



INTRODUCING OSGA



Greetings from OSGA! Head of Administration and Finance, Erin Gordon (*centre*), with incoming Head of School, Professor Timothy Power, and outgoing Head, Professor Rachel Murphy

Greetings to students, faculty and friends! We welcome this chance to catch up with you again as another eventful academic year draws to a close. This year marks our transition to our new School name. After consulting widely, including polling our students and our alumni, we presented a proposal to the Social Sciences Division and then to the University to formally change our name from the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) to the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA). This new name was approved by University Council in May.

We believe that the new name better communicates our mandate of: 'global challenges, regional understanding'. Specifically, we aim through our research and teaching to advance in-depth holistic interpretations into how global flashpoints and phenomena are incubated and experienced locally, from border disputes to epidemiological crises to environmental change to technological innovations to new consumer trends. We have also increasingly developed research and teaching around cross-regional comparisons and trans-local processes. As examples, this year Professors Hugh Whittaker and Kyle Jaros organised

a one-day workshop on 'Compressed Development in East Asia' (p8) on behalf of the School's industrial policy research cluster, while Dr Nicolette Makovicky has worked with colleagues in Anthropology to launch and run a study group on comparative socialisms and post-socialisms.

We recognise that it will take time for our new School name to become widely known. We also remain mindful that our reputation in Oxford and worldwide depends not on a name but on the quality of our research and teaching, and on the commitment, engagement and excellence of our faculty and of our past and present students.

This is a good point at which to welcome and congratulate two of our post-doctoral researchers on their recent prestigious fellowship awards, Dr Ceren Lord (British Academy), who is exploring Transnationalism of Religious Minorities, the Alevis, in the Post-2011 Era, and Dr Uma Pradan (Leverhulme), who is examining the Rebuilding of Schools in Post-Earthquake Nepal. They join a fast-growing post-doctoral community that is vital for the School's overall profile as a hub of cutting-edge research pertinent to our world.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter's snapshots of some of the School's most recent activities and accomplishments. Moreover, we warmly invite you to keep in touch with us as the School moves on to its next chapter with the OSGA name and under the headship of my successor, Timothy Power, Professor of Latin American Politics.

With very best wishes and on behalf of OSGA

Rachel Murphy
Professor of Chinese Development and Society
Head of OSGA



ACER FOUNDER VISITS

OSGA and the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division were delighted to co-host the founder of Acer Computers and the Director of the Stan Shih Foundation, Chairman Stan Shih, when he came to give a talk at the Saïd Business School in July.



Chairman Shih is renowned not only for his entrepreneurship, but also for his innovative concepts distilled from his many years of leadership experience. He has long been famous for his 'smile curve' theory, which emphasises investment in the R&D and marketing stages of a business line.

In his talk on 'Si-nnovation Island and Eastern Si-vilization' at Oxford he went further and shared his most recent conceptual thinking. Specifically, he highlighted both challenges to sustainable economic development and the rapidity of technological change, inviting his audience to imagine a 'computer-less' world. He then explained that in light of such circumstances, he drew on Chinese philosophy and other cultures' wisdom to develop an integrated and flexible approach to business whereby the production of invisible and visible value are both recognised, and where the benefits are distributed to enhance a greater good.



10 MINUTES WITH... LINDA QIAN

Linda Qian, one of OSGA's first cohort of doctoral students, is investigating 'nostalgia tourism' in China

What's the focus of your doctoral studies?

I'm carrying on from my MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies, which I completed at Oxford in 2016. My thesis used the village of Heyang in Jinyun County, Zhejiang province, and specifically the development of its cultural heritage tourism site, as a case study to investigate the political economy and cultural politics of 'rural nostalgia', *xiangchou*, in Xi-era China. Now, with the recent launch of the party's Rural Revitalisation Strategy, I'm trying to explore how *xiangchou* plays a role in local government plans for rural development.

What is meant by 'nostalgia' in China?

It's hard to translate *xiangchou* in a way that fully embodies its cultural meaning and nuances. I use 'rural nostalgia' to highlight the concept of a longing or homesickness for the countryside – a fond or even bittersweet reminiscence for an absent place, situation or a certain time.

