



## THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

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# SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

*By Award Winners doing postgraduate studies during the academic year ending July 2012*

*Compiled and edited by Margit Staehr, Hon.Scholarship Secretary*



Last year I was the lucky recipient of a scholarship from the Anglo-Danish Society to support my Master's degree in Financial Mathematics at the London School of Economics. My background is in economics, but having been captivated by the elegance and intricacy of financial mathematics I decided to dedicate a year to the rigorous study of this subject.

The course is a joint programme between the Departments of Mathematics, Statistics and Finance, which is a good idea given the cross-disciplinary nature of financial mathematics. The course itself is a nice combination of abstract mathematics, financial theory

and computer programming. From the beginning every student is assigned an academic advisor who helps select an optimal combination of electives given each student's background, abilities and interests. For me this resulted in an academic profile focused on the quantification and pricing of financial risk.

The quality of teaching is generally high and there is a high degree of interaction between students and lecturers, especially as this is a relatively small programme with an annual intake of about 25 students. There are weekly seminars, presentations and reading group meetings with topics of special interest for students of financial and

**Søren B. Brøgger**

**MSc Financial Mathematics**

**London School of Economics &  
Political Science**

actuarial mathematics. Also, the School has an extensive network within the financial industry in London, which means that as an LSE student you are constantly invited to dinners, corporate presentations and recruiting events. From a Danish perspective this was quite remarkable, especially given the state of the economy and the fierce competition for entry-level jobs.

Compared to similar courses in Denmark there is much more focus on applying the mathematical models developed in class and putting them to use in a practical context. There is a high level of interaction between academia and industry, which means that lecturers can draw upon their own practical experience in class. Frequently, theoretical lectures would be supplemented by people from the financial industry coming in to show how they would use a particular model and what pitfalls to be aware of in practice. Often the approach taken by practitioners is completely different from



*Steven Pinker*

the academic orthodoxy – valuable knowledge for the majority of students not taking up academic research. Recently, I attended a lecture series held by the Head of Quantitative Research in a global bank who showed how his institution coped with the increased volatility of financial markets during the past years. For me such real-world input has been an invaluable addition to all

the theoretical stuff as finance is mainly an applied science and – unlike in physics for example – there is a huge gap between models and reality in finance.

All things considered, it has been a great privilege to study at the London School of Economics. Academically, I have learned a great deal during these past ten months – and not only in the area of mathematics and finance. The school is constantly visited by Nobel prize winners, political and spiritual leaders as well as a myriad of other interesting speakers from all over the world. Over the past year I have attended a variety of interesting lectures: from world-famous psychologist Steven Pinker's talk on the history of violence to the future of the left as seen by sociologist Zygmunt Bauman.



*Zygmunt Bauman*

Once again I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Anglo-Danish Society. I have had an exciting and rewarding year in London thanks in part to the generosity of the Anglo-Danish Society. The scholarship from the Anglo-Danish Society was the first grant that I received and – besides being a great contribution in itself – it was no doubt a significant factor in enabling me to eventually raise all the funds required to make this trip possible.

*Søren B. Brøgger*



**Cecilie Wensien Dinesen**

**Master of Science**

**Programme of Violence, Conflict & Development**

**School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), London**

Thanks to the grant awarded by the Anglo-Danish Society, I was able to pursue a MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). With an academic background in Public Health, health in developing countries, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings, has had my attention throughout my previous studies at the University of Copenhagen. From my previous work with torture survivors at the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Survivors (RCT) in Copenhagen, I have been particularly interested in mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in populations in post-conflict or disaster situations. My ambition with studying at SOAS was to strengthen my understanding of the broader context in which these global mental health challenges are embedded.

The past year at SOAS has indeed been an extraordinary experience in many ways. In terms of the academic environment, the department of development studies at SOAS offers a critical analysis of political and economic challenges facing developing countries today. This includes offering a critical perspective on the current crisis in the global economy and

the ways in which the current economic system exploits developing countries. Furthermore, my studies at SOAS enabled me to explore the linkages between the global political economy and the social processes leading to violence and conflict has been explored. The research and teaching in this field offered at SOAS is at a world-class level that is not available at any Danish university today.

Studying at SOAS has also enabled me to pursue research for my dissertation in an area of particular interest to me – namely the ways in which memories of traumatic experiences affect the current politics in countries emerging from genocide and mass violence. This interest stems specifically from previous working-experience from Rwanda, where the memories of the past still haunts the present. In many respects, Rwanda is a prime example of ‘successful’ post-conflict reconstruction. Less than 2 decades after the 1994 genocide, the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government has restored security and presents impressive rates of economic growth. The fact that the RPF ended the genocide with an outright military victory in July 1994 provided the ground for a stable political settlement in the post-genocide period.

