

# Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute



# humanitarian and conflict response institute

The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) at The University of Manchester is inspired by the need to conduct rigorous research and to support postgraduate training on the impact and outcomes of contemporary and historical crises.

The HCRI is driven by a desire to inform and support policy and decision-makers, to optimise joint working between partner organisations, and to foster increased understanding and debate within the field of humanitarianism. Bringing together the disciplines of medicine and the humanities to achieve these goals, the HCRI aims to facilitate improvements in crisis response on a global scale, while providing a much-needed centre of excellence for all concerned with emergencies and conflicts.

The Institute is developing a novel configuration for research and teaching which aims to uniquely associate practitioners, non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners, theoreticians, policy-makers and analysts in sustained intellectual engagement. Combining a targeted programme of research with the provision of timely analysis on current emergencies, the HCRI seeks to develop new methodologies in the field of humanitarian and conflict response research.

Led by the former president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Dr Rony Brauman, it aims to combine the research and teaching of academics working in a considerable variety of disciplines to offer an exceptionally diverse learning environment.



## Research vision: towards a new paradigm

Since the end of the Cold War, the global aid industry has experienced the pressures of rapid growth accompanied by a significant expansion in both the roles it is expected to fulfill and the range of tasks it has attempted to perform. This, combined with a considerable rise in the number of nation-states and NGOs, has resulted in a fragmented geopolitical system in which there is limited policy coherence and even less clarity of action.

There is a pressing need to engage with the *fundamental knowledge* that drives and informs humanitarian practices. By bringing together different disciplines, HCRI is able to analyse ways of knowing, doing, and the boundaries of humanitarian action, combining medical, historical, political and cultural depth with practice-based perspectives on humanitarian interventions. Our proposed programme of research allows us to explore the circumstances in which knowledge has been generated, and by whom; how such knowledge has been applied and by whom; and with what consequences for future action. These aspects emerge in relation to the creation, assertion and application of professional expertise and the relationship between research and practice. The focus on styles and practices of intervention draws attention to technical and technocratic forms of engagement,

but also incorporates questions of culture, as in the ways in which humanitarian intervention is represented through the media, the arts, and in the educational curriculum. We are interested in the dynamic relationship between those whose experiences derive from different disciplinary backgrounds; between the experiences of scholars and of practitioners; and between scholars, practitioners and those who are the object of enquiry and/or humanitarian intervention.

# taught course

## MA in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response

This multidisciplinary degree course focuses on response to crises originating from both conflict-zones and natural disasters.

Bringing together the study of medicine and humanities, the course provides a holistic approach that mirrors the reality of aid operations and informs the reflexive processes of both analytical and applied disciplines. Students will be able to draw synergies from an exceptionally wide breadth of disciplinary traditions and research expertise.

The HCRI is uniquely positioned as the leading global centre for the study of humanitarian aid and conflict response through the interplay between existing units from history, politics, development studies, the arts, medicine, and a core of three new course units.

### MA bursary

The HCRI will award the Korchinsky MA bursary for the academic year 2011/12. The bursary, worth £5,000 per annum, will cover home fees and a small contribution towards living expenses, or a contribution toward the overseas fee. It is tenable for one year only.

Applicants for the bursary should hold or be expecting a First Class degree award; those holding a good Upper Second in their first degree will be considered on merit. You should include a CV and a 250-word personal statement explaining your motivation for undertaking the course.

Should any other awards become available, these will be posted on the HCRI website.