In 2013 President Xi included the term in his speech unveiling the National New-Type Urbanisation Plan. The concept of *xiangchou* – and specifically Xi's phrase *jizhu xiangchou*, 'remembering rural nostalgia' – attracted much attention among Party officials (from provincial down to village level) and in official news reports and mass media productions. Nostalgia means different things to different people but it was clear from the top-down and cascading effect of government documents, policy proposals and media representation that this specific *xiangchou* pointed directly at China's 'greying' and 'hollowing out' rural areas.

How has 'nostalgia' been promoted?

Xiangchou, and specifically *jizhu xiangchou*, emerged as a prominent theme during China Central Television (CCTV)'s 2015 Spring Festival Gala. The Gala is a form of 'indoctrainment' – a platform from which the Central Government communicates its main theme for the new year to millions of viewers. At the time, much focus from within and beyond the country was being

placed on the development of China's cities, so this emphasis on the countryside really stood out. Around the same time, *Jizhu Xiangchou* became the title of a CCTV documentary series that features the cultures and lifestyles in rural villages across the country. Now in its third season, the series has featured over 50 different villages, one of which is Heyang.

What in practice has this meant for rural villages?

Heyang is an example of a village where the local government is striving to develop and promote tourism. It is not a wealthy place and (as in many Chinese villages) its main demographic is the young and the old: most working-age adults have left to seek work or higher education. There isn't much local industry and 'nostalgia craze' tourism is now considered the village's main potential for economic and social development.

But Heyang's tourism potential is quite limited and tourists visit mainly to see the village's ancient heritage dwellings

complex, *guminju* – a site with buildings dating back to the Qing dynasty and which many village families still call home. Local government officials are aiming to preserve this cultural heritage relic while simultaneously attempting to develop it as a profitable site for *xiangchou* tourism. In practice the village has run into many problems and dilemmas, trying to balance protection and preservation against development and commercialisation.

How has this affected people's lives?

Throughout my visits to Heyang the relationship between local government officials and villagers has been very tense because of this top-down tourism enterprise. There have been forced evictions in Heyang: residents in homes considered to be of high cultural value have been asked to move out so work could be done to preserve the old buildings and retain their qualities of 'nostalgia'. While those made to relocate are meant to be compensated with land elsewhere, issues including complications in rights to land use and lack of funds to construct new homes has meant that many end up unable to move as they have nowhere to live.

As a result, villagers do not want to cooperate when tourists come and are trying to indirectly slow down the government's plans for developing the site. There is also opposition to moving all residents out of the main tourist site: people want to make sure this is still a 'living and breathing' (but ancient) village, not just another museum.

What's the current situation?

I'm currently in Jinyun county, where there's a lot of commotion surrounding this concept of *xiangchou* within the county government, which is right in the middle of brainstorming a three-year development plan for 2018–20 that centres on revitalising the countryside precisely by developing Jinyun's *xiangchou* industries and capabilities.



Linda stands next to a rock inscribed with Xi's words 'remember rural nostalgia' in Sanxi village, near Heyang





INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS

Distinguished visitors and a new advisory board are supporting the African Studies Centre

The African Studies Centre (ASC) has received a number of distinguished visitors this year, as it moves forward into a new era of increasing internationalism under the leadership of its Director, Wale Adebunwi, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations.



His Imperial Majesty the Ooni of Ife, Oba (King) Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, an accountant who is also Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, visited in November and spoke of the importance of establishing both cultural and educational links between Africa and the UK and between the Universities of Oxford and Nigeria. This new academic year sees the creation of a five-year scholarship scheme named after the Ooni, which will each year support a Nigerian student to study for an MSc in African Studies in Oxford.



Nigeria itself today requires a new elite consensus so that it can achieve its greatest potentials, was the message brought to the ASC in March by Nasir

El-Rufai, the Governor of Kaduna State, who gave a lecture on 'Making Progress Amidst Governance and Security Challenges'. His commitment to boosting his country's development prospects is reflected in his commitment to the ASC: he has agreed to serve as a member of the Centre's new International Advisory Board, which will be inaugurated in October.

