

States of Insecurity

A two-day workshop at ICOSS, The University of Sheffield, 30th June-1st July 2011

Organised by Grant Bigg, Andrew Geddes, Ian Phimister and Martial Staub

With the support of the Director of Energy and Environment, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Centre for International Policy Research and the Centre for the Study of Genocide and Mass Violence of the University of Sheffield

Opened by HRH Prince Dr Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the United Kingdom

Multi-scale approaches are seen as particularly promising in trying to understand and tackle global issues, such as climate change, whose causes are local. While a consequence of interdisciplinary perspectives, they also entail assumptions about the intricate nature of modern societies and, as such, they apply to a series of global, or globally relevant, phenomena which interact with climate change, including resource scarcity and population growth, mass migrations, economic globalisation, multi-layered governance, identity politics, and mass violence. They also reflect on the fact that responses to global issues cannot be addressed by supranational approaches, but that they require complex responses that take into account both local causes and the ways in which modern society organise collective action.

The two-day workshop will provide an opportunity for international scholars from various disciplines and colleagues from the University of Sheffield to reflect on ways of understanding and addressing global issues relating to climate change, food security, mass migrations, and mass violence, so as to account for their complex causes, the multiple interactions between them and the novel challenge that they pose. These issues will be approached through a twofold focus:

1. Thematically, the workshop will concentrate on insecurities relating to climate change, resource scarcity, mass migrations and mass violence, as they may be seen as a reflexion on the difficulty to both understand and address the issues at stake on the side of scholars, policy-makers and public opinions. Regarding politics, the limitation or even inadequacy of state governance in dealing with these issues deserve particular attention.
2. Geographically, sub-Saharan Africa, while not the only focus of the workshop, will provide a very useful starting point for a critical reflexion on the disciplinary and political boundaries that have hampered global approaches. It will, in particular, aim to widen perspectives that have traditionally been shaped by development cooperation and go beyond Africa, fragmentation and institutions, in accordance with the new Africa-Europe strategy of the EU and UA (2010).

No participation fee is required. If you would like to participate or have any query about the workshop, please, contact Matthew Graham, matthewgraham1985@googlemail.com

Thursday, 30th June

16.00-16.30 Registration and coffee

16.30-16.40 Welcome

Prof. Richard Jones

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation

16.40-17.00 Opening address

HRH Prince Dr Seeiso Bereng Seeiso

High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the United Kingdom

17.00-17.15 Introductory remarks

Organisers

First session

Climate Change, Migration and Insecurity

17.15-17.30 Introductory note

Grant Bigg (Department of Geography, University of Sheffield)

17.30-18.30 Notes by *Neil Adger (School of Environmental Sciences, UEA)* and *Jürgen Scheffran (Institut für Geographie, University of Hamburg)*

18.30-18.45 Comments by *Julie Jones (Department of Geography, University of Sheffield)*

18.45-19.15 Discussion

20.00 Dinner

Friday, 1st July

Second session

Killing Fields

9.15-9.30 Introductory note

Martial Staub (Department of History, University of Sheffield)

9.30-10.30 Notes by *Blessing Karumbidza* (Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria) and
Mucha Musemwa (Department of History, University of the Witwatersrand)

10.30-10.45 Coffee

10.45-11.00 Comments by *Ian Phimister* (Department of History, University of Sheffield)

11.00-11.30 Discussion

11.30-12.15 Buffet lunch

Third Session

Governing States of Insecurity

12.15-12.30 Introductory note

Andrew Geddes (Department of Politics, University of Sheffield)

12.30-13.30 Notes by *François Gemenne* (Sciences Po, Paris), *Peter Jackson* (Department of Geography, University of Sheffield), and *Christian Kaunert* (School of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History, University of Salford)

13.30-13.45 Comments by *Andrew Taylor* (Department of Politics, University of Sheffield)

13.45-14.15 Discussion

14.15-14.30 Coffee

Fourth Session

Follow-Up Projects

14.30-15.00 Introduction

Organisers and Research Office

15.00-16.00 Group work

16.00-16.30 Discussion and conclusion