

## LIDC NEWS AND VIEWS

September 2011



**LIDC tackles international development challenges in pioneering ways by bringing together more than 2,000 social and natural scientists, postgraduate students and alumni from the University of London's six Bloomsbury Colleges. The Colleges involved in the interdisciplinary initiative are Birkbeck College, Institute of Education (IoE), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Royal Veterinary College (RVC), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and The School of Pharmacy.**

### LIDC NEWS

#### **New LIDC blog post 'Integrating animal and human health in Rwanda – lessons from the field'**

In the latest post on the LIDC blog, Prof. Richard Kock of Royal Veterinary College shares his field experience of integrating animal and human health in Rwanda.

The LIDC blog, only a few weeks old, has already attracted more than 500 visitors!

[Read more](#)

#### **Help a fellow LIDC member with her PhD research – fill in a quick survey**

An LIDC member (Bloomsbury scholar partly supported by LIDC) from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is conducting a study for her PhD about the education and location preferences of African pharmacists. She is looking for participants who are currently based outside Africa for pharmacy work or study.

[Fill in the survey](#)

### NEWS FROM BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES

#### **LSHTM: George Macdonald medal for 2011 awarded**

George Macdonald medal for 2011 has been jointly awarded to Professor David Mabey, Professor of Communicable Diseases, Faculty of Infectious & Tropical Diseases, LSHTM and Professor Bob Snow, KEMRI-University of Oxford-Wellcome Trust Collaborative Programme.

This medal is presented jointly by the LSHTM and the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH), and is awarded for outstanding research leading to improvement of health in tropical countries.

#### **Birkbeck: Chinese delegation visits Birkbeck's School of Business, Economics and Informatics**

The Department of Management in Birkbeck, University of London's School of Business, Economics and Informatics (BEI) has developed an innovative partnership with the School of International Business at China's Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE).

A delegation from the Chinese institution recently came to Birkbeck to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership will include collaboration at undergraduate, Master's and PhD levels.

### **SOAS publishes Development Viewpoint on Jordan's growth without employment**

The Centre for Development Policy and Research is pleased to announce the publication of Development Viewpoint #65 'Jordan's Paradox of Growth without Employment: a Microcosm of the Middle East?'. The author, Sahar Taghdisi Rad, research partner of CDPR, examines why economic growth in Jordan has not increased productive employment for Jordanians, particularly those with education and skills. Like many other countries in the Middle East, Jordan has a relatively high unemployment rate, with the highest levels among young workers.

[Download the report](#)

### **SOAS Migration Centre and Partners Win £3.2 Million Research Grant**

The SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies and five partner institutions have been awarded a research grant to provide research and training in migration studies. Entitled 'Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging' (CoHaB), the project is a multidisciplinary collaboration among SOAS and the universities of Münster, Mumbai, Stockholm, Oxford and Northampton.

[Read more](#)

### **LSHTM research reveals why mosquitoes bite some and not others**

Why do mosquitoes always bite you and leave your friends alone? Dr. James Logan of LSHTM explains it on the Today Programme.

[Read more](#)

### **LSHTM: Dramatic drop in child deaths is possible**

Simple health service measures could cut the number of children dying in rural areas of Africa before the age of five by more than two thirds, according to a recent study by LSHTM.

[Read more](#)

## **UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AT BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES**

### **Communicating Civilisations and World Order Conference 2011**

Monday, 5 September 2011 to Tuesday, 6 September 2011, SOAS

This conference seeks to understand how and why visions and narratives of global order remain a crucial part of international communication, and whether a harmony among peoples can ever be detached from the power that defines those relationships.

Registration fee: £30

[Read more](#)

### **The Arab Spring: a new awakening for public health?**

Tuesday, 6 September 2011, 5 pm, LSHTM, John Snow Lecture Theatre, Keppel Street  
Recent events in North Africa and the Middle East have led to unrest in a number of countries, transforming politics and society across the region. Health and social services in affected areas have been disrupted, with mass population movements occurring to neighbouring countries. What do these political changes mean for the future of public health in the region?

