



Firoz Lalji Institute
for Africa

LSE-Rockefeller Report



Resilience Programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The word ‘resilience’ can have many meanings, but it has been widely used as an approximation for ‘bouncing back’, an elasticity of sorts, related to gaining strength through the adversity experienced by individuals, communities, and institutional systems. In 2016, the Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) at LSE invited proposals for research projects on the theme of resilience, defined as ‘the capacity of individuals, communities and systems to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of stress and shocks, and even transform when conditions require it’. With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, a funding scheme was set up to explore the various meanings of the term ‘resilience’ and how its ‘fuzziness’ obfuscated, bolstered and/or complicated humanitarian interventions, climate policies, everyday communal interactions, and displacement among other issues. In 2019, The [Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa](#) (FLIA) became the host of the ‘Resilience Fund’ which was disbursed to nine projects across LSE under four subthemes: resilience in post-conflict transitional processes, resilient cities, financial resilience and climate resilience.

The Fund supported original and primary research applying diverse methodologies and involving early career scholars and citizen scientists. The research generated high-quality academic outputs and contributed to capacity-building, awareness-raising, and international and national policymaking. Work supported by the Fund has impacted a landmark trial at the International Criminal Court (based on anthropological work of cultural understandings of sexual wrongdoing and its relation to international humanitarian law), has resulted in the production of the Dakar Guidelines on hybrid criminal courts as well as manuscripts and journal articles that have influenced scholars internationally.

Resilience in Post-Conflict Transitional Processes

Resilience has been a dominant theme and key component of many humanitarian-development programmes over the last decade. Linked to notions of social capital, it has been associated with the idea of tightly knit, mutually supportive communities sharing their diverse economic assets and, as a consequence, able to recover quickly from environmental shocks or armed conflict. Humanitarian-development projects have thus sought to restore or build communities’ resilience. However, such projects have sometimes had unintended effects and, in some cases, have been actively resisted by those they were meant to benefit.

The FLIA-led [‘Deconstructing notions of resilience’](#) project focused on Uganda, where the resilience of communities is embedded in the very aspects of tradition and culture that development practices have sought to change. The project explored how people negotiate experiences and coping strategies and used multidisciplinary approaches including anthropology, political science, and history. The outputs of the project showed that the understanding of resilience used in humanitarian interventions that are intended to benefit war-affected populations in fact had damaging or mixed results. A major contribution of the project was a special issue comprising of ten papers in the journal *Civil Wars* authored or co-authored by Ugandan and South Sudanese scholars. Papers included: [Conceptual Resilience in the Language and Lives of Resilient People: Cases from Northern Uganda](#), [Resistant Resilience: Agency and Resilience Among Refugees Resisting Humanitarian Corruption in Uganda](#), and [Rejection and Resilience: Returning from the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern](#)

[Uganda](#). In addition, the project's findings were disseminated through contributions to the *Africa at LSE* blog.

The [Hybrid Justice](#) project analysed the impact of 'hybrid' domestic-international criminal justice mechanisms in post-conflict and transitioning states. Resilience in this context refers to the ability of hybrid courts to withstand political and other pressures to deliver justice and accountability, while also bolstering the resilience of affected communities. Working with the [Wayamo Foundation](#), a leading international justice NGO, this project brought together experts from academia, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the hybrid courts to compare and critically evaluate past and present examples of hybrid courts. The project then produced guidelines for establishing future hybrids, and produced policy advice for the ICC on the use of hybrids. The project has a dedicated [website](#) with key facts about each past and present hybrid court, including links to their founding legal documents, lists of cases, literature reviews specific to each court, and diagrams illustrating the organisational structure of each court. [The Dakar Guidelines on the Establishment of Hybrid Courts](#) are a central output of the Hybrid Justice Project. The Guidelines are a comprehensive reference on the establishment of hybrid courts. They offer national, regional, and international actors a set of key decision points and design options to be considered when establishing and running a hybrid court. Another major output of the project is the edited book *Hybrid Justice: Innovation and Impact in the Prosecution of Atrocity Crimes* to be published by Oxford University Press later in 2024.

The ['Resilience mechanisms to gender identity crisis and the link to radicalisation'](#) project focused on the impacts of the war in Syria and the large population displacement it has caused. The research explored how the reconfiguration of gender relations, as a form of resilience when livelihoods are threatened, creates a crisis of gender identity for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. The project outputs include articles in academic journals such as [The emerging intersectional performative gender of displaced Syrian women in southeast Turkey](#), [Syrian men's disability and their masculine trajectories in the context of displacement in Jordan and Turkey](#), and [Beyond the binary understanding of masculinities: Displaced Syrian refugee men living with disability and chronic illness in Jordan](#). The project also involved the organisation of a conference at the LSE Middle East Centre, as well as presentations at the University of Oxford, King's College London and Shanghai University.

The project ['Learning to see a world of opportunities'](#), generated a novel entrepreneurship training curriculum in collaboration with the Mayor of Bogotá. It combines entrepreneurial soft skills with imagery techniques and the principles of cognitive behavioural therapy for victims of conflict. The pilot helped create a training manual and provided a foundation for successful rehabilitation programmes that encourage independence and income generation for victims of conflict in Colombia and across the world.

Resilient Cities

The project ['Pathways to resilience': the role of an urban diaspora in post-conflict reconstruction, London and Hargeisa, 1991 to the present day'](#) explored the role of the Somali diaspora in building frameworks of social, political and financial resilience in a post-conflict urban environment. It explored the relationship between London and Hargeisa, the capital of the unrecognised state of Somaliland, created by the diaspora since the civil war ended in

1991. A significant contribution of the project, in addition to academic articles, was a ground-breaking book authored by Professor Joanna Lewis titled [*Women of the Somali diaspora: refugees, resilience and rebuilding after conflict*](#). The book highlights the strength and history of resilience of Somali women of the diaspora, as well as the deeper connections of their story with Britain's colonial past.

[‘Resilient communities, resilient cities? Digital makings of the city of refuge’](#) was a project that investigated the role of digital communications in supporting resilient urban communities, especially in response to the arrival of refugees. The project focused on five cities - Athens, Berlin, London, Hong Kong and Los Angeles, and involved surveys, focus groups, asset mapping, digital storytelling and public exhibitions. Project outputs comprised journal articles such as [‘Suspension: disabling the city of refuge?’](#), [‘Refuge under austerity: the UK’s refugee settlement schemes and the multiplying practices of bordering’](#) and [‘City of refuge or digital order? Refugee recognition and the digital governmentality of migration in the city.’](#) The project also led to the production of a digital archive as well as of the City of Refuge Toolkit.

Through an innovative synthesis of political economy and narrative approaches, the project [‘Challenging urban decline narratives: enhancing community’](#) sought to explore how four towns in Britain have responded and adapted to their respective economic challenges. The project also looked at whether their relations with larger urban centres economically and socially enhance or undermine their communities. The project led to a range of publications, including [‘Social polarisation at the local level: a four-town comparative study on the challenges of politicising inequality in Britain’](#), an article that won the Sage Prize for Excellence in Innovation for Best Paper in Sociology 2021, and [‘Immobility and the Brexit vote’](#), the winner of Understanding Society Best Paper prize 2019. The project findings were also presented at several invited talks, including at the House of Commons.

Financial Resilience

The project [‘Financial resilience of integrating emerging economies’](#) analysed the financial resilience of emerging economies in response to post-crisis policies and proposed measures to strengthen resilience. The project focused on monetary policy constraints, economic integration with distorted and underdeveloped financial systems and the impact of these issues on the role of central banks. The project has resulted in several publications, including [‘The digital economy’s new monetary imperative’](#), [‘A fresh look at central bank independence’](#), and [‘Mind the gaps! Financial-cycle output gaps and monetary-policy-relevant output gaps.’](#) The project also involved the organisation of workshops which gathered policymakers and academics, a conference on financial resilience and systematic risk, as well as lectures featuring speakers such as Nobel Prize Winner, Joseph Stiglitz.

The project [‘Evaluating the Resilience Impact of Climate Insurance \(ERICI\)’](#) aimed to develop demand-led resilience metrics that can be used for the evaluation of insurance schemes. The research focused on the added value of subjective approaches to resilience assessment, alongside the more traditional objective measures. In 2015, the G7 leaders launched the InsuResilience initiative, with a mandate to extend climate insurance to 400 million highly exposed, uninsured poor and vulnerable people by 2020. The ERICI project worked alongside the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative and InsuResilience to develop the metrics. The project involved an expert stakeholder workshop and several round-table discussions with farmers in

Maharashtra, India. Outputs of the project include academic and working papers such as [*Designing a funding framework for the impacts of slow-onset climate change — insights from recent experiences with planned relocation*](#) and [*Insurance and financial services across developing countries: an empirical study of coverage and demand*](#), as well as presentations at conferences.

Climate Resilience

The project '[*Universities as knowledge brokers in the governance of climate resilience*](#)' focused on the actual and potential role of universities as 'knowledge brokers' in the production, use and translation of knowledge among different actors involved in climate resilience. To investigate the range and breadth of brokering activities, the study used interviews and workshops with university-based researchers and research users in three universities: Independent University Bangladesh, Makerere University in Uganda, and Germany's TH Köln. The research resulted in publications such as [*University-based researchers as knowledge brokers for climate policies and action*](#) and [*University research engagement around climate knowledge: findings from a small empirical study*](#). The project's findings were also presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, as well as at the UK Royal Geographical Society.

Content of report

The following report presents an overview of the main academic and policy outputs of each of the individual projects with links to the full publications. Short Q&As with project leaders from each of the programme's main themes also highlight the various ways in which the notion of resilience has been defined and, through the research, reconceptualised. An overview of presentations given at an FLIA-organised Resilience Seminar Series is also provided. In conclusion, future directions for resilience research are identified.

RESILIENCE IN POST-CONFLICT TRANSITIONAL PROCESSES

Deconstructing Notions of Resilience: Diverse Post-conflict Settings in Uganda

Project leaders: Professor Tim Allen, Dr Julian Hopwood and Dr Ryan Joseph O'Byrne

Project goals

The idea that there are socio-cultural-ecological systems that function to make people more or less able to recover from crises has intuitive appeal and is of great importance for policy design. However, despite its potential as an explanatory concept, 'resilience' is a fuzzy notion that can obscure deeply problematic issues in aid delivery. It can shift responsibility onto the victims of war and crisis for their situation.

This research explores how people negotiate, experience and understand their own coping strategies and resilience, as well as how external forces and interventions contribute or detract from these. Drawing upon historical and anthropological approaches, extensive fieldwork will be undertaken in three post-conflict settings in Uganda: pastoralist Karamoja; areas affected by the LRA insurgency; and West Nile, which has hosted multiple waves of refugees from South Sudan. Through focused studies of resilience in these areas, the project aims to provide a body of work which generates fresh ideas for development theory and practice.

In conversation with Tim Allen

What is the relevance of the notion of resilience for your research?

It can be a useful concept to highlight important aspects of people's livelihoods and ways of being, but it can become problematic if used too narrowly as an analytical category. Thinking about what being resilient might mean in different African languages has proved to be interesting. That can introduce connotations of resilience in ways that are surprising and insightful. We also have a focus on the ways groups manage to survive and even thrive in very difficult circumstances, and we are persistently surprised by how resistant policies are to change when the evidence of failure is overwhelming.

In your opinion, what are the main advantages and limits of resilience as a concept?

The advantages are that the term can potentially be used to draw attention to important social phenomena. Useful findings tend to be context-specific, although particular patterns may emerge – such as the remarkable resilience of policies based on assumptions about how things ought to be, rather than the realities. The major limits of the concept are usually apparent when the concept is used in an instrumental way. For example, a focus on resilient individuals for support tends to result in those who are well-networked and entrepreneurial being assisted at the expense of those who are more impoverished or marginalised.

How would you summarise the main conclusions of your project on resilience?

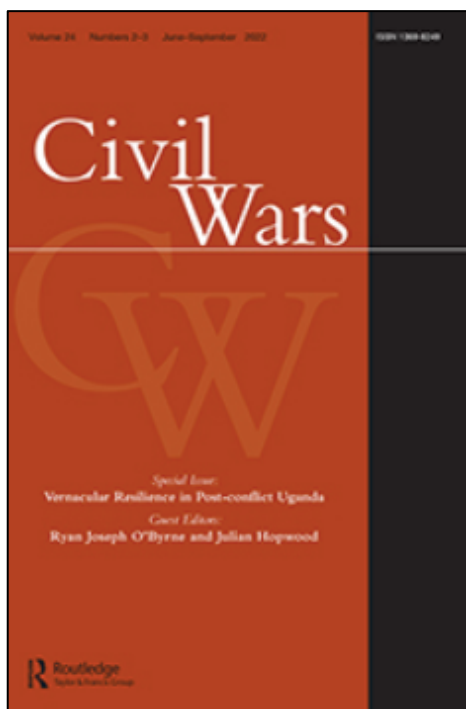
Researchers explored the concept in a variety of contexts. In general, they found that use of resilience in policy contexts was problematic in that it tended to drive activities in directions that were not beneficial to those most in need and could have the effect of reinforcing social hierarchies. On the other hand, the research foregrounds ways in which groups of people can establish and sustain their well-being in contexts of acute deprivation.

