



News and Views May 2011

LIDC tackles international development challenges in pioneering ways by bringing together more than 1,500 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, Institute of Education, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Royal Veterinary College, School of Oriental and African Studies, and The School of Pharmacy.

FROM LIDC AND ITS MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

NEWS

Staff and students from across Bloomsbury Colleges attend the LIDC Spring Networking Event

On 14 April, LIDC members gathered for the bi-annual drinks and networking. To celebrate spring and the upcoming Earth Day, the event was structured around the theme of development and the environment, with Camilla Toulmin, Director of the International Institute for Development and the Environment (IIED) delivering a short talk. The next event will be held in October. All members and prospective members are welcome!

Connect with LIDC on social networking sites

Did you know you can now talk to us via your favourite social networking sites? Join now, to find additional resources and exchange ideas with LIDC and its members. Find us on:

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SOAS: Innovative 'Restudy' of Indian Village Life Wins Major Grant

A SOAS-led research project on Indian village life has been awarded a £774,000 grant by the Economic and Social Research Council.

The researchers will 'restudy' three villages in the Indian states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa that were the subject of now-classic 'village ethnographies' in the 1950s. They aim to survey living conditions in the villages as well as villagers' attitudes towards social change, and then compare their results with data from the 1950s to see how the post-colonial Indian village has changed socially, economically and politically.

[More information](#)

LSHTM researchers contribute to the Lancet Series on Stillbirths

The Lancet has launched its Series on Stillbirths, with the very latest estimates showing that more than 2.6 million stillbirths occur each year - over 7,000 each day. While 98% of these occur in low-income and middle-income countries, stillbirths also continue to blight wealthy nations, with around 1 in every 320 babies stillborn in high-income countries. The Series addresses stillbirth rates and

causes in all countries, and sets key actions by 2020 to halve this event that devastates parents and families.

Joy Lawn and colleagues including Simon Cousens and Hannah Blencowe, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, explore the implications of the first ever set of nationally reviewed stillbirth estimates undertaken with the WHO (paper 2).

[See the Executive Summary](#)

LSHTM celebrates team effort for public health in India

Every year, a distinguished leader in the field of public health is invited to talk about an area of great national and global importance at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) Foundation Day Lecture. This year, the LSHTM's Director, Professor Peter Piot, gave the fourth annual Foundation Day Lecture.

[More information](#)

LSHTM announces launch of new postgraduate course in global health policy starting in September 2011

Offered as either as a master's or a postgraduate certificate and taught via distance learning, the MSc/PGCert Global Health Policy aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of health determinants and outcomes that transcend national boundaries, and the policy responses required to protect and promote population health in a globalising world.

[More information](#)

Research collaboration with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine reveals monkeys providing malaria reservoir for human disease in Southeast Asia

Monkeys infected with an emerging malaria strain are providing a reservoir for human disease in Southeast Asia, according to research published in April. The Wellcome Trust funded study confirms that the species has not yet adapted to humans and that monkeys are the main source of infection.

[More information](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gender and Social Policy in Latin America – Current Research Directions

10 May 2011, 14:00 – 18:00, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU

The aim of this workshop is to provide a forum for discussion and to present new research on gender, social policy and social protection initiatives in Latin America.

[More information](#)

HIV Prevention: Next steps after Caprisa and IPREX results

10 May 2011, 12:45-14:00, LSHTM, Curtin Room (LG9), South Courtyard Building, Keppel Street, WC1E 7HT

Speaker: Gita Ramjee, Medical Research Council, Durban, South Africa

Admission free and open to all, but entry on first come first served basis.

Contact: christian.bottomley@lshtm.ac.uk

'Beyond the Postcolonial': new fiction from East and West Africa

10 May 2011, 18:00, Brunei Suite, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1H 0XG

African literature has gone through many transitions, from the studied erudition of Chinua Achebe to Ngugi wa Thiogo's refined and magical anti-government rants. However, a new generation of writers is emerging, keen to observe and communicate a multiplicity of stories from a continent's complex and diverse modern experience. Join Dr Emma Dawson, Shalini Gidoomal, Tolu Ogunlesi and Peter Ike Amadi to read from their own work, and discuss new directions and innovations in African writing.

Chair: Dr Emma Dawson (Keele University) has edited anthologies of short stories from Cameroon, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya.

Speakers: Shalini Gidoomal is a freelance journalist, writer, and inveterate traveller; Tolu Ogunlesi is freelance writer and editor in Lagos and author of a collection of poetry; Peter Ike Amadi is a staff writer for an entertainment magazine in Lagos.

This event is generously supported by Keele University.

