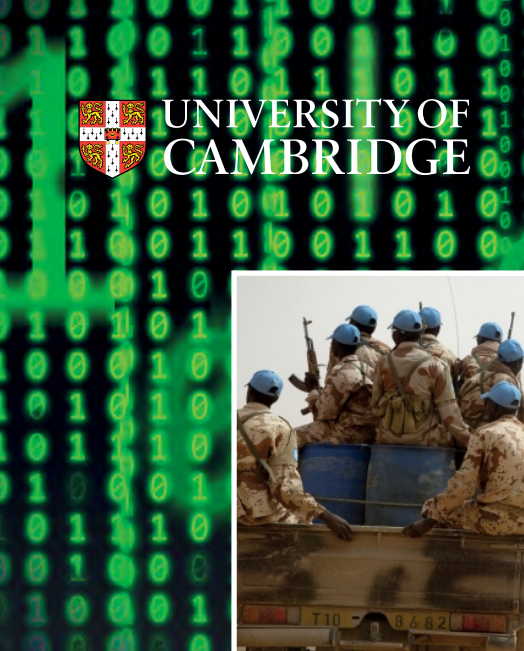




UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



# ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



CENTRE OF GOVERNANCE  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS





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# INTRODUCTION

## A message from Professor David Runciman

**A**s Head of POLIS it is my pleasure to introduce this report on the activities of CGHR, which continues to go from strength to strength. I had the privilege of attending the CGHR five-year anniversary event earlier in the year that showcased the remarkable range of activities of the Centre during its short life, across academic research, campaigning, outreach and spin-out projects like the Africa's Voices programme. CGHR continues to lead the way in Cambridge and beyond in driving high-level interdisciplinary work that focuses on real-world impact. What the presentations at the anniversary event showed is that innovative research at the intersection of multiple academic disciplines is vital to injecting fresh thinking into the problems of governance and human rights. The next five years of the Centre promise to be even more fruitful in delivering on this agenda.

I am particularly pleased that the Centre has launched a new research theme, Human Rights in the Digital Age. Cambridge is at the cutting edge of work in digital technology and its impact on society, with major new research initiatives on the future of AI, privacy and surveillance and digital capitalism. CGHR can play a crucial role in connecting this work with questions of governance and human rights and also forging links with other Cambridge initiatives, like the Cambridge-Africa programme. The recent CGHR workshop on Encryption held in conjunction with Amnesty International, which brought together computer scientists, lawyers, sociologists, political theorists and others, was a really innovative event and a model of what is possible with collaboration of this kind.



**Sharath Srinivasan and David Runciman with David and Elaine Potter at CGHR's five-year anniversary event (p. 24).**

I want to pay tribute to Sharath and all his colleagues for the work they have done in making CGHR a beacon for research in this area and creating a Centre of which POLIS is truly proud. Five years is a short time in the life of an ancient university like Cambridge, but they have shown how it is possible to make a big difference in that time with energy, commitment and exciting ideas. Long may it continue.

**David Runciman**  
Head of Department, POLIS

## Director's Report

**C**elebrating our first five years in 2015, CGHR is now firmly established as a valued research entity in Cambridge with clear pathways for further impactful work in the coming years. We are a genuinely exciting space for generating new ideas in the field of human rights and governance.

Reflecting on five inspiring and intensive years, three distinct qualities stand out. First, we actively draw Cambridge's research and students into an open and creative hub. Over 100 students have contributed to CGHR research projects and organising talks and events (we have held over 130 since 2010!), as well as coordinating our research seminars and working papers. Secondly, we are a truly collaborative and multidisciplinary network for fresh thinking. CGHR researchers and associates span all manner of disciplines, from physicists to lawyers to psychologists (and of course political scientists), and our international collaborations, such as with research partners in Kenya and South Africa, have become vital to our way of working.

Finally, we're deeply committed to high quality, innovative research with real-world value. Be it our work with UN Special Rapporteur Christof Heyns on the right to life, or our applied research and practitioner engagements for the use of digital technologies in human rights and citizen engagement (most recently with Amnesty International and via our spin-out venture, Africa's Voices), we're passionate about how our research can matter.

This report, covering our activities during 2014–15, speaks to all three of these qualities. Some initiatives have matured – such as our work on Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media – and others are just beginning, namely our research and collaborations on Human Rights in the Digital Age. I'm very excited about the latter theme, which will fall under the

energetic leadership of Ella McPherson. Equally pleasing has been how Thomas Probert, leading our Right to Life theme, has forged strong links from Geneva between our Centre and UN human rights institutions. Finally, Devon Curtis's important engagements with diplomats and policy professionals on Burundi, together with my own on Sudan and South Sudan, highlight the unrelenting relevance of our Violence, Conflict and Peacebuilding work. The many, diverse and stimulating events we held speak yet again to the remarkable enthusiasm of our Student Group.

This report's centre spread highlights CGHR 'spin-outs', including the Whistle project that innovates around balancing credibility and security in human rights witnessing. It also gives a detailed account of the achievements of Africa's Voices in its first start-up year. With its interdisciplinary and cutting-edge research foundations, diverse industry and African collaborations and high impact potential, Africa's Voices epitomises to me what CGHR is now uniquely all about. We make things happen, including for our team. CGHR researcher Claudia Abreu Lopes is now Head of Research and Development at Africa's Voices, just as Thomas Probert started as a student researcher on our Right to Life work and now leads research at the UN for Christof Heyns.

There is much, much more inside, so please take your time to explore, and to share your thoughts and ideas with us. Finally, I am very grateful to everyone – the CGHR team, the students, colleagues and supporters within and outside Cambridge – for their tremendous support and work in making the year a true success. I look forward to exciting new horizons ahead.

**Sharath Srinivasan**  
Director, CGHR

# RESEARCH

## Human Rights in the Digital Age



Watch Ella McPherson introduce Human Rights in the Digital Age on our website.



Human Rights in the Digital Age researchers @ CGHR, left to right: Ella McPherson, Sharath Srinivasan, Anne Alexander



Find out about The Whistle, a digital human rights reporting platform, on p. 17.

## CGHR launches new research theme

**Digital technologies have far-reaching implications for human rights. CGHR's new research theme, Human Rights in the Digital Age, is investigating these fast-developing opportunities and challenges.**

Human Rights in the Digital Age addresses the emergent and rapidly evolving changes wrought to human rights practices and norms related to the use of digital technologies. Practices include fact-finding and advocacy; norms include human rights related to communication, information, privacy and expression. The theme approaches human rights from a communications perspective and, as such, is particularly concerned with pluralism, a key value of the human rights community. As a major counter-power, human rights can act as a bellwether for the pluralism of the public sphere. The multifaceted concept of pluralism also allows us to look at hierarchies within the field of counter-power, and makes it easier to approach the slippery issue of accountability. Another core concept of the theme is risk, given the rapidly evolving digital terrain and the challenges it poses for security, and how risk trades off with pluralism.

### ICTs and human rights practice

**RESEARCHERS:** Ella McPherson, Thomas Probert, Grace Carroll, Rebekah Larsen, Scott Limbrick, Anne-Martine Solstad, Alex Taylor, Yi Ren Thng.

CGHR's new thematic focus on digital technologies in human rights was ideally placed to provide research support for the report on ICTs and the Right to Life delivered to the UN Human Rights Council in June

2015 by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (see p. 8). Ella McPherson and Thomas Probert worked with an interdisciplinary student team to find case studies on the use of ICTs in prevention, fact-finding, and advocacy. These are collected in an ongoing Tumblr blog: [www.ictandhr.tumblr.com](http://www.ictandhr.tumblr.com)



Watch the launch of CGHR's ICTs and Human Rights Tumblr blog on our website.

Ella McPherson also produced a related report, **ICTs and Human Rights Practice**, published by CGHR, to support the expert meeting that informed the Special Rapporteur's report.

ICTs and Human Rights is funded by



and carried out in collaboration with Christof Heyns, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.





