Introduction by Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research

As universities across the country put their finishing touches to their Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 submissions, it is a significant moment to reflect on achievements in research over the last seven years. At Coventry University we have delivered our ‘Research Excellence with Impact’ Strategy, and the results have been truly transformational. We have made a significant and targeted investment in our research power and capability, and the 2021 REF submission will be substantially stronger than REF 2014 when we were only beginning this journey.

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations has been at the forefront of our research in social sciences, and the successes outlined in this report are illustrative of the quality, breadth and impact of research now taking place at Coventry. I am immensely proud of the work conducted here that directly connects with some of the world’s most difficult challenges and seeks solutions that work in local contexts. The Centre’s research focuses on tackling inequality and working for social justice and peaceful relations, and it is heartening to see these motivations finding resonance with funders through their support for our research.

Like many universities in 2020, Coventry used its expertise and resources to contribute to national and local efforts to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, and I am proud of the efforts made by all our staff, including the projects described in this report. One of our strengths at Coventry is our deep connections to the communities we serve, and this was never more evident or important than in 2020.

Professor Richard Dashwood
Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research
Executive Director’s Introduction

Our 2019 Annual Report highlighted and illustrated the strong sense of responsibility and contribution of the Centre in its sixth year. We reported the trajectory for the work, the innovations and inspirations from the research outputs, the progress of our early-year researchers and our growing post-graduate alumni. We looked forward to 2020 for further growth and consolidation, and in anticipation of the Research Excellence Framework assessment framework of the step change in both the quantity and quality of our work since our foundation.

2020 will be remembered as one of the most difficult years for everybody throughout the world. The academic sector has not been immune to the significant challenges resulting from COVID 19 and those have tested our resilience in the most unexpected ways. As a leadership team, we looked forward to building on the upward trajectory that CTPSR has become accustomed to since its inception in 2014. We could never have expected what was to come next. Despite these difficulties, CTPSR had its most successful year to date. This 2020 Report confirms our steady progress and illustrates how the choices we have made are helping to improve the lives of people in many geographies and circumstances despite the challenges.

But perhaps the most significant milestone this year was the recognition of the Athena Swan Award – a first within Coventry University – making a simple, positive assessment about a complex matter that the way we go about our work mainstreams and values diversity, respects and builds on real opportunity for our diverse team. Our special thanks to those who worked so hard to prepare our winning submission, but also to all for living the values that matter. Looking forward as we did last year could not and did not foresee the disruptions of 2020. The Pandemic disturbed our social and economic coexistence and brought a collapse of everyday life, of income, of ways of living and working, and of a recognisable world. This affected us personally and professionally, but importantly, given the proximity of our research to people in their communities worldwide, it impacted on all our actions – and the way we built comfort and confidence through what we do. It cannot be too early to reflect and to grow our confidence about refocusing our work in ways that maintain our contributions and meet responsibilities in a post-COVID future. The Pandemic is a transient thing, but it has sharpened and clarified our understanding and amplified some existing trends. Our future will be a new place from which there can be no return to pre-COVID days. This report shows how we can and are responding to a new context.

This is a fit-for-purpose research centre: we are making sure that our business development and delivery is aligned to solutions for the 21st Century. We are confident in our alignment to our partners, both funders and users of our work. The UN Sustainable Development Goals express global accommodation of needs, and the Centre is directly responsive to SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies) and actively engaged with SDGs 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (strengthened partnerships). The Centre is also designed to meet priorities set by UKRI with funded projects that promote understanding and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises, to reducing conflict and promoting peace, justice and humanitarian action, and to reducing poverty and inequality. Distinctively, also, the Centre has become a leader in work on violence and vulnerability reduction.

Though the Pandemic has defined our times, other trends are unfolding. A Fourth Industrial Revolution is already creating fundamental change to the way we live, work and relate to one another. It has become entrenched as a new chapter in human development, enabled by extraordinary advances in technology commensurate with those of the first, second and third industrial revolutions. We are experience a merging of the physical, digital and biological worlds in ways that create potential dangers and disaster, but importantly also, unbridled opportunity and promise. The speed, breadth and depth of this revolution is forcing us to rethink how countries develop, how organisations create value and how individuals can and should play their part. This must also inform how the Centre moves forward and the new alignments that must be established with other disciplines in the wider University.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution represents an opportunity to help humankind at all levels and in all places, to deliver a real and inclusive future with human development at its centre. The real opportunity is to find ways to build a truly inclusive world where the greatest number of people have the ability and take the opportunity to positively impact their families, organisations and communities. The unparalleled convergence of technology with humankind is already creating an apparent unstoppable Fifth Industrial Revolution: an age that will be driven by and through the transforming power of artificial intelligence.
PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Exploring the prevention of violent extremism in the Sahel, Africa

Dr Chuck Thiessen is leading a project funded by the British Academy (‘Heritage, Dignity and Violence’ scheme) and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) to investigate the experience of international organisations, policy-makers and practitioners working on ‘preventing violent extremism’ (PVE) across the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, & Niger). This project will consider if and how human rights and dignity are compromised inside PVE interventions, how violence is experienced in everyday settings, and how heritage can be used as a source of symbolic and instrumental resources for the prevention of violence.

Co-investigators and partners include: Dr Justine Coulidiati (Co-I, University of Ouaga2, Burkina Faso/ Sahel Women’s Platform (SWP)), John Cuddihy (Project Partner, CTPSR), Professor Amadou Sall (Co-I, University of Nouakchott, Mauritania/ Regional cell for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism (CELLRAD)), and Dr Patricia Sellick (Co-Investigator, CTPSR).

The project aims to develop a series of tools and outputs to assist PVE donors and practitioners to better understand the local experience of extremist violence and the challenges facing decision / policy makers around the issues of human rights while promoting security. It will also provide evidence for how heritage can be used to mobilise people to prevent violence and act together with dignity; and promote networks of UK and Sahel based researchers to learn from each other in an equitable and mutual partnership.

The Prevent Duty in Education: Impact and enactment 5 years on

2020 marked the fifth anniversary of the introduction of the ‘Prevent duty’ – the requirement on a range of educational, health and social care organisations to pay ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’. To mark this milestone, Joel Busher, in collaboration with academics from eight other universities, published an open access volume with Palgrave on The Prevent Duty in Education: Impacts, Enactment and Implications.

The book explores the impact, enactment, and implications of the Prevent Duty across statutory educational settings. In July 2015 the UK became the first country to legally require those working in education to contribute to efforts to ‘prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’. Drawing on extensive research with staff, children and young people, the book provides new insight into how this high-profile – and highly contentious – policy has shaped educational practice in Britain today.

The book examines six separate research projects, including over 1,000 respondents in total, and explores
the Prevent Duty across the age phases of the statutory education system (from Early Years to Further Education), enabling greater clarity about how the Duty is translated into practice in different contexts.

The book illustrates that, in addition to well-documented concerns about the securitisation of education, there is also a process of ‘banalisation’ as teachers and early years practitioners translate policy into everyday practices. Whilst many practitioners perceive the Prevent Duty as relatively uncontroversial, some practitioners and students continue to be concerned about (i) the safeguarding and referrals dimension of the Duty and (ii) the promotion of fundamental British values in relation to the public sector duty equally.

“This invaluable book brings empirical rigour to a debate that is too often emotive, polarised and selective in its approach to the facts. By examining how the Prevent duty is enacted in practice, the authors provide a sound evidence base for future policy development.”
(David Anderson QC, House of Lords, and former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation)

Extremism and conspiracy theories

In December 2020, Valerie van Mulukom presented a session on Covid-19 conspiracy theories as part of a Special Interest Group seminar ‘Conspiracy theories and Covid: From the fringes to the mainstream’. The Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism seminar was attended by 172 members of UK councils, police, healthcare, and central government. Other speakers were Dr Joe Mulhall, senior researcher at the anti-racism organisation ‘Hope not Hate’ and Shayan Sardarizadeh, BBC journalist focused on disinformation.

STRENGTHENING THE WORK OF FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS

Understanding religion-based harassment and hate on campus

From a policy perspective there is a clear move towards inclusivity and equality in UK higher education. Yet students, especially from particular religious groups, continue to experience hate, and for them it remains a substantial and real problem. In 2020, a team from our Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group completed an Office for Students-funded project aimed at tackling religion or belief-related harassment and hate incidents in higher education. Led by Professor Kristin Aune, with Professor Paul Weller and Dr Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor, the project sought to improve understandings of religion-based harassment and hate on campus and to strengthen existing reporting mechanisms. The project team ran a campaign across the Coventry University group to encourage students to identify and report anti-religious harassment or hate on campus and to strengthen existing reporting mechanisms. The project team ran a campaign across the Coventry University group to encourage students to identify and report anti-religious harassment or hate, evaluated the campaign’s success, and worked with colleagues running the University’s new online harassment reporting system to make sure it worked well for religion and belief.

The project resulted in two key outputs. An accessible ‘how to’ guide for higher education providers to prevent, and deal with, religion and belief-related harassment and hate was disseminated throughout the sector. A research and evaluation report, based on the findings of two student surveys, was also published to enable users of the ‘how to’ guide and others in the sector to gain a more in-depth and evidence-based understanding of the key issues, challenges and opportunities identified by the research. Whilst the project focused on Coventry University, its findings, discussions and implications provide an exemplar for experiences across the higher education sector in the UK.


For a short reflection on key learning from Kristin Aune and Lucy Peacock, the project’s Research Assistant, see: https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/news-and-views/Tackling-religion-and-belief-related-harassment-in-universities
The Tower Hamlets Inter-Faith Forum is continuing to work with Tower Hamlets Borough Council in London, to deliver a research and development project ‘Support, Development and Engagement Services for the Tower Hamlets Inter-Faith Forum, 2017-20’. During 2020 the team worked collaboratively with external partner organisation Lifeline Projects/Faith Action to support the work of the Tower Hamlets Forum of Faiths especially during the particular challenges for Tower Hamlets arising during the Covid-19 crisis.

Covid-19 and challenges for Christian faith-based organisations

Professor Paul Weller and Dr. Sanjee Perera have been conducting a British Academy special Covid fund research project investigating “The Organisational, Financial and Human Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Christian Faith-Based Organization Service Sector in Great Britain”. This was the only project out of 56 funded (out of 842 applications) by the Academy from its special Covid research fund to focus on religion.

The project’s main research instrument is an online survey of Christian FBOs which will generate research data for analysis. In 2021 a conference is planned to which FBOs of Christian and non-Christian faith will be invited to engage with the project findings from their perspective. For further details please contact the project’s email address at: fbocovidresearch@coventry.ac.uk

New challenge for Sanjee Perera

The Church of England has appointed Dr Sanjee Perera as Archbishops’ Adviser on Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, and she moves to her new position following completion of her work on the project with Paul Weller described above.

