

Heritage, Dignity & Violence Programme 2019

List of Awards

Reference: HDV190216

PI: Professor Mohamed Abdelmonem, Nottingham Trent University

Co-Applicant(s): Professor Robin Coningham, Durham University; Dr Gehan Selim, University of Leeds; Dr Mufeed Dhanoon, Mosul University, Iraq; Dr Fawziya Al Maliky, State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq; Dr Sabeeh Farhan, Wasit, Iraq

Value of Award: £299,409.13

Title: *Preserving the Disappearing Cultural Heritage of Post-War Mosul, Iraq: Valuing Diversity in the Urban Recovery of Mosul's Old Districts*

Abstract: In the aftermath of severe destruction of Mosul's heritage assets and the displacement of its communities, Mosul's long-lived heritage of arts, folklore, crafts and festivals is quickly disappearing. This project seeks to implement a strategic approach to revive local traditions and reactivate the cultural heritage of the Old City through memorialisation, preservation and dissemination of shared heritage as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic mobilisation of the heritage economy. It aims to research, record and analyse the memories of heritage practices, festivities and crafts that used to define the pre-conflict society of Mosul. Through community engagement and co-creation workshops with displaced communities, the research team is looking to digitally record and archive oral narratives and memories of local residents and craftsmen, trace spatial networks of historic festivities, crafts and places of production to generate an interactive, digital and tangible record of the city's traditions, and build capacity amongst young generations and unemployed women in the Old City.

Reference: HDV190114

PI: Professor David Anderson, University of Warwick

Co-Applicant(s): Professor Kennedy Mkutu, United States International University, Kenya

Value of Award: £267,913

Title: *Understanding the Dynamics of Water Scarcity and Violence in Kenya*

Abstract: Water scarcity is now a pervasive feature of Kenya's social ecology, attributed variously to growing demographic pressures, land use changes, environmental degradation, and the apparent influences of climate change. This project seeks to explore how local communities cope with water scarcity: Are indigenous systems of water stewardship sufficiently robust to avert violent conflict over access to and control of water sources? Combining methodologies from history and political science, the project aims to document the historical approaches to water stewardship in three Kenyan counties – Narok, Marsabit and Isiolo – and assess the current dynamics of conflict around water use and access in these arid and semi-arid lands. It is expected that assessment of the spatial and temporal relationships between violence and water scarcity will allow policy recommendations to be made regarding conflict avoidance and the sustainable management of the hydroscape.

Reference: HDV190205

PI: Dr Adam Branch, University of Cambridge

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Mary Mbura Njenga, World Agroforestry Centre, Kenya;

Dr Tuyeni Heita Mwampamba, National Autonomous University of Mexico; Dr Patrick Byakagaba, Makerere University, Uganda; Dr Florence Ebila, Makerere University, Uganda; Dr Jon Phillips, University of Cambridge

Value of Award: £298,959.60

Title: *Fuelling Violence to Fuelling Peace: Charcoal and Environmental Justice in East Africa*

Abstract: Charcoal is the primary energy source for urban Africa, but its production is widely informal and unregulated. Consequently, charcoal is entwined with violence against nature through rampant deforestation and violence against vulnerable rural communities, fuelling violent political economies of conflict and extraction. As they are violently dispossessed of forests and land, communities living in production areas face destruction of their cultural heritage, embodied in nature, and the conditions for economic and political dignity. This undermines possibilities for sustainable peace. This transdisciplinary research project explores how charcoal's incorporation into violent political economies produces this violence against landscapes and communities, focusing on two case studies: Juba in South Sudan and the Acholi region in Uganda.