[www.hcri.ac.uk](http://www.hcri.ac.uk)

### Intended learning outcomes

You should be able to show a critical understanding of:

1. Key issues and debates in humanitarianism and conflict response, familiarity with different theoretical approaches and practical problems, and an appreciation of the diversity of policies at international and national levels
2. The range of social science topics associated with humanitarianism and conflict response, and the normative and historiographic assumptions that underpin these issues
3. The analytical and policy literature concerning the related issues of the causes of conflict, reconstruction, ethics and international governance structures and institutions, the role and perspectives of the state, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international and domestic NGOs and other civil institutions
4. A detailed and extensive understanding of a specific conceptual and/or policy-related area of humanitarianism and conflict response, of the implications and limitations of research findings on this subject, and of how to produce an original piece of academic research (delivered via the dissertation)



### Course units

You will undertake 180 credits of course units, with the dissertation providing a contribution of 60 credits. Course units may include:

- Humanitarianism and Conflict Response – Inquiries
- Responding to Illegal Economies and Political Violence
- Humanitarian Responses to Crises – Case Studies
- History of Humanitarian Aid: Population and Displacement
- Fundamentals of Epidemiology
- Emergency Humanitarian Assistance
- The Ethics of Killing
- Global Governance
- Conflict Analyses
- Reconstruction and Development
- Militaries and Militarism in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response
- Health Economics of Emergency Humanitarian Aid

Course units may vary from year to year.



# core staff

The truly multidisciplinary approach of the HCRI is reflected in our leadership team, which comprises renowned researchers and expert practitioners working on a global scale.

## Rony Brauman – HCRI Director



Qualified as a medical doctor, Rony Brauman has worked in the field of international medical assistance since 1977. Initially serving as a field physician in developing countries with Médecins Sans Frontières (France), he became the President of the organisation from 1982 to 1994.

He is currently Associate Professor at L'Institut d'Études Politiques (Paris); Director of Research at the MSF Foundation, also in Paris; and Director of the Humanitarianism and Conflict Response Institute.

## Dr Jennifer Carson



Jenny completed her PhD at The University of Manchester in 2009 and has been working as a Research Associate at the HCRI since February 2010. Her research focuses on the humanitarian assistance provided to refugees and displaced persons (DP) since 1945, with special reference

to the work of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). One element of her work, focusing on Quaker responses to DP nationalism in camps in Germany after World War II, appears in *Warlands: Population Resettlement and State Reconstruction in Soviet-East European Borderlands, 1945-1950*, eds. Peter Gatrell and Nick Baron (2009).

## Professor Peter Gatrell



Peter obtained his undergraduate and PhD degrees from the University of Cambridge. He has spent most of his academic career at The University of Manchester, including working as Head of the School of History and Classics between 1997 and 2002.

Peter's research and teaching interests fall into two broad categories: population displacement in world history and the history of modern Europe. These twin interests are also brought together in his commitment to the cultural history of modern war.

## Dr Alison Howell – HCRI Postdoctoral Fellow



Alison conducts research on the relationship between health and security. In particular, she is interested in examining the role of psychology and psychiatry in responding to conflict, especially as they are used in detention facilities such as Guantanamo, post-conflict situations, and in Western militaries.

She is currently conducting a research project examining recent changes in the mental health policy of the American, British, Canadian, and Australian militaries, and on the impact these changes may have for the practice of contemporary soldiering and humanitarianism. She is also the author of a number of published works, the most recent of which include a forthcoming book with Routledge on *Madness in International Relations*, and an article in *Security Dialogue* on mental health sector reform in post-invasion Iraq.

## Dr Tim Jacoby – HCRI Director of Teaching



After working in Turkey and Nigeria during the 1990s, Tim won an ESRC-funded place on the International Conflict Analysis masters degree course at the University of Kent. He completed his PhD and an ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Department

Politics at the University of York from 1999 to 2003. Since 2005, he has been senior lecturer in conflict studies at the Institute for Development Policy and Management within The University of Manchester.

His research concerns the historical sociology of state development, political violence and post-war reconstruction, with a particular focus on Turkey.

## Dr Simon Mardel



Simon qualified in 1980 and originally trained in anaesthetics. Working with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Sudan in the 1980s led him to change his specialty to Emergency Medicine. He continued working

with NGOs and/or The World Health Organisation in about 20 countries during humanitarian crises and epidemics of emerging pathogens.

