

# SOAS Staff 2007



*SOAS staff assembled in the sunshine on a six-tier platform, with the main school building as backdrop, for the SOAS staff group photograph, June 2007. Staff numbers reflect the expansion of student numbers by over fifty-fold from the original intake, in 1916, of 71 students. Copies of the photograph are available from: [www.edenlilleyphotography.co.uk](http://www.edenlilleyphotography.co.uk) or + 44 (0)1223 460404. © Eaden Lilley Photography Cambridge*



## Treasures of SOAS

Princess Royal at launch exhibition



**Linguistics celebrates 75 Years**  
**Tribute to Professor Elisabeth Croll**

## BIDC targets UN Millennium goals

THE Bloomsbury International Development Centre (BIDC), a collaborative project by the six Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London (Birkbeck, the Institute of Education, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Royal Veterinary College, SOAS and the School of Pharmacy) was launched on 19 October 2007 in the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London.

Supported by a £3.7m grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the BIDC is the largest and most multi-disciplinary academic grouping on development issues in the UK. Its purpose is to tackle the complex problems of international development.

Professor Jeff Waage, an ecologist with a career in international development, has been appointed Director. Sir Andy Haines, Principal of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, chairs the BIDC Management Group. The Centre aims to develop an innovative programme of cross-college collaboration in research and training in support of international development and particularly attainment of the United Nation's Millennium Development goals.

The Centre's new, dedicated headquarters is at 36 Gordon Square, London. [www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/idc](http://www.bloomsbury.ac.uk/idc)

## New Diploma in Asian Art

FROM 2007, SOAS offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art which will provide a unique opportunity to study the arts of Asia and the Islamic world. The course, with lectures by leading scholars in the field, centres on object-based learning through direct access to the reserve collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum. Modules include: Arts of China, Japan and Korea, India, and the Islamic world. No prior specialist knowledge required. Details from [Dr Heather Elgood \(he2@soas.ac.uk\)](mailto:he2@soas.ac.uk) or [www.soas.ac.uk/art](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art)



*Drumming to the beat of Bhangra*

*Dholi Gurcharan Mall performs at the launch of Soho Road to the Punjab: 50 years of Bhangra (SOAS, 17 July – 22 September 2007)*

## RESEARCH GRANTS

**PROF. Catherine Hezser** has received a British Academy grant (£41,688) to study *Mobility and the transfer of knowledge amongst Jews in Roman Palestine and the Diaspora*; **Dr Harry West** £71,049 for his project *Local food in a global marketplace: artisan cheese making in the 21st century*.

SOAS has received five Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grants: **Dr Daud Ali** (£222,953) for his part in a collaboration with Cardiff University on *The Indian Temple – production, place and*

*patronage*; **Dr Francesca Orsini** (£286,338) for a project on *North Indian Literary Culture and History (1450-1650)*; **Prof. David Mosse** (£81,229) for a study on *Religion, development and the rights of subordinated people: Christianity and Dalit social action in India*; **Prof. Annabel Sreberny** (£25,314) for a project *Framing Muslims: Structures of Representation post 9/11*; and **Dr Anna Contadini** for the *Objects of Instruction: Treasures of SOAS* exhibition. **Dr John Campbell** has been awarded a two-year Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) grant (£400,000) to examine the UK asylum system from the viewpoint of asylum applicants from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

## \$1.25m for Korean Studies

THE Centre of Korean Studies has secured a major grant of US \$1.25 million over five years from the Academy of Korean Sciences, Republic of Korea. It will enable SOAS to appoint a new lecturer and several postdoctoral research fellows, run prestigious seminars and lectures, and develop new curricular materials for the teaching of Korean history and language.



## New distance learning centre opens

ON 1 August 2007, the former Imperial College Distance Learning Programme at Wye merged with Public Policy and Management of the SOAS Centre for Financial and Management Studies (CeFiMS), thus creating a new centre which combines research strength and complementary distance learning expertise.

The Centre for Development, Environment and Policy (CeDEP) aims to increase professional understanding of

development, the environment, and related subjects – through advanced research and high quality postgraduate degree programmes.

CeDEP and CeFiMS together now have more than 2,400 distance learning students, making SOAS a major global provider of fully structured postgraduate distance learning.

For details, visit:

[www.soas.ac.uk/cefims](http://www.soas.ac.uk/cefims)  
[www.soas.ac.uk/cedep](http://www.soas.ac.uk/cedep)

### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all alumni, staff, students and friends of SOAS who contributed to this issue. The views represented by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of SOAS.

**SOAS photography:** Glenn Ratcliffe

**Cover image:** *Anvar-i-Suhayli, India, 1570 CE (MS10102)* - part of *Treasures of SOAS* exhibition

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# Graduation! A day to remember



**Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws**, the School's President, conferred an Honorary Fellowship on **Prof. Colin Bundy** and Honorary Doctorates on **Dr Irene Khan** and **Dr Mo Ibrahim** at the Graduation Day ceremony on 19 July 2007 in London. From 2008, there will be two graduation dates: 21 July 2008 (afternoon ceremony) and 22 July 2008 (a morning and afternoon ceremony) to accommodate growing student numbers. For details, visit [www.soas.ac.uk](http://www.soas.ac.uk)

Graduates celebrate on the SOAS steps after the Graduation Day Ceremony on 19 July 2007 in Logan Hall, Bedford Square

## Joint winners for Director's Prize

THE 2007 Director's Prize for Teaching has been awarded jointly to **André Noor**, Computing/Statistical Officer and Teaching Fellow, Department of Economics, and to the Elementary Chinese 101/102 [core and compulsory Year one units] teaching team (Convenor **Ms Suen Yik and colleagues**), Department of the Languages and Cultures

of Inner Asia. Special commendation went to **Dr Sian Hawthorne**, Teaching Fellow in Gender Studies and Religion. The Director's Prize recognises excellence in teaching and the promotion of learning within the School.

Its purpose is to stimulate teaching and teaching-related scholarly and/or creative activities, in particular at the undergraduate level. It is open to any member of staff involved in supporting the student learning experience.

