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Working Paper

Postdoctoral scholarships to promote careers in development studies: CDS experience and wider issues

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Asha Amirali and James Copestake

Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath

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Postdoctoral scholarships to promote careers in development studies: CDS experience and wider issues

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Abstract

Since 2012, the Centre of Development Studies at the University of Bath has employed six post-doctoral research fellows on successive two-year contracts, funded by a private donation from an alumnus. This paper draws on this experience to reflect on how to support development studies research activities and careers. It reaffirms the case for helping promising early career researchers to build upon and move beyond their doctoral work, the value of research autonomy at this stage, and balancing research autonomy with membership of relevant specialist clusters and networks.

Keywords: Development studies, postdoctoral fellowships, early career

1. Introduction

Context

Development studies is concerned with interconnected past, present and future processes of social and economic change at local, national, and global levels. Rooted in the social sciences, it draws on and combines a broad range of disciplines and fields of research to explore causes, consequences, and responses to changes in human wellbeing, poverty, inequality, social justice, environmental sustainability, and more - particularly as experienced across the 'Global South'. It attracts people from many different backgrounds, generating ideas that are supportive and critical of alternative visions of what development is and how it might be promoted. At its most universal, development studies is about hope, good intent, and the idea of progress; but it is also a problematic child of coloniality and capitalism and ongoing struggles to oppose to them. All these issues are of course addressed in many other ways, including within many other academic fields, and development studies has evolved as a relatively open and undisciplined meeting place for them.

Beyond ideas, development studies is also a research community and social network. But who gets to join and how? Whose ideas circulate, whose languish, how, why, and for whom? Does the competition for new thinking in and about development ensure that those with original ideas and points of departure get a fair hearing, or do the norms, rules and costs associated with use of language, attendance at meetings and conferences, publication and academic appointments privilege some views and perspectives over others? What are the feasible options and relative merits of promoting development research focused on the Global South in relatively affluent and secure institutions like the University of Bath compared to doing so in Southern institutions?

It is beyond the scope of this report to address fully or fairly such a complex set of questions about global development knowledge generation. Rather, it aims to make a small but pertinent contribution to discussion of the pathways for building a successful career as a researcher in development studies by describing and reflecting on one specific initiative to facilitate such careers. The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) postdoctoral fellowship scheme at the University of Bath was established in 2011 through a private charitable donation.¹ It has provided those selected with two years of salary, and a modest research budget. The postdoctoral fellows have been contractually required to allocate ten percent of their time to CDS administrative work and teaching, leaving the rest for their own independent research. Five postdocs have been appointed sequentially, and a sixth is still in post.

¹ For background about CDS see the [website](#), including a [timeline](#) of major events in its history since it was formed in 1975.

The decision to allocate funds towards postdoctoral research reflected a judgement within CDS back in 2010 that early career development was a major barrier to who was able to pursue an academic career in development studies, and one aim of this report is to reflect on this premise. To elaborate, completion of a PhD not infrequently seemed to be followed by a career/life disconnect or *hiatus*. Having climbed the ladder of formal educational study to the top rung, many promising graduates often struggle to work out where to step next, and lack the time and opportunity to capitalise on their research experience – including both through wider publication of their findings and development of new research ideas.²

One lens through which to reflect on this career constraint is to view it as a labour market issue. Programmes of study in development studies have expanded rapidly in the UK over the last twenty years at all levels. Rising undergraduate and postgraduate numbers - including growth in those studying aspects of development studies within other fields and disciplines – have in turn increased demand for academic teaching staff - with completion of a relevant doctorate widely viewed as a mandatory condition even for being shortlisted for such posts. Having a doctoral qualification has also become more common and is recognised as an asset across the ‘international development cooperation’ sector. But it also seems that the supply of development studies graduates with a doctorate has grown at least fast enough to exceed growth in supply of directly relevant paid employment for them.³ As a result, many (possibly most) doctoral graduates in development studies move on to work that does not specifically utilise or build upon what they learnt as research students.

This is not necessarily a tragedy, for two reasons. First, doctoral research is also potentially important and valuable for its own sake. An unknown but very significant proportion of original research into development is carried out by doctoral students, particularly perhaps ethnographic research. But this in turn begs the question whether completion of the formal requirements for securing a doctorate necessarily signifies that the full potential public value of doctoral research has thereby been realised. Second, the skills and experience graduates gained may be relevant and useful to many other activities and careers.⁴ However, this does still signify a filtering or selection process: some graduates being able to move on relatively

² This analysis was later implicitly recognised by Bath and many other universities in the UK through the introduction of prize fellowships in the form of a five-year post-doctoral research posts, convertible (subject to performance) into open-ended lectureships. Bath made its first prize fellow appointments in 2016 to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, and another round of appointments followed in 2018. CDS benefitted from this through the appointment of Katharina Lenner in the first round and Neil Howard in the second.

³ The total number of doctoral candidates across all subjects in the UK grew from 63,305 in 2000/1 to 104,965 in 2020/21. This reflects a particular growth in international candidates, whose share in the total rose 17.4 to 40.9% (Taylor and Wisker, 2023. The changing landscape of doctoral education in the UK. *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, 60(5), 759–774. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14703297.2023.2237943>). It would be useful to have comparable data for development studies.

⁴ Considerable efforts have been made to broaden the goals of doctoral ‘training’ in the UK, not least by institutionalising the [Vitae](#) framework for researcher development, whereby students and institutions are encouraged to set goals, invest in formal training, participate in placements, and monitor their progress in four domains: (a) knowledge and intellectual abilities; (b) personal effectiveness; (c) research governance and organisation; (d) engagement, influence and impact.

quickly to making a sustained intellectual contribution to development studies, while others find more wayward and riskier routes to doing so, or permanently ‘move on’ elsewhere. This takes us back to deeper questions about development knowledge production and distribution – who gets to have a more sustained career doing so, who doesn’t, and why? How does variation in opportunities and constraints to jump the gap from doctorate to a first academic post or similar research position influence this? And what scope exists for contributing to fairer and fuller knowledge generation by expanding the range of transparently recruited and properly funded post-doctoral research positions?

Purpose of this report

The initial prompt for this report was the commitment to conduct an evaluation of the five CDS postdocs awarded sequentially between 2011 and 2022, summarising and reflecting on the activities funded during this period. This was subsequently adjusted to allow incorporation of experiences and reflections of the sixth research fellow. The scope of the evaluation was also broadened to identify wider lessons for post-doctoral career development in development studies, as discussed above.