He completed an MSc in public health and health services research at the University of Aberdeen with a thesis on the health economics of emergency humanitarian aid. In 2010, he took up post as Senior Lecturer in Global Health at The University of Manchester.



## Dr Tanja R Müller



Tanja R. Müller received an MA in Linguistics and Philosophy (1991) at the Freie Universität Berlin, an MA in Development Studies at University College Dublin (1994), and a PhD in Development Studies (2003) at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

Tanja has worked as a lecturer, an education consultant, a journalist, and as assistant professor at Wageningen University with the programme African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment. Tanja's research agenda revolves around four themes: (1) state-making and post-revolutionary societies; (2) well-being and the fulfilment of personal aspirations under adverse conditions; (3) social determinants of health; (4) belonging, identity and transnationalism.

# core staff

## Dr Jenny Peterson – Korchinsky Lecturer in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response; HCRI Director of Postgraduate Research



Jenny conducts research on the politics of conflict response and critiques of liberal peace-building. With a particular interest in the concept of political space and its impact on aid policy and practice, her current research agenda questions the possibilities for policy innovation and increasing levels of agency within the aid industry.

Dr Peterson joined the HCRI from the University of British Columbia in Canada, where she recently completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Department of Political Science.

## Dr Steve Reyna



Steve conducts critical humanitarian studies and his research interests include power and conflict, post-colonial development, and Western and Central African Ethnography. As well as being Founding Editor of Anthropological Theory, he has conducted development missions for the UNDP, USAID, IFAD, and EU throughout Western and Central Africa. Steve is also Co-Founder and current Co-Head of Centre de la Recherche en Anthropologie et Sciences Humaines, Chad.

## Professor Tony Redmond – HCRI Deputy Director



Tony has been involved in international emergency medical assistance for over 20 years, responding to natural disasters, major incidents, conflicts and complex emergencies throughout the world.

In 2008, Tony headed a medical team sent to China following the earthquakes, and in January 2010 he did the same in Haiti. Professor Redmond is Co-Director of the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, Hospital Dean at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, and Professor of International Emergency Medicine at Manchester Medical School within The University of Manchester.

## Professor Bertrand Taithe – HCRI Executive Director



Born in France, Bertrand studied at the Sorbonne and Manchester. He has worked throughout his career on the history of medicine, urban sociology and war. His most recent work is particularly concerned with the history of humanitarian aid.

Professor Taithe is a prolific author, Editor of the European Review of History, Co-Director of the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, and Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research in the Faculty of Humanities.

## Professor James Thompson – HCRI Director of Research



James Thompson is the Project Director of In Place of War and a Professor of Applied and Social Theatre in the Department of Drama at The University of Manchester.

In Place of War came out of his work in Sri Lanka, where in 2000 he was invited by UNICEF to run training courses for practitioners working with young people affected by conflict.

James specialises in performance in conflict and disaster zones, theatre with offenders, theatre and development and Sri Lankan theatre. He has documented theatre practice in Sri Lanka, Democratic Republic of Congo, Banda Aceh and the UK.

## Rebecca Whitehead – HCRI Institute Manager



Rebecca graduated with a degree in psychology from Aston University before moving into medical publishing and subsequently working within communication agencies, where she delivered medical education and medical marketing programmes. Rebecca joined The University of Manchester in January 2008 as a major gift fundraiser with a focus on the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, before taking up this role as Institute Manager.



## Affiliates and Associate Fellows

At the HCRI, our vision is to develop a multidisciplinary global network of academics and practitioners, such that each member brings their own particular blend of specialist knowledge and understanding of their geographical location.

We support the exchange of ideas through seminars and workshops, and hope to develop robust research collaborations over time.