Speakers:

Khalid Koser, Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Chatham House  
Zied Mhirsi, Tunisian public health activist and co-founder of news website  
[www.tunisiaalive.net](http://www.tunisiaalive.net)

Chairs:

Martin McKee, LSHTM, ECOHOST and Richard Horton, The Lancet

Opening remarks by Peter Piot, Director, LSHTM.

[Read more](#)

### **The Phenomenology of Global Order: Inquiries into the Materiality of International Law - workshop**

Wednesday, 7 September 2011, 9 am (all day), SOAS, room 4418

The organisers invite scholars from all disciplines to attend this workshop on the material conditions of international law, as it seduces and produces human life.

[Read more](#)

### **Department of Global Health and Development Seminar: Social aspects of HIV/AIDS in South Africa**

Wednesday, 7 September 2011, 10:30-11:30 am, LSHTM, Jerry Morris Room B, Tavistock Place (ground floor)

Two speakers will be discussing social aspects of HIV/AIDS in South Africa:

Kaymarlin Govender: 'Constructions of young masculinities in South Africa in the era of AIDS'

Gavin George: 'HIV/AIDS in the private sector in South Africa'.

Kaymarlin and Gavin are both researchers at HEARD - the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa.

### **LCIRAH Seminar Series: Milk and child growth - research in India and the United States**

Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 12 - 1.15 pm, LIDC, Room 103

The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) presents the Agriculture and Health Research in Action Seminar Series. Andrea Wiley, Director, Human Biology Program, and Professor of Anthropology, from Indiana University, Bloomington, will be talking about milk and child growth research in India and US.

[RSVP](#)

[Previous seminars in the series](#)

### **LSHTM Malaria Talks**

Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 12:30 pm, LSHTM, Mary Seacole Room, G1, 15-17 Tavistock Place

Speakers:

Dr Samudu Britton: 'LAMP for malaria diagnosis - progress towards a high-throughput assay'

Dr Nahala Gadalla: 'Candidate molecular markers of drug resistance in Plasmodium falciparum and clinical response to artemether-lumefantrine in Eastern Sudan'

[Read more](#)

### **African Arguments Online launch**

Monday, 3 October 2011, 6 - 8 pm, SOAS, Brunei Lecture Theatre

The event will celebrate the launch of a new blogging website - African Arguments Online, hosted by the Royal African Society and the Social Science Research Council. African Arguments Online will bring debate on the most important African topics to a wider audience with the rapidity of a news magazine and the reach of the internet, and leading public intellectuals— writers, scholars, activists— will contribute regular columns.

### **Book launch: Brief Authority - A memoir of Colonial Administration in Tanganyika**

Tuesday, 4 October 2011, 6 - 8pm, SOAS, Brunei Suite

Join us for the release of Charles Meek's memoir of colonial Tanganyika, with his son and editor Innes Meek. Charles Meek's account of his twenty years in Tanganyika - now Tanzania - goes to the heart of British colonial rule at the end of empire.

Speakers:

Innes Meek

Respondent: Trevor Jagger (TBC)

Chair: Richard Dowden (Director of the Royal African Society)

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### **SOAS School of Law Annual Inception Lecture 2011: 'Direct Action: A Necessary Prescription for Democracy?'**

Wednesday, 5 October 2011, 6 pm, SOAS, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

Speaker: Rt Hon. David Lammy, MP

Chair: Professor Graham Furniss, SOAS Pro-Director (Research & Enterprise)

David Lammy will draw on the history of direct action and civil disobedience, from Gandhi's non-violent resistance to British rule in India to the campaign against South African apartheid. He will compare the student protests of 1968 and the Arab Spring with the protest movement currently taking root in university campuses and community groups across the country. David will seek to answer the fundamental question of whether direct action is necessary for democracy to be born and renewed.

