



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #1 DECEMBER 2015

SAVING A SPECIES

*Rescuing the critically endangered
mountain gorillas of central Africa*

CONTENTS



5 Standing up for parliament

An interview with Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the first female Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament.

4 The first word

8 Diabetes research

Oladapo Edward Olaniru is at the forefront of research into the next generation of treatments.



10 In search of different ways of knowing

Leandra Koenig-Visagie on challenges in research on 'gender' and 'race' in the contemporary South African art world.



13 SAVING A SPECIES

Ricky Okello Okwir's work as a 'Gorilla Doctor', caring for critically endangered mountain gorillas in Uganda.



14 Leading the way to sustainable development

Salman Ahmad is one of the first-ever Queen's Young Leaders.

15 Winning against corruption in developing countries

Stephen Asek reports on grassroots efforts to combat corruption in Cameroon.

18 Events

22 Partnering for development

Daljeet Kaur explains how international cooperation can build skills and knowledge for global development.

24 A vision for the University of the West Indies

Newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles outlines his blueprint for the university, and the wider Caribbean region.

27 Alumni news



30 A lifetime in law

Vincent De Gaetano, a judge on the European Court of Human Rights, shares insights into his life and career.



33 The march to enhance eye and vision care worldwide

Uduak Udom, an international leader in optometry, on her passion for community care.

34 The CSC in numbers

35 Get involved!

THE FIRST WORD

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's new-look magazine, *Common Knowledge*. The magazine has increased in size and scope so that we can better show off the tremendous range of work being undertaken by our Scholars, Fellows and alumni who have studied in the UK. New features of the magazine include a calendar to highlight upcoming events both in the UK and overseas and application deadlines, and 'The CSC in numbers' which aims to provide an illustrative overview of our work, as well as an increased number of interviews and articles which we hope you will find of interest. As ever, we welcome your feedback and would be interested to hear your comments about this first edition – email us at alumni@cscuk.org.uk

In this edition we hear from Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury about her hopes for greater female participation in political life, and from Vincent De Gaetano about his work as Malta's representative on the European Court of Human Rights, in addition to some of our current Scholars working on such diverse areas as diabetes, corruption, and the role of gender in the art landscape. If you feel you could contribute to the magazine or want to let us know about any of your achievements, please contact us and we can feature your successes.

November 2015 saw the 24th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) meeting take place in Malta. This biennial event is one of the biggest meetings of heads of state in the world, and this year's theme was 'Adding Global Value'. The CSC organised an event to coincide with CHOGM, and we are delighted that so many of our Maltese alumni accepted the invitation to attend.

For all our alumni reading this issue, please don't forget to keep us updated with your news and to let us know when your contact details change so that we can continue to keep in touch.

Season's greetings to all our readers, from everyone at the CSC!

James Phillips
Senior Alumni Engagement Officer
alumni@cscuk.org.uk

Common Knowledge

Editorial team:

Natasha Lokhun
James Phillips
Kirsty Scott
Vanessa Worthington

Design:

Pilot Design Consultancy Ltd

Print:

TFW Printers Ltd

Common Knowledge is published twice a year by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK.

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HF, United Kingdom
info@cscuk.org.uk www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

Common Knowledge is published for information purposes only and no liability is accepted for its contents by the CSC or by any contributor. While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information contained in *Common Knowledge* was correct at the time of compilation, it should not be regarded as definitive and no responsibility is accepted for the inclusion or omission of any particular items or for the views expressed therein. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the CSC.

STANDING UP FOR PARLIAMENT

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the first female Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, was elected as Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 2014. During a visit to London earlier this year, she spoke to Common Knowledge about her thoughts on female participation in politics and the role of parliaments in society.

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. What you have been up to since arriving in London?

I was elected as Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA] in October 2014, and the term is for three years. As you may already know, the headquarters of the CPA is in London, so that has increased my number of visits. I was here earlier in the year in February to take part in the Magna Carta conference organised by the CPA UK branch, and I also attended another event in Gibraltar organised by the Gibraltar CPA which focused on violence against women. Subsequently, the Royal Commonwealth Society invited me to speak at the Commonwealth Day Observance. The event was a unique opportunity to be given the chance to deliver a speech in front of Her Majesty The Queen and the wider Royal Family, in addition to many other distinguished guests. Westminster Abbey is also so gorgeous.

Since I am here in London, I have also had a number of other meetings with the speaker of the House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza, and I also participated in a panel discussion at the Speaker's Office celebrating International Women's Day and looking at female representation in parliaments.

The UK hasn't been particularly good at ensuring equal representation in its parliament. Is Bangladesh making more progress?

Bangladesh has made very significant strides in the overall empowerment of women and gender equality. In the present parliament (the tenth), the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Speaker are all women. I was selected as the first woman Speaker in the ninth parliament and continue my term into the tenth. So three very important constitutional positions are held by women and I think that's a very unique example in the world. I cannot think of any other parliament that has such representation.

When our constitution was created in 1972, a provision for 50 reserved seats for women in parliament was included, which paved the way and facilitated women's political participation. Many countries are still struggling to try and get a provision in their constitution to enable and enhance women's participation, but it is not easy. I think it remains a milestone that the father of our nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, thought about how women could be brought in to the institutional framework at that point of time.

We have many women activists. Women's involvement in Bangladeshi politics is nothing new – it has its own heritage, its own history. If we go back to the language movements of 1952, which originally initiated in 1948, both



▲ Current Commonwealth Scholars Dr Shaheda Anwar (l) and Dr Masuma Pervin Mishu (r) met Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury (centre) during her visit to London

“ I don't see any crisis of representation on the ground, or that there are not enough good or capable women. The issue is the process itself.

STANDING UP FOR PARLIAMENT



women and men were in the frontline protesting against the idea of not making Bangla the national language. It started from there. We really need to think about what it used to be like more than 50 years ago when women were actively involved in politics.

There is no lack or shortage of women who are ready and actively participating in the political process. I don't see any crisis of representation on the ground, or that there are not enough good or capable women – that is not the issue. The issue is the process itself, which does not really enable women to come through the direct electoral process.

At the moment, the beauty of the constitution is that, while there are 50 reserved seats for women, any woman is free to contest election independently. We have 21 members who are directly elected, which is a positive thing, and that number is increasing. In the previous parliament, there were much fewer. So we eventually want to achieve equal female representation through direct election alone, because that is the whole idea. But it will take a long time for us to reach the right number to have a critical mass, so the temporary measure of the reserved seats is a welcome initiative. Even now, in election law, there is a provision that every political party must ensure that 33% of their nominated candidates are women – but over a span of 20 years. So gradually representation is improving – the catch is 20 years, that's a long time! But we are still happy that this has been imposed through law, because it is very important for political parties to nominate women as candidates to contest elections.