The objectives of the CDS fellowships stated in the gift agreement between the University and the private donor were: (a) to promote excellent research and innovation in the field of international development; (b) to assist young researchers with considerable promise to establish a career in the field of international development; (c) to contribute to a thriving community of research and teaching in international development at the University of Bath.⁵

We did not think to link these to an explicit theory of change, but if we had done so it would have incorporated some of the ideas and arguments about career development raised above, namely that promising recent doctoral graduates in development studies and related fields were financially constrained in being able both to build fully on findings from their doctoral research, and to develop plans and proposals for further development research. Previous experience, including under the *Wellbeing in Developing Countries* ESRC Research Group before 2007, also pointed towards the potential contribution that full-time post-doctoral researchers could make to the wider research culture of CDS.⁶

This report can be described as a reflexive and developmental evaluation, whose purpose and scope has evolved in the doing. The initial focus was on (a) how fellowships enabled the postdocs to expand their social networks, and (b) generating feedback on how future post-doctoral fellowships might better be managed by CDS. Our interest subsequently grew in the wider relevance of our experience for development studies as an academic field, both in the UK and more widely. Lastly, we recognized the potential value of sharing findings more widely, including with students still completing their doctorate or contemplating the idea of

⁵ According to Susan Johnson, initial thinking on the postdoc’s role was that they would also help with the promotion and development of CDS work ‘just by being there’, talking to people, and adding to the critical mass of CDS. (Interview with M. Drinkwater 2 August 2022).

⁶ The three directly *WeD*-funded post-docs were Laura Camfield, David Clark, and Sarah Coulthard.

doing one.

Methodology

The report draws on open-ended interviews conducted during 2022 by Michael Drinkwater, an independent consultant, with four of the postdocs, as well as James Copestake and Susan Johnson, who put together the original funding proposal. The interviews conducted with the postdocs covered their activities over the two-year period, growth and/or changes in their research networks, and reflections on their experiences. He also briefed the then CDS Director on his initial findings and recommendations. His notes were then passed on to Asha Amirali, the current postdoc, who supplemented them with additional interviews with Shandana Mohmand (Institute of Development Studies, Sussex), David Hulme (Global Development Institute, Manchester) and Laura Camfield (then at the School of Global Development, University of East Anglia) to gain wider views of early career research development at other universities in the UK. This final version of the report was drafted jointly by Asha Amirali and James Copestake, supplementing the above material with additional documentation about the fellowship.

Outline

The remainder of this report is structured as follows. The next section provides an overview of the CDS Bath postdoctoral fellowship programme since its inception in 2011. Factual material covers the recruitment process, research undertaken, other activities and career outcomes to date. This is supplemented by appendices listing the postdocs' publications, grant applications and other selected outputs and activities. The third section explores key issues arising from the interviews – the challenges of task prioritization, of balancing autonomy and guidance, and personal career and institutional goals. It also returns to the question raised above about career pathways and knowledge generation within development studies. The final section concludes with recommendations, first directed at early career researchers in development studies themselves, second at CDS and the University of Bath, and third for the wider development studies community in the UK and beyond.

2. The CDS postdoctoral fellowship programme

Recruitment process

The fellowships were openly advertised on *jobs.ac.uk* and appointments made through standard recruitment processes. The main criteria for selection were: (a) award of a doctorate on a relevant topic within the previous five years; (b) track record and potential to publish excellent research of direct relevance to poverty and/or inequality in the field of international development; (c) willingness and capacity to contribute to wider CDS activities and teaching.⁷

⁷ After the second appointment it was also a requirement that applicants should not previously have secured a full-time post-doctoral research position. This was insisted upon by the Human Resources Dept on the grounds

The shortlisted candidates were asked to present a detailed plan for the two years, indicating potential synergy with existing research being carried out in development studies at the University of Bath. The number of applications received in each of the six recruitment rounds varied from 23 to 93. Fewer than half were British citizens, but more than two thirds had secured their doctorate from a UK University. The panel was free to recruit internationally, but excluded all applicants who had not completed a doctoral thesis, even if they had already passed their viva and were doing corrections. Interviews for the early positions was face-to-face, but post-covid they shifted to being mostly on-line.

Career directions

Table 1 profiles the six postdocs who were recruited. All completed a doctorate at a UK University, having started their education in India, Canada, UK, Bangladesh, Zambia and Pakistan. Shahid embarked on the most dramatic career switch, building on a decade of work as an academic anthropologist to take up a senior position in a widely respected Indian consultancy firm before his tragic death in 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic. Althea moved from Bath to an academic post at the University of Sussex and more recently to a position at SOAS that builds very clearly on her doctoral and post-doctoral research. Dan and Fariba both returned to academic positions at UEA, where they had conducted their doctoral research. Cynthia secured a research fellowship in global studies and teaches human geography at the University of Cambridge.

Table 1. Overview of the six CDS post-doctoral fellows.

Name	Details of doctoral thesis	Tenure	Most recent position
M. Shahid Pervez	Edinburgh (2009) Death before birth: negotiating reproduction, female infanticide and sex selective abortion in Tamil Nadu, South India.	2012 - 2014	Vice-president (Research & Evaluation) for M-CRIL / EDA Rural Systems, India.
Althea-Maria Rivas	Sussex (2014) Revisiting the security-development nexus: a critical analysis of the international intervention in Afghanistan.	2014 - 2016	Senior Lecturer in global development, peace, and conflict, SOAS.
Dan Wroe	UEA (2015) What can I do? Living with doubt and uncertainty in the Central Region of Malawi.	2016 - 2018	Lecturer in Global Development, UEA.
Fariba Alamgir	UEA (2017) Land and politics in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh: dynamics of property, identity and	2018 - 2020	Senior Research Associate, UEA.

that the post was a 'developmental' position, thus preventing appointees from claiming the right to occupy the fellowship beyond the fixed two-year contract term.

	authority.		
Cynthia Kamwengo	Durham (2020) Beneficiary country ownership and the politics of partnership in trilateral development cooperation: a case study of Zambia.	2020 - 2022	Research Fellow, Newnham College, Cambridge.
Asha Amirali	Oxford (2018) Market power: traders, farmers and the politics of accumulation in Pakistani Punjab.	2022 - 2025	CDS Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Bath.