'We're launching a new initiative to enhance our interactions across the world,' explains Wale. 'Everyone here is an internationally regarded expert and we want to harness that excellence to move the Centre to the next level, expanding our research and teaching into new areas



We want to harness our excellence to move the Centre to the next level"

and reaching out to our colleagues. We have huge ambition to expand the Centre, both in terms of more scholarships and funding to bring more students and research fellows here from Africa and also in creating the accommodation to house them. The International Advisory Board will be supporting our aims by helping us to raise funds and expand our mission.' To date, nine influential individuals have agreed to serve on the Board (see box).



The Centre was also visited in May by Chief Aare Afe Babalola, a prominent Nigerian lawyer and philanthropist, who spoke on sustainable

education in post-colonial African states. A self-made man who studied for his UK legal exams from home, Chief Babalola went on to become a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos before founding in 2009 the Afe Babalola University, a non-profit private university in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

In addition, the African Studies Centre welcomed a Liberian Parliamentary delegation, who visited under the auspices of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The ASC's new International Advisory Board

Mr Tito Mboweni (Chair)

Former Chairman of the South African Reserve Bank, Chairman of Mboweni Investment Holdings and international advisor to Goldman Sachs International

Professor Ibrahim Gambari, CFR

Nigerian diplomat, Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Mr Alex Duncan

Director, Policy Practice, UK

Dr Charlotte Harland-Scott

Former First Lady of Zambia and Oxford alumna

Mr Ivor Agyeman-Duah

Ghanaian economist and author

Governor Nasir El-Rufai

Governor of Kaduna State, Nigeria

Ms Linda Mabhena-Olagunju

Founder and Managing Director, DLO Energy Group (Pty) Ltd, South Africa

Mr Gareth Ackerman

Chairman of Pick n Pay, South Africa

Madame Monica Geingos

First Lady of Namibia



BRITAIN NEEDS A NEW MINDSET

India expert gives evidence to House of Lords inquiry

The UK has many strengths in the eyes of Indian investors but is being somewhat consigned to the back burner in Indian's foreign policy ambitions, Kate Sullivan de Estrada told a House of Lords select committee recently. Kate, who is Associate Professor in the International Relations of South Asia, was invited to give evidence on the UK's relationship with India to an ongoing inquiry that is assessing the new opportunities and challenges for Britain's foreign policy in the changing international landscape with new issues of global stability and power configurations.

India values the UK's world-class universities, vibrant business sectors, long-term infrastructure investments and favourable tax rates. However, as its own economy grows and it becomes more influential, India has emerged as a leading power in world affairs through its engagement with a range of new and dynamic partners, including France and Germany in Europe, as well as Japan and Russia, Kate told the committee. And while we are seeing the UK clearly courting India over free movement of trade and services, the current UK government's insistence on restricted immigration and in particular

the lack of post-study work visas, is causing great frustration in India and Pakistan alike.

'Rahul Roy-Chaudhury of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and I had a very detailed and wide-ranging discussion with the House of Lords committee,' says Kate. 'In addition to the UK-India relationship we discussed India's regional and global influence, its relationships with China and Pakistan, the role new technologies are playing in its foreign policies, and India's approach to global governance. But I was particularly pleased to be able to highlight one obstacle that doesn't often make its way into policy briefings: Britain still has work to do in introspecting on its colonial past.'

While there are many UK politicians and bureaucrats who are alert to and critically engaged with the burden of history that the UK carries in its foreign policies with former colonies, what we might call 'establishment Britain' – not least political figures such as Boris Johnson in his former role as Foreign Secretary – are prone to diplomatic infelicities when engaging with certain parts of the world, including India. In these cases we see a lack of sensitivity as to how the UK comes across, with



Kate and Rahul at the House of Lords

the British side perhaps unconsciously emanating assumptions of superiority and superior knowledge, which in turn reinforce negative perceptions about Britain that are prevalent in India and perhaps other Commonwealth countries.

'I think that we have a tendency to think, "What will Washington think about his policy decision? What will Berlin or Paris think?" I do not think that we are yet asking "What will New Delhi think?" Britain must learn to respect its former colonies as autonomous countries making their own decisions in their own interests, and not expect to impose its own interpretation of events or expectations of behaviour.'



FORMER BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT SPEAKS HER MIND

Dilma Rousseff, the first woman President of Brazil, visited Oxford in May, hosted by the Latin American Centre and Oxford Women in Politics, the student society that aims to empower and support women to pursue leadership positions.