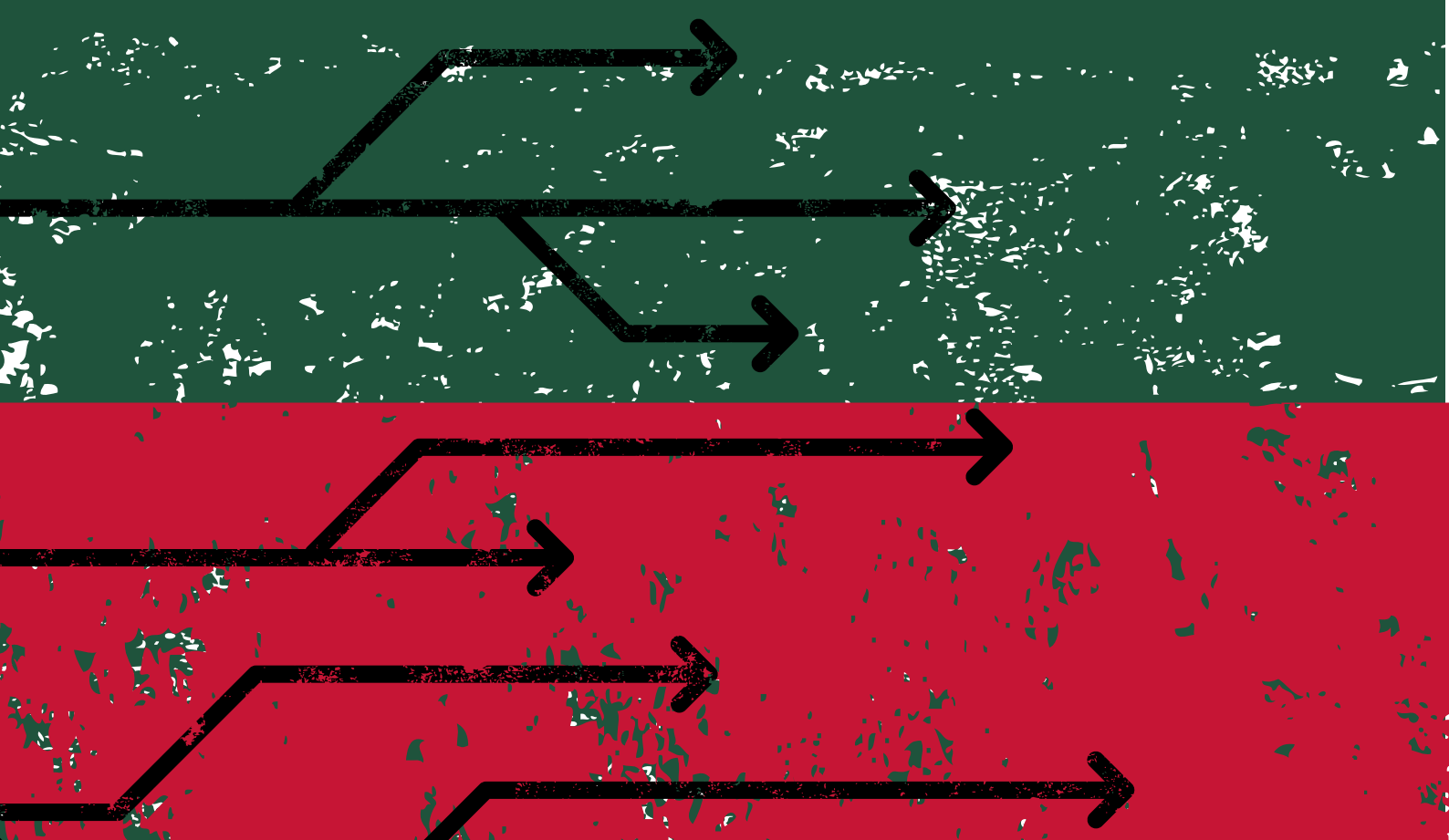
At the end of the day, parties are concerned with whether you are a winning candidate or not. For women, it is not easy to source the kind of finance and the muscle power and all that is needed, particularly funding, resource, and mobilisation. These are obstacles that prevent you. So we really need to address these causes, and these are some of the things which were discussed yesterday by the panellists.

What encouraged you to stand for election as Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and what are you hoping to achieve?

The CPA is a very unique platform. It has 179 member parliaments, as it also includes state and provincial parliaments, so the reach is quite extensive. Of course, the CPA upholds the overall values of the Commonwealth – promoting democracy, rule of law, sustainable development – but we are also working to promote gender equality in parliaments, looking at how to increase female representation, what measures should be taken, and how each country feels about it. It is ultimately the governments of the countries who have to do it, but the CPA can be a steering and guiding factor in bringing about the right kind of discourse.

The 2015 Commonwealth theme of 'A Young Commonwealth' is something that the CPA will be considering very seriously. We want to encourage young parliamentarians and to train them as future leaders. Through different exchange programmes, young parliamentarians can share best practice and provide training on parliamentary practices and public speaking. We also want to create interest among the younger Commonwealth generation to actually choose the profession of politics – particularly young women, so that they are not shying away from involvement and sharing their thoughts.

The other important agenda is, of course, the process of transition in the development agenda, shifting away from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will have long-term ramifications on economic and political situations. There are a lot of common agendas which are fundamentally important for all people in the Commonwealth. Climate change, disaster risk management, gender equality, women in parliament, children's welfare – these are common issues that cut across all divides. There's no country that will say they



don't want to protect the rights of children – everybody will have a consensus on that.

The CPA is concerned with how we can deal with the issues that affect all of us – poverty eradication, food security, the energy crisis – constructively and ensure that parliamentarians play their role, because they make promises to the people and have to go back to the people for their renewed mandate.

Did you always plan to go into politics, or was it something that developed as you grew up?

I come from a political background so I have always had a very keen interest in politics. In my own home, we always had very long discussions about political things – international politics, global issues – so I grew up in that environment and it generated an interest in me. I always thought that at some point I would join politics and that was one of the reasons that I took up the profession of law, because I felt that it was an independent profession and it would help if I eventually joined politics.

What are your memories of your Commonwealth Scholarship?


Very vivid and very good, of course. It is a significant and integral part of my life. I am very closely and emotionally attached to it, because I think I grew with every step during those three and a half years. I studied for a PhD at the University of Essex, at the School of Law. My topic was the right to life, and it involved constitutional law in human rights. I had an excellent supervisor, Professor Sheldon Leader, and I really owe a lot to him because he was my manager and he really helped develop my thinking process and analytical mind. Whatever I have attained, it was because of his support and guidance.

Essex was a great place to be. The Human Rights Centre is very famous, and I was able to interact with Professor Kevin Boyle, a very renowned human rights scholar (who has now passed away), and Professor Sir Nigel Rodney, who is still there.

I was in Essex with my husband and then two-year-old daughter, and I finished my PhD within three and a half years. It was a very good time but a very painstaking process. For six months, I sat and thought 'It's not going to happen, it's not going to happen...' My husband used to tell me 'That is why they have given you three years. You don't need to decide in 6 months so just keep working on it'. Then when I finished and completed my thesis, I did not want to let go of it. My professor was telling me 'It's done, it's over. You need to let go and submit it, there's nothing more you can do'. Overall it was a very rewarding experience and helped me to get to where I am now.

The Honourable Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is a 1996 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh – she studied for a PhD in Law at the University of Essex.

To read an extended version of this interview, including further questions, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

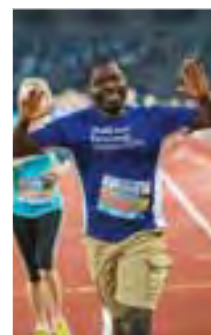


DIABETES RESEARCH: THE NEXT GENERATION


As you may be aware, diabetes is a huge global problem affecting about one person in every 15. Although its effect is worldwide, it has a disproportionate toll on developing countries. The International Diabetes Federation reports that 80% of people with diabetes live in low and middle income countries. Indeed, diabetes cases are predicted to increase by 90% in sub-Saharan Africa in 2030 and, worryingly, people suffering from this epidemic are under 60, in their most productive years. This will place immense economic burden on these already poor countries.

The most common type of diabetes is mainly due to insufficient production or decreased effectiveness of a hormone called insulin. After eating, food is broken down to small nutrients such as glucose, which is transported to the bloodstream. It is not needed in the blood, but is required by the brain, muscles, and other organs to provide energy for thinking, walking, running, and so on. Glucose enters these organs via 'doors' present on their surfaces, and these doors are shut at all times in some organs. Insulin acts as the

'key' that unlocks the doors to allow the entry of sugar. In diabetes, these keys may be insufficient, or they are sufficient but are worn out and no longer work properly, or there may be no keys at all. As a result, glucose begins to build up in the bloodstream and, since it is not taken up by cells such as those in muscles for energy, it leads to – among other symptoms – excessive tiredness, high blood sugar, and the loss of excess glucose in urine leading to increased thirst.



▲ **Oladapo Edward Olaniru** is a 2013 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria – he is studying for a PhD in Diabetes and Endocrinology at King's College London.



Oladapo Edward Olaniru is conducting cutting-edge research into diabetes. As he enters the third year of his PhD, he explains the background behind his research, as well as some of his findings to date.

When individuals with diabetes develop reduced insulin sensitivity – where the keys no longer work properly – the cells that produce insulin in the pancreas normally compensate for this by increasing insulin output. However, in the longer term, the workload becomes too much for the cells and they begin to die. A recently developed drug for treating diabetes, called Byetta, works by increasing insulin secretion and at the same time it prevents those insulin-producing cells, known as islets, from dying. It does so by activating a particular sub-group of receptors known as G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). In our lab, we have shown that human islets express many of these GPCRs but their functions are unknown, and we think that some of them may have the appropriate characteristics for the next generation of diabetes therapy.

So, in my research, I'm focusing on one of these GPCRs, which we have found to be the most abundant in human islets. To clarify, GPCRs are like TV antennae that pick up signals from the outside and send them to the television where they are converted to sound and pictures. The TV station picked is dependent on the unique transmitting frequency of that station. GPCRs are also specific in terms of their actions and ligands

(signal-triggering molecules) that activate them. This family of receptors are very attractive drug targets, and more than 30% of drugs in modern medicine work by activating them.