## Encryption, Anonymity and Human Rights Workshop

CGHR and Amnesty International's Technology and Human Rights team hosted a workshop on Encryption, Anonymity, and Human Rights. Attendees from NGOs, computer science, the social sciences and law explored the evolving technical, socio-political, legal, and practical aspects of encryption and anonymity. Our aim was to foster knowledge exchange between participants to uncover core opportunities and risks for human rights work and potential areas for collaboration. **An in-depth summary of the workshop by Ella McPherson and Rebekah Larsen is available on the CGHR website.**

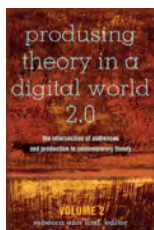
The workshop was sponsored by



## Publications



Alexander, A. and E. McPherson. "Social Media Data Is Not Directly Representative of Facts Offline." In *Policy Challenges Briefing: Data Science*, p.8. Cambridge: Center for Science and Policy, Cambridge Big Data Strategic Research Initiative, 2015. Available at: [www.csap.cam.ac.uk/policy-challenges/big-data/](http://www.csap.cam.ac.uk/policy-challenges/big-data/)



McPherson, E. "Digital Human Rights Reporting by Civilian Witnesses: Surmounting the Verification Barrier". In R.A. Lind (ed.), *Producing Theory 2.0: The Intersection of Audiences and Production in a Digital World* (Volume 2), pp. 193–209. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing, 2015. Available at: [www.academia.edu/12229028/Digital\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Reporting\\_by\\_Civilian\\_Witnesses\\_Surmounting\\_the\\_Verification\\_Barrier](http://www.academia.edu/12229028/Digital_Human_Rights_Reporting_by_Civilian_Witnesses_Surmounting_the_Verification_Barrier)

- *ICTs and Human Rights Practice*. Cambridge: CGHR, 2015. Available at: [www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/251346](http://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/251346)

## Conferences and events

"The Emergent Norms and Practices of Social Media Verification" (panel co-convoked by E. McPherson) and "Digital Human Rights Reporting by Civilian Witnesses: Surmounting the Verification Barrier" (E. McPherson). International Association of Media and Communications Researchers, Montreal, 12–16 July 2015.

"Digital Human Rights Reporting by Civilian Witnesses and the Verification Problem" (E. McPherson). Mobilisations, Changing Protest Cultures and Web 2.0 Technologies, Social Movements and Media Technologies: Present Challenges and Future Developments. ESRC Seminar Series, Goldsmiths, London, 14–15 May 2015; Cambridge Media Reading Group, 28 April 2015.

"The Tension between Pluralism and Verification in Using Social Media Information for Human Rights Reporting" (E. McPherson). Social Media Reconsidered Symposium, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, 19 March 2015.

"Can NGOs Collaborate with the Media without Selling Out? Verification Subsidies, NGO Journalism, and Human Rights Reporting in Mexico" (E. McPherson). Social Sciences Seminar Series, University of Roehampton, London, 9 March 2015.

#ICT4HR – Expert Panel on the Uses of Information Communication Technology to Foster Accountability for Human Rights Violations. CGHR, Cambridge, 10 February 2015. Film available at: [www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/events/events\\_archive/2015/ict4hr-expert-panel-on-using-icts-for-human-rights](http://www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/events/events_archive/2015/ict4hr-expert-panel-on-using-icts-for-human-rights)

# RESEARCH

## The Right to Life



Watch Thomas Probert introduce The Right to Life on our website.



The Right to Life researchers @ CGHR, left to right: Thomas Probert, Ella McPherson, Sharath Srinivasan

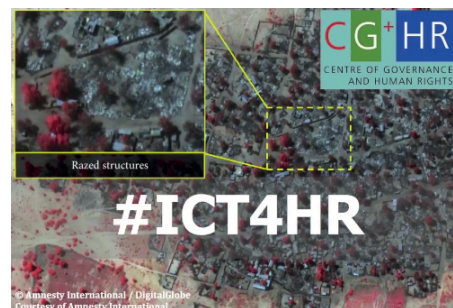
## ICTs and human rights: CGHR's latest collaboration with UN Special Rapporteur

**ICTs can play a vital role in protecting the right to life. Our latest research collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, focussed on this issue.**

This year's research collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns, centred on the subject of his **annual report to the Human Rights Council: the potential use of information communication technologies (ICTs) for the protection of the right to life**. This involved a student research project (see p. 6) and an expert meeting in Cambridge in February 2015.

Over two days, experts discussed with the Special Rapporteur how ICTs could be used to promote human rights norms, protect defenders, and achieve accountability for violations. The discussion also underlined how advanced technology would always bring additional risks (such as surveillance and the need for activists to encrypt sensitive information). The meeting drew on experience from international organisations, including the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT); the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Criminal Court (ICC); NGOs including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, WITNESS, and the International Bar Association; and academics from Cambridge and beyond. The discussions were invaluable to the drafting of the report.

Professor Heyns, Christina Ribeiro (Investigation Coordinator, ICC), Christoph Koettl (Amnesty International Citizen Evidence Lab) and Eliot Higgins (Brown Moses; Bellingcat) also participated in the public event #ICT4HR - Expert Panel on the Uses of Information Communication Technology to Foster Accountability for Human Rights Violations.



**A film of the expert panel discussion is available to watch on the CGHR website.**

After delivering his report in Geneva in June, Professor Heyns organised a side event, chaired by Thomas Probert, on the potential uses and risks of ICTs within human rights work. **An edited version is available to watch on our website.**

## The continued impact of CGHR's Right to Life research

One of the objectives of CGHR's project on **Unlawful Killings in Africa (2013–14)** was to enable greater engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly its Working Group on Death Penalty and Extra-Judicial, Summary



or Arbitrary Killings in Africa. The research underpinned the development of an Unlawful Killings Unit at the Centre for Human Rights, Pretoria, which works closely with the African Commission.

In May 2015, the Commission adopted an Additional Protocol to the African Charter on the Abolition of the Death Penalty – drafted over three years, with the participation of Sharath Srinivasan and Thomas Probert at a drafting meeting in July 2013. This needs to be adopted by African Union member states before it is opened for signature.

In June the Working Group began drafting a General Comment to the African Charter, offering the Commission's interpretation of the provision in Article 4 concerning the right to life. CGHR's report *Unlawful Killings in Africa* was central to the background material provided to the meeting.



CGHR's work also fed into the regional review of one of the leading global forums of armed violence reduction – the Geneva Declaration. At the Review meeting in Nairobi in November 2014, Thomas Probert presented on the contribution of unlawful violence by law enforcement officials to violent societies in Africa. He drew on CGHR's research to underline the extent to which domestic legislation concerning the use of force by police officers needs urgent updating.

Since CGHR conducted research on the **Safety of Journalists (2011–12)**, contributing to the Special Rapporteur's 2012 report to the Human Rights Council, the issue has been taken up in various UN forums. In May 2015, the UN Security Council dedicated an all-day debate to it, adopting Resolution 2222 condemning impunity for attacks on journalists, and calling on states and parties to conflicts to ensure safe environments for media professionals to work.

## Publications

Heyns, C. and T. Probert. "The Power of Information Communication Technologies for Human Rights". *Human Rights Monitor*, International Service for Human Rights, 7 July 2015. Available at: [www.ishr.ch/news/power-information-communication-technologies-human-rights](http://www.ishr.ch/news/power-information-communication-technologies-human-rights)

Heyns, C. "Use of Information and Communications Technologies to Secure the Right to Life", Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of UN Human Rights Council, 24 April 2015. Available at: [www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/right\\_to\\_life/ICTs\\_right\\_to\\_life/special-rapporteur-report-on-icts](http://www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/right_to_life/ICTs_right_to_life/special-rapporteur-report-on-icts)

Probert, T. "How the Death Penalty is Slowly Weakening its Grip on Africa". *African Arguments*, 9 October 2014. Available at: <http://africanarguments.org/2014/10/09/how-the-death-penalty-in-africa-is-slowly-weakening-its-grip-by-thomas-probert>



## Conferences and events

ICT4HR - Using Information and Communication Technologies to Protect Human Rights. ISHR/OHCHR event at the Human Rights Council's 29<sup>th</sup> session, 19 June 2015. Film available at: [www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/right\\_to\\_life/ICTs\\_right\\_to\\_life/ICTs\\_right\\_to\\_life](http://www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/right_to_life/ICTs_right_to_life/ICTs_right_to_life)

#ICT4HR - Expert Panel on the Uses of Information Communication Technology to Foster Accountability for Human Rights Violations. CGHR, Cambridge 10 February 2015. Film available at: [www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/events/events\\_archive/2015/ict4hr-expert-panel-on-using-icts-for-human-rights](http://www.cgpr.polis.cam.ac.uk/events/events_archive/2015/ict4hr-expert-panel-on-using-icts-for-human-rights)

Geneva Declaration Regional Review Conference (T. Probert), Nairobi, 26–27 November 2014.

