

CCS NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear CCS friends and colleagues,

As of September 2010 I will be taking up a new position as Professor of Development Studies at the Development Studies Institute at the LSE. Sadly, this marks the end of my directorship of the Centre for Civil Society, and also, with no successor available, the closure of the Centre for Civil Society at the LSE. However, I will continue to work on civil society from my new home at LSE, carrying out research and organising workshops and events. So please do get in touch if you have ideas for joint workshops, events or research. My email remains j.a.howell@lse.ac.uk.

As many of you know, the Centre for Civil Society has a long history at the LSE. It was established at the LSE by Professor David Billis and Professor Margaret Harris as the Centre for Voluntary Organisation and pioneered the MSc programme on Voluntary Sector Organisation. One of the most popular outputs produced then on the voluntary sector is the paper "Juggling on a Unicycle", a guide to organising a small voluntary organisation, written by Colin Rochester. This will still be available in the archived collection. Following his retirement, David Billis has continued to write on voluntary sector issues, his most recent publication being an edited volume, 'Hybrid Organizations and the Third Sector: challenges for practice, theory and policy'.

With the appointment of Dr David Lewis in 1995 (now Professor of Social Policy and Development), the Centre set up the first specialist MSc programme in NGOs and Management. David Lewis' book 'The Management of Non-Governmental Development Organisations: An Introduction' was one of the first of its kind and remains a key reference work within the field of NGO management. Following Professor Billis' retirement, Dr Helmut Anheier took up the post of Director in 1999 and presided over the renaming of the Centre as the Centre for Civil Society. Dr Anheier specialised in studies of the European and US non-profit sector and philanthropic institutions. Dr Anheier left in 2002 to take up a professorship at the University of California, Los Angeles, leaving Dr Lewis to hold the reins as Acting Director.

With my appointment in 2003 the Centre has taken on an increasingly international flavour, reflected not least in the re-naming of the MSc programme as NGOs and Development. It has also promoted a broader study of civil society, looking beyond NGOs and the voluntary sector, to include a wider arena of civil society actors. Dr Armine Ishkanian, currently Director of the MSc programme, has played a central role in maintaining the international reputation of the course.



Through her work on Central Asia she has contributed to the international and civil society focus of the teaching programme and Centre. Both her book on 'Democracy building and civil society in post-Soviet Armenia' and my recent books on counter-terrorism, civil society and aid also reflect the international direction and civil society focus of the Centre post-2003.

Photo of Dr Armine Ishkanian with MSc NGOs and Development students.



Image of geographical distribution of NGPA research projects

The flagship project of the Centre was the ESRC Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA) programme, which involved 37 international projects all over the world. The programme was distinct in several ways – its pioneering promotion of comparative work across the North and South; its embrace of a broad range of non-governmental public action that went beyond NGOs and voluntary sector organisations; and its commitment to bringing theory and practice together, not least through the Practitioner Fellowship Scheme. This has produced a wide range of outputs, including policy briefs aimed at policy-makers and practitioners, research reports, manuals, photo exhibitions, articles, conference papers and books. Together with the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, the NGPA jointly ran a popular seminar series covering topics such as counter-terrorism and civil society, civil society organisations and global policy processes, citizen participation in local government and government and voluntary sector relations. Reports for these seminars are available on the web and in print form. The NGPA programme held its final conference in 2009, with guest speakers including Lord Frank Judd, Phil Bloomer (Oxfam UK), Malcolm Bruce (MP, Chair of International Development Select Committee), Sorius Samura (documentary film-maker and Panorama journalist), Mark Lancaster (MP, then Shadow Secretary for International Development) and Michael Foster (then Minister for International Development).



Photo of panel at NGPA final conference. Names, from left to right, Phil Bloomer (Oxfam), Sorius Samura (journalist), Daniel Kawczynski (MP), Professor Jude Howell (Director of CCS), and Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce (MP). The session was on International Development and Non-Governmental Public Action: does non-governmental public action promote or hinder international development?

In June 2010 we held an NGPA workshop at Fudan University, Shanghai, P R China, bringing together some NGPA grantees and Chinese researchers to discuss global non-governmental public action, theories and methods. We were treated to fascinating visits to elected residents' committees. The programme continues to live on through the new book series established with Palgrave. To date three books have already appeared (Jude Howell and Jeremy Lind, 'Counter-terrorism, aid and civil society'; Jenny Pearce, 'Participation and Democracy in the 21st City'; and Barbara Bompani and Maria Frahm-Arp, 'Development and Politics from

Below', and another ten are in the pipeline). The series is open to all researchers working on non-governmental public action issues, regardless of whether they were associated with the programme or not. So if you have an idea for a book in this area, please do get in touch.

Apart from the NGPA programme the Centre has hosted a range of research projects on topics such as civil society and gender; post-conflict reconciliation and civil society; the War on Terror, civil society and aid; civil society in Central Asia; humanitarianism and civil society. Its associates, staff and visiting fellows have researched civil society issues across many countries, including the UK, China, Uganda, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, India, Central Asia. The Centre's lunch-time seminar series, public debates and workshops have attracted substantial numbers of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers over the years.