How do you think resilience should be studied in the future?

With care is the simple answer. It works better as a pointing term, rather than as a discrete notion for analysis. It can be very misleading, because so many contrasting meanings are applied to it and because it carries positive implications, which may disguise things which are, in fact, socially regressive or pernicious.

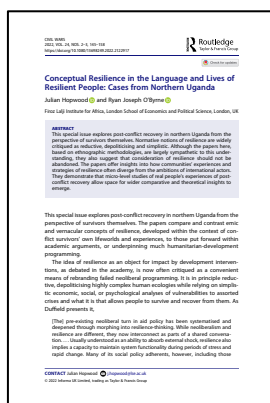
MAIN OUTPUTS

Publications



Civil Wars Special Issue ‘Vernacular Resilience in Post-conflict Uganda’ – Guest Editors: Ryan Joseph O’Byrne and Julian Hopwood, Volume 24, Issue 2-3. 2022.

This special issue explores post-conflict recovery in northern Uganda from the perspective of survivors themselves. Normative notions of resilience are widely critiqued as reductive, depoliticising and simplistic. Although the papers here, based on ethnographic methodologies, are largely sympathetic to this understanding, they also suggest that consideration of resilience should not be abandoned. The papers offer insights into how communities’ experiences and strategies of resilience often diverge from the ambitions of international actors. They demonstrate that micro-level studies of real people’s experiences of post-conflict recovery allow space for wider comparative and theoretical insights to emerge.



Hopwood, Julian and Ryan Joseph O’Byrne. 2022. [Conceptual Resilience in the Language and Lives of Resilient People: Cases from Northern Uganda](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 145-158.

2023, 24(2), 159-180
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'When the World Turns Upside Down, Live Like a Bat!' Idioms of Suffering, Coping, and Resilience Among Elderly Female Zande Refugees in Kiyandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda (2019–20)

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ABSTRACT
Resilience is a leading in development theory and practice, where it is often presented as a positive and inevitable outcome. This paper draws on the experiences of elderly female Zande refugees in Kiyandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda, to show a different and often overlooked perspective of how they have coped with adversity. Drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience, this article explores how they have coped with adversity. It explores how they have coped with adversity, drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience. This article explores how they have coped with adversity, drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience. This article explores how they have coped with adversity, drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience.

Introduction
When it comes to living with adversity, elderly South Sudanese people are experts. Cycles of war, displacement, and return have been common. Many who live as refugees today have three times before fled from war. Like Maria Simon¹, "in my life to only war that had not led to the to the rest of the world". Perpetual instability has shaped how people see the world, and their place in it, which is also reflected in countries Zande proverbs, expressions and folk tales. This article explores how people live in this world which has a proverbial 'teat' for you, and what that has about resilience.

This paper foregrounds the perspectives and experiences of elderly South Sudanese Zande refugees in Kiyandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda. We analyse the life histories of five elderly women, and their counsel on suffering.

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Waanzi Hillary, Isaac & Bruno Braak. 2022. [‘When the World Turns Upside Down, Live Like a Bat!’ Idioms of Suffering, Coping, and Resilience Among Elderly Female Zande Refugees in Kiyandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda \(2019–20\)](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 159-180.

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Problematic Ideological Humanitarianism: Generating More Resilient Markets but More Fragile Beneficiaries

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ABSTRACT
This paper discusses humanitarianism under which poor conflict-affected populations are often presented as passive recipients of aid. It explores how humanitarianism is often presented as a positive and inevitable outcome. This paper draws on the experiences of elderly female Zande refugees in Kiyandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda, to show a different and often overlooked perspective of how they have coped with adversity. Drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience, this article explores how they have coped with adversity. It explores how they have coped with adversity, drawing on their narratives of suffering, coping, and resilience.

Introduction
This paper presents a critical insight into a specific humanitarian development intervention in order to demonstrate the importance of limited contextual knowledge for understanding the real impacts, not the ground of resilience-based interventions, such as those described as agricultural markets. Likewise, one of the dilemmas of post-war northern Uganda is the location of a case study to examine the outcome of Mercy Corps' Rehabilitation of Agricultural Income and New Markets (RAIN) project. This paper aims to offer critical lessons on humanitarian development interventions which use the language of resilience. However, their short-term and results do not allow for understanding of underlying processes, which give rise to unintended consequences. In the context of the Acholi region of northern Uganda, which emerged from the brutal and protracted Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in July 2006, its population had been subjected to widespread atrocities. To sustain the region, the LRA abducted more than 20,000 children.

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'One Man's Meat Is Another Man's Poison': Marungi and Realities of Resilience in North West Uganda

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ABSTRACT
Approaches to resilience in post-war contexts privilege systems-based thinking above everyday realities. This paper explores reconstruction through everyday life in North West Uganda. Drawing on ethnographic research, we explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience. We explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience. We explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience. We explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience.

Introduction
This paper explores the complexities of resilience presented by the production, consumption and regulation of marungi – the common term for bush, the leaves and roots of the coffee shrub plant – among coffee-spicing communities in the West Nile sub-region of North-West Uganda. Despite the recent combination of foreign growth in 2014 by the Uganda coffee production has rebounded in the region since the mid-1990s. We explore the dilemmas posed by the trade, and as it doing, provide an in-depth empirical discussion of the realities of resilience in a conflict-affected borderland. In so doing, we extend the thematic and geographic focus outlined through the Resilience Research in Northern Uganda, which largely focuses on immediate post-conflict recovery in the Acholi region, regarding other communities in the region.

Our inquiry has revealed dilemmas to grow or trade in marungi are often described using the language of resilience as everyday livelihoods to recover from and adapt to changing economic and ecological conditions. Consumers, known locally as 'marungi' export, also have more complex ideas and use the language of resilience to describe their experiences.

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Storer, Elizabeth, Anguyo, Innocent and Anthony Odda. 2022. [‘One Man’s Meat Is Another Man’s Poison’: Marungi and Realities of Resilience in North West Uganda](#), *Civil Wars* 24:2-3, 204-229.

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Restoration and Renewal Through Sport: Gendered Experiences of Resilience for War-Affected Youth in Northern Uganda

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ABSTRACT
Building on the proposal for a 'culturalist' approach to resilience, this article explores the experiences of resilience at an individual and community level. It explores how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience. We explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience. We explore how everyday realities shape the experience of resilience.

Introduction
Through in-depth interviews and focus groups conducted between 2018 and 2020, this article directly engages Acholi youth in evaluating resilience. It focuses on the use of sports in northern Uganda, a location that offers several reasons for its relevance to the study of post-conflict resilience. Sports for development and peace (SDP) programming, which aimed at building social capital and civic responsibility, provides an avenue for exploring how the relational nature of resilience shapes individual experiences of morality and community wellbeing. This allows us to consider how young people negotiate, experience and understand their own coping strategies and the role for external interventions.

We centre the notion of young people as key sources of knowledge in understanding how they and their communities understand, experience and value resilience, recognizing the child and young person as agents in their own right (Fronsdorff 2005). Francis is an Acholi man, active in local sports within Gulu. He set out to conduct this research through his own passion to bring the perspectives of local people into an academic sphere and to engage directly with questions of

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"The Third Time Janus Died": Resilience and Dependencies In Coping With Adversity During And After Civil War In Northern Uganda

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ABSTRACT
 This article critically explores how local notions of coping and resilience among former forcibly recruited children and youth in the war-affected Acholi region intersect with established conceptualizations of resilience in resilience research that primarily originate from a US context. Based on 12 months of fieldwork in urban and rural Acholi contexts, the analysis shows how concepts, interpretations, and practices of resilience, particularly as they relate to the Acholi context, create dependencies that diminish community resilience in the Acholi region. The findings will be especially relevant for resilience research and also perspectives in resilience studies as well as in humanitarian interventions.

Introduction
 Inspired by the political anthropologist Ghassan Hage, and his encouragement to researchers in the social sciences to investigate the assumptions involved in our categorizations of violence (Hage 2003, p. 67), this article about local notions of resilience in the war-affected Acholi context and established definitions of resilience in resilience research illustrates some of the assumptions that may emerge from our conceptualizations of resilience. Thus, this article introduces and discusses definitions of resilience in the established research literature in the psychosocial and social welfare field and explores how these resonate with local Acholi notions of resilience through an experiential research approach (Hage 2003, p. 67). The article primarily follows Jacob and Janus, two young men and friends who returned to Gulu town after being violently abducted at age 10, but also includes data from Redaarak in remote rural Acholi village communities.

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Harnisch, Helle. 2022. [“The Third Time Janus Died”: Resilience and Dependencies In Coping With Adversity During And After Civil War In Northern Uganda](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 280-304.

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Building an Ecology of Resilience through Religious Practice and Community in Northern Uganda

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ABSTRACT
 Based on ethnographic fieldwork from 2015 to 2019, this paper explores resilience among ex-militant Christians in rural northern Uganda after years of violent conflict. The paper argues that three aspects of ethnographic life view and field methods for comparison matters: (1) individual and collective practice, (2) the role of the past, and (3) the role of the future. The paper explores how the past and present, when there are continuously practiced within the ethnographic frame, form a kind of resilience which acts to manage the effects of adversity. This, resilience is conceptualized as an adaptive strategy within an ecology of social and material practice.

Introduction
 “I’d see problems and suffering as compounded in the church. Here we see the other side.”
 Joseph, pastor in Pentecostal (charismatic) church, rural northern Uganda

This article shows how in a pastor of a small Pentecostal (charismatic) church in a rural location in northern Uganda. The statement is a response to my questions about managing the aftermath of the armed conflict that took place in the region from 1989–2006. In this paper I will argue that what pastor Joseph is describing here is a kind of local resilience that is being created and shared among congregants of his church to build an ‘ecology of resilience’ (Elder 2011; Kaminer et al. 2012). In the literature, the notion of resilience emphasizes how some individuals, communities or systems do well despite enduring hardship. It is meant to recognize the inherent strength and resources of people, groups and nations and in this way shift attention away from vulnerability and pathology (Fenwick et al. 2012). Originating in ecology, but having made its way through many other disciplinary psychology journals (cf. 2008) and more recently development studies, the concept of resilience proposes new ways of thinking about human responses to adversity (Dowrick et al. 2014). Northern Uganda may be a particularly interesting case for thinking about how the concept of resilience is being used for thinking about how the concept of resilience is being used.

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Resistant Resilience: Agency and Resilience Among Refugees Resisting Humanitarian Corruption in Uganda

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ABSTRACT
 Resilience is a dominant humanitarian development theme. Nevertheless, some humanitarian development programmes have demonstrably negative impacts on the lives of the people they are intended to help. This article explores how refugees in Uganda resist humanitarian corruption during 2007–18. This paper argues that refugees’ resistance to corruption is not just a matter of individual agency and resilience through their own personal resources. I have to be clear: corruption is not ‘resistant and resilient’, arguing that the agency comes to these practices through their resistance to corruption. The article concludes that the refugee community must improve resilience strategies such as education, entrepreneurship, and resilience on the ground through long-term projects, rather than short-term aid.

Introduction
 This paper describes South Sudanese refugees’ practices of resistance to corruption and other bureaucratic failures within a Ugandan refugee settlement. By focusing on how refugees in Pakbaak Refugee Settlement (PRS) resisted to local aid delivery fraud in late 2017 and early 2018, I demonstrate how corruption within Uganda’s refugee programming impacted refugees’ lives and undermined their survival, coping, and well-being. In doing so, I detail some underappreciated and under-theorized elements of how humanitarian failures affect vulnerable people, beyond their cases, by showing how fraud and corruption created a context that refugees were forced to resist in order to survive. I compare these arguments directly, that agency is central to refugees’ diverse resistance and resilience strategies, and accordingly, that widespread popular resilience is demonstrated by

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 This article has been published with minor changes. These changes do not impact the academic content of the article.
 © 2022, Ryan Joseph O’Byrne, https://doi.org/10.1080/15387622.2022.2081847

O’Byrne, Ryan Joseph. 2022. [Resistant Resilience: Agency and Resilience Among Refugees Resisting Humanitarian Corruption in Uganda](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 328-356.

DOI: 10.1080/15387622.2022.2081847
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15387622.2022.2081847>

Rejection and Resilience: Returning from the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda

Tim Allen, Jackie Atingo and Melissa Parker

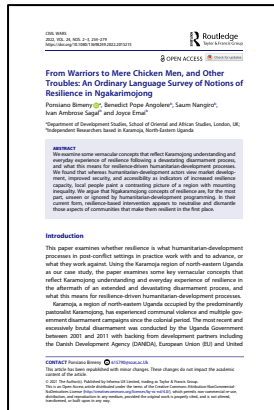
International Development Studies Unit, Copenhagen University, UK; The Well Child for Africa, London School of Economics, UK; Uganda, Uganda; Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK

ABSTRACT
 This article explores how young people who returned from the Lord’s Resistance Army in northern Uganda, healthy as children, over two years ago. They are by definition, resilient because they have continued to live and prosper in their home towns for the past two years. This paper explores how they managed to do this, as those who have returned to their home towns, according to a notion of well-being and resilience. The article explores how they managed to do this through their own agency and resilience, and how they managed to do this through their own agency and resilience. The article explores how they managed to do this through their own agency and resilience, and how they managed to do this through their own agency and resilience.