# RESEARCH

## Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media



Watch Sharath Srinivasan introduce Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media on our website.



Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media Researchers @ CGHR, left to right (top): Sharath Srinivasan, Okoth Fred Mudhai, Alastair Fraser, (bottom): Claudia Abreu Lopes, Stephanie Diepeveen.



Find out about Africa's Voices on p. 18.



## PiMA research is disseminated as academic resources and practitioner tools

**2014–15 has been a year of disseminating outputs from Politics and Interactive Media in Africa (PiMA). As well as the spin-out Africa's Voices (p. 18), these include a Working Paper series and innovative resources for radio and development practitioners.**

PiMA (2012-14) focuses on expression and mediation of 'public opinion' in broadcast media via new information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Kenya and Zambia. It examines the political implications of such interactions, drawing conclusions of wider significance to practitioners and policymakers.

### PiMA Working Paper series



The peer-reviewed PiMA Working Paper series presents findings and insights from the project. Like the research, conducted with scholars in Kenya, Zambia and Cambridge, the papers are collaborative. **The growing series can be downloaded from our website.**

### Practitioner resources

PiMA findings also form the basis for two collaboratively produced resources for radio and

development practitioners, **available through our website.**



"Radioactive: The Story of Interactive Radio in Africa" was developed by CGHR and Africa's Voices, in partnership with

The Internews Center for Innovation & Learning. It provides an accessible starting point for radio stations to seize opportunities presented by interactive programmes.



The Interactive Radio toolkit, created by Internews in collaboration with PiMA researchers, provides tips and exercises for radio hosts to make the most of live interactive shows, gain listeners, and provide open dialogue that supports all voices in the community.

## "Let's Be Responsible Citizens" – A PiMA case study

Rather than imagine what particular technologies and broadcasting formats could achieve in an ideal world, PiMA presents a grounded study of what radio stations and hosts do with these in particular places, and how successful they are. As researchers interrogated the nature and possibilities of politically-oriented interactive radio and television programmes, it became apparent that the shows' implications were not straightforward, evolving from the interests or intentions of their convenors or sponsors. "Let's Be Responsible Citizens", aired on Phoenix FM in Lusaka, Zambia from late 2011–2012, is an insightful example of how political accountability becomes contestable

through audiences' and hosts' engagement in interactive radio shows in ways beyond the control and intentions of conveners and sponsors.

The show was sponsored by the Lusaka City council to 'nurture' popular subjectivities to be favourable towards market (or privatised) solutions to providing social goods. However, efforts to attract audience participation opened up space for the host and callers to subvert original intentions. In seeking to attract more engagement by moving the show's agenda closer to the party-political interests of listeners, the council inadvertently set up a humiliating experience for the ruling party and councillors. The responsible citizen presented by callers was someone willing to morally condemn their Members of Parliaments' and Ministers' failures to deliver on electoral promises, threatening to withhold future electoral support. In this sense they showed faith in political activism within representative structures. Interactive media became one forum in which representative politics could be contested. Even in the midst of explicit intentions to construct a particular mode of governance and citizen, this case indicates how live call-in shows always leave space for the agency of audiences to resist instrumental agendas.

See Fraser, A. "Let's Be Responsible Citizens! Contesting the Agenda of a Sponsored Call-in Radio Programme". PiMA Working Paper #6. Cambridge: CGHR, 2015.

Stephanie Diepeveen, PhD candidate, POLIS.

PiMA was funded by



Isaac Newton Trust

and carried out in collaboration with



University of Nairobi



## Publications

Srinivasan, S. and C. Abreu Lopes. "Africa's Voices and 'Big Data': Harnessing Interactive Radio for Citizen Engagement in the Digital Age." In T. Tufte and O. Herner (eds), *Voice and Matter*. Nordicom, forthcoming.



- "Africa's Voices". In Policy Challenges Briefing: Data Science, p.10. Cambridge: Center for Science and Policy, Cambridge Big Data Strategic Research Initiative, 2015. Available at: [www.csap.cam.ac.uk/policy-challenges/big-data](http://www.csap.cam.ac.uk/policy-challenges/big-data)

- "Africa's Voices: Using Mobile Phones and Radio to Foster Mediated Public Discussion and to gather public opinions in Africa". CGHR Working Paper #9. Cambridge: CGHR, 2014. Available at: [www.cghr.polis.cam.ac.uk/publications/cghr\\_working\\_papers/wp9](http://www.cghr.polis.cam.ac.uk/publications/cghr_working_papers/wp9)

## Conferences, events and media

"Imagined Publics: The Power and Political Possibilities of Audience-as-Publics on African Interactive Radio" (S. Srinivasan and S. Diepeveen); "Political Agency and the Digital: Youth Activism Online and on the Ground in Mombasa, Kenya" (S. Diepeveen). 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Paris, 8–10 July 2015.

"Media and Technology, Access to Information and Innovation Hubs in East Africa" (interview with S. Srinivasan). Center for Media, Data and Society Media and Change Series, 27 March 2015. Film available at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NojQtLuiGrE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NojQtLuiGrE)

"Digital Anti-Politics: The 'Voices Paradox' and Innovative Resistance" (S. Srinivasan). Center for Media, Data and Society, Central European University, Budapest, 19 March 2015.



"Public Consultation and Political Participation in Africa Using Mobile Phones and Interactive Radio" (S. Srinivasan). Recording available at: <https://soundcloud.com/soasradio/world-radio-day-london-2015-radio-and-international-development-talk>; "How Interactive Radio is Reshaping Politics in Africa" (interview with S. Srinivasan). World Radio Day, SOAS, 13 February 2015. Recording available at: [www.scidev.net/global/icts/multimedia/how-interactive-radio-is-reshaping-politics-in-africa.html](http://www.scidev.net/global/icts/multimedia/how-interactive-radio-is-reshaping-politics-in-africa.html)

"The 2025 Communicator – Shifting Power to Aid Recipients" (S. Srinivasan). Humanitarian Action in 2025: What future ahead of us? SCHR, Geneva, 19 January 2015.



"Big Data and Us" (S. Srinivasan), *The Forum*, BBC World Service, 10 November 2014. Recording available at: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029y54m](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029y54m)

"Africa's Voices" (S. Srinivasan). Cambridge-Africa Day, 30 October 2014. Film available at: [www.cghr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/pdtm/africas\\_voices](http://www.cghr.polis.cam.ac.uk/research-themes/pdtm/africas_voices)

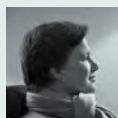


# RESEARCH

## Violence, Conflict and Peacebuilding



**Watch Dr Devon Curtis introduce Violence, Conflict and Peacebuilding on our website.**



Violence, Conflict and Peacebuilding researchers @ CGHR, left to right (top): Devon Curtis, Sarah Nouwen, Sharath Srinivasan, (bottom): Laura James.



## Investigating Peacebuilding amidst the crisis in Burundi

**CGHR's outward focus is highlighted by researchers' and associates' involvement in global affairs. Devon Curtis spent the year in New York and Burundi, and CGHR was again involved in the Rift Valley Institute's Field Courses.**

Devon Curtis, Senior Lecturer at POLIS and CGHR associate, spent September to December 2014 in New York City as Visiting Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute and a Visiting Scholar at the Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies. She conducted research on inclusivity in peace negotiations, and worked on documents and planning for the Independent Commission on Multilateralism.

From January 2015, she was based in Bujumbura, Burundi, working on her book about the peace process. She was frequently called on to discuss the tensions and insecurity in the lead-up to Burundi's elections, with scholars and practitioners in Cape Town, London, New York, Addis Ababa and Nairobi.

### Rift Valley Institute Field Courses

Sharath Srinivasan was again Director of Studies for the Rift Valley Institute's (RVI) field course on Sudan/South Sudan (left). This year's course took place at the Simba Lodge in Naivasha, Kenya, exactly a decade after the 2005 "Comprehensive Peace Agreement" in Sudan was concluded. The course brought together country experts, diplomats, development and humanitarian professionals, researchers and civil society. It was also attended by five senior chiefs from South Sudan. Devon Curtis was an instructor on the Great Lakes course. The elections in Burundi and upcoming

elections in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo made for a week of lively discussion and analysis. She also coordinated an RVI course on Burundi for the East African Standby Brigade (EASF), the first African Union regional brigade to be operational. Her visit was sponsored by the British Peace Support Team for East Africa.



