinberg met him in 2010, Asad was living in Blikkiesdorp

(‘Tin Can Town’ in Afrikaans), a shack settlement on the outskirts of Cape Town. Although he was making a small success of the shop business he had set up, he was continuously under threat from the very poorest South African locals, who were beginning to turn savagely on African immigrants as the cause of their own problems. Jonny interviewed him three times a week over a year, sitting in Jonny’s car outside the shop but with the key in



Asad is among the most gifted storytellers I have ever met”

the ignition in case a quick getaway was needed. ‘Originally, I intended to write a quite different book about violence in South African society, with Asad being just one of a number of people I was going to interview,’ says Jonny. ‘But he is among the most gifted storytellers I have ever met and I got hooked on working with him. After the time he spent with Asad, Steinberg followed his footsteps across the Horn of Africa, looking for the traces he had left on his childhood journey.

So how did the stage production come about? ‘David Lan, the South African creative director of the Young Vic, read the book and thought it would make a great project for the Isango company, which he had worked with for many years,’ explains Jonny. ‘Isango have for years re-imagined Western classics, like *The Magic Flute*, using

South African musical traditions. This was a new departure for them – doing something so difficult and dark about their own lives; most of them live in a Cape Town township where xenophobic violence against people like Asad is rife.’

The 23 members of Isango read the book aloud together, then workshopped it with their director, composer and choreographer, collectively creating a score that features chants, laments and stomping choral dances, accompanied by seven marimbas. ‘In a most unexpected way, the London production in September 2016 – which came between Brexit and Trump’s election – really resonated with the themes of immigration and xenophobia that were in the air,’ says Jonny.

Another of his books, *Midlands*, is currently being filmed and *The Number* is already in post-production. Watch out for them at a cinema near you!



THE CASTE-ING VOTE

Does the UK need to legislate against caste discrimination?

Should protection against caste discrimination be incorporated into UK equality law? This question – the subject of a government consultation ending in July 2017 – has recently been provoking intense and passionate debate. There are about 1.5 million people of Indian ethnicity in the UK (about 2% of the UK population) and while the 2010 Equality Act prohibits racism due to colour, nationality and national or ethnic origins, it does not explicitly specify that this includes caste discrimination. Many Indian communities are fiercely divided on the topic, some believing that current law already encompasses caste issues and others arguing that caste discrimination is an ongoing human rights violation that needs to be clearly stamped on.

In simple terms, the Hindu caste system is hierarchical and comprises, in descending order of purity, the Brahmins (traditionally priests), the Kshatriyas (warrior class), the Vaishyas (business community) and the Shudras (servants or service community). Outside (and beneath) this system are the Dalits, the ‘untouchables.’ Caste is determined by birth, reflecting your ‘pure’ and ‘impure’ position in the social hierarchy, and

influencing your occupation, marriage partner and commensality (broadly, who you share food and socialise with).

But is caste still apparent in modern Britain and is there discrimination? ‘Very much so,’ says Dr George Kunnath, Lecturer in Modern India Studies, who last November gave evidence (pictured) about the entrenched nature of the caste system to the House of Commons consultation (viewable at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=8syxZ4O3ZIU>).

‘A 2009 academic study established four sectors where respondents felt caste discrimination is taking place among South Asians in the UK,’ he reports. ‘These are: employment, where people of lower caste felt they were passed over for promotion and not included in social activities; places of worship, where different castes attend different temples; goods and services, especially health services, where personnel may be asked about their caste and, for example, a healthcare worker of a particular caste may not want to attend someone of lower caste; and education, where 10% of students felt they were being discriminated against by teachers or bullied or called names by other students because of their caste.’ An



individual’s surname, where they worship or which religion they practise are all strong clues to their caste.

‘The Dalit community, the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance UK, and a host of other organisations have been campaigning about this in the UK for over ten years and generally people from lower caste communities want to drive forward more explicit legislation,’ George notes. ‘But people from upper castes argue that any law on caste discrimination – which they dispute happens – would both institutionalise and degrade Hinduism and put it into bad repute.’ It will be interesting to hear what the consultation concludes.