Introduction
 International donors and aid agencies have commonly connected the mitigation and amelioration of former combatants and war-affected populations with ideas about resilience. This is part of a broader trend. The term resilience has been employed in a variety of contexts since the 1970s, and especially after 2000 (Bryman et al. 2011). Its influence has been apparent in fields as ubiquitous as engineering, psychology and ecology to political theory, geography, and law. In a review article published in 2011, Brierton noted that the term had become ubiquitous in disaster reporting and had been adopted by US Department of Homeland Security (Brierton 2011, p. 1416). Between 2011 and 2019, a dedicated academic journal was published to highlight and study it (Resilience 2013), halting resilience as a central concept, which cuts across diverse disciplines and usefully informs policy frameworks. However, not everyone has been enthusiastic, and in recent years, the use, and over-use, of resilience as an analytical construct has become

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Allen, Tim, Atingo, Jackie and Melissa Parker. 2022. [Rejection and Resilience: Returning from the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 357-384.



Bimeny, Ponsiano, Angolere, Benedict Pope, Nangiro, Saum, Sagal, Ivan Ambrose and Joyce Emai. 2022. [From Warriors to Mere Chicken Men, and Other Troubles: An Ordinary Language Survey of Notions of Resilience in Ngakarimojong](#), *Civil Wars* 24 (2-3): 254-279.

Contributions to *Africa at LSE* blog:

Waanzi, Isaac and Bruno Braak. (15th March 2023) [Eight lessons on resilience and coping by South Sudanese refugees in Uganda](#). *Africa at LSE*

O'Byrne, Ryan. (15th July 2022) [How do refugees resist humanitarian corruption?](#) *Africa at LSE*

Okello, Joseph and Julian Hopwood (14th May 2020) [Fragile families, mob justice and resilience in northern Uganda](#). *Africa at LSE*

Bimeny, Ponsiano (13th December 2019) ['Confronting ecosystem degradation in post-war northern Uganda'](#). *Africa at LSE*

Bimeny, Ponsiano (11th December 2019) ['Resilience to ecological change in post-war Uganda can be damaging'](#). *Africa at LSE*

O'Byrne, Ryan and Charles Ogeno (11th October 2018) ['Refugees in northern Uganda now have 'democracy', but no authority'](#). *Africa at LSE*

O'Byrne, Ryan and Charles Ogeno (8th March 2019) ['The Illegal Economy of Refugee Registration: Insights into the Ugandan Refugee Scandal'](#). *Africa at LSE*

Nangiro, Saum. (31st October 2018) ['Why children from Karamoja end up begging on the streets of Kampala'](#). *Africa at LSE*

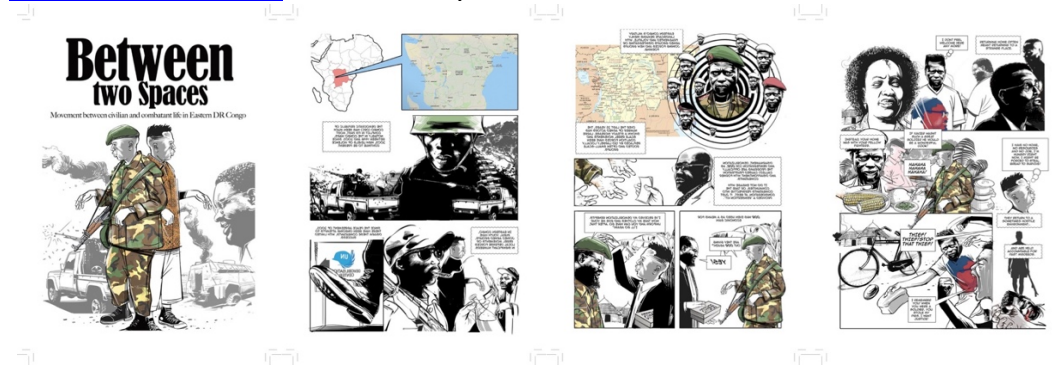
Nangiro, Saum. (24th July 2017) ['The Karamojong women and extreme insecurity'](#). *Africa at LSE*

Comics

[Uganda's Forgotten Children](#), illustrated by Charity Atukunda



[Between Two Spaces](#), illustrated by Victor Ndula.



Panel on resilience at the World Anthropology Congress, New Delhi, October 2023

Professor Tim Allen, Dr Anne-Line Rodriguez, Dr Eliza Ngutuku and Professor Leben Moro convened a panel on '[Resilience in Cross-cultural Contexts](#)' at the [World Anthropology Congress](#) in New Delhi in October 2023. The aim of the panel was to analyse local perceptions of resilience and social encounters with resilience narratives and policies, as well as more broadly to reassess the value of the concept for anthropological theory. Two panel sessions were organised: one on resilience, gender and religion; the other on resilience in the context of environmental disasters. The seven selected papers involved anthropologists from universities throughout the world and explored contexts as varied as Taiwan, India, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Belgium, thereby allowing for interesting cross-cultural comparisons and discussions.

Hybrid Justice: Multidisciplinary Analysis of Internationalised Criminal Tribunals

Project leader: Dr Kirsten Ainley

Project goals

The Hybrid Justice project analyses the impact of 'hybrid' domestic-international criminal justice mechanisms in post-conflict and transitioning states. These courts and tribunals feature varying combinations of domestic and international staff, operative law, structure, financing and rules of procedure. Early hybrids were established in East Timor, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Bosnia and for Lebanon, before the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) was expected to make hybrid mechanisms redundant.

However, the shortcomings of the ICC led to the resurgence of hybrids – in Senegal, Kosovo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and proposed for Colombia, DRC, Syria, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and ISIS. Because hybrids were thought to be a relic of pre-ICC justice, there has been little academic research on their impact, meaning practitioners currently in the process of establishing hybrids have few guidelines on how to design effective mechanisms.

Working with the [Wayamo Foundation](#), a leading international justice NGO, this project brought together experts on hybrids from academia, the ICC and the hybrids themselves to 1) produce an authoritative comparison of past and present hybrids; 2) critically evaluate the impact of hybrids on resilience in post-conflict and transitioning societies, including within wider programmes of transitional justice; 3) produce guidelines for the establishment of future hybrids; 4) produce policy advice for the ICC on how hybrids should be evaluated in terms of complementarity requirements.

In conversation with Kirsten Ainley

What is the relevance of the notion of resilience for your research?

The Hybrid Justice project examined the ways in which hybrid tribunals can be designed to be resilient in themselves and to contribute to resilient societies. Resilience is conceptualized within the Hybrid Justice project in two ways. Internal resilience is understood to mean the extent to which the design of hybrid mechanisms enables them to function robustly and with legitimacy in the face of external pressures from donors, host states, states which oppose the mechanism, and other interested parties. Societal resilience is the extent to which hybrid mechanisms enable post-conflict societies to heal, reconcile, strengthen, and address the root causes of prior conflict. Societal resilience might include the extent to which hybrids support the embedding and extension of the rule of law, democratization and the development of a human rights culture. Despite the beliefs of many in international organizations and the donor community that war crimes justice leads to stability and resilience post-conflict there has not been a great deal of reflection on whether a resilience framework can contribute usefully to analysis of the impacts of criminal justice mechanisms.

How would you summarise the main conclusions of your project on resilience?

Generating resilience is a complex process involving deep lying societal characteristics – it would be unrealistic to expect observable societal change in the space of a few years of the operation of any given hybrid. That said, we did draw up a series of guiding principles for the design of hybrid tribunals to encourage internal and societal resilience:

1. The overriding design objective of hybrid court founders should be to build a genuinely independent institution, properly established in law, to maximise the integrity, effectiveness and legitimacy of its organs.
2. The design of the hybrid court should respond as much as possible to the particular needs and circumstances of the concerned state(s) and to the conflict or situation that gave rise to the crimes at issue.
3. Hybrid designers will need to make choices about prioritising certain aims or benefits over others, rather than attempting to achieve all of the potential goals or benefits of internationalised criminal justice.
4. Continuous evaluation should be planned in from the outset, including by designing appropriate, and where possible measurable, aims, goals, and benchmarks by which to assess the tribunal.

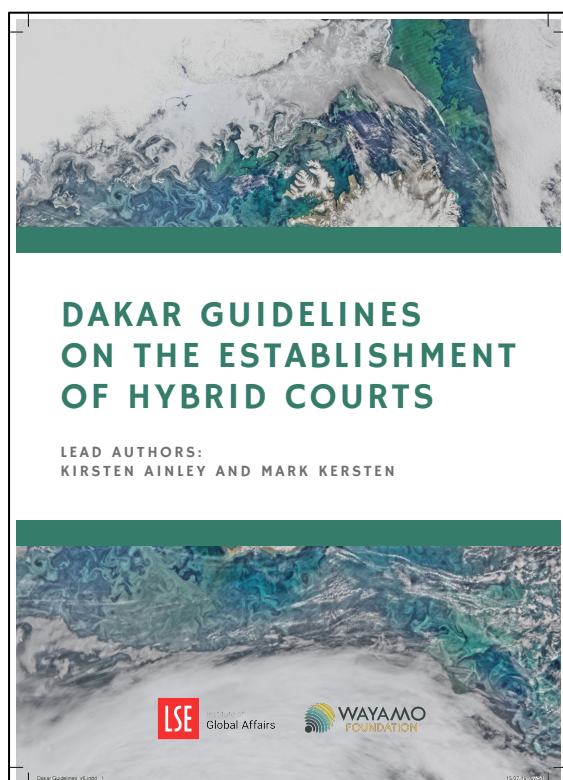
MAIN OUTPUTS

Edited Book:

Hybrid Justice: Innovation and Impact in the Prosecution of Atrocity Crimes, Edited by Kirsten Ainley and Mark Kersten will be published by Oxford University Press in 2024.

The book focuses on hybrid courts and resilience: the resilience of hybrid mechanisms to withstand political and other pressures in order to deliver justice and accountability as well as the potential contribution of hybrids to the resilience of affected communities. This framing allows for analysis and evaluation of hybrids from a range of disciplinary perspectives. The book will be the only resource of its kind available to date. It is multidisciplinary, comparative, and offers practical observations about the design, function and impact of hybrids as well as critical academic analysis of the institutions and practices that make up hybrid justice. The chapters are authored by leading academic and practitioner experts in the field, and are organized into sections on the Fields, Practice, Innovation, and Impact of hybrids.

Dakar Guidelines:



Ainley, Kirsten and Mark Kersten. 2019. [Dakar Guidelines on the Establishment of Hybrid Courts](#).

The Dakar Guidelines on the Establishment of Hybrid Courts are a comprehensive reference guide on the establishment of hybrid courts. They offer national, regional, and international actors involved in the establishment of hybrid tribunals a set of key decision points and design options that should be considered when establishing and running a hybrid court. The Guidelines are particularly tailored to two purposes: (1) to highlight issues that have proven complicated or had long-term implications for past hybrid courts and so should be given special consideration in the design phase, and (2) to suggest design components that may increase the resilience of the court (i.e., the court's own capacity to act independently and to resist political, financial, and other pressures), and the resilience of affected communities through engagement with the court. They further offer interested observers, academics, researchers, and students a detailed study of the hybrid court model.