RSVP to rsvp@royalafricansociety.org

Measuring the effects of Agri-Health interventions: An International workshop

12-13 May 2011, Khalili Lecture Theatre, School of Oriental and African Studies

This event is organised by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Agriculture and Health Research Platform as well as 2020 Vision Initiative. Support has been provided by the Leverhulme Trust, IFPRI, and International Development Research Centre, as a follow-up to the IFPRI 2020 International Conference in Delhi: "[Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health](#)".
[More information](#)

'Microscope to telescope' - The official launch event of: The Research Network for Health Systems and Infection

17 May 2011, 17:15 - 21:00, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

This free evening event will feature a number of world-renowned speakers, a discussion panel, and an opportunity for networking. This invitation is extended to academics, policy-makers, students, and service providers with a shared interest in the intersection between health systems and infectious diseases.

Speakers include:

Prof. Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and formerly the founding Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations
Prof. David Heymann, Chair of the UK Health Protection Agency, former Assistant Director-General for Health, Security and the Environment, and Representative of the Director-General for Polio Eradication – World Health Organization

While this is a free event, space is limited and registration is required to attend.

[More information](#)

A policy of empowerment: the politics of gender and technology in international microbicides research

18 May 2011, 12:45 pm – 2:00 pm, Jerry Morris A (Room G13), Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SH
Speaker(s): Dr Catherine Montgomery, ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sociology Department, University of York

This seminar provides an account of the relations between science, society and technology in the development of the international microbicides research agenda. Vaginal microbicides are pharmaceutical products in development designed to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV in women. They are commonly known as a 'woman-controlled technology' and tool for women's empowerment, and form part of a burgeoning field of clinical research into new biotechnologies for HIV prevention. Using theoretical insights from science and technology studies (STS) and empirical data from key actors involved in the research process, this work sheds light on the global politics of prevention and the strategic use of gender and empowerment discourses to obtain research funding. This seminar explores the social production and perpetuation of socio-scientific discourses of gender and HIV, and discusses the implications of this for new prevention technologies in the context of global product development partnerships.

Admission: Free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first served basis.

Contact: Stefanie Ettelt, email: stefanie.ettelt@lshtm.ac.uk

Heath Clark Lecture: Should we be giving antiretrovirals to HIV negative people?

19 May 2011, 17:00, John Snow Lecture Theatre, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT
Speaker: Professor Helen Rees, Executive Director, Wits Institute for Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV and Related Diseases (WHI), Wits School of Clinical Medicine

Admission is free and open to all, but entry on first come first served basis.

Contact: donna.bowers@lshtm.ac.uk

Thinking out of the black box: Randomised controlled trials, mixed methods and policy influence in international development

23 May 2011, 17:30, John Snow Lecture Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,

Keppel Street, WC1E 7HT

Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) have moved to the forefront of the development agenda to assess development results and the impact of development programs. In words of Esther Duflo – one of the strongest advocates of RCTs – RCTs allow us to know which development efforts help and which cause harm.

But RCTs are not without their critics, with questions raised about their usefulness, both in providing more substantive lessons about the programme being evaluated and as to whether the findings can be generalised to other settings.

This symposium brings perspectives from the philosophy of science and a mixed method approach to impact analysis to this debate.

Speakers:

Prof. Nancy Cartwright, Professor of Philosophy, London School of Economics

Prof. Howard White, Executive Director, 3ie

Chair: Prof. Jeff Waage, Director, London International Development Centre (LIDC)

Entry is on a first come first served basis, with no prior registration necessary.

More information: 3ieuk@3ieimpact.org

Social factors and well-being

26 May 2011, 17.30, London International Development Centre (LIDC)

Speaker: [Stephen Stansfeld \(Barts and The London\)](#)

All welcome, no prior registration necessary.

This short seminar series, organised by the EcoHealth Group and supported by LIDC, is aimed at exploring the challenges and implications of using happiness/ well-being metrics as a basis for public policy. This topic has been in the news recently, particularly with regards to David Cameron's interest in the topic.

Recent news articles on the topic:

- [David Cameron measuring 'wrong type of happiness'](#)
- [The Politics of Happiness](#)

Recent scholarly articles on the topic

- [High income improves evaluation of life but not emotional well-being](#)
- [A snapshot of the age of distribution of psychological well-being in the US](#)

Economic transformation and nutrition transition in China

24 May 2011, 17:15, LSHTM, Bradford Hill Room (LG8), Keppel Street, WC1E 7HT

Presented by the Department of Nutrition and Public Health Intervention Research as Part of the Bloomsbury International Nutrition Seminar Series

Speaker: Bhavani Shankar, Leverhulme Professor, Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health

Admission free and open to all, but entry on first come first served basis.

Contact: jenny.howard@lshtm.ac.uk

The Camel Conference

24 May 2011 to 25 May 2011. SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1H 0XG

In May 2011 the School of Oriental and African Studies will host an international conference examining, documenting and celebrating camel cultures from around the world.

The conference will address all aspects of camel culture, past, present and future and in all continents. It will deal with both material and cultural concerns, and will cover both Dromedaries and Bactrians.