### New Marie Curie Fellow joins CGHR



I am delighted to be joining CGHR as a Marie Curie Fellow (co-funded by the European Research Council and the Research Council of Norway) to work on the project

Post-Conflict Political Parties: Party Formation, Organisation and Institutionalisation in the Context of Peacebuilding and Democratisation.

I plan to draw on the Centre's resources and expertise on peacebuilding, collaborating with Devon Curtis, Sharath Srinivasan and others; organise academic and practitioner workshops; use CGHR's practitioner network to establish dialogue on the role of political parties in peacebuilding (especially rebel-to-party transformation), and use the CGHR platform to develop a research agenda on political parties and peacebuilding.

*Gyda Marås Sindre*

# CGHR co-hosts workshop on peacemaking in Sudan and South Sudan

On 4–5 September 2015, CGHR associates Sarah Nouwen and Laura James, and Sharath Srinivasan, convened the workshop Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan, to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2005 “Comprehensive Peace Agreement” (CPA), the basis for South Sudan’s secession in 2011. Academics (with a special focus on early-career academics), policy-makers and journalists gathered for this intensive two-day event exploring the legacy of peacemaking in the Sudans since the signing of the CPA. Papers addressed different approaches to peace: written agreements or community action; high-level negotiations or local processes; international mediators or civil society groups. The role of financial and natural resources, the relation between peacebuilding and state-building, and the nature of peace itself were also important themes. Key lessons emerged to contribute to the broader academic literature, including the limitations of written peace agreements, and the complex debates around inclusivity.

The workshop was sponsored by



Pembroke  
College



## Publications

Ajak, PB. “A Second Chance for South Sudan”. *Foreign Policy*, 20 February 2015. Available at: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/02/20/a-second-chance-for-south-sudan>

Curtis, D. “Development Assistance and the Lasting Legacies of Rebellion in Burundi and Rwanda”, *Third World Quarterly*, 36:7, July 2015, pp. 1365–1381.

- “Burundi: Recent History”, in *Africa South of the Sahara 2015*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2014.
- “Burundi: The Importance of African Peacebuilding”, *Sunday Independent*, South Africa, 2 August 2015, p. 19.
- and Willy Nindorera “What’s at Stake in the Upcoming Burundian Elections”, IPI Global Observatory, 20 February 2015.

## Talks and events

Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan: Ten Years after the ‘Comprehensive’ Peace Agreement. CGHR (co-host), Cambridge, 4–5 September 2015.

“The Burundi Crisis: Risks on the Road Ahead” (D. Curtis). Chatham House, 22 May 2015.

“Security and Governance in the Great Lakes Region” (D. Curtis). Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town, 9–10 May 2015.

“Supporting Local-Level State-Society Relations in Peace Operations” (D. Curtis). UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) Civil Affairs Unit and NUPJ, Addis Ababa, 20–21 April 2015.

“Peacebuilding and its Limits” (D. Curtis). Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 13 April 2015.

“Extant Knowledge: Is Traditional Thinking Keeping Up?” (D. Curtis). Peacebuilding in Africa: Evolving Challenges, Responses and New African Thinking, Wilton Park, UK, 23–25 February 2015.

“The Changing Dynamics of Conflict in Africa: Understanding the Diverse Approaches, Expressions and Contexts for Peacebuilding in Africa” (D. Curtis). African Peacebuilding Network Training Workshop, Arusha, Tanzania, 26–28 January 2015.

“Sudan and South Sudan: Reflecting on Ten Years after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement” (S. Srinivasan). Chatham House, London, 9 January 2015. Recording available at: [www.chathamhouse.org/event/sudan-and-south-sudan-reflecting-ten-years-comprehensive-peace-agreement-0](http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/sudan-and-south-sudan-reflecting-ten-years-comprehensive-peace-agreement-0)

“Foreign Aid, Donor Relations and the Legacy of War in Burundi and Rwanda” (D. Curtis). Rethinking Violence, Reconstruction and Reconciliation, African Studies Association 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, 20–23 November 2014.

# RESEARCH

## CGHR Research Group and Working Papers



Research Group convenors:  
Stephanie Diepeveen and  
Annette LaRocco

### Diversity of Research Group seminars enriches cross-disciplinary discussion

**The CGHR Research Group is a forum for graduate students and early-career researchers from any disciplinary background researching issues of governance and human rights in global, regional, and national contexts. It is an opportunity to receive cross-disciplinary feedback from students and established academics, publish a CGHR Working Paper, and network with researchers across departments.**

The CGHR Research Group hosted seven interactive seminars on papers by doctoral students and early-career researchers from across the University of Cambridge. The papers were rich and diverse, discussing the role of random control trials in development interventions in rural Ethiopia; the dynamics of presidential succession in South Africa and Namibia; the targeting of women in anti-Muslim hate crimes; the Russell War Crimes Tribunal on Vietnam; acephalous movements as the basis for change across Africa; images of the enemy in Sudan-South Sudan negotiations; and the interrelationships between visual art and transitional justice in South Africa.

We were fortunate to have discussants from a range of academic disciplines, including politics, sociology and gender studies. The Group again proved to be a productive forum for researchers to receive comments from discussants and feedback from attendees to help them reflect on their work and prepare it for publication.

One paper presented was published in the CGHR Research Group Working Paper Series. In May 2015, Dr Javier Pérez-Jara (Affiliated Researcher, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge) published **“Ritual and Myth in the Russell War Crimes Tribunal on Vietnam”**.

### CGHR Research Group Seminars 2014–2015

“The Future in Mind: Aspirations and Forward-Looking Behaviour in Rural Ethiopia”

Dr Kate Orkin (Clare Hall, Cambridge). Discussant: Dr Claudia Abreu Lopes (CGHR).

“Presidential Succession Crises in Africa: Lessons from South Africa and Namibia”

Dr Ian Cooper (POLIS). Discussant: Professor Laurie Nathan (Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria).

“What is Being Targeted When Women Become the Victims of Anti-Muslim Hate Crime? Religion, or Gender, or Both?”

Julian Hargreaves (Centre of Islamic Studies). Discussant: Halliki Voolma (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies).

“The Performative Core of Power and Legitimacy in Human Rights Organisations: the Case of the Russell Tribunal”

Dr Javier Perez Jara (Dept. of Sociology). Discussant: Professor Patrick Baert (Dept. of Sociology).

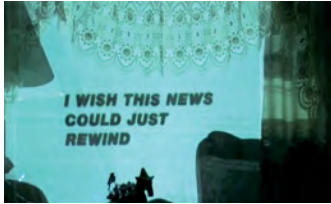
“Acephalous Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Real Basis for Change?”

Dr Marta Iñiguez de Heredia (POLIS). Discussant: Dr Justin Pearce (POLIS).



"We Know Them: Images of the Enemy and Decision Making in the Sudan-South Sudan Secession Negotiations"  
Dr Laura James (POLIS). Discussant: Dr Hazem Kandil (Dept. of Sociology).

"The Art of Justice and the Justice of Art"  
Eliza Garnsey (POLIS). Discussant: Dr Duncan Bell (POLIS).



On 1 June I presented my paper "The Art of Justice and the Justice of Art" to the CGHR Research Group. The paper was in part shaped by research I undertook on a doctoral exchange with the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for International and Comparative Law in

Africa, arranged by CGHR. This paper proposed a theoretical framework through which to understand the meeting point between transitional justice and visual art, unpacking it through a close analysis of *REwind* by Phillip Miller, Gerhard Marx and Maya Marx.

I am grateful for the interest shown in my research by CGHR, to my supervisor and the discussant, Dr Duncan Bell, and to the Research Group for its valuable, robust feedback.

*Eliza Garnsey, PhD candidate, POLIS.*

## New additions to CGHR Working Paper series

The CGHR Working Papers Series is a collection of papers, largely peer-reviewed, focussed on cross-disciplinary research on issues of governance and human rights. It includes papers presented at the CGHR Research Group and occasional papers by CGHR associates, related to the Centre's research. Papers from further afield on topics related to CGHR research agenda are also welcome.