Paul commented: “All of us in the Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group wish Sanjee well in her new, challenging and important strategic role for helping the Church of England to become more inclusive.”

Life on the Breadline: Christianity, Poverty and Politics in the 21st Century

The ESRC funded research project ‘Life on the Breadline’ has now been running for two years and field-work has been the focus this year. The research team completed an online survey of regional church leaders across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales about the impact of austerity-induced poverty and the ways in which the Church is responding. The team also interviewed key national Church leaders from more than 20 denominations across the UK and completed four ethnographic case studies in Birmingham, London and Manchester.

In September 2020 the Life on the Breadline team hosted an online conference focusing on the effect that the unequal impact of austerity policies has had on anti-poverty Christian activism. The conference attracted over 70 participants from across the UK and beyond. Resources from the conference are available on the project website. The research team presented ‘Breadline’ findings at several conferences in-person and online this year. Chris Shannahan gave a presentation on ‘The violence of poverty’ to the Council for World Mission’s annual conference and shared in a webinar with Power the Fight on Covid-19, racism, austerity and the church. Stephanie Denning presented on ‘Life on the Breadline’ at the Voluntary Sector Studies Network annual research conference.

Antisemitism and an Inclusive Europe

A CTPSR team (Dan Range, Tom Fisher, Dilwar Hussain, Jennifer Verson and Professor Paul Weller) was contracted by CEJI: A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, to conduct an evaluation that accompanies the European consortium project NOA: Networks Overcoming Antisemitism (see https://ceji.org/projects/noa/). CEJI is based in Brussels and works across both the EU and the wider Europe, particularly in adult and peer education, training and advocacy.

The project will contribute to the review and further development of CEJI’s strategy, aims and objectives. Working with the CEJI Board members, staff and stakeholders, the team facilitated a Theory of Change workshop to identify shared baselines against which the current work and preparation for the future strategic trajectories of CEJI could be evaluated.

Commenting on the appointment of CTPSR to undertake this work, Robin Sciltani, the Director of CEJI, said: “CEJI is very pleased to have secured the services of an academic research centre that is itself also engaged in practical interventions informed by the interplay of theory and practice and which brings to this task considerable experience in evaluating the work of civil society organisations that are engaged in work towards inclusion.”

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https://www.coventry.ac.uk/fbo-covid-research

Follow the Twitter account at @19_fbo

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UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Health and Justice Service Responses to South Sudanese Refugee Survivors

This British Academy / Leverhulme-funded research investigated the health and justice service responses to the needs of South Sudanese refugees living in refugee settlements in Northern Uganda who had been subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and torture. It involved the collection and thematic analysis of the narratives of 20 men and 41 women who were refugee survivors of SGBV and torture, including their experiences in South Sudan, their journeys to Uganda and experiences in refugee settlements, in particular their access to health and justice services.

Key stakeholders including international, government, non-government organisations and civil society organisations were also interviewed regarding their experiences of providing health and justice services to refugees. All refugees had survived human rights abuses mainly carried out in South Sudan, but some had also occurred on route to Uganda and within Uganda. Despite the significant impact of their experiences, the analysis indicated that there was a pressing need for this initiative.

The thematic analysis indicated five main themes coming from the interviews. These were: 1) the nature of refugee experiences of SGBV and torture, including domestic violence and child abduction and forced marriage; 2) issues associated with service provision such as lack of adequate screening and under resourcing of health and justice services; 3) a lack of gender sensitivity and specialist services, particularly for men; 4) the sustained involvement of civil society organisations and local non-governmental organisations in providing counselling and offering emotional support and hope to survivors; and 5) enhancing health and justice responses and services to improve refugee recovery, dignity and resilience.

The authors recommend that integrated gendered and culturally sensitive service provision should be adopted, which brings together formal and informal health, justice services and survivor support programmes. The findings from this project have been presented at international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr Liebling shared insights at the 2nd European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants held remotely in November 2020, and is involved in drafting policy briefs utilising our research on inclusive education, trust building and changing the narrative on migration. The research findings and the model recommended have also informed the development of a recently established refugee well-being service in Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust in Coventry.

Social Enterprise Projects for South Sudanese Refugee Survivors

Dr Helen Liebling, Professor Hazel Barrett, and Dr Pascial Nyinjikuru undertook a research project examining the role of Social Enterprise Projects in the recovery of South Sudanese Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Torture. This was a partnership project with local non-government organisations and civil society community groups in Uganda.

The project aimed to establish and develop partnerships and peer support social enterprises with third sector organisations and civil society groups in Northern Uganda in order to transform the lives of South Sudanese refugees living in settlements there who have experienced torture and/or Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, SGBV. The project directly followed recommendations from British Academy/Leverhulme-funded research (Grant: SG170394) undertaken by Liebling, Barrett, Artz and Canogura (2019) that found there was a pressing need for this initiative.

The project team established and developed peer support social-enterprise projects with civil society groups in northern Uganda which resulted in positive benefits to the lives of South Sudanese refugees. The team built the skills and capabilities of refugees who established successful social enterprise groups based on participatory action methods. The research team provided training in micro finance and developing business plans clarifying their aims and objectives, resourcing needs and the management and operation of the project including inclusive membership.

The evaluation demonstrated the social enterprises developed had a positive impact and resulted in economic sustainability, emotional well-being and resilience. This was demonstrated by statistical analysis as well as qualitative findings. The team disseminated their findings through a blog article and relevant conferences (https://ischp.info/2019/05/01/research-informed-social-enterprises-with-south-sudanese-refugees-in-uganda-a-partnership-project/).

This pilot approach to engaging refugees in running social enterprises has demonstrated how action research can produce real societal impacts for refugee survivors of SGBV and torture living in refugee settlements. The social enterprise projects were also published by UNHCR on their global compact on refugee’s website as an example of good practice: https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/social-enterprise-groups-south-sudanese-refugee-survivors.
**Ending FGM in humanitarian settings**

Hazel Barrett shared her FGM / Migration matrix research in November 2020 as a panelist at a Global Media Campaign event calling for an end to FGM in humanitarian settings, especially in migration situations in the Arab region and because this year it is being hidden under the cloak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Watch [https://fb.watch/1SdxQxc9Z1/](https://fb.watch/1SdxQxc9Z1/)

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**Trends in FGM**

On February’s International day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), the Academic Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy (ANSER) launched a video on medicalization of FGM/C to amplify and direct efforts on the elimination of this practice. The video gives insight into what FGM/C is, and explains the increasing trend of medicalisation using practical examples of ongoing debates around the issue. At the end, the speakers list a set of clear recommendations for policy makers on how to take action.

With this video ANSER aims to raise awareness among all stakeholders involved in FGM/C, especially policy makers, and encourage them to make evidence based decisions.

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/2156816883556487/posts/1736746686459972/](https://www.facebook.com/2156816883556487/posts/1736746686459972/)


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**FGM and Covid-19**

Professor Hazel Barrett contributed to a webinar in December on the Impact of Covid-19 on FGM in the Arab States Region, organised by the Global Media Campaign to End FGM (GMC). This charity founded by The Guardian Newspaper has been very effective and high profile over the last few years in raising awareness of FGM across the world and advocating for the ending of this harmful practice that affects over 200 million girls and women worldwide.

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**ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY**

CTPSR collaborates with RUSI on maritime security

In January 2020, the European Commission awarded RUSI the contract to run project CRIMSON III over the next 4 years, and CTPSR’s Ioannis Chapsos will participate in this project as named Senior Expert.

CRIMSON was first established in 2011 and is an EU overarching project that coordinates and connects all Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) components, aiming to increase coordination, coherence and complementarities among CMR projects, as well as other European and international maritime security initiatives.

In addition to monitoring and evaluation activities, CRIMSON enhances the visibility of CMR components, highlighting their impact on the ground. The project also has an ‘expert analysis’ role and provides analytical inputs to the CMR programme, producing briefs and analysis on emerging trends, threats and policy shifts in key areas along the critical maritime routes.
In November, Ioannis Chapsos delivered a webinar organised by the UNDP as part of their ‘Blue Justice Initiative’. The Blue Justice Initiative responds to the need to cooperate and build capacity to address transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry. An important element of the BJI is to support developing countries implement measures to deter and counter transnational organised fisheries crime.


Arrival infrastructures for migrant newcomers

Professor Susanne Wessendorf joined CTPSR in July, having been previously based at the International Inequality Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Susanne has been awarded an ESRC grant for a project looking at arrival infrastructures in three neighbourhoods in London, Brussels and Dortmund. The project will investigate how long-established migrants and ethnic minorities support new migrants, and how this support is often provided informally in places like shops, barbers, religious sites and community organisations. Susanne is also part of a larger European consortium funded by Horizon 2020, which will investigate arrival infrastructures in ten European sites, with a particular focus on collaborating with local civil society organisations and building capacity to support newcomers.

Migration, Inequality and Development (MIDEQ) Hub in 2020

When Covid-19 brought the world – and with it, migration – to a halt in March 2020, the MIDEQ Hub was about to embark on an intense period of fieldwork in 12 countries of the Global South. The aim was to better understand the relationships between migration and inequality and to identify ways in which the potential benefits of South-South migration could be brought to bear on improving the lives of individuals, families and communities as well as development processes more generally.

More than 12 months had been spent setting up the project – grappling with complex legal agreements, recalibrating financial processes, designing our research questions, and building relationships. None of it was easy. A project of this scale and complexity really brings home the structural inequalities that dominate the research landscape and which go some way towards explaining how current understanding of migration has come to be dominated by the political and policy interests of the Global North. They also affirm the need to recentre the South in studies of migration.

The challenge back in March was how to move forward when the research on which MIDEQ is focused had fundamentally shifted in ways that none of could have predicted – and still can’t. We know that migration can reduce inequality and contribute to positive development outcomes by redistributing resources at the national, regional and even global levels. But Covid-19 has severely disrupted access to the opportunities associated with migration, undermining the potential developmental benefits and creating new challenges for policy efforts aimed at securing improved outcomes for migrants and their families.

The pandemic’s impact on migration and inequality is complex

Seven months into the pandemic it is clear that Covid-19 has amplified existing inequalities and created new ones in the countries in which the Hub’s work is focused. There are plenty of examples already and more emerging.

Malaysia is a country which is heavily dependent on the labour of both documented and undocumented workers. It produces two-thirds of disposable rubber gloves worldwide, largely using migrant labour from Nepal and Bangladesh. Whilst the companies producing disposable gloves are thriving during the pandemic, migrant workers are not. According to MIDEQ researchers, it appears that governments seeking to secure PPE for their frontline healthcare workers have chosen to overlook concerns about the appalling conditions experienced by many of these workers due to increased demand. Meanwhile, the Malaysian government has chosen to blame migrants for the pandemic and used it as a pretext for arbitrary detention and deportation.