Publications

All postdocs used the fellowship to publish from their PhD research. Althea and Asha additionally used publication as a strategy to develop new strands of inquiry in new research areas. All postdocs experienced journal rejections and requests for revisions, and long publishing timelines meant that work done during the fellowship often appeared in print only after the ended. A list of publications is in Appendix 1. Table 2 picks out some of the publications made possible by the fellowships.

Table 2. Selected publications of the CDS post-doctoral fellows.

Names	Selected publications
M. Shahid Pervez (2012-14)	<p>'Understanding Policy and Programming on Sex Selection in Tamil Nadu: Ethnographic and Sociological Reflections', chapter in <i>Too Many Men Too Few Women: Social Consequences of Gender Imbalance in India and China</i>, 2016.</p> <p><i>The Jews of Andhra Pradesh: Contesting caste and religion in South India</i>, Oxford University Press, 2013. Co-authored with Y. Egorova.</p>
Althea-Maria Rivas (2014-16)	<p><i>Security, Development and Violence in Afghanistan: Everyday Stories of Intervention</i>, Routledge, 2020.</p> <p><i>Experience Researching Violence and Violent Research</i>, University of Bristol Press, 2018. Co-edited with B. Browne.</p> <p>'Thinking About Race and Gender in Conflict Research', chapter in <i>Experience Researching Violence and Violent Research</i>, 2018.</p>
Dan Wroe (2016-18)	<p>'Remembering Kamuzu. The ambiguity of the past in rural Malawi' in <i>Journal of Southern African Studies</i>, 2020.</p> <p>'Miraculous healing in rural Malawi: between 'grace' and 'work'". <i>Africa' in The Journal of the International Africa Institute</i>, 2017.</p>
Fariba Alamgir (2018-20)	<p>'The Politics of Land and Citizenship', chapter in <i>Northeast India: Human Mobility, Resource Flows and Spatial Linkages</i>, 2020.</p>

	'Live or be left to die? Deregulated bodies and the global production network: Expendable workers of the Bangladeshi apparel industry in the time of Covid' in <i>Organization</i> , 2021. Co-authored with F. Irina Alamgir.
Cynthia Kamwengo (2020-22)	'Africa beyond 'South-South cooperation': A frame with limited resonance' in <i>Journal of International Development</i> , 2023. Co-authored with S. Haug.
Asha Amirali (2022-)	'A case of rampaging elephants: the politics of the middle classes in small town Pakistan'. <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> , 2024. 'Brokerage in agricultural markets: the role of ambiguity'. <i>Development and Change</i> (forthcoming in 2024).

Teaching

Teaching was not a major part of the fellowship, but it did provide valuable learning experience and was appreciated by postdocs as an important opportunity. While experiences varied, all the postdocs gave some guest lectures across different units/courses and took on supervision of masters' level dissertations. Fellows' contributions to Africa and South Asia 'regional specialism' units were particularly valuable, often drawing directly on their doctoral work. Althea lectured across several modules in the Department and also contributed to teaching in the Department of Politics, Languages and International Relations. Cynthia provided additional teaching inputs through the pandemic.

Funding

Three of the six postdocs applied for research funding of over £10,000, including both early career fellowship programmes and open calls issued by UK and European research councils. Fariba was awarded a grant of £46,542 from the University managed Global Challenge Research Fund, which she led as Principal Investigator, with collaborators in Bath, Oxford, and Chittagong. Asha (as did Dan) unsuccessfully applied for the European Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (£265,542), and was shortlisted and ultimately also unsuccessful in an application for the Independent Social Research Foundation's Early Career Fellowship (£60,000). She was also part of an unsuccessful Bath team bid for a British Academy grant (£200,000), and is now preparing funding proposals to the UK Economic and Social Research Council and Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship.

Networking, collaboration and mentorship

Network development was quite variable and shaped by the degree of overlap between on-going work at CDS and postdocs' research interests. Three of the postdocs were able to forge quite strong collaborative links with colleagues within CDS itself, whereas the core research interests of the other forced them to rely more on external networks. Some of the collaborative links forged at Bath were unplanned. For example, Shahid became an active participant in activities of the Centre for Death and Society, Althea connected with staff in the

Department of Politics and International Studies (PoLIS), and Cynthia linked up with Ben Radley to develop the *Why Africa* podcast.

The strength of academic guidance and mentorship that postdocs received also varied widely. All staff were formally line-managed by the CDS Director who was in post when they joined (Susan Johnson for the first three, and James Copestake for the last three). But this generally did not include substantive research supervision but rather mentorship which is in line with what is normally required at the postdoctoral level. Susan advised on career development, publications strategies and supported grant applications, as well administrative processes, focusing on time management, and how postdocs could best contribute to CDS operations.

Fariba was most successful in securing substantive intellectual mentorship from more experienced CDS colleagues in her chosen field. Others experienced a lack of more specialised academic mentoring and support and did without or developed external relationships to fill gaps. Shahid and Dan missed being part of a larger community of anthropologists but sustained links with anthropologists elsewhere. Cynthia cultivated her links in human geography, and with the support of Emma Mawdsley was able to conduct archival research at the University of Cambridge, while Asha turned to Peter Newell at Sussex University to support her work on the politics of Pakistan's energy transition. To some extent this shift towards online social networking reflects a longer-term trend away from in-person interaction on campus and towards remote working that accelerated as a result of lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strength of guidance and support each postdoc secured within CDS varied according to their research interests. Shahid and Dan found it difficult to reconcile their orientation towards anthropology and areas studies with the more practice-focused work at CDS.⁸ Partly as result, they made fewer research connections at Bath, which has neither an anthropology nor area studies departments, than with anthropologists and historians elsewhere. Cynthia and Asha's research also did not perceive a strong overlap with ongoing work at CDS or elsewhere at Bath, although both found some points of convergence. In Cynthia's case this led to collaboration with a CDS staff member resulting in a podcast, workshop, and reforming teaching materials on a taught module. In Asha's case, this resulted in her teaming up with a Bath-based team of researchers to submit a funding proposal to the British Academy, contributing to design of a new interdisciplinary MSc Climate Change course, and co-authoring a paper on climate change reparations and universal basic income with a CDS staff member.