The first step in my project was to isolate these insulin-producing cells in their pure form and observe the effect of activating the GPCR of interest on insulin secretion and islet functions. After confirming that the receptor and its ligand are present in islets, and that incubating the cells with the ligand leads to insulin secretion, I was awarded a fellowship from the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes that allowed me to travel to Harvard Medical School in the USA for three months, to investigate whether what I have observed can be replicated in mice in which the receptor has been completely deleted. What I found was interesting! Mice in which my receptor of interest has been deleted have smaller islets, which is due to a reduced ability of the cells to divide. This suggests that the receptor may be important when we need to increase the size of islets in people with diabetes in order to increase their insulin secretion. Presently, I'm working on understanding the mechanisms behind this observation.

Moreover, as a practising pharmacist-turned-scientist, I know that the danger of diabetes is increased when there is inactivity combined with not eating healthy, nutritious food. Therefore, on the two occasions that I have presented my work at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes conferences in Vienna and Stockholm, I have participated in running a 5km race to encourage people to lead an active lifestyle.

I am pleased to be at the cutting edge of diabetes research at King's College London. I'm going to take along a huge wealth of experience and skills from my studies. But my PhD is not only about bench work. I have been introduced to entrepreneurship, learning to identify the innovative starting-points within my own research. I led a team of three PhD students in business competitions and we were finalists at the KCL Lion's Den challenge and semi-finalists at the 2015 OneStart Europe Business Plan Competition – the world's largest start-up accelerator programme in life sciences. I learnt important business skills that will enable me to bring my inventions to the large number of people suffering from diabetes.

IN SEARCH OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF KNOWING:

CHALLENGES IN RESEARCH ON 'GENDER' AND 'RACE' IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICAN ART WORLD

What role can gender play in the transformation of the contemporary art world? Leandra Koenig-Visagie explains how her research is exploring this topic in the context of South Africa.

Gender forms a critical element of my research, which centres on an exploration of negotiations of difference and transformative practices in the contemporary South African visual art world. Although there had recently been an increase of academic interest in gender in South African art, the role of gender in the art landscape had not received the attention that issues of racialised difference had on the transformation agenda. Gender tended to be sidelined in relation to the overwhelming urgency of the issue of race, especially in a number of books that appeared on contemporary art around the time of the celebration of South Africa's 20 years of democracy (1994-2014).

My research seeks to unpack the significance of gender in the South African art world, in order to place gender as one crucial element in the study of contemporary South African culture, given the enormous freight of the country's histories and legacies of apartheid. Perhaps connected to this concern is also the question as to whether a gender analysis can play a role in transformation in the contemporary South African art world.

A PROBLEMATIC PICTURE

My quest to find a way into the complex issues around gender and its entanglement with race in the contemporary South African art world led me to a study commissioned by the South African government in 2008 on the status of the country's visual art industry. Although the resulting report from this study, appearing in 2010, constitutes one of the very few available contemporary accounts of the South African art world in broad terms, the 'picture' produced was problematic. This is a result of the predominantly quantitative survey data collected from people working in the South African visual art industry.

My analysis revealed that the presentation of this official report's findings produces an abundance of graphs and figures that construct, both visually and discursively, both 'gender' and 'race' as binary concepts. These are regularly divided into the categories/oppositions of male/female and black/

white. This picture has consequences for issues of transformation in this area, as it not only creates abstract entities according to binary notions of 'gender' and 'race', but also organises these constructions into a hierarchy of lack ranging, in most cases, from white men, who are least lacking, to black women, who are most lacking. It is shocking to recognise the unexpected congruence of this practice with apartheid representational tendencies. The study's problematic application of the concepts of 'gender' and 'race' appears to be a result of the reliance on quantitative stratification practices – which in its most basic form can be understood, at least in social science research, as the organisation and presentation of findings at the hand of predetermined categories of participants, which often relies on demographic elements such as sex, race, age, etc.

The report also prioritised economic concerns over processes of transformation, especially 'racial' and 'gender' dimensions, to such an extent that these aspects find virtually no place in the report's final recommendations to the South African government. The report mutes various voices and actors in the South African art world, as well as their negotiations of difference and the transformative practices in which they are engaged. Especially affected by this is people's ability to be present in such an account as more than figures of demographic representation, and the ability to include a sense of the 'work' that artworks do. Nevertheless, however problematic the report's discursive and methodological effects, it does reveal inequalities in the South African visual arts sector.

IN SEARCH OF DIFFERENT WAYS OF KNOWING

FRAMING A RESPONSE

Drawing from a Foucaultian framework (which considers statements and the formation of discursive constellations and their effects), I performed a discursive analysis of the report's formulations of the status of the South African visual art industry. I then moved into the next phase of my research and conceptualised it as a response to the report and its effects as described above. The overarching questions in my research are thus to explore:

- How can transformative knowledge be produced about the contemporary South African art world that:
 1. Does not reproduce the problematic use of 'gender' and 'race' as binary stratification and classification categories?
 2. Does not organise configurations of these binary classifications into a hierarchy?
 3. Does not prioritise the economic dimensions of the visual art world at the expense of institutional or aesthetic transformation of hierarchical or exclusionary racialised and gendered categorisations and the resulting social and personal experiences?
- How can people in the South African art world be afforded the opportunity to give an account of their experiences of how difference is negotiated in their everyday lives and cultural and/or aesthetic practices?
- How can art be brought to bear itself as an 'actor' in the South African art world, that contributes to its discourses and practices of transformation?

During the second phase of my research, I conducted iterative in-depth interviews with various 'actors' in the South African art world, using a qualitative research methodology that could generate concepts that can explore the lived practices and experiences of artists and those involved in the art world to set against the quantitatively construed abstractions of the economically-focused government report. Such an analysis may also contribute to undoing the abstraction of subjectivity in hierarchical classifications as produced in the report, because, in my second phase of research, individual participants were afforded the opportunity to give their own accounts of what they are doing and how they are thinking about transformative practices. In these interviews I was looking for people's awareness of how binary hierarchies are maintained or modified, upheld or undone, in their everyday lives and work in the art world. In the Constructivist Grounded Theory Method framework, developed by Kathy Charmaz and which I draw from in my research, it is imperative to allow participants to articulate their own accounts in their own language or terms.

This approach serves as a response to the rigid stratification of the study commissioned by the government, where people are constituted in binary terms. I have found that this method of interviewing allows access to information about the South African art world that is closer to people's experiences, and will allow for an approach where people's subjectivities and voices are taken seriously and not muted and abstracted.

CASTING NEW LIGHT

With its focus on negotiations of difference and transformative practices in post-apartheid South Africa, my research can contribute to thinking regarding transformation and serve to highlight practices that are already engaged in the work of transformation. The benefits for research participants are related to the foregrounding of the type of work in which they are involved, be that as artists, writers, gallerists, or curators – or various combinations of these. The study may also be able to trace relations between people, practices, and artworks, which may result in information that can support the work with which they are engaged.

The study aims to produce a more nuanced understanding of the existing but also evolving South African art world, by exploring ways in which to imagine the art world otherwise than in the government-commissioned study, which completely forecloses the possibility of transformation, already at work and experienced, through its methods and discourse. Nevertheless, my research does not seek to nullify the existing government report, as it is one of the few resources available on the topic and does identify persistent problems in the South African art world in relation to gendered and racialised inequality of access and recognition. My research seeks to undo some of the report's problematic effects and to supplement the available account by exploring *different ways of knowing* through qualitative methodologies drawn from both art history and social science research, and by generating a different discourse on the role of art in transformative practices through my creation of a new set of resources, arising from interviews and their Grounded Theory analysis.

A special edition of the journal African Arts dedicated to the topic of gender and South African art was published in 2012. For the editorial introduction to this issue, see L. Aronson, 'First word. Gender and South African art', African Arts (45.4, pp.1-5, 2012)

The report that Leandra's research is based upon, Research Report: An Assessment of the Visual Arts in South Africa, was released in a consultation draft form in 2010 by the Human Sciences Research Council, African Micro-Economic Research Umbrella, University of Witwatersrand, and Thompson Research Services. For more information and to download the report, visit <http://vansa.co.za/research/human-sciences-research-council-and-national-department-of-arts-and-culture-release-national-study-on-the-visual-arts-for-public-comment>

Leandra Koenig-Visagie is a 2013 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa – she is studying for a PhD in History of Art at the University of Leeds.

SAVING A SPECIES

The famous mountain gorillas of central Africa are critically endangered – but Ricky Okello Okwir is part of a hands-on effort to rescue them.

Ricky Okello Okwir spends each day trekking up mountains in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. He is looking for gorillas – making sure that they are healthy and that none have become injured or trapped in forest snares. A field veterinarian for Gorilla Doctors, Ricky is part of a team providing direct medical care to ill and injured gorillas in central Africa.