Nepal migrant workers are among those returning from Malaysia in significant numbers. According to MIDEQ researchers in Nepal, the consequences are not entirely negative: returns are contributing to agricultural productivity and rebalancing a growing dependence on remittances from migrant labour and there is potential for the role of intermediaries to diversify. Nonetheless the significant downturn in the flow of resources into Nepali families and communities associated with Covid-19 is certain to have implications.

In Ethiopia, similarly, remittances make a crucial contribution to the macroeconomic balance, providing a much-needed source of foreign exchange. MIDEQ researchers have focused on better understanding the implications of Covid-19 for the significant flows for Ethiopian migrants to South Africa. It is clear from MIDEQ’s research that the national lockdown has caused many migrant-owned small businesses to either collapse or find themselves on the verge of bankruptcy.

CENTRING MIGRANT VOICES IN MIGRATION POLICY AND PRACTICE

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In Haiti too there are significant concerns that any decrease in remittance transfers poses an immediate threat to the health and well-being of many Haitian families. Here as elsewhere, MIDEQ’s researchers with a deep knowledge and understanding of the social, policy and economic dynamics are on the ground, monitoring the impacts of the pandemic as they unfold and providing invaluable new insights.

Rethinking our approach in light of Covid

Undertaking fieldwork and data collection under these circumstances has necessarily created significant new challenges on top of those that already existed. In all of the countries in which MIDEQ’s researchers live and work, the pandemic has been associated with travel restrictions as well as bans on gatherings and meetings with people from different households. Covid-19 has been used a pretext for negative political debates and policies on migration, not only in Europe and the rest of the world but also as a trend within which South-South migration is embedded. Perhaps the only thing that is clear right now is that the work of the MIDEQ Hub has never been more important or necessary. Now nearly two years into the project, the team of more than 120 researchers and support staff are well placed to unpack the relationships between migration, inequality and development, in whatever forms they emerge.

The team in Haiti have found ways to undertake research combining both quantitative methods and the ethnographic fieldwork needed to help deepen our understanding of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on families of migrants. Here as elsewhere, specific protocols have been developed to ensure researcher and participant safety and security during fieldwork activities. Meanwhile the instruments for the survey have been adapted to include questions specifically on the impacts of Covid-19 on migrants and on their families in countries of origin.

It is clear that the MIDEQ Hub team will need to continue to be flexible in their approach, adapting to the circumstances of migrants and to the evolving contexts within which South-South migration is embedded. Perhaps the only thing that is clear right now is that the work of the MIDEQ Hub has never been more important or necessary. Now nearly two years into the project, the team of more than 60 researchers around the world is exceptionally well placed to unpack the relationships between migration, inequality and development, in whatever forms they emerge.

Psychological impact of Covid-19

Dr Valerie van Mulukom and Dr Miguel Farias co-led a large international research survey on the psychological impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns in collaboration with researchers from the University of Oxford, Amsterdam and Utrecht. They recruited over eight thousand participants from 79 countries worldwide, and found that levels of anxiety and depression were elevated in many countries, in particular the UK, USA and Brazil. Reduced psychological well-being was associated with a lower sense of control and increased social isolation. However, engaging in adaptive coping, communicating frequently with close ones, and governmental actions which demonstrate support in a public health crisis mitigated some of the ill effects of prolonged lockdown. The researchers conclude that citizens and governments can work together to adapt better to restrictive but necessary measures during the current and future pandemics and are now working on longitudinal follow-up research. In addition, Valerie is further investigating the antecedents and consequences of Covid-19 conspiracy theories, and the role of information and trust in authorities (governmental bodies and national health institutions) in adherence to Covid-19 safety guidelines.

FabLab Coventry produces PPE

Despite not being able to support people into our buildings in a physical sense, we turned our attention to necessary and required physical support, making and developing PPE, utilising our equipment.

In April, a local nurse got in touch with us, via social media, to discover if we could help with making surgical mask strap adapters for her and her colleagues. These adapters may be something very small, however, they have significant impact on those having to wear face masks for prolonged periods of time.

From a small initial request, further requests have come in from all over Coventry and wider West Midlands. Beginning initially by 3D printing, it soon became apparent that the time taking to print the adapters as unsuitable for the level of need; causing us to rethink our approach. Making the switch to utilising our laser cutter meant not only could more adapters be fabricated at once, but it also would largely decrease the turnaround time, meaning more adapters were available at quicker rates of production. A total of 3,500 mask strap adapters have now been made and donated to 12 different organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire, supporting front line staff and other businesses looking to reopen shortly.

Looking to provide as much support as we possibly could to our front line workers, we looked to what additional needs were in high demand. With the wider University teams already having an approved face shield design, FabLab Coventry subsequently joined both the University efforts, and the wider global effort to produce the high demand face shields. FabLab have been able to produce a total of 2,500 face shield kits.

RISING TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE
Role of social economy in pandemic recovery

CTPSR colleagues (Sinead Ouillon, Professor Paul Weller, Dr Lucy Peacock and Emily Paffett) contributed to a research project examining the role of innovation and enterprise in helping the West Midlands recover from the pandemic. Led by the University of Wolverhampton, the consortium undertook the study for the West Midlands Combined Authority to understand the range of responses from the social economy sector to the Covid-19 crisis. This included the activities of voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, mutual aid groups, neighbourhood groups and the social enterprises. With an emphasis on innovation, enterprise or flexibility, the project investigated what might be learned from these responses to feed into Covid-19 recovery planning (see https://www.wlv.ac.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/2020/july-2020/new-research-project-to-capture-community-pandemic-response.php).

Inequality, migration and Covid-19

Professor Heaven Crawley reflected on the effects of the pandemic on issues of migration and inequality in a MIDEQ Hub blog, noting that Covid-19 is not the ‘great equaliser’ that some have claimed but rather

Inequality, migration and Covid-19

Researchers across Coventry University are conducting research to understand individuals’ attitudes, values and emotions towards digital technology for remote working (‘e-working’) during the coronavirus pandemic. The aim is to support Coventry University to support its employees while e-working and therefore improve working experience, as well as generate new academic knowledge. The CTPSR research team are Professor Ann-Marie Neinaber, Dr Chantis Rice, Professor Mike Hardy and Professor Gavin Sullivan.

CTPSR’s ways of working

Like many research organisations throughout the world, CTPSR has been working entirely remotely during the pandemic, and maintaining a strong research community through virtual meetings and online interactions. We have applied our blended learning approach to our doctoral research programmes and a CTPSR student had the University’s first ever virtual PhD viva in March.

Staff initially concentrated on writing and bid development, with a record number of bids submitted in the month after the first lockdown. Some staff are revisiting their research methods for live projects, especially where face-to-face interviews or focus groups with participants were planned. CTPSR developed a toolkit of alternative methods that can be used to conduct research at a distance, also benefitting our doctoral students who are trying to keep their research on track.

Our bid writing training programme went entirely online, and our bid submissions increased during the pandemic – we collectively submitted almost £2 million more of funding applications compared with the previous year. We also welcomed and inducted several new staff during this period, some of whom have never set foot in our office yet are already fully integrated with their teams.

Keeping consistent communication and investing time in team building activities through the pandemic have been crucial. We increased frequency of some meetings, instigated an online elevenses, and found a new sense of community amongst our staff and PhD students. Many of our staff don’t live in Coventry, so for the first time, there was no divide between those in the office a lot and those there less often. Everyone was in the same position, and our research group leaders reported that their meetings had record attendance.

We surveyed our staff in June, and they praised the supportive environment, with over 90% saying they received the support they needed to cope with the Covid restrictions, and found virtual meetings useful and productive. Over 90% said they were happy and satisfied in their work at the Centre. Many said they want to have more virtual meetings in future, and that not commuting had brought new energy to their work.

We are very much looking forward to seeing each other again in our office, not least because it is being refurbished for us for when we are able to return. It will be a happy day when we can meet again in person and enjoy each others’ company without a screen.

Technology adoption: the case of coronavirus

Role of social economy in pandemic recovery

The Technology Adoption: the case of Coronavirus project undertook the study for the West Midlands Combined Authority to understand the range of responses from the social economy sector to the Covid-19 crisis. This included the activities of voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, mutual aid groups, neighbourhood groups and the social enterprises. With an emphasis on innovation, enterprise or flexibility, the project investigated what might be learned from these responses to feed into Covid-19 recovery planning (see https://www.mideq.org/en/blog/great-amplifier-covid-19-migration-and-inequality/).

Inequality, migration and Covid-19

Inequality, migration and Covid-19

Professor Gordon Crawford commenced work as PI on an AHRC GCRF Urgency grant in September 2020, with the project Voices from ‘Ground Zero’: Interrogating History, Culture and Identity in the Resolution of Cameroon’s ‘Anglophone’ Conflict. The project benefits form contributions from four colleagues from the University of Buea in Cameroon, with Professor James Kiven as International Co-I. (James is an alumnus of Coventry University’s MA Peace and Reconciliation Studies in 2008). The research also involves four local NGOs as project partners, including two women’s organisations, and all actively engaged as humanitarian and human rights organisations in the conflict zones (known as ‘ground zero’).

The project aims to contribute to greater understanding of, and peaceful resolution of, the current ‘Anglophone conflict’ in Cameroon, ongoing since late 2017 and one that has claimed up to 12,000 lives, with 750,000 people displaced and hundreds of villages destroyed. It seeks to do this through documenting the experiences, including perspectives on conflict resolution, of Anglophone Cameronian citizens, both internally displaced persons and those that remain in the conflict zone. The project will explore the perspectives of these marginalised voices within the historical context of colonialism and post-colonialism that underpins the current conflict. It will use socio-linguistic analysis to understand the cultural, identity
Collaboration with Muslim Aid on humanitarian programmes

Professor Hazel Barrett is the lead researcher on this ELHRA-funded project being led by Muslim Aid to develop an in-depth understanding of the barriers faced by older people and people with disabilities in inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) humanitarian programming in Golo and Nertiti Localities, Central Darfur State of Sudan.

The project is exploring how environmental, institutional, information and communication as well as attitudinal barriers can limit the participation of older people and people with disabilities in inclusive WASH programming. The project employs a Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation and Research methodology and uses mixed qualitative participatory research methods to understand the different experiences and perspectives, paying particular attention to intersectionality including age, gender and type of disability(ies).

Participatory Action Research methods are being used to learn about and engage with communities regarding cultural perceptions, social norms and community attitudes associated with inclusive WASH programming with special reference to older people and people with disabilities. Peer-to-peer conversations are generating insights into internalised barriers, and accessibility and safety audits are mapping WASH facilities and services against International Standards for older people and people with disabilities, in each of the IDP settlements.