NUCLEAR POLITICS

India and China are adopting different strategies as they bid to become recognised nuclear responsables

The ways in which rising powers both modify and maintain their identities and behaviours as they seek to establish their place in the global order is a topic that intrigues Dr Kate Sullivan de Estrada, Associate Professor in the International Relations of South Asia. Working with Dr Nicola Leveringhaus of King’s College, London, she has been looking at the ways in which India and China seek to project themselves as responsible nuclear powers.

‘India and China are adopting quite different strategies in how they demonstrate their compliance with the

key norms of nuclear governance and show that they are nuclear responsables,’ says Kate. ‘For China, pursuing responsible nuclear status has meant signing up to global non-proliferation instruments like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. India, meanwhile, occupies a somewhat ambiguous insider/outsider position in relation to the NPT and CTBT, but emphasises its so-called “immaculate” record on the non-proliferation of nuclear technologies and know-how beyond its borders. This record stands in contrast to that of China, a country that has faced

allegations of nuclear cooperation with Pakistan, as well as with Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Algeria.’

The notion of restraint in the possession, testing and transfer of nuclear technology is central to recognition as a responsible nuclear power. But both India and China go beyond established understanding of restraint. They stress that they only possess small nuclear arsenals and both practise de-alerting – introducing reversible physical changes to their nuclear weapons or weapon systems in order to lengthen the time required to launch them in combat. Both countries also profess adherence to

THE LONG ROAD FROM VIOLENCE

Life is intensely difficult for Russia's LGBT community

The shocking outbreak of violence towards gay men that erupted in the Republic of Chechnya in April 2017 once more focused the world's attention on the position of LGBT people throughout the Russian Federation. 'There's no tolerance of any kind of openness about same-sex love in the Chechnya Republic and indeed much more widely in Russia,' says Dan Healey, Professor of Modern Russian History. 'As well as ruthless persecution by the Chechnyan security services, there is strong opposition from both Christian and Muslim groups and the taboo around homosexuality has led to reported family honour killings.'

Gay and lesbian people in the Russian Federation face huge difficulties. 'Russia claims to be a democracy which respects human rights and cares about the welfare of its citizens,' says Dan. 'As part of its democratisation process in 1993 it eliminated the criminal penalty for male homosexuality, but in 2013 it adopted a law which banned "propaganda



for non-traditional sexual relations" – homosexuality – in any public or online space accessible to minors. That law has been used relentlessly against Russian citizens.'

Hundreds of people have been prosecuted for running gay websites (which have been closed down), for conducting unsanctioned demonstrations or for speaking out about injustices or abuse of LGBT people. Public debate about the 2013 law saw numerous murders, abductions and beatings of gay men, but the lack of hate-crime protection for LGBT citizens meant little police interest.

'I believe the Kremlin is seeking to stigmatise the democratic opposition to Putin and this is an effective way to do that,' says Dan. 'They're also running scared of foreign influence. Any non-governmental organisations that receive foreign grant money – whether they are representing disability rights, setting up a cultural organisation or even building a new playground – are required to label

themselves "foreign agents" and are prosecuted if they won't.'

But things do seem to be slowly changing: surprisingly, there are now about twenty-five LGBT community organisations in Russia – not all of them in Moscow or St Petersburg – with around 5,000 to 10,000 members. They are allowed to operate, but under the cloud of limitations to their free speech. 'People were incredibly brave and the LGBT organisations in Moscow and St Petersburg set up support lines and helped gay men get out of Chechnya,' reports Dan. 'Now people have turned to the internet and are deliberately building a community. One St Petersburg group, "Coming Out", undertakes family counselling and provides legal services to gay and lesbian people and their families. Increasingly, there are phone hotlines and cultural and social activities.'