Althea and Fariba's experiences contrast with this. Their research had more thematic overlap with ongoing work at CDS, and both developed wider connections across the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. In Althea's words – "I met a lot of people at Bath, it's really the foundation of the networks I have now". Her interest in wellbeing in post-conflict

⁸ Although it was partly through Bath's more applied focus and connections that Shahid eventually made the switch to working for a development consultancy in India.

reconstruction also chimed with staff who had previously been part of the *Wellbeing in Developing Countries* ESRC research group that CDS hosted up to 2007. Fariba's interest in Bangladesh and migration enabled collaboration with others working on similar themes at CDS. She developed grant proposals with two different Bath-based teams, carried out and eventually published new Bangladesh-based research with colleagues at Bath.

Shifts in research focus

Three of the CDS postdocs cultivated a substantial shift in their research focus. Fariba moved on from her doctoral research into land conflicts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to work on migrant identity and access to mental health in the region's vast Rohingya refugee camps in the wake of their expulsion from Myanmar. At the same time as working on academic papers from her PhD, Cynthia switched her focus from research on triangular cooperation projects to the history of development planning in Zambia. Asha drew on material from her PhD on patronage and informality in Pakistan's agricultural sector before embarking on a radical switch into the political economy of energy transitions. In contrast, Althea built on her doctoral research on humanitarian intervention in Afghanistan, completing a book proposal and developing a monograph based on her doctorate study. She also worked on a co-edited book on research methods and ethics in conflict-affected areas, and further developed research on the intersections of gender, race and development. She described her experience at CDS as foundational to the academic posts she later secured and the networks she has today. Dan mostly focused on a range of ethnographic projects emanating from his PhD, while Shahid developed a range of anthropological projects that he had already embarked upon prior to the fellowship.

Balancing journal and grant proposal writing

All the CDS postdocs faced the dilemma of what to prioritise. They were encouraged to focus more on a research grant application first, and switch to working on academic papers once a grant had been submitted. The case argument for doing this is that it allows for the time lag between submission of an application and learning the outcome, leaving more time to rework and recycle grant applications within the two years. However, grant writing is often a riskier proposition compared to bolstering a CV and academic job prospects through publication. Shahid prioritized writing, and Althea followed suit – co-editing a volume with a colleague in Belfast, working on a monograph based on her PhD, and publishing an article and a book chapter. The publications were useful in her subsequent applications for academic posts. She spent less time on grant applications securing a small GW4 research grant and submitting one unsuccessful ESRC proposal. Dan worked first on an ultimately unsuccessful funding proposal but found it time consuming and a distraction from the need to produce more publications.

Fariba sought to strengthen her publication record by attending sponsored writing workshops (in China and Switzerland) and produced three draft papers but was unable to secure their publication. She was also part of two rounds of bidding for GCRF grants, and directly credits the learning gained from being part of an unsuccessful bid first time for her success in the

second round, for which she was the principal investigator (PI). Cynthia prioritized writing academic papers from her thesis, shifting later in the fellowship to working on an ambitious book proposal, which shaped the early stages of her research fellowship at Cambridge. Asha spent nearly three months preparing an unsuccessful application to the Marie Curie scheme, but by stretching the fellowship out over three years she still has time to rework the proposal into further applications. She also submitted an initial version of the MC grant to the Independent Social Research Foundation and was part of a cross-departmental team bidding for a British Academy grant (£200,000). For her, writing grants is part of her strategy of moving in a new research direction, and she has chosen to limit plans for publication from her PhD to two papers (one already in press).

Research support and administrative work

All the postdocs served as co-editors of the Bath Reports in International Development Series, oversaw production of the CDS newsletters every four months and contributed to posting CDS blogs. Shahid played a leading role in revamping the CDS website and handed over comprehensively to Althea, who found many of the skills learned in this work useful in subsequent teaching and research posts. Fariba and Cynthia played an important role in promoting CDS social media activities, including supervising a postgraduate research and communications assistant. Cynthia and Asha also served as members of the Bath Research into Development (BRID) Fund. Overall, these and other general CDS support activities took up a larger part of fellows' time than the ten percent of time contractually budgeted for it. Most postdocs appreciated what Dan referred to as the "rounded experience"⁹ of moving between administrative and communication work, teaching, grant writing, publishing, and presenting at conferences and workshops. But additional administrative activities also accentuated time management challenges, particularly with increased engagement in social media work after 2018. Much of this can be linked to the limited administrative support available for CDS, and was mostly regarded by fellows as a distraction, particularly time spent becoming familiar with technical and procedural tasks, such as securing permissions for putting material onto the web. Cynthia, found herself trying to master technical and administrative matters at home with little support, and with little direct handover due to the Covid pandemic. Asha, in contrast, was able to exclude herself from involvement in social media management.

3. Discussion

General issues emerging from this experience of funded post-doctoral research include how to strike the balance between autonomous and guided research, how to find the best blend of different work activities, and how to better align the postdocs' personal career goals with those of CDS. We discuss each and then return to wider questions about career development

⁹ Dan Wroe, interview with M. Drinkwater June 28 2022

opportunities and knowledge generation within development studies.

Research autonomy

All the CDS postdocs recognized that funding to allow them to focus on developing their own research interests was rare and valuable in an environment dominated by a drift towards a more prescriptive and project-based commissioned research culture.¹⁰ In the words of two postdocs, ‘this fellowship is like gold dust’ and ‘a postdoc to do your own research is like gold’. As a two year position enabling independent research, it afforded opportunities for reflection, consolidation of PhD work, widened intellectual engagement, and setting research priorities not available through the majority of postdoctoral positions. Research autonomy is perhaps particularly useful in development studies because development studies addresses problems that are complex in the sense of being multifaceted, lacking clearly defined system boundaries, and being subject to rapid change. In contrast to more established, stable and hierarchical academic fields therefore, there are particularly strong gains to be had from relatively unstructured research positions such as this one to encourage intellectual flexibility, interdisciplinary collaboration, and originality.

However, the freedom afforded by the CDS postdoc contrasts with the increasingly tightly structured, supervised, and monitored culture of being on a doctoral programme.¹¹ Doctoral study generally entails narrowing the scope of research down to a tightly specified topic, research questions and methodology. Re-engaging with a broader range of ideas and issues after the doctorate is thus liberating but time consuming, and it can be hard to avoid falling back into assiduously honed prior ways of thinking. This problem can be likened to that of the author of a successful first novel facing the challenge of demonstrating that they are more than a ‘one trick pony’, and a lack of disciplinary structure and clear working patterns can exacerbate this. The challenge is perhaps to forge a culture that combines self-directed research with a routine of structured meetings for peer monitoring, discussion, and learning.¹²

External factors are changing the context for building such culture. Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns during 2021 and 2022 enforced more remote working on all staff, and accelerated a longer-term shift towards academic staff spending more time working at home and meeting on campus less. The flip side to this has been new opportunities for remote networking and online social networking, enabling early career researchers to maintain past connections

¹⁰ As noted in the previous section, CDS fellows were recruited against presentation of research plans, and with a view to broad geographical and disciplinary commonalities with CDS staff. But the requirement for prior specification of research activities were relatively loose to allow fellows time for adjustment, adaptation, and development of new lines of research.