## Take-off for SOAS Volunteering Unit

THIS summer the School launched its first ever Volunteering Unit, matching students with local and international NGOs linked to the SOAS disciplines and student career interests.

The Unit is run by the Careers Service in partnership with the Students' Union (which set up a society to help volunteers). More than 80 students have already registered to support more than 200 projects from human rights research to community arts festivals.

If you think your organisation could benefit from SOAS volunteers, please get in touch with the Unit at [volunteering@soas.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@soas.ac.uk)

## PAXMAN'S TRIBUTE TO GALLANT SOAS TEAM

BBC2 host  
Jeremy  
Paxman (2nd  
from right)  
with the SOAS  
University  
Challenge team  
(from left):  
Arthur Saville,  
Joe Perry,  
Ben White  
and Charlotte  
Goodall,  
relaxing off  
the set of the  
quiz show



A VALIANT SOAS team were denied a place in the quarter finals of *University Challenge* – by Director and Principal Paul Webley's former university Exeter.

The London team had already knocked out favourites Magdalen College, Oxford (three times winners in the last decade) in the previous round, and were on a roll.

But there was "no shame at all in going out at the second stage of the finals," the SOAS team were told by Jeremy Paxman, host of the BBC2 TV quiz show on 29 October 2007 after they were defeated 155 to 110 points by Exeter.

SOAS were the only London team left in the competition.

## What's on at the Brunei Gallery

17 January – 22 March 2008

*The Islamic Sultanate of Brunei: Past and Present Culture*

Exhibition by the Brunei Museums will feature artefacts from the Sungai Lima Mains archaeological site, dating from the 10th – 13th centuries AD.

*An Image of Nagaland in 2000*

Photographic exhibition by Thornhaugh Group.

[www.soas.ac.uk/Brunei Gallery](http://www.soas.ac.uk/Brunei Gallery)

THE Centre of Africa studies at SOAS has received a tremendous boost with a donation to fund an initiative on Governance Development in Africa, which will create a dedicated environment to support Africans to study the legal aspects of governance and links between economic development and governance.

This extraordinary gift from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation aims to enable Africans to improve the quality of governance in their countries by supporting them to build their skills and talents within an expert academic environment.

## £1.375 million gift for Governance in Africa



Dr Mo Ibrahim

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's £1.375 million gift will fund four dedicated programmes at SOAS: Leadership Development Fellowships; Residential Schools in Africa; Governance Lectures and PhD Scholarships.

Professor Paul Webley, Director and Principal explains, 'This gift will have a

tremendous impact, not only for SOAS, but also for the future of Africa.

We are delighted that Dr Mo Ibrahim and his fellow Trustees are working with the School on such an exciting project which will have an impact on Africa for years to come.'

## UPDATE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI OFFICE

IN 2007 the UK Government announced a new £200 million 'matched funding' scheme with the aim of increasing voluntary giving to universities by matching donations with public money. It is hoped that the scheme will be an incentive to potential donors to SOAS. Such additional funds will enable SOAS academics and students to have greater impact on the issues that matter to the School and the Development team will be working with colleagues in all departments to maximise this exciting opportunity.

Priorities for the Development team in the coming year include improving

alumni services, increasing the number of scholarships available to SOAS students both from the UK and abroad (with a focus on enabling students from African countries to experience a SOAS education) and supporting the School's vision and strategy towards its centenary in 2016. This year we will be planning an ambitious Capital Campaign which will focus on improving and enhancing the School's buildings and campus.

A major project this year will be looking at how we can provide the best service possible for SOAS alumni. We want to improve what we do online, in person,

in print and on the phone. We will be learning from other universities and working with departments across the School to understand what alumni most value and the benefits and services you would like to see. As part of this major review process, we welcome your feedback about the current alumni offering, and what you think could be improved. Please do get in touch if you would like to make any comments, or take part in testing new initiatives.

Lastly, I should like to introduce myself as the new Director of Development & Alumni Relations. I am delighted to join my excellent colleagues in the Development team and look forward to meeting and working with many of you over the coming years. As Professor Paul Webley says, SOAS has a special atmosphere: distinctive, quirky, passionate and critical – I am going to enjoy being part of this unique institution.

**Fiona McWilliams**  
fiona.mcwilliams@soas.ac.uk

Feedback on alumni services – please contact John Drake:  
alumni@soas.ac.uk  
Sign up for our e-newsletter at  
www.soasalumni.org

## ALUMNI AMBASSADORS WANTED

IN October 2007, Nick Butler (Head of Student Recruitment) represented SOAS on visits to Korea and Taiwan, where he also held informal meetings with alumni. Amanda Barton has recently returned from student recruitment trips to Kenya, Tanzania and Japan, and in November will be meeting prospective students in Mumbai, Pune and Delhi, India.

Student Recruitment member Anja Funston has been working with students from the USA (study abroad), Canada, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia, and Katja Lamping has been working in the UK and Europe.

In September Katja visited Russia, a first for SOAS recruitment, where she spoke to students and academics at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, part of Moscow State University.

Any alumni interested in volunteering to assist SOAS staff at international education fairs, please contact the Student Recruitment team. For details of forthcoming international and UK visits, please visit the section's website at: [www.soas.ac.uk/studying](http://www.soas.ac.uk/studying) or drop a line to: Nick Butler ([nb27@soas.ac.uk](mailto:nb27@soas.ac.uk)), Amanda Barton ([ab103@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ab103@soas.ac.uk)) and Anja Funston ([af7@soas.ac.uk](mailto:af7@soas.ac.uk)).

## Hot off the Press! Memories of SOAS

**SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices**  
SOAS and Third Millennium  
Publishing, London, 2007  
ISBN: 978 1 903942 58 1

SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices is designed to bring back the memories, for all who spent some of the best years of their lives at the School of Oriental and African Studies but it also holds an interest for a wider public – because what

happens at SOAS has a critical relevance far beyond its own doors, to the world we all inhabit today.

To order a copy, please contact SOAS at: [bookshop@soas.ac.uk](mailto:bookshop@soas.ac.uk) or get in touch with Third Millennium Publishing, phone: +44 (0)20 7336 0144, [www.tmltd.com](http://www.tmltd.com) (click on Universities & Colleges).

