URBAN LIFE & INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AFRICAN METROPOLIS

The future of Africa’s urbanisation hinges upon the prospects of infrastructure development.

Dr Idalina Baptista, University Lecturer in Urban Anthropology, has been awarded funding by the John Fell Fund to lead an international workshop addressing Africa’s urbanisation.

With the support of the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities and the African Studies Centre at Oxford, the workshop will bring together colleagues from Oxford and other African, UK, European and North American institutions to share their knowledge across a wide range of disciplines and to expand the network of discussions.

Idalina teaches on our Master’s in Sustainable Urban Development and is an Associate Fellow of the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities and the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (InSIS). Read more on our website, at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/africandreams

FINANCING URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Examining solutions that are climate-resilient and sustainable

A new three-day residential short course in Financing Urban Sustainability, presented in partnership with the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, examines the rapidly evolving field of financing for sustainability in the context of climate change, with a particular focus on urban infrastructures around the world. For full information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/finurban

SUMMER STUDY IN OXFORD

Summer and education: an Oxford tradition for over 125 years

Since 1888, students have been immersing themselves in summer study in Oxford, exploring local sights, and meeting people who, like themselves, have an abiding curiosity and a love of learning. Though there are fewer long gowns and bowler hats to be seen at today’s summer schools, the students of 1888 and 2015 have much in common. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/summerthenandnow

 EVENTS

Open Evenings

Undergraduate Certificate in Archaeology
17 February – 18.30-20.30

Undergraduate Diploma in British Archaeology Module 2
17 February – 18:30-20.30

Postgraduate Certificate in Historical Studies
17 February – 17.00-19.00

Undergraduate Certificate in History of Art
18 February – 18.00-20.00

MSt in History of Design
21 February – 11.00-12.30

Undergraduate Diploma in English Local History Module 2
2 March – 18.30-21.00

Undergraduate Diploma in History of Art Modules 2 (High Renaissance to Baroque) and 4 (Modern and Contemporary Art)
4 March – 18.00-20.00

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing
5 March – 18.30-20.00

Undergraduate Certificate of Higher Education
10 March – 18.00-20.00

A full schedule of open evenings is available online: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/openevenings2015

VERA BRITTA N AND THE 1913 SUMMER MEETING

Testament of Youth author’s first experience of Oxford University

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Oxford Extension (as Continuing Education was then known) offered talented students a pathway into full-time university education. One such student was Vera Brittain, author of Testament of Youth. As an Extension student Brittain showed promise, winning a scholarship to attend our 1913 Summer meeting. Two years later, in 1915, she matriculated into Somerville College to read English. For the full story, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/verabrittain
HAVE YOUR SAY
We’d like your input as we embark on an 18-month website rebuilding project

The Department’s current website (launched in the autumn of 2010) was a vast improvement on our previous online presence: the new site amalgamated seven separate websites into one, made online enrolments possible and offered better searchability, among other features.

Four years in the digital age is a fair run: further improvements are now needed, and we’ve set up a short online form to gather feedback and suggestions from those who use our website most – our students. Please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/websitererebuild

OPEN DAY EAST

Our East Oxford open day, held on 24 January 2015 for residents of Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Rose Hills and Temple Cowley, attracted approximately 70 attendees. Participants attended talks on subjects ranging from Healthcare to British History to Urban Studies, and spoke to Departmental staff about bursaries, progression and student support.

Also attending was Sobia Afridi, of the ‘Brookes Bridges’ programme at Oxford Brookes University; together our two institutions aimed to provide attendees with the widest possible picture of higher education opportunities in Oxford. See the schedule of events at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/opendayeast

2015 OPEN DAY

Save the date: 25/26 September 2015

The Department’s 2015 Annual Open Day will be a two-day event, taking place on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September. Feedback on our November 2014 event suggested that a two day event would be welcome – twice the fun! – and would make it easier for working people and those travelling a distance to join us. The 2015 schedule isn’t published yet, but to get a flavour of the day please view last year’s schedule and listen to some of the lectures we broadcast over the internet: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/openday

CREATIVE WRITING NEWS

Student plays in April and May

In STAND, six Oxford activists take the stage and step into the spotlight, portrayed by six actors. Recent Diploma in Creative Writing alumna Jan Thomas submitted one of the six narratives that are told in this production, which is embarking on its second run and tour. STAND is at The Old Fire Station in Oxford from 9-11 April. Please see: www.oldfirestation.org.uk/event/stand

Silent on the Matter, a play by Carolyn Lloyd-Davies (alumna of our Writing Drama online course) addresses issues of respect across cultures, and will be performed at The Old Fire Station in Oxford on 8/9 May 2015. Please see: www.oldfirestation.org.uk/event/silent-on-the-matter/

Master’s in Creative Writing alumna Susie Campbell new novel The Bitters will have its Oxford launch at Blackwell’s on Broad Street on Thursday 26th February. The event starts at 7pm (with readings starting at 7.30); for free entry and a glass of wine, please RSVP to: events.oxford@blackwell.co.uk

Master’s in Creative Writing alumnus Prajwal Parajuly will speak at this year’s Oxford Literary Festival in Family, Place and Culture in Fiction and Food, appearing with Madhur Jaffrey on 28 March. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/litfest15

THE VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

Students and tutors on our Master’s in Creative Writing speak of the course’s strengths in a new short video (just over two minutes) now available online (along with other of our video offerings), at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mstcovid

Funded: Wytham Woods Workshop

A Woodland Ecology and Management workshop to be held at Oxford’s ‘living laboratory’

Funding has been awarded to the Department’s Environment and Sustainability Programme by the British Ecological Society (BES) to support the delivery of a one-day Woodland Ecology and Management workshop to be held at Wytham Woods – Oxford’s ‘living laboratory’ – one of the world’s most widely researched areas of woodland.