There are fewer than 1,000 mountain gorillas remaining today. The world's last remaining populations of wild and habituated mountain gorillas are spread across Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As well as snare injuries, infectious diseases are a major threat facing the gorillas, particularly transmission from the increasing human populations surrounding the parks where they reside. It was this aspect that motivated Ricky to apply to study for an MSc in Global Health and Infectious Diseases by distance learning.

The Gorilla Doctors charity is currently working in partnership with Columbia University, USA, as part of the global PREDICT programme investigating emerging pandemic threats, with a focus on cross-transmission between wildlife and human populations. With the outbreak of the Ebola virus last year in west Africa, this research is particularly timely and has received a great deal of attention, and the programme has recently secured funding to continue for a further five years until 2020.

Ricky chose to investigate this aspect of 'cross-transmission' for his MSc dissertation, in which he looked at the possibility of simian-borne viruses entering human populations. Uganda has also suffered a number of Ebola and other transmissible disease outbreaks in the past. A few years ago in Rwanda, two gorillas were found dead as a result of a human virus that had never been found in primates before and was not known to cause human fatalities.

Ricky has achieved his long-held dream of becoming a vet, having been inspired by his veterinarian uncle. Traditionally in Uganda, a vet was always associated with livestock – only when he was older and as a result of

volunteering at the Budongo Conservation Field Station in Uganda, did Ricky's interests broaden to working with wildlife. He recently completed his MSc, which he described as 'the best study experience possible. I was able to continue my career in Uganda whilst taking classes and modules of direct relevance to my work and was able to apply my learning straight away. I was happy to be able to contribute to online discussion boards with fellow distance learners around the world and share our experiences and thoughts'. In the future, he hopes to move further into researching transmissible infectious diseases.

In terms of the future of the mountain gorillas, Ricky is also hopeful. Interest in conservation within Uganda has dramatically increased during the last 30 years, and the populations of gorillas are the healthiest they have been during this time. Progress is being made in relation to snare injuries – no Ugandan gorillas have been injured by snares this year. In 2010, it was estimated that there were 400 mountain gorillas left in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park – approximately 200 of them habituated, with the remaining 200 truly wild. Ricky is now working on a gorilla population census in DRC, while the next Ugandan census will be undertaken in 2016.



▲ Dr Ricky Okello Okwir is a 2012 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Uganda – he studied MSc Global Health and Infectious Diseases at the University of Edinburgh.

For more information on Gorilla Doctors, visit www.gorilladoctors.org

For more information on the PREDICT programme, visit www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ohi/predict

LEADING THE WAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*There is a consensus that young people hold the key to a nation's development – yet graduate unemployment is a worldwide problem. **Salman Ahmad** has received international recognition for his work tackling this issue in Pakistan.*

In 2015, Salman Ahmad became one of the first-ever Queen's Young Leaders. He received this prestigious award in recognition of his work promoting an entrepreneurial culture in Pakistan. Four years ago, he co-founded the GADE Foundation, which aims to encourage and support entrepreneurship among young people and alleviate poverty. He was driven to set up the foundation after discovering that many young graduates in Pakistan were unable to find work.

The GADE Foundation has established a number of projects which address social problems in Pakistan. These projects are coordinated and championed on a regional basis through 26 chapters at universities throughout the country. The foundation also works with organisations to address issues arising from unemployment, and provides particular support for women wanting to join the workforce, including those who want to be able to operate in a freelance capacity from home.

Salman collected his award from Her Majesty The Queen at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace in June. During his visit to London, he also met UK Prime Minister David Cameron and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham, as well as visiting the University of Cambridge,

The Queen's Young Leaders Awards, established in 2014, recognise and celebrate exceptional people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth, who are taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives. For more information, visit www.queensyoungleaders.com

the BBC World Service, and Twitter's European headquarters.

Speaking after receiving his award, Salman said 'I realised that there was a need in my country to motivate young people to become job creators, rather than job seekers, after they graduate.


'It is not merely an award for me; it is recognition of the fact that millions of young people are stuck in a vicious circle of unemployment. Moreover, it is global appreciation of my belief that we cannot change the destiny of poor communities by donation, unless we teach the ways of wealth creation.'

Providing a global platform for young entrepreneurs is now a priority for Salman, and he plans to continue his work through research and campaigning for international entrepreneurship as a source of sustainable development in poor countries. Since completing his Master's, he has secured a scholarship from the University of Glasgow to undertake his PhD at the Adam Smith Business School.

Salman Ahmad is a 2013 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Pakistan – he studied MSc International Business at the University of Liverpool.



“ We cannot change the destiny of poor communities by donation, unless we teach the ways of wealth creation.



Stephen Asek reports on innovative methods of fighting corruption in Cameroon, and the impact of this work on local communities.

Tackling corruption is a huge challenge, especially in contexts where citizen mobilisation against fraud, capacity building for constructive engagement, and access to information remain significantly low. The fight against corruption cannot be limited just to raising awareness in the global north of its prevalence and of the poverty-violence nexus. Cutting back on fraud and corruption requires a new form of approach against corrupt public officials and systems.

WINNING AGAINST CORRUPTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WINNING AGAINST CORRUPTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



▲ The local population in Muyuka and Limbe identifying and collecting evidence of corruption on a project site using BEPROMAPs

Such an approach does not involve the threat or use of violence. Instead, it uses the mobilisation of ordinary citizens and reform champions in public institutions and grassroots organisations through constructive dialogue to solve identified corruption-related problems, as well as collaboration with public authorities to clean up the corrupt, and replicate concrete and measurable citizen-led actions to improve governance, increase transparency, and curb graft.

In Cameroon, the International Governance Institute (IGI) has carried out a series of support programmes and activities to reveal how citizen engagement, through constructive dialogue and collaboration with public institutions, can produce real anti-corruption reforms in attitude, policy and practice. These initiatives are run by IGI's Focal Integrity Team in Cameroon – of which I am the Director – supported by the UK-based charity IGI UK.

Tackling corruption in Cameroon's public investment budget

As a lower middle income country with 52% of its 22.8 million people residing in urban areas, Cameroon aspires to become a middle-income country and thus commits significant resources to improving basic infrastructure and public services for its growing population. This is carried out through the Public Investment Budget (PIB), a major investment programme consuming about 70% of the country's tax revenues.

Although local government institutions are involved in PIB decision-making, its implementation and effectiveness is affected by a range of corrupt activity in its

mismanagement, as documented by the World Bank in 2012.

Access to information for citizens in a timely, simplified, and comprehensive manner empowers them to report service delivery deficiencies, and provide feedback on government revenue allocations and expenditures. With many ordinary citizens lacking access to information on public budgets for services and projects, IGI runs a scheme to disclose the amount of public budget available for spending, as an incentive for public participation and demands for accountability in rural Cameroon.

The institute has designed its own unique social accountability tool for this purpose. Basic Expenditure Mapping for Projects (BEPROMAPs) combines building the non-confrontational negotiation skills of head teachers, teachers, community leaders, and school inspectors with an SMS feedback platform and infographics to simplify, disclose, and disseminate information. The tool engages people to monitor resource allocations and report fraud in project implementation and budget execution for their schools.

The introduction of BEPROMAPs as a fraud tracking and project monitoring tool has empowered head teachers and school inspectors in the basic education sector in Cameroon to demand improvements in the quality of work conducted by contractors on project sites. The tool has also been used to feed government regulatory institutions with hard evidence to take legal action against corrupt service providers.

Increasing transparency in universities

IGI is also working to strengthen transparency, accountability, and professionalism in higher education institutions in Cameroon. The Cameroon University Transparency Initiative (CUTI), launched in 2009, aims to increase transparency in the fiscal and pedagogic systems of state universities, through specialised training and assistance to members of university anti-corruption sub-committees on carrying out corruption investigations, whistle-blowing, and the development and implementation of ethical codes of conduct.

The political will to clean universities of corruption does not come about automatically, since it should be based on mutual trust and commitment to a common goal of avoiding the waste of financial and other resources. Through constructive engagement, a champion – either a person or a group of people – can actively advocate for ethical behaviour and the reduction of corruption.

Through this model, IGI has been able to draw attention in a challenging and yet constructive way to the problems of corruption within higher education. At the University of Buea (the most prestigious university in Anglophone Cameroon), for example, IGI has been able to turn around the initially sceptical university leadership into recognising the extent of the problem and the benefits of cleaning up corruption in institutions of higher learning.