Our most recent events included a panel discussion on civil society, security and aid with David Peppiat from the British Red Cross, Elizabeth Winter, from the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group, and Sally Healy from Chatham House; a two-day conference organised by Dr Ishkanian on civil society and reconciliation in comparative perspective; a two-day workshop on 'Beyond NGOs: civil society and uncivil society'; funded by the EU; and a EU-funded workshop on diasporas and activism in Europe.

Photo of 'Civil society, security and aid' public lecture. Names, from left to right, Professor Jude Howell, Dr Jeremy Lind, Sally Healey, Elizabeth Winter and David Peppiat.



Past speakers at Centre public events have included Sir Nicholas Young (director of British Red Cross), Professor James Scott, Professor Sidney Tarrow, Gorik Ooms (Director, MSF, Belgium), Fadi Itani (Islamic Relief), Geoffrey Dennis (Executive Director, Care International, UK), Bernard Pecoul (Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases), Barbara Stocking (Head, Oxfam GB), Harriet Lamb (chief executive, Fairtrade Foundation), Dame Anita Roddick (Body Shop), Irene Khan (former Head, Amnesty International), Geraldine Peacock (former Chair of Charity Commission, as seen in photo on the left).

With the support of LSE HIEF4 funding we have been able to disseminate research on the effects of the War on Terror on aid and civil society in the USA, India and Kenya. Dr Babken Babajanian, now based at the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines, set up the Central Asia and South Caucasus Social Development Network, bringing together researchers and practitioners working in this field.

Since its establishment the Centre has also been home to over 30 PhD students. PHD students have been at the forefront of new areas of research, covering topics such as EU policy towards Turkish civil society (Markus Ketola), collective action and service delivery in Mexico (Georgina Blanco-Mancilla), accountability issues (Susan Liautaud, Sinead Walsh), public intellectuals and civil society in Iran (Melody Mohebi), transnational civil society engagement with the World Bank (Christopher Pallas), local government and public goods provision in post-war Sierra Leone (Anna Workman), the politics of engendering policy in China (Du Jie), political and religious institutions, women's identities and collective action in the Lebanon (Nisrine Mansour), civil society in Nigeria (Ebenezer Obadare). In recent years Markus Ketola (PHD 2005-2010) initiated a PHD civil society network across LSE, which has met a couple of times a year.

Additionally the Centre has hosted numerous visiting fellows over the years. Some such as Professor Nicholas Deakin (former government advisor on the voluntary sector), Richard Fries (ex-Charity Commission) and Professor Stephen Yeo (expert on co-operatives and mutual enterprises) have stayed several years at the Centre, making a significant contribution to the Centre's public engagement. More recent visitors have included Professor Thomas Boje, Roskilde University, Denmark; Professor Neera Chandhoke, Delhi University; Professor Enrique Peruzzotti, Di Tella University, Argentina; Tade Akin Aina, former head of Ford Foundation, East Africa; Dr Charles Buxton, INTRAC, Central Asia; Dr Wang Chuanlan, Fudan University, Shanghai, China; Dr Jia Xijin, Qinghua University, Beijing; Dr Chu Songyan, Renmin University, Beijing, China; Dr Monica Banerjee, National Foundation of India; Dr Medet Tiulegenov, American University of Central Asia; Professor Al Hunter (North Western University, USA); Professor John Paul Jones II (University of Arizona); Dr Gaby Ramia (University of Sydney), Professor Marthe Nyssens (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium). Through the NGPA programme we were also able to receive several practitioner fellows such as Elizabeth Winter, co-founder of Afghan Aid and British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group and Said Abdalla, Muslim Human Rights Forum, Kenya.

In a nutshell the Centre has been the hub of considerable research and public engagement. None of this could have been possible without the generous support we have received from numerous donors. These include the Economic Social Research Council, the European Commission, the British Academy, the Ford Foundation (China, East Africa), Atlantic Philanthropies, Carnegie Trust UK, Lloyds TSB, Charities Aid Foundation, the Bertelsmann Foundation, C.S. Mott Foundation, Fondation de France, Swedish International Development Agency, Lord Gavron, the International Labour Organisation, Fondation Once, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and many others.


With the Centre closing, the website will unfortunately close too from October 2010. However the contents of the website will be held in archive form. The CCS will continue to have a holding page on the LSE web, which will include links to archived and further resources. This will be available to view from the end of September. You will be able to access the new CCS resource page at the following web address: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/CCS/Home.aspx>

The ESRC NGPA website <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NGPA/> and the global War on Terror (GWOT) website <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/GWOT/> and the GWOT blog <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/waronterror/> will remain active.

I am hugely grateful to the sterling support of Jane Schiemann, who has worked for the Centre since 1991 and Maria Schlegel and Christine Whyte, who have played important administrative roles in various aspects of the Centre during my Directorship. There are many people who have played an active role in the life of the Centre during my directorship and have made it an enormous pleasure for me to direct the Centre. It is impossible to name them all but particular thanks are due to Nick Deakin, Richard Fries, Jeremy Lind, Siobhan Daly, Ben Jones and Nisrine Mansour.

So finally I should like to thank all of you for making it such a pleasure and honour to direct the Centre over the last seven years. I hope we can continue to find ways of working together in the future.

With warm wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jude Howell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Jude" is written with a large, open 'J' and the last name "Howell" follows in a similar cursive script.

Professor Jude Howell