Launch event for Dakar Guidelines:

23rd July 2019 [Hybrid Justice](#) 'Innovations in Accountability' Symposium, San Salvador

Foro Público

INNOVACIONES EN JUSTICIA INTERNACIONAL PARA VIOLACIONES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

Martes 23 de julio de 2019

Sheraton Hotel Presidente, Salón Presidente 2, San Salvador

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

BIENVENIDA

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

PANEL 1 | JUSTICIA EN EL SALVADOR

Doris Luz Rivas: Magistrada Presidenta Sala de lo Penal, Corte Suprema de Justicia, El Salvador

Sydney Blanco: Juez Cuarto de Instrucción y ex Magistrado Corte Suprema de Justicia, El Salvador

Leonor Arteaga: Oficial Sénior, DPLF; Comisionada, CONABÚSQUEDA

Manuel Escalante: Subdirector, IDHUCA

David Morales: Abogado en caso El Mozote, Cristosal

Modera - Camilo Sanchez: Profesor de Derecho, University of Virginia School of Law

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

PANEL 2 | JUSTICIA INTERNACIONAL EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL MUNDO

Philipp Ambach: Jefe de la Sección de Reparación y Participación de Víctimas, Corte Penal Internacional
Ruben Carranza: Director del Programa de Reparaciones, Centro Internacional para la Justicia Transicional (ICTJ)
Ursula Indacochea: Oficial Sénior, DPLF
Mark Kersten: Director Adjunto, Fundación Wayamo; Fellow, Escuela Munk de Asuntos Globales, Universidad de Toronto

Moderador - Geoff Dancy: Profesor Adjunto, Departamento de Ciencias Políticas, Universidad de Tulane

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

PANEL 3 | DESPUÉS DE LA JUSTICIA, ATAQUES Y RETROCESOS

Abraham Abrego: Director del Programa de Atención a Víctimas, Cristosal
Jo-Marie Burt: Profesora de Ciencias Políticas y Asuntos Latinoamericanos, Universidad George Mason
Geoff Dancy: Profesor Adjunto, Departamento de Ciencias Políticas, Universidad de Tulane
Angela Mudukuti: Abogada Sénior de Justicia Penal Internacional, Fundación Wayamo

Moderador - Ursula Indacochea: Oficial Sénior, DPLF

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

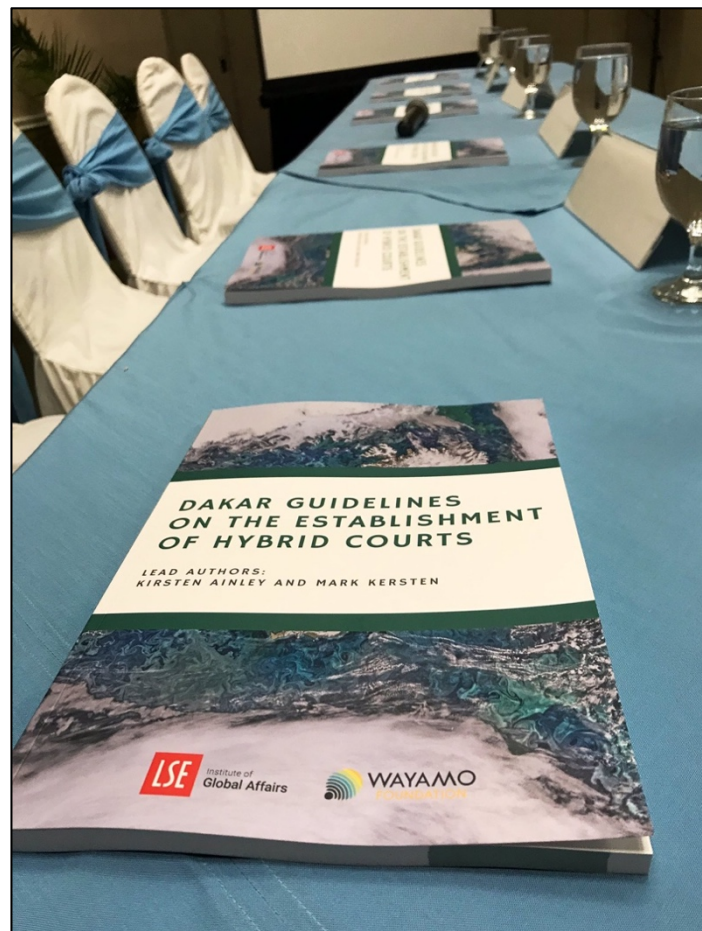
PANEL 4 | NUEVOS MECANISMOS PARA ENFRENTAR LA IMPUNIDAD

Kirsten Ainley: Profesora de Relaciones Internacionales, London School of Economics
Clair Duffy: Oficial Legal, Open Society Justice Initiative
Naomi Roht-Arriaza: Profesora Facultad de Derecho de Hastings, Universidad de California
Camilo Sanchez: Profesor de Derecho, University of Virginia School of Law

Moderador - Mark Kersten: Director Adjunto, Fundación Wayamo; Fellow, Escuela Munk de Asuntos Globales, Universidad de Toronto

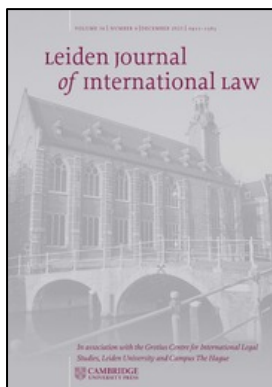
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

CIERRE



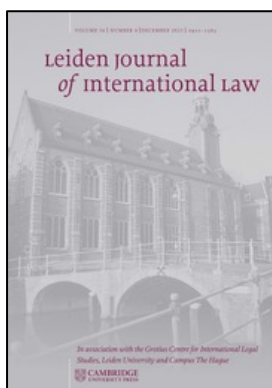


Journal Special Section:



[International Criminal Courts and Tribunals: Symposium on Resilience and the Impacts of Hybrid Courts.](#)

Journal article:



Ainley, Kirsten and Mark Kersten. 2020. [Resilience and the impact of hybrid courts.](#) *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 33(4): 969-974.

Website: <https://hybridjustice.com/about/>

Blog symposium: <https://justiceinconflict.org/2018/03/12/hybrid-justice-a-justice-in-conflict-symposium/>

Resilience Mechanisms to Gender Identity Crisis and the Link to Radicalisation: A Comparative Case Study of Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon

Project leader: Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar

Project goals

To date, Jordan and Turkey host respectively 650,000 and 2.5 million Syrian refugees. Most Syrian refugees have lost all sources of livelihood and face increasing vulnerability, with the majority relying on food coupons. Continuing household vulnerability has forced many refugee families to accept further humiliating coping mechanisms. These include early marriage for girls as a means to secure their lives and reduce the financial burden on families, and 'survival sex', whereby vulnerable adult women offer sex to employers in order to secure jobs or to earn money.

Within the social and cultural contexts of Jordan and Turkey, these severe, economically driven coping strategies challenge the understanding of resilience as a means of helping individuals to cope with disaster, without losing their gendered self-respect and self-esteem. This creates a two-fold crisis: socio-economic and moral. Literature on gender differentiated coping mechanisms undertaken by Syrian refugees provides evidence of the reconfiguration of gender, in which women act as the primary providers for their families whilst the men are mostly jobless and helpless. However, this literature mostly concentrates on the material aspects of resilience with insufficient emphasis on the relationship between the situational enactment of gender reconfiguration, the (inter)subjective aspects of experiencing gender reconfiguration and the contingent gender identity, or identities, triggered by this experience.

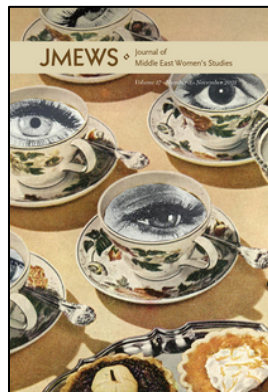
This research tries to fill this gap by exploring how gender reconfiguration, as a means of resilience when livelihoods are threatened, may create a crisis of gender identity whereby both men and women feel demoralised by the change in gender norms. The research also examines the link between the gender identity crisis caused by gender reconfiguration and the return to discursive tradition and religion as a means of resilience.

MAIN OUTPUTS

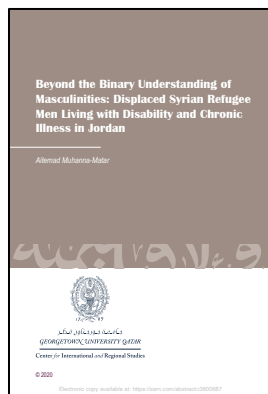
Publications



Muhanna-Matar, Aitemad. 2022. [The emerging intersectional performative gender of displaced Syrian women in southeast Turkey](#). *Gender, Place, and Culture* 29 (6): 772 - 792.



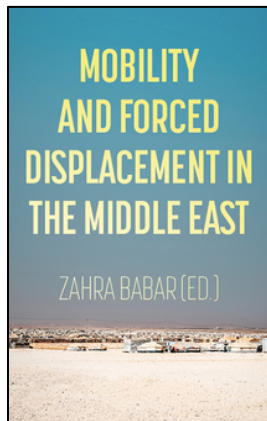
Muhanna-Matar, Aitemad. 2021. [Syrian men's disability and their masculine trajectories in the context of displacement in Jordan and Turkey](#). *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 17 (3): 305 - 325.



Muhanna-Matar, Aitemad. 2020. [Beyond the Binary Understanding of Masculinities: Displaced Syrian Refugee Men Living with Disability and Chronic Illness in Jordan](#). Occasional Paper No. 24. Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) Georgetown University in Qatar.



Başak Kızılkın, Zelah. 2020 (February). [Turkey's Resilience-Building Strategies for Syrian Refugees in the Field of Higher Education](#), LSE Middle East Centre Report, London, UK.



Muhanna-Matar, Aitemad. 2020. [Gendering the Triangular Relationship between Vulnerability, Resilience and Resistance: The Experiences of Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan](#). In Zahra Babar (ed.). *Mobility and Forced Displacement in the Middle East*. London: Hurst Publishers, pp. 187-213.

Contributions to blogs

Kherfi, Yasmine. 2019 (July). [Questioning Dominant Refugee Narratives and Research Methodologies](#), *LSE Middle East Centre blog*

Muhanna-Matar, Aitemad. 2019 (March). [The Missing Masculinity in the Discourse of International Humanitarian Aid to Displaced Syrian Refugees](#), *LSE Middle East Centre blog*.

Refugee Resilience Series on the LSE Middle East Centre Blog: this online series was produced as a follow up on the [project's workshop conducted 7-8 March 2019](#). Workshop participants contributed a piece based off their presentations, and helped enhance understanding of the workshop themes in a way that is relevant to a wide readership

Workshops and conferences

A conference organised by LSE Middle East Centre, titled '*Between Institutional Resilience to the Syrian Crisis and the Resilience of Refugees*'. The conference featured 20 speakers working in academia, government, and non-profit organisations with refugees, were invited from across Europe and the Middle East. A total of 115 registered for the two-day conference (7-8 March 2019).

Aitemad Matar presented research findings at a workshop titled *Navigating Displacement and Humanitarian Responses: Discourses and Experiences of Syrian Refugees and Aid Providers in Jordan*. The workshop was organised by the Department of Anthropology at Amsterdam University (15-16 March 2019).

Aitemad Matar presented a paper titled *Gendering the Triangular Relationship between Vulnerability, Resilience, and Resistance: The Experiences of Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan* at a workshop on the non-material dimensions of protracted displacement. The workshop was organised by the Department of Geography at King's College London, with audience members representing international NGOs and humanitarian organisations targeting refugees worldwide (26 March 2019).

Aitemad Matar presented research findings on the dynamics of resilience to humanitarian crisis among Syrian refugees in Jordan and Turkey, at the 5th China and MENA Conference that took place at Shanghai University, China (17 –18 May 2019).

Aitemad Matar presented a paper on the resilience of Syrian refugees in Jordan in a workshop on "Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion of Syrian Refugees in Host Countries," organised by the Christ Church College, Oxford Department of International Development at University of Oxford (14 June 2019).

Aitemad Matar participated at a workshop organised by Dublin City University to present a research paper on the emerging gender performativity within the context of displacement. Seven researchers from USA, Europe and the Middle East joined the workshop to discuss issues related to gender, displacement, resilience and resistance (25-26th November 2019).

Learning to See a World of Opportunities

Project leaders: Professor Nava Ashraf and Dr Gharad Bryan

Project goals

Decades of civil conflict in Colombia have internally displaced more than eight million people, the second largest displacement crisis in the world. Conflict has known ramifications for education and employment prospects and, moreover, there is a powerful yet understudied way in which conflict can have long-lasting labour market effects: through beliefs about the self, the world and the future. Biased beliefs undermine the ability to make forward-looking decisions, adopt effective business practices and risky ideas when entrepreneurs should instead exhibit self-confidence, experiment rapidly and learn from failure. Failing to account for psychology may explain why the multi-million-dollar skills training industry has had limited impact on the productivity and profits of microenterprises, particularly in fragile or post-conflict settings.

The research team is co-generating a novel entrepreneurship training curriculum with the Mayor of Bogotá. Drawing on numerous interviews and focus group discussions conducted with the target population, the curriculum overlays entrepreneurship soft skills with imagery techniques and basic principles of cognitive behavioural therapy for victims of conflict and other populations who have experienced trauma. These techniques build the capacity to think about the future and make complex decisions. The training has already been partially piloted with a small group of entrepreneurs. To evaluate the curriculum's effectiveness, the team will conduct a large-scale randomised controlled trial with approximately 2000 micro and small entrepreneurs in Bogotá. If the project proves effective, the team will transfer the knowledge and curriculum to local stakeholders, creating opportunities for the scale up of the intervention.

MAIN OUTPUTS

Pilot 1 - This consisted of collecting qualitative data on entrepreneurship through interviews with marginalised entrepreneurs and victims of conflict, their business trainers, local psychologists and policymakers for over six months. Research Teams designed a novel curriculum targeting precise behaviours that are limiting the entrepreneurs' ability to learn (November 2018).

Pilot 2 - Working with the Bogotá's Mayor's Office to implement the second pilot, the Mayor's Office fully engaged with the project and provided both financial and logistical support to the project's implementation. The pilot helped create a manual for trainers which included best practices, precise ideal take-aways for participants for each session, and FAQ's to guide trainers through questions related to the intervention (May/June 2019).

Large scale study - Using the findings generated from our pilots to conduct a large-scale study in conjunction with the mayor's office, this study was conducted in two waves, largely to ease capacity constraints on the local government with which we are partnering to implement this

study. Additionally, conducting the experiment in two rounds allowed the team to learn from logistical challenges and plan accordingly to overcome them moving forward.

Next steps - the Research Team plans to continue with the evaluation of the interventions with victims of conflict. They will attempt to pursue scale-up strategies to allow a policy to dissipate to those who could benefit from it across Colombia as well as other post-conflict settings. The Research Team will also provide a foundation for successful rehabilitation programmes that encourage independence and income generation for victims of conflict in Colombia and across the world.