Please quote the promotion code "SC1" for the special offer price of £39.50 (this includes postage + packaging).





# Professor Elisabeth Croll

THE SOAS community pays tribute to the life of Professor Elisabeth Croll, who over the last 30 years made a truly exceptional contribution to the School, first as a member of the Departments of Anthropology & Sociology and Development Studies, and most recently as Vice-Principal (External Affairs).

In the words of SOAS Director and Principal, Prof. Paul Webley, "Lisa was a wonderful colleague and friend and her energy, enthusiasm and passion for SOAS will be sorely missed."

Lisa Croll was born Elisabeth Joan Sprackett on 21 September 1944 in Reefton, a gold-mining town in South Island New Zealand, where her father was a Presbyterian minister.

She took a BA and MA in history at the University of Canterbury. In 1966 she moved to London with her husband Jim Croll, when he assumed a civil engineering research post. At SOAS, she received a second MA in Far Eastern Studies and in 1977, was awarded a PhD in the Anthropology of China.

She combined raising two children, Nicolas and Katherine, with visits to China and short-term research fellowships at various institutions including SOAS, Princeton University, the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, the Department of International Development at Oxford University, and the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

In 1990, she was appointed lecturer in Anthropology at SOAS, and in 1995 she became Professor of Chinese Anthropology. She was a pioneer in the field of anthropology of development, teaching one of the first courses in the country,

## *Celebrating the Life and Contribution of the SOAS Sinologist and Vice-Principal* (21 Sept 1944 - 3 Oct 2007)



and later also chairing the Centre for Chinese Studies and heading the Department of Development Studies.

"She was the first anthropologist to penetrate remote rural villages in inland China at a time when the political situation made access difficult, and her academic training enabled her to evaluate the practical implications of government policy on marriage and the family with a degree of detachment.

In later life Lisa became involved in campaigns to publicise the plight of unwanted daughters and missing girls in China and Asia." (*Daily Telegraph*, 20 October 2007.)

Her first book was *Feminism and Socialism in China* (1978). Over the course of the next 30 years, she wrote books on social development and on family and gender issues in China and Asia, such as: *The Politics of Marriage in Contemporary China* (1981); *The Family Rice Bowl: Food in the Domestic Economy in China* (1983); *Chinese Women Since Mao* (1984); *China's One-Child Family Policy* (1985); *Women and Rural Development in China* (1985); *From Heaven to Earth: Images and Experiences of Development in China* (1993); *Endangered Daughters* (2000);

and *China's New Consumers: Social Development and Domestic Demand* (2006). Most recently, Professor Croll was appointed CMG for her contribution to higher education, specifically her role in promoting understanding of China's social development.

She was a consultant on poverty, health, food, education and women's rights for UN agencies and both the British and Chinese governments. Lisa was an executive member of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs, vice-chairman of the Great Britain China Centre, and a member of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences.

Lisa passed away on 3 October 2007 after a struggle with cancer. On 10 October 2007 her daughter Katherine received the investiture of insignia of CMG on her mother's behalf.

■ **Director and Principal Professor Paul Webley and his colleagues have created a permanent endowment to celebrate the life and work of Professor Lisa Croll. The endowment will be held by SOAS to support charitable academic purposes such as lectures, awards, and prizes. If you would like additional information or wish to support this fund, please contact the Development & Alumni Affairs Office on [alumni@soas.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@soas.ac.uk)**

## *In Memoriam: former students and staff of SOAS*

### **Paul Bergne CBE**

Intelligence officer, diplomat, scholar, broadcaster and Chair, Advisory Board of the Centre of Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus at SOAS.  
9 January 1937 - 5 April 2007.

**Seth (Shaykh 'Abd al-Hakeem) Carney**  
(MA Islamic Societies and Cultures, 2001; PhD thesis submitted in 2007), who died on 8 July 2007, aged 28 years.

**Jean-Jacques Dunn MBE**  
(Japanese, Department of Linguistics, 1970) British Council Officer. 1926-2007.

### **Bernard Herzberg**

Anti-apartheid activist, trade unionist and 'The world's oldest graduate' (enrolled on MA African Studies, 2005-7).  
21 June 1909 - 16 May 2007.

### **Professor Hugh Hickling**

Colonial lawyer (Malaya) died aged 86. Lecturer in South East Asian law at SOAS where he was awarded his PhD in Law.

### **Gareth Kingdon**

(MA Area Studies - East Asia, 1990) Historian, senior tax specialist at Ford Europe, Ernst & Young in London, Hong

Kong and New York, and the Inland Revenue, keen traveller, loving father to Gus (born May 2006) and husband to Tory.

20 October 1967 - 29 December 2006.

### **Dr Laurence Picken**

Scientist and musicologist, SOAS Honorary Fellow.  
16 July 1909 - 16 March 2007.

### **Dr Paul Thompson**

Senior Lecturer in Chinese, 1970-97, who died on 12 June 2007.

# In search of the father of Gullah

In 1949, after more than 15 years' research, Lorenzo Dow Turner (1890-1972) published *Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect* (University of Chicago Press), a compendium of 4,000 words with etymologies tracing them back to approximately thirty Niger-Congo languages in Africa. Among the terms are "tote", "juke", "goober", "jumbo" and "biddy".

The publication of *Africanisms* established Turner as "the Father of Gullah Studies". He was the first to conduct systematic interviews of Gullah speakers and to make audio recordings of their speech; the first to bring a background in linguistics to the analysis of Gullah.

Lorenzo Dow Turner was also the first to establish that Gullah was a rule-ordered language form, rather than a broken dialect of English, and that many of the differences between Gullah and English lay in the African retentions in Gullah phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary.

Turner conducted fieldwork in the Gullah/Geechee Sea Islands off the United States coast of Georgia in 1932 and 1933.

After attending two six-week long Linguistic Institutes sponsored by the Linguistic Society of America (1930, 1931) and another which convened at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, hosted by the linguist Hans Kurath in 1934, Turner was prepared to investigate the possibility that Gullah contained "Africanisms".