But the real changes, he believes, will only come through international pressure. On recent visits to Vladimir Putin, both Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron expressed concerns about human rights and asked questions about the violent crackdown on homosexuals in Chechnya. Significantly, the Russian government has now set up its first formal judicial enquiry to examine the situation.

'On the whole, I'm cautiously optimistic,' says Dan. 'Since the debates on the 2013 gay propaganda law, many Russians who never thought about LGBT issues are now talking about them – negatively and positively. Change will take time. After all, acceptance of LGBT citizens in the West took fifty years to evolve from the first stirrings of gay liberation in New York City in 1969. Our "enlightened" attitudes are of a very recent vintage. The next generation in Russia won't automatically be more tolerant, but those who want a more democratic country will accept fuller LGBT rights'

the 'no first use' doctrine and emphasise that their weapons are not for coercion but for defence.

'I find it interesting that the established nuclear powers – the US, Russia, France and the UK – are not really recognising or giving credit to India and China for the full spectrum of their policies of restraint,' says Kate. 'It suggests that these dominant states in the nuclear order are unwilling to augment the prevailing norms of nuclear governance, even to include behaviours that reduce nuclear dangers.'

Why, then, do China and India persist with policies that earn them

little recognition from the established nuclear powers? For rising powers there is inherently a tension, Kate feels, between 'wanting to join the club' and wanting to retain the attributes or behaviours that positively distinguish them from existing great powers. Demonstrating an alternative way of 'doing' nuclear politics can be particularly important in their attempts to appeal to developing countries as potential leaders. As they rise, they are torn between compliance with existing norms in world politics and projecting their own distinctive identities.



AN UNEASY PARTNERSHIP

The EU and China have mismatched expectations for their future relationship

Over the last two decades, the European Union has sought to strengthen its political and economic ties with China, with the 2003 Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two establishing a framework for not only improving their economic ties but also consulting on political and security issues and cooperating over research and environmental issues. But of late, things have gone awry. As the EU falters in its self-belief as an economic and political beacon and as China finds its feet on the world stage, the two are rethinking their economic relationship and reviewing their interdependence. Is there a mutually acceptable way forward – and what will be the effects of Brexit?

‘The relationship between the EU and China is currently rather tense,’ says Dr Paul Irwin Crookes, Lecturer in the International Relations of China. ‘Right now, the most striking aspect is the absence of a grand strategy by the EU for its engagement as a whole with China. This lack of overarching objectives – where previously there was a vision that China would embrace the EU’s normative agenda – is relatively new and it’s permeating a lot of individual issues. There are currently lots of different strategies and multiple dialogues going on simultaneously. It’s a very fractured situation.’

EU member states seem unable to agree on key economic strategies for recovery and also hold very different views on a common external economic policy towards China, with some seeking to prioritise consumer interests (such as the Netherlands and the UK), others favouring producer interests (Italy, France) and others, such as Germany, trying to balance preferences across both groups. These differences make it hard for China to view the EU as a coherent partner. And rather than working together, some member states are seeking to individually attract inward investment from China.

This is exemplified by tensions over market economy status, which the EU has refused to grant China. The Chinese interpret this as a lack of recognition for what it has achieved in implementing reforms and maintain that the EU is just being protectionist of its industries. Another EU concern is the seeming absence of the Rule of Law across China; while China disputes this, a number of political speeches rather indicate that the country’s interpretation of the concept is different to European expectations.

China’s nationalist view of economic management and its political control of sectors like transport, energy, banking and insurance via state-owned enterprises also pose problems for the EU, which wants the state role to diminish. And while China’s determined strategy of purchasing technology companies around the world



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is welcome investment, some countries like Germany are becoming uneasy at the way technology is exported back to China, advanced a little and then competes in the original marketplace.

‘While I’m concerned that the value gap I see between China and the EU is morphing into a trust deficit, there are some areas of convergence,’ says Paul, whose new book *The Politics of EU-China Economic Relations* (with John Farnell) offers a comprehensive analysis. ‘Both the EU and China agree that global environmental problems need a global solution – and President

Trump’s actions are pushing them closer together. Increased cooperation over scientific research and innovation is also a priority, with China recognising the EU’s supremacy here and wanting to invest.’

