**Bath Research into International Development (BRID) Fund**

**2022/23 Annual report**

The BRID Fund was set up in 2020, through the generous support of a graduate of the MSc in Development Studies to enable the Centre for Development Studies to (a) support engagement of CDS members with international development policy and practice, including responses to climate change, discrimination, injustice and other global challenges, (b) support related early career development (c) enhance the identity, capacity, connections and reputation of CDS.

This report covers activities funded by BRID during its second year (and first full year) of operation. In sum, the fund supported 13 post-graduate practicums (internships) along with field work and conference attendance of nine doctoral students. Funding was also made available to support shooting of a film about cobalt mining in Congo, an undergraduate seminar on the politics of reparations for slavery, a research sandpit about universal basic income, and the evaluation of CDS funding of post-doctoral researchers since 2012. Looking ahead to 2022/23 interviews were conducted and offers made for a full-time two-year post-doctoral research associate position and two full-time one-year undergraduate internships. This represents a significant increase in activity compared to the first year of the fund (2020/21), during which two postgraduate practicums and fieldwork of three doctoral students were supported.

Funding decisions were made by a committee comprising James Copestake (CDS co-director), Michael Bloomfield (CDS co-director), Mathilde Maitrot (Senior Lecturer in ID and placement tutor), Emily Richards (Faculty Business Engagement Manager) and Cynthia Kamwengo (CDS Postdoctoral Research Associate), supported by Rachel Willis and Michael Dalton (SPS Research Manager and Assistant).

Activities supported are briefly described below. We are grateful to an alumnus of the University (and also the MSc in International Development Studies) for providing the funds to make them possible.

*James Copestake, Chair*

*13 Jan 2023*

**Financial summary** – 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2023

**Budget for 2022/23**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Expected Cost per Unit** | **Expected Units** | **Budget** |
| Undergraduate placements | 12,000 | 2 | 24,000 |
| Postgraduate practicums/internships | 2,000 | 6 | 12,000 |
| Doctoral fieldwork or conference costs | 2,000 | 10 | 20,000 |
| Other projects (including any carry over) | 10,000 | 2 | 10,000 |
|  | | | |
| **Total for Year** | **-** | **19** | **66,000** |

**Spending for 2022/23**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Average cost per unit** | **Units** | **Actual Budget** | **Awarded** |
| Undergraduate placements | 6475 | 4 | 24,000 | 25,900 |
| Postgraduate practicums/internships | 1,692 | 13 | 12,000 | 22,000 |
| Doctoral fieldwork or conference costs | 1,160 | 5 | 20,000 | 5,800 |
| Other projects (including any carry over) | 2,667 | 3 | 10,000 | 8,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total for Year** | **-** | **25** | **66,000** | **61,700** |

Over the year, funds were spent in all categories of activity in 2022/23. Where there was an underspend in one category, these funds were repurposed for areas of more demand.

Alongside these commitments, the BRID fund also continued to fund a full time Postdoctoral Research Associate and a part time administrative assistant for the fund. The Postdoctoral Research Associate has now gone part time, which will extend the length of the project.

**Activities**

**Undergraduate Placements**

4 undergraduate placements were awarded funding during 2022/23.

**Placement** **Organisation** Public Good/CDS

**Student** Charlotte Matthews and Edoardo Eichberg

**Funding** **amount** £24,000

Public Good – Charlotte completed work regarding different areas of development. This included mapping the strategic action plans for CONCERN (a large Irish charity) by identifying key areas of interest per country (eg. malnutrition) through thematic analysis and compiling an easy-to-read table with the information. She also completed a stakeholder mapping spreadsheet of all parties of interest from various nutrition organisations and any crossovers of those involved). Charlotte was engaged with researching measures of GDP and working towards a net zero carbon with 'the University of Bath' and 'Ideas and Action for Public Good'.

Centre for Development Studies – Charlotte completed a voluntary local review (VLR), which is a research project used as a review and accountability mechanism by the United Nations, to understand the extent to which a local authority (in this case Bath and Northeast Somerset) is actioning positive change to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Charlotte found that BANES is striving towards many of the SDGs, especially environmentally-focused ones (such as planting trees, protecting biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions through a number of measures). Charlotte convened with local council members and reviewed many documents to produce the 60-page review.

Edoardo is currently still on placement, yet to be completed and reported on.