Therefore, during the academic year of 1936-7, he chanced his safe career as a Fisk University (Nashville, Tennessee) professor of English to live in London in order to study the phonetics of African languages with Ida Ward at the School

Publication of the first biography on alumnus and leading African-American linguist Lorenzo Dow Turner in 2007 coincided with the 75th anniversary of applied linguistics at SOAS. Biographer **Dr Margaret Wade-Lewis** recalls the life and times of a pioneer linguist

of Oriental Studies (African had not yet been added to the name of the School). *Africanisms* might not ever have been written if Turner had not found his way to the language specialists at SOAS.

The background he needed was not available at any university in the United States at that time. His main professor in London Ida Ward had made herself a specialist in Bantu languages while living in Nigeria.

At the University of London, Ward supplemented her knowledge by utilizing native speakers in the classroom as informants.

It was at SOAS that Lorenzo Dow Turner first began to gain confirmation for his hypothesis. In fact, he stated in a November

15, 1936 letter to President Jones of Fisk University that, according to statistics, most of the slaves brought to South Carolina and Georgia came from the West coast where Niger-Congo languages were spoken: "The resemblances between these languages and Gullah are much more striking than I had supposed. Many of the constructions are identical, and there are close

correspondences in intonation and inflections...."

While in London, Turner also met Daniel Jones of the International Phonetic Association, attended meetings of the British Philological Society and the Royal Society of Literature, and heard several interesting and inspiring lectures. When the summer of 1937 arrived, having gained funds from the American Council of Learned Societies, Turner travelled to Paris.

Through good fortune, he impressed Professor Henri Labouret, the Director of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, who arranged to have him assigned a tent/ office on the fair grounds of the Exposition Internationale (an international exposition of arts and crafts).

Not only did Labouret make valuable suggestions to Turner, he also directed visiting Africans to him. Many of them were officials representing countries where French was the colonial language. When they arrived at his door, Turner played Gullah recordings, hopeful that they would find some materials recognisable. Turner found link after link between Gullah and some of the



*Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect was one of the early studies of a creole language*





From humble beginnings to pioneer research and digital data

# We've come a long long way from our 1936 gramophone

by Professor Bruce Ingham, Head of the Department of Linguistics 1996-8 and 2005-2008



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Linguistics Department at SOAS. This was the first Linguistics department ever set up in Britain and, under the headship of Professor Sir J Raymond Firth, it evolved the Prosodic School of Phonology and the poly-systemic approach to linguistics in general.

Firth was a friend and colleague of the LSE anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowsky and it is thought that they had a mutual influence on each other's thought and work. Following the Linguistic department's foundation in 1932, the School bought its first apparatus to make gramophone records (*cutting below*).

Among its first alumni were Paul Robeson and Lorenzo Dow Turner. Today our alumni are in prestigious posts worldwide and, from humble beginnings, the Linguistics Resources' Room now contains a digital recording booth, and digital video and audio editing equipment, as well as the early archive 78rpm gramophone recordings made by SOAS researchers from the 1930s onwards.

The conference on *Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory* on 7 and 8 December 2007 at SOAS was organised to commemorate the achievement of 75 years of Linguistics at SOAS, and five years of the Endangered Languages Project.

For details, visit [www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics](http://www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics)

Left: Extract - SOAS Annual Report, 1936

Second from right: Professor Ida Ward, who was a Phonetician and Professor of African linguistic research (1932-8)



African languages. Through his discussion with the African visitors he also learned important details of the structures of Ewe-Fõn, Bambara and Wolof.

Turner's African informants in Paris confirmed the insights he had reached in London in his studies with Ward. By the end of summer, 1937, Turner had unlocked the door. He held in his hands the evidence he needed to codify many unique aspects of Gullah.

After many additional years of research (in northern Brazil among the Nagos of Nigerian background in 1940-41), and more forays in the Sea Islands (1939, 1942), Turner was confident of the thoroughness of his research.

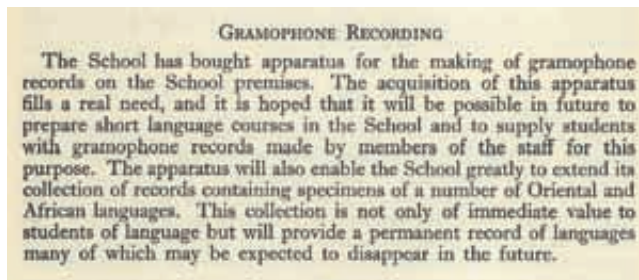
He had located further corroboration of African linguistic retentions in both geographic territories. *Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect* was a major breakthrough in our understanding of linguistic variation and one of the early studies of a creole language.

This is the first full-length Turner biography. It answers many questions about the man who created the Gullah revolution and increased our interest in, and understanding of, Creole languages.

■ Publication details for *Lorenzo Dow Turner: Father of Gullah Studies* by Dr Margaret Wade-Lewis (The University of South Carolina Press, 2007) are on the University of South Carolina Press website: [www.sc.edu/uscpres](http://www.sc.edu/uscpres)

## ◁ This was the first Linguistics department set up in Britain ▷

Professor Sir J Raymond Firth (1932-56) who headed up the first Linguistics Department



### DID YOU KNOW?

**POLY-SYSTEMIC** means "seeing the sound system of languages as not analyzable in terms of one system working for all types of word, but rather in terms of different systems working for different word classes."

**PROSODIC** means "analyzing words not only in terms of 'segmental features' arranged consecutively, but also in terms of 'super-segmental' features which run through a number of segments."





# Princess Royal visits



## Warm welcome for HRH – and Celebration gift

RARELY seen illuminated Islamic manuscripts, Chinese and Japanese paintings and prints, South East Asian Buddhist sculpture and modernist paintings from South Asia and Africa captured the Royal eye when HRH The Princess Royal was given a guided tour of the latest headline exhibition at the the Brunei Gallery on the 30 October 2007.