At a packed lecture in St Antony's College, Dilma described her own political trajectory and controversial career. As a young woman in the 1960s she quit university to join the resistance against Brazil's military dictatorship, resulting in a turbulent lifestyle and her arrest and torture. Despite the many obstacles in her path, she rose to become first Minister of Energy and then Chief of Staff to

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose successor she became. She was elected President in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, but in 2016 was impeached by the National Congress for allegedly breaking a budgetary law and removed from the presidency.

In her lecture she strongly cast doubt on the legality of her impeachment and commented forthrightly on the controversy surrounding the recent conviction on corruption charges and imprisonment of her predecessor, Lula – a plot, she believes, to prevent him from running for office again.

'Seeing Dilma Rousseff speak in Oxford was a real eye-opener for those of us who have followed her political career for



years,' says Timothy Power, Professor of Latin American Politics. 'Now out of office, she seemed liberated to say what was on her mind. She was relaxed, sharp and entertaining, and she made very strong cases against her own impeachment and the recent imprisonment of Lula.'



RUSSIA'S BLACK SEA AMBITIONS

Academic analysis informs NATO's Parliamentary Assembly

Russia's evolving strategy and how it influences the security situation in the South Caucasus and the wider Black Sea region was the subject of a keynote address given in April by Roy Allison, Professor of Russian and Eurasian International Relations, to a regional conference of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in cooperation with the Parliament of Georgia.

This major event in Batumi, Georgia, brought together not only parliamentarians from across the diverse range of NATO countries but also senior Georgian politicians, with keynote speeches also being given by Giorgi Margvelashvili, the President of Georgia, and the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and its Defence Minister.

Russia's intentions are a major concern for Georgia, which gained independence in 1991 and has subsequently pursued a pro-Western foreign policy aimed at NATO and European integration. The resulting worsening of relations with Russia culminated in the brief

Russo-Georgian War in 2008 and in Georgia's current territorial dispute with Russia, in which Russia regards Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states while Georgia maintains that they are Georgian territories under Russian occupation.

'Russia does not currently appear to have a grand strategy but there's clearly an effort to develop a forward security zone in the Black Sea region, as well as the Baltic Sea region,' says Roy. 'The new development has been Russia's military defence of Syria, where it is now building bases. There isn't a direct Russian focus on Georgia at present – and recent Georgian government efforts to reach out to Russia have met with little response – but there are concerns about how its policy will evolve. My own view is that Russia – which has limited resources in the face of its low economic growth – can either aim for consolidation of the post-Soviet region or place more emphasis on Syria and the Middle East more generally. I don't think it can do both.'



As someone who has visited Georgia regularly since 1987 and is deeply engaged with Georgian academics and the University of Oxford's Georgian Programme, Roy feels he is well placed to give an evidence-based critical evaluation of the situation. 'Particularly at a time when so much of the discussion on Russian policy is not dispassionate but is driven by certain agendas as diplomatic rhetoric goes back and forth, my role was to show the benefits of academic scholarly knowledge in informing those deeply engaged in the policy process,' he says. 'And as an outsider, I carry more credibility.'



THE BURDEN OF INEQUALITY

The World Bank is assessing regional disparities across Russia's vast landscape

'While Moscow, St Petersburg, Ekaterinburg and one or two other Russian cities are wealthy European style-cities, there are large parts of Russia where the standards of living are seriously underdeveloped,' says Chris Gerry, OSGA's Associate Professor of Russian and Eurasian Political Economy. 'For example, 13.8% of middle-age males and 11.1% of females are living in households without a central water supply, 42.1% (females 36.8%) are living without a supply of hot water, 37.4% (30.3%) are living without a central sewage system and a little over one-third of households are without refrigeration.'

This striking degree of inequality has caught the attention of international institutions and researchers, not least the World Bank, which has recently commissioned a small group of international researchers to report on specific features of social inclusion and exclusion in Russia's regions.

Chris led the investigations into two areas and his reports *The Expanding Double Burden of Russia's Women* and *Russia's Invisible Men: Middle-Aged Men* were well received and showcased at the International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development organised by the Higher School of Economics in Moscow in April.