¹¹ Of course, research at doctoral level also offers many students more freedom (and responsibility) over what to study and how, compared to studying for a ‘taught’ masters, particularly in the field of development studies perhaps. At doctoral level there is also much discussion of how to strike the appropriate mix of autonomy and guidance - often framed in terms of the good and bad practices of individual doctoral supervisors.

¹² Positive examples include the WeD ESRC Group, and clusters that have more recently formed in Bath around universal basic income and earth systems governance – both benefitting from European Research Council funding.

more easily, as well as cultivate new ones more closely aligned to niche interests. Creating complementary opportunities for in-person exchange and learning that once happened relatively organically now require more planning and investment.¹³

Work priorities

From the fellows' perspective, a two-year fellowship offered the time to pursue more than one project - developing and publishing ideas from their PhD, exploring new fields, presenting at conferences, laying foundations for future research. Two years falls far short of the five-year contracts offered under the now discontinued 'tenure-track' prize fellowships. But it offers substantially more relief from the drudgery of applying for future posts than does surviving on zero hours teaching contracts or moving between shorter research placements and consultancy assignments. Nevertheless, working out how best to allocate 24 months between writing for publication and preparing grants – both activities with uncertain and lagged outcomes – is challenging and hard to generalize about. Hence while there is a logic to focusing first on grants and then on publication, the reality of how to allocate each week invariably turned out to be more complex.

The changing culture of doctoral study itself also affects consideration of what to do after completion. Students who secure a PhD through an 'alternative format' thesis integrate actual or pipeline publications into their doctoral study, enabling them to focus more on research grant applications once they complete. However, taking a more instrumental, structured, or piecemeal approach to putting together a doctorate may be a poorer preparation for being a more autonomous researcher, as discussed above. This adds to the case for expanding opportunities for graduates of doctoral programmes to conduct more wide-ranging and exploratory post-doctoral research.

Goal alignment

The original idea of the CDS postdoc fellowships rested on alignment of selected fellows' own career interests with those of CDS itself. At the heart of this is promotion and dissemination of excellent development studies research, enabling fellows to build on their prior doctoral research and develop future research activities. Broadly, the more successful this is for fellows' own career development the more they also contribute to the activities, outputs and profile of CDS. An indicator of this is that the publications, grant applications and other outputs of the fellows listed in the appendices do indeed largely fall within a broad definition of development studies, such as the one set out in the opening paragraph of this report. While some of these outputs do also reflect other disciplinary identities more strongly (particularly social anthropology) they nevertheless add to the claim that development studies can draw upon and serve as a meeting point for work drawing across a range of different disciplines that speak to core development concerns with poverty, social justice, sustainability, power

¹³ Incubator and accelerator funds but can also be time consuming to get going and manage. A more modest CDS innovation has been an open programme of monthly in-person 'work-in-progress' seminars where early and late career researchers are encouraged to present and discuss half-formed research plans and papers.

and so on.

Potential trade-offs between CDS and the personal goals of the research fellows arose in two other areas: promoting its growth, and building a stronger research community. Here the question of congruence of research interests with other CDS members is more germane, and the experience more mixed. Although potential ‘fit’ was a criterion for selection of the fellows they were not contractually required to conduct research collaboratively with or for other staff, nor to participate in any collective CDS research bids. And they did mostly focus on their own individual projects.¹⁴ This contrasts with the more widespread experience of post-doctoral researchers: to be appointed to work on a specific project paid for out of income from a prior grant application made by an existing member of staff; or to be co-opted after arrival into helping to implement a project secured by another member of staff.¹⁵ None of the CDS fellows has yet secured a follow-on lectureship or grant funding enabling them to work longer at Bath and the failure to do so can be regarded as a missed opportunity. However, against this it should be emphasised that the explicit objective of the fellowship was to contribute to development studies more broadly, rather than only with the interests of CDS in mind.¹⁶

Turning finally to broader goal of strengthening the identity of CDS, and its strength as a community, it is important to acknowledge the important contribution the post-docs made to this through their organisational activities. CDS receives only a tiny budget from the University and only employs staff to the extent that individual academics secure external grant funding and opt to allocate some of this to general CDS activities.¹⁷ Without the CDS fellows its visibility over ten years – through working papers, blogs, the newsletter, seminars, conferences, and social media activity – would have been far less. The direct trade-off in time-use between their contribution to these activities ‘for the public good’ and their personal research has already been discussed, as well as instances where this significantly exceeded the agreed ten percent of their time. While they gained skills and experience in multi-tasking, their goodwill was at times pushed too far, and possibly also delayed securing support for CDS administration and communication from other sources.

Experiences from further afield demonstrate other synergies/trade-offs between postdocs and host institutions. GDI Manchester is an example of postdoc staffing at scale:

¹⁴ Exceptions included Fariba’s GCRF applications, Asha’s joint bid to the British Academy and Cynthia’s joint ‘why Africa’ project with Ben Radley.

¹⁵ This is true of other post-docs at Bath, including Joel Lazarus, recruited onto the ERC WorkFree project, and Britta Matthes who moved on from her PhD at Bath to work for the Bloomberg funded ‘Stop Tobacco Organisations and Products’ (STOP) project.

¹⁶ In contrast, IDS offers only project-based postdoctoral opportunities with a clear pathway to research fellow status. This is conditioned by the heavy reliance of IDS on often project-based external funding. The Governance cluster at IDS has retained approximately half of the postdocs hired in the past seven years, both as postdocs on follow-on projects and as research fellows acting as principal or co-investigators in their own right.

