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Institution: University of Oxford**Unit of Assessment:** 24B – Anthropology and Development Studies: International Development**a. Context**

The Oxford Department of International Development (ODID) aims to ensure the impact of its academic research in the public sphere by contributing to policy formation by governments and international institutions on the one hand, and civil society on the other, with a view to improving life for ordinary people in developing countries. Over the past two decades, and specifically within the period 2008–13, the Department's research has influenced key policy fields at international and national levels, ranging from human development and childhood poverty, through technology transfer and global finance, to international migration and civil conflict. This international research impact is notable across the whole range of the ODID research programme by design (see REF5) but is particularly strong for the work of the six externally funded research groups, five of which are featured as case studies in Section d below.

This impact is achieved by supporting staff, in research groups and through externally funded projects, as well as individually: (i) to *engage* with policy-makers through meetings and publications and through collaborative research; (ii) to act in *advisory* roles to agencies, governments, and civil society groups and to contribute evidence to assist the work of *practitioners* in the field; and (iii) to use *multiple channels* including the media to disseminate and promote their research. Since 1994, the Department has benefitted from a distinguished external Advisory Council, tasked with guiding our engagement with the non-academic world.

By its nature, Development Studies is both critical (engaging in robust debates about policy objectives, socioeconomic inequality, and international power) and practical (seeking to advance development by working with practitioners). The first step in our approach to engagement is to listen to potential users and beneficiaries, which in turn shapes our research and impact agenda. Active participation in workshops and in field interactions ensures the relevance of our work and develops partner ownership of the results, thus strengthening the authority of ODID on development issues.

A key international constituency where the Department has long-standing reputation and influence is the United Nations and its agencies. In the UK there is a close professional relationship with the Department for International Development (DFID). A particular concern is to reach policy-makers and civil society in developing countries themselves. To this end, the Department plays a key role in a number of international research networks in developing regions (see REF5). This outreach dimension is an integral part of all our larger externally funded projects. In addition, individual members of staff maintain strong links to local advocacy researchers across the developing world.

b. Approach to impact*Organisation of impact*

All researchers are strongly encouraged to ensure that their work has impact beyond the academic sphere, and are given the logistical support to do so. In many cases the necessary resources are now supplied by funders as an explicit part of research projects; in other cases resources are provided by the Department or the University. The six externally funded research groups (see REF5) each have a Communications or Policy Officer, who links with a departmental Information Officer, tasked with impact support. These officers meet termly with the Head of Department to evaluate and plan communications; strategy and oversight are exercised by the General Purposes Committee (the executive body of the Department). Training and mentorship from senior colleagues with policy experience are provided to junior researchers, so that they can establish their own public 'practice'.

An impact strategy, indicators and assessment are all included as a core part of project design. These tools, and our experience in using them, provide valuable input to our own departmental impact strategy (see Section c below). The Department encourages academic staff to engage in advisory roles to governments and international agencies; and supports them in this activity by offering 30 days of consultancy leave a year, plus unpaid leave of absence for longer periods where this contributes to the Department's objectives.

The Advisory Council was established in 1994 to support the Department in outreach and fundraising, and to give guidance on research directions. It has representation from the University, international agencies, NGOs and government, and reflects a broad spectrum of authoritative opinion and practical experience. The external members (October 2013) are: Professor Tilman Brück (Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute); Dr Sarah Cook (Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development); Mr Nic Hailey (Director Africa, Foreign and Commonwealth Office); Professor David Hulme (Manchester University); Professor Niraja Jayal Gopal (Jawaharlal Nehru University); Dr Steve Jennings (Head of Programme Policy, Oxfam); Lord Myners (President of the Howard League for Penal Reform and former Financial Services Secretary, HM Treasury); Dr Kevin Watkins (Director, Overseas Development Institute). A senior member of DFID's Research and Evidence Division attends as an observer.

Engagement with policy-makers

The research groups all engage in regular meetings, interactions and exchanges with individual policy-makers, often in response to direct approaches from them. These are supported by policy papers and briefings; summaries of key findings; and research-in-progress series which are available from the groups' websites. Engagement is also built into several externally funded projects such as Young Lives (Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam), International Growth Centre (IGC) (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), Technology and Management for Development Centre (TMD) (China, India), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) (Bhutan, Chile, India, Mexico) and International Migration Institute (IMI) (Great Lakes, North Africa).