Reference: HDV190162

PI: Dr Mark Frost, University of Essex

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Nirmal Dewasiri, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Professor Tim Clifton Winter, University of Western Australia; Dr Anoma Darshani Pieris, University of Melbourne, Australia

Value of Award: £299,838.59

Title: *Living with Violent Heritage: Contests and Coexistence in Post-War Sri Lanka*

Abstract: The Living with Violent Heritage exchange (LiVHERE) provides new multidisciplinary insights into the relationship between heritage and conflict in the increasingly fraught setting of post-war Sri Lanka. Here, cultural and natural heritage have become weaponised tools of symbolic (and sometimes material) violence, inflaming inter-ethnic tensions and rupturing social cohesion in ways that policy makers and stakeholders have yet to address. Long-standing ethno-nationalist contests have driven this process, but so have new post-war players and influences, including big business, international tourism, the Sri Lankan army and the UN. This project focuses on how marginalised, minority and displaced groups experience and respond to such violent heritage. LiVHERE seeks to also widen understanding of the capacity of heritage to function as a mechanism for peace, truth and reconciliation, especially when deployed at a grassroots level.

Reference: HDV190078

PI: Dr Levi Gahman, University of Liverpool

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Gabrielle Hosein, University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Dr Filiberto Penados, University of Belize; Ms Cristina Coc, Julian Cho Society; Maya Leaders Alliance, Belize; Dr Kathy Burrell, University of Liverpool

Value of Award: £300,000.00

Title: *In Defence of Maya Land, Lives, and Dignity: Co-Creating Pathways out of Structural and Slow Violence via Community Mobilising, Mapping, and Art*

Abstract: This project uses an intersectional and rights-based research design comprised of qualitative methods to gather empirical evidence that fulfils the following objectives: 1) Analysing encroachments upon and contaminations to Maya ancestral lands and heritage sites by documenting violations of Free, Prior and Informed Consent being perpetrated by corporate and state entities; 2) Amplifying the voices of rural Maya communities regarding what living with dignity means to them; 3) Increasing gender equity in Maya economic development projects and internal governance; 4) Bridging the generational gap between elders and youth with respect to Maya cosmovisión (worldviews); and 5) Further developing an alternative economy based on solidarity, inclusion and indigenous practices of sustainable land use, agro-forestry and food production.

Reference: HDV190020

PI: Professor David Gellner, University of Oxford

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Krishna Adhikari, University of Oxford; Professor Biswo Kallyan Parajuli, PN Campus, Pokhara, Nepal

Value of Award: £298,631.65

Title: *The Dalit Search for Dignity: State, Society, and Mobilisation from Below in Far West Nepal*

Abstract: Nepal's Dalits (ex-Untouchables, population nearly 3.5 million) remain at the bottom of society by all measures despite huge changes in the last 50 years. The possibility of building on their artisan and artistic heritage is compromised by pervasive stigma; they continue to face discrimination and at times violence. Building on earlier research, this project brings together a highly experienced interdisciplinary team, including Dalit scholars, to investigate the experience of Dalitness in the Mid and Far West Nepal, the poorest and most conservative parts of the country. The aim is to understand from below the position of Dalits, and how far mobilisation for dignity under the label 'Dalit' is viable.

Reference: HDV190133

PI: Dr Mhairi Gibson, University of Bristol

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Eshetu Gurmu, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dr Alexandra Alvergne, University of Oxford

Value of Award: £299,748.44

Title: *The Social Dynamics of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*

Abstract: One key but unmet target for global policymakers is to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Over 25 million (or two thirds) of Ethiopian women are thought to be cut, the second highest national number in Africa. Establishing how and why FGM/C persists in high-risk communities has proven difficult as being an illegal practice people may be inclined to misreport

their views and experiences. Further, little is known of how FGM/C norms are socially transmitted between individuals and communities. By combining ethnographic, social network analyses and novel survey techniques, this project seeks to address the need for more accurate data on FGM/C beliefs and attitudes, and the transmission of social norms which underpin its acceptability among people in rural Ethiopia. It is expected that this work will reveal how FGM/C is socially maintained, thus potentially how it can be eliminated e.g. by identifying the key opinion leaders who could be targeted for anti-FGM/C campaigns in this and similar communities.