So how will Brexit affect the situation? ‘The UK is generally a friend of China in EU decision-making and has frequently been more supportive than some other member states, so when its 12% voting share in Brussels disappears, it could harm China’s interests,’ Paul predicts. For Britain itself, there are several implications including, of course, its own trading relationship with China: ‘It will be interesting to see if the UK can penetrate China’s services industries and if China’s huge interest in Britain will be reflected by increased investment. London is a very successful hub for the internationalisation of Chinese currency and current evidence suggests that this will continue, but Britain will no longer be able to outsource its position on sensitive issues like human rights to the EU. There are certainly interesting times ahead!’



Book cover by Emma Hardy

THE MORTGAGE MIGRATION

Young Chinese men are working in Ethiopia to secure their futures

What drives so many Chinese men to go and work in Africa, Latin America or other parts of the global south? Anthropologist Dr Miriam Driessen, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in SIAS, believes the phenomenon is driven by skyrocketing housing prices in China plus a new longing for security against a backdrop of the country's recent social transformation.

Miriam has spent time living amongst Chinese workers engaged on road-building projects in Ethiopia both in urban Addis Ababa and in Tigray, a rural area in the north of the country. They are, she says, mostly men in their mid-twenties to early thirties who are there for a limited period – typically five to seven years – because they can earn perhaps four times the salary they would get in China. ‘They generally come from a tough rural background, so working somewhere like Ethiopia under harsh conditions is a much smaller investment for them than working in a Western setting,’ she says.

Ethiopia is currently prospering, with a GDP growth rate of around 10% per year allowing the government to invest in roadbuilding, railways and light manufacturing, particularly in sectors like clothing and shoes. China has been a significant driver in growth over the last ten years, with many Chinese companies – both private and state-owned – active in the country. ‘There are no clear numbers,’ says Miriam, ‘but it’s believed that there are around 30,000 to 40,000 Chinese workers established in Ethiopia, mostly involved in construction or manufacturing.’ The estimate over the whole of Africa is approaching two million migrant workers.

Unlike other African countries, where Chinese workers are allowed to run retail businesses and commonly bring their families to join them, in Ethiopia

the Chinese migrants work for Chinese companies and live the single life in company camps. For most of them, the job is a route to building a better future: a home and thereby a wife. ‘Practically all the men I interviewed in the camps had become temporary migrants in order to earn enough to make a down payment and take out a mortgage to buy a house – or, in urban China, more commonly an apartment in a high-rise building,’ Miriam explains. ‘House ownership in China is very high – around 90% – and young men are expected to own residential property (a marital home) before they marry, which



There are around 30,000 to 40,000 Chinese workers established in Ethiopia

they generally expect to do at a young age.’ In the cities, young people often receive financial support, or even a house, from their families, but for those born and raised in the countryside, temporary migration and becoming a ‘mortgage slave’ provides a way to finance a house in the city.

Marriage is very important in China and is almost universal. The one-child policy, with its son preference and consequent imbalance in sex ratio, has resulted in hypergamy – women seeking to ‘marry up’ to a man who is wealthier or of perceived higher social status. ‘The situation is becoming extreme now, especially in rural areas. Women want to marry men who live in the cities because urban living is seen as more modern and having greater status,’ Miriam says.

As well as enhancing a young man’s marriage prospects, homeownership in

itself – as opposed to the desirability of the actual house purchased – is seen as a symbol of success and demands respect from family and friends. And having a successful home-owning son in turn creates respect for a family.

But while migration has for some time been recognised in China as an avenue for upward social mobility, Miriam believes that she is now seeing a real shift in attitude as a consequence of China’s social transformation. Instead of migration in pursuit of self-realisation and material worth – ‘making it’ – young people today, and particularly rural young men, are being pushed into temporary migration by a sense of anxiety and fear of being left behind in the fierce competition for wealth, jobs, housing and a family life. Working in Africa – and often continuing to do so to keep up the mortgage payments even after getting married – is motivated not by ambition but by a longing for security and stability.