Two papers were added to the series in 2014-15:

**Angelova, I. "Governance in Rebel-held East Ghouta in the Damascus Province, Syria": CGHR Working Paper #10.**

**Perez-Jara, J. "Ritual and Myth in the Russell War Crimes Tribunal on Vietnam": CGHR Working Paper #11.**

## Human Rights Doctoral Research Triangle



The CGHR Research Group also co-organises the Human Rights Doctoral Research Triangle, a shared initiative between the Human Rights Centres based at Essex, Cambridge and the London School of Economics. It aims to encourage wide participation and collaboration by PhD students working in human rights and related areas in these three universities and across disciplines. Two events were held this year, in which five papers were presented by Cambridge students:

### 27 November 2014, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

"The Emergence of Transitional Justice" Marcos Zunino (Law)

"Truth and Reconciliation: Confessions of State Officials on Human Rights Violations in Turkey" Yesim Yildiz (Sociology)

"The Precarious Position of Local, Civilian Health Workers in Modern-day Conflict" Sophie Roborgh (POLIS)

### 25 June 2015, LSE

"The Constitutional Balancing Process" Michael Dafei (Law)

"Striking Back: Parliamentary Responses to Judicial Review in India and the United Kingdom" Chintan Chandrachud (Law)

# TEACHING

## David and Elaine Potter Lectureship

In his role as the David and Elaine Potter Lecturer in Governance and Human Rights in POLIS, Sharath Srinivasan again organised and taught the Politics of Africa third-year undergraduate optional paper. This provides a broad multidisciplinary overview of major themes of comparative African politics, including globalisation, international intervention and economic development. It encourages a critical reflection on, and approach to, popular political and economic representations of Africa. The course has become one of the most popular third-year options for students of politics. Dr Srinivasan also continued to teach on contemporary human rights dilemmas for the second-year Ethics and World Politics paper (convened by CGHR Associate Dr Duncan Bell), which provides a wide-ranging overview of contemporary theoretical and empirical debates on normative dilemmas in international affairs topics, promoting critical analysis of topics such as global redistributive justice, human rights and war. Dr Srinivasan also organised and taught the Politics of Africa MPhil course, which included specialist modules on Conflict and Peace Interventions in the Great Lakes and the Sudans, and Democracy and the Changing Public Sphere in Africa.

The David and Elaine Potter Lectureship has enabled supervision of Master's level research projects on a range of specialist subjects, including in 2014–15:

- A study on norm localisation and the development of 'responsible sovereignty' in the African Union theorisation of the role of interactive media in the African public sphere.
- A critical analysis of institutional dimensions of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers.
- An ethnographic study of how meanings of peace are articulated and contested by war-affected populations in northern Uganda.

## PhDs supervised by the Lectureship

*Peter Biar Ajak:* My research examines the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and its role in the state formation in South Sudan, based on its exercise of political authority during the North-South civil war and during the six-year interim period before the independence of South Sudan.

*Stephanie Diepeveen:* My PhD research looks at the relationship between communication media and public spaces in contemporary Kenyan politics. It draws on in-depth interview and observation-based fieldwork on the ground and online in Mombasa, Kenya, and examines the implications of multiple and changing forms of mediated communication for 'citizens' coming together to discuss ideas about the nature and exercise of power.

*Annette LaRocco:* My research focuses on conservation and land use as a postcolonial political phenomena. My in-depth study of conservation policies and practices such as the nation-wide hunting ban and conservation-related evictions are used as a lens through which to interrogate the political relationship between citizens and the State in Botswana. This approach considers biodiversity conservation not as simply a technical, scientific or apolitical process but as one that is inextricably connected to processes of the international system, postcolonial statehood, and citizen-state relations.

*Njoki Wamai:* My research aims to understand why some victims who initially supported the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kenya have now 'moved on' and how the different post-conflict agenda of those at the local level interact with transitional justice ideas and practices advanced by the ICC.

# CGHR SPIN-OUTS

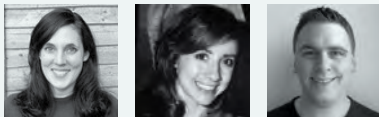
**CGHR is committed to translating research into impact on policy and practice. This includes practical innovations and spin-outs. Two such initiatives – The Whistle and Africa’s Voices Foundation – have been gaining momentum in the last year.**

## **The Whistle: connecting civilian witnesses with human rights NGOs**



Visit [www.thewhistle.org](http://www.thewhistle.org) for project updates from the team.

CGHR people @ The Whistle, left to right: Ella McPherson, Rebekah Larsen, Scott Limbrick



The Whistle is a digital human rights reporting platform that helps civilian witnesses connect with human rights NGOs. Digital channels of communication expand the documentation of human rights violations by allowing civilian witnesses to record and transmit information. This

information, however, can only be acted upon by human rights NGOs if it is verified. This verification requires time and expertise from civilian witnesses and NGOs. It can thus be a barrier to the use of civilian witnesses’ digital reports. Through accelerating and simplifying the verification process, The Whistle aims to support the variety and volume of civilian witness participation in human rights reporting.

The concept of The Whistle stems from CGHR Research Associate Ella McPherson’s research project, Social Media, Human Rights NGOs, and the Potential for Governmental Accountability, funded by the ESRC and the Isaac Newton Trust. This project involves understanding the methodological, reputational, and risk implications of using social media as data sources and dissemination tools, as well as social media’s effects on pluralism in human rights discourse. Visit [www.smhr.sociology.cam.ac.uk](http://www.smhr.sociology.cam.ac.uk) for updates on this project and information about the project’s Researching (with) Social Media reading group.

The Whistle is based at the University of Cambridge and is currently funded by an ESRC Impact Acceleration grant.



Team members: Giles Barton-Owen, Rebekah Larsen, Scott Limbrick, and Matt Mahmoudi.



## Africa's Voices Foundation: “Listening at the keyhole of a giant conversation”



CGHR People @ Africa's Voices, left to right (top): Lord Cairns, Sharath Srinivasan, Claudia Abreu Lopes, Rainbow Wilcox, Moses Maina, (bottom): Sammy Mwangi, Sebastian Ahnert, Alan Blackwell, David Good.



**Africa's Voices Foundation – the non-profit citizen engagement and analytics organisation spun out of CGHR's research on Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media (PiMA) – has hit the ground running. Co-founded by CGHR Director, Sharath Srinivasan and early supporter of CGHR, Lord Cairns, it is poised to achieve tremendous growth and impact in coming years. Programme Officer, Rainbow Wilcox, reports on exciting new developments in recent months.**

The crux of our research findings, and the challenge that Africa's Voices takes up, is that if development and governance organisations want to truly engage with hard-to-reach communities, they must do so in ways that make sense within a community's everyday lives.

Using multidisciplinary expertise, we developed and tested an approach to reach and engage communities by combining interactive media and communication technologies. Africa's Voices can listen intelligently to conversations taking place in media forums, such as radio programmes, where citizens express themselves freely in local languages. The conversational data we collect, mostly in the form of text messages, is unstructured, messy and complex – in short, it's big data. We build upon a unique combination of social science frameworks, data science tools and tested software interfaces to help

organisations explore, discover and make sense of this data. We are always learning and innovating, and we retain strong links to Cambridge University. Interest in Africa's Voices' work is accelerating, and in the last year we have taken on several new projects in Kenya, Uganda and Somalia.



Emmy award-winning media company Well Told Story uses storytelling to drive positive social change amongst young people in Kenya. Africa's Voices combined data science, social science and human knowledge to analyse the thousands of SMS and WhatsApp messages that Well Told Story received from its audience on contraception and smoking.



Insights were delivered in visual, interactive graphs and included the different ways men and women, older and younger, talk about condom use. Well Told Story can now, for example, recognise the different ways its audience talks about sex, and tailor future communications appropriately.

**Well Told Story distributes millions of copies of its monthly comic, ShujaaZ, to Kenyan youth.**

**"Working with Africa's Voices has opened a new world of insight and potential, hiding in data we already had but couldn't interpret. To be able to decipher the collective meaning within our audience correspondence is like listening at the keyhole of a giant conversation."**

*Rob Burnet, CEO Well Told Story.*



Routine and Polio vaccination rates in Somalia remain low, in part due to common superstitions and misconceptions. To better understand the beliefs that underpin Somalis' decision whether to vaccinate their children, Africa's Voices is enabling social research amongst current and prospective beneficiary communities for UNICEF through the use of radio and mobile phones. Findings will inform UNICEF's future communications and programmes, boosting effectiveness and impact. We are also seeking to demonstrate that our approach can be used as a remote monitoring tool for UNICEF in Somalia and other fragile and insecure environments.