Engaging young people about their futures in Algeria

Dr Jessica Northey has been examining what kinds of livelihoods could be created in the 21st century to tackle the challenges facing cities in North Africa in a new project ‘Imagining the Future’, funded by the British Academy Youth Futures Programme. Steered by a network of youth researchers, this project seeks to facilitate debate around how to innovate to expand and diversify livelihoods in environmental projects in Algeria. Creative solutions to tackling environmental challenges have the potential to create meaningful employment. These new jobs are often in the informal sector, in associations or small businesses, which can be valued and supported in different ways.

The research project aims to capture the creative ideas and energy of young people to reconceptualise how they imagine their own futures, as citizens and decision-makers in the environmental sector and beyond. What forms of governance do young people conceive as fair and sustainable? How can they be better involved in policymaking to ensure such imagined futures, livelihoods and work are possible?

The project will run for 21 months, and is conducted in collaboration with the Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia University, Jijel, Algeria.

and linguistic elements of the conflict. It will seek to enable these hitherto excluded voices from ‘ground zero’ to contribute to local and national dialogues on conflict resolution, giving particular emphasis to the voices of women and young people.

This project builds on a pilot project funded under CU’s International and Interdisciplinary Pilot Projects scheme, entitled: ‘The Shrinking Civic Space in Cameroon and the Role of Civil Society Organisations in Resolution of the ongoing ‘Anglophone’ Conflict’. Dr Maurice Beseng and Dr Nancy Annan were involved in the pilot project and contributed to the successful AHRC grant application.

Nine years of bloodshed in Arab Palestinian society in Israel

Baladna, the Association for Arab Youth in Israel, in partnership with Marwan Darweish of CTPSR, published a report on statistical data of murder victims in the Arab Palestinian society in Israel between 2011 and 2019. The report examines the increase in gun crime violence in Palestinian society in Israel in recent years and the direct threat it poses to individuals and the community. It sheds light on the scope and nature of homicides in the Arab Palestinian society through the collection of data on the victims, their ages, and the weapons used in the crimes, as well as other data.

As the first report of its kind, it constitutes an important source of information for assessing the magnitude and attributes of violent crime in the Arab Palestinian society. The report is particularly important because the Ministry of Public Security and the Israel Police do not provide adequate data on crime in the Arab community in Israel. The report shows that the highest number of murders occurred among youth between the ages of 15 and 30, with this age group accounting for 50.9% of all of the homicide victims.

The data indicates that most victims, 74.3%, were killed by firearms. The report will form the basis for a larger bid in partnership with Baladna, Open University in the UK and Auckland University in New Zealand.
Understanding unbelief

Dr Miguel Farias is co-leading a large project on the study of atheists and agnostics around the world, with Dr Valerie van Mulukom leading two novel studies on the meaning making of non-religious individuals and their use of spiritual practices like mindfulness meditation. A first report of the cross-national results of the project has been launched in collaboration with University of Kent, Queen’s University Belfast, and St Mary’s University London:

https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/centres/benedict-xvi/docs/benedict-centre-understanding-unbelief-report.pdf

As part of this large project, Dr Farias has participated in a documentary on atheists in Brazil, which includes footage from the last active church of Positivism in the world (funded in Paris by August Comte, the father of modern sociology): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pDKyVDgJvA

YouthfulCities City of Culture Index 2020

Rana Aytug joined the YouthfulCities global team to conduct research as an Urban Decoder for the YouthfulCities City of Culture Index 2020. YouthfulCities aims to connect change agents to the network, information and tools needed to create more youthful cities globally. Rana was tasked to collect secondary and primary data capturing Coventry’s “youthfulness.” The Index ranks five global cities – Coventry, Beirut, Detroit, Nairobi, and Bogota, across 150+ indicators across 21 live, work and play urban attributes, summing over 750 points of data from a youth perspective. It sheds light on the role of young people in shaping the cities they live in and reveals new perspectives on the “youthfulness” of cities, youth priorities and urban innovation approaches. The index serves as a key reference for policy makers, city officials and youth.

Religion and the social brain

Dr Miguel Farias and Dr Valerie van Mulukom, with PhD student Sarah Charles, concluded ground-breaking studies on the social bonding and biological effects of religious rituals. The ‘Religion and the Social Brain’ was run with collaborators from the University of Oxford and University College London, including world-leading evolutionary psychologist Robin Dunbar. The project investigated the biological, psychological and social processes that facilitate social bonding in religion. The CTPSR team led a series of lab studies and fieldwork across churches and temples in the UK and Brazil. Overall, the researchers demonstrated for the first time that rituals increase social bonding and positive affect, and that this was driven by so-called mu-opioids, a type of brain chemicals that is known to also give ‘runner’s high’. Some of the findings have been published and reported widely:

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/going-to-church-it’s-just-like-taking-drugs-ar666joy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pDKyVDgJvA

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Influencing policy

Responses to anti-minority activism

Building on their published research on the role of ‘situated credibility contests’ in shaping the local dynamics of anti-minority activism, this year Joel Busher and Gareth Harris have been working with a range of local, national and international stakeholders to embed the insights from this research into practice. This has included the development of a written practitioner-focused briefing based on this research published by the Violence Prevention Network in Germany, and a series of workshops with policymakers and practitioners across England and Wales during which participants have used the credibility contests framework to better understand the dynamics of anti-minority activism in their areas. The team have also developed a ‘thinking tool’ based on the research that has been shared through national practitioner networks and the Local Government Association, giving on-the-ground practitioners a practical guide to putting the framework into practice.

Prospects for peace in Cyprus

Dr Cihan Dizdaroglu concluded his Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Visiting Fellowship with CTPSR and presented his research findings in a number of papers, including several policy papers.

The Cyprus problem and the peace negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriot community leaders would aptly be described as a never-ending story. As long as the mentality of a “closed-door”, “elite-level” and “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” format of negotiations prevails in Cyprus, the discussions at the domestic level signal an impasse on politics and the necessity of change. Cihan’s paper advocates an inclusive peace process that engages women and youth to trigger a bottom-up transformation in both communities and open up the elite-level, closed-door negotiations to contributions from the wider public.

The Prospects for Peace in Cyprus: The Impact of Elections in the North

Impact of Universal Credit on foodbank use

Stephanie Donning and Chis Shannahan from the Life on the Breadline research team submitted evidence in March 2020 to the House of Lords Inquiry into Universal Credit from their research with the Trussell Trust B30 Foodbank. Their evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee was published as part of the inquiry report and can be found on the Life on the Breadline website.

Religious literacy and the media

CTPSR submitted evidence to the UK’s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Religion in the Media – Religious Literacy in Print and Broadcast Media, sharing research findings from a range of projects conducted at the Centre. In particular, the submission drew on work by Dr Charis Rice examining the role news media plays in explaining the peace process and reporting on current events, its role in civic trust in government, and government-media relations, in post-conflict Northern Ireland, and the work of Dr Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor examining the role and impact of media in research on inter-religious relations, and perceptions of Islam in the UK.

Recognising that faith literacy is a key skill for anyone engaging in public discourse today, CTPSR’s submission included nine recommendations to improve this, including training in conflict-sensitive journalism, increasing access to diverse voices from religion or belief groups, and more reporting of good news and good practice that illustrates the positive impacts of religion or belief in British societies and globally through charitable and other works.

Amman resilience strategy

Rana Ayug was invited by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) to participate in a policy writing workshop which was held between the cities of Berlin and Amman, for the promotion of think tank work on socio-economic reforms in Jordan and the impact of regional dynamics on Jordan. An outcome of her participation has been the publication of a policy brief featured in an edited volume produced by DGAP. In her policy brief titled ‘Revisiting Pillar 4: A Young and Equal City’ of the Amman Resilience Strategy through the Lens of Participatory and Inclusive Approaches, Rana investigated the plan put forward by the Greater Municipality of Amman (GAM) to foster urban resilience. With a focus on the fourth pillar of the strategy, she observed that while this pillar acknowledges Amman’s diverse identity and its large youth population, it would benefit from linking its goals to a set of action-based, participatory approaches that are inclusive to Amman’s diverse community, including its marginalized, refugee and displaced populations. Subsequently, she outlines a set of recommendations for GAM to adopt which include reducing barriers to youth involvement, expanding the scope of the existing youth council and re-envisioning the production of inclusive urban public space.
Charis was also invited to talk to The Northern Ireland Chief Executives’ Forum. The Chief Executives’ Forum represents Chief Executives from across the public sector in Northern Ireland, where major organisational change is ongoing. Charis presented her CREST Toolkits and Manager’s Guides on managing organisational change and preventing insider threat (www.crest.ac.uk/cwb). The event attracted over 70 senior leaders, spanning organisations including the PSNI, Audit Office, Courts Service, NI Executive departments, receiving very positive feedback and follow-on enquiries.

The Better Place Index

Working with UNHCR and the World Bank Group, Professor Matt Qvortrup has been developing the Better Place Index (BPI), in collaboration with the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, who generously provided financial support. The index provides a quantitative measure for good governance that ranks countries performance on environmental protection, low crime, good health and economic performance. At a time when facts and evidence-based policy is more needed than ever, the BPI is a composite measure of countries’ performance on economic, environmental, health, education and low-crime measures. This measure – called the BPI-Score – is then subsequently correlated with other variables such as equality, democracy, gender equality and migration.

The findings suggest that countries with more migrants, higher levels of democratization, and more gender equality perform better than countries that score poorly on these measures. The potential impact of the project is considerable. The UN is looking for an alternative to the Human Development Index, and our research contributes directly to this.

CTPSR has developed an interactive website, which enable academics, activists, and other interested individuals, to fact-check which countries perform better. https://www.thebetterplaceindex.report/

The impact of the research is not limited to practical public policy, and the BPI’s potential is also recognised by the academic community. A working group on the project has been established by the International Political Science Association, and findings will also be reported via the International Leadership Association.

Montreux Document Forum

Ioannis Chapsos provided input to the Montreux Document’s Maritime Working Group, which develops a maritime interpretation of the Montreux Document (MD). The Maritime Working Group is currently chaired by Portugal and seeks to provide an opportunity for MD participants and experts in maritime security contexts to discuss good practices for States, how to regulate maritime Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) accountable for protection of maritime trade, and ways to assist States in implementing the MD.

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CTPSR continues to work with the Palestinian Struggle Coordinating Committee (PSCC) to raise awareness of the threat of Israeli annexation to the Bedouin heritage of the Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills. A group of youth researchers in South Hebron Hills have received visits from postgraduate researchers from the Palestinian Universities of Bir Zeit and Hebron. The film *On our Land* [https://vimeo.com/396678574](https://vimeo.com/396678574) is now publicly available, and has been featured in the British Council Middle East and North Africa Virtual Arts Centre Newsletter, shown at School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and used as a resource for the Evidence for Development Professionals course run by Christian Aid.