BES sponsorship will enable the workshop to be delivered with a significant subsidy with further special rates for currently registered students and charity workers.

‘This funding enables us to make the training accessible to as wide a range of people as possible,’ said Jocelyne Hughes, the academic organiser and director of the Ecological Survey Techniques Programme.

‘Teaching the next generation how woodlands tick and how to manage them is fundamental to their survival.’ Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/BESworkshop
THE WELL-ROUNDED ECOLOGIST: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT, KAROLINA PETROVIC

The Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques gave Karolina the hands-on experience her PhD in Ecology hadn’t provided.

Although my previous studies equipped me with advanced ecological concepts and skills to design and conduct research independently, sometimes I felt I was too specialised and limited with job opportunities. The Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques at the University of Oxford met all my professional needs and expectations.

‘For my Field Project I studied the population status, distribution and microhabitat requirements of the European ground squirrel (Spermophilus citellus), an International Union for Conservation of Nature vulnerable species, currently in decline across most of its European range. I have developed general guidelines for species conservation and habitat management and highlighted its ecological importance.’ Read her full story at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/karolinapetrovic

MEDIEVAL DOUBLE

Two of the four annual lectures organised separately at the major early churches of Brixworth, Deerhurst, Jarrow and Whithorn have been given by members of the Department.

The Place of Baptism in Anglo-Saxon and Norman Churches was delivered by Dr Paul Barnwell, Director of Studies in the Historic Environment; Dr David Griffiths, Reader in Archaeology spoke on Early Medieval Whithorn: the Irish Sea Context.

The published transcripts of both lectures, which were delivered in September of 2013, have recently been published; proceeds from the sales will support further research and maintenance at St Mary’s Church, Deerhurst, and the work of the Whithorn Trust. Further details, including ordering information, are available at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/DeerhurstWhithorn

ALUMNUS WINS ARCHITECTURAL PRIZE

Javier Cenicacelaya, alumnus of our Master’s in Sustainable Urban Development, has been presented with the prestigious Rafael Manzano Martos Award for Classical Architecture and Restoration of Monuments.

This annual award, which includes a prize of €50,000, is awarded to architects in recognition of their conservation of architectural and landscape heritage. Javier joined the MSc in Sustainable Urban Development in 2011 with more than 30 years’ experience as a professional architect and academic, seeking to embellish his practice with an understanding of sustainability. For the full article please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/javiercenicacelaya
BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Sir George Gilbert Scott 1811–1878 – edited by Paul Barnwell (Director of Studies in the Historic Environment), Geoffrey Tyack and William Whyte
A milestone collection of essays on the life and achievement of the leading figure of the Gothic Revival in England, this new book is the proceedings of a conference held two hundred years after Scott’s birth, and the third title in the Rewley House Studies in the Historic Environment series. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/scott

Why the Social Sciences Matter – edited by Professor Jonathan Michie (Director of the Department) and Cary Cooper
Today’s society is on the brink of new possibilities, yet it is also beset with challenges and problems: troubled banks, climate change, aging populations, ethical questions. This volume of specially-commissioned essays examines the problems facing society today, and considers possible solutions. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/whysocialsciencesmatter

In Search of Vikings: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Scandinavian Heritage of North-West England – edited by Stephen E. Harding, David Griffiths (Reader in Archaeology), Elizabeth Royles
The Viking Age lasted a little over three centuries, but these dynamic warrior-traders from Scandinavia, who fought and interacted with peoples as far apart as North America, Russia, and Central Asia, are some of the most recognisable historical figures in the western world. www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781482207576

No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936-39 – by Chris Farman, Valery Rose (student) and Liz Woolley (tutor, History); with a foreword by Professor Tom Buchanan (Director of Studies in History and Politics)
More than 30 men and women of Oxfordshire travelled to Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Most joined the legendary International Brigades. Authors describe the impact of the war on Oxford and on the rest of the county. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/nootherway

The Policing of Belfast 1870-1914 – by Mark Radford (tutor, History)
The Royal Irish Constabulary in late Victorian Belfast were a semi-military, largely rural constabulary adapted to the problems that a city posed. This examination of the contrast in styles between urban and rural policing and semi-rural and civil constabulary offers an important insight into the social, political and military history of Ireland at the turn of the twentieth century. www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-policing-of-belfast-1870-1914-9781472506375/

MAWBY PRIZE
Archaeologists take the honours
The 2014 Mawby Prize was awarded in December to Mr Vaughan Abigail. The prize is awarded annually to a weekly class student in a chosen subject area. The subject for 2014 was Archaeology.

Mr Abigail, who was a student in Archaeology in Practice run by Dr Wendy Morrison, wins £100 and a free day school. The runners up, Mrs Francesca Helen Jones and Mr Adrian Rosser, received a free day school each. Learn more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mawby14

BURSARY BAKE SALE
26 February – 12.30-1.30 at Rewley House
The Department’s semi-annual baked goods sale will support a cause that’s close to home: our deserving students. Bursaries plus travel, book and disability allowances make study possible for those who would otherwise be unable to afford it. Money raised will be used to offset costs for talented students in need. Staff hope this sale will be our most successful event yet. Both sweet and savoury goods will be available. Please come and support the cause.