Working Paper



Ashraf, Nava, Gharad Bryan, Alexia Delfino, Emily Holmes, Leonardo Iacovone and Ashley Pople. 2022. [Learning to see the world's opportunities: the impact of imagery on entrepreneurial success.](#) *Innovation for Poverty Action Working Paper: 1-80*

Videos

A video titled 'If You Can Imagine It, You Can Do It' on the study was made by LEAP, Bocconi University, featuring one of the co-authors Alexia Delfino:

<https://www.knowledge.unibocconi.eu/notizia.php?tipo=d&rubrica=&canale=68&azione=&idArt=24920&kgiorno=1&kmese=5&kanno=2024>

Additionally, the BBC is currently making a documentary featuring the study.

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

To date, the study has been presented at various events at BEAM, CEPR Development Workshop, Columbia, Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute, EUI, Harvard/MIT Development Seminar, LUISS, Maastricht, Marseille, Oxford, Padova, RWI Berlin, and Toulouse. These include:

On February 14th 2024, co-author Christian Meyer presented at CSAE Lunchtime Seminar hosted by University of Oxford.

On March 7th 2024, Nava Ashraf presented at the development workshop hosted by the Center for Development Economics and Policy at Columbia University.

On March 17th 2024, co-author Christian Meyer presented at the CSAE Conference 2024.

On March 20th 2024, co-author Christian Meyer presented at the RWI Berlin Seminar.

On April 17th 2024, co-author Christian Meyer presented at World Bank eMBed.

RESILIENT CITIES

Pathways to Resilience: the Role of an Urban Diaspora in Post-conflict Reconstruction, London and Hargeisa, 1991 to the Present Day

Project leader: Professor Joanna Lewis

Project goals

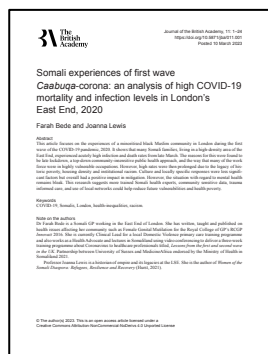
This project investigates the role of the Somali diaspora in building frameworks of social, political and financial resilience in a post-conflict urban environment. It case-studies the diasporic relationship between London and Hargeisa, capital of the unrecognised state of Somaliland, since civil war ended in 1991.

Recent research confirms the importance of this urban diaspora in resilience but has focussed on remittance payments. However, Hargeisa's London diaspora has been central in enabling the city to withstand numerous financial, environmental and demographic shocks since 1991, through robust civic governance, the regeneration of infrastructure and the formation of grassroots non-governmental community organisations. These essential aspects of recovery have rested upon the participation of the London diaspora from afar, and as seasonal or permanent returnees.

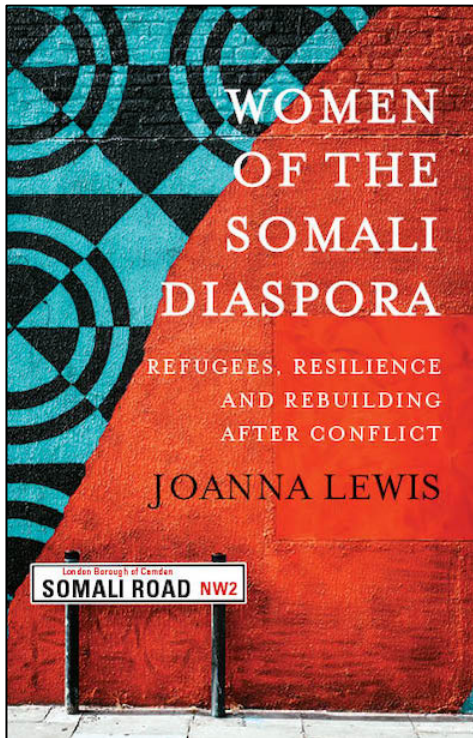
This project will detail the long-term patterns underpinning diaspora engagement in these processes since 1991. In particular, the project will interrogate apparent disparities in participation in these three processes by gender- and age-based groups and the motivations and variation in engagement which define these distinctive diasporic relationships. Thus, the project will provide vital knowledge about how communities, formal organisations and urban governments can more effectively engage with urban diaspora populations in post-conflict environments and vice-versa.

MAIN OUTPUTS

Publications



Bede, Farah and Joanna Lewis. 2023. [Somali experiences of first wave Caabuqa-corona: an analysis of high COVID-19 mortality and infection levels in London's East End, 2020](#). *Journal of the British Academy* 11: 1-24.



Lewis, Joanna. 2021. [Women of the Somali diaspora: refugees, resilience and rebuilding after conflict.](#) London: Hurst Publishers.

This book is about Somali mothers and daughters who came to Britain in the 1990s to escape civil war. Many had never left Somalia before, followed nomadic traditions, did not speak English, were bereaved and were suffering from PTSD.

Their stories begin with war and genocide in the north, followed by harrowing journeys via refugee camps, then their arrival and survival in London. Joanna Lewis exposes how they rapidly recovered, mobilising their networks, social capital and professional skills. Crucial to the recovery of the now breakaway state of (former British) Somaliland, these women bore a huge burden, but inspired the next generation, with many today caught between London and a humanitarian impulse to return home.

Lewis reveals three histories. Firstly, the women's personal history, helping us to understand resilience as an individual, lived historical process that is both positive and negative, and both inter- and intra-generational. Secondly, a collective history of refugees as rebuilders, offering insight into the dynamism of the Somali diaspora. Finally, the forgotten history and hidden legacies of Britain's colonial past, which have played a key role in shaping this dramatic, sometimes upsetting, but always inspiring story: the power of women to heal the scars of war.

Research project discussions with the Somali community

'Researching histories of Somali women in London through the lens of resilience': Keynote Speaker, Somali Week Festival, September 2018, Oxford House, London, organised by Kyad Arts and Culture. Paper also presented at the Hargeisa Book Fair, Hargeisa, Somaliland, July 2019.

Research project publications for the Somali community



Lewis, Joanna. 2019. [Somali Women, Resilience and the Diaspora.](#) *Journal of the Anglo-Somali Society/ Warsidaha Ururka Ingiriiska iyo Soomaalida* 65: 4-12.

Impacts

Keynote motivational speaker, 'Refugees, rebuilding and resilience', Institute for Change, Online, Stage Two of a certificated course, Refugees as Rebuilders, Organised and run by Dr Muna Ismail, Saturday 8th May 2021.

Invited to work with London's only Somali GP working in the East End to research impact of COVID-19 on the Tower Hamlets/East End communities I worked with building on the trust and relationships nurtured during the IGA research.

This resulted in a successful grant bid to the British Academy and a peer reviewed journal article co-authored with Dr Farah Bede.

It also resulted in the invitation to design and deliver a one-day training session for health and social care providers working in East London. I used my IGA research to write the history and culture section. As a result, I was co-presenter of research results on Somali covid deaths to Tower Hamlets Borough Council's organised event around our findings: 1st November 2021 Somali Cultural Sensitivities Workshop for Healthcare Professionals and senior council officials highlighting a race-based trauma approach. We received positive feedback and evidence that what was learnt would feed into other training sessions.

Resilient Communities, Resilient Cities? Digital Makings of the City of Refuge

Project leaders: Professor Myria Georgiou and Professor Suzanne Hall

Project goals

This project investigates the role of digital communication in supporting resilient urban communities, especially in response to sudden and/or unwelcome change resulting from refugee arrivals. Most research on digital communication and resilience engages with digital investment for economic growth, urban planning and transparent politics. Yet, urban dwellers' responses to such initiatives remain largely ignored.

This project aims to fill that gap by examining manifestations of digital citizenship and the uses of communicative possibilities to build diverse, integrated and inclusive cities after population transformation. This is a comparative, multimethod study.

The primary empirical focus is on three cities that currently experience the shocks of the "refugee crisis": Athens, Berlin and London. Yet the project also offers a global comparative outlook through additional research in two longstanding cities of refuge: Hong Kong and Los Angeles. Across the five cities, the project investigates good digital practices and digital failures to build resilience. The 18-month study examines urban communities' resilience through surveys, focus groups, asset mapping, digital storytelling and public exhibitions.

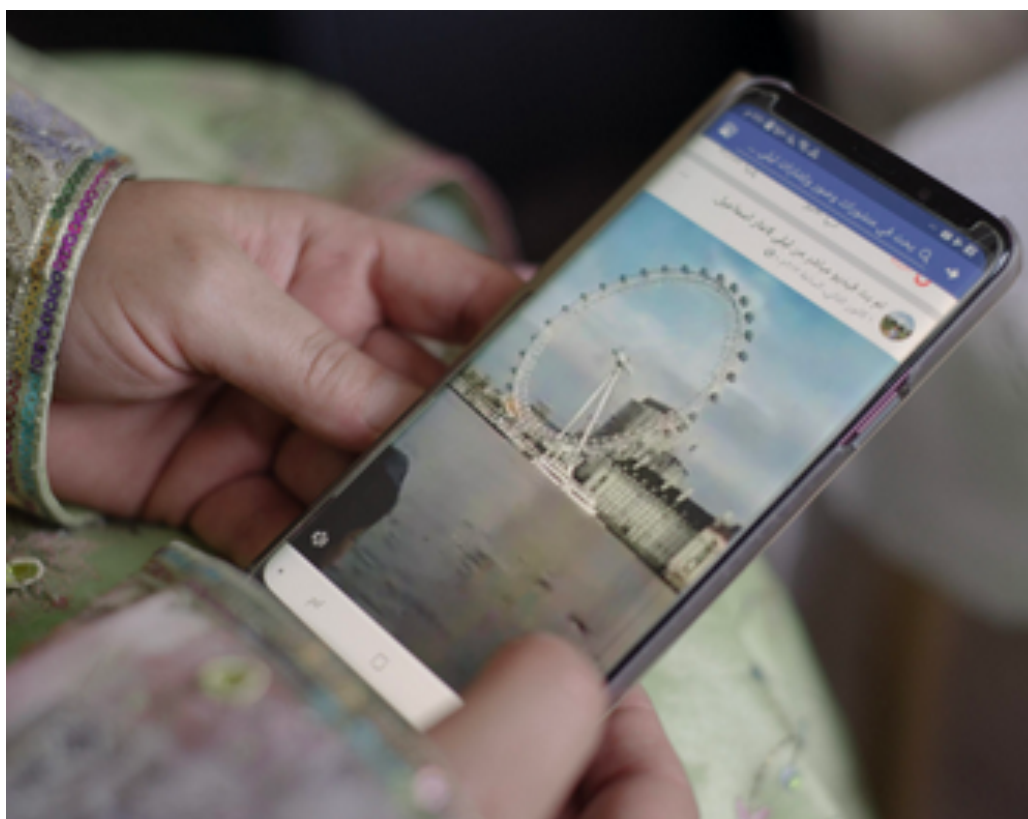


Photo: Marcia Chandra/Digital City of Refuge.

MAIN OUTPUTS

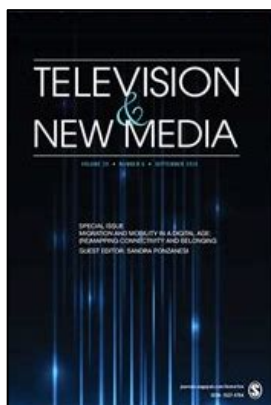
Publications



Georgiou, Myria, Hall, Suzanne and Deena Dajani. 2022. [Suspension: disabling the city of refuge?](#). *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 48 (9): 2206-2222



Dajani, Deena. 2021. [Refuge under austerity: the UK's refugee settlement schemes and the multiplying practices of bordering.](#) *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44 (1): 58-76



Georgiou, Myria. 2019. [City of refuge or digital order? Refugee recognition and the digital governmentality of migration in the city.](#) *Television and New Media* 20 (6): 600-616.

Digital archive

'The digital archive of the city of refuge': visual story archive produced as part of the project



Photo: Marcia Chandra/Digital City of Refuge.

Open access toolkit

[City of Refuge Toolkit](#): Co-creative and participatory toolkit of relevance to researchers, civil society and institutions working with newcomers, migrants, refugees and those supporting them (citizen actors and organisations).

Events

Workshops with newcomers and civil society actors took place in Athens, Berlin and London (2018)

A range of networking sessions of digital resilience with engagement activities [designed by Proboscis](#) (2018-2019)

A participatory event was organised in Los Angeles (with Tanita Enderes) (5 May 2018)

LSE Symposium [Migration and the Digital city](#) (29 March 2019)

Tate Exchange Workshop [Building the city of refuge digital archive](#) (23 May 2019)

LSE Department of Media and Communications launches [Digital City of Refuge](#): a collection of visual stories mapping the city of refuge as experienced and imagined by its actors in Athens, Berlin and London (28 October 2020).

Challenging Urban Decline Narratives: Enhancing Community Resilience

Project leader: Professor Mike Savage

Project goals

The public debate following the Brexit vote largely coalesced around why so-called 'left behind' parts of the country voted to leave. These regions, so the story went, had ostensibly been less resilient to the decline of industrial production in Britain – places where wages had been stagnant and where unemployment had been consistently high. However, this story of resilience (or the lack of resilience) often overlooked how people in these communities understood their own towns and cities while also failing to note the pockets of poverty in supposedly more resilient parts of the country.