Supporting policy stakeholder groups is an emerging activity for the Department. In 2013 OPHI helped launch, and is Secretariat for, the Poverty Peer Network, which brings together around 20 governments using multidimensional poverty measures, many of them based on the methodology developed by OPHI researchers. The Refugee Studies Centre's (RSC) Global Migration Governance project has developed a network among international organisations, NGOs and regional organisations working on forced migration. To this end, the Department also belongs to a number of international research networks in developing regions (see REF5).

Acting in advisory roles and working with practitioners

Leading examples of practical advisory work include: *Adam* as Special Advisor to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee Inquiry into Aid Effectiveness; *Gollin* as economic advisor to Tanzania on agricultural policy; *FitzGerald* as advisor to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), writing a chapter of the *World Economic and Social Survey 2012* on innovative development finance; *Chatty* as advisor to the Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) on Palestinian refugees. *Dercon* is presently on secondment as Chief Economist to DFID (80 per cent). *Rival* was part of the initial team that designed the Yasuní Initiative for the government of Ecuador. She is currently engaged in a multi-criteria analysis of various oil development policies proposed for the Yasuní region.

Other advisory work with international agencies includes: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (*Boyden*, children), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (*de Haas*, migration), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (*Chatty*, refugees), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (*FitzGerald*, debt), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (*Alkire*, poverty measurement) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) (*Fu*, innovation). In addition, individual staff members maintain strong links to local non-government civic groups across the developing world – examples include *Rival* (Ecuador, forest ecology), *Alexander* (Zimbabwe, ex-combatants, human rights groups), *Chatty* (Jordan, Bedouin), *FitzGerald* (Nicaragua, farmers), and *Sánchez-Ancochea* (Costa Rica, trades unions).

The RSC's International Summer School, which fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policy-makers, has been running since 1990. This three-week course attracts 60–80 participants each year from all over the world. The 2013 summer school was attended by 64 practitioners and academics working in 34 countries. They included government officials from

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Afghanistan and Iraq and intergovernmental and non-governmental agency personnel, for example from IOM, the League of Arab States, Médecins sans Frontières, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNRWA. The RSC also holds short courses that give up to 50 practitioners the opportunity to receive additional professional training and expertise in areas such as human rights law. The Department holds annual, intensive two-week training courses for UNDP on human development measurement, attended by more than 200 senior UN and government officials from more than 30 countries so far.

Use of the media to inform the public

Major research results also gain worldwide coverage due to their policy relevance. For example, *Sud's* research on land liberalisation in India was covered in *The Tribune India*, the *Times of India's* blog and by Radio France. Her work on Hindu nationalism also featured in a BBC Radio 4 documentary and was covered by *Milli Gazette* (India). *Friedrichs'* research on peak oil scenarios was covered by online platform Miller McCune and online journal Energy Bulletin, leading to an invitation to present his work at the House of Commons in 2011. His work on the 'carbon curse' led to interviews on local Oxford radio station Jack FM, and BBC Scotland. He was also interviewed on climate change more broadly with UN Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard for Newshour on the BBC World Service. *Fu's* research on China has led to interviews with BBC Newsnight, BBC News, BBC Radio 2, Sky News, Arise News and China Radio International.

The Department also makes use of the extensive contacts of the University Press Office to ensure its research receives national and international exposure and interest. For example *Bano's* work on Muslim women featured on the University website and was then picked up by the BBC World Service. She was also interviewed by BBC World and BBC Radio 4 and her research has featured in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and the *Times Educational Supplement*.

The Department and individual research groups have their own websites that present research in a lively and accessible manner, and they collect data on visitors, downloads and data use. These websites averaged a combined total of around 50,000 visits per month in the six months to 30 September 2013. They also use tools such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and the University's iTunes U channel to reach broader audiences, as well as e-updates to connect with regular users. In January 2013 the Department started its own blog 'Debating Development' to stimulate discussions among researchers, practitioners and students on issues related to evidence-based policy and current global problems.

c. Strategy and plans

The Advisory Council has been helping the Department to develop a strategy towards impact since 2008. At its December 2012 meeting, the Council discussed both the Case Studies for the REF submission, and the principles of a Departmental Impact Strategy (DIS), which have since been adopted by the Departmental Committee:

Engagement with policy-makers

- Consolidate our strong institutional engagement with DFID, the UN agencies and other international development institutions, playing the role of critical partner and providing methodological expertise. This will be achieved by supporting staff already so engaged; ensuring that new research projects contain this element; and involving junior researchers and doctoral students.
- Deepen our existing engagement with networks of policy-relevant research institutions in developing countries, including the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA); the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Latin America; and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Resources will be sought to organise exchange visits and joint research agreements will be established similar to that signed between TMD and the CAS in 2012.