Moreover, the government, in collaboration with the international community, has been committed to prosecuting crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, which has contributed to the current stability and establishment of rule of law in the country.



*"Wall of memory showing pictures of genocide victims at the Kigali Memorial Centre, April 2012".*

Needless to say, however, the memory of the past continues to play a central role in present-day Rwanda – in the everyday lives of people as well as at the political stage. My research focuses on the annual commemoration of the genocide that takes place during the week commencing on

April 7th. This period is of particular interest in this regard because it constitutes a point of rupture in the Rwandese society and continues to be a central site of construction and reconstruction of the past and the present. The commemoration period includes intense state-sponsored remembrance of the genocide through TV and radio broadcasts, local ceremonies and reburials, all of which regularly evoke traumas from the past. In analysing these different forms of commemoration, my research focuses on the politics of memory and the role of trauma in construction of identity in post-genocide Rwanda.



Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Anglo-Danish Society for making my studies in the UK possible. In addition to the academic opportunities, studying at SOAS has also been a great experience at a more personal level and it has strengthened my determination to pursue a PhD in this field at a later stage in life.

*Cecilie Wensien Dinesen*

Having just finished my last week of the Master of Philosophy in Politics at the University of Oxford, I would like to first take the opportunity to thank the Society for their generous support for my studies.

**Kristian Klausen**

**Master of Philosophy in Politics**

**Comparative Government**

**Hertford College**

**University of Oxford**

During my time reading for the MPhil I had the chance to work with some truly outstanding academics that are among the absolute leaders within their field. I followed option papers on Democratization, which was taught by Professor Laurence Whitehead, and Political Sociology, taught by Dr Stephen Fisher. Along with the core curriculum, these papers helped to deepen and broaden my theoretical and empirical knowledge of the field, as well as strengthen my appetite for further study.

After much careful consideration and in consultation with my supervisor, Professor Rana Mitter, I decided to write my dissertation on how the Chinese state is portrayed in Chinese media. Specifically, I looked at how leadership and state capacity was portrayed in the coverage of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, across three newspaper sources with different levels of state control. My main conclusion was that in a time at which the Chinese state is continuously under internal and external pressure to reform, media strategy has



become an important tool for the Communist Party to maintain power.

Outside of my academic work I also had the chance to participate in the rich associational life at the university. Within my college (Hertford) I served as both the Treasurer and later President of the graduate community (the Middle Common Room), as well as Captain of the college's rowing club. Through these engagements I have made lasting friendships and had experiences that I will remember forever.

I have had a fantastic time at Oxford and I am very proud to have received the Society's award. I hope that, in the future, many more students will be able to have experiences similar to mine with the support of the society.

Many thanks,

*Kristian Klausen*



Dear Anglo-Danish Society,

Thank you for your support that has enabled me to spend six months at the University of Oxford as part of my PhD in chemistry. Oxford has Britain's leading chemistry department, and the chance to be part of the academic environment at this world class institution is something that I would not have liked to miss.

I have a master degree in chemistry and physics from the University of Southern Denmark, where I am now studying for a PhD with Professor Christine J. McKenzie. My two main research interests are (i) optimising the process of splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen as a way of storing energy and (ii) to lower the energy required and control the reactions of oxygen with organic materials. The technology for efficient energy storage that can be coupled to renewable but inconsistent energy sources such as sun and wind power to avoid power drops does exist today, but they are dependent on precious and rare metals such as platinum and cannot be produced cost efficiently.

A requirement if these technologies are to be produced on the scale needed to end the

world's dependence on fossil fuels. In my work I look for inspiration in nature as nature's own catalysts enzymes with good reason do not incorporate rare metals as any organism that is reliant on something rare would soon starve or be restricted to very specific environments. In nature water splitting occurs in a protein called photosystem II. The essential feature of this protein is a manganese core. Manganese is 180,000 times more abundant in the earth's crust than platinum and the current price of a kilogram is 17,300 times lower. Considering these numbers it seems redundant to explain the implication for the spread of the technology of water splitting as a means of energy storage if - by mimicking the features of photosystem II - we could replace the use of platinum with cheap manganese.