This project seeks to address some of these gaps in our understanding of these communities by developing an innovative synthesis of both political economy approaches to the economic geography of Britain and narrative approaches to community coherence and identity. We have selected 4 case study sites: a coastal town (Margate) and a post-industrial urban area (Oldham) with high rates of poverty; a materially deprived part of a so-called 'successful city' (Oxford) and relatively affluent commuter town for London (Tonbridge Wells).

The project will adopt a multi-method approach which will bring these case studies into dialogue with broader econometric analyses of both these specific towns and cities and the UK more broadly. Through blending these approaches, the project will explore how these areas have responded and adapted to their respective economic challenges and whether their relations with larger urban centres (Oxford, London, and Manchester) enhance or undermine their communities (economic and socially).

The core questions will be:

1. How and why these towns responded differently to broader economic and social changes?
2. How have local communities adapted to these changes and what challenges do they face?
3. What are the political barriers and opportunities to fostering new narratives regarding these four case study areas?
4. What kind of narrative strategies can be used by local populations to develop alternative stories?
5. How have political and economic relations between these towns and proximate urban centres enhanced or undermined their communities (economic and socially)?

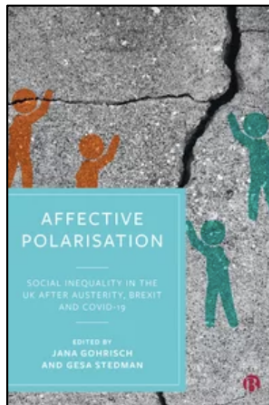
Main findings

We provided unusual detail on how intensifying inequality in the UK plays out at a local level, arguing that there are different logics that polarisation takes place 'on the ground'. Using a community analysis buttressed by quantitative framing, we concentrated especially on economic, spatial and relational polarisation in four towns in the UK. We distinguished

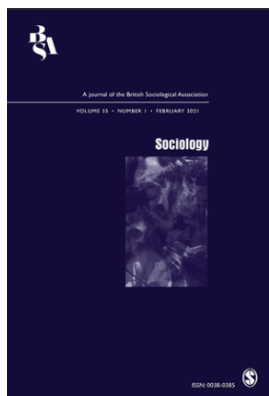
differing dynamics of 'elite-based' polarisation (in Oxford and Tunbridge Wells) and 'poverty-based' polarisation (in Margate and Oldham). Across these divides there are also common features. Across the towns, marginalised communities express a sense of local belonging and attachment to place can be found. But tensions between social groups also remain strong and all towns are marked by a weak or 'squeezed middle' in which there is little interaction between wealthier and poorer communities within our four towns. We argue that the weakness of intermediary institutions, including but not limited to the 'missing middle', and capable of bridging gaps between various social groups, provides a major insight into both the obstacles to, and potential solutions for, re-politicising inequality today.

MAIN OUTPUTS

Publications



Koch, Insa, Fransham, Mark, Cant, Sarah, Ebrey, Jill, Glucksberg, Luna and Mike Savage. 2023. [The Challenges of Polarisation: Lessons for \(Re-\) Politicising Inequality across Four English Towns](#). In *Affective Polarisation* (pp. 78-109). Bristol University Press.



Koch, Insa, Fransham, Mark, Cant, Sarah, Ebrey, Jill, Glucksberg, Luna and Mike Savage. 2021. [Social polarisation at the local level: a four-town comparative study on the challenges of politicising inequality in Britain](#). *Sociology* 55 (1): 3-29.

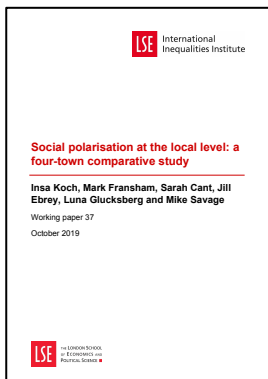
Winner of Sage Prize for Excellence in Innovation, for best paper in Sociology 2021



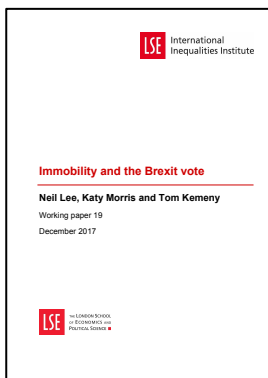
Koch, 2021. [The Guardians of the Welfare State: Universal Credit, Welfare Control and the Moral Economy of Frontline Work in Austerity Britain](#). *Sociology* 55 (2): 243-262.



Koch, Insa and Reeves, Aaron. 2021. [From social security to state-sanctioned insecurity: How welfare reform mimics the commodification of labour through greater state intervention](#). *Economy and Society* 50 (3): 448 -470.



Koch, Insa, Fransham, Mark, Cant, Sarah, Ebrey, Jill, Glucksberg, Luna and Mike Savage. 2019 (October). [Social polarisation at the local level: a four-town comparative study](#). *LSE International Inequalities Institute Working paper 37*.



Lee, Neil, Morris, Katy and Tom Kemeny. 2017 (December). [Immobility and the Brexit vote](#). *LSE International Inequalities Institute Working paper 19*.

Winner of Understanding Society Best Paper prize 2019

Invited talks

British Sociological Association, Manchester, April 2024 (special panel for prize winning contribution to sociology)

House of Commons 2023

University of Greenwich, January 2024

University of Tromso, 2019

FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Financial Resilience of Integrating Emerging Economies

Project leader: Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi

Project goals

This project analyses the financial resilience of emerging economies in response to post-crisis policy responses by investigating cross-border financial and regulatory interconnections between advanced and emerging economies. Based on the evidence we find, we assess financial resilience of key emerging economies and propose measures to strengthen resilience.

The past decade has seen profound shifts in the global environment in which emerging economies operate. Unconventional monetary policies in advanced economies have given rise to capital flows of previously unseen magnitude and volatility. Post-crisis overhauls of financial regulations have focused on problems in advanced country financial systems, but they have also had significant repercussions for less developed financial systems. Meanwhile, as emerging economies have grown larger and their financial systems more integrated into the global economy, feedback loops from them have become material.

To assess financial resilience in emerging economies, the project focuses on three interrelated issues in the interface of economics and political science: (1) advanced country monetary policy constraints on emerging economies; (2) economic integration with distorted and underdeveloped financial systems; (3) the impact of these issues on the role of central banks in emerging economies, also taking into account ongoing changes in the role of central banks in advanced economies.

In conversation with Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi

What is the relevance of the notion of resilience for your research?

Resilience was discovered as a critical theme for financial stability after the global financial crisis of 2008/9. The concept and importance of financial stability was, of course, recognised beforehand, but related policies had spectacularly failed in 2008/9. My research set out to test new concepts and, just as important, adoption of commensurate policies in the decade that followed that crisis.

The Covid pandemic, and then rising geopolitical risks in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and the escalation of the Middle East crisis have tested the evolving concept of resilience in major ways and suggested an additional dimension of resilience: geopolitical security. These recent political shocks have made clear the trade-off between economic efficiency that aims at profit maximisation and national security that considers also the security of supplies.

In your opinion, what are the main advantages and limits of resilience as a concept?

Resilience became a central topic to financial stability policies after the global financial crisis and has become a central topic of national policies and politics after the Covid pandemic. It is

now broad-based and inter-disciplinary. Resilience with adaptability for future shocks is now more widely accepted concepts for policy making.

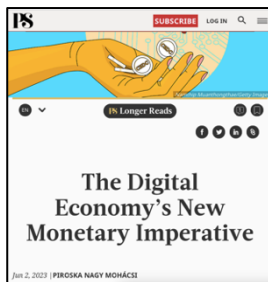
How would you summarise the main conclusions of your project on resilience?

- Industry concentration in banking does not bring expected benefits such as more credit, reduced costs thus better profitability or more employment, instead its only tangible impact of higher concentration is more political influence for bankers. The financial sector's rising concentration since 2008/9 thus carries political risks. The risks of higher concentration should be measured not only by increased risks of monopolistic business behaviour (price increases etc) but also by higher political influence including higher risks of regulatory capture.
- Central bank independence has increased macroeconomic resilience, but this should be interpreted and used with caution: central bank independence has always been a relative concept and can be justifiably lessened at times of crisis. At such times what matters is the compounded impact of monetary and fiscal policies, thus the so called "policy mix". Equally important, our research suggested a new concept of "constrained central bank independence" where central bank responsibilities and mandate include crisis (or other) related new tasks that require revised accountability mechanisms.
- Financial stability still does not feature directly in central bankers' policy approach though it should. Our research suggested an innovative way to do so via application of the concept of "output gap" that is hitherto used for monetary policy – measuring the difference between actual and potential output - to be used also for financial stability. Using this concept our research in 2019 suggested a high level of risk of real estate crisis in China, which since then has materialised.
- The rise of digital private currencies such as Bitcoin and its more sophisticated versions necessitates the introduction of digital currencies of central banks, the so called CBDCs. Without CBDCs financial stability risks will rise and system resilience will weaken.
- Nation-based macroeconomic policies give rise to cross-border spillovers in today's deeply integrated financial world, which policy makers now can take into account, strengthening both national and global system resilience. Monetary and financial sector stability policies, as any macroeconomic policy, is necessarily nation-based and executed. Yet in today's deeply integrated national economic and financial systems necessarily contain spillovers from dominant economies such as the US, and to some extent the European Union and its Eurozone, and China to emerging markets. This phenomenon has been called the "financial dollar cycle" of "dollar dominance". What we have discovered recently is that spillovers from emerging markets to advanced economies also works, which are called "spill-backs". Spill-back arguments allow advanced economies to incorporate cross-border spillovers into their national policies, which has allowed the systematic availability to emerging market central banks of dollar (or euro) currency swaps and repo operations during the pandemic. With this, the global financial safety net has been made more effective and the global system more resilient.

How do you think resilience should be studied in the future?

- Global resilience can be studied as a “network phenomenon”: in today’s world economic agents/firms interact via networks that have forward and backward-looking linkages across network participants.
- Resilience needs to be a flexible concept, where addressing new systemic shocks can be integrated.
- Resilience is more interdisciplinary than we have thought prior to the Covid pandemic. The pandemic exposed critical direct linkages between healthcare on the one hand and business/economic policies on the other hand. Inter-disciplinary research is more difficult for individual academics and probably needs innovative way of funding and incentives.

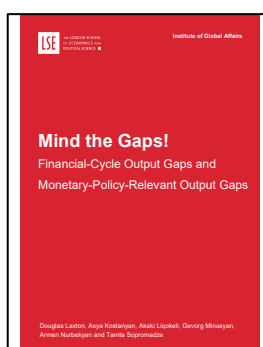
MAIN OUTPUTS



Nagy Mohácsi, Pirooska. June 2023. [The digital economy's new monetary imperative](#). *Project Syndicate*.



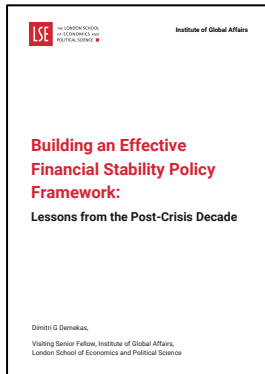
Blejer, Mario I and Paul Wachtel. January 2020. [A fresh look at central bank independence](#)



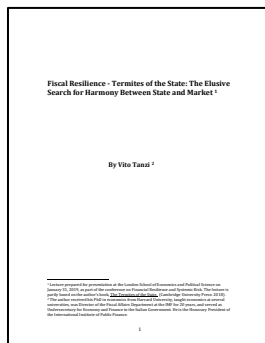
Laxton, Douglas, Kostanyan, Asya, Liqokeli, Akaki, Minasyan, Gevorg, Nurbekyan, Armen and Tamta Sopromadze. December 2019. [Mind the Gaps! Financial-Cycle Output Gaps and Monetary-Policy-Relevant Output Gaps](#)



Mandeng, Ousmène Jacques. June 2019. [Digital currencies: New technologies and old monetary ideas](#)



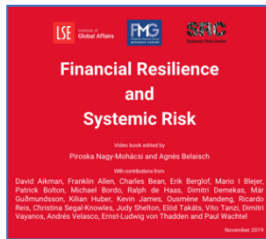
Demekas, Dimitri G. April 2019. [Building an Effective Financial Stability Policy Framework: Lessons from the Post-Crisis Decade](#)



Tanzi, Vito. January 2019. [Fiscal Resilience - Termites of the State: The Elusive Search for Harmony Between State and Market](#)



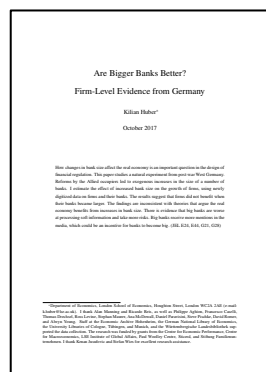
Mandeng, Ousmène Jacques. January 2019. [Basic principles for regulating crypto-assets](#)



[Video book on Financial Resilience and Systemic Risk](#) with recordings of short discussions with lead academic and policy experts on three main dimensions of financial resilience: post-crisis regulatory reform, global financial system resilience and central banking and institutional resilience. The video-book draws on a [conference](#) that was co-organised by the London School of Economics and Political Science’s Institute of Global Affairs, Financial Markets Group Research Centre and the Systemic Risk Centre and was sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation in January 2019.



