



St Antony's College

Annual report 2021/22

Activities of the College

Contents

Activities of the College	2
Research Centres, Libraries/Archives, and College Members	2
African Studies Centre	2
Asian Studies Centre	3
European Studies Centre	3
Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies.....	4
Latin American Centre	4
Middle East Centre.....	5
Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre	5

Activities of the College

Research Centres, Libraries/Archives, and College Members

St Antony's is unique among the Oxford colleges for its seven Research Centres, each one focused on a different region of the world ([Research Centres | St Antony's College \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)). The Centres, encompassing Africa, Asia, Europe, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, and Russia and Eurasia, provide the focus for the stimulating intellectual life for which St Antony's is internationally known, and assist the College in developing our role as a source of policy advice. Collectively, the Centres organise a multitude of events, seminars and talks each term and are integral to the academic lifeblood of the College.

The College also houses several libraries, including those supporting the work of the academic Centres. These facilities include the **Main College Library**, the **Bodleian Japanese Library** (a dependent library of the Bodleian in the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies); the **Latin American Centre Library** (part of the Humanities Team of [Oxford University Library Services](#)); the **Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre Library**; and the **Middle East Centre Library**. The College also holds an extensive **Middle East Centre Archive**, a unique and outstanding collection of private and official papers and photographs of individuals and organisations that have worked in the Middle East covering 1800 to the present day. The College's archive collections both in the Middle East Centre and in the Main Library are free to use and we welcome academic researchers from around the world as well as independent authors, historical novelists, documentary and film makers and family historians.

As well as its fellows, students and staff, St Antony's also has a large number of Academic Visitors and Associate Members. Academic Visitors come from a rich diversity of backgrounds, including the political, military, commercial and charity sectors as well as academia, and generally undertake a personal research project linked to the interests of the College for up to a year. Associate Members are academics, often early career such as departmental lecturers and postdoctoral researchers, who are on the University payroll but do not have a college association. They act as College Advisors providing pastoral care to our students. In 2021/22, we had 74 Academic Visitors and 209 Associate Members; numbers were unusually high as some members continued for longer than is typical due to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic in prior years.

African Studies Centre

Among the highlights of the year, the following two are of particular significance because they indicate, alongside the enduring focus on political and social scientific foci, the growing importance of cultural approaches in African Studies:

Firstly, on 14 February, the inaugural James Currey lecture, given by South African author Stephen Embleton, the first James Currey Fellow based at the African Studies Centre. The fellowship and lecture, named in honour of the pioneering publisher of African literature, Oxford-based James Currey, seeks to highlight the achievements and legacy of the African Writers' Series (AWS), which James Currey led for many years. Stephen Embleton's lecture, 'There is Magic in African Literature', analysed the extraordinary body of work published by the AWS, and cogently discussed its relationship with contemporary African fiction in a powerful and exciting presentation.

Second, on 16 June, the African Studies Centre Annual Lecture was given by the celebrated Ugandan novelist Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi. Makumbi, the author of landmark works including *Kintu* (2014) and *The First Woman* (2020), gave a commanding and convincing talk entitled ‘Daring to Decentre Western Readerships’, exploring the problematic effect on African authors of being encouraged and indeed pressured to write for supposedly global but actually western readerships, rather than for African audiences. Makumbi engaged with a packed audience, addressing questions on her experiences of writing and publishing African fiction in a charismatic and humorous style.

In total, the African Studies Centre held 25 events at the College during the year, including 16 weekly research seminars in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, as well as a number of conferences and bespoke events. The African Studies Centre was also home to or co-sponsored at least a dozen more events organised by our associated groups and networks, including the North-East Africa Forum and the South African Discussion Group. Events were all held in person with a hybrid element, with some speakers (and many attendees) joining from different locations in Africa and around the world.