**Mads Sørensen Vad**

**DPhil in Chemistry**

**New Catalyst for Oxygen Reduction and Evolution**

**University of Oxford**

At Oxford I worked with Professor John E. McGrady's group and under his supervision was introduced to computational chemistry. During my stay we were able to rationalise many of the observations done in the laboratory in Denmark that had previously been a mystery to us. As a bonus the University of Oxford is the location of the Centre for Advanced Electron Spin Resonance and houses a lot of very advanced equipment, which was kindly put at my disposal, for measuring on magnetic materials. My stay

with Professor McGrady has tightened the collaboration between his group and my group in Denmark - a collaboration that will hopefully continue for a long time. The six months I spent in Oxford allowed me to make great progress on my PhD project due to the state of the art



Prior to my MA studies at The Danish Royal Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture in Copenhagen, I spent three years studying at the University of Bath and one year in The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, after which I obtained my BSc in General Architectural Studies.

After graduation, I spent three years working as a designer in the BBC Television Centre and on feature films, as well as in several architectural practices. These included a small award-winning architectural firm in Venice, Italy, and an established London practice where, for a year, I was part of a six person team working on the widely publicized Chester Zoo Biodome scheme and various award winning housing projects.

equipment and the available expertise of the people there and I will once again like to thank the members of the Anglo-Danish Society for their generosity that made my stay in Oxford possible.

*Mads Sørensen Vad*

### **Anna Xene Marchant**

**Recipient of the**



### **OVE ARUP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2011-12**

### **MA Architecture in an Urban Context**

### **The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture**

I have spent the past two years completing a two year Masters in Architecture in an Urban Context at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen, after which I was awarded my MAA with distinction and the professional qualification of Architect.

Denmark is well-known for having a distinct social housing system inclusive of tenant participation, usable public spaces despite the northern climate, and for being advocates of sustainable design. There are many good precedents located in and around Copenhagen within these particular fields of study. Certain features of Danish systems have provided ideas that have and will continue to positively influence my work.

As well as encouraging independent investigation, the approach of the School of between the different scales of urban planning and 1:1 detailing.

The department I joined also has close relationships with the work in CITA (Centre for Information Technology and Architecture) which is an internationally renowned research facility for new technologies applicable to architecture.

My propositions for public space and affordable housing in northern Europe concern not only an understanding of social purpose and policy debate, but also the utilisation of emerging energy efficient technologies. With the move towards new build homes as ‘zero carbon’, one of the most pressing issues currently affecting the social housing sector is sustainability. As students and professionals make international alliances I believe that Northern climates are increasingly able to borrow aspects of vernacular building principles from other cultures and make them work. The focus for my thesis studies has therefore had an emphasis on both people-focussed and performance-based design.

My thesis research and design work has been two-fold. Primary studio time has been assigned to independent investigation based upon a departmental fieldtrip to Granada, Spain. This formed the basis for the final thesis design project on Component Systems. This was supplemented by an analytical and a propositional investigation of public space and social housing within Denmark.

Parallel to my thesis studies, I attended a Scandinavian design group where various housing developments were discussed to

Architecture in Copenhagen places a particular emphasis on the user, socially aware design, and working simultaneously establish what gives Scandinavian architecture its identity. This included a historical study to date of internal detailing, form, materiality, and function.

Whilst at the Academy, I co-ran the Sideways lecture series ([www.sidewayslectures.com](http://www.sidewayslectures.com)), a regular event hosting speakers with tangential approaches to architecture. As curator and editor, I was responsible for the overall concept, the production and editing of video interviews, designing, production and distribution of promotional material, and website content.

My work has been exhibited at the Danish Architecture Centre (DAK), I was selected to speak at the International Educational Conference in Copenhagen 2012 and was appointed as the Architecture School’s International Tutor.

Upon graduation I have had my diploma work published, lectured at the academy and been invited to return as a visiting critic. More recently, I have received an invitation to have my work published in the Architectural Review. For the immediate future, I am seeking a position in a progressive architectural practice either in Scandinavia or London.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the Ove Arup Foundation, whose contribution has been instrumental to the success of my academic studies in Copenhagen. This support has been invaluable. Many thanks.

*Anna Xene Marchant*



Halfdan Lynge-Mangueira

DPhil in Politics

Postgraduate Research in Election  
Fraud

University of Oxford

Let me first use the opportunity to thank the Anglo-Danish Society for its financial support, without which I would not have been able to pursue a doctorate degree in politics at the University of Oxford. I am very grateful for that.

Democracy should be more than elections but it cannot be less. Regardless of how democracy is defined, free and fair elections are essential, and electoral rigging, meaning illegal efforts to shape electoral results, constitutes a threat both to the integrity of the electoral process as well as the democratic process itself. Electoral rigging is, as renowned economist Paul Collier has stated, “The Achilles heel of democracy”. It is important both politically and academically and it warrants our attention.

Despite its importance very little is known about electoral rigging. There is no agreed definition of the phenomenon itself, probably because perceptions of electoral rigging vary from country to country. There is some but contradictory and therefore inconclusive evidence of when, where, and how elections are rigged, even if thousands of observers are deployed every year specifically with the purpose of detecting electoral rigging.