Bringing minerals and mining closer to society

Following the successful completion of the Briefcase of Mineral Applications Project in 2019, Miho Taka was involved in a second project, ‘3D Briefcase of Mineral Applications – Learning the uses of minerals through non-conventional teaching tools’, funded by EIT Raw Materials. The project partners modified the activities in response to the Covid-19 restrictions and launched online Briefcase games: Kids Briefcase for 6-9 year olds and The Briefcase for 10-14 year olds, in several languages [https://thebriefcasegame.eu/](https://thebriefcasegame.eu/). The page also includes Didactic Briefcase of mineral applications for teachers. The Briefcase has been featured in EIT Raw Materials Success Stories [https://eitravematerials.eu/open-the-briefcase-teaching-about-mining-and-conflict-minerals/](https://eitravematerials.eu/open-the-briefcase-teaching-about-mining-and-conflict-minerals/) and has been selected as an example of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) project for its contribution to the ethics pillar. By teaching children about minerals and their use in our daily life and the impact of using mineral products, the Briefcase contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.

ACUNS Annual Meeting

In early 2020, the ACUNS Secretariat was preparing to hold its Annual Meeting on ‘UN @ 75: The Future of Partnership and Multilateralism’ as a traditional in-person event in London. This three-day event had been a tradition of ACUNS for over thirty years, and when the Covid-19 pandemic prevented international travel, Professor Math Noortmann and Dr Gwenith Cross were reluctant to cancel the Annual Meeting and so arranged to hold its first ever virtual Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was held 25–27 June and brought together participants for 75 panels with up to 5 concurrent sessions, 3 plenary sessions, and 2 keynote speakers. The move to an online forum – and decision to make registration free this year – brought unprecedented interest in the meeting and ACUNS received a total of 715 registrations from 78 countries. While the majority of participants were from Europe and North America, the ACUNS AM20 saw greater global diversity than is normally possible with an in-person meeting: 11% of participants were from Africa, 15% from Asia, 34% from Europe, 29% from North America, 8% from South America and 9% from Oceania. The pandemic forced us to change and adapt, and it taught us valuable lessons for the future. It is easy to focus on what is lost by being unable to meet in person, but the virtual world has much to offer. As the Annual Meeting showed, virtual dialogues are more diverse and inclusive, and they increase participation across geographies and generations. Virtual participation also greatly reduces the carbon footprint. Moving forward, combining videoconferencing and meeting in person will allow us to embrace the best of both worlds.

Cultural protection for Bedouin

Bedouin from the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, different parts of Jordan and the South Hebron Hills in the occupied Palestinian territory have been working together to safeguard their cultural heritage as a means to meeting the challenges they face and securing a better future. This work was showcased at an exhibition in London in January 2020 with the support of Coventry University, the York Archaeological Trust’s Institute for Heritage and Sustainable Human Development, the American University of Beirut and the Council for British Research in the Levant, with funding from the British Council’s Cultural Protection Fund, in partnership with the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport.

Inspiring others
Chapel of Many

In September this year, at a time when theatres and performers were struggling to find avenues to present their work, Sebastian Hicks [https://www.archdaily.com/938195/e-pluribus-unum-the-chapel-of-many-sebastian-hicks] posted an article in The Stage theatre magazine, offering the Chapel of Many structure as a venue for socially distanced outdoor performances. Master of Architecture students and Coventry University Estates worked together to deliver the structure in Moseley Park, Birmingham. Paperback Theatre programmed 14 events over 3 days, selling 1,000 tickets.

The architectural object is a tool enabling the co-creation of public space through a performative (events based and community led) urbanism. The walls are made of chairs and as people inhabit the space the structure sheds its skin and light floods in – light and transparency are directly related to the gathering of people – this symbolism builds on Coventry’s unique identity as a city of reconciliation.

Supported through the EU sponsored, MiFriendly Cities initiative, and part-funded by Coventry University, the building of the structure was a collaborative process, integrating students and local, retired experts.

This is the second time that the structure has facilitated a festival of events. A version of the project is currently being planned in Austria and one in Vietnam.

RISING Global Peace Forum

Coventry’s status as the UK’s first and only City of Peace & Reconciliation already inspires thousands of people around the world in their efforts to resolve violent conflict and promote peace. RISING brings together civil society leaders, policymakers, academics, students and peace practitioners to exchange ideas and inspiration about building and sustaining peaceful communities.

Established in 2015, RISING is a partnership between the University, the Cathedral and the City Council. RISING’s unique global legacy is for the world to have a better understanding of what’s needed to initiate and make peace and then to have the energy and inspiration to deliver peace.

The need for RISING can be seen on a daily basis in the global news. On an international level tensions between states are rising and the threat of man-made climate change shows that we are not at peace with our environment. At a local community level fear of ‘the other’ and physical violence towards minorities combine to undermine the fabric of peaceful societies.

Making and sustaining peace involves taking risks, and the difficult business of meeting, hearing and working with people whose values, aims and behaviours are very different.

The first RISING Global Peace Forum took place in late 2015 with the support of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Subsequent Forum speakers have included President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Tawakkol Karman (both Nobel Peace Prize winners), Ad Melkert, UN Special Representative for Iraq 2009-11 and Julia Gillard, former Australian Prime Minister.

In 2020 the theme of the RISING Global Peace Forum was ‘The Culture of Peace’ where we exchanged ideas and inspiration the role of national, cultural and political identity in building and sustaining peaceful communities both in the UK and internationally.

The speakers included author and broadcaster Afua Hirsch, commentator Will Self, Judge Shira Scheindlin and Professor Margaret Levi from the US. We explored three particular examples of the culture of peace in Rwanda, Palestine and UK community policing as well as looking at the need for trust and the free flow of information to reduce corruption with speakers from Transparency International UK and the online platform Simple Politics. The 2020 Forum included a welcome for Sir David King, the former UK government Chief Scientific Adviser, who delivered the Lord Mayor’s Peace Lecture about the need to address the climate change emergency in order to sustain peaceful communities. Because of the restrictions of Covid-19 the Forum took place in an online format.
To mark International Peace Day on 21st September, RISING organised the 2nd annual survey of 500+ Coventry-based employers, education, culture and health bodies and not-for-profit groups to find out the extent to which being based in the UK’s only City of peace and reconciliation influences both what they do and how they operate. The 2020 survey found a slight improvement on 2019, although there is still evidence of the need for greater understanding of how this unique brand attribute can contribute to life in the city.

RISING’s reach extends far beyond Coventry, helping to organise events, prompt dialogue and share best practice throughout the world. RISING symposia have been held in Baltimore, Belfast, Bogota, Caen, London, Mexico City and Monterrey bringing together policymakers, academics and community representatives to share insights into the complex business of enabling communities to sustain peace and individuals to pursue personal peacefulness.

In 2020 at the RISING Responsible Journalism symposia Professors Jake Lynch from Australia, Aeron Davis from London and Karin Wahl-Jorgensen from Cardiff spoke about how responsible journalism and communications can challenge fake news and propaganda in creating a culture of peace.

In October 2020, in order to extend our understanding of the role of young people in overcoming violent conflict and building a peaceful civic society in Kurdistan, we welcomed Mr Karwan Jamal Tahir, Kurdistan Regional Government High Representative to the UK, to speak with eight other academics and community activists and 70+ participants from the UK and Kurdistan.

At the RISING Reflection symposium in late November 2020, we welcomed Tom Tugendhat MP, Chair of the UK Foreign Affairs Select Committee and founder of the China Research Group, to talk about Britain’s future role on the international stage as a force for peace and also the UK’s future relationship with China.

Through its various digital media platforms RISING is provoking dialogue about peace and inspiring academics and practitioners in their work. The global audience of RISING can be seen by the 20,000+ unique visitors from 150 countries to RISING’s website and RISING’s Facebook and Twitter pages, and the RISING Global Peace Forum has also been shared on RISING’s digital media platforms.

RISING looking forward – Leadership for Peace

RISING continues to see its role as the global source of inspiration for leaders, academics and practitioners in their three-stranded efforts to initiate, make and develop peace, both between nation-states and at grassroots community level. In acknowledgement of Coventry’s leading role in the UK over many years as a force for peace and to link in with Coventry being the UK City of Culture in 2021/22, the theme of RISING events in 2021 will be ‘Leadership for Peace’.

Better leadership, like peace, is a critical factor for human flourishing. With better leadership, societies can begin to address many of the sources of human insecurity – but often, just as with peace, we remain more aware of its absence than its existence. As we battle the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate change emergency, and the many associated challenges of rising job-losses, deepening economic inequalities and the alarming increase in hate crimes across the world, we shall explore how leadership and its development can help with the evident disillusionment felt about the state we are in.

RISING needs you

RISING is keen to meet and discuss with partners the possibility of working together to organise local symposia and to participate in the annual Global Peace Forum.

Sustaining RISING’s success in inspiring peacemakers throughout the world depends on both the continued participation of academics, civic leaders and practitioners and the financial support from sponsors and funders who share the aim of RISING to deliver a legacy of peace and peaceful relations for future generations. Building and sustaining peace is a journey best travelled with others.
CTPSR’s Postgraduate Taught Programmes

In an era that has been heavily impacted by Covid-19, our flexible blended distance learning courses make it possible for people to study in their own homes. Our experience in online teaching enabled us to react swiftly to the fast-changing circumstances during the year by moving our residential workshops to a purely virtual format. This has enabled students to continue meeting each other and taking part in live discussion with tutors and each other, just as they would have done at a residential event.

Thanks to the generosity of the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, we have been able to welcome and support more than thirty-five students from almost twenty countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. This has contributed to a student body that spans the globe, also including Western Europe, the Far East, Australasia and the USA. And thanks to the forging of a new partnership, we are proud to offer Aziz Foundation scholarships for our postgraduate taught programmes for the first time in 2021.

In 2021 we are launching our new MSc in Protective Security and Resilience. We are also continuing to explore imaginative new ways in which the creative, challenging and world-class research of academics at CTPSR can enrich the learning experience of our students. This commitment to innovation characterises postgraduate teaching at CTPSR and reflects the five core principles that continue to guide everything that we do. Postgraduate teaching at the Centre is:

• Inspired by History but Responding to Today’s Challenges – Founded on Coventry’s heritage as the UK’s city of peace and reconciliation, CTPSR’s teaching responds to the challenges of the 21st century.
• Research Informed – Our courses are inspired by our work as experienced, world-leading researchers, making them current, fresh and cutting-edge
• Education as Knowledge Exchange – CTPSR is a learning community. Our global community of postgraduate students enliven and enhance our learning as they share their varied experiences with each other and with academics at the Centre.
• Holistic and Multidisciplinary – Teaching and learning at CTPSR explores complex challenges from a wide-range of perspectives and draws on insights from many academic disciplines.
• Rooted in everyday life and responding to practical challenges – CTPSR’s postgraduate teaching responds to real-world challenges and equips students with the tools they need to become peacebuilders in their communities and places of work.