Affiliate members of the HCRI are employed by The University of Manchester, whereas Associate Fellows belong to other organisations and institutes. Details of our network members can be found by visiting our website, where you can also register your interest in collaborating with us:

[www.hcri.ac.uk](http://www.hcri.ac.uk)

# research programme

## PhD in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response

This four-year, structured PhD is inspired by the need to conduct rigorous, in-depth research and analysis on the impact and outcomes of contemporary and historical crises.

The programme is driven by a desire to inform and support policy and decision-makers (including the World Health Organisation and Foreign Office) to optimise joint working between partner organisations, and to foster increased understanding and debate within the fields of humanitarianism and conflict response. We will offer a flexible approach to the provision of teaching to cater for the current needs of the aid industry and prepare the next generation of crisis-response researchers and practitioners.

The programme will seek to engage directly with people affected by situations of ongoing conflicts and crises. This PhD therefore reflects the need for structured forms of professional development and dynamic knowledge practices that function effectively across multiple academic and non-academic contexts.

Action research and reflective practice-inspired pedagogy can respond to and influence the complex, unpredictable and shifting social, political and cultural contexts within which professional practitioners operate. The PhD will introduce you to a range of dynamic and challenging concepts and methods with which to reflect critically and constructively on your current professional experience/ context. This pedagogical approach enables your own professional context to become a primary research resource.

The HCRI PhD will be delivered under the Manchester Doctoral College initiative, which brings together distinctive four-year integrated programmes that combine specialist taught course units and a doctoral research project in an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment.

For more details about the doctoral training course model, and the HCRI programme in particular, please contact Dr Jenny Peterson, HCRI Director of Postgraduate Research:  
jenny.h.peterson@manchester.ac.uk

## Awards

Details of any PhD studentship awards will be posted on our website: [www.hcri.ac.uk](http://www.hcri.ac.uk)

## Research focus

We welcome applications from students wishing to study in one of the following areas:

- The history of humanitarian relief from the 19th century onwards
- Turkey, political violence, conflict theory and state formation
- Performance and artistic responses to war and disaster
- The politics of modern peace-building
- Post-conflict governance in the third world
- The history of population displacement from the 19th century onwards
- Emergency humanitarian assistance in conflict and catastrophe
- Theory and empirical research concerning contemporary violent conflict
- Theory and practice of conflict resolution
- Militarism and the use of force in humanitarian interventions

## The HCRI in action

### Our research

The HCRI is engaged in an active programme of multidisciplinary research, both in partnership with international academics and with NGOs working in areas of crisis around the world.

For example, we are working with Handicap International on a joint study to analyse the course of events and outcomes of injury and surgical intervention in Haiti in the six-month period following the January 2010 earthquake.

To find out more about our research and to view the specific interests of our core team members, visit our website:

[www.hcri.ac.uk](http://www.hcri.ac.uk)

### Professionalisation of the humanitarian field

The HCRI's vision is to facilitate improvements in crisis response on a global scale, while providing a much-needed centre of excellence for all concerned with emergencies and conflicts. Professionalisation of the humanitarian field requires dialogue between researchers and practitioners within a structure that provides a forum for reflection and analysis of current practice.

Our goal is to produce fundamental knowledge of the greatest theoretical rigour in relation to the delivery of humanitarian aid.

We are actively developing an ongoing dialogue with NGOs and other professional bodies in order to unlock the potential for joint initiatives, such as conferences and research collaborations, and to develop robust, bespoke and timely programmes of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).



## Events

During our first year of operation, we held a number of highly successful events for both academics and the general public. These events have been captured on film and documented in succinct meeting reports as a means of engaging with the humanitarian community more broadly.

Please visit our website to access these downloads and view our active event calendar for this year.

## Supporting the HCRI

The establishment of the HCRI would not have been possible without funding and support from The University of Manchester, University Hospital South Manchester, and from most generous personal benefactors.

If you would like to support the work of the HCRI through research collaborations, meetings activities, or charitable gifts, please contact Rebecca Whitehead, Institute Manager:

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Royal Charter Number RC000797  
J3122 11.10