¹⁷ As such it must compete for visibility as an academic ‘brand’ not only with the personal identity of the grant winner but also with other groupings (Centres, Departments, Institutes, Beacons...) to which they belong.

approximately 10 percent of 80-odd staff at the GDI are either project-based, fellowship, or teaching postdocs. Senior staff at GDI frequently enlist the support of the first two types on developing bids, rapidly initiating work on projects as awards are secured, and handling a portion of the management and administration that goes into these efforts. Multiple on-going commitments for core staff thus become easier to manage, projects run faster, and intellectual and social community is advanced as postdocs a) smooth over some of the uncertainties and gaps created by the structure of funding and university requirements and b) bring different groupings within the institute closer as they buzz about with fresh ideas, interests, and energy. The experience of working on large projects with senior staff and/or being mentored by them is often very valuable for early career scholars as they gain skills, networks, and windows into what it means to do large-scale research as well as the norms, rules, and costs of membership in the development studies academic community. Where such work conflicts with postdocs own goals is when they are pulled too far away from their own research interests, spend an excessive amount of time on project administration and logistics, and/or are unable to step out of the 'shadow' of senior staff.

CDS fellows have also contributed to the identity of CDS through their collegiality, physical presence, and participation in social networks. With the partial exception of the CDS Director they have often been the only person in the University explicitly employed to work for CDS, conferring on them a representational role that hasn't always fitted comfortably with their status as relatively new and fixed contract appointees.¹⁸ Maintaining any kind of ethos of collegiality, community and group identity has also come under external pressure during the last ten years through the cultural shift towards remote working and networking, combined with the increasing demands and expectations made on individuals to fulfil teaching, research, management and external engagement tasks. At times corporate pressures have been made very explicit – for example, with the instruction to only use the Universities' own branding imagery. Development Studies at Oxford, UEA, Manchester, SOAS, Sussex and elsewhere across the UK benefit from being independent budget holders and teaching entities, whereas CDS exists only as a research centre within the Department of Social and Policy Sciences. A benefit of this is that it reduces the risk of development studies at Bath being seen as alien from mainstream social science and global (including 'Northern') concerns. The potential downside is that the interests and priorities of the Global South are dissipated, marginalised, and buried. While this issue goes beyond the scope of this report, the explicit affiliation of the postdoc fellows to CDS has made an important contribution to its status and visibility as a research centre within the University, and thereby to maintaining an institutional focal point of interest and concern with problems of global poverty, inequality, injustice and environmental degradation as they are experienced by and perceived by people living in the Global South.

¹⁸ The CDS Director appointment carries a workload allocation of 160 hours or approximately 5% of a full-time position. It is made for three years by the Head of the Department of Social and Policy Sciences, subject to Faculty approval. Over the last few years it has been shared between two people.

CDS postdocs' reflections and our survey of their activities and trajectories clearly show that the fellowship has been unambiguously valuable for the recipients. It has provided a rare opportunity for autonomous reflection, consolidation of PhD work, and development of research priorities unconstrained by being tied to an already defined research agenda. It has also successfully supported skill development, outputs, and network building despite making at times excessive administrative demands on their time. Lack of intellectual mentorship and limited links with the ongoing research of other CDS members has at times been isolating, and constrained fellows' ability to springboard onto new projects. However, the many benefits of the fellowship, embedded as it is in a highly competitive and project-dominated postdoctoral job market, outweigh the disadvantages.

The political economy of knowledge generation

Development studies often resembles the task of peeling off multiple layers of a large onion. In this case layers include (a) interpersonal relationships between early and late career researchers; (b) intraorganizational issues, including the corporate interests of large universities and the only partly autonomous research groupings within them; (c) wider institutional issues concerning who benefits, and how, from current norms for doctoral and post-doctoral research as stepping stones towards academic careers; (d) the epistemic identity, status, limitations, and influence of different disciplines and their contribution to global understanding; (e) the geo-politics of all the above as played out across richer and poorer countries in the Global North and South. It is beyond the scope of this report to address how one relatively modest programme of support for post-doctoral research and career development plays out at all these different levels. But what is evident simply from framing the issue in this way is that decisions about who to appoint and what to fund entail making pragmatic judgements about what it is feasible to change and what cannot be.

4. Recommendations

For early career researchers

1. Fellowships that enable independent postdoctoral research – such as that offered by the CDS programme – are a valuable opportunity to facilitate publication, networking, skills acquisition, development of new research ideas, and (hence) academic career development. But they are scarce, competitive, and do not guarantee further academic success.
2. To secure such positions, and to make the most of them, requires (a) recurring investment of time in honing and revising research ideas and plans, (b) finding ways to link up with the research communities and networks within which they are most likely to thrive.
3. Decisions about when and how much to prioritise publication or grant writing (alongside conference attendance and other networking activities) will be different for everybody, and will constantly change over time, but the balance between the two should be

considered carefully and constantly reviewed. Prioritizing relatively 'quick and dirty' outputs - which may sometimes come at the cost of more interesting wider reading, intellectual growth, and deeper understanding - are likely to be necessary to remain competitive. These trade-offs are even more acute for those who must also fit in teaching, consultancy and/or other income-earning activities.

4. Regular and frequent meetings with a mentor or manager are a useful aid to sticking to the plan and revising as appropriate. While digital opportunities for connection and communication open up many possibilities, the energising, connecting, and often free-flowing quality of in-person meetings should not be discounted.

For CDS and the University of Bath

1. There is a strong case for finding ways to continue to support post-doctoral scholarships of the kind reviewed here, subject to addressing the issues addressed below.
2. CDS could revisit the goals of such fellowships and criteria for fellow recruitment. More specifically, it should be seeking postdocs who can potentially be retained as permanent staff, and therefore be more explicit in seeking a closer fit between potential fellows' interests and established areas of CDS expertise.
3. This should lead to stronger and more structured intellectual mentorship and support from designated senior colleagues, willing and able to devote sufficient time to meeting fellows regularly.
4. Administrative tasks expected of postdocs that foster useful research skills should continue, including co-managing and editing the working papers series, and helping to organize CDS workshops and seminars. Other jobs (e.g. relating to website and social media) should be delegated instead to appropriately specialized support staff.

For development studies in the UK and beyond

1. The step from successful doctoral study to first full academic post continues to have an important influence over who is able to secure a research career and where, and hence over who is able to participate in global knowledge production. It follows that there remains a case for finding ways of funding post-doctoral positions, and for ensuring that access to them is as open and equitable as possible.
2. Most post-doctoral posts are currently explicitly linked to specific research projects, and this can help to ensure that early career researchers receive adequate intellectual mentorship and are not intellectually isolated. But it is important also to ensure that post-doctoral opportunities do not overly limit the autonomy of early career researchers.
3. There is scope for further research into post-doctoral career pathways, and the balance between funding of doctoral and post-doctoral positions. If the number of available development studies posts is lagging far behind the number of PhDs wishing to join as university-based scholars, then this suggests the need to radically think the nature of early career research training. This is linked to discussion over the balance between traditional

and academic career-oriented PhD programmes, other forms of doctoral provision including professional doctorates, and non-doctorate based research, training and collaboration between Universities and development organisations including placements and knowledge transfer partnerships.