*Pictured above: (main picture) HRH The Princess Royal is presented with an exhibition catalogue and a copy of SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices by (from left to right) Lady Barbara Judge, Chair of the Governing Body; Professor Paul Webley, SOAS Director and Principal; and Curator Dr Anna Contadini. (inset) The Princess Royal with (from left to right) Lady Barbara Judge, Registrar and Secretary Ms Sharon Page, and Pro-Director Professor Peter Robb*

HRH The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, was visiting the School to commemorate the opening of the *Objects of Instruction: Treasures of SOAS* exhibition in the Brunei Gallery.

The Princess Royal was shown around by the exhibition's curator **Dr Anna Contadini**, accompanied by **Lady Barbara Judge**, Chair of the Governing Body and **Professor Paul Webley**, Director and Principal of SOAS.

Curator Dr Contadini said the exhibition provided the chance "to see some very special pieces and learn more about European reactions to Asia and Africa, as well as finding out how the fascinating SOAS collections were amassed". The exhibition has been made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Foyle Foundation, and a



grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It finally puts on public display some of the expanding collection of art objects, and rare books and manuscripts that have been generously donated to SOAS over the years.

Following the tour of the main exhibition





# its SOAS treasures



**Exhibition highlights**

- (main picture)  
The burning of Sanjō Palace, Heiji Monogatari & Hōgen Monogatari, Japan, 17th century (MS41853)
- (top strip from left)
- Double frontispiece from a copy of the divan by Iranian poet Hāfiz (d. 1389), Iran, 16th cent. (MS25293)
- Seated Buddha, Burma, ca. 1800
- Part of an inscription band - from major tile production town Kashan, Iran, late 13th-early 14th century
- Kṛṣṇa (right) and Balarāma by Jamini Roy, India, 1940s
- Ewer, Iran, 12th-13th century
- Gift by Puyi, the last Emperor of China (1906-67), to Sir Reginald Johnston, his tutor - China, 17th cent. (MS62612)

The Princess Royal was accompanied by **John Hollingworth**, Exhibitions Officer, around a second exhibition of photographs, entitled: *Picturing China 1870-1950*, also on display this autumn in the Brunei Gallery.

She was introduced to **Mr Silas Krendel**, **Mrs Anne Bruh** and **Mr David Hall**, of the

Foyle Foundation; to members of the SOAS International Advisory Board, and to staff and students. Prof Webley presented the Princess with a copy of the show catalogue *Objects of Instruction: Treasures of SOAS*, and the recently published *SOAS: A Celebration in Many Voices*.



Photographs © Hema Kotecha



## Conversations with my local guide led to insightful – and hilarious – field trips



On eventful trips to Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan in 2004-6 **Hema Kotecha** (MSc Development Studies, 2002) rattled along many a back road researching security issues in the region

Choosing Kazakhstan as a place to study Russian was determined by a desire to work in Central Asia, where Russian is still a *lingua franca*. While working on contracts for international organisations, I was commissioned to write a research report for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on security issues in the southern region of the country, bordering Uzbekistan.

On the basis of my final report I was invited to Azerbaijan in October 2005 to conduct a similar research project for the OSCE Office in Baku but with far greater scope, covering the entire country and the local politics of its diverse and fragmented ethnic and religious groupings.

My work in Central Asia and the Caucasus occasioned a few 'text-book' style interviews on topics I'd studied at SOAS. One such was with a village *mullah* on the Iranian border, who drew his spiritual authority in part from a grandfather who had studied in Najaf, an Iraqi bastion of Shia learning, and a father who had con-

# Byroads

tinued the tradition through the Soviet period. His father had escaped the local religious police by also being a musician, which somehow made the authorities believe that he couldn't also be a religious zealot or Iranian agent.

The *mullah* recounted his past as an influential *kholzhoz* (co-operative) head in this fertile region. His position provided him with a network of contacts which allowed him to gain the knowledge necessary to benefit from post-Soviet privatisation, and to establish himself as a landowner, ensuring his produce was given priority through the factories and bazaars. Thus able to

employ most of his village, and provide spiritual services 'free of charge', he had managed to maintain a high status and respected role in the community through the period of difficult structural change, which left many without employment or social support.

The OSCE Office helped me find a driver and initial contacts to start my search for report material. I came across my assistant Elchin at a youth conference, when I was despairing at finding a translator with whom I could travel and work. I often found my intended 'anthropological approach' scuppered by the tendency of young professionals, educated

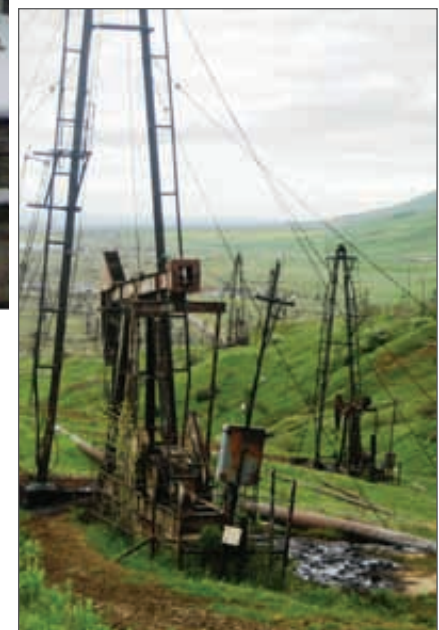


*Post-Soviet impressions of Central Asia and the Caucasus*

*Left: Sabail district, Baku, Azerbaijan*

*Far left: Dusk in Sheki, a town in the Greater Caucasus in the north-west of Azerbaijan, one of the many towns alumna Hema Kotecha visited during her travels in the region*

*Below: Derelict oil field, donkeys and derricks, Azerbaijan*



# to Baku

in law or public administration, to dismiss views heard in the countryside as ‘ignorant’ of legal provisions and of historical facts.

Elchin was from ‘the village’ himself, which gave him a distinct advantage in understanding traditional values and expectations outside metropolitan Baku. A former oil-rig security consultant, he had made the decision to abandon his international career for a Masters in the USA, to finally return and help the development of his country.

Sharing observations and interpretations of interviews led to many a complicated and hilarious, but insightful

conversation along windy, bumpy roads on our field trips.