**Placement** **Organisation** WorkFree

**Student** Grace Gregory

**Funding** **amount** £12,000

Grace worked as a research assistant which initially included learning about the world of Universal Basic Income (UBI). Grace’s main task at WorkFREE was to help build a network of UBI piloters, which were later called ‘UBI piloters network’. The network aims to bring together researchers, policy- makers and civil society actors interested or engaged in trialling UBI. Although a number of influential UBI trials have recently taken place, and despite many new pilots currently being in development, no standing network exists to foster knowledge exchange around them. The UBI piloters network aims to fill that gap by providing a platform for the critical analysis of pilots, and for developing a new wave of pilots that learn from our past experience. This will take the initial form of a monthly newsletter, sharing the latest UBI news. Multi-stakeholder gatherings will also be hosted, during which participants will be invited to share experiences and plans around UBI piloting, developing best practice guidelines around methodology and ethics, and co-develop proposals and designs aimed at filling empirical and political gaps.

**Placement** **Organisation** Just Volunteers

**Student** Rachel Holden

**Funding** **amount** £1,400

Building Bridges Beyond Borders (BBBB) is a joint project between Just Volunteers and Soroptimist International Damansara (SID). Just Volunteers is a nonprofit organisation which places a broad range of volunteers in pre-screened, independent charities in East Asia mainly working to teach and mentor disadvantaged children. Rachel supported the provision of basic education to Myanmar refugees who do not have access to the formal education system in Malaysia and to help severely disadvantaged children and young people through the work of educated international volunteers who act as teachers and mentors.

**Placement** **Organisation** Thrive

**Student** Tamsin Starling

**Funding** **amount** £500 (match-funded by placement provider)

Tamsin worked as a Research Assistant at Thrive Future, and included research, marketing emails, managing the social media page, networking and trying to increase the network. The position is remote so Tamsin worked from home.

**Practicum placements**

14 Practicum Placement students were awarded funding during 2022/2023

**Placement** **Organisation** The Pleasure Project

**Student** Shamiso Phyllis Mupeti

**Funding** **amount** £500 (match-funded by placement provider)

Shamiso undertook a placement at The Pleasure Project (TPP), an international education and advocacy organisation dedicated to eroticising safer sex and incorporating a pleasure-based approach to sexual health. Arushi Singh and Anne Philpott, the co-founders, have been pioneering sexual pleasure and sexual health through advocacy, research, and educational campaigns to destigmatise discussions around pleasure. Tired of the ‘death, danger and disease” narrative of sex in sexual and reproductive healthcare, The Pleasure Project was founded in 2004 to shift the negative framing of sex that solely focused on unwanted pregnancies and STI/HIV risk reduction to a more positive framing that centered on the main reason why people have sex; pleasure (Singh et al., 2021).

**Placement Organisation** AFAWI

**Student** Isaac Halpern

**Funding amount** £2,000

AFAWI is an NGO working with women in Ghana who do not have the same access to opportunities at men, e.g. professional, educational or socially. Isaac’s role was to aid AFAWI in empowering women and girls to have better opportunities and to fulfil their own potential. Isaac provided support with the planning, implementation and coordination processes of the projects. Supported the conceptual elaboration and management of the projects. Provided support with the preparation of needs analyses based on work documentation and on-site evaluation visits. Isaac also supported the communication, cooperation and establishment of new co-operations with local and international partner organisation, Plus background research and fundraising.

**Placement Organisation** JustED

**Student** Nadia Krause

**Funding amount** £2,000

JustEd is a large multi-country and mixed methods study that has generated a significant amount of data related to education policies, curricula and young people’s experiences of environmental, epistemic and transitional justice in Uganda, Peru and Nepal. Nadia’s role was to analyse qualitative and quantitative data related to learners’ experiences in secondary schooling in Northern Uganda related to issues of epistemic violence (e.g. when children’s home languages are not recognised in the classroom because of an English-only language policy) and bodily violence (e.g. when young people experience corporal punishment).

**Placement Organisation** CDS Research Assistant/Terre des hommes

**Student** Amy Seaman and Taimiya Khalid

**Funding amount** £3,000

Taimiya and Amy’s involvement included a mixture of traditional RA tasks linked to the preparation of publications, as well as more exciting contributions such as workshop design and facilitation. The role represented a fascinating opportunity for Taimiya and Amy since it straddles the worlds of research and practice and involves taking part in a cutting-edge attempt to radicalise a major institutional player. Taimiya and Amy will have gained an insight into the world of development practice and made useful contacts. Of particular interest will have been the themes of empowerment, de-colonisation, and radical change.