Cameroon's Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndongo, is a supporter of CUTI and has pressed all public and private universities to install mechanisms to



▲ Head teachers and village leaders inspecting a community project following BEPROMAPs training

Stephen Asek is a 2013 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar from Cameroon – he is studying MSc Education for Sustainability at London South Bank University.

For more information on the work of IGI in Cameroon, visit www.fitcameroon.org

counter corruption. This momentum has led to other universities in Cameroon adopting anti-corruption strategies modelled on those pioneered by IGI.

Building citizens' capacity for accountability and justice

IGI has used the political will generated from its activities to scale its work in tackling corruption. The Alternative Justice and Accountability in Public Procurement Program (AJAPP), aimed at lowering the impact of corruption on development programmes, challenges corruption in the delivery of public services to users, as well as in development infrastructure construction projects such as roads, public buildings, bridges, and hospitals.

AJAPP has been at the forefront of strengthening the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in Cameroon, including field investigations, documentation and whistle-blowing of abuses of power, mismanagement, fraud, kickbacks, extortion, and bribery practices of those involved in the delivery chain of public service and development projects in rural Cameroon.

Through AJAPP, IGI is able to help local communities and government to reduce the number of compromised and abandoned projects, increase transparency in the public procurement process, improve the quality of infrastructure, and build trust between the local population and regional authorities. IGI has been asked to assist the Ministry of Public Contracts' National Anti-Corruption Unit, as well as similar units in four other government ministries.

The way forward: amplifying change

The work of IGI is about changing the culture of communities and making corruption unacceptable by public officials serving at the frontline. For us, these officials are the lifeline of the hopes and dreams of many poor people who have been disadvantaged by massive corruption. If their efforts to stand up against corruption should fail or prove to be insufficient to bring about change, then the hopes and dreams of many Cameroonians are destined for frustration.

To address this, IGI is pioneering a Public Service Governance and Corporate Corruption Management Program (PSG-CCMP) to put hands-on tools and expertise in the hands of frontline service delivery officials, transforming them into direct anti-corruption activists. The programme trains government officials as anti-corruption activists through ten modules delivered in the form of workshops and field exercises.

In the field of anti-corruption formation and education, PSG-CCMP is an important resource and a means of passing on best practice in business and public service management to public officials and potential leaders in the public service across Commonwealth countries.

EVENTS



DEVELOPMENT MODULE WORKSHOPS

The CSC Development Module aims to enhance and expand the PhD scholarship experience and empower researchers to make an impact. Two Development Module workshops were held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor in 2015.



CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE

Master's Scholars took part in an interactive workshop titled 'Connect and communicate: academic engagement with modern media' at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor in March 2015

PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

Scholars with Mark Williams MP at the annual Parliamentary reception organised by the CSC, the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), at the Palace of Westminster, London in July 2015



SCIENCE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

SciDev.Net delivered a practical workshop for Scholars on 'Communication skills and the flash talk - improve the way you explain your research' in June 2015

EVENTS



UGANDA ALUMNI MEETING

Ugandan alumni at a meeting in Kampala in July 2015, discussing their association's draft constitution



BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE PRIZE

(l-r) Dr Ben Irving, joint winner of the 2014 Taylor and Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best Journal Article Prize, being presented with his award by the Hon Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu and former Commonwealth Scholar, and Dan Trinder, Associate Editorial Director for Taylor & Francis



CYPRUS ALUMNI EVENT

Cypriot alumni at an event at the British High Commissioner's residence in Nicosia in June 2015





FAREWELL EVENT

The CSC held its annual Farewell Event celebrating the achievements of departing Scholars and Fellows at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in July 2015. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu and 1993 Commonwealth Scholar the Hon Enele Soso Sopoaga (I) attended and spoke at the event



PARTNERING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Daljeet Kaur on how fostering international collaboration can have a real impact on addressing global challenges.



▲ **Daljeet Kaur** is a 2010 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India – she studied MSc Environment and Sustainable Development at University College London.

On returning to India after my scholarship, I re-joined my previous organisation, IPE Global Limited, a development sector consultancy. I have since designed and implemented the Knowledge Partnership Programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The programme is very much akin to the philosophy behind Commonwealth Scholarships: building skills and knowledge for global development.

The Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP) aims to produce and disseminate high-quality research and analysis products, share Indian and global evidence on policies that impact development outcomes, and support advocacy towards strengthening policy design and implementation.

The programme will complete its three-year pilot phase in June 2016. Since the beginning, KPP has prioritised the following areas for engagement:

- Food security, resource scarcity, and climate change
- Trade and investment
- Health and disease control
- Women and girls
- Development effectiveness

The aim is to increase collaboration between India, the UK, and the developing countries of Africa and South Asia around ideas, knowledge, evidence, accountability, technology, and innovation. The work my team and I carry out

focuses on Indian policy and practice, with the explicit intention of developing global networks, strategies, and sectors to promote knowledge exchange through south-south collaboration. To date we have promoted the sharing of Indian evidence, best practice, and expertise with low income countries in Africa and South Asia.

Recently, we facilitated a partnership between Kudumbashree (a state-led community action group in India) and the Ministry of Women,



Children and Youth Affairs in Ethiopia on the theme of women's economic empowerment. The Indian experience of empowering marginalised women through the formation of self-help groups with links to institutions and the growing demand in Ethiopia for microfinance development created an ideal situation for KPP to promote collaboration and cooperation between the two countries.

There have been further successful partnerships between India and other

developing nations supported by KPP. The technical collaboration between Development Alternatives India and Malawian agencies to implement vertical shaft brick kiln (VSBK) technology has facilitated major progress in Malawi's efforts to address deforestation, in addition to increasing female employment and entrepreneurship in the brickmaking industry. Compared with traditional bricks in Malawi, the VSBK bricks require significantly less energy during production – thereby reducing the need for aggressive deforestation – are

twice as strong, and contribute to lower construction costs.

Similarly, in Bangladesh, the textile industry has largely emerged in clusters, where the availability of space for setting up individual effluent treatment plants is an issue. The development of common effluent treatment plants effectively caters to these needs, as companies can jointly install and operate the plants while sharing capital and operating costs. Zero liquid discharge technology from India has been transferred to Bangladesh by the Institute of Industrial Productivity, with support from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and the Bangladesh Department of Environment, again facilitated by KPP.

By adopting the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries are also committing towards achieving Goal 17: to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. More specifically, countries have committed to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to support the wider SDG aims. In addition, these collaborations will encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships. Informing and influencing policies are hence critical aspects of international development and, through the efforts of Commonwealth Scholars, we can significantly contribute to global development opportunities across the developing world.

For more information on the Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP), visit www.ipekpp.com

A VISION FOR UNIVERSITY THE WEST




▲ Professor Sir Hilary Beckles is a 1986 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Barbados – he was hosted by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.

My vision is for an efficiently functioning, properly resourced institution, meeting the needs of its constituent member countries and the wider Caribbean, driving economic growth and development in the region by partnering with governments, industry and other members of the higher education sector, and establishing the University of the West Indies (UWI) – and by extension, the Caribbean – on the global stage as a player to be reckoned with. It is my hope that UWI and the entire tertiary education sector in the Caribbean be considered by our governments and populations as full partners in wealth creation for our region, together with industry. A strengthened and unified regional university will be the base upon which we will build that partnership.

In 1948, when the university opened its doors to offer higher education services – at that time, medical training to 33 students – the Caribbean was going through a phase of nation building that saw separation from colonial powers, albeit without the requisite financial resources. Nonetheless, that separation through independence afforded the region an opportunity

to establish a distinctive identity and character. In the intervening years, the countries of the region have struggled, collectively and individually, to grow in the face of challenges imposed by geography, size, and economic development paradigms not well suited to small island developing states.



FOR THE TY OF INDIES

Sir Hilary Beckles became Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies in May 2015 – here, he shares his plans for the future of the institution.

The region is now entering a new phase of nation building and the university, together with partners in the tertiary education sector, is developing the human resource capacity to drive economic development and wealth creation. Since the first 33 entered our doors, more than 120,000 students from across the region have graduated in the fields of medicine, law, nursing, education, history, the literary arts, and many others. We have conducted research that is relevant and germane to our economies and provided technical assistance to our governments, but I think there is much more that we can and must do if the region is to be truly integrated into a global economy that is not waiting for us to play catch-up.