The OSCE essentially seeks to maintain channels of communication between the ‘West’ and the newly independent countries and to facilitate state development and co-operation.

The organisation’s methodological structure provided an interesting framework through which to combine anthropological analysis of identity formation and change in the post-Soviet Muslim world with a broader political and strategic context. The topic of my research particularly demanded a careful consideration of tensions inherent

within policy requirements encouraging increased ‘freedom’ in the post-Soviet environment.

It was also an opportunity to reflect on resonances from British post-colonial studies – so familiar at SOAS – in the break-up of the Russian-Soviet Empire. This comparative approach to social changes was delved into in long, enjoyable conversations with local academics and researchers in Baku.

■ *Islamic and Ethnic Identities in Azerbaijan: Emerging Trends and Tension* can be found at: [www.osce.org/baku](http://www.osce.org/baku)  
e-mail: [hema@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:hema@dunelm.org.uk)



## Donna Bawden

(MA Medical Anthropology, 2005) is an HIV/AIDS volunteer in Lesotho.

Donna almost immediately began to put her skills to work as a volunteer with Help Lesotho, an Ottawa-based charity with the mission to mitigate against the effects of HIV/AIDS in Lesotho by promoting education, leadership development and local partnerships.

Donna recently moved to Lesotho, a tiny, mountainous, land-locked country in southern Africa, to become an HIV/AIDS and gender equity officer. She is working incredibly hard to create environments where Basotho youth can overturn the barriers created by HIV/AIDS infection, either by the youth themselves or within their families, and by gender inequality.

Donna is currently supporting Help Lesotho's work to create new youth centres, which provide local com-



Donna Bawden reviews HIV education materials with Lerotholi Ntsane (left) and Setloke Lekhela (right), two of Help Lesotho's youth volunteers

munities with HIV education, as well as leadership and skills training. In coming months, Donna will help plan a young women's conference on HIV/AIDS and gender equity training, as well as a leadership camp that is

scheduled to bring together more than 250 students, teachers and youth in January 2008.

For more information about Help Lesotho, visit [www.helplesotho.com](http://www.helplesotho.com) or e-mail [donnabawden@helplesotho.ca](mailto:donnabawden@helplesotho.ca)

## Silva Lauffer

(BA Politics and Bahasa Indonesia, 2000)

works in the humanitarian sector.

After her BA, Silva worked in humanitarian relief/development programmes with NGOs and the United Nations in places such as Colombia, Ecuador, Timor Leste, Serbia, Pakistan, Northern Uganda, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Sudan. In

between, she completed a Masters in Strategic Affairs at the Australian National University while tutoring undergraduate students in 'Diplomacy and International Conflict'. Now she is the International Programme Director for the British NGO RedR ([www.redr.org.uk](http://www.redr.org.uk)), running their overseas programme from its base in Westminster. [silva.lauffer@redr.org](mailto:silva.lauffer@redr.org)



## Mary Nazzal-Batayneh

(MA in International and Comparative Legal Studies, 2005) is now a Barrister and member of the Bar of England and Wales.

After completing her Masters in International and Comparative Legal Studies at SOAS, she attained her LLB and then completed the Bar Vocational Course. While – thanks to SOAS Professor Catriona Drew among others – Mary



is under no illusions on the rightfulness of law, she hopes to channel her qualifications into legal activism. Mary continues to campaign alongside several human rights groups for Palestinian rights. Mary and Aysar, her husband of five years, have recently moved to Jordan and would love SOAS friends to come visit. [mary@marnazzal.com](mailto:mary@marnazzal.com)



## James Edgar Taylor

(MA Arabic, 2003) is pursuing cultural interests in dhows, pearl diving and seafaring.

Unlike most students, James came to SOAS at the end of a long, adventurous career in the Indian Army, Colonial Engineering Service and Industry, which had taken him to India, the Middle East, East Africa and South America.

His two children were already well established in their

chosen professions and he needed something better than sudoku or crossword puzzles to occupy his mind; so he took up Arabic.

Since graduating James has written, lectured and reviewed books on aspects of Arab culture, mainly, but not exclusively, on dhows and pearl diving. He is currently translating and commenting on a couple of Arabic texts on seafaring. [jasedta@hotmail.com](mailto:jasedta@hotmail.com)

## Deep K Datta-Ray

(BA History, 2002) appears frequently in the op-ed pages of *The Times of India*, *South China Morning Post* and several other Asian dailies.

Deep is currently embedded in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi performing field-work for his DPhil at the University of Sussex. Deep also trains diplomats. This is the first time an outside researcher has been permitted into their foreign service.

[dattaray@gmail.com](mailto:dattaray@gmail.com)



## Thane Byng

(MA African Art course, 1994-5; part of an MA Anthropology of Art, UCL) has returned from Albania and is campaigning to restore the reputation of her ancestral uncle, Admiral John Byng.

Thane is currently in Brussels, having recently returned from four years in Albania. In the capital, Tirana, she initiated several projects for young people, one of which – *The Chess Project* for orphans – continues to create interest. As part of the European Commission initiative, Thane exhibited her paintings (entitled 'Mysticism') with Agron Polovina, an Albanian artist and Director of The Edward Lear Art Gallery, Berat. They jointly exhibited at The Edward Lear Gallery, The National Gallery, Tirana, and in Kosovo. The two artists symbolically represented the future EU / Albanian partnership.

Thane has devised a dramatic oratorio entitled *The Musket Ball* to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the execution of her ancestral uncle, Admiral John Byng, the only British Admiral ever to have been shot – as Voltaire wrote – 'pour encourager les autres'. *The Musket Ball* will be performed on 14 March 2008 in Southill, Bedfordshire. There is now a formal petition to the government launched by the villagers of Southill, Bedfordshire (where Byng is buried) and headed by the Southill Church warden Mr Nico Rodenburg, to review the verdict of the trial of Admiral Byng, who was made a scapegoat for the loss of Minorca in 1757.

