

<p>Institution: SOAS</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 24B: Anthropology and Development Studies: Development Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Development Studies at SOAS comprises the Departments of Economics and Development Studies, and the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP). The Unit's staff (36.65 submitted FTEs) are on permanent contracts, rather than dependent on core external funding. This has helped to ensure that research within the Development Studies community at SOAS is driven by academic priorities. Nonetheless, our heterodox orientation and strong engagement with, and critique of development policy have meant that our research has long been in demand by UN organizations and southern governments seeking alternatives to the mainstream approach to development. The Unit's profile has been raised considerably in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, and its research is being taken increasingly seriously by the World Bank and the IMF. Our research has eight focal points: (1) Globalization, Governance and Neo-Liberalism; (2) Labour, Social Movements and Development; (3) Agrarian Change, Rural Labour and Institutions; (4) Money, Finance and Development; (5) Violence, Peace and Development; (6) Migration, Mobility and Development; (7) Agriculture and Health; and (8) Environment and Development (not all work fits into the eight clusters—there is fertilization across clusters and space for the pursuit of individual research). The main user groups and beneficiaries of the research of these clusters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • international organizations (including UN agencies, World Bank, NATO, ILO) • the governments of poor countries (including Ethiopia, Malawi, Argentina, Vietnam) • European governments (including UK, France, Norway) • African public sector officials, trade unionists, NGO members and young researchers (via APORDE, the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics) • public opinion, trade unionists and NGOs
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Much of the Unit's research is applied and policy-orientated and therefore impact features high on our agenda. We promote impact by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging research commissioned by international organizations and governments. This type of research is at the core of the Unit's work. Our staff are encouraged to undertake commissioned research for external organisations such as DFID, the UN, the OECD and the World Bank, and to participate in research networks involving these organizations. For example, Khan is part of a World Bank-funded and coordinated research network on the role of institutions in development and a member of the Expert Panel on Policy Implementation (World Bank 2012 to date); • the cultivation of long-term relationships within and outside SOAS based around the work of our research clusters. Such relationships enhance the impact of individual research initiatives. For example, the impact of research by the Violent Conflict, Peace and Development cluster is maximized by a sharing of information, contacts and impact strategies within the cluster, and by interactions with the British Armed Forces, NATO, and NGOs. The impact of the research by the Globalization, Governance and Neo-liberalism cluster and the Money, Finance and Development cluster draws on long-standing institutionalised external links. These include those with the APORDE (see below); with <i>Research in Money and Finance</i> (RMF), a group of scholars looking at financialization, development and global finance); and the <i>International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy</i> (IIPPE), a group of over a thousand heterodox economists. This research is disseminated via the RMF and IIPPE websites (at www.researchonmoneyandfinance.org and ippe.org/wp/ respectively). Within the Unit, CeDEP has a central focus on addressing global development policy challenges, including food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and water resources management. It edits the journal <i>Food Policy</i>, a multidisciplinary journal focused on the formulation, implementation and analysis of policies for the food sector; and has developed research projects explicitly designed to address policy concerns and influence policy debates; • embedding dissemination strategies in grant applications. Successful grant applications require a dissemination strategy, and the development of such bids is supported by our Centre for Development Policy Research (CDPR) and by SOAS's Research and Enterprise Office (REO). In

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addition, CDPR publishes aspects of our research in popular format publications; these include *Policy Briefs*, circulated to over 7,000 people actively involved in development work;

- **hosting events at SOAS** The Unit supports the organisation of SOAS-based events (workshops, briefings, conferences, roundtables) with non-academic attendees. Recent SOAS-based conferences include *Methodological and Ethical Challenges of Research on Violence in Africa* (SOAS, 2009), *Somalia's Protracted Displacement Crisis* (London with UNHCR, 2012), LCIRAH annual conferences (2010-), *The Political Economy of HIV* (2012), and *Challenges and Prospects for Commodity Markets in the Global Economy* (2008);
- **institutional support for travel and research leave.** SOAS travel grants and secondment policy make it easier for staff to provide policy advice to international organizations and southern governments. This engagement has been further encouraged by a generous research leave policy and by the willingness of the Unit to second staff to international organizations on unpaid leave eg Saad-Filho was seconded to UNCTAD for two years as Senior Economic Affairs Officer in the Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries;
- **participation in the London International Development Centre (LIDC).** A key investment for SOAS over the past five years has been LIDC, created in 2008 as a collaborative venture between the six Bloomsbury colleges. The LIDC Director (Waage) is based at SOAS, and LIDC is housed within SOAS. A core LIDC mission is to facilitate large-scale interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects, designed to influence development policy at a global level. LIDC brings together staff from its member colleges and policy-makers. Two major LIDC projects with substantial SOAS involvement have been the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH), which aims to develop a new policy paradigm around 'agri-health', involving agriculture, public health and social development professionals; and *The Lancet* Commission on the Millennium Development Goals. LIDC has also helped SOAS staff to develop relationships with key stakeholders interested in using SOAS research. An example is the direct engagement of LCIRAH with DFID, as well as with international policy organisations (e.g. IFPRI) and donors (e.g. the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). This led to a high-level dialogue in March 2012, funded by DFID and the Gates Foundation, on building effective public-private partnerships.