This will mean refocusing our efforts into areas that will drive development and economic growth, utilising our considerable intellectual talents to devise growth strategies that are specific to

our economies, and developing our science and technology capabilities to ensure adaptability and flexibility in industry and manufacturing processes. I would like to see a doubling in the number of students enrolling in science and technology disciplines. We are building out while simultaneously strengthening our internal systems to ensure that we are responsive to the region's particular needs. In the words of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Rex Nettleford, it is a process of 'Inward Stretch, Outward Reach'. We are looking outwards for expertise that we can, to use a Jamaican term, 'capture', to match with the skills already resident at UWI, and bring home the required technology and innovation that we need to improve our capacity.

We are looking to technology innovators to learn from them, while offering them the expertise that we have in areas such as marine sciences,

“ *It is my hope that UWI be considered by our governments and populations as full partners in wealth creation for the Caribbean.* ”



A VISION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

the cultural and creative industries, governance, and democracy. We have already signed several agreements with universities in both China and Japan to facilitate student and faculty exchanges, joint research and other collaborative initiatives in areas of mutual interest. We are engaging in areas where there is a large Caribbean diasporic presence. In the USA, we are working with the State University of New York (SUNY) to develop several initiatives, among which is a UWI-SUNY Centre for Caribbean Governance, Leadership and Development. I consider this to be an important initiative as it will provide a focal point for members of the Caribbean diaspora including the many artists, academics, business people, and thought leaders among them to rally round, engage, and share their particular experiences and expertise with others. It will be a way for them to engage more effectively with the wider community in New York and to elevate their visibility and that of UWI and, by extension, the Caribbean.

UWI has partnered effectively with institutions in Europe to develop capacity building projects as well as to conduct research in areas as diverse as marine sciences, coral reef management, land management, renewable energy, capacity building in higher education administration, and food security. Through programmes such as EDULINK and Erasmus Mundus, UWI has a network of collaborators across 150 universities

in 50 countries. I will be working with the senior leadership of UWI to consolidate and build on that network to elevate our visibility on the global stage. The Caribbean became the first global community after Columbus lost his way to India in 1492 and paved the way for a chequered history of these West Indies. We are at the threshold of taking UWI 'to the world' and we need to make that quantum leap of faith.

Historically, the campuses of UWI specialised in certain areas: medicine at Mona in Jamaica, law at Cave Hill in Barbados, engineering and agriculture at St Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago. The kind of movement across the region that this specialisation facilitated and the fostering of regionalism and 'Caribbean-ness' among students was tremendous. As the countries of the region faced economic hardship, students could no longer afford to travel away from home. Our campuses now offer most, if not all, of the disciplines, and our campus populations have become largely national, with the Cave Hill campus having the most diverse demographic. While I know that reversing this trend may not be possible, the open campus established in 2008 and which utilises blended learning modalities with face-to-face instruction is currently undergoing a rethinking and restructuring to be better able to serve as an outreach and technological arm of the university, enabling us to reach students anywhere, anytime.

I think there is much more that we can and must do if the region is to be truly integrated into a global economy that is not waiting for us to play catch-up.

ALUMNI NEWS

The updates below (listed by year of award) summarise just some of the achievements of our global alumni. To let us know about your successes, email alumni@cscuk.org.uk

1966

Devapriya Chitra Ranjan Alwis GOONETILLEKE received the Lifetime Achievement Award in English at the Godage National Literary Awards 2014 in Sri Lanka. Devapriya is a previous world Chairperson of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies and organised its triennial conference in 1995. He was a Foundation Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, Fellow Commoner of Churchill College, University of Cambridge, Henry Charles Chapman Visiting Fellow at the University of London, and Guest Professor of English at the University of Tübingen, Germany. (Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD English Literature, Lancaster University)



▲ Devapriya Chitra Ranjan Alwis Goonetilleke

1968

Emil Arthur WIJEWANTA was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists in April 2015. (Medical Fellow from Sri Lanka, Medical Education, University of Leeds, and 1977 Academic Fellow, University of Reading)



1975

Jack MINTZ was awarded the Order of Canada in July 2015 for his contribution as an adviser on fiscal and tax policy at national and international levels, widely sought after by governments, businesses, and non-profit organisations. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Economics, University of Essex)

1983

Md Abdul KASHEM was appointed Director of the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell at the Bangladesh Agricultural University from January 2015. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Agricultural Extension, University of Reading)

Stephen TOOPE was awarded the Order of Canada in July 2015 for his leadership in post-secondary education and his scholarship in the fields of international law and human rights. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Law, University of Cambridge)

1985

A R M SOLAIMAN has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University in Bangladesh. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Soil Science, Queen's University Belfast, and 2005 Academic Fellow, University of Aberdeen)

◀ Emil Arthur Wijewanta (l)

1994

Samuel Anbahan ARIADURAI was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka from June 2015. (Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD Textile Technology, University of Manchester)



◀ Samuel Ariadurai

Oruvu Vitaharo SEPOE was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to higher education and to women's development. (Scholar from Papua New Guinea, PhD Development Policy, University of Manchester)

1996

Vinay Kumar KAPOOR has launched a free online education portal, Prashna India. The portal allows students and trainees of surgery to post questions which will be answered by over 40 experts in the field. Vinay has recently published a clinical surgery textbook directed at postgraduate students, titled *Pearls in Surgery*. (Academic Fellow from India, King's College London)

Amarathunga Lalith PERERA has received the National Award for Lifetime Research Excellence from the Directors Forum/Plantation Crop Research Institute of Sri Lanka. Amarathunga has also received the National Award for Outstanding Achievements in Agricultural Research, awarded by the Council for Agricultural Research Policy. He is currently the Chairman of the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network, under Biodiversity International. (Scholar from Sri Lanka, PhD Genome Science, University of Dundee)



▲ **Amarathunga Lalith Perera** (r) being presented with the National Award for Lifetime Research Excellence award by Mahinda Rajapakse, the then President of Sri Lanka

1998

Abul HASNAT has been presented with the University Grants Commission Award by the President of Bangladesh, HE Abdul Hamid. Abul is currently a Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Pharmacology, University of Manchester, and 2008 Academic Fellow, Newcastle University)

2000

Alyne FRANKSON-WALLACE was appointed Ombudsman for the United Nations Funds and Programmes from August 2015. (Scholar from Jamaica, LL.M International Commercial Litigation, University of Sheffield)

Monirul H KHAN has received the Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation 2015. Monirul is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Wildlife Biology, University of Cambridge)

Malla Bhaskara RAO has established an epilepsy surgery in India. Malla is keen to assist low and middle income countries in developing surgery programmes for chronic drug resistant epilepsy. He is currently Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bangalore, India. (Academic Fellow from India, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Schools of Medicine)

2002

A M A M Zonaed SIDDIKI has been awarded a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship to study at the Computational Biology Institute at the George Washington University, USA. (Scholar from Bangladesh, PhD Molecular Parasitology, University of Liverpool, and 2012 Academic Fellow, University of Liverpool)

2003

Naadir JUNAID has received an Australian Alumni Excellence Award 2015. This Australian Government award recognises the accomplishments of alumni of Australian universities since completing their studies. Naadir received his award at an event organised by the Australian High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 2008, he was awarded the Endeavour Postgraduate Award by the Australian Government to study for a PhD at the University of New South Wales. He is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at the University of Dhaka. (Scholar from Bangladesh, MA Contemporary Cinema Cultures, King's College London)



◀ **Malla Bhaskara Rao**

2007

Pennante Naa Ayikailey BRUCE-VANDERPUJIE has been awarded the 2015 Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowship. This one-year renewable award grants female students from developing countries or emerging economies up to USD 50,000 to pursue doctoral or postdoctoral studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Pennante will join a community of more than 550 fellows from over 60 countries. (Shared Scholar from Ghana, MSc Environmental Policy and Management, University of Gloucestershire)

Kondwani JAMBO has been awarded the Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellowship in Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Kondwani plans to use his four-year fellowship to investigate the persistence of HIV in the lung. (Scholar from Malawi, PhD Pulmonary Immunology, University of Liverpool)

2008

Rajesh Babu BHATCHALA has received the 2015 Education UK Alumni Award for Social Impact for his commitment to providing affordable eye care to people living in rural India. (Shared Scholar from India, MSc Community Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)



▲ **Rajesh Babu Bhattachala** (r) receiving the 2015 Education UK Alumni Award for Social Impact from Meenu Vadera, Executive Director of the Azad Foundation for India

2009

Jacqueline KAHURA was a top ten finalist of the Global Teacher Prize 2015. In 2009, Jacqueline founded the Lifting the Barriers (LIBA) organisation, which aims to create a better learning environment for children, in particular disadvantaged pupils. Through the LIBA organisation, she has run a number of initiatives to provide developmental and academic support to hundreds of pupils in her wider community, including job-readiness training and HIV-related coaching. (Distance Learning Scholar from Kenya, MA Education and International Development, UCL Institute of Education)