Write to [thane.byng@uclmail.net](mailto:thane.byng@uclmail.net) if you are interested in further details about the campaign. [thane\\_byng@hotmail.com](mailto:thane_byng@hotmail.com)



*Thane in front of one of her African spirits inspired paintings, exhibited in 2006 in The National Gallery Tirana, Albania*



## At the Natural History Museum, South Africa

**Dr Ramani M Narayanan (PhD Art and Archaeology, 1979-83)** (far right) photographed with her husband at the Natural History Museum, Cape Town, where she was able to follow up a long-term interest in the history of early human and natural life that dates from her studies in the 1970s at London University. Her trip included visits to (above, from left to right) the Hindu Temple in Durban and 'the end of the rainbow' over Cape Point.



## Binh G Phan

(MA {with Distinction}, Area Studies – China, 1995)

has returned to Higher Education.

After 10 years holding various administrative posts in local government, Binh returned to higher education in October 2006 as Director of Operations at California State University, Los Angeles. He runs a small Univer-

sity enterprise, which keeps him at the office for about 50 hours a week!

"Much has happened since I left the steps of SOAS in 1995. It seems like yesterday, but it was a long time ago. Yet, in the still of some evenings half a world away, with a glass of Merlot in hand, I think fondly of my year at SOAS and my two years in London."

[baselinebudget@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:baselinebudget@yahoo.co.uk)



*Kristin on the day of her call to the Bar*

## Kristin Heimark

(LLB, 1994) was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn at their Trinity Call ceremony (26 July 2007, London)

After her graduation from SOAS, Kristin continued her legal studies at the London School of Economics (LLM 1996). Her thesis, "Sexual Harassment in the United States Navy", was published in the *Naval Law Review* (44:223-243 '97). Kristin has worked at the in-house legal teams of several inner London boroughs and is an Associate Lecturer in Public and Criminal law at the Open University. She intends to practise Public law at the Bar.

## Sumbul (Shaista) Ali-Karamali

(LLM in Islamic Law, 1993) has published "*Islam at Home*".

Sumbul moved back to the US and has been raising her children, but also lecturing on Islam and Islamic law. She currently serves on the board of trustees of Hidden Villa, a non-profit educational institution that uses its 1,600-acre wilderness preserve to teach environmental education and multicultural education to more than 22,000 people a year. She has homeschooled her son for several years. "My big news is that I have a book

coming out in March 2008 (White Cloud Press) *Islam at Home: Conversations with the Muslim Girl Next Door*. It is an explanation of Islam set in the personal context of growing up Muslim and female in a Western country. It's full of anecdotes and written in a conversational style, but it's academically sound and well-researched. I've written it for the lay reader, but I'm hoping universities will buy it as a textbook for comparative religion or Islam classes. I've lost touch with some of my SOAS friends, so I'd love for them to email me. [home4school@gmail.com](mailto:home4school@gmail.com)





**Simon Gordon-Walker****(MA Area Studies {Africa}, 1982)***works in water supply planning.*

Since graduating Simon studied and taught in Nigeria and has had a number of jobs working in international market research and marketing, before settling at the Water Research Centre, where he is now a Director of its Regulatory Business. Much of his work for the last 18 years has been working with the World Bank and the Water and Sanitation Programme in Africa, Asia and South America.

Over the last six years most of this work has centred on Africa, providing training and support to Government and water utilities to improve planning and management. In Ethiopia this work involved working with WaterAid and some excellent local experts in town water supply planning. He would be really pleased to hear from, and exchange information and views with, those involved in similar work in Africa.

More about his work at: [www.waterbusiness-planning.com](http://www.waterbusiness-planning.com) Email: [simongw@btinternet.com](mailto:simongw@btinternet.com)



*Simon Gordon-Walker (pictured here outside a church, just north of Addis Ababa) in Ethiopia, for his work*

**Hugh Osborne****(MA Area Studies - Far East, 1989)**

*is currently teaching (academic and language) support for international students at University of Bath and Bath Spa University.*

[hugh@hughosborne.com](mailto:hugh@hughosborne.com)

**Meredith Davis****(MA African Studies, 1980)**

*is organising a camporee. She writes:*

"In my 'second job' as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts of Northern California, I am directing an international camporee for older (aged 13-18) Girl Scouts and Girl Guides and their leaders between July 13 and July 20, 2008 on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay! I encourage all alumnae who are associated with Girl Guides or Girl Scouts in their countries to contact me for information - we are looking forward to welcoming up to 2,000 participants from all over the world!"

[Meredith.Davis@calbt.com](mailto:Meredith.Davis@calbt.com)

**Professor Rosalie Finlayson**

**(PhD Linguistics, 1972)** *was made full professor in the Department of African Languages, University of South Africa in 1981.*

Rosalie's years of doctoral study at SOAS included a comparison of nine Southern African Bantu languages. Her post-doctoral research has focused on the role of language in society (sociolinguistics), comparative language studies, intellectualisation of the African languages as well as language and the media. She joined the University of South Africa in 1975.

As a member of the Pan South African Language Board, she has served on the Minister of Arts and Culture's Advisory Panel on Human Language Technologies and the Minister of Education's Committee to advise on the Development of Indigenous African Languages

as Mediums of Instruction in Higher Education. She is on a National Research Foundation (NRF) Advisory Committee on Research Capacity Development as part of the Historically Black University Programme.

In 2003 she received the University of South Africa (UNISA) Chairperson of Council Award for Excellence in the category: Outstanding Scholar.

As Academic Planner from 2004-2006 she was responsible for managing the reorganisation of the full spectrum of technician and university type qualifications in the merger of academic offerings from the original three institutions into one new comprehensive, dedicated, open and distance-learning institution, the University of South Africa. She is married to Ken and they have two daughters, Suzanne who is a specialist general practitioner and Katherine who works for an international investment bank in London.

[Finlar@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Finlar@unisa.ac.za)

**Kofi Asare**

**(BA Development Studies and Economics, 2002)** *celebrates Ghana's independence.*

He writes: "Ghana@50 really united the country for the two weeks that the celebrations were going on." Kofi (inset picture) was driving in town when he saw the man with the flag who gladly posed for him.

[asarekofi@hotmail.com](mailto:asarekofi@hotmail.com)



Picture: Kofi Asare ©

**Berlin Calling**

Are there any SOAS alumni in Berlin?