A 15-year-old girl in Uganda has a 1 in 44 lifetime chance of dying from complications during pregnancy and delivery. This startling statistic and intractable problem requires innovative solutions that appreciate local contexts and perceptions.

In collaboration with maternal health researchers at Cambridge and Makerere Universities (Ashley Moffett, Annetee Nakimuli and Grace Bantebya), we explored the socio-cultural factors that contribute to poor health outcomes for women.

We plan to roll out our pilot project in Kampala across the country to explore and compare beliefs in different regions. Insights will be shared with Ugandan health practitioners and academics so that more effective interventions can be developed, sensitive to the realities of local communities.



With the recent discovery of oil and gas in the Turkana region of northern Kenya, there is risk of conflict over the resources, as well as revenue going to an already powerful elite rather than benefitting local populations. Raising public awareness is key to ensuring the extractive sector is sustainable and stimulates equitable wealth.

Oxfam launched a pilot project to share credible information with communities throughout Turkana County to address fears and expectations, and prevent conflict. Radio was used to disseminate core messages, and Africa's Voices set up an SMS communications channel for audiences to share concerns and perceptions via text messages. Following an analysis of the SMS messages, insights were shared with stakeholders to inform future communications and decision-making. The pilot has laid the groundwork for a future partnership.



A community meeting in Kalapata, Turkana

**“Africa’s Voices is a promising initiative, dedicated to making the perspectives of the needy count in development efforts. This is really important since the understanding and the agency of the people must have a central role in attempts to enhance their lives.”**

*Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics (1998).*



## Chesterton Tower



We now have our own office space in Cambridge, which is part of a Technology for Development (T4D) hub created by The Humanitarian Centre in partnership with SimPrints. Housed in a charming 14th-century building, the T4D hub is brimming with innovative technology and ideas.



## New trustee

Sir David Green has joined our board of trustees, bringing with him a wealth of experience as former Secretary-General of the British Council and Director of Voluntary Services Overseas.

**“Africa’s Voices could have an enormously positive impact on maximising the effectiveness of resources by feeding back the views of people in a form that has validity and can be used to shape policies and programmes.”**

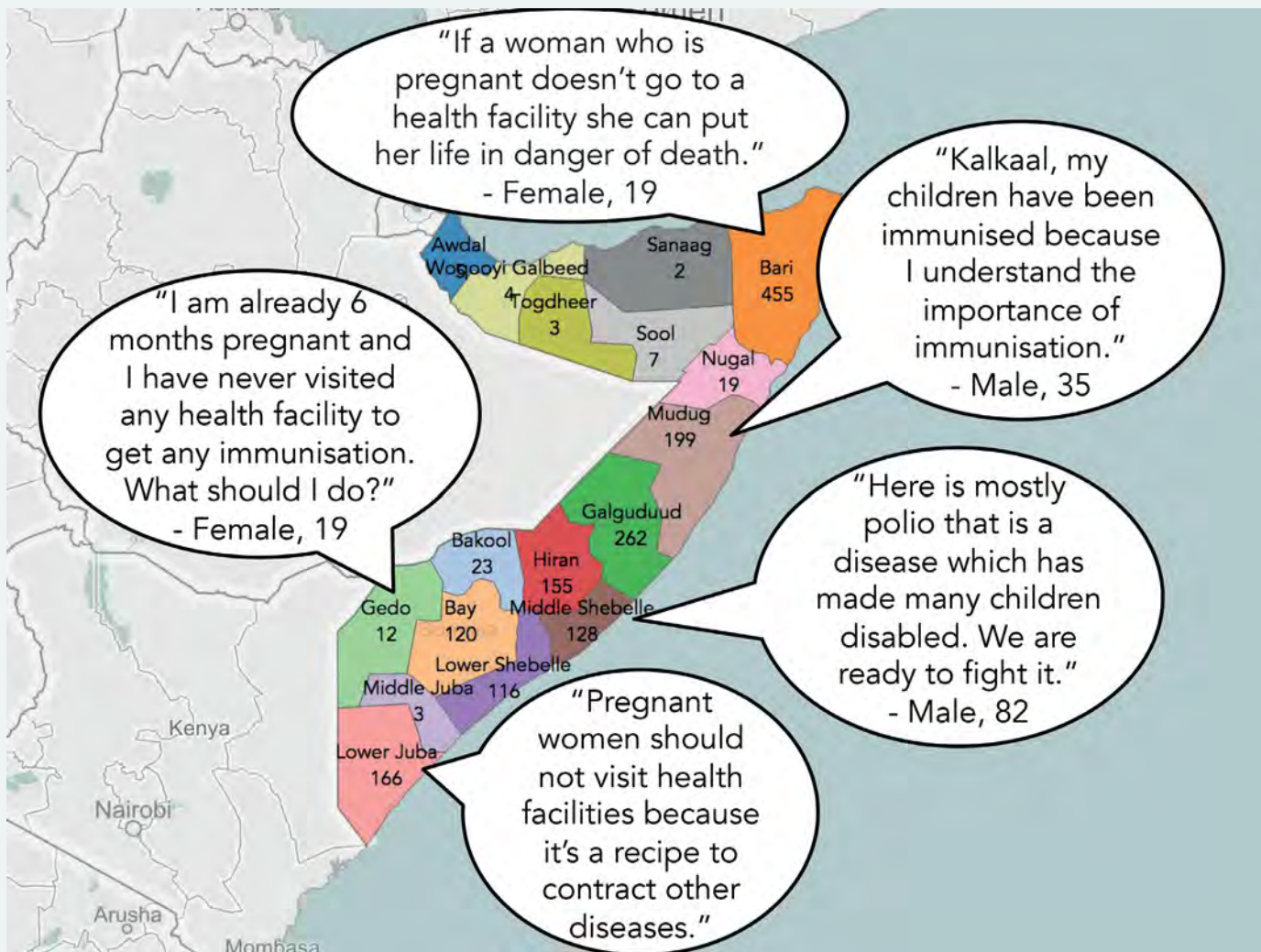
*Sir David Green.*

We are grateful to the many supporters who have helped Africa's Voices flourish thus far. Special thanks go to the Cairns Charitable Trust for its generous, active support.

**[www.africasvoices.org](http://www.africasvoices.org)**

**[@africas\\_voices](https://twitter.com/africas_voices)**

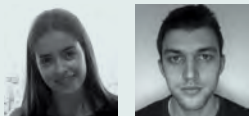




A snapshot of results from the first two weeks of Africa’s Voices’ interactive radio project with UNICEF Somalia. Via SMS, listeners from all regions of Somalia replied to radio questions about polio vaccinations, and child and maternal health, as well as asking for information.

# STUDENTS AT CGHR

Student Group members 2014-15



**Coordinators:** Jesse Coleman, Partha Moman



**Events:** Yi Ren Thg, Lucia Linares, Lucia Graham-Wood



**Publicity:** Anne Martine Norli Solstad, Eva Namusoke



**Outreach:** Scott Limbrick



**Members-at-large:** Stephanie Diepeveen, Annette LaRocco



## Keeping up the flow of fresh ideas

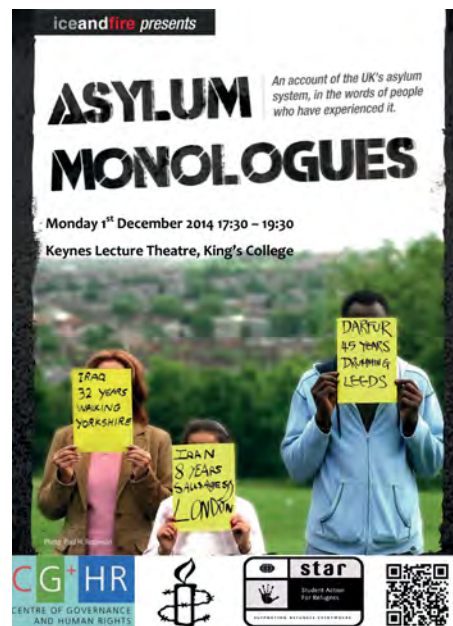
**CGHR has an engaged student community from across the university. This is headed by our Student Group, which plays a central role in coordinating events, publicity, outreach and the CGHR Research Group (p. 14), and makes a crucial and often inspired contribution to opening up new directions for CGHR. Partha Moman reflects on his time as Student Group Coordinator.**

Taking on the role of CGHR Student Coordinator during my year at Cambridge provided opportunities to bring to life concepts and themes that I had only encountered in an academic format. We contributed to and organised the Practitioner Series, a CGHR staple, allowing us to join in conversation practitioners in development, human rights, and peacebuilding, as well as to shape the talks according to our personal interests. It was a particular privilege for a student of East African politics like myself to arrange for Selma James to come and speak on the contemporary relevance of Julius Nyerere's brand of socialism, as well as her work as an activist.