**Placement Organisation** Research Ethics Association

**Student** Suzan Mantsebeng Maepe

**Funding amount** £2,000

Suzan was supporting the organisation of the Research Ethics Association’s annual conference, to be held at Bath in June 2023. The Research Ethics Association (REA) brings together academia, industry and local organisations across multiple disciplines (with a heavy emphasis on international development), in order to provide a space for critical reflection around ethical research practice. The role was to assist in all matters of conference organisation including the logistics of event planning, event management, advertising, and report writing.

**Placement Organisation** Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)

Policy Associate (x2) and Communications Associate

**Student** Rosie Williams, Marli Hems-Ward, Koshesai Fundira

**Funding amount** £3,000 (match-funded)

Rosie and Marli supported the analysis of national SDG reporting at national level in the Voluntary National Reviews as well as contributing to joint research. The role also included feeding into key policy papers around the UN’s High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the SDG Summit. Koshesai worked closely with the A4SD global team to deliver communications messages to their network of more than 3,300 organisations and activists around the world. Focusing particularly on 1) Creating and sending regular emails mails to the A4SD, 2) Creating and posting social media content on the A4SD channels including Instagram and Twitter and 3) Promoting of the Global Week of Action #Act4SDGs.

**Placement Organisation** People Against Poverty

**Student** Kateryna Grynova

**Funding amount** £2,000

People Against Poverty is small charity with a big heart, supporting people in the UK and overseas (Malawi, Haiti, Tanzania, Romania, India) to build a pathway out of poverty for themselves, their families and their communities. PaP work with inspiring partners/project leaders in each country who are passionate about serving their communities. Kateryna’s role involved helping to take forward Partner Development Programme, working with the CEO to put in place a framework to enable the charity and its partners/project leaders to work more effectively together. This included developing qualitative and quantitative impact measures for the programmes/projects fund by PaP.

**Placement Organisation** Partners for Conservation

**Student** George Pinnell and Abhishek Patil

**Funding amount** £4,000

Partners For Conservation is an NGO dedicated to the extension and sharing of opportunities in promotion, protection, and conservation of biodiversity through Education, Community Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Public Health and Environmental Justice to allow all society members to appreciate and celebrate their contributions towards the conservation of the biodiversity. George and Abhishek’s main objectives include community empowerment, public health, education and environmental justice. The main duties include supporting the Executive Director, coordinating projects, monitoring and evaluating programmes, marketing and fundraising and networking with other NGOs and local civil society.

**Placement Organisation** Imani Development

**Student** Sam Baker

**Funding amount** £2,000

Imani is an economic and development consultancy firm based in Capetown, South Africa. Sam worked in the Blantyre branch, Southern Malawi, which has a strong focus on agriculture, private sector development, trade, and monitoring and evaluation. The overriding objective of Imani Development is to improve the lives of Malawians by reducing poverty through sustainable growth and development. Sam’s specific job purpose is to support this mission by participating in a variety of work areas, with the aim of assisting the team of consultants in their duties. Sam collected data and focused on a specific research area which he subsequently wrote a report on at the end of the placement, this will contribute to my degree qualification.

**Doctoral Funding**

**Project title** Can Community-Based Social Protection Interventions Improve the Wellbeing of Asylum Seekers

**Student** Michelle James

**Funding amount** £80

Since working on previous QuIP studies, Bath SDR Ltd have developed a new ‘Casual Map App’. This is different to the software previously used, so Michelle was awarded funding for training on the new app as well as 1:1 training to get the most out of the software to ensure she has access to coding and analysis until the end of her PhD.

**Project title** Nudging, judging or fudging? Examining institutional change through judicial performance evaluation and management in the courts of small Anglophone Caribbean states

**Student** Shaun Finnetty

**Funding amount** £2,000

involves the conducting of primary data collection visits to the national judiciaries of the Commonwealth of Dominica and St. Lucia, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (St. Lucia), the Caribbean Court of Justice (Trinidad), the University of the West Indies-Faculty of Law (Barbados) and the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (Trinidad). During these visits over the course of five (5) weeks, the aim is to conduct planned key informant interviews (≈35) and focus groups (≈7) in-person with government officials; judges; attorneys; court administrators; other national justice sector actors; project managers and technical personnel from ongoing regional judicial reform projects; executives of national and regional legal professionals membership associations and representatives of donor agencies involved in regional judicial reform projects. Although it is possible that not all scheduled data collection events may be able to be completed due to time constraints, interviewee unavailability or unforeseen reasons such as natural disasters, the opportunity to undertake as many events as possible in-person will allow me to gain rapport with key judicial actors within case study countries and in regional legal institutions. This is important if the remaining data collection events need to be completed virtually as the awareness and support of these individuals will be crucially important in gaining access to other prospective respondents and getting their agreement to participate in the study.