Asian Studies Centre

During 2021/22, the Asian Studies Centre hosted:

- 37 weekly seminars on South Asia (Modern South Asian Studies and South Asian Intellectual History Seminars)
- The Kashmir Symposium (Understanding Kashmir and the Abrogation of Article 370: Law, History and Politics), a series of five online discussions with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy in New Delhi
- A series of three online events on Tajikistan
- Three book launches
- An international conference to mark 50 years since the 1972 Ugandan Expulsion of South Asians
- And, in August, a conference with the British Association of Chinese Studies in which we welcomed 180 people to the College over two days. There were 36 panels, along with a second conference in hybrid form during the same week on Rural China.

Eight of the events were in-person, four were hybrid, and 39 were online. Across the year, 27 podcasts were published on the University podcast website.

European Studies Centre

During the 2021/22 academic year, the European Studies Centre organised 41 events. One of the highlights was the ESC/SEESOX Annual Lecture delivered by the former NATO Secretary General Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson. It was entitled *The Future of European Security after the War in Ukraine*. Another key event was the book presentation of *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History* by the acclaimed author Lea Ypi organised by SEESOX.

The Dahrendorf Programme held its 13th Annual Lecture on “Dreams and Reflections: A Chinese Artist’s Discovery of Europe” delivered by the British-Chinese novelist and filmmaker Xiaolu Guo. The 13th Annual Dahrendorf Colloquium entitled *Europe in a Changing World* examined the mutual perceptions and relations of five major countries – China, India, Turkey, Russia, and the United States – with Europe.

The ESC Tuesday seminars explored various themes such as Europe’s changing place in current international affairs, the risks of financial and societal crises, the memory and significance of fascism

in Europe today, or UK-EU relations after Brexit. The Visiting Fellows at the ESC organised conferences including one on *Europe Beyond the Euro* and another on the *Politics of Universalism and Particularism in Czechoslovakia*. For its part, SEESOX convened 14 events on issues related to South East Europe and continued operating its two major research projects the one on the *Greek Diaspora* and the other on *Migration Diplomacy between Turkey and the EU* the latter supported by the Oxford-Berlin partnership. In June, SEESOX celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a two panel discussion on *South East Europe in the shadow of the war in Ukraine*, which brought together present and past SEESOX fellows and academic visitors; the event was followed by a garden party at the ESC, with a view to many more years of research, collaborations and academic events.

[Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies](#)

Despite the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has had a very active and productive year. Roger Goodman, our anthropologist, is the Warden of the College and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (without portfolio) to the University, while Hugh Whittaker, our economist, serves as Deputy Director of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. Our sociologist Takehiko Kariya, currently on sabbatical leave, has published a book in Japan for general readers on his thoughts on Japan's border policy during COVID lockdown. This year, British Academy Fellow and a leading historian of Japan and Ukraine in Ukraine, Olga Khomenko joins us from Ukraine. Chinami Oka, Tanaka Junior Research Fellow, also a historian of modern Japan, has also joined us.

The Institute has hosted over 30 speakers from all social science and humanities disciplines, and they came from all corners of the globe: the US, Hokkaido, Australia, Germany, etc. The largest event was our international conference *Black Transnationalism and Japan*, where leading scholars on the topic discussed various and innovative new research on Japan's transnational cultural and intellectual life. The event attracted well over 100 participants. Reflecting its success, the volume from the conference is now forthcoming. We also welcomed the Japanese Ambassador, HE Mr Hayashi Hajime, to our Institute and in collaboration with St. Antony's, we hosted his speech and provided occasions to interact with both faculty and students alike. We continue to host the Oxford Japanese History Workshop (OJHW). Its members, our DPhil students and former DPhil students, have produced 10 articles this academic year in top journals in the field, including *Past and Present*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Modern Asian Studies*, and *Historical Journal*. Two workshop members have received prizes for their articles.

[Latin American Centre](#)

Each passing term saw incremental steps back towards pre-pandemic life. We welcomed the new Ambassador of Mexico to the UK, meeting with Mexican students from across the University's Social Science Division. We also welcomed the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UK to celebrate the launch of ten new scholarships for students of the Dominican Republic to study at Oxford.