Reference: HDV190210

PI: Dr Diana Jeater, University of Liverpool

Co-Applicant(s): Professor Tabona Shoko, University of Zimbabwe; Professor Gerald Mazarire, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe; Dr Ushehwedu Kufakurinani, University of Zimbabwe

Value of Award: £271,989.80

Title: *Spirits of Peace: Recovering Zimbabwe's Heritage of Traditional Reconciliation Systems for Today's Peacemakers*

Abstract: In January 2018, Zimbabwe established a National Peace & Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to address deep legacies of anger about civil war, state massacres and political violence, and develop strategies to prevent future violence. The 2013, Maseru Declaration's Framework for Peaceful Development in Southern Africa recommended using 'indigenous and traditional methods of healing, reconciliation, and alternative dispute resolution.' But this has turned out to be complicated. Zimbabwe has a long heritage of community reconciliation systems, often based on pacifying angry spirits. However, in the period 1890-1980 these systems were misrepresented, persecuted and driven underground. Today, there are conflicting, often deeply patriarchal, claims to the 'authentic' heritage. In partnership with the NPRC, this project uses practice-based research with traditional spirit healers, archives and oral history to uncover Zimbabwe's complex and changing cultural heritage, illustrating there is no single 'authentic' practice, but rather a rich and adaptable resource for today's peacebuilders.

Reference: HDV190111

PI: Dr Katy Jenkins, Northumbria University

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Sofia Zaragocin, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador; Dr Hilary Francis, Northumbria University; Dr Antonia Carcelen, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

Value of Award: £299,836.00

Title: *Harnessing Afro-Ecuadorian Women's Heritage to Promote Peaceful and Equitable Development in Esmeraldas, Ecuador*

Abstract: Afro-Ecuadorian women in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, are amongst the most marginalised groups in the country. Living in a region severely affected by large-scale extractivism and associated socio-environmental conflicts, they also face the impacts of drug trafficking and climate change-induced environmental degradation. The conditions under which these women live are rooted in a longer history of colonialism, with its own local discriminatory practices. This project aims to create spaces for collective reflection on Afro-Ecuadorian women's identity, as a means of valuing culturally specific narratives, practices, memories and heritage, while harnessing these for equitable development. Working with Mujeres de Asfalto, a community arts organisation, this project seeks to train young Afro-Ecuadorian women as peer researchers, enabling them to collect oral histories from older women, promoting inter-generational dialogue and peaceful development alternatives.

Reference: HDV190127

PI: Mr Martin Jones, University of York

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Alice Nah, University of York; Ms Lillianne Fan, Yayasan Geutanyoe, Malaysia; Ms Fitria Fitria, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Indonesia

Value of Award: £296,418.83

Title: *The Verandah of Protection: Violence, History and the Protection of Rohingya Refugees in Aceh and Beyond*

Abstract: How do histories, individual and collective, of violence and displacement influence how people respond to appeals for protection from others? How might these histories be woven into understandings of refugee protection? This project employs a multi-site, inter-disciplinary, multi-method, and creative research process to answer these questions using the case study of Rohingya who have sought protection in Aceh (Indonesia) over the past decade. The project examines the negotiation of these histories in Acehnese legal fora, in particular through sharia and adat (customary) law, informed by histories of conflict. It traces the onward movement of Rohingya to other parts of

Indonesia and Malaysia, examining how (other) host communities – with(out) histories of violence – respond to their protection. The project explores ‘indigenous’ approaches to protection in contexts where international arguments are weak (particularly in Southeast Asia), problematising ‘expertise’ in protection (and research) that have hitherto privileged international over local actors.