'Russian women face barriers to social inclusion and equal opportunity that can be traced back to Soviet gender-based attitudes which gave rise to a form of "double burden" peculiar to the Soviet system, and that run parallel to a gender dynamic which has also increasingly precluded Russian males from substantive domestic roles – despite many of them being unemployed – giving rise to a peculiar male social exclusion that I detail in the *Invisible Man* report,' he explains. 'In rural communities, where the female burden becomes a triple burden with the expectation of managing domestic agriculture, there

is even evidence that despite the recent transformation of Russian society and economy, attitudes have become yet more traditional and patriarchal, thereby widening the opportunity gap between urban and rural areas.'

He adds: 'Russian policymakers' interest in women's issues is manifestly single-issue focused, revolving around maternity and the role of women as child-bearers and carers.' His many recommendations include the provision of welfare and child support to facilitate the full participation of women in the workplace, policies to 'shrink' the space between rural areas and urban centres via better internet and transport connections, and the establishment of paternity rights to promote the perceived legitimacy of stay-at-home fathers.



THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

China's urbanisation programme is promoting unprecedented economic growth but leading to increasing social tensions

Over the last few decades China has seen hundreds of millions of people move from rural areas to cities. Today, almost 60% of the population live in cities (in contrast to just 26% in 1990) and – while it's not altogether clear what exactly constitutes the urban core of a city and what its surrounding sprawl – there are without doubt now dozens of cities that are each home to many millions of people. Shanghai (pictured) has a population of around 24 million, for example, and Beijing around 22 million. China's current policy of creating clusters of cities close together and linked by high-speed train is already creating 'megalopolises' where hundreds of millions live in close proximity.

But while this kind of agglomeration is recognised as creating economic powerhouses where industry has first-class access to skills and the labour market, China's national leaders are also alert to the ensuing political and social tensions that can fester in rural areas deprived of investment and in big cities with unassimilated migrant populations and severe inequality. The way in which central government policy is interpreted and applied by subnational governments – which can either exacerbate or minimise the differences between urban and rural lifestyles – is being studied by Kyle Jaros, Associate Professor in the Political Economy of China.

'As a political scientist, I'm interested in the impact of politics and the State on China's urbanisation,' he explains. 'Chinese cities are governed through a state hierarchy: provinces, which are theoretically subservient to the central government but in practice have considerable discretionary powers, then the prefectural level, county, township and village levels.' In his forthcoming book, *China's Urban Champions and the Politics of Spatial Development* (2019; Princeton University Press), he explores how these various state actors intervene in urban and regional development.

The question of whether the State should encourage the growth of big cities has proved a thorny one for China's leaders,



who are aware that large cities are prone to congestion problems, social challenges and political upheaval – and that growing them creates regional disparities. As a result, they have historically sought to disperse urban and industrial growth away from larger cities.



It's much easier for highly educated professionals to move to the big cities"

In recent years, however, there has been growing pressure from subnational authorities for strong metropolitan investment as a means to sustained high economic growth. This is particularly prominent at provincial level, where policymakers have often targeted investment and political support at their leading cities to create 'urban champions' that act as gateways to the global economy for their own province. Provinces – which can be of similar size or population to a European country – are fiercely competitive and see great value in political showpieces. Other provinces, though, have chosen to place more emphasis on regional balance and aimed for more inclusive growth.

But while populations in rural areas may feel they are missing out, many city dwellers don't have it easy. Certainly, they may have access to better jobs, modern buildings

and transport systems, plus all the benefits of public spaces and cultural activities, but many people, particularly those with lower income and education levels, struggle to achieve *Hukou* – the household registration status (broadly, citizenship) that grants them permanent residency and entitlement to resources like education and healthcare.

'Some recent reforms are making things a little easier, but government policy is generally to facilitate movement to small and medium-sized cities – generally considered less desirable – rather than the large ones,' says Kyle. 'But it's much easier for highly educated professionals or people with specific skills to move to the big cities and this is increasingly creating a stratified society, reproducing in the social realm what has long existed in China's political realm.'

