



Humanitarian Action in Somalia Expanding Humanitarian Space

Refugees Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development,
University of Oxford

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List of speakers and profiles

Professor Roland Marchal

Roland Marchal holds his degrees from the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHEES/School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences) and University Paris VI. He is senior research fellow at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), based at the Centre for International Studies and Researches (CERI/Sciences-Po, Paris). He has been researching and publishing on the conflicts and politics in Africa and produced papers, articles and expert reports on Sudan, Chad and Somalia. Roland was the chief editor of the French academic quarterly, *Politique africaine* from 2002 to 2006.

Humanitarian crisis in Somalia: context and challenges

Professor David Anderson (Chair)

David Anderson is Professor of African Politics and Director of the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, and a Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford. His research interests have remained focused upon eastern and central Africa, but his published work has ranged across a wide variety of topics, from histories of environmental change to current analysis of political violence. His publications include *Histories of the Hanged: Britain's Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire* (2005), and *Eroding the Commons* (2002). He has recently completed a study of *Violence and Politics in Kenya*. His current projects include a collection of essays on *Ethnic Claims and Moral Economies*, to be published in 2010, and a study of the *Cold War in Africa*, planned for 2011. He is the founder and Executive Editor of the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.

Nuradin Dirie

Nuradin Dirie is a former presidential candidate for Puntland State of Somalia. He has been following Somalia for the last 15 years. Prior to his presidential bid, he served as Senior Advisor to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). He also coordinated the humanitarian aid to Somalia, overseeing the operation following the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Wafaa Saeed

Wafaa Saeed is the Chief of Field Office for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Central Southern Somalia. She has been working with the United Nations for more than 9 years: 5 years with WFP, 2 years with UN OCHA and now into her third year with UNICEF. Wafaa is holder of two Master's degrees, respectively on Physical Planning (University of Khartoum - Sudan) and on Architecture of Human Settlements (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - Belgium)

Catherine-Lune Grayson

Catherine-Lune Grayson has been working with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) since January 2008 as a migration and protection advisor for the Horn of Africa and Yemen. She first spent time in Somalia in 2007 as an advocacy officer for OCHA. Prior to working in the Horn of Africa, she spent several years in Chad and Burundi with UNHCR. She worked as a journalist before becoming a humanitarian worker.

Frans Barnard

Frans Barnard is a senior NGO security advisor, having provided security services to major NGOs in sub Saharan Africa and Indonesia. In Chechnya he was Country Representative for CARE Canada. He is currently the Horn of Africa and Yemen Regional Security Advisor for the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) based out of Nairobi Kenya.

Dr Laura Hammond

Laura Hammond is Senior Lecturer in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). She has been researching Somali affairs since the mid-1990s. In 1998 she worked for UNDP-Somalia as a Reintegration Consultant, and was seconded to the Somaliland Ministry of Planning and Coordination. In 2008, with Ken Menkhaus, she wrote a Drivers of Change Analysis for Somalia, commissioned by DFID. She has also conducted research with the Somali diaspora in the US and UK, examining remittances, social integration, and political activism. Her current research concerns the involvement of members of the Somaliland diaspora in electoral politics.

Expanding humanitarian space: operational innovations

Jacob McKnight (Chair)

Jacob McKnight has worked in Africa for the last 5 years for a number of humanitarian agencies and academic projects. Jacob's DPhil interests are concerned with the effective delivery of vaccination in Ethiopia through agencies such as WHO and UNICEF.

As an engineer and logistician for Médecins Sans Frontières, Jacob had the opportunity to experience the difficulties of managing effective aid projects in Somalia. He has retained a keen interest in the country both in his studies and his personal interests and now leads the Oxford University Horn of Africa Group which brings together researchers interested in the horn.

Duncan Bell

Duncan Bell is currently pursuing a Masters degree at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in Humanitarian Studies. The title of his dissertation is “Analysing perceptions of challenges & strategies for remote control programmes in complex humanitarian emergencies- A case study of Medecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (MSFCH) in Somalia”. He has worked for several international NGO in Botswana & South Africa on HIV/Aids community education from 2001 to 2003. From 2004 to 2008 he worked with MSF Switzerland in Uganda, Sudan (Darfur), Ethiopia, Liberia, and Somalia. In October 2009, he will resume his function as Head of Mission for MSF Switzerland.

Adam Combs

Adam Combs is currently employed by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) as a Program Coordinator for Sudan and Somalia. During the last 12 years, he has been engaged in the humanitarian and developmental sectors in Eastern Africa with a specific focus on the Horn of Africa.