Reference: HDV190290

PI: Dr Zena Kamash, Royal Holloway, University of London

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Emma Claire Palmer-Cooper, University of Southampton; Dr Alana Marie Levinson-LaBrosse, American University of Iraq

Value of Award: £227,813.50

Title: *Crafting Heritage for Well-Being in Iraq*

Abstract: This project explores the nexus of crafting, heritage and well-being for survivors of conflict in Iraq, which has one psychiatric hospital for 38 million people. It brings together a team with interdisciplinary expertise in arts, heritage and psychology from the UK and Iraq. A key aim is to create a robust evidence-base for arts and crafts in improving personal and social well-being. The project seeks to demonstrate to Iraqi stakeholders and policy makers that such reflective practices play a critical role in fragile post-conflict contexts. The project is geared towards determining the specific ways in which engaging with heritage through craft can help rebuild the personal and social well-being and dignity that are key to underpinning sustainable, inclusive peace in Iraq.

Reference: HDV190229

PI: Professor Geoffrey Allan Khan, University of Cambridge

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Aziz Emmanuel Gewargisal-Zebari, Catholic University of Erbil; Dr Paul Noorlander, Leiden University

Value of Award: £291,285.81

Title: *Peace-Building Through the Documentation of Endangered Oral Culture in Iraq*

Abstract: The main objective is to produce parallel corpora of Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish folktales and to investigate the grammatical and lexical convergence of the Neo-Aramaic component of the corpus with the neighbouring Kurdish dialects. The underlying aim is to foster an understanding of shared cultural heritage between Christian and Muslim communities.

Reference: HDV190030

PI: Professor Catherine McIlwaine, King's College London

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Eliana Sousa Silva, Sao Paulo University; Professor Paul Heritage, Queen Mary University of London; Dr Miriam Krenzinger Azambuja, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Value of Award: £298,453.30

Title: *Resisting Violence, Creating Dignity: Negotiating Violence Against Women and Girls Through Community History-Making in Rio de Janeiro*

Abstract: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains one of the most pressing problems affecting women everywhere and its elimination is central to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, especially in cities. While information on the nature of VAWG is available in Brazil and elsewhere, the ways in which women resist it has received less attention. This project uses a co-created interdisciplinary approach to explore how women resist VAWG and create dignity through community history-making in Maré, Rio de Janeiro, a territory affected by persistent urban conflict. Extending long-standing research and civil society collaborations internationally, the project seeks to develop a multi-method framework to capture and map institutional and creative community histories developed by women as protagonists in resisting VAWG and building dignity as a way of ultimately reducing and preventing it.

Reference: HDV190288

PI: Dr Daanish Mustafa, King's College London

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Sarah De Nardi, Western Sydney University; Dr James Caron, SOAS University of London; Professor Arab Naz, University of Malakand, Pakistan

Value of Award: £298,194.84

Title: *Mapping the Wounded Landscape of Swat Valley: from Taliban Violence and Iconoclasm to Social Growth and Reconciliation*

Abstract: This project aims to map the ways in which Swat Valley communities are recovering from a recent history of violence and fear experienced during the Taliban insurgency. It is looking to articulate the spatial rearrangements enacted by the Taliban and the gendered memories and imaginaries of the conflict as interpreted through the optics of the damaged, blasted and sometimes rehabilitated heritage spaces in the valley. The research team is seeking to bring to the fore the traces

of violence and destruction through community-based projects that also reclaim sense of place and reanimate the significance of the Taliban-damaged heritage within a peace building process in Swat.

Reference: HDV190226

PI: Dr Catalina Ortiz, University College London

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Giovanna Astolfo, University College London; Ms Elizabeth Rhoads, Blakemore/Freeman Foundation; Dr Francois Tainturier, Inya Institute, Myanmar; Mr Phyo Wai, Mahavihara Dhamma Vinaya University, Myanmar; Professor Camillo Boano, University College London; Dr Maxime Boutry, GRET, Myanmar

Value of Award: £298,782.28

Title: *Framing Living Heritage as Tool to Prevent Spatial Violence*

Abstract: Dignity is at stake when human rights are threatened by forced eviction and resettlement as key modalities of spatial violence. In the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 16, the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of inclusive and peaceful human settlements are crucial. Myanmar's governments have used forced relocation and land confiscation since the 1950s, as a means of achieving 'Burmanisation' through acts of spatial violence perpetrated against ethnic, political and religious minorities and the urban poor. Despite an emergent democratisation process, threats of evictions remain. This project explores the intersection of heritage, land/housing rights, conflict and forced displacement as central issues in the urban dimension of Myanmar's peace-building processes.