The government is facing a big challenge, he feels, trying to balance between the demands of cosmopolitan city dwellers and those who feel left behind by the system. Alert to the underlying tensions, China's leaders are visibly trying to keep the lid on the problem by increased police control and using new techniques of urban management such as surveillance and facial recognition technology to monitor who is doing what where. He adds: 'It's striking to see Maoist political techniques being combined with 21st-century information technology to achieve increasingly targeted governance. The regime is using intensive surveillance and new forms of divide-and-conquer tactics to ensure its dominance over rapidly changing urban spaces.'



AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

As humanoid robots become more widespread, Japan is according them citizenship

Japan's government has long perceived the use of robots as a key to improving industrial productivity and economic growth and today there are more than 250,000 industrial robots employed in the Japanese economy. Alongside this, the country is pursuing an ambitious programme to robotise society, looking to robot technologies to combat social problems such as labour shortages and the challenges posed by an ageing population. In particular, the development of non-industrial humanoid robots that interact with people to understand and meet their more complex needs is proceeding rapidly.

Humanoid robots such as SoftBank's Pepper robot are already a common sight in Japan, especially in Tokyo where they can be found greeting and presenting products to customers in shops, staffing restaurants and hotels, offering translation and information services at airports and transport hubs and much more besides. They will be everywhere at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



Humanoids are sometimes taken to Shinto shrines to undergo rites of passage ceremonies"

The use of humanoids will certainly soon expand into the home and the increasing size of Japan's ageing population is also creating a growing demand for emotionally responsive humanoid robotic assistants. Not only will these meet healthcare applications such as delivering medication and assistance with lifting, they are also expected to become 'social companions' that can help an older person continue to live at home, and will be able to hold a conversation and promote mental well-being. Quite how human-robot relationships will evolve and how the

humanoids will be perceived by society is an intriguing question for Dr Mateja Kovacic, a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow based in the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies.

'Robots are already a part of Japanese society and the authorities are very much in favour of formalising this,' says Mateja, who uses anthropological, historical and urban perspectives to research and analyse the ways that politics, economics and various sociocultural factors are shaping robots into part of society. 'Humanoid robots have already been linguistically denoted as alive and PARO robots – the "baby seal" interactive therapeutic robots now in widespread use in hospitals and care facilities worldwide – are given citizenship and family registry by the local authorities in the Japanese city in which they were made. That confers the rights of a Japanese citizen and proves you are Japanese because your ancestors were.' Humanoids are sometimes taken to Shinto shrines to undergo rites of passage ceremonies and some owners are choosing to hold traditional funeral ceremonies for their 'dead' Sony Aibo robot pet dogs before they are cannibalised for spare parts by electronics companies.

Mateja's aim is to use the 'reverse anthropology' technique she pioneered in her doctoral studies – studying machine culture in order to unveil the underlying processes constitutive of Japanese society. 'The Japanese are embracing the inclusion of robots in society by bestowing on them "Japaneseness", with its perceived inherent affinity for robots, and establishing for them a lineage that sees their ancestors in, say, the 17th century, as early automata,' she explains. 'This construction of the national history of robots and their "enculturation" in society is seen as a benevolent and sensible thing to do and not at all controversial.'

Robots are firmly part of the *monozukuri* paradigm, she adds. This mindset, which was adopted in the 1990s by both industry and government to reinvigorate industry, is about what it means to create Japanese products and emphasises their ancestry in the work of Japanese craftsmen throughout earlier eras. So this making of a genealogy

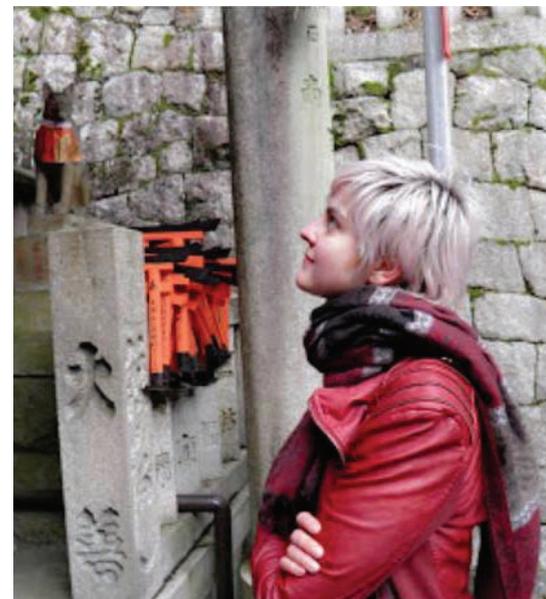
legitimises the production of policies surrounding robots.