For more information about our courses, please visit: https://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/areas-of-research/trust-peace-social-relations/study-with-us/

“The course workshop challenged my perceptions and understanding.”

In 2021 we are launching our new MSc in Protective Security and Resilience. We are also continuing to explore imaginative new ways in which the creative, challenging and world-class research of academics at CTPSR can enrich the learning experience of our students. This commitment to innovation characterises postgraduate teaching at CTPSR and reflects the five core principles that continue to guide everything that we do. Postgraduate teaching at the Centre is:

• Inspired by History but Responding to Today’s Challenges – Founded on Coventry’s heritage as the UK’s city of peace and reconciliation, CTPSR’s teaching responds to the challenges of the 21st century.
• Research Informed – Our courses are inspired by our work as experienced, world-leading researchers, making them current, fresh and cutting-edge
• Education as Knowledge Exchange – CTPSR is a learning community. Our global community of postgraduate students enliven and enhance our learning as they share their varied experiences with each other and with academics at the Centre.
• Holistic and Multidisciplinary – Teaching and learning at CTPSR explores complex challenges from a wide-range of perspectives and draws on insights from many academic disciplines.
• Rooted in everyday life and responding to practical challenges – CTPSR’s postgraduate teaching responds to real-world challenges and equips students with the tools they need to become peacebuilders in their communities and places of work.

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CTPSR’s Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Some of our recent graduates talk about their experiences of studying with us:

KIRTHI JAYAKUMAR
MA Peace and Conflict Studies, supported by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

In my two years at CTPSR, I was exposed to knowledge, methodologies, and praxis that helped open up my thinking. I come from a background where rote-learning is emphasised as the norm, and CTPSR helped me transition gently into application-oriented and hands-on learning. A profound testimony to this transition is that I founded an initiative that worked at the cross-section of gender, peace, and security, positioning the Global South against a global narrative that is heavily western-centric. This is the heavy influence of my time at CTPSR at work, for from coursework to research, we are constantly encouraged to read and immerse in the knowledge produced by and voices of a wide range of writers, researchers, and practitioners.

MOIZ RAHMAN MEMON
MA Maritime Security, supported by the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

Being an Engineering professional and having an interest in Social Sciences, I wanted to make a transition where I can integrate both the fields together. In addition to core Maritime Security modules and the contemporary issues within them, this programme/course also offered me a chance to study related disciplines such as peace, conflict, security, violence and non-violence and empathy.

Choosing the MA Maritime Security programme at CTPSR has been one of the best decisions of my life. I would highly recommend this programme to anyone who wants to pursue a career as an academic or a practitioner not only in the field of Maritime Security but also in Social Sciences as a whole and technical fields including Engineering, Telecommunications etc.

LISA EVANS
MA Peace and Conflict Studies, supported by the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

Throughout the duration of my studies, I engaged in full-time work supporting a governing board and chief executive of a government agency. I was not sure what to expect or how I would handle the two responsibilities and my personal life. What made the process manageable was the modular structure of the course. We studied one module at a time, and assessments were due at the end. The reflective learning approach made it interesting to look at my immediate environment at work, home, and in social settings, through the eyes of the theoretical concepts presented by the professors.

Being a ‘blended learning’ course gave the sense of belonging, and the experiences shared by my colleagues from other parts of the world made the trip to Coventry worthwhile, every time. CTPSR supported students financially through bursaries, which was helpful in budgeting for my workshop attendances. Academic staff were professionals in their field, and this was clear by the salient feedback given for coursework. The MA changed my understanding of war and security issues, and I am now better positioned to contribute to the sustainability of positive peace in our world.

FREDERICK LEOH
MA Peace and Conflict Studies, supported by the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

The MA in Peace and Conflict Studies at CTPSR provided a unique opportunity for me to gain an in-depth understanding of conflict analysis, inclusive approaches to peacebuilding and its importance for sustainable peace.

SERITA S BONSIGNORE
MPA in Global Diversity Governance

As an experienced senior HR professional with over 20 years’ experience, I have found this course critical in exploring a career move into Diversity & Inclusion. It has been insightful in terms of drawing on evolving theories on diversity governance at both a political, social and organisational level. As organisations instruct a more evidence based approach in their operations, this course provides a platform to apply academic research and current thinking to the business case for diversity. Something that all D&I practitioners would value and benefit from.

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“CTPSR supported students financially through bursaries, which was helpful in budgeting for my workshop attendances.”
UN Peacekeeping

David Curran presented his research on UN peacekeeping in Entebbe, Uganda as part of a research / policy workshop on the ‘Protection of Civilians in UN and Regional Peace Operations’. The international workshop consisted of UN staff from a number of peacekeeping missions on the African continent, policymakers from UN Headquarters, and leading academics in the field of peacekeeping research. David’s presentation outlined his research on how military peacekeepers are trained in conflict resolution skills to assist in the implementation of Protection of Civilians’ activities.

David contributed his expertise at a roundtable event at Chatham House with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix. The event, attended by UK Government and NGO representatives, was an opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the UN’s approach to conflict, and the challenges that the organisation is facing in terms of its interventions.

David also shared his research insights into UN peacekeeping by delivering a module to the Irish Military’s Staff and Command College. The module examined UN peacekeeping in Entebbe, Uganda as part of a research / policy workshop on the ‘Protection of Civilians in UN and Regional Peace Operations’. The international workshop consisted of UN staff from a number of peacekeeping missions on the African continent, policymakers from UN Headquarters, and leading academics in the field of peacekeeping research. David’s presentation outlined his research on how military peacekeepers are trained in conflict resolution skills to assist in the implementation of Protection of Civilians’ activities.

Political trust

Charis Rice has been taking part in the TrustGov project [https://trustgov.net/] that explores trust in government worldwide. She presented a paper at the 2020 conference, ‘Political Trust in Crisis’ and has since been developing collaborations with leading scholars in the field around trust and divided societies.

Peace and Conflict summer school with Nanjing University

As part of our ongoing partnership with Nanjing University in China, CTPSR colleagues delivered our first online summer school for more than 30 Chinese students in July. While the plan was to deliver the summer school in Nanjing with Professor Liu Cheng, Director of the Institute for Peace Studies and the UNESCO Chair in Peace Studies, we had to transform it to an online workshop due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Professor Mike Hardy, Chas Morrison, David Curran, Ezechiel Sentama, Frens Kroeger, Michadina Jakala, and Mho Taka collaboratively developed and delivered the interactive workshop using Zoom and Open Moodle. Drawing from ‘everyday’ experiences, the workshop participants explored and discussed peace, conflict, and violence as key themes to deepen their understanding of these themes that can be applied in different contexts and situations.

Jiel and Coventry Universities sign Memorandum of Understanding

Ahead of a joint international webinar in July on “Responding to Coronavirus”, Coventry and Jiel Universities “virtually” signed an MoU to promote staff and student mobility, to seek further opportunities for collaborative research and to provide mutual support in our research and teaching. CTPSR has been working with Jiel University since 2018, participating in conferences in Jiel and welcoming colleagues such as Dr Adel Chiheb and Hicham Betahar to Coventry. Our successful joint BA funded Doctoral Summer School in 2019 inspired the development of our new BA Youth Futures Project research programme.

In challenging times for both countries and institutions, the MoU strengthens this partnership and shares expertise. The conference on Coronavirus which followed the MoU signing was a first initiative within this framework. This included papers on the impact of governance systems, modernisation, social solidarity on our responses and the impact on young people, particularly on education, of the pandemic.

Maritime security training in Indonesia

As part of CTPSR’s well established, partnership and collaboration with the London School of Public Relations (LSPR) Jakarta, Ioannis delivered the CPD in Maritime Security at the end of 2019, and again as a virtual programme in 2020. The course attracts around 30 students each year and covers a wide range of contemporary maritime security challenges and their links to sustainable development, with a particular focus on Indonesia.

KOPI welcomed in Coventry

In January, CTPSR welcomed a group of 25 teachers and other academics from the Korea Peacebuilding Institute (KOPI) who were visiting the UK as part of a Peace and Reconciliation tour. The day was spent sharing experiences and perspectives on peace scholarship.

Collaboration with University of Bath’s Centre for Development Studies

Zainab Mai-Bonru and Gordon Crawford have established a collaboration between CTPSR and CDS. This commenced with joint seminars on themes of common interest, with speakers from each Centre, in a virtual format that enabled greater participation from both Centres as well as from a wider audience of interested individuals. The first seminar in November addressed the pandemic and was entitled: ‘Covid-19: consequences for global inequalities and prospects for development’. The second was held in December and examined the World Bank’s 2020 Poverty and Shared Prosperity report, Reversals of Fortune, with the lead author Michael Woolcock as the speaker. Further collaboration on shared research interests is planned for 2021.
Working together

Our network and global reach

OUR STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PARTNERS

1. University of Bath
2. University of Birmingham
3. University of Warwick
4. University of Oxford
5. Durham University
6. University of Glasgow
7. University of St Andrews
8. Ulster University
9. Arab American University Jenin (Palestine)
10. Arizona State University (US)
11. University of Central Oklahoma (US)
12. Deakin University (Australia)
13. University of Illinois at Chicago (US)
14. Freiburg University (Germany)
15. University of Ghana (Ghana)
16. University of Indonesia (Indonesia)
17. Jijel University (Algeria)
18. Kadir Has University (Turkey)
19. KROC Institute, University of Notre Dame (US)
20. University of Maryland (US)
21. University of Maryland Baltimore (US)
22. University of Monterrey (Mexico)
23. Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta (Indonesia)
24. Nanjing University (China)
25. Uppsala University (Sweden)
26. UIN Indonesia (Indonesia)
27. Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
28. Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta (Indonesia)
29. Technical University of Delft (Netherlands)
30. University of Technology Sydney (Australia)
31. University of Toronto (Canada)

We are proud to work with partners worldwide who share our vision in responding to complex challenges facing contemporary societies, and with whom we collaborate in the course of our research.
Innovation in Politics Award

MiFriendly Cities, delivered across Coventry, Birmingham and Wolverhampton, has been selected as an outstanding example of political innovation in Europe. The award by the Innovation in Politics Institute involved over 1,000 jurors (citizens across 47 European countries) who ranked MiFriendly Cities in the top 10 of the best in the human rights category, out of 398 entries.

The MiFriendly Cities initiative aims to build stronger communities by encouraging employers, health services and the wider public to come together to drive change at both city and regional level. Together, the partnership of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, including CTPSR, continues to provide a unique network of skilled individuals and knowledge to improve awareness around what constitutes a ‘migration friendly’ city.