4. This report provides one window on the wider issue of how global knowledge production is structured and in whose interests. This issue should continue to be a focus of development studies research and policy discussion.

4. Appendix – Publications of CDS research fellows

Shahid Pervez (2012-2014)

Books

(2013). *The Jews of Andhra Pradesh: Contesting caste and religion in South India*. Oxford University Press: New York (with Y. Egorova)

Book chapters

(2016) Understanding Policy and Programming on Sex Selection in Tamil Nadu: Ethnographic and Sociological Reflections in R. Kaur (ed.) *Too Many Men Too Few Women: Social Consequences of Gender Imbalance in India and China*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.

(2011) Female Infanticide and the Civilizing Mission in Postcolonial India: A Case Study from Tamil Nadu c.1980-2006, in Carey A. Watt and Michael Mann (eds.) *Civilizing Missions in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia: From Improvement to Development*. London: Anthem Press.

(2009) Towards an Understanding of the Field within the Field: Researching Female Infanticide by Researching NGOs in Tamil Nadu, in Devi Sridhar (ed.) *Anthropologists Inside Organisations: South Asian Case Studies*. New Delhi: Sage.

Peer-reviewed articles

(2012). 'Declining Child Sex Ratio, Female Infanticide and Sex Selective Abortion in India – a Demographic Epiphany?' *Economic and Political Weekly* XLVII(33): 73-77 (with R. Jeffery and P. Jeffery)

(2012). 'Old Memories, New Histories: (re) discovering the past of Jewish Dalits'. *History and Anthropology* 23(1): 1-15. (with Y. Egorova)

(2012). Telugu Jews: Are the Dalits of coastal Andhra going caste-awry? *The South Asianist* 1(1): 7-16. (with Y. Egorova)

(2010). 'The Children of Ephraim: Being Jewish in Andhra', featured article in *Anthropology Today* 26 (6): 14-18. (with Y. Egorova)

(2013). Understanding policies on sex-selection in Tamil Nadu: Ethnographic and sociological reflections. *Bath Papers in International Development*.

Policy reports and public writing

(2014). The Bene Ephraim. Café Dissensus. December 31: New York. (with Y. Egorova)

(2013). Health, Gender and Demography: A Socio-cultural study of Mother and Child Healthcare in two Indian states. Summary Report of SIDA Project No: SWE 2006-344. Sweden (with T. Olsson)

(2008). Preventing Childhood Deaths: An Observational Study of Child Death Overview Panels in England. London: Department for Children, Schools and Families. (with P. Sidebotham, J. Fox, J. Horwath, C. Powell)

Althea Maria-Rivas (2014-2016)

Books

(2020). Security, Development and Violence in Afghanistan: Everyday Stories of Intervention. London: Routledge.

(2018). Experience Researching Violence and Violent Research, Bristol: University of Bristol Press. (ed. with B. Browne)

Journal Special Issues

Special Issue: Race, (Anti-)Racism and Development. *European Journal of Development Research* (Forthcoming Oct 2024)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

(2024). Decolonising humanitarian health: A scoping review of practical guidance. *PLOS Global Public Health* (forthcoming)

(2024). Disrupting the gender and development impasse in university teaching and learning spaces. A Special Issue on The Future of Teaching Gender and Development. *Development and Practice*. P1-17 (Lead author with Navtej Purewal)

(2023). Reimagining Gender, Peace and Security: The Untold Story of Women's Mental Health in Post-Conflict Environments. London: ODI (Lead author with Mariam Safi)

(2022). Women and the Afghan peace and reintegration process, *International Affairs, Centennial Issue: Race and Imperialism in International Relations: Theory and Practice*, Volume 98, Issue 1, January 2022, Pages 85–104 (Lead author with Mariam Safi).

(2020). No lockdown on violence against women and girls during COVID-19: a view from Peru, *Feminist Review Online* (Lead Author, with Claudia Lopez).

(2017). Evaluating the targeting effectiveness of social transfers, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 9 (2), pp.162-211 (Collaborative Publication)

(2016). Women, Inclusive Political Participation and Canadian International Development Policy. *Centre for International Policy Studies Blog series*. December.

(2016). Remote Programming in Somalia: Eyes Wide Shut, Local Actors at the Centre of Effective Humanitarian Action. *World Disaster Report 2015*, pp.133-135.

(2015). From 'gender equality and 'women's empowerment' to global justice: reclaiming a transformative agenda for gender and development. *Third World Quarterly*, 36 (2), pp.396-415 (with Andrea Cornwall)

Book chapters

(2024). Decolonising humanitarian aid: the colonality of aid(ing) others and strategies for action. In *Conflict & Health*, 2nd edition. (eds. Multiple forthcoming 2024).

(2018). Everyday Practices of Development. Popular Postcolonial Imaginaries. In *Handbook on Postcolonial Politics*. London: Routledge. pp.166-178.

(2018). Introduction. In *Experience Researching Violence and Violent Research* (with Brendan C. Browne), Bristol: University of Bristol Policy Press. pp1-12.

(2018). Thinking About Race and Gender in Conflict Research. In *Experience Researching Violence and Violent Research*, Bristol: University of Bristol Policy Press. pp.135-142.

Other/Policy reports

(2023). Bringing Afghan Women's Voices to the Foreground in Peace and Conflict. Kabul: BISHNAW.

(2021). *BAME Research: Practices, Protocols and Process in UK Higher Education Institutions*, London: Open University, (Lead Author with Gabriela Raymond-Beckles).

(2021). *Afghanistan Conflict and Fragility Country Assessment*, Asian Development Bank.

(2020). *Holding the Middle Ground: Experiences of Displacement, Community Relations, and Conflict between IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in Three Provinces of Afghanistan*.

Scoping Report. Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation.

(2015). No Longer a Last Resort: A Review of the Remote Programming Landscape, *DFID Research for Development Unit. Working Paper*. Kenya and Somalia: DFID.