And just like humans, the needs of the humanoids are spawning new products. 'Japan is seeing the launch of new industry: fashion for robots,' says Mateja. 'There are now fashion designers making clothes specifically for robots.' No doubt that will be of particular interest to the humanoids now finding roles in the entertainment industry.



Above: A Pepper robot assistant with information screen at a Tokyo train station

Below: Mateja examines a Shinto shrine



CHALLENGES OF COMPRESSION

Juxtapositions of the ultra-modern and the traditional in today's developing countries point to developmental complexities that have received relatively little attention from scholars. Such contrasts are the visible face of 'compressed development,' which has distinctive features and presents qualitatively new problems.

One feature of development in the contemporary period is 'compression,' or the tendency for later developers to grow faster than the earlier industrialisers. But industrialisation has also become 'thin,' and no longer offers the same path of growth it once did. Another feature of 'compressed development' relates to its historical time period, which provides its geopolitical, institutional and ideological context. There is a profound contrast between the



immediate post World War II decades and the subsequent decades from the 1980s onward, which has altered the challenges and opportunities for development. Developing countries must now ask, for example, how they can engage with global value chains and digital economy platforms.

OSGA's cross-unit cluster of scholars researching economic development held a one-day conference in May to explore such themes. Presentations were given by the co-authors of the forthcoming book *Compressed*

Development (to be published in 2019 by Oxford University Press). Participants from the University and beyond extended the discussion, focusing on both opportunities as well as challenges for today's compressed developers, and the changing roles of states and markets.

Hugh Whittaker

Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan



VISITING FELLOWSHIP FOR PAKISTAN OFFERS MUTUAL BENEFITS

OSGA is from 2019 to host the Charles Wallace Trust Visiting Fellowship for Pakistan (previously hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations).

The Fellowship, which is awarded annually, is sponsored by the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust in co-operation with the British Council in Pakistan. It enables a Pakistani academic or professional to undertake a working visit of up to three months to Oxford's Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme (CSASP) with the aim of broadening his or her research experience, professional knowledge and contacts. The Fellowship is intended to mutually benefit both the Fellow and the Programme through academic exchange.

The Fellow is required to pursue an independent study project in tune with the Fellowship's aim of advancing the understanding of contemporary problems and issues facing Pakistan, widely conceived. Priority is given to applicants who have not had opportunities to study outside Pakistan.

A key priority for CSASP in the next five years is to create greater capacity for broad and deep teaching, research, and

engagement collaborations with individuals and institutions in Pakistan,' says Professor Kate Sullivan de Estrada, who directs the programme. 'The Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship for Pakistan is a welcome boost to these endeavours and we look forward to intensifying both our links with Pakistan and our activity in Pakistan studies through the Fellowship.'

- OSGA's ongoing commitment to Pakistan studies was reflected in May by a one-day conference on 'New Directions in Studies of Pakistan' organised by Oxford academics from OSGA, the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the Asian Studies Centre of St Antony's College, in collaboration with colleagues from SOAS (University of London) and the University of Cambridge.

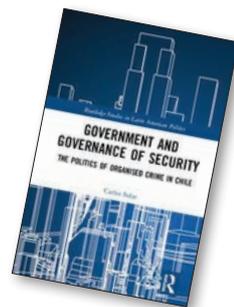
As well as offering graduate students an opportunity to present their research to an audience of peers and established scholars, the conference aimed to encourage new and innovative ways of looking at Pakistan and the development of comparative perspectives. Themes addressed included the history of post-colonial archaeology in Pakistan and gendering Pakistani history in the aftermath of independence.



POLITICS OF CRIME

Latin America is today experiencing societal unrest from human rights violations, corruption and weak institutions.

Government and Governance of Security: The Politics of Organised Crime in Chile (June 2018; Routledge) by OSGA's Dr Carlos Solar provides a case study that illuminates the challenge of steering crime policies.



For more information about any of these stories or about area studies at the University of Oxford, please contact OSGA's Head of Administration and Finance, Ms Erin Gordon (erin.gordon@area.ox.ac.uk) or see www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk.

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