Dr Edwina Thompson

Dr Edwina Thompson is currently an advisor in the emergency humanitarian aid sector. In 2007, she managed World Vision International's research project that mapped the impact of changing trends in military and police engagement upon NGO operations, policy and strategy in 20+ countries. The main challenge identified was how NGOs can balance humanitarian principles with the various tactical choices facing staff at the field level.

Previously, Edwina worked in refugee protection at Amnesty International and the Red Cross. Her early research focused on gender and the effects of gun violence, while her doctorate was based on field research into the workings of ‘hawala’ in Afghanistan, focusing by extension on the informal economic institutions that operate so effectively where formal institutions collapse, such as in Afghanistan and Somalia. She was subsequently asked to be an expert on the UN Security Council Monitoring Group of the arms embargo in Somalia.

Susanne Jaspars

Susanne Jaspars is currently a Research Fellow with the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), working on issues of nutrition, food security and livelihoods in emergencies. She has more than 20 years experience of working in both conflict and

natural disasters, for a number of agencies, including MSF, Oxfam, UNHCR, and WFP. She has also carried out operational research into the role of nutrition in famine, food distribution, and livelihoods in conflict. Her regional expertise is mainly in the Horn, East and Central Africa, which has included work in Somalia in 1987/88, 1993/94, 2000 and 2008.

Nisar Majid

Nisar Majid has worked for 10 years in the area of food security and livelihoods analysis, particularly in the Horn of Africa with disaster early warning and monitoring systems of Governments, the UN and NGOs. He has also participated in a number of technical and organisational reviews and evaluations in this field, with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and independently. He began full-time doctoral research in October 2007 at the University of Bristol, with the provision thesis title – “Somalis in the global political economy: transnational networks, indigenous development and implications for international institutions”.

Simon Springett

Simon is the Humanitarian Coordinator for Oxfam covering the Middle East, Eastern Europe, North Africa, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. He has worked internationally on humanitarian aid and development programmes for the last 15 years with the United Nations, Red Cross, and international NGOs. Simon’s primary experience is rapid onset emergency relief programmes and he has worked in Africa, Europe, South and East Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Middle East. Simon is a member of the Steering Committee of The Humanitarian Forum, a board member of People in Aid, and a board member of the Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition Scientific Advisory Board.

Hassan Noor

Hassan Noor is the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia Oxfam GB Programme. Hassan has worked on the Somali starvation crisis in 1992 as well as in Darfur and northern Uganda.

[A pioneer graduate of Makerere University's first M.A Human Rights Programme], he is the author of "Emergency within an Emergency: the Somalia IDPs" in the forced migration review journal. Since 2006, Hassan has been leading Oxfam GB's multi dimensional and innovative humanitarian programme. Hassan is among the few senior aid managers who go inside Somalia and almost literally everywhere where there is crisis. Following his last visit, Hassan contributed to an Oxfam press release where he vividly described the conditions of the civilians. His statement was quoted in printed media all over the world. In comparison to other emergencies, he describes Somalia as the "the worst crisis he has have ever seen."

Islamic charitable funding and humanitarian agencies

Hashi Mohamed (Chair)

Hashi Mohamed is currently completing an MSc in African Studies at St-Antony's College with specific interest in the Horn of Africa. His dissertation focuses on minorities in East Africa, using the Somalis of Kenya as a case study. Before coming to Oxford he worked as a BBC broadcast journalist for a year, working as a producer on news and current affairs programmes. Hashi holds a BA (Hons) in Law and French completed in 2007 and hopes to enter the legal profession after his masters. Hashi was born to Somali parents in Nairobi, Kenya, but was raised mainly in London and also lived in France.

Ali Osmam

Ali Osmam has over 15 years experience in working with refugee and ethnic minority communities.

He worked as social worker at an asylum seekers camp in Holland and led one of Somali community organisations in the Netherland for 5 years until he moved to the UK in 2000 where he worked with Greenwich and Hackney councils and became involved with various community activities. He joined Muslim Aid in 2006 and held various positions in emergency, relief and development programmes. He started as Tsunami programme officer and later worked as Middle East and Somalia desk manager. At the beginning of last year he became East and West Africa desk manager (Somalia, Kenya and Gambia). During these three and half years he was involved in different relief and development activities.

Ali Osman has a Diploma in social studies, a BA in Development Studies & International Relations and an Msc in Development Studies.