**Project title** To what extent can a regional organisation inter-governmental humanitarian organisation apply the principle of neutrality in delivering humanitarian assistance in conflict settings?

**Student** Grace Endina

**Funding amount** £1,400

Grace presented a paper at the International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) conference. The research will contribute to the longstanding debate on the neutrality principle within humanitarian principles, including humanitarianism in the context of Southeast Asia. Neutrality has been contested as either a means or the highest moral value governing humanitarian aid in conflict settings, mainly coming from western agencies. However, considering the emerging role of regional organisations, particularly in addressing humanitarian crises within their region, debates around neutrality become more amplified as the organisations are working under the leadership of their member states, including belligerent ones. Therefore, a case study of ASEAN’s humanitarian aid in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar due to the coup in 2020 is chosen with a semi-structured literature review to enrich studies about the neutrality principle and, eventually, a regional organisation in the humanitarian sphere. This research will complement the studies around humanitarian ethics and narratives dominated by the western model.

**Project title** How to promote condom use in Hostales in Lima: An experimental approach

**Student** Ignacio Franco Vega

**Funding amount** £320

Ignacio is interested in networking and potential leads of future work and collaboration opportunities. The conference he attended was particularly important because representatives from several European organisations attended. This opportunity allowed him to reach a wider audience, as most of his previous networking opportunities have focused on British societies and researchers. The organisers personally contacted Ignacio to present his research at the event.

**Project title** The Gendered Impacts of Universal Basic Income: a critical study of the experience of women participants in the WorkFREE project

**Student** Maria Franchi

**Funding amount** £2,000

The WorkFREE project is a partnership between the University of Bath and two Indian organisations – IWWAGE based in Delhi and The Montford Social Institute in Hyderabad. Maria’s fieldwork involved travelling to the 5 slum communities involved in the WorkFREE project to undertake observations and conduct PAR. Maria visited the local partner of the project to meet with staff and to facilitate action learning with them as part of her research. Her visit also included meetings and networking locally with experts and practitioners. To date this has included building between MSI and other local organisations. Whilst in Hyderabad Maria has been and will continue to provide support to the local partner MSI with some capacity building work such as training for their staff and the communities they work with.

**Other research activities**

**Applicant** Yixian Sun

**Project** Research assistant - Cameron Wakeland with supporting The Political Economy of Meat System Transformation

**Amount** £2,000

The practicum offered the opportunity to work for the project ‘*The Political Economy of Meat System Transformation*’ funded by the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), which involves international experts on public policy, environmental politics, development studies, data and behavioral science at the University of Bern, ETH Zurich, Cardiff University and Princeton University, as well as non-academic partners promoting sustainable food such as the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization and WWF. As a research assistant, Cameron supported Dr Sun and his international collaborators to conduct cutting-edge research on policies supporting meat substitutes (e.g., plant-based and cultured meat) and reducing meat consumption in China, the European Union (EU) and the US.

**Applicant** Katharina Lenner

**Project** Garment Sector photography exhibitions in Amman and Bath

**Amount** £2,000

As part of CDS funding to support public engagement/impact related activities, Katherina was awarded £2,000 for her photography exhibition in Jordan in which garment sector workers document their own lives and tell their stories of work, solidarity and social protection. The exhibition will take place in Amman, in Bath and online on the BTS page of OpenDemocracy.

**Applicant** Roy Maconachie

**Project** Support Cobalt Rush Panel Event in NYC

**Amount** £4,000

Funding was awarded for this event following on from the success of the screening for ‘Voices from the Mine’ that was held at the UN in 2019. The event is planned for early 2024 and will be attended by UN delegates, amongst the guests will be key policy and donor actors. Following a screening of the film, a panel discussion will take place with input from three UN panellists and three additional invited specialists from the Eastern US. The event will be chaired by a UN member followed by questions and open discussion from the audience. The film was an in-house documentary produced by Roy Maconachie, Simon Wharf and Bossissi Nkuba and won two national honours at the Learning on Screen Awards 2023 in London.