Reference: HDV190098

PI: Dr Daniele Rugo, Brunel University London

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Carmen Abou Jaoude, Saint-Joseph University, Lebanon; Professor Nina Parish, University of Stirling

Value of Award: £294,259.00

Title: *Memories from the Margins. Bottom-up Practices for Dealing with Conflict-Produced Heritage in Lebanon and Syria*

Abstract: In societies affected by conflict, learning from the past can prevent violence and contribute to sustainable peace. However, for these societies collective memory is often fragmented and mirrors societal inequalities. State institutions sometimes enforce amnesia over the past and dictate who is allowed to speak. The heritage of the conflict remains, therefore, unresolved and fuels new outbursts of violence and instability. This project uses an interdisciplinary toolkit that includes historiography, political analysis and participatory arts methods to look at how bottom-up practices are used to deal with heritage as a way to heal trauma, demand justice and build sustainable peace. By exploring informal/personal archives and oral narratives from Lebanon's Civil War (1975-1990) and Syria's ongoing conflict (2011-) the project explores bottom-up practices that challenge amnesia and hegemonic discourses of conflict by creating spaces for dialogue antagonised by formal institutions.

Reference: HDV190034

PI: Dr Chuck Thiessen, Coventry University

Co-Applicant(s): Dr Patricia Sellick, Coventry University; Dr Justine Couliadiati-Kiélem, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Professor Amadou Sall, University of Nouakchott, Mauritania

Value of Award: £285,301.00

Title: *Compromising Dignity? Preventing Violent Extremism in the Sahel, Africa*

Abstract: This project responds to the experience of policymakers and practitioners working on 'preventing violent extremism' (PVE) who find policies developed and implemented under the rubric of PVE to be ambiguous and vague which can lead to dignity being compromised. This mixed-methods research in the G5 Sahel region aims to generate tools appropriate for use at multiple levels which i) enable stakeholders to think together about violence as it manifests itself in actual events and processes, ii) bring into the open diverse conceptualisations of dignity and the way it is compromised by different PVE actors, and iii) explore heritage as a source of symbolic and instrumental resources for the prevention of violence. This research seeks to move beyond state-centric models of engaging with 'extremism', recognises that states, themselves can be the source of insecurity, rights abuses and indignity, and uncovers the power of individuals and communities to change society and politics.

Reference: HDV190009

PI: Dr Philippa Williams, Queen Mary University of London

Co-Applicant(s): Professor Shazia Choudhry, Queen Mary University of London; Dr Girija Godbole, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Dr Swarna Rajagopalan, Prajnaya Trust, India; Professor Ajay Pandey, OP Jindal Global University, India

Value of Award: £287,666.99

Title: *Surviving Violence: Everyday Resilience and Gender Justice in Rural-Urban India*

Abstract: This multidisciplinary project aims to address the gap between law and policy and access to support services and justice for domestic violence victims in India. Despite legal initiatives to combat domestic violence in the country since 2005, civil society reports little progress in reducing the issue. As a result, women are turning to informal, non-legal strategies and networks in order to cope, build resilience and seek justice. The project draws on existing civil society-academic partnerships across 3 key states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana. It seeks to critically examine how domestic violence victims access legal and non-legal services across a continuum of rural-urban sites by engaging participatory and feminist legal research methodology. It is expected that the research approach will (1) enable a better understanding of the socio-economic and political context in which domestic violence takes place, and (2) inform the development of evidenced-based policy reform.