The Student Group has been at the core of CGHR events, participating in ongoing discussions around Research Group seminars and organising the new film series. A personal highlight was being involved in the launches of some of the most exciting Africanist and international politics scholarship around, including Severeine Autessere's *Peaceland* and Adam Branch and Zachariah Mampilly's *Africa Uprising*.

This year has been especially tinged with the leanings and interests of those in the Student Group. The

legally minded amongst us arranged for Sir David Edward to come and give his dazzling take on **"The Future of Human Rights in the UK"**. Eager to expand the public face of the Centre and bring its research pathways to different audiences, another memorable moment was hosting the performance of *Asylum Monologues* by theatre company Ice and Fire – a compelling and eye-opening rendition of life as an asylum seeker in the UK.



## Politics in Spires

As well as organising events, we set up a blog series to project the research themes of the Centre. Working with the Oxford-Cambridge collaboration Politics in Spires, CGHR contributed posts reflecting the cutting-edge thinking emerging from the wider

community of Centre associates. Many were edited versions of published and unpublished material, stripped back by members of the Student Group to accessible and succinct pieces. The contributions featured work by Thomas Probert on the changing fortunes of the death penalty in Africa; Ella McPherson on the decisions that determine which human rights stories Mexican journalists cover; and Sharath Srinivasan on the potential impact of new communications technology on humanitarian crises. In addition, Partha Moman reassessed the impact of international intervention in northern Uganda, and former Student Group member Sarah Elliott, now International Counter-Trafficking Consultant at UNHCR, discussed the factors driving the increased flow of migration from Africa to Europe.

## Student involvement in CGHR research

**Students often play an important role in CGHR research. As well as taking on the busy role of Publicity Officer in the CGHR Student Group, Anne Martine Norli Solstad was also a member of the research team working on the CGHR project ICTs and Human Rights Practice (p. 6).**

In November 2014, I joined the student research team on the project ICTs and Human Rights Practice, which I saw as a great opportunity to learn more about the uses of ICTs in human rights work. Spare time spent investigating new types of technologies with fantastic ambitions and promise, and evaluating their risks and opportunities, was indeed time well spent. The group encountered challenging ethical and practical issues regarding verification and security, which led to stimulating discussions, with Dr Ella McPherson's report **ICTs and Human Rights Practice** neatly tying up the loose ends. Attending the technology and human rights expert meetings at the end of the project was definitely a highlight.

As a parallel project, the research team created a multi-authored Tumblr blog **www.ICTandHR.tumblr.com**, collecting together the different technologies available, and spelling out their risks and opportunities, in order to provide a resource and reference point for researchers and activists. Fellow Wolfson student Yi Ren Thng and I presented the blog at the 2015 Wolfson Research Event, to an attentive, wide-ranging audience.

Being involved with CGHR has allowed me to pursue my interest in human rights, get involved in the academic environment in POLIS, and exchange ideas with people from various disciplines and parts of the world. Producing posters, disseminating information and publicising events as the Student Group's Publicity Officer has not only enabled me to counterbalance the constant stream of supervision essays with something practical, but has also taught me a lot about the patience required when dealing with unique font types, inconvertible files, and the general incompatibility of Macs and PCs!

## Potter Foundation/Cambridge Trust Scholarship for students from Africa

**We are delighted that a new scholarship for an African student to study for an MPhil in International Relations and Politics in 2015–16 has been awarded to Grace Bingoto. The scholarship is being funded by a generous donation from the David and Elaine Potter Foundation, matched by the Cambridge Trust.**

I am of Congolese (DRC) nationality, and one of seven daughters. At the age of three, I lost my father. Due to tribal traditions and the poor state of gender parity implementation in my country, my mother lost 80% of what she and my father had worked for.

My mother placed great emphasis on education and made sacrifices to ensure that all her daughters were educated and able to find employment, so they would not have to suffer the same hardships as her.

In 2004, my family moved to South Africa where I finished high school, my undergraduate degree in International Relations and Politics, and my Honours degree in International Relations and Politics. Due to my achievements as an undergraduate, my Honours degree was funded by the University of Johannesburg.



My journey has instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility, not only for my life and family, but also for the community I represent. The Potter Foundation/Cambridge Trust scholarship has reinforced my sense of purpose. One of the best tools for eradicating inequality is education, and my access to high-quality education will make me a better educator. This scholarship will allow me to become a qualified lecturer and will enable me to contribute to my community and my continent.

*Grâce Hélogie Bingoto-Mandoko*



# PUBLIC EVENTS



## CGHR celebrates its first five years

**CGHR's vibrant events calendar continues to grow and diversify. This year, we introduced a film series and also got the wider CGHR community together to celebrate the Centre's first five years.**

### CGHR five-year anniversary event

CGHR has grown into a dynamic and creative hub for innovative research and new thinking. Our fifth anniversary event, held on 14 May, provided an occasion to showcase our achievements and also look ahead to future endeavours. As well as members of the CGHR and Cambridge University community, our key supporters, including David and Elaine Potter and Simon Cairns, joined us for the occasion. Bringing together all we have done so far certainly sparked conversations and ideas about further possibilities for collaboration and impact.

Sharath Srinivasan, the Centre's Director, alongside Research Associates Ella McPherson, Thomas Probert and Devon Curtis, presented an overview of the Centre's activities and its core research themes.

The occasion also marked the launch of Africa's Voices, the non-profit enterprise spun out of CGHR research on Politics, Digital Technologies and the Media (p.18).

Head of Research and Development, Claudia Abreu Lopes, illustrated how this analytics expertise was providing NGOs and media organisations with the nuanced insights needed to engage more effectively with beneficiaries and audiences.

Sharath Srinivasan's closing talk "Valuing Voices in the Digital Age" provided hard-hitting insights into the implications of the inexorable growth of digital technologies and our data-driven world.

Finally, Head of POLIS, David Runciman, looked ahead to the University's future plans and the important role that CGHR had to play.

**Watch all the talks from our five-year anniversary on our website.**

### CGHR film series

This year CGHR introduced its film series – termly screenings of films with themes related to governance and human rights. We opened with Amir Amirani's *We are Many*, which played to a full house in Keynes Hall, King's College. Our preview screening of Paulina Tervo and Serdar Ferit's interactive documentary *The Awra Amba Experience* was also a unique and popular event, and the third film, Jezza Neumann's *Kashmir's Torture Trail*, was jointly hosted with the Amnesty International Cambridge City Group. Followed by Q&A sessions with their directors, the screenings attracted wide-ranging audiences from within and outside the University and provoked stimulating discussions.





## CGHR events 2014–15

### May 2015

#### **Africa Uprising: Popular Protest and Political Change – book launch**

Zachariah Mampilly (Vassar College)

#### **Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention – book launch**

Séverine Autesserre (Columbia University)

#### **Magnificent and Beggar Land: Angola Since the Civil War – book launch**

Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (University of Oxford)

### April 2015

#### **Kashmir's Torture Trail – film screening and Q&A**

Jezza Neumann

### March 2015

#### **Talha Ahsan: The Power of Poetry and the Arts in Extradition Campaigns**

Hamja Ahsan, Julian Huppert MP, Kate Honey (Green Party)

### February 2015

#### **Ujamaa: From 1960s Tanzania to 21st Century Europe**

Selma James, Global Women's Strike

#### **#ICT4HR: Expert Panel on the Uses of Information Communication Technology to Foster Accountability for Human Rights Violations**

#### **The Awra Amba Experience – film screening and Q&A**

Paulina Tervo and Serdar Ferit

### January 2015

#### **The Future of Human Rights in the UK**

Professor Sir David Edward

### December 2014

#### **Asylum Monologues**

Performed by Ice and Fire (Script by Sonia Linden)

### November 2014

#### **International Mediation as the Management of Complexity**

Professor Laurie Nathan (Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria)

#### **Sovereignty Rules! Human Rights Regimes and State Sovereignty**

Professor Laurie Nathan (Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria)

#### **We Are Many – film screening and Q&A**

Amir Amirani

#### **The Workers' Movement and Egypt's Long Revolution – book launch**

Dr Maha Abdelrahman (Centre of Development Studies, POLIS, Cambridge),

Dr Anne Alexander (CRASSH, POLIS, Cambridge) and Moustafa Bassiouny

(Correspondent for Al-Safir, Lebanon)



Watch the talks by [David Edward](#) and [Selma James](#) on the CGHR website.