▲ **Jacqueline Kahura** with former US President Bill Clinton, at the the Global Teacher Prize 2015 award ceremony

2010

Gbenga Emmanuel AFOLAYAN has been awarded a Murdoch International Postgraduate Studentship to study for a PhD at the University of Murdoch, Australia. (Distance Learning Scholar from Nigeria, MA Public Policy and Management, University of York)

2012

Judith NAMANYA has been awarded a scholarship to study for a PhD in Health Geography at Michigan State University, USA. (Shared Scholar from Uganda, MSc Public Health, Leeds Beckett University)

OBITUARIES

1964

Nicholas LIVERPOOL served as the sixth President of Dominica from 2003 to 2012. After completing his Commonwealth Scholarship, Nicholas returned to the Caribbean and took up a post as a Lecturer in Law at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill in Barbados. In 1992, he was appointed Dean of the Law School. He served as a Regional and Appeal Court Judge in several Caribbean countries and as a High Court Judge in Antigua and Montserrat. In 2003, he was awarded the Dominica Award of Honour, and in 2012 he was invested by HRH The Duke of Castro as a Knight Grand Cross with Gold Star of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George, in recognition of his contribution to law and Catholic life. Nicholas passed away on 1 June 2015 at the age of 80. (Scholar from Dominica, PhD Law, University of Sheffield)

1977

Jules WRIGHT was the first resident female Director at the UK's Royal Court Theatre, appointed in 1979. Jules later co-founded the Women's Playhouse Trust in 1984. She was committed to commissioning new work for young and established artists, and in 1993 she founded the Wapping Project in London, converting a derelict hydraulic power station into a unique urban venue for theatre performance and gallery space. Jules passed away on 21 June 2015 at the age of 67. (Scholar from Australia, PhD Drama, University of Bristol)



 Vincent De Gaetano

Vincent De Gaetano has had an illustrious career in the legal profession, both in Malta and further afield. Now a judge on the European Court of Human Rights, he recently spoke to Common Knowledge about his life and career.

Why did you choose to study and practice law? Did you always want to go into this field?

When I was in sixth form and reading for my advanced level school leaving certificate in the late 1960s, my ambition was to obtain a good degree in languages and history and to become a secondary school teacher. How I ended up registering with the Faculty of Law of the then Royal University of Malta instead of with the Faculty of Arts is a somewhat complicated story.

A L I F E T I M E

The fact that most of my friends at sixth form were going to read law was a contributory factor. My father's very cautious advice – he was always very careful not to put the slightest pressure on me in connection with such important decisions – that 'if you become a lawyer you can still teach languages, but if you become a teacher you cannot practice law' was another factor. At some point I also contemplated reading for a BA degree by correspondence with the University of London while at the same time reading law in Malta – with hindsight, a crazy idea.

Anyway, I registered with the Faculty of Law. I thoroughly enjoyed my first year, mainly due to the fact that we had some brilliant teachers – Professor Edwin Busuttil (who was then Malta's representative on the European Commission for Human Rights), Dr (later Professor) Renè Cremona, and Dr (later Professor and Chief Justice) Giuseppe Mifsud-Bonnici, to mention a few. I did very well in my end of year examinations, and have never looked back since.

Why did you choose to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship, once you had already secured a job working in private practice?

After five years of university, and having passed my bar examination, I commenced practicing from the chambers of Dr Mifsud-Bonnici, and also worked from a small office in Birkirkara which I shared with a friend.

However, I was still interested in teaching, this time at the university, so I applied for a Commonwealth Scholarship to enable me to specialise. I

“

Lack of honesty and transparency in political and public life and the absence of a strong political will to combat corruption are two of the situations on which corruption feeds.

was first accepted by the University of Toronto to read for an advanced degree in philosophy of law. Before I left for Canada, however, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission informed me that the University of Cambridge's Institute of Criminology, which had been set up a few years before, was offering me a place to read criminology. I opted to go to Cambridge instead of to Toronto. Again with hindsight, it was a wise choice.

ME IN LAW

How have your prior legal roles helped you to prepare for your work as Chief Justice of Malta and currently Malta's representative on the European Court of Human Rights?

When in 1994 I was appointed to the bench as a puisne [junior] judge, I was first assigned to deal with family law cases – separation, maintenance, and custody cases. These as well as marriage annulment cases were my staple diet for about two years. At the same time, I heard appeals in criminal matters from the Court of Magistrates. Eventually I was assigned to preside over trials by jury in the Criminal Court. My time in Cambridge had given me the necessary research and academic discipline to go straight to the core of any issue at hand, while my time in the Attorney General's office had given me the necessary self-confidence when ruling on any issue however difficult, even when one had to propose something which went totally against the current.

As a law officer and later as a judge, I realised that working methods, particularly in court, needed to be thoroughly revised to ensure efficiency and in particular to cut down on the time it took to deliver final judgment in both civil and criminal cases. As a lawyer, I was appalled by the consummate ease with which some judges and magistrates adjourned cases, or, after oral pleadings, requested or allowed the parties to submit further written pleadings. This latter practice in most cases only contributed to making the record more unmanageable and to obfuscate the issue to be resolved. It also contributed to a general indiscipline among lawyers – they knew they could afford not to be fully prepared for the oral hearing and pleadings, since they would invariably be given the opportunity to patch up by making further written submissions.

A LIFETIME IN LAW

Moreover, while judges and magistrates (and the Attorney General in instituting, conducting, and discontinuing any criminal prosecution) were 'constitutionally' independent of the executive, 'institutionally' there was still an element of dependence which was, to put it mildly, embarrassing.

One of my predecessors, Chief Justice Mifsud-Bonnici, had already started pressing for the necessary reforms, which saw the Chief Justice assume a more proactive role in the administration of the law courts. When I became Chief Justice in 2002, I continued along these lines. By a number of amendments to the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure which were approved by Parliament during my tenure of office, as well as by rules of court made by the two rule making boards (one for civil matters and one for criminal matters), powers formerly exercised by the President of Malta on the advice of the Minister for Justice were transferred to the Chief Justice.

I also made it clear in the Constitutional Court and in the Court of Appeal – I presided ex officio over both – that, except in the event of the unavoidable absence of counsel because of illness or other compelling reason, there would be no adjournments of cases set down for hearing before these courts. This reduced the timeframes considerably, and most lawyers were quite happy to obtain a judgment, whether in favour or against their client, more expeditiously.

As to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the truth of the matter is that no amount of experience in the domestic courts, whether as a lawyer or as a judge, can fully prepare you for the working methods of the court in Strasbourg. There, a judge is dealing most of the time not with cases coming from his or her country, but with cases coming from the 46 other jurisdictions, about whose laws he or she may know very little, if anything.

However, the combination of case lawyers from the various jurisdictions and the input of the national judge ensure that the court (whether in single judge formation, a committee of three judges, a Chamber of seven, or a Grand Chamber of 17) can decide the convention issue raised by the applicant within the framework of the domestic law. Practice in or before the domestic courts, particularly those courts which deal with human rights issues, remains the best training ground for a judge of the ECtHR.

However, at the ECtHR, one also finds distinguished academics who have had little, if any, direct experience of legal practice or court litigation. Their role is very important in order to give the necessary balanced and comprehensive approach to complicated human rights issues.

You were the Chairman of the Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption of the Council of Europe. How do you feel the work of this group has impacted on the level of corruption across the world?

The Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption (GMC) worked intensively, under the responsibility of two other standing steering committees of the Council of Europe, to produce two conventions – the Civil Law Convention and the Criminal Law Convention – on corruption, as well as a model code of conduct for public officials.

More importantly, the GMC gave birth to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), of which today all member states of the Council of Europe are members, as well as Belarus and the USA. Lack of honesty and transparency in political and public life and the absence of a strong political will to combat corruption are two of the situations on which corruption feeds. The evaluation and compliance procedures of GRECO go a long way to ensuring that these situations are addressed at regular intervals.

What has been the most rewarding experience in your career?

On a strictly personal or private level, my most rewarding experience in my career was raising a family with the help of my wife, who gave up her job to become a full-time mum. However, I still regret not having been able to spend more time with my two daughters when they were growing up. As to my public career, my most rewarding experience was being able to restore a measure of public confidence in the judiciary and the judicial process after my immediate predecessor had resigned (and was later prosecuted and convicted) following a bribery scandal.

What do you feel are the most important legal issues we face now?