David Lammy graduated from the SOAS School of Law in 1993 with an LLB (Hons) degree, and went on to be the first black Briton to attend Harvard Law School. He was first elected to Parliament in 2000, as the MP for Tottenham, the most ethnically diverse constituency in Europe.

[Read more](#)

### **Tax havens and financial sinkholes: 'Africa's odious debt'**

Monday, 10 October 2011, 7 - 9 pm, SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre

Book launch with authors James Boyce and Leonce Ndikumana, with John Christenson responding and John Weeks chairing.

In 'Africa's Odious Debts', Boyce and Ndikumana reveal the shocking fact that, contrary to the popular perception of Africa being a drain on the financial resources of the West, the continent is actually a net creditor to the rest of the world. The extent of capital flight from sub-Saharan Africa is remarkable: more than \$700 billion in the past four decades. But Africa's foreign assets remain private and hidden, while its foreign debts are public, owed by the people of Africa through their governments.

[RSVP](#)

### **LIDC Members Autumn Networking Event**

Thursday, 13 October 2011, 5 pm, Institute of Education

Come to the bi-annual LIDC members' networking event, where you will find out more about LIDC's cross-College projects and achievements this year and plans for the new academic year. Meet fellow LIDC members, make useful contacts and relax over a drink and canapés. The event is open to all LIDC members.

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### **Congo Masquerade: the political Culture of Aid Inefficiency**

Monday, 17 October 2011, 7 - 9pm, SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre

Join us for this book launch with author Theodore Trefon, and Ben Shepherd (Chatham House) responding.

'Congo Masquerade' is about the mismanagement, hypocrisy and powerlessness in what has proved to be one of Africa's most troublesome and volatile states. In this scathing study of catastrophic aid inefficiency, Trefon argues that whilst others have examined war and plunder in the Great Lakes region, none have yet evaluated the imported 'template format' reform package pieced together to introduce democracy and improve the well-being of ordinary Congolese. The book demonstrates that Congo has been for

years an almost unmitigated failure due to the ingrained political culture of corruption amongst the Congolese elite, abetted by the complicity and incompetence of international partners.

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### **SOAS conference on Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Monday, 24 October 2011, 9 am, SOAS, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

The 6th annual conference on a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone will be held at SOAS by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD) and the British Pugwash Group on United Nations Day, 24 October 2011.

Call for Papers:

Submissions are invited from both established academics and professionals and those entering the field. Possible topics might include: nuclear technology in failing states, developing confidence and building security measures, the impact of political changes in the Arab on the international politics of nuclear energy. The deadline for submission is 5 September 2011. British Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt will give the keynote address at the event.

[Read more](#)

## **COURSES, GRANTS AND VACANCIES AT BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES**

### **Governance and Leadership in Africa - short course at SOAS**

13-17 September 2011, SOAS

The Governance and Leadership in Africa programme at the School of Oriental and African Studies provides a unique opportunity for participants to discuss and develop their knowledge of topical issues affecting the African continent. The programme will bring together public sector officials, civil servants and managers from African institutions, as well as participants from other countries working on Africa, to discuss issues of leadership and governance.

[Read more](#)

### **LSHTM vacancies**

#### **Senior Position in Food & Nutrition**

Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health

Closing date: Friday, 16 September 2011

[Read more](#)

#### **Professor/ Reader in Population and Health**

Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health

Closing date: Friday, 30 September 2011

[Read more](#)

### **Funding opportunities**

#### **ESRC-DFID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development (Poverty Alleviation) Phase 2 Call 3**

The Department for International Development (DFID) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have announced a third call for applications under Phase 2 of their strategic partnership to provide a joint funding scheme for development research. The second phase of funding retains the overall 'poverty alleviation' theme from the first phase, and applications under this broad heading will still be eligible. However, ESRC and DFID have identified three thematic areas for this call where work will be of particular interest:

- Resource Scarcity, Growth and Poverty Reduction;
- Information and Communication Technology and Development;
- Measuring Development.

The deadline for applications is 4 pm on 27 September 2011.