## Doing good in tough places

WORKING IN HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACEBUILDING,  
HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT

For those hoping to pursue a career in the 'third sector', amidst a broad range of organisations and agencies whose mandates can be loosely collected under the umbrella headings of 'human rights and social justice', 'conflict and security' or 'development and humanitarian aid', the terrain can be difficult to navigate. A sound academic training, as provided by Cambridge University, is important but certainly not enough to prepare students for the transition into working in this sector. Through a mixture of substantive discussion, personal reflection and practical advice, the CGHR Practitioner Series brings together high-level experts working in these fields and creates a forum in which students and researchers can listen and ask questions about what this work actually involves, seek out reflections from experience on the dilemmas and challenges faced, and probe the skill set and experience needed to forge a career in these fields.

### CGHR Practitioner Series, Lent term 2015

James Savage, Amnesty International; Valdênia Paulino Lanfranchi, University of York; Mikdam Turkey, London South Bank University

Tech innovators working in human rights – Tanya O'Carroll, Amnesty International, and Harlo Holmes, The Guardian Project and InformaCam

Selma James, Global Women's Strike

Freddie Carver, Head of Security and Justice Group, Stabilisation Unit, DFID

# BENEFACTORS & FUNDERS

## David and Elaine Potter Foundation

CGHR Director, Dr Sharath Srinivasan, is POLIS's first David and Elaine Potter Lecturer in Governance and Human Rights. This lectureship (p.16) was established thanks to a generous benefaction to the University in 2008 from the David and Elaine Potter Foundation. The Foundation seeks to achieve an impact through grants that promote reason, education, and human rights, in the hope of improving mutual understanding, reinforcing good governance, and encouraging the growth and maintenance of a robust civil society, particularly in less developed countries. The Foundation and the University agreed that the Lecturer should focus particularly on Africa and serve as the Director of the new interdisciplinary Centre.

## Cairns Charitable Trust

The generous donation made to the Centre by the Cairns Charitable Trust, founded by Lord Cairns, pump-primed CGHR's work on New Communication Technologies and Citizen-led Governance in Africa (2011–13), and the pilot project for Africa's Voices. The funds enabled CGHR to employ postdoctoral research associates, support its collaboration with FrontlineSMS and conduct fieldwork in Kenya, Zambia and Uganda. It has also provided start-up funding for Africa's Voices Foundation (p.18)

## The Cambridge-Africa Alborada Research Fund

CGHR researchers successfully secured funding from the Cambridge-Africa Alborada Research Fund, which aims to support research and research-related travel, workshops and courses in the African countries. The awards given to Sharath Srinivasan and Alastair Fraser allowed them to expand their collaborative work on Africa's Voices and PiMA (p.10) with African research partners.

## The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account

CGHR used funding from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account for a joint pilot study with IBM Research Africa. The objective was to develop a framework for

understanding and formalising the nuances of semantic representations and African worldviews based on SMS data from interactive radio programmes in Kenya.

## The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID)

In April 2012, CGHR was awarded highly competitive ESRC-DFID research funding for its 18-month PiMA project (p.10) on how African broadcast media are using new ICTs to gather public opinion, and their effects on political accountability.

## Issac Newton Trust

The Isaac Newton Trust was established in 1988 by Trinity College, Cambridge to promote learning, research and education in the University of Cambridge. The Trust makes grants for research purposes within Cambridge University and the two grants awarded to CGHR allowed it to maintain its core staff of research associates.

## The Smuts Memorial Fund

The Smuts Memorial Fund was established after the death of Jan Christiaan Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa and Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, for the advancement of Commonwealth Studies in the University. Africa's Voices received a research grant from the Smuts Memorial Fund to support its work in Uganda.

## The Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund

The Centre was awarded funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund to support research into the further development of Africa's Voices Foundation (p.18).

# PEOPLE

## Director



**Dr Sharath Srinivasan**, CGHR's inaugural Director, is the David and Elaine Potter Lecturer in Governance and Human Rights in the Department of Politics and International Studies and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. His research follows two core themes: the politics and ethics of external intervention in civil conflicts; the impact of the digital communications revolution in Africa on political change. On the latter theme, focused on Africa more broadly, he has led a team of researchers at CGHR, collaborates with a range of practitioners and is now Co-founder and Director of Africa's Voices Foundation Ltd.

## Research Associates



**Dr Claudia Abreu Lopes** led research on Africa's Voices, collaborating with research partners and radio stations in Africa, as well as development partners. She is now Head of Research and Development at Africa's Voices Foundation. Claudia's research interests focus on socio-cognitive mechanisms in the field of social representations and on methodologies that bridge people's outlooks and actions to their social and political context.



**Dr Ella McPherson** is CGHR's Research Associate on our Human Rights in the Digital Age theme. She led the project, with Thomas Probert, on ICTs and the Right to Life and is currently leading the development of The Whistle. Ella is Lecturer in the Sociology of New Media and Digital Technology in the Department of Sociology. Her

research focuses on human rights reporting as a lens on the power dynamics of media, communication and democracy. Her current project, Social Media and Human Rights, examines reporting practices at human rights NGOs.



**Dr Thomas Probert** coordinated CGHR's research theme The Right to Life and the Centre's collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur from Cambridge and the University of Pretoria for nearly two years. He has spent most of the last year based at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva. Working within the Special Procedures Branch of the Office, he ensures that CGHR research, and the wider right to life research conducted around the Special Rapporteur's mandate, intersects with as many different parts of the UN human rights machinery as possible.

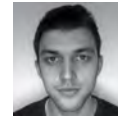


**Dr Gyda Marås Sindre** joined CGHR in 2015 as a Marie Curie Fellow (co-funded by the European Research Council and the Research Council of Norway) with the project: Post-conflict Political Parties: Party formation, organisation and institutionalisation in the context of peacebuilding and democratisation (see p. 12).

## Research Assistants



**Stephanie Diepeveen** was a Research Assistant on CGHR's PIMA project. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Department for Politics and International Studies (POLIS), Cambridge, researching the relationship between communication media and public spaces in contemporary Kenyan politics.



**Partha Moman** was a CGHR Research Assistant working on a book project on peacemaking in Sudan with Sharath Srinivasan.

## Administrator



**Munizha Ahmad-Cooke** is responsible for the day-to-day running of CGHR, coordinating its communications, events and providing administrative support to its Director and researchers.

## Associates

**Dr Sebastian Ahnert**, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Cavendish Laboratory

**Dr Anne Alexander**, Coordinator, Cambridge Digital Humanities Network

**Dr John Barker**, Director, Cambridge Governance Labs

**Dr Duncan Bell**, Senior Lecturer, POLIS

**Dr Alan Blackwell**, Reader in Interdisciplinary Design, University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory

**Dr David Blunt**, Research Fellow, POLIS

**Dr Jude Browne**, Jessica and Peter Frankopan Director of Gender Studies

**Dr Devon Curtis**, University Lecturer, POLIS

**Dr Harri Englund**, Director, Centre of African Studies

**Dr Markus Gehring**, Deputy Director, Centre for European Legal Studies

**Dr David Good**, Director of Education (Biological Sciences)

**Dr Niklas Hultin**, Isaac Newton Research Associate, Dept. of Social Anthropology

**Dr Laura James**, Teaching Associate, POLIS

**Dr Sarah Nouwen**, University Lecturer in Law

**Dr Glen Rangwala**, Lecturer, POLIS

**Dr Pieter van Houten**, Lecturer, POLIS

**Dr Liz Watson**, University Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Geography



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