Top: The asphalt plant camp in south-eastern Tigray where Miriam lived; *below:* a ‘mortgage slave’ from Anhui province, China, with Ethiopian workers



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF NUMBERS

Graduate students' training in the application of quantitative methods to the social sciences will receive a boost this year with the appointment of Dr Janey Messina.

An expert in health geography and the spatial epidemiology of infectious diseases, Janey has been appointed as Associate Professor in Social Science Research Methods, with a joint post between SIAS and the School of Geography and the Environment. In SIAS, she will teach a graduate course and offer a weekly drop-in clinic to advise doctoral and masters' students on research design and methods.

'Many of our graduate students come to SIAS with a background in the humanities, social sciences, economics, anthropology or similar areas, so they're not particularly familiar with the ways we can use numerical techniques to help us quantify the patterns we're seeing in our research and be more certain about our results,' says Janey. 'I'm aiming to give them an appreciation of what kinds of things can be quantified and how to design an experiment to incorporate quantitative methods – so they can see, for example, if a result is statistically significant. The course isn't about understanding the formulas, it's about being equipped to



use these methods and to follow and evaluate the way they're being used in a research paper.'

Before joining SIAS, Janey was a senior postdoctoral researcher with the Spatial Epidemiology and Ecology Group in Oxford's Department of Zoology. There, her research focused on global patterns and drivers of dengue virus transmission, as well as potential changes in the landscape and epidemiology of the disease resulting from factors such as urbanisation, climate change and economic shifts. She also investigated the geography of other diseases including the Zika virus, Leishmaniasis, *Plasmodium vivax* malaria, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and the Hepatitis C virus.



RHODES PROFESSOR OF RACE RELATIONS



The African Studies Centre is delighted to announce that Wale Adebani has been appointed Rhodes Professor of Race Relations, taking up the post in July 2017. With doctorates in both Political Science (University of Ibadan) and Anthropology (Cambridge) and a stellar writing career that encompasses religion, democratisation, youth, ethnicity, spatial politics and cities and much else besides, Wale will bring enormous range and quality to our teaching and research.

As Visiting Professor at Rhodes University in South Africa and with close ties to the Nigerian academy, Wale is a global leader in the African Studies community.



For more information about any of these stories or about area studies at the University of Oxford, please contact SIAS's Head of Administration

and Finance, Ms Erin Gordon (erin.gordon@area.ox.ac.uk) or see www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk.

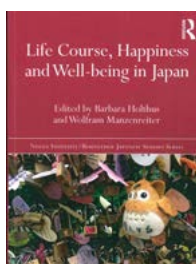
Join leading SIAS academics as they discuss *Flash Points in the Global World Order* on Sat 16 Sept 2017 at 2.30–3.30pm as part of the Oxford Alumni Weekend. Book online at www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk.

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NISSAN INSTITUTE CELEBRATES

The 100th volume in the prestigious Nissan Institute Routledge Japanese Studies series of books was marked in May by a celebration in Oxford which drew together many former lecturers, authors and students at the Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies, travelling from all over the world. Speakers included Arthur Stockwin, the first professor of the Institute, and Peter Dale, author of the first book in the Routledge series.

Established in 1981, the Nissan Institute has been a home to University fellows and students who have created a world-class learning environment through their Japan research,



publications and teachings. Since that time – when much about Japan remained unknown outside the country – the Nissan Institute Routledge series has documented many aspects of Japanese society, culture, economics and politics.

The Nissan Motor Company Ltd was represented at the celebration by Nobusuke Tokura, Senior Vice President of Nissan Technical Centre Europe. Hosting the event, Professor Roger Goodman, Head of the University's Social Sciences Division and Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies, said: 'We are delighted to welcome our many guests and delighted that Nissan Motor Company could be a part of the day. Our association with Nissan over the last 36 years is one thing of which we are very proud.'