Probably as a consequence of that, there are few and, again, contradictory theories about what causes electoral rigging. Some have pointed to institutional factors, such as electoral competition, while others have pointed to socio-economic factors, including poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy.

My research tries to answer some of these questions. Firstly, it examines the different manifestations of electoral rigging, ranging from media manipulation and voter intimidation to vote buying and ballot stuffing, with a view to delineate (illegitimate) electoral rigging from (legitimate) electoral mobilisation.

Secondly, my research explores patterns of electoral rigging, specifically in the case of Ghana, in order to determine where elections are rigged and where they are not. Ghana provides an interesting case because it demonstrates many of the characteristics typically associated with electoral rigging: weak institutions, poverty, closely contested elections etc. Yet, electoral rigging in Ghana is surprisingly uncommon, suggesting that other factors are in play.

Thirdly, my research investigates the structures through which elections are rigged. Ghana will hold elections later this year and the political machines are already gearing up for the campaign. The elections provide an excellent opportunity to study the actual logistics of electoral rigging.

With the financial support of the Anglo-Danish Society, I have been able to attend a workshop on mixed method design in Cape Town, South Africa, and to undertake the first of three visits to Ghana. The workshop has helped me refine my research design and explore how mixed methods can be used to shed light on something as shady as electoral rigging. The visit to Ghana has helped me establish contacts with key institutions in Ghana, such as the Electoral Commission, the political parties, and various civil society organisations, and prepare the grounds for the second and third visit later this year.

I expect to complete my research towards the end of next year, after which I hope to return to the UN, where I spent five years as a political analyst prior to commencing my doctorate. With the popular uprisings in the Arab World, democracy has returned to the centre stage of international affairs, and the UN is now being asked to supervise transitional elections in countries all over the region. I hope and believe that my research will be an important contribution in this regard.

Thanks again.

*Halfdan Lynge-Mangueira*

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Two years ago I was the lucky recipient of a scholarship from the Anglo-Danish Society to support my 2-year MA in Documentary Direction at The National Film and Television School. I have a background as a journalist from The Danish School of Media and Journalism, but having directed a few short documentaries I felt an urge to learn more about telling stories in images instead of words, and I decided to come to the NFTS

**Emil Dalegaard Langballe**

**MA Documentary Direction**

**The National Film & Television  
School**

**Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1LG**

in order to learn and understand the art and craft of cinematic storytelling.

Eight people are accepted to the documentary course at the NFTS each year and the course is 95 % practical, which means the students spent most of their time making their own short films in collaboration with students from other departments of the school – film editors, sounds designers and

music composers. It is ‘learning by doing’ and since filmmaking is very much about collaboration, this way of working has a high resemblance to the way it is done in the film industry. Each documentary student makes four films during the course, and the school funds all the films. During the filmmaking process experienced filmmakers mentor the students and altogether this is a unique opportunity for you as a filmmaker to work with the subjects that interest you and develop your own voice and cinematic language. I chose to shoot my graduation film in Mombasa, Kenya where I got to spend a month with a soundman that was also a student of the school.

All things considered, it has been great to study at The National Film and Television School, and I have developed a lot as a filmmaker during the 2-year course. In the future, I will definitely continue pursuing my interest in cinematic documentaries and continue improving my skills while developing new projects and ideas in Denmark and in the UK.

The NFTS has a strong tradition when it comes to observational documentary filmmaking – a particular genre that really interests me - and there is a high level of interaction between the industry and the school. Many famous directors, Oscar-winners, and other renowned filmmakers come to the school to do master classes and guest lectures, teaching courses like dramaturgy, storytelling and camera operating – courses that really helped me improve my skills as a visual storyteller. Also The NFTS has an extensive network within the British film and TV industry, which – among other things - meant that I was hired as a camera operator for a 3 week BBC shoot immediately after graduation.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the Anglo-Danish Society for making my studies in the UK possible. It has been a great experience and a truly rewarding and inspiring time.

*Emil Dalegaard Langballe*



*Editor's note:*

*Emil D. Langballe's graduation film "Beach Boy" has been nominated for the 2013 Grierson Awards - the prestigious British documentary awards which are presented at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at London's Southbank Centre on Monday, 4 November 2013.*

*His film has already won the prize for Best Short Documentary at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic, one of the most significant student film events in Central and Eastern Europe.*

*Congratulations, Emil !*



**For further information about the Anglo-Danish Society's Scholarship Programme please visit**

**[www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk](http://www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk)**

**or send an e-mail to Margit Staehr, Hon. Scholarship Secretary**

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