[Read more](#)

### **UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) visiting fellowship programme**

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) is pleased to announce the launch of its visiting fellowship programme. The target group for the programme is young researchers below 40 years of age, and holders of an advanced degree in a relevant area to IRC research. Interested candidates are encouraged to complete and submit their application by 10 September 2011.

[Read more](#)

## **EVENTS AND INITIATIVES OUTSIDE BLOOMSBURY**

### **Countering Food Insecurity in East Africa: the International Response**

Wednesday, 7 September 2011, 6 - 8 pm, Parliament, committee room 16

Since the UN finally declared an official famine in Southern Somalia in Bakool and Lower Shabelle, the international response to the food crisis in East Africa has been ratcheted up a notch. But despite the aid, many feel that the international community has resoundingly failed to ensure food security. Given the unmistakable early warning signs – two seasons of poor rainfall – why did the world take so long to react? Twenty years of insecurity in Somalia has reduced the capacity of humanitarian NGOs and the UN to access the region. Since the militant Islamist group al-Shabab forced out aid agencies in 2009 there has been an increased politicisation of humanitarian aid, with certain countries reluctant to provide assistance that might benefit al-Shabab. The panellists will discuss the way regional security issues have affected the response by NGOs and governments to this food crisis.

Speakers:

Sally Healy, OBE, associate fellow of the Africa Programme at Chatham House

Patrick Watt, Director of Policy and Research at Save the Children

Nuradin Dirie, independent analyst and senior special advisor for UNICEF.

[RSVP](#)

### **EADI-DSA 2011 Conference (13th EADI General Conference)**

19 - 22 September 2011, York, UK

EADI's triennial general conferences are the Association's public forum for debate and research. The 13th General Conference will be held in co-operation with the Development Studies Association of the United Kingdom and Ireland (DSA). The EADI-DSA 2011 conference seeks to maximise the opportunity of working together and to revisit and rethink 'development', to generate new ideas, new narratives and new thinking whenever possible globally co-constructed with partners in global South.

[Read more and register](#)

Are you going to the conference? [Please let us know!](#)

### **IFS Annual Lecture by Esther Duflo: Rethinking policy towards global poverty**

Monday, 26 September 2011, 6 pm – 7.30 pm (followed by a drinks reception), EBRD  
Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at MIT and a founder and director of the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). The lecture will take place at the London headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and will be followed by a drinks reception.

[Read more](#)

## **THIS MONTH IN DEVELOPMENT NEWS HEADLINES**

Unrest continues in Libya and Syria, with mounting pressure from the international community to end the violence. The food crisis in the Horn of Africa is far from over, with famine spreading to Kenya. However, aid is finally starting to reach the neediest in famine-stricken Somalia.

Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria are facing an outbreak of cholera, with some 38,800 people affected this year alone. A new report released by Save the Children, WHO and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine spells bleak news for MDG4 - slow progress in cutting death rates among babies in the first weeks of life is putting the goal in jeopardy.

### **Selected headlines:**

#### **Libya and Syria conflict**

[Paris conference urges Libya reconciliation](#)

BBC News

[Syria unrest: UN condemns government crackdown](#)

BBC News

#### **Health**

[Newborn deaths put millennium development goal under threat](#)

The Guardian

[Cholera soars in Lake Chad Basin countries](#)

IRIN News

#### **Famine and food security**

[Somalia famine: UK insists aid is 'getting through'](#)

BBC News

[Food experts seek long-term solutions on Somalia famine](#)

The Guardian

[Kenya is on the brink of its own disaster](#)

The Independent

**Have you recently published new research on development? Are you organising a development-related event? Did you know you could promote your work to LIDC members at Bloomsbury Colleges and external newsletter subscribers? Send your content to [admin@lidc.bloomsbury.ac.uk](mailto:admin@lidc.bloomsbury.ac.uk) before the end of each calendar month and we will include it (if it meets our editorial standards).**

**Disclaimer: LIDC does not take responsibility for the accuracy of information provided by third parties.**

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