Blejer, Mario I and Paul Wachtel. January 2019. [A fresh look at central bank independence: more myth than reality](#)



Huber, Kilian. October 2017. [Are Bigger Banks Better? Firm-Level Evidence from Germany](#)

Events

Financial Resilience in Integrating Emerging Economies: What Lessons for Resilience in the Post-COVID World?, Virtual Workshop (3rd June 2020).

Two joint workshops with Tsinghua University (November 2019, February 2020).

Conference on “Financial Resilience and Systemic Risk” (January 2019), including 3 LSE public lectures.

In pictures



Conference on Resilience in Europe, April 2019, with many policy makers and academics

At the conference on “Financial Resilience and Systemic Risk”, January 2019.

From left to right: Prof Helen Rey, London Business School, Prof Andres Velasco, LSE School of Public Policy, and Governor of the Central Bank of Iceland Mar Gudmundsson



From left to right Ousmene Mandeng, Aventure & visiting fellow at LSE IGA and contributor to the project; Ben Dyson BIS, Prof Ricardo Reis LSE Economics Dept, and Dimitri Vayanos, LSE Finance Dept

From left to right Mario Blejer former Governor of the Central Bank of Argentina and Visiting Professor at IGA; Prof Paul Wachtel NY Stern Business School (both contributors to the project); Prof Charles Bean, LSE Economics Dept and former Chief Economist of the Bank of England, and Judy Shelton, US Executive Director for EBRD





Closing event of the project jointly organised by IGA, FMG and the Systemic Risk Group “Financial Resilience and Systemic Risk”, January 2019

Professor Michael Bordo, Rutgers University with Chair and project leader Piroska Nagy Mohacsi



Prof Vito Tanzi, former Deputy Minister of Italy and Director of the IMF and project leader Piroska Nagy Mohacsi

Lecture by Prof Harold James, Princeton University, with chair and project leader Piroska Nagy Mohacsi



Prof Richard Baldwin, Geneva Graduate School, Sept 2018.



Lecture by Professor Raghu Rajan, University of Chicago, along with Prof Erik Berglof, Director of LSE IGA and Prof Nava Ashraf, LSE Economics Dept



Lecture by Prof Joe Stiglitz, Columbia University and Nobel Prize Winner, along with Prof. Tim Besley, LSE Economics Dept and Prof Erik Berglof, Director of LSE IGA

Lecture by Y.V. Reddy, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Feb 2018



Discussion with Yves Mersch, ECB Member of the Executive Board, 2018

Evaluating the Resilience Impact of Climate Insurance (ERICI): Applying Subjective Approaches to the Innovative Analysis of a Difficult Question

Project leader: Dr Swenja Surminski

Project goals

In 2015, the G7 leaders launched the InsuResilience initiative, with a unique mandate to extend climate insurance to 400 million highly exposed, uninsured poor and vulnerable people by 2020. This is an increasingly relevant aim, as climate change is exacerbating the existing weather-related disaster risks in low middle income countries, and typically less than 1% of the losses due to natural catastrophes in such countries are covered by insurance.

While some studies suggest that insurance programmes can improve the financial outcomes and productivity choices of those insured, the evidence is sparse and the risk remains that insurance could actually decrease resilience where it is poorly designed and/or misunderstood by the policy holders.

From summer 2017-20, the ERICI project at the Grantham Research Institute (GRI) will work alongside the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) and in contact with the G7 InsuResilience to develop demand-led resilience metrics that can be used for evaluation of insurance schemes. An important part of this work will be focusing on the added value of subjective approaches to resilience assessment, alongside the more traditional objective measures. The project is specifically interested in the added value that subjective measures of resilience can bring to our existing understanding of resilience, its relationship to well-being and our ability to monitor changes in resilience in response to insurance interventions at the micro-level.

These metrics will be developed through and applied in practical settings through longitudinal cohort studies of communities in one African and one Asian country. The project offers a truly interdisciplinary approach, exploring how insurance products can improve climate resilience, defined as 'making people, communities and systems better prepared to withstand catastrophic events (both natural and manmade) and able to bounce back more quickly and emerge stronger from these shocks and stresses' (Rockefeller Foundation, 2016). To do this we combine GRI's academic expertise in insurance (Swenja Surminski) and psychology & resilience measurement (Abbie Clare) with MCII's policy perspective and extensive climate insurance stakeholder networks.

The outcomes will include academic journal papers, policy briefs, the publication of an insurance-specific resilience assessment metric and workshops for interested stakeholders to initially shape and subsequently learn from our work.

MAIN OUTPUTS

Publications



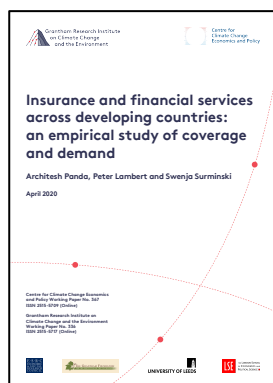
Boston, Jonathan, Panda, Architesh and Swenja Surminski. 2021. Designing a funding framework for the impacts of slow-onset climate change — insights from recent experiences with planned relocation. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 50: 159–168.



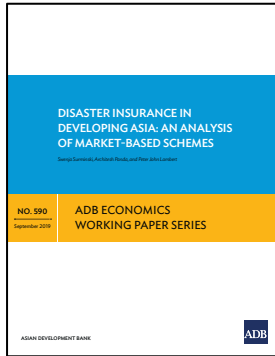
Boston, Jonathan, Panda, Architesh and Swenja Surminski. 2020. Designing a funding framework for the slow-onset impacts of climate change: insights from recent experiences with coastal retreat. *Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy Working Paper 373/Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment Working Paper 343*. London: London School of Economics and Political Science.



Panda, Architesh, Lambert, Peter and Swenja Surminski. 2020. Insuring Sustainable Development: What drives uptake of insurance in developing countries? *LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science*.



Panda Architesh, Lambert, Peter and Swenja Surminski. 2020. Insurance and financial services across developing countries: an empirical study of coverage and demand. *Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy Working Paper 367/Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment Working Paper 336*. London: London School of Economics and Political Science.



Surminski, Swenja, Panda Architesh, and Peter J. Lambert. 2019. [Disaster insurance in developing Asia: An analysis of market-based schemes](#). *ADB Economics Working Paper Series 590*.

Events:

Initial Survey findings presented at the Loss and Damage Conference at Lund, Sweden, in November 2019.

Expert stakeholder workshop and round-table discussions with farmers on crop insurance and climate resilience in Maharashtra, India, April 2019.

Insurance paper with ADB (Surminski Panda) presented and delivered at the Asian Development Outlook.

Presentation given at WOTR climate change conference in October 2018.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Universities as Knowledge Brokers in the Governance of Climate Resilience

Project leader: Professor David Lewis

Project goals

Effective governance for climate resilience requires a knowledge translation (KT) system with capacities to inform and prepare key decision makers across government, business and civil society. This project critically examined the actual and potential role of universities as 'knowledge brokers' in the production, use and translation of knowledge among different actors currently involved in climate resilience.

Research from the health sector indicates a lack of clear evidence about the effectiveness of knowledge brokering by academic institutions, and of the factors that influence their performance in KT. Building on the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) initiated by Bangladesh's International Centre on Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Uganda's Makerere University, the study used qualitative interviews and participatory workshops with university-based researchers and research users to investigate the range and breadth of brokering activities, modes of operation and capacity gaps in relation to building and maintaining sustainable networks. The project focused on KT roles in three universities in three countries: Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Makerere and Germany's TH Köln. The study gathered systematic evidence regarding the nature of knowledge brokering and policy engagement in each setting and provided strategies for enhancing capacities.

In conversation with David Lewis

What is the relevance of the notion of resilience for your research?

We began with a research design that drew on the concept of resilience as the guiding principle for our study. Our aim was to better understand how different kinds of university-based researchers across a range of different university settings in the Global North and Global South try to operationalise the concept in their efforts to engage with and influence policy makers with their research findings.

How would you summarise the main conclusions of your research?

The study found that knowledge engagement and translation work continues to be informed more by linear models of the research-policy interface rather than by those that engage with the ways power relations shape knowledge production and application. We also concluded that the position of university-based researchers in the Global South requires in particular strengthening if progress is to be achieved with North–South knowledge exchange, capacity development, and improved incentives for policy engagement.

Which new avenues for research emerge from these results?

Our findings point to the need to rethink conditions around researcher engagement if we are to create space for knowledge exchange and translation that can contribute to policies for societal transformation. Priorities are building more interdisciplinary research approaches, improving researcher links with private sector actors, and strengthening university researcher engagement with local communities.

Why was the notion of resilience in the end less relevant than expected in the research?

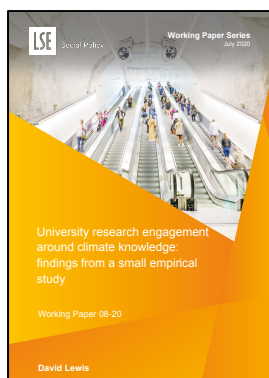
As the study progressed, our initial emphasis on resilience gave way to a more general investigation of urgent challenges raised by many of our interlocutors around knowledge translation that those working on climate issues face in trying to engage with policy makers, particularly those who are located in resource-scarce universities in the Global South.

MAIN OUTPUTS

Publications



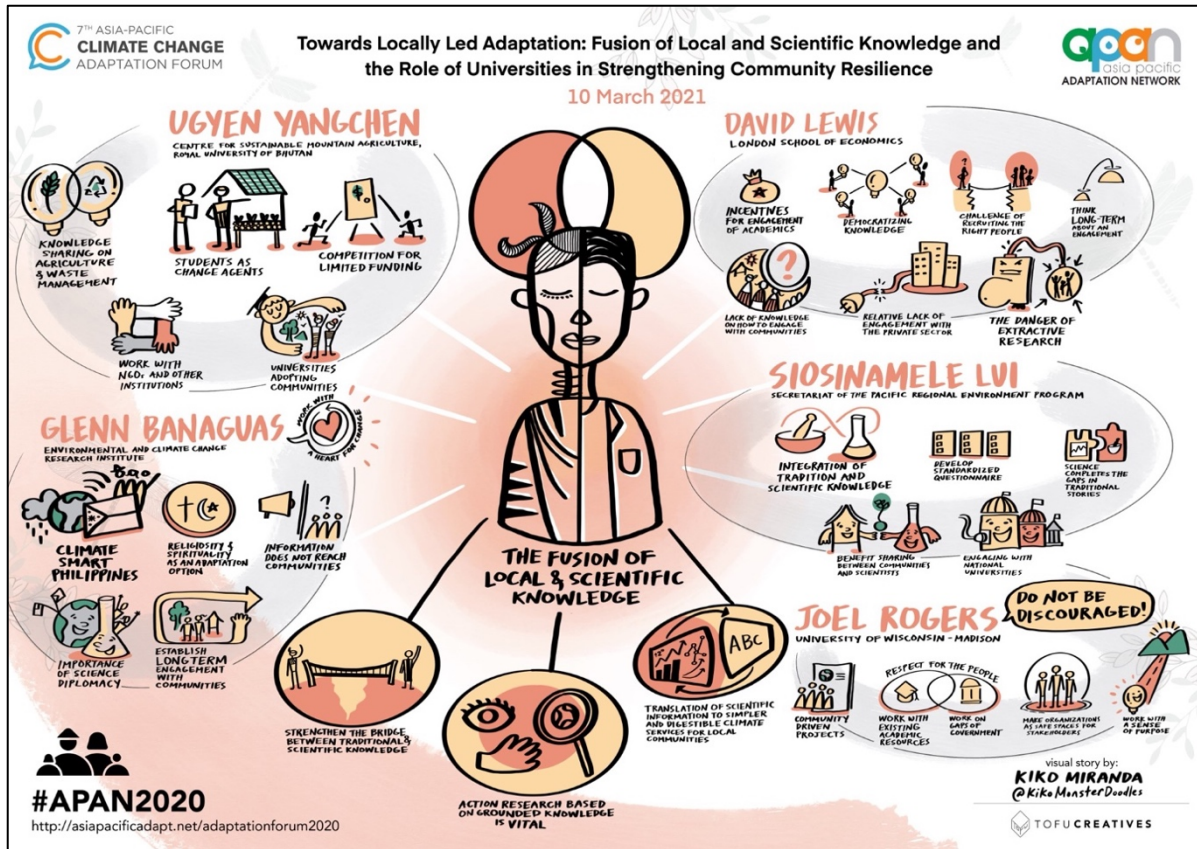
Lewis, David, Rahman, M. Feisal, Twinomuhangi, Revocatus, Haque, Shababa, Huq, Nazmul, Huq, Saleemul, Ribbe, Lars and Ishtiaque, Asif. 2022. [University-based researchers as knowledge brokers for climate policies and action](#). *European Journal of Development Research* 35: 656–683.