[More information](#)

LIDC Workshop on Faith-Based International Development

9 June 2011, 12.30 – 17, Upper Meeting Room, LIDC 36 Gordon Square, London WC1

The workshop will look at all faiths and all forms of welfare, but with an emphasis on Islamic and

Christian organisations. Participants will be invited to talk briefly on their experience of faith-based welfare and this will form the basis of subsequent discussions. Topics are likely to range from the macro level such as the national, political and institutional environment in which faith-based welfare is provided in developing and emerging economies down to the micro level of beneficiary experience of such welfare provision.

RSVP: admin@lidc.bloomsbury.ac.uk

Business in Africa conference

23 June 9:00 – 17:45 and 24 June 9:00 – 19:00, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H0XG

This is a ticketed only event (Lunch and Refreshments provided): £150 / day, £75 / half day.

To apply please contact ou1@soas.ac.uk (Olamide Udo-Udoma) / ab17@soas.ac.uk (Angelica Baschiera).

Further Information: [School of Oriental and African Studies](#) and [Centre of African Studies](#).

International Centre for Education for Democratic Citizenship 5th Annual Conference: Citizenship, Society and Social Justice: new agendas?

1 July 2011, 09:30 to 17:00, Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street

The conference will address issues such as: how citizenship education engages with agendas of security, social cohesion, volunteering, patriotism, social justice both locally and in the wider world? What is the role of social networking and new media? What kinds of support do citizenship educators need?

Keynote speakers:

Jesse Norman, MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire. Author of *The Big Society*

Engin Isin, Professor of Citizenship Open University. Author (with Greg Nielsen) *Acts of Citizenship*
Shakuntala Banaji, PhD, Lecturer London School of Economics. Author (with David Buckingham) *Youth, Civic Participation and the Internet*.

[More information](#)

Annual Student Symposium on Global Health

4 July 2011, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The symposium will feature presentations from students working in all disciplines of global health research, including clinical, population, laboratory, socio-economic and social sciences. The event will conclude with a plenary lecture given by Prof. Peter Piot entitled 'New challenges in global health' (Director at LSHTM, former Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations).

[More information](#)

'Legal appropriation: taking of and by law' workshop

November 2011 (exact date TBC)

organised by the Centre for the study of Colonialism, Empire and International Law, SOAS and London International Development Centre

The role of law as a means, end, obstacle or irrelevance to development has been the subject of increasing debate in recent years. Law steals development when it enables individuals (foreign or local) to appropriate resources. Law—of copyright, planning, environment, investment, land, labour—is the key technology of appropriation. Law is itself stolen when it is reformed to support the interests and values of individuals (foreign or local) at the expense of the interests and values of those present and future generations whose welfare law ought also to serve.

The question of how law 'matters' to development is no longer reserved for ethereal academic debate. Its mattering has been decided by multilateral development agencies, corporations and defence departments alike, and the notion of the 'rule of law' is now ingrained in the public consciousness.

This workshop represents an important and timely opportunity to unsettle the status quo.

Confirmed participants include Diamond Ashiagbor, Michelle Everson, Patrick McAuslan, Fiona MacMillan, Scott Newton and Chandra Sriram. If you are a member (faculty, research students, and research associates) of the Bloomsbury Colleges and wish to participate this event, you are warmly encouraged to send a 200 word abstract addressing the theme of 'Legal appropriation: Taking of and by law' to Amanda Perry-Kessaris a.perry-kessaris@soas.ac.uk by Thursday June 30th, 2011.

GRANTS AND VACANCIES

Round 7 of Grand Challenges Explorations, Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now accepting grant proposals for Round 7 of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health solutions. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organisation, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for profit companies.

Grant proposals are being accepted online until May 19, 2011 on the following topics:

- * Explore Nutrition for Healthy Growth of Infants and Children
- * Apply Synthetic Biology to Global Health Challenges
- * The Poliovirus Endgame: Create Innovative Ways to Accelerate, Sustain, and Monitor Eradication
- * Create the Next Generation of Sanitation Technologies
- * Design New Approaches to Cure HIV Infection
- * Create Low-Cost Cell Phone-Based Solutions for Improved Uptake and Coverage of Childhood Vaccinations

Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million.

[More information](#)

DFID is recruiting Senior Research Fellows

DFID is seeking to recruit leading scientists, academics and researchers in various fields of the natural and social sciences to serve as Senior Research Fellows to undertake specific tasks to be agreed in the design and execution of research programmes. Experts and researchers in the private sector and non-governmental organisations are also encouraged to apply.

The Senior Research Fellows will provide scientific leadership and assist in DFID's engagement with the research communities in international development.

These positions will be on a secondment or fixed term basis for periods of between 6 months and 2 years on a range of part-time and full-time contractual terms. Successful candidates will be expected to retain their existing institutional affiliation and take up their appointments between Spring 2011 and Autumn 2011.

Appointments are in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Governance and social development and social cohesion
- Environmental economics
- Conflict and fragility
- Newborn health

The closing date for application is 20 May 2011.

[More information](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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