Dan Wroe (2016-2018)

Peer-reviewed articles

(2020). Remembering Kamuzu. The ambiguity of the past in rural Malawi. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 46 (2), pp. 247-261.

(2017). Miraculous healing in rural Malawi: between 'grace' and 'work'. *Africa: The Journal of the International Africa Institute*, 87 (4), pp. 806-831.

(2017). Chieftaincy and the distributive politics of an agricultural input subsidy programme in a rural Malawian village. *Bath Papers in Development and Wellbeing*, 50. Centre for Development Studies: University of Bath.

Public writing

(2018). Pentecostal penance provides dubious prosperity. *Africa is a Country*, 5 September. Available at: <https://africasacountry.com/2018/09/pentecostal-penance-provides-dubious-prosperity>

(2012). Donors, Dependency and Political Crisis in Malawi. *African Affairs*, 111 (442), pp. 135-144.

Reviews

(2017). [REVIEW]. A fraught embrace. The romance and reality of AIDS altruism in Africa, by Ann Swidler and Susan Cotts Watkins, NJ Princeton University Press, 2017. *Development in Practice*.

(2016). [REVIEW]. Exploring an African Civil Society: Development and Democracy in Malawi, 1994-2004, by Clive Gabay. Lanham, MD. Lexington Books, 2015. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 54 (3).

PhD thesis

(2015). 'What can I do?' *Living with doubt and uncertainty in the Central Region of Malawi* (Doctoral dissertation, University of East Anglia).

Fariba Alamgir (2018-2020)

Peer-reviewed articles

- (2022). Displaced populations' access to mental health services in Uganda and Bangladesh. *Bath Papers in International Development and Wellbeing series* (72) (with K. Pincock, K. Mitu, R. Hiller, and M. Dalmatius)
- (2021). Live or be left to die? Deregulated bodies and the global production network: Expendable workers of the Bangladeshi apparel industry in the time of Covid. *Organization*. 29(3):478-501. (with F. Alamgir and F. Irina Alamgir)
- (2016). Everyday health security practices as disaster resilience in rural Bangladesh, *Development in Practice*, 26:2. pp. 170-183. (with N.S. Ray-Bennett, A.E. Collings, R. Edgeworth, A. Bhuiya, and P. Nahar)
- (2012). Indigenous indicators of health security in relation to climatic disasters in Bangladesh. *Journal of Environmental Hazard*. 12:1, pp. 32-46. (with A. Bhuiya, A.E. Collings, N.S. Ray-Bennett and P. Nahar)
- (2010). Exploring the meaning of health security for disaster resilience through people's perspectives in Bangladesh in the journal titled 'in *Journal of Health and Place*. (with Ray-Bennett, N.S., Collings, A.E., Edgeworth, R., Bhuiya, A., Nahar, P.)
- (2009). Climate change and food security: Health risks and vulnerabilities of the poor in Bangladesh in the *International Journal of Climate Change Impacts and Responses*. Vol 1 (4), pp. 37-54.

Book chapters

- (2020). 'The Politics of Land and Citizenship' in *Northeast India: Human Mobility, Resource Flows and Spatial Linkages*, (eds.) Sharma, C. and Banerjee, R. Routledge.
- (2012). Perceptions of *Shasthya Sena*: Talking to village doctors, villagers and community leaders in *Doctoring the Village Doctors*, (eds.) Wahed, T, Rasheed S. and Bhuiya, A., published by ICDDR,B.

PhD thesis

- (2017). *Land politics in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh: dynamics of property, identity and authority* (Doctoral dissertation, University of East Anglia).

Cynthia Kamwengo (2020-2022)

Peer-reviewed articles

(2023). Africa beyond 'South-South cooperation': A frame with limited resonance. *Journal of International Development*, 35(4), 549-565. (with S. Haug)

(2017). China and Brazil as Southern Africa's Non-Interfering Development Partners: Rhetoric or Reality? *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 43(5), pp. 1087-1101.

Book chapters

(2019). Vignette: "We need people like you": Reflections on identity and expectations in South-South Cooperation research. In *Researching South-South Development Cooperation* (pp. 73-77). Routledge.

Public writing

(2022). The Why Africa Podcast (with B. Radley and H. Jewell).
<https://open.spotify.com/show/7dkV3PHIMdMYQLAPvp2BpR?si=6da138c5f7e04445&nd=1>
and <https://anchor.fm/why-africa>. Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath.

PhD Thesis

(2020). *Beneficiary country ownership and the politics of partnership in trilateral development cooperation: a case study of Zambia* (Doctoral dissertation, Durham University).

Asha Amirali (2022-current)

Peer-reviewed articles

(2024). A case of rampaging elephants: the politics of the middle classes in small town Pakistan. *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 54:2, pp.299-316.

(2024). Brokerage in agricultural markets: the role of ambiguity. *Development and Change* (forthcoming in 2024).

(2006). Reading between the lines: the mullah-military alliance in Pakistan'. *Contemporary South Asia* 15:4 (with A. Sajjad Akhtar and M.A. Raza).

Book chapters

(2019). Malgudi on the Move: Bardhan's Political Economy and the Rest of India in E. Chatterjee and M. McCartney (eds.) *The Political Economy of Development in India: Revisited*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (with Barbara Harriss-White and M.A. Jan).

Reports

(2022). Punjab katchi abadi regularisation program: a stocktaking study. Islamabad: World Bank. (with H. B. Malik, M. Ibrahim, and S. Khushi)

(2020). *Migration and the risk of violent conflict and instability*. K4D Helpdesk Report 769. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

(2020). *Financing for climate adaptation – an overview of current regimes*. K4D Helpdesk Report 800. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies

(2019). *The ‘Youth Bulge’ and Political Unrest in Iraq*. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

Reviews

(2015). [REVIEW] *Patronage as Politics in South Asia*, (ed.) A. Piliavsky, Delhi: Cambridge University Press in OxPol (accessible at <https://blog.politics.ox.ac.uk/author/asha-amirali/?author=asha-amirali>)

Public writing

(2024). [Rethinking Renewables](#). April 19, The Dawn.

(2023). [Pakistan needs a new vision – an intra-elite war isn’t the answer](#). May 22, Al Jazeera.

(2012). [Personalising the Impersonal](#). August 11, The Dawn

PhD Thesis

(2018). *Market power: Traders, farmers, and the politics of accumulation in Pakistani Punjab* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Oxford).