The project has already established two eco furniture factories, which showcase migrants’ talents and encourage community contribution in a novel way. FabLab Coventry and its Eco Furniture Factory proved a huge hit with the UK Home Office. Hannah Gregory (deputy director, integration and vulnerability resettlement, asylum support and integration directorate) said: “we were really struck by the innovation of MiFriendly Cities’ approach – and the mutually beneficial connection between the research and the project”.

By using locally sourced waste materials to upcycle more than 1,000 pieces of furniture, the factories are supporting 100 home and community makeovers, making artefacts for City of Culture 2021 and bringing older skilled volunteers together with migrants to exchange expertise. Open to everybody, the factory builds trust and encourages sustainable behaviours through migrant-led repair cafes.

Awards and honours

CTPSR achieves Athena Swan Gender Equality Accreditation

In April, CTPSR was presented with an Athena SWAN Bronze Department Award in recognition of its commitment to promoting gender equality, the first academic department at Coventry University to achieve this commendation.

Established in 2005, the Advance HE’s Athena SWAN Charter recognises and celebrates good practices in higher education and research institutions towards the advancement of gender equality. CTPSR has a gender balanced leadership team and 53% of its academic staff are women. With just under a third of staff coming from countries outside the UK, CTPSR has developed a diverse, outward-looking and vibrant team.

“CTPSR is proud to receive this award in recognition of our commitment to gender equality in all our work. This award endorses the strong, inclusive working culture that we have consciously and deliberately nurtured since CTPSR’s inception, and which is instrumental in attracting talent and funding to our centre. The award also underscores the contribution that all our staff, students and partners make to the life of our centre, on which we will continue to build.”

(Thea Gibbs, CTPSR’s Director of Operations)

The Centre prides itself on being values-driven in its research and operation, meaning that what we do and how we do it are equally important. The Athena SWAN Charter provides a continuous reminder of the responsibilities institutions have to people-centred approaches.

CTPSR is building on this result through our newly established Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which will extend this work into other aspects of the inclusion agenda.

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**Book Awards**


The Athena Swan submission can be read in full here: https://www.coventry.ac.uk/globalassets/media/global/08-new-research-section/ctpsr/athena-swan-department-application_ctpsr_for-website.pdf

CTPSR is building on this result through our newly established Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which will extend this work into other aspects of the inclusion agenda.

“Gender equality, diversity and inclusion are central to the Centre’s leadership, from the management and development of our research groups that celebrate leadership by early-career and mid-career staff, to the leadership of our cross-Centre functions”.

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![Members of the Athena Swan team working on the submission](https://www.coventry.ac.uk/globalassets/media/global/08-new-research-section/ctpsr/athena-swan-department-application_ctpsr_for-website.pdf)
Muslims in Britain Research Network

Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor has been elected as Chair of the Muslims in Britain Research Network. The network was established in 1992 to encourage and promote the scholarly study of Muslims and Islam in Britain, and to build connections between academics, students, professionals, researchers, journalists and practitioners from all backgrounds with an interest in this subject.

Appointment as Trustee of the UK’s Inter Faith Network

Professor Paul Weller has been appointed as a Trustee of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom (https://interfaith.org.uk/), a network that seeks to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the different faith communities in Britain by linking national faith community representative bodies, national and regional inter faith organisations, local inter faith groups and academic and educational bodies.

Soon after the founding of the Network in 1987, Paul Weller worked for it as its Resources Officer. Throughout his career he continued to conduct collaborative work funded by the Network, leading to the publication, in 1993, of the first “one-stop” reference work on religions and their organisations in the UK, Religions in the UK: A Multi-Faith Directory. Further editions followed, and the 2001 edition won the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education prize for an outstanding contribution to Religious Education. Over the past couple of years, Paul has represented the Baptist Inter Faith Working Group on the Network’s national Faith Communities Forum and says of this new appointment that: “At this point in my career, it is a privilege to reconnect with the Network in this new way as a Trustee, in the hope that I can offer to its work something of benefit from my engagement with inter-faith relations through research and practice over a number of decades.”

Outstanding PhD supervision

This year two teams from CTPSR (Ann-Marie Nienaber and Charis Rice, and Paul Weller, Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor and Jessica Northey) shared the University’s Outstanding Supervisory Team of the Year Award, which recognises and celebrates inspiring and supportive supervisory teams across the University. The teams are nominated by their postgraduate research students, and this year’s award success is testament to the quality of research supervision at CTPSR.

Teaching awards

Two more CTPSR staff have achieved Higher Education Academy awards this year, with Robert McCabe awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy and James Malcolm awarded Senior Fellow status. These awards demonstrate a personal and institutional commitment to professionalism in learning and teaching in higher education. James is now serving as an assessor for the HEA Fellowship programme within the University.
Mindfulness meditation research

Dr Miguel Farias has received various international invitations to talk about his work on mindfulness meditation. In 2020 he spoke at a conference in Brazil, at FENS 2020 (the largest neuroscience conference in Europe) and at the Embodiment Conference. He has also published a new popular science article on meditation and various media articles on his meditation research.

[Web link]

Responsible journalism

Charis Rice and Leverhulme Visiting Professor, Jake Lynch (University of Sydney), organised an online conference ‘Responsible Journalism and Communication in Divided Societies’. The event attracted participation from academics and practitioners from 20 countries.

[Web links]

Adaptive Leadership for Peaceful Relations

Professor Mike Hardy is leading a major new Project, with the International Leadership Association, assessing how successfully the leadership community is supporting the development of global leadership at this time of uncertainty and accelerating change. The research is exploring the phenomenon of leadership and looking at models of adaptive leadership focusing on behaviours, models, and cultures of leadership, with more interest in all stakeholders within leadership than on leaders themselves. It has been prompted by an anxiety about the adequacy of leadership, specifically with influence over conflicts and the protection of peace.

Leadership in all its forms is facing unprecedented pressures from changes in power relations, technologies, and global interdependencies. This distinctive context is not a period of more-of-the-same but rather an unprecedented time of amplified complexity and an unyielding and accelerating pace of change. Changes are having consequences for leadership, and these consequences bring potential for success and failures, achievements and disappointments. The project has sought to highlight the ‘so what...’ of the contemporary context and set out some of the ‘what ifs...’ scenarios for improved leadership processes.
The research draws on diverse perspectives through team-based dialogue with global influencers, practitioners and scholars including leading leadership scholars Professor Ron Heifetz (Harvard), Professor Larry Diamond (Stanford), Professor Gill Hickman (Jepson at Richmond), and Professor Kai Peters (Coventry). The research also engages politicians such as Lord Alderdice (UK), PM Kim Campbell (Canada) and PM George Papandreou (Greece).

The project has generated significant media coverage worldwide including:

Hardy M, ‘Leadership during the pandemic’, London School of Public Relations, Jakarta online, June 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8N4lHCcu8Y


Mike’s contributions to the understanding of peaceful relations have been featured in these online presentations:

Hardy, M, ‘The Baku Process’ presentation on work on intercultural dialogue to the UNESCO Luanda Biennale, Angola March 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0pUJ-0KFOQ


Our research groups

COMMUNITIES, IDENTITIES AND POLITICS
(Lead: Ann-Marie Niemaber)

Communities face a number of emerging challenges including demographic change, strained social relations and a rebalancing of the relationship between civil society and the state, compounded by constrained public finances. The group undertakes research rooted in local knowledge and the lived experience of residents, to create an evidence base which assists communities to successfully adapt to change. We critically engage with concepts of community, and employ interdisciplinary approaches to analyse themes such as trust and securitisation, democratic renewal, distribution of power and governance, coexistence and managing difference, radicalisation and extremism.

FAITH AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS
(Lead: Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor)

The Group researches religion in order to work for peace and build social justice. We uncover and explore the important yet often unrecognised ways in which religious beliefs contribute to justice and injustice in society. We aim to answer philosophical and practical questions to critically examine the role of religious and spiritual beliefs and practices in contemporary society. We have particular expertise in faith-based responses to conflict, interfaith dialogue, religion in conflict, religion and belief freedom, discrimination and equality, urban theology and poverty, gender, contextual theology and religious leadership.

GLOBAL INEQUALITIES AND DEVELOPMENT
(Lead: Gordon Crawford and Heaven Crawley)

We undertake research in most developing regions of the world and make linkages to issues of poverty, inequality and oppression in the so-called developed world. Our researchers examine various structural inequalities such as those based on gender and class, and on access to education and natural resources. We are interested in how people, especially youth and those from oppressed and marginalised groups, build trust, organise and mobilise against such inequalities and unjust power relations in their struggles for human rights, justice, representation and democracy. We have a strong focus on migration and displacement, hosting the world’s largest migration research project, the GCRF-funded South-South Migration, Inequality and Development (MIDEQ) Hub. Working with international partners in 12 countries, MIDEQ undertakes research and policy analysis aimed at reducing inequalities associated with migration.
Lucy Peacock received her PhD this summer, before re-joining the Centre as a Research Fellow in the Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group. Lucy’s doctoral research explored interfaith relationships between young people in schools through evaluating the effectiveness of The Faith and Belief Forum’s (F&BF’s – formerly Three Faiths Forum) School Linking Programme. Lucy’s research has influenced practice; Lucy led a consultation process with F&BF to adapt the design, delivery and evaluation of School Linking in light of her research findings. A report summarising the research and F&BF’s response was launched in December 2020.

Thomas J. Coleman III, a PhD student at the Centre for Trust, Peace, and Social Relations, and member of Miguel Farias’ Brain, Belief, and Behaviour Research Lab, has accepted a 3-year post-doctoral position in the Society & Cognition Unit at the University of Bialystok, Poland. Coleman will be working on the EEA Norway Grant funded project, “Religion, Ideology, & Prosociality (RIP): Simulating Secularising Societies project,” led by Drs Konrad Talmont-Kaminski and LeRon Shults. As a member of the RIP research team, he will help design experiments and multi-agent artificial intelligence models of the cognitive and cultural factors that cause variations in secularization at the individual and societal level.

The Life on the Breadline project team awarded a PhD scholarship to Rev Kate Gray in May 2020 as part of a Coventry University Trailblazer Doctoral Studentship Scheme. This political theology doctoral research project will explore the impact that austerity age poverty has had on Christian activism in the UK.

SECURITY, VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE
(Lead: David Curran)
We undertake research on a variety of topic areas, from understanding forms of security and insecurity in the transnational sphere, protective security, maritime security, through to aspects of countering violent extremism, the impact of public policy towards vulnerable populations, gang membership in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the UN’s attempts to intervene in violent conflict. Research projects and publications reflect work undertaken within the UK, across Europe, the Indian Ocean, Australia, Caribbean and Latin America, and with organisations such as NATO, the UN, and European Union.

PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
(Lead: Bahar Baser)
Peacebuilding combined with conflict transformation is a holistic and multifaceted process that embraces conflict as a potentially constructive force. It aims to reduce violence and protect and promote social justice, positive social relations and sustainable peace. Our research critically analyses intervention in situations of violence including international peacebuilding, re-construction, transitional justice initiatives, counter-terrorism, and preventing violent extremism, and pays special attention to roles for international organizations, diaspora, civil society, youth, and nonviolent movements.

Sam Onapa who studied MA Peacebuilding with us in 2014 and undertook a PhD at the University of New England was successfully awarded a PhD for his thesis, ‘Dealing with Estranged Political Relationships: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace in South Sudan’ in July 2020. He has also been awarded a Chancellor’s Doctoral Research Medal. CTPSR’s Mho Taka who taught Sam on the Masters programme, was his PhD external examiner, and found that Sam’s research is pioneering in peace and conflict studies, providing much needed fresh insight into protracted conflicts and their resolutions.

Our doctoral research
### 2020 PhD Completions

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Stephens</td>
<td>Children’s Rights in Practice: Young people’s perspectives of working with professionals in the context of safeguarding and supporting children who have experienced sexual exploitation</td>
<td>Hazel Barrett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Messick</td>
<td>A Psychological Study of the Sacred in Metal Music Culture</td>
<td>Miguel Farias</td>
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<td>Linden Rowley</td>
<td>Working with Community Tensions in the UK: Towards a new narrative</td>
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<td>Awah Fomunyam</td>
<td>Operationalisation of Human Security for Effective Disaster Management in Cameroon</td>
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<td>Arianna Mazzieri</td>
<td>Global Civil Society Agency within the New Aid Architecture: A Neo-Gramscian Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thea Shahrokh</td>
<td>Young People with Migration-related Life Experiences: Navigating identities and belonging in South Africa</td>
<td>EJ Mine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Gore</td>
<td>Transitional Justice in South Sudan: Disdain for justice or love for freedom and peace?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Calliou</td>
<td>The Words for What You Are Feeling: Articulating reconciliation in Canada from an indigenous research paradigm</td>
<td>Michaelina Jakala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kira Gruenewald</td>
<td>Trust Repair in the Banking Sector: A multi-stakeholder perspective on trust and control mechanisms</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Nienaber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nana Zakama</td>
<td>Early Warning Early Response (Ewer) Conflict Prevention Perspectives and Youth Violence in Jos, Nigeria</td>
<td>Jessica Northey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Impact of Self-Financing on the Success and Sustainability of Non-Governmental Development Organisations in The Gambia</td>
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<td>Alison Halford</td>
<td>‘As Sisters in Zion’: How do Mormon women in Britain negotiate gender?</td>
<td>Kristin Aune</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Peacock</td>
<td>Contact in the Classroom: Exploring relationships between interfaith encounters and peaceful relations through a case study of The Faith and Belief Forum’s School Linking programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meryem Abdelhafid</td>
<td>How it Feels Like: The Lived Experiences of Veiled and Unveiled Algerian Muslim Women in the UK</td>
<td>Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siham Aboujanah</td>
<td>Better understanding of the organisational structures and practices that allow Organisational Citizenship Behaviours to emerge and how they could be used to maximise performance</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Nienaber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ola Alkahlout</td>
<td>The practice of Zakat as a resource for peacebuilding, Case study: Qatar</td>
<td>Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor</td>
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<td>Mabel Aikai</td>
<td>Becoming The Temple Of God: Intergenerational Relationships and Femininity construction in African diaspora churches in the UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdulla Rashed Sultan Bin Qaba</td>
<td>How the UAE counter-terrorism forces deal with the threat posed by the entry of ISIS foreign fighters – a critical evaluation</td>
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<td>Khaled Nagi Hussin</td>
<td>The role of International Aid in Yemen’s Reconstruction. A Case Study of the Three Governorates of Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Annan</td>
<td>Exploring the Contributions of Local Infrastructures for Peace in Post-Conflict Societies: The Case of Liberia</td>
<td>Miho Taka</td>
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<td>Solenne Awt</td>
<td>The cognitive Sources of ethical Behaviour in Business</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Nienaber</td>
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<td>Rana Aytug</td>
<td>A cross-rational analysis of youth mobilization in public space: spatializing peacebuilding in theory, practices and policy</td>
<td>Christopher Shannahan</td>
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<td>Balki Begumhan</td>
<td>Exploring Autocrats’ Legitimation Strategies in Hybrid Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of Russia and Turkey</td>
<td>Durukan Kuzu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imogen</td>
<td>Baylis</td>
<td>A diachronic Critical Discourse Analysis of immigration, migration and RASIM in the UK media and political discourse between 2008 and 2016</td>
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<td>Kalyan</td>
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<td>Improving inter-ethnic relations between Madheshi and Non-Madheshi groups in Nepal: A Grassroots People’s Perspective</td>
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<td>Lee Matthew</td>
<td>Daly</td>
<td>A No for Now: Voter Behaviour in Peace Referendums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Robson</td>
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<td>How do emotions manifest in groups and collectives</td>
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<td>Yasin</td>
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<td>Rethinking Ethnic and Religious Identities in the Context of Refugee Integration</td>
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<td>Preventing Islamic Radicalism In Indonesia: Muhammadiyah Case 1998-2017</td>
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<td>Hafiz</td>
<td>Iqbal</td>
<td>To explore the journey that Sufis have taken, from the Indian subcontinent in the twentieth century, to modern day Britain</td>
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<td>Ismail</td>
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<td>Uroosa</td>
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<td>Louise</td>
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Our Publications 2019 / 2020

Books published in 2020

- Joel Busher (Co-editor): Researching the Far Right – Theory, Method and Practice
- Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor (Co-editor): Islam on Campus – Contested Identities and the Cultures of Higher Education in Britain
- Zainab Mai-Bornu: Political Violence and Oil in Africa – The Case of Nigeria
- Robert McCabe: Capacity Building for Maritime Security
- Matt Qvortrup (editor): Nationalism, Referendums, and Democracy
- Matt Qvortrup (editor): Routledge Handbook to Referendums and Direct Democracy


Buscher, J, Harris, G & Macklin, G 2019, 'How can analysis of “credibility contests” help us understand where and when anti-minority activism is more likely to gain momentum?’, Interventionen, vol. December, no. 14, pp. 39-43. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2018.1530978


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Our people

Dr Nancy Annan
Research Fellow

Amy Arnold
Research Delivery Support Assistant

Jane Arthur
Operations Manager

Professor Kristin Aune
Senior Research Fellow: Religion in higher education, sociology of religion, gender, feminism, secularism, chaplaincy

Professor Hazel Barrett
Senior Research Fellow: Politics and homeland conflicts, diaspora, Kurds, ethnic lobbying

Dr Bahar Baser
Research Delivery Support Partner

Imogen Baylis
Researcher: Diversity governance, intercultural dialogue, migrant constructs in media and political discourse, immigration policy, identities.

Dr Kelly Bogue
Research Associate: Marginalised groups and communities, youth culture and far-right activism, social housing policy, ethnographic research methods

Aurelie Broeckerhoff
Research Associate: Everyday diversity, consumer culture and markets

Dr Joel Busher
Senior Research Fellow: Anti-minority mobilisation, gang violence, gender

Dr Heather Baggaley
Postgraduate Programmes Manager

Dr Adam Baird
Research Fellow: Gang violence, gender

Dr Dr. Mateja Celestina
Research Associate: Conflict and forced migration, protected refugee situations, displacement and emplacement, memory and belonging

Sharon Cartwright
Research Delivery Support Partner

Dr Ioannis Chapsos
Research Fellow: Maritime security, privatisation of security

Dr Sariya Cheruvallil Contractor
Research Fellow: Islam, Muslim women, feminism, digital methodologies, religion in higher, religion and non-religion in Britain

Dr Dr. Bahar Baser
Research Fellow: Religion in higher education, sociology of religion, gender, feminism, secularism, chaplaincy

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Research Fellow: Islam, Muslim women, feminism, digital methodologies, religion in higher, religion and non-religion in Britain
Visiting Practice Fellow: Maritime Security

Steve Hamilton

Professor: Intercultural dialogue, peacefulness and community safety

Professor Mike Hardy

Research Fellow: Labour migration, social diversity, integration, ethnic entrepreneurship

Dr Catherine Harris

Research Associate: Post-conflict reconstruction, gender, geographies of peace

Dr Elly Harrowell

Assistant Professor

Dr Ali Jones

Senior Research Fellow: Migrant recruitment and employment practices, domestic workers, migrant social networks, human rights

Dr Katharine Jones

Professor (Emeritus): Human security, peacebuilding, religion in China, peace and conflict

Professor Alan Hunter

Research Fellow: Islam, contextual theology, extremism, radicalisation, British Muslims, urban theology

Dilwar Hussain

Senior Research Fellow: War crimes, victims of war, transitional justice

Dr Serena Hussain

Research Fellow: War crimes, victims of war, transitional justice

Dr Michaelina Jakala

Research Fellow: Islam, contextual theology, extremism, radicalisation, British Muslims, urban theology

Dr Dr Michaelina Jakala

CTPSR Administrator

Alison Keenan

Research Fellow: Ethnic diversity, comparative politics, conflict resolution and multiculturalism

Dr Frens Kroeger

Research Fellow: Trust within and between communities, public trust

Dr Durukan Kuzu

FabLab Manager

Dr Helen Lewis

Research Associate: Migration, displacement and belonging, migrant journeys

Dr Esra Kaytaz
Daniel Range
Research Associate: Intergroup contact; contact theory; social relations

Dr Charis Rice
Research Fellow: Organisational trust, strategic communication, public relations, political and government communication

Dr Charlie Rumsby
Research Fellow

Dr Kindy Sandhu
Research Fellow

Professor Matt Qvortrup
Professor: Political Science; referendums; peace and governance; terrorism

Emily Paffett
Research Assistant (RISING)

Laura Payne
Research Associate: Faith-based peacebuilding, religious violence, conflict transformation, civil society, youth, peace processes

Dr Lucy Peacock
Research Fellow

Dr Patricia Sellick
Senior Research Fellow: Nonviolence and conflict transformation; international non-governmental organisations

Dr Saheira Sha
Research Fellow

Dr Chris Shannahan
Research Fellow: Religion and politics, religion and multiculturalism, theology and poverty, secularisation, hip-hop

Jack Shuttleworth
Technical Skills Instructor, FabLab

Dr M. Ali Syed
Research Development Executive

Dr Bianca Slocombe
Assistant Professor

Laura Sulin
Researcher: Intercultural dialogue, gender equality, conflict resolution, civil society

Dr Gavin Sullivan
Reader: Social and political psychology, collective memory and emotions

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