Lewis, David. 2020 (August). [University research engagement around climate knowledge: findings from a small empirical study](#). *Social Policy Working Paper*. London: LSE Department of Social Policy.

Presentations

David Lewis (March 10, 2021). *Engaging with local stakeholders: perceptions and experiences of university-based researchers working on climate issues*. Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum Session: Toward Locally Led Adaptation: Fusion of Local and Scientific Knowledge and the Role of Universities in Strengthening Community Resilience



David Lewis and Dr Saleemul Huq, London Climate Week (July 4, 2020). *Round table discussion on university-based climate research in Bangladesh.* Royal Geographical Society, London (a London Climate Week event).

David Lewis, with Feisal Rahman and Shababa Haque, COP-25 (December 3, 2019)

1. *Understanding the Role of Universities as Knowledge Brokers in the Governance of Climate Resilience* - Professor David Lewis, London School of Economics (LSE)
2. *Assessing the Role of Universities as Knowledge Brokers: Findings from Bangladesh* - Ms. Shababa Haque, ICCAD.

Held at the Bangladesh Pavilion, COP25, Madrid, Spain (and organised by ICCAD)

CLOSING RESILIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

A closing Resilience Seminar Series was organised by FLIA researchers Anne-Line Rodriguez and Iliana Sarafian at LSE during the 2023 Spring and Winter terms. The seminars focused on the following themes: Resilience in Post-conflict Settings; Refugee Resilience; Resilience and Health; and, Economic and Environmental Resilience. Each seminar featured several presentations followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Resilience in Post-conflict Settings - 7 March 2023

- Ms Charlotte Brown (Department of International Development, LSE): 'Feminist perspectives on resilience: refugee experiences in West Nile, Uganda'

Abstract: Feminist critiques of resilience conceptualisations have called for a re-orientation away from individualised perspectives towards a focus on relations and towards the spaces, practices and processes that lie beyond formal governance structures and policymaking (de Almagro and Bargués 2022). Doing so allows for emphasis on the process of becoming resilient as an act of resistance against violent and unjust systems (Berry 2022). I draw upon ongoing research in the West Nile sub-region of Uganda to further these arguments and examine how resilience is cultivated by refugees in a context of structural abandonment. Through interviews and observational data, this presentation will illuminate the relational practices and connections South Sudanese refugees develop outside of the formal humanitarian infrastructure. These processes and practices of mutuality and care form key resources for the establishment and maintenance of homes within Arua city and for escaping the conditions of the settlement. These exchanges form the basis of an alternative infrastructure of support amidst conditions of precarity. I argue that the process of becoming resilient within the urban landscape becomes a necessary condition for resisting the prospect of return to the settlement and thus a means of survival in the absence of structural change.

- Dr Julian Hopwood (Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE): 'Using case studies of poverty and exclusion to expose the fallacies of developmental resilience (and social capital and climate change adaptability)'

Abstract: There are times when the currently fashionable paradigms of neoliberal developmentalism, considered in the context of actual instances of poverty and exclusion, appear absurd. It is simply wrong to suppose that certain individuals can escape - or even survive - poverty, in a huge variety of circumstances, through the kinds of skills, capabilities or resources that development actors claim to bestow through programmes characterised as building 'resilience', 'social capital' or 'climate adaptability'; and case studies can illustrate this. And yet when one of these terms becomes sufficiently tainted by empirical evidence to lose its shine, a new one arrives. Apologists re-group around the new notion and vast effort by responsible - or perhaps one could say 'pro-poor' - academics is expended gathering evidence to critique it. Are we doomed to this Sisyphean rear-guard action forever?!

- Dr Ponsiano Bimeny (SOAS): 'Problematic ideological humanitarianism: do development interventions enhance or threaten communities' resilience?'

Abstract: In research on the post-conflict settings of the Karamoja and Acholi regions of northern Uganda published in the Civil Wars Journal in December 2021 and July 2022 respectively, we question whether the meaning of the term resilience as applied by scholars

and humanitarian-development practitioners working on and within post-conflict communities in northern Uganda, differs from the understanding of the term by the local populations to which they are applied. The research observes that disparities indeed exist, and in their current form, resilience-based interventions in these regions appear to compromise rather than enhance the population's resilience.

Refugee Resilience - 25 April 2023

- Prof. Suzanne Hall (Department of Sociology, LSE): 'How the City of Refuge problematises resilience'

Abstract: The structures and spaces of refuge in the context of Europe are situated between an ethics of care and the highly mediated politics of conditional asylum. Moving across the differentiated cities of Athens, Berlin and London, our research foregrounds the varied ways in which political conditionality suspends refuge. We explore how the City of Refuge is moored to the ideologies and institutions of the state, and show how resilience is tempered by the logics of bordering.

- Prof. Myria Georgiou (Department of Media and Communications, LSE): '*City of refuge* or digital order? The Digital Governmentality of Migration in the City'

Abstract: This presentation discusses how imaginaries of the city of refuge are digitally mediated. It shows how digital infrastructures support refugees' new life in the European city, while also normalising the conditionality of their recognition as humans and as citizens-in-the-making. Research in Athens, Berlin, and London revealed the city as a vital but fierce space for refugees to claim, and sometimes find recognition that the nation often denies. A multimethod qualitative study with refugees and civil society actors in the aftermath of Europe's "migration crisis" recorded urban cultures of hope for cities that are hospitable and open. Yet, it also recorded conditional welcoming that sets strict requirements for newcomers' recognition as more than a category of external "Others" that need to prove their "right to have rights." As shown, a digital order requires a performed "refugeeness" as a precondition for recognition: that is, a swift move from abject vulnerability to resilient individualism.

- Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar (UNDP): 'International Humanitarian Discourse to Resilience and the Everyday Practices of Resilience by Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan'

Abstract: The research aimed to understand and analyze the relationship that Syrian refugees, through their experience of displacement, have developed between gendered vulnerability, resilience, and resistance. The field research was conducted in Jordan in 2017 and it relied on the ethnographic qualitative methods of personal narrative interviewing (PNIs). Sixty PNIs were conducted with Syrian refugee men and women from three Jordanian governments. The research framed its analysis on a triangular relationship between gendered vulnerability, resilience and resistance and chose the term 'resilient resistance' to discuss and analyse the everyday activities, or tactics, undertaken by vulnerable Syrian refugee men and women to get on with daily life without fully complying with the prevailing system of power and its rules of governing.

Resilience & Health – 14 March 2023

- Prof. Joanna Lewis (Department of International History, LSE): The Somali Community in London

Notes from the Chair: This presentation focused on the experiences of COVID-19 amongst the Somali diaspora in London. By March 2020, cases of COVID-19 peaked in London with the highest rate of diagnosis for men during this period. The initial statistics did not capture the extreme examples of urban inequality where the Somali diaspora found itself on the frontline of the pandemic. The research found the role of East End Somali culture in exposure to COVID-19 and transmission were lesser contributing factors as opposed to popular understandings of cultural practices. The research also found a lack of trust, from perceived or actual racism, in local healthcare services and in the NHS in general. This included a lack of acknowledgement or research of pre-existing vulnerabilities and health concerns in the Somali community when devising public health policy. Recognising this, in April 2021 the Government set up the NHS race and health observatory to research and recommend improvement to ethnic health inequities, including trust. The preliminary research became the basis of a training webinar in November 2021 with health and social care staff. This micro-case study revealed how high infection and death rates lasted longer due to the intersection of historic socio-economic and health inequalities that include racism.

- Dr Justin Parkhurst (Department of Health Policy, LSE): ‘Resilience in global health – systems, evidence, and policy’

Notes from the Chair: The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented event for global health. The pandemic shaped the social and political worlds we live in and raised important questions to consider across the natural, clinical and social sciences alike. COVID-19 illustrated some of the real challenges in the assumption that governments must pursue ‘evidence-based policymaking’. What did ‘following the evidence’ mean? In the UK the SAGE Committee provided advice to the government, but there have been a range of questions about when SAGE advice was followed or not. The pandemic lays bare how large-scale health threats involve multiple important policy concerns and multiple areas for which evidence may be required including economic impact, infection spread, relevant restrictions, and relevant health and educational policies. The higher rates of transmission and/or mortality seen in minority groups in a range of countries highlight the importance of having greater evidence about the social determinants of health to inform responses.

Economic and Environmental Resilience - 2 May 2023

- Prof. Mike Savage (Department of Sociology, LSE), ‘The structure of resilience and community life in four English towns’

Notes from the Chair: This presentation focused on Prof. Savage’s research on inequality and social polarisation within and between four UK towns (Margate, Oldham, Oxford, and Tunbridge Wells). The study found that in towns where polarization was likely to be more elite-based (Oxford and Tunbridge Wells), people tended to claim moral ownership over the locality, contributing to tensions with more disadvantaged groups. In contrast, in poverty-based polarized towns (Margate and Oldham), working-class inhabitants were more likely to claim a sense of belonging to the place, although these aspects were fractured based on ethnicity. A weaker or ‘squeezed’ middle class was also found in all four towns, contributing to lower degrees of social cohesion. In addition to challenging the tendency to overlook the importance of working-class identities and solidarity, the research highlighted the need to

work towards improving local mechanisms that facilitate or prevent different groups from uniting against shared struggles. This includes strengthening intermediaries that can bridge divides and foster collective action, such as individuals or institutions who occupy a position of trusted leadership typically grounded in networks of reciprocity, conviviality and grassroots activism among marginalised populations.

- Mr Jamie Macleod (Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE) ‘The EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Implications for African countries’.

Notes from the Chair: The Paris Agreement of 2015 launched a new era in the global response to climate change and countries around the world have designed policies to steer their economies towards reducing carbon emissions. The European Union (EU) designed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), aimed at providing a fair price on carbon-intensive imports entering the EU and at promoting cleaner industrial production globally. While this has been an encouraging move toward a net-zero world, the research suggests that the CBAM could have substantial economic repercussions for African countries, especially those heavily dependent on exports to the EU. It is estimated that CBAM could potentially cost Africa up to \$25 billion. The impact varies among individual African countries, with some experiencing a moderate reduction in GDP and others facing a more dramatic decline. Moreover, the extent of product coverage under CBAM is crucial for African countries. Fertilizers, cement, iron, and steel are key African exports to the EU, and they are relatively more carbon-intensive to produce in Africa compared to other regions. African countries are more vulnerable to the CBAM's economic impact due to the established trading partnership with the EU and the lack of carbon markets or established systems for monitoring and measuring carbon content in production in African countries could further penalize them. CBAM can create a trade diversion, with unintended consequences for global trade patterns where a two-tiered global trade system is created, with some commodities being redirected to other markets such as China or India, potentially undermining the intended impact of the mechanism.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Individuals and societies have often had to deal with sudden or violent change, uncertainty about the future, and adversity. The challenges linked to famines, ecological disasters, wars, poverty, epidemics, military conquests, colonisation, and entry into the market economy, have all required the deployment of resilience including the creation of new subjectivities, practices, and institutions for people to survive and keep going.

Many societies today face a range of local and global challenges. These include the climate emergency; the slowing-down of economies; rising socio-economic inequalities, injustices and the decline of the welfare state; energy scarcity; the scramble for natural resources and staple foods; the ascent of new imperialisms, militarisation and conflicts; the continuing rise of populist movements; transnational political and religious violence; the erosion by AI of entire sections of the economy and the imposition of new ways to relate to production and work; new epidemics; and continuing gender, racial and class hierarchies and violence.

More than five years after the launch of the LSE-Rockefeller Resilience Programme, the question of resilience has unfortunately lost none of its relevance. The projects described in this report have highlighted how resilience is a useful concept but also that it has many shortfalls. A framework for future research includes the following five directions:

- A holistic and inter-disciplinary approach: References are often made to the multiplicity of today's 'crises' (geo-political, economic, technological, climate, etc.) and the related need for resilience in these different areas. These fields are, however, interlinked. They should therefore be productively studied in relation to one another, rather than separately, including through an inter-disciplinary approach.
- A tighter exploration of the inter-relations between institutions and individuals: The analysis of resilience is all too often hampered by a functionalist approach whereby 'systems' (e.g. economic, financial, health) and their ability to survive external 'shock' are conceived of and analysed separately from social actors and societies and the latter's own resilience. A tighter exploration of the interactions between macro and micro levels, and between institutions (e.g. states, transnational corporations, international organisations) and individuals, could shed light on how these 'systems' are (re)produced, contested, and transformed as well as how they are socially experienced. Such a perspective would also illuminate the tensions between the resilience of social actors and that of institutions.
- The conflictual dimension of resilience: An implicit assumption of many studies is that resilience is good in itself and that it is an object of a social consensus. This latter idea has however been challenged by some of the Resilience Programme research. More accounts are needed of the debates, disputes, and struggles for power over how brutal change is to be dealt with.
- Subjective formations of resilience: Further knowledge could be produced on the ethics and social imaginaries created to keep going. Links also need to be drawn between these and subjective forms of agency in adversity developed in anthropology.
- The temporal dimension of resilience: How long can resilience be sustained? When are resilience and hope replaced by exhaustion and despair? Further exploration of the temporalities of resilience could also bring fresh insight into the topic.