Valeria Saggiomo

Valeria Saggiomo received her first degree in Political Sciences -African Studies- in 2001 (University L'Orientale of Naples, Italy) and her second degree in International Cooperation for Development in 2003 (University of Padua, Italy). She subsequently worked as humanitarian worker in Kenya, Somalia and Sudan for NGOs, UN Agencies and Governmental Offices. She is currently teaching Monitoring and Evaluation of development projects in Italy under the framework of her PhD study on the Islamic humanitarianism in Somalia. Recent publications include "Models of Aid to Somalia" (forthcoming) and "Linkages between International Aid and Identity Creation in Somalia" (2007).

Makki Mohamed

Makki Mohamed has over 23 years' of experience with the UN and international non-governmental organisations. He started his career with Save the Children US and worked in Sudan between 1986 and 1989 as a project manager for water and sanitation. From 1990 to 1996, Makki worked with the United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) in Sudan in various key positions. He managed UNICEF's interventions in the integrated development programme, primary health care, emergency project and the Child Friendly Communities initiatives. He joined Islamic Relief in 1996 and worked in Bangladesh as a Country Director until 1999. Between 1999 2003 he worked for Afghanaid in Afghanistan as Community Development Director.

Since 2003 Makki is working with Islamic Relief in its Headquarter in Birmingham, UK as a Head of Africa Region. He has established Islamic Relief's operations in many countries in Africa including in Somalia, Kenya, Niger, Chad, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Sudan & West Darfur.

James Shaw-Hamilton

James is the Director of the Humanitarian Forum, an international alliance of humanitarian and development actors seeking to build bridges between the "Western" and "Muslim" worlds, and to improve the capacity of local NGOs by supporting forums in a number of countries (currently Indonesia, Kuwait, Sudan and Yemen). The international Steering Committee includes organisations like UNOCHA, the Red Cross family, Oxfam, Islamic Relief and large Islamic charities in the Gulf; in all there are 18 organisations from 13 countries.

Before joining the Humanitarian Forum, James was the head of the Charity Commission's International Programme, working with Governments and NGOs in 15 countries in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and South East Asia to build a healthy, independent and accountable NGO sector. James has also been Legal Counsel at the International Save the Children Alliance and was a lawyer in private practice for several years. James has a Masters in International Relations and a Degree in Law.

The role of the Somali diaspora

Dr Anna Lindley (Chair)

Anna Lindley is a researcher at the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) whose interests focus on the relationships between processes of migration, conflict and development. Her forthcoming book *The Early Morning Phonecall: Somali Refugees' Remittances* explores the dynamics and effects of remittance practices, based primarily on fieldwork in Hargeisa, Nairobi (Eastleigh) and London. More recent research explores out-migration dynamics from South-Central Somalia in 2007-2008; and immigration, politics and development in Somaliland.

Dr Saad A Shire

Dr Saad A Shire is the Regional Managing Director Europe for Dahabshiil Transfer Services Limited, an international money transfer company based in London, UK. He has a BSc in agriculture; a PhD in economics, and professional qualifications in organisational development, accounting, and banking. He worked for the World Bank in Washington DC, and FAO in

Somalia. He also taught at Somali National University; and while in the UK, he worked both in the private and non-profit making sectors.

He has expertise in research, management, and organisational development. He acquired specialist knowledge about the Somali remittance sector where he worked for nearly 9 years and speaks on the subject in national and international meetings. He has also keen interest in higher education, having been a founder member of two universities: The University of Hargeisa and the University of Burao in Somaliland, and a member of the development and fundraising team for Berbera College of Fisheries and Maritime Studies.

Mohamud Gure

Mohamud Gure is the Chair and co-founder of Somali Concern Group (SCG), a London-based non-profit and non-governmental organisation that represents the interests of the Somali people in the diaspora. SCG is also committed to the promotion of peace and reconciliation and reconstitution and rebuilding of the Somali state after a prolonged civil war. He is also a member of Somali Diaspora Congress – Pan Somali organisation which has chapters in Western Europe, North America and Australia. A Bsc & Msc graduate in Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia, USA, Mohamud Gure is a community development specialist – helping refugee communities in a wide range of areas such as education, training, employment and providing information to adapt life in the UK. He worked as technical manager on an agricultural extension project financed by the World Bank in Somalia in 1988. He is independent researcher on social and economic issues prevailing in the UK and has written extensively on Somali issues. Mohamud Gure is also a former lecturer at college of Education, Somali National University.

Dr Michael Brophy

Michael Brophy is the Director of the Africa Educational Trust (AET) which has supported education programmes in Somalia and Somaliland since 1994. Previously he has worked as an education adviser to the ministries of education in Bhutan, Gambia, Guyana, Jordan and Seychelles. He has visited Somalia and Somaliland four to five times a year for the past 15 years. “In 2007 he was awarded the OBE for services to education in developing countries”.