And we have continued to celebrate the success of our faculty. Hilary Term ended with our first in-person seminar since the start of the pandemic, where we celebrated the launch of Diego Sánchez-Ancochea's new book, *The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: Lessons and Warning from the Rest of the World*. This was a wonderful evening with discussion from Isabel Ruiz, Danny Dorling and Francis Darlington-Pollock of the Equality Trust.

We had other great news that we celebrated too. New books from Leigh Payne (with Laura Bernal-Bermúdez and Gabriel Pereira, *Economic Actors and the Limits of Transitional Justice: Truth and*

Justice for Business Complicity in Human Rights Violations), Francesca Lessa (*The Condor Trials: Transnational Repression and Human Rights in South America*), and Julie Zulver ([High-Risk Feminism in Colombia: Women's Mobilization in Violent Contexts](#) based on her DPhil thesis which was supervised by Leigh). University funding awards for Andreza Aruksa De Souza Santos (for her project "One Company Towns in Brazil") and Francesca Lessa, who also received a commendation in the [O²RB Excellence in Impact Awards 2021](#). And of course, congratulations to Tim Power, who became Head of the University's Social Sciences Division at the beginning of the academic year.

The year ended on a high note. We hosted the Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Benigno Lòpez (following the successful visit of the IDB Principal Advisor, Andy Powell). We also hosted the Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic to celebrate the launch of the government postgraduate scholarships at Oxford. And we had the Brazilian Studies Programme annual workshop, which culminated in a lively panel on the upcoming Brazilian election. And as the academic year came to a close, we celebrated with students, fellows and friends at the LAC garden party – with Tim on bass guitar.

Middle East Centre

The Friday Seminar Series for Michaelmas Term was organised around the theme of 'The Environment and the Middle East', featuring weekly speakers covering the Gulf, Jordan, Tunisia, Iran, Iraq and Israel-Palestine. For Hilary Term, the Series featured lectures on recent research done by and books published by members of the Middle Eastern studies community at Oxford. The final two sessions of the Series were dedicated to discussions on two of two largest and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East region: Syria and Yemen. The panel discussion on the future of Syria featured filmmaker Waad Elkhateb, whose film about the siege of Aleppo, "*For Sama*", won an Oscar, BAFTA and the Cannes Film Festival Award.

In February, the Centre put on a showing of the film *Lebanon. Explosion of Anger* about the August 2020 explosion in Beirut film by the award-winning director Krzysztof Dziewiętowski who attended the session and spoke about it afterwards.

In terms of digital media, the Centre re-launched its YouTube channel (which saw its audience double) as well as two new podcast series focusing on writers talking about their new books, and on Islam and political thought.

Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre

The Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre held twenty-two of its flagship Monday seminars among other meetings. These included a series on *Socialist histories in Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia* an innovative series on *Indigeneity, tradition and modernity* (focused on the non-ethnic Russian republics and ethnography) and a highly topical series in spring on *Russian and Eurasian foreign policies: determinants and variation in a changing international order*, which offered a venue to debate the new geopolitical configuration around Russia, just as Russian relations with the West collapsed over the attack on Ukraine.

Professor Zbigniew Wojnowski joined the Centre as Associate Professor in Soviet History, with expertise on Ukraine, Russia and Central Asia. With the additional appointment of Dr Darya Tsybalyuk as the Max Hayward Visiting Fellow for 2022/23, this deepened the Centre's expertise on Ukraine. Centre fellows offered their analysis at numerous seminars and events about the terrible events unfolding in Ukraine.

In June, the Centre cooperated with Russian and East European Studies and the Georgian Embassy to convene the inaugural Oxford-Georgia Forum, for a day of discussions between specialists and practitioners on Georgian-UK relations and the study of Georgia. In May the Centre was pleased to host a visit and presentation by H.E. Varuzhyan Nersesyan, Armenian Ambassador to the UK.

We were delighted that in October 2021 Archie Brown won the prestigious Ninth Annual Pushkin House Book Prize for *The Human Factor: Gorbachev, Reagan, and Thatcher, and the End of the Cold War*. The book is a poignant reminder of a different era to the one of growing confrontation we have entered.