Evidence of Impact on User Groups

The five case studies provide detailed evidence of the impact of research undertaken by Development Studies at SOAS. However, these constitute a fraction of the impact of our Unit's research on user groups. Some of our research has influenced the policy agendas and research of **international organizations**. Nissanke's work on taxing foreign exchange transactions (the Tobin tax), which provided input to the G-20 discussions on this issue, is one example; and her work on debt sustainability has been taken up by the IMF, the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat's Financial Ministerial Conference and the African Development Bank, and incorporated into UNCTAD, FAO and NGO research work on commodities. Karshenas' estimates of the impact of the world crisis on global poverty was taken up by UN organisations such as ILO, ITC and UNCTAD, while Waage has contributed significantly to *The Lancet* Commission on the Millennium Development Goals. Oya worked alongside the Gambian Bureau of Statistics, the UNDP and the World Bank to design a nationally-representative Rural Labour force survey, and Standing is involved in a four year project on *Basic Income Schemes and the Indian Poor* in collaboration with India's Self-employed Association and financed by UNICEF. Our staff have also worked closely with the **governments of developing countries**. Fine has had extensive engagement with the government of South Africa, while Cramer and Khan addressed and debated with the entire Ethiopian cabinet in June 2013; the Ethiopian Prime Minister subsequently announced that this would be the beginning of an on-going relationship. Poulton's work on cotton assisted the World Bank to rethink its approach to cotton sector reform in Africa and has also contributed to on-going efforts to restructure the Tanzanian cotton sector. Saad Filho's research on Brazil and Mexico was recognized by the award (2013) of the Medal of Merit of the Federal University of Goias (Brazil), an award made once every four years. Bramall's work on the sources of Chinese growth led to him being asked to advise Viet Nam's Ministry of Planning and Investment and members of Viet Nam's Central Committee on the formulation of their 2011-2020 National Socio-Economic Development Plan. Toporowski has worked with the Central Bank of Argentina on the design of monetary policy. The work of our staff has also influenced **European government policy**. Khan's work on growth and governance has been taken up by the French Development Agency (the Agence

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Française de Développement) and by DFID. Research by Hammond and Lindley feeds into the work of the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI)—currently chaired by Hammond—which reports to the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency. Dorward is a member of the advisory committee for the DFID-ESRC funded Growth Programme Directorate. Fine's research on consumption studies, food and food safety has supported significant policy changes at the UK FSA concerning meat slaughtering. This is a high-impact issue in many poor countries, where health as well as cultural concerns about food consumption (e.g., halal meat) have been successfully addressed through Fine's systems of provision approach. Cramer (and subsequently Di John) was a member of the PovPeace and NorGlobal research panels of the Norwegian government. Cramer also led a commissioned study on the Cost Effectiveness of Conflict Prevention for DFID. And as part of the *Future Agricultures Consortium*, our researchers have contributed to DFID's work on the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. We have also engaged significantly with **African public sector officials, trade unionists, NGO members and young researchers**. Our staff have been central in curriculum design and in teaching at APORDE annual residential schools for public sector officials, trade unionists, NGO members, and young African researchers; there have been thirty participants per year on average over the past seven years. We provide the core teaching faculty of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation/SOAS Governance for Development in Africa programme residential schools, held in a different African city each year (see, for example, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAFkV91-Bp4&list=PL4116CFB888792139> for testimonials to its impact); and our staff have helped to design and deliver courses for the new African School of Leadership, based in the Soweto campus of the University of Johannesburg and initially teaching a cohort of more than 80 Southern African parliamentarians. The work of our Unit has also impacted upon **public opinion, trade unions and NGOs**. Achcar's books on the Arabs and the holocaust and on the roots of the Arab revolutionary process has had a major impact in the media and on public discourse, especially in France and the Middle East; Pringle's work on trade unions in China has influenced UK trade unions as well as Hong Kong-based labour NGOs; Fine's research on the minerals-energy complex has influenced the work of South African trade unions; and Lapavistas' work on the financial crisis and the Euro has had direct impact on opposition policy in Greece regarding membership of the Euro, and on the response of Cyprus to the insolvency of many of its banks in 2013. Many of our staff have close links with NGOs. Rizzo, for example, was previously (2006-2008) Livelihoods and Policy Advisor to *Save the Children* and continues to have close links.

c. Strategy and plans

Our impact strategy during 2008-2013 has sought in a very general way to encourage our staff to disseminate their research to governments, international organizations and civil society. We believe the extent of the involvement of our staff with the user groups documented above demonstrates that it has been successful. Our strategy for the period to 2020 will seek to build about these existing successes, and will aim to:

- **encourage commissioned work and the development of collaborative international networks involving the UN and other agencies.** The SOAS Development Studies community has produced a wide range of high-level advisory and commissioned work. Some of this takes place independently of SOAS, and we will work with SOAS's REO to bring this in-house, making SOAS-based consultancy more attractive. We also aim to support advisory work by supporting staff travel to key conferences and workshops to raise and maintain their profiles;
- **develop and expand our web-based working papers series.** The Department of Economics already has a working paper series which is available for download to end users free of charge. Many of the papers produced by SOAS members of RMF and IIPPE are also available. We will encourage staff to make more of their research available as soon as possible. For example, the SOAS China Institute is developing an online short monograph series, and we will encourage our staff working on China to publish the early fruits of their research in it. We will also make our research more accessible to users based in Latin America, Asia and Africa by building on the strong links we have with colleagues in language-orientated departments at SOAS to make more of our research available in (for example) Chinese, Hindi, and Arabic;
- **encourage greater participation of non-academics in our research seminars and conferences.** SOAS has the great advantage of being based in the heart of London. We will use that locational advantage actively to court the participation of colleagues working for DFID, FCO banking, business, the media and NGOs in our regular research seminars, and at our conferences, as LIDC is already doing. We will encourage open debate by expecting

participants to abide by Chatham House rules;

- **make research leave and SOAS research funding for staff conditional upon the formulation of individual impact strategies.** The formulation of plans for impact is now embedded within the great majority of successful bids for external funding. We will apply the same approach within SOAS. Staff are already required to provide a detailed research plan as a condition for being awarded leave. As part of this process, we will also now require each applicant to formulate an impact strategy. Similarly, research funding made available at a Faculty level to provide seed corn funding for research will also have impact conditions attached to it. These individual impact strategies will be scrutinized and approved by Departmental research committees, and outcomes will be monitored;
- **embed a focus on impact into promotion and probationary procedures.** Promotion and probationary procedures within Development Studies require applicants to report on knowledge transfer and enterprise activity. Such impact activities will be given greater weight in decisions about promotion and in deciding whether staff have successfully completed probation;
- **develop further the work of LIDC.** We aim to exploit LIDC's strength as a financially viable centre focused on generating collaborative research that helps design development policies which work. We will focus on developing a range of multi-year, multi-country and multi-institutional projects aimed at addressing key development challenges, and containing impact plans and strong user engagement from the start. One such project, the *Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia* project funded by DFID from 2013-18 and led by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in India, involves CeDEP researchers and has an explicit impact plan that aims to increase the use of high quality research evidence to develop strategies and actions that increase agriculture's contribution in reducing undernutrition.

d. Relationship to case studies

The five case studies are drawn from the different constituent parts of Development Studies at SOAS: two come from the Economics department, one from the Development Studies department and two from CeDEP. They illustrate the diversity of our research, the depth and range of its impact, and the significance of long-standing engagement with user groups, specifically governments, trade unions, the Somali community in the UK and the Horn of Africa, the UN and the World Bank. Two of the five illustrate the impact of the Unit's research on government policy. **Dorward's** research, very much the fruit of collaboration between DFID, Dorward and the Malawian government, focused on the effectiveness of input subsidies in Malawian agriculture. It has had significant impact both because of his long-standing engagement with the Malawian government and because the research was designed with policy impact in mind right from the start. **Fine's** work on the sway of the minerals-energy complex over economic policy in South Africa has also had a powerful impact because of his involvement over many years with the African National Congress and South African trade unions. Since 2007, this research has helped to re-orientate South African government policy towards a more active promotion of manufacturing industry. By contrast, the **Hammond** case study demonstrates the impact of her research on the direct well-being of rural communities in Ethiopia and Somalia. By showing that money service businesses (MSBs) play an important role in sustaining rural livelihoods—rather than financing terrorist activities or supporting conspicuous urban consumption—Hammond's work was important in helping to preserve a remittance lifeline for millions of Somalis. It has also helped to encourage Barclay's bank to defer the closure of the MSB accounts it holds. Our final two case studies show the impact of our research on global policy formulation. The **Waage et al** case study focuses on the impact of their *Lancet*-commissioned report on the limitations of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). That report has fed into the on-going UN project to develop new MDGs for the post-2015 period. It is the most obvious example of an initiative resulting from the structured engagement of LIDC with the wider policy community, although even here, the specific nature and extent of the impact resulted more from opportunities that arose in the context of engagement with external users, rather than a specific strategy to deliver a particular form of impact in advance. **Khan's** research on the relationship between growth and governance demonstrates that stable property rights, the rule of law and democracy are often the consequence, rather than the cause, of development. His work has influenced UK and French government thinking, and policy formulation in poor countries such as Ethiopia and South Africa. It has persuaded even the World Bank to re-think its own approach to the meaning of good governance.