At a European level, I think migration and racism are issues that will need to be tackled better and more consistently through appropriate legal instruments and judicial decisions. The full enjoyment of one's freedom of conscience without the risk of losing one's job (particularly a job in the public sector) and the right to life of the unborn child are also legal issues which have up to now not been adequately tackled, even by the court in Strasbourg.

Finally, if you could offer any advice to our current Commonwealth Scholars studying law, what would it be?

Like any other academic subject or discipline, law is a tool. The most important thing is how and to what end one uses that tool. I would ask Commonwealth Scholars reading law to ask themselves whether that end is in line with the highest ethical standards of the legal profession. If it is, then my second and final advice would be: enjoy every moment of your time reading law.

To read an extended version of this interview, including further questions, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

Chief Justice Emeritus Vincent De Gaetano is a 1976 Commonwealth Scholar from Malta – he studied for a Postgraduate Diploma in Law at the University of Cambridge.

THE MARCH TO ENHANCE EYE AND VISION CARE WORLDWIDE

Uduak Udom is an international leader in optometry. The first female president of the African Council of Optometry, she was recently appointed President of the World Council of Optometry. Here, she shares her thoughts on her experience as a Commonwealth Professional Fellow and her aspirations for the future.



▲ **Uduak Udom** with patients on a rural community eye care programme in Ethiopia

I had always wanted to be a healthcare provider, which I just knew as 'Doctor'. As a child, I had my own first aid kit, and I used to 'administer treatment' to plants, my dog and, later on, fellow students who had injuries. I successfully applied to study medicine, but some senior friends asked me to reconsider my choice because I used to be very emotional, and would cry whenever I saw people suffer. Then I heard about optometry and it just clicked.

Optometry is a healthcare profession that is autonomous, educated, and regulated. Optometrists are the primary healthcare practitioners of the eye and visual system. We provide comprehensive eye and vision care, including refraction and dispensing, detection and diagnosis of disease in the eye, and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system.

Driven by my passion for public health interventions, I chose to apply for a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at the World Council of Optometry (WCO) secretariat in London in 2010. I had already undertaken a training of trainers programme in community eye health, and begun to train other eye care practitioners in community eye health within Nigeria and neighbouring African countries, when the then Executive Director of WCO told me about the fellowship. I realised that, through the fellowship, I could connect with organisations that would assist me to drive the 'prevention of

blindness' agenda forward, so I applied and was successful.

My most rewarding experience is the satisfaction I feel whenever I treat someone with eye pains, related headaches and blurred vision and, by the time I'm done, I see a smile on their face. During my fellowship, I missed that community care so much that I used to take some time out to volunteer for Vision Care for Homeless People, a charity based in London.

A few of my most memorable experiences include participating in the editorial board meetings of the *Community Eye Health Journal* at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, seeing the smiles on the faces of the homeless people that we provided vision care for – I can still 'see' some of their faces – and, lastly, the friends I made during my fellowship. They were so very kind and some of those relationships continue to this day.

I would advise current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in similar fields to work hard at any given time and under all circumstances. 2010 brought the coldest winter in 25 years to the UK. However, I waded through the snow every morning to make all the appointments I had: at eye care organisations, training institutions, eye hospitals, and some private practices. It was not an easy task, but I made it. I would also advise them to give some time and service to assist the less privileged wherever they are. I was amazed to learn there is always someone in need of community care, no matter where you are.

Now, as newly-elected President of the WCO, I intend to follow and fulfil the organisation's mission to 'facilitate the enhancement and development of eye and vision care worldwide via education, humanitarian outreach and policy development'. I also have a passion for advocacy, education, and human resource development. WCO's collaboration plan with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the next three years covers the important areas of data collection, technical expertise, policy development, advocacy, and supporting the development of sustainable optometric human resources through standardised optometric education. This will be included in the areas of work the WCO will focus on during my tenure as President.

Dr Uduak Udom is a 2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Nigeria – she was hosted by the World Council of Optometry. She is also President of the Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN).

THE CSC IN NUMBERS

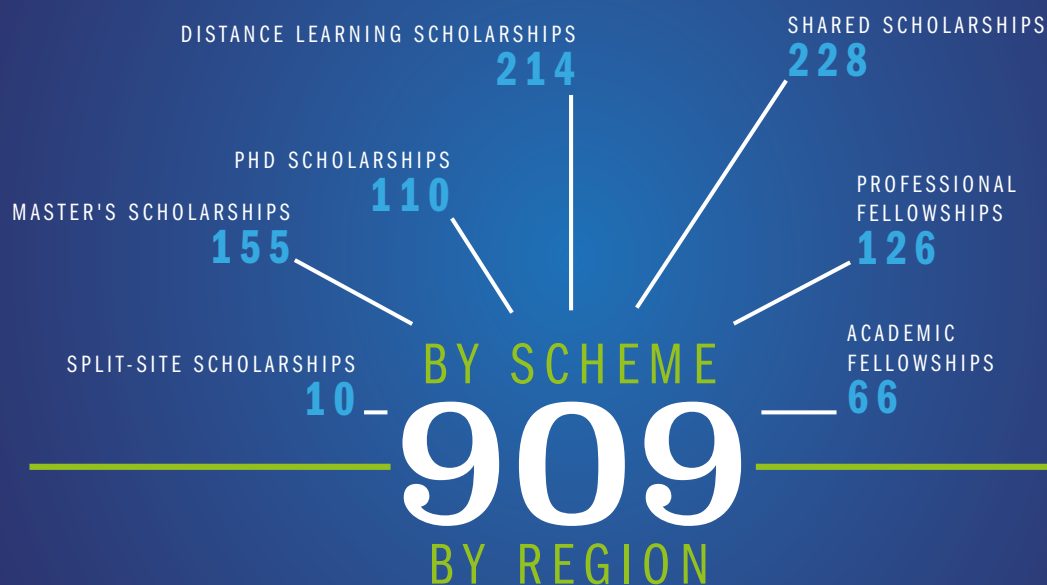
2014-2015

ALL AWARDS

1641

909

NEW AWARDS



2015

ALUMNI EVENTS
20+

COUNTRIES
16

ATTENDEES
800

f 20,000

in MEMBERS 3,200

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
595

GET INVOLVED!

There are several ways to get involved with the CSC's activities, through events across the Commonwealth, promoting our scholarships and fellowships to potential applicants, and joining our alumni associations.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Connect with Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the same university or region in the UK

Scotland
North West
North East
Wales and Northern Ireland
Midlands and Oxford
South West
South East

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

Meet and network with former and future Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows

Australia
Email: alumni@cscuk.org.uk

Bangladesh
Facebook: on.fb.me/1R0VLgD
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/6879243

Cameroon
Facebook: on.fb.me/1GZ2dPA

Canada
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/8305511

Ghana
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/8133738

India
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/6749270

Kenya
Email: alumni.kenyachapter@gmail.com

Mauritius
Website: ukcac-mauritius.tripod.com

Nigeria
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/8133738

Tanzania
Email: alumni@cscuk.org.uk

Trinidad and Tobago
Email: abryfy@hotmail.com

Uganda
Email: bniwagaba@yahoo.com

Zambia
Email: alumni@cscuk.org.uk

CALENDAR

2015

4 November

Canadian Association of
Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows
alumni event
Ottawa, Canada

6 November

CSC Welcome Event for Fellows
London, UK

14 November

Canadian Association of
Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows
alumni event
Halifax, Canada

18 November

Canadian Association of
Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows
alumni reception
Victoria, British Columbia

25 November

Reception for Maltese
Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows
University of Malta, Valletta

27 November

CSC Welcome Event for Scholars
Nottingham, UK

27-29 November

Commonwealth Heads of
Government Meeting (CHOGM)
Malta

19 December

Launch of the Indian Commonwealth
Alumni Association
New Delhi, India

2016

January

Entries open for the 2016 Taylor &
Francis Commonwealth Scholar Best
Journal Article Prize

17-19 February

CSC Development Module:
Road Map workshop
Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK

March

Applications open for Commonwealth
Distance Learning Scholarships

11-13 March

CSC Development Module:
Road Map workshop
Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK

11-13 March

CSC Master's Scholars workshop
Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK

1 April

Final deadline for applications for
Commonwealth Shared Scholarships

July

Applications open for
Commonwealth PhD Scholarships,
Master's Scholarships, Split-site
Scholarships, Academic Fellowships,
and Medical Fellowships

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #1 DECEMBER 2015



▲ 2013 students – including **Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholars** – in MSt International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford at their graduation in March 2015



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK

Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HF
United Kingdom
info@cscuk.org.uk
www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk



linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships



twitter.com/commschols



fb.me/commonwealthscholarships



flickr.com/cscuk