Information, communication and media

Simon Haselock (Chair)

Simon Haselock has been a pioneer in media intervention in post-conflict countries. He is co-founder and Director of Albany Associates. He was the Deputy High Representative for Media Affairs in the Office of The High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, creating the organisation for broadcast frequency spectrum management and licensing and providing everyday guidance on the public presentation of policy. As Temporary Media Commissioner in Kosovo he was responsible for the regulation of both the print and broadcast media in accordance with best international practice. He also began the process of building the legal structure and ethical environment necessary to enable independent media in Kosovo to flourish. He then served as the Director of Public Information for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Since

August 2003 Haselock has been the Head of the Media Development Advisory Team (MDAT) in Iraq. In this capacity he has been responsible for establishing an Iraqi National Communications and Media Commission and has been involved in the development of other media infrastructure programs including training and the creation of a new Iraqi Public Broadcasting Service, encouraging a commercial broadcasting sector and the development of journalistic ethics and professional self regulation. Simon served for 23 years with Royal Marines and was responsible for assisting in the development of media policy in the UK Ministry of Defence.

Iginio Gagliardone

Iginio Gagliardone is a Senior Researcher at the Stanhope centre for communication policy research. His main focus is on the role of the media and of strategic communication in promoting peace and reconciliation. He has recently been coordinating the collection of public opinions in Darfur as a way to develop a better understanding of the conflict and supporting the peace process. He has been involved in researching the mediated links between the diaspora and the homeland in Eastern Africa, with a particular focus on Ethiopia, Sudan and Somaliland. He is completing his PhD at the London School of Economics (LSE) investigating the relationship between information and communication technologies and nation building.

Nicole Stremlau

Nicole Stremlau is Co-ordinator of the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy and a Research Fellow in the Centre of Socio-Legal Studies. Stremlau's primary research is on media and governance in the Horn of Africa during and after armed insurgencies. She is currently engaged in a research project on flows of information in Somaliland. Stremlau previously worked as a journalist for an Ethiopian paper in Addis Ababa. She has researched and lived in the Horn of Africa and is co-authoring a book of oral histories of guerrilla fighters who later became journalists in Eastern Africa. Stremlau's doctoral research was on "The Press and Consolidation of Power in Ethiopia and Uganda" at the London School of Economics (LSE).

Lisa Robinson

Lisa Robinson is a Projects Manager for Africa at the BBC World Service Trust. She has managed a range of media, communications, and research projects in conflict and post-conflict countries including Darfur and Somalia. She has been focusing on the strategy for humanitarian work at the Trust and is co-author of the policy briefing titled "Left in the Dark: The unmet need for information in humanitarian responses." She also teaches undergraduate courses on Diasporic Media and Designing Media Projects for Social Change at the Annenberg School of Communication, University of Southern California.

Simon Addison (Roundtable discussion facilitator)

As Senior Research and Policy Officer Simon Addison is responsible for maximizing the policy-relevance and policy impact of the Refugee Studies Centre's research programme by liaising closely with and advising policy makers both nationally and internationally, and by developing and coordinating the Centre's policy-related research agenda.

Simon is also an active researcher in the field of forced migration, having a particular interest in issues relating to internal displacement, humanitarian protection, civil war violence, humanitarian relief management and the camp, with a regional focus on East and Central Africa. In particular, Simon seeks to develop critical approaches to the study of forced displacement crises and the responses which seek to address them by mobilising theoretical perspectives derived from historical-geographical materialism, critical theory, post-colonialism and political ecology. Simon holds degrees in both Geography and International Development Studies from the Universities of Oxford (B.A Hons. 1994) and Melbourne (M. Dev. Stud. 1999), and recently completed his doctorate at the School of Geography and the Environment in the University of Oxford. Entitled "*The Protection Paradox: Violence, Protection and the Nature of Internal Displacement in Acholiland, Northern Uganda*", his doctoral thesis analysed Northern Uganda's internal displacement crisis from a critical perspective, using its findings to investigate the relationships that exist between violence, protection, abandonment and sovereign power. Simon has been awarded a number of prizes for his scholarship, including a full research studentship from the Economic and Social Research Council in 2000. In 2001 he was made Larkinson Scholar at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and received the Bossanyi Award from St. Peter's College, Oxford, and a research grant from the Dudley Stamp Memorial Fund of the Royal Society. In addition, Simon has extensive experience as a practitioner in the fields of humanitarian relief and protection, having worked for seven years for international NGOs in a number of capacities on large-scale relief programmes in East Timor and across East and Central Africa. From 2002 to 2005, Simon was Oxfam GB's Humanitarian Coordinator in Uganda.