Please get in touch with **Andrea Schuessler (MSc International Politics, 2005)** (right) to arrange for an informal get together:

[andrea.schuessler@gmx.net](mailto:andrea.schuessler@gmx.net)



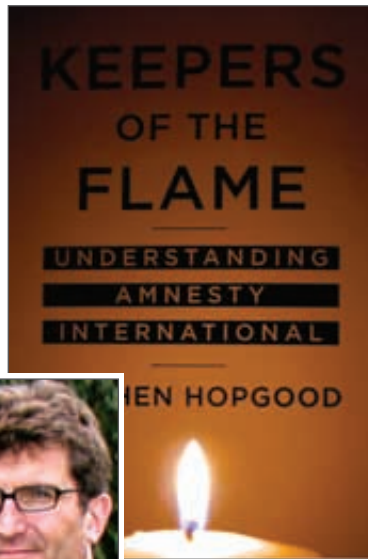
**Want to get in touch...?**

**We'd love to hear from you! Please contact us and send text and photos by 31 March 2008 to [alumni@soas.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@soas.ac.uk)**

**HUMAN RIGHTS BOOK AWARD FOR SOAS LECTURER**

*Keeper of the Flame: Understanding Amnesty International*

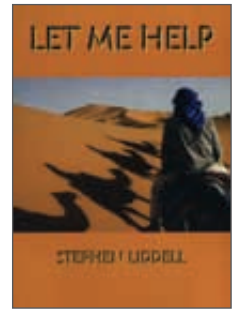
(Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2006) by **Dr Stephen Hopgood** has won the Best Book on Human Rights 2006. The award is from the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and was presented to Dr Hopgood on 31 August 2007 at the APSA annual conference in Chicago.  
ISBN-10: 0801472512



*Dr Stephen Hopgood, Senior Lecturer in International Politics in the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS*

*Let Me Help*

(Four O'Clock Press, 2007) by **Stephen Liddell** (BA and MA in African and Asian History (ME), 1997) is the tale of a young man who is thrust into life as a slave and through a lifetime of adventures ends up a general in the Persian army, while trying to get back home. "Following my time at SOAS I spent the best part of a decade travelling but also writing an historical fiction novel *Let Me Help*," says Liddell. "My book is dedicated to SOAS and also a key element of the story takes place in SOAS library."  
ISBN-10: 1906146349



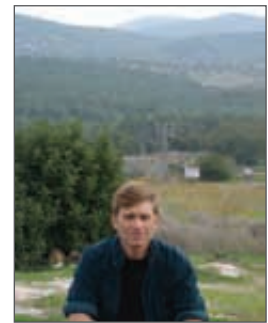
*Grand Canal, Great River: The Travel Diary of a Twelfth-Century Chinese Poet*

(Francis Lincoln Publishers, 2007) by **Philip Watson** **CMG** (SOAS Occasional Student, Chinese) is a translation from Classical Chinese of the diary of Lu You (1125-1210), which Lu You wrote in 1170 when he travelled up the Grand Canal and the Yangzi, going from Shaoxing in eastern China to Sichuan in the west. The translator has also provided a commentary, illustrations, and dramatis personae.  
ISBN-10: 0711227195



*The Mongols in the Islamic Lands: Studies in the History of the Ilkhanate*

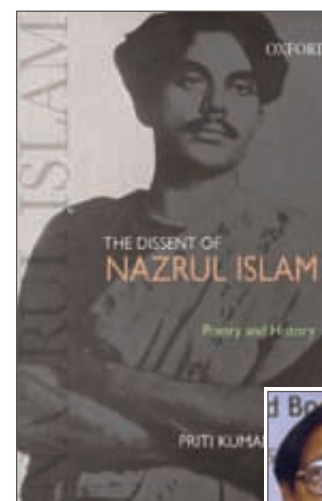
(Ashgate, 2007) by **Professor Reuven Amitai** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; SOAS Occasional student, Middle Eastern Studies, 1985-6) examines the impact of the Mongols in the eastern Muslim world and the state established around 1260 by Hülegü, grandson of Chinggis Khan; the development of the land-tenure system; the title *ilkhan*; the use of Arabic sources for the history of the Ilkhanate; the eventual conversion of the Mongols to Islam; and – most prominently – the ongoing war with the Mamluk Sultanate to the west.  
ISBN-10: 0754659143



*Professor Reuven Amitai pictured at Ayn Jalut, the battlefield where, in 1260, the Mamluks defeated the Mongols*

*The Dissent of Nazrul Islam: Poetry and History*

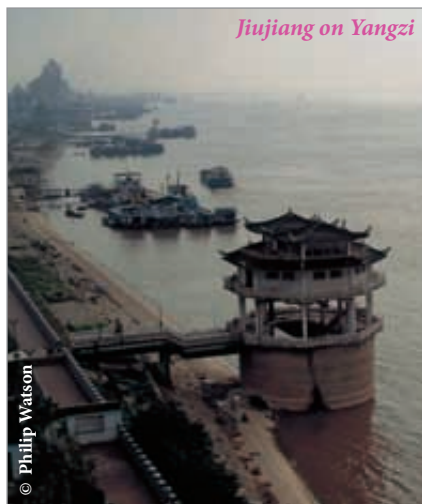
(OUP, New Delhi, 2007) by **Priti Kumar Mitra** (Professor of History and former Director, Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS), Rajshahi University Bangladesh) primarily focuses on Nazrul's dissent against the British colonial government in India, the Gandhian non-violent means of nationalist struggle, Islamic fundamentalism and Hindu cultural chauvinism, as well as the hegemony of Rabindranath Tagore in the world of Bengali literature. Mitra's book is one of the first works in English on the life and times of Nazrul Islam with English translations of many of his verses. Prof. Mitra writes: "Part of the research resulting in the production of this book was done in 1981 and 1991 at SOAS. I express my gratitude to the School for support."



*Professor P K Mitra*



Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976) came into prominence in the 1920s as the 'Rebel Poet', startling the Indian literary world with his radical ideas and defiant utterances.  
ISBN-10: 0195683986



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