Acting in advisory roles and working with practitioners

- Maintain our established channels for consultancy work with governments (such as Ethiopia and Tanzania through the IGC) and international organisations (such as the UNDP and UNHCR) and seek new ones related to our research strengths (such as EU agencies in

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migration). Support our junior staff in gaining experience in advisory work.

- Work more closely with major UK-based INGOs, building on our existing links with agencies such as the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), Oxfam GB and Save the Children, to provide evidence-based inputs into their advocacy work and to support the training of their field staff, on a systematic rather than an occasional basis as at present.

Use of the media to inform the public

- Grow our online media presence through more accessible presentation of research results and the identification of the best channels to reach key audiences. This to be achieved through inclusion of communications in research project design; training of young researchers in engagement; and closer coordination with established content providers in this field (e.g. eldis, zunia.org).
- Coordinate with other parts of the University to ensure better communication with the public, taking advantage of the high profile of Oxford interdisciplinary research in related fields, particularly the natural environment, public health, global governance and business management, in particular through joint activities with the Oxford Martin School, the Blavatnik School of Government, and the Law Faculty.

d. Relationship to case studies

Engagement with policy-makers

Research on horizontal inequalities was shared with policy-makers via meetings, conferences, and invited seminars and presentations, as well as via policy-focused publications, leading to a new understanding of the links between inequality and conflict among international institutions and national governments (Case Study 24B-01). Research by OPHI on a new poverty measure, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), was discussed with users via presentations at major international institutions and donor agencies. In March 2012, OPHI organised a policy seminar at the UK Houses of Parliament attended by 130 people and in September 2013 held a side event at the UN General Assembly (24B-02). High-quality longitudinal evidence on childhood poverty by Young Lives was embedded via small-scale meetings with policy-makers and an international policy-focused conference in the UK (24B-03). Research on future migration patterns by IMI was developed via collaborative work and a series of innovative workshops with policy-makers, leading to further requests for knowledge exchange from civil servants and international and national agencies focused on migration (24B-04).

Acting in advisory roles and working with practitioners

Users of the new OPHI poverty measure are supported by the organisation of regular training courses and through online publications and tools (24B-02). Young Lives has advised practitioners in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam on the potential, usefulness and design of longitudinal methods for their own work. Partnership with in-country research institutes leads to access to policy-makers in developing countries (24B-03). The IMI's Global Migration Futures project is developing a group of stakeholders, including government representatives, whose primary activity is to draw up potential migration scenarios for 2050 (24B-04). Active dissemination by IGC of research on food price dynamics and the transmission of monetary policy in research and policy circles in Tanzania led to engagement with policy-makers and input into monetary policy at the national and then regional level (24B-05).

Use of the media to inform the public

The launch of OPHI's MPI was covered in more than 60 countries and featured on BBC Radio 4, in *The Economist*, in *The Financial Times*, on Al Jazeera, in *TIME*, in *The Hindu*, via *Xinhua*, and in *The New York Times* (24B-02). CRISE research led to interviews on Swedish National Public Radio, Kenya's *Meet Louis* programme and with *El Comercio* in Peru. The research was also covered by Sri Lanka's *Sunday Times*. Individual CRISE researchers and doctoral students gave interviews or answered journalists' questions for the BBC World Service, the Associated Press, BBC Scotland, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Kristeligt Dagblad* (Denmark), *Life Week* (China), Al Jazeera television, *The Standaard* (Belgium), *SME* (Slovakia), *La Croix* (France), IRIN news agency and *Le Journal du Dimanche* (France) about militia groups and communal violence in Nigeria (24B-01). A Young Lives report on teaching quality in India was covered in two stories in *The Hindu* (24B-03).