

## BWPI Newsletter Winter 2008

We are near the end of what has been one of the most turbulent years for the world economy in recent memory. The crisis in western financial markets together with a rapid slowdown in global economic growth does not auger well for 2009. World commodity prices have already fallen sharply in response to the downturn, and this will severely affect the growth prospects of the South as we go into the new year. With weaker labour markets and falling incomes, 2009 will see rising poverty - adding to the hit that the world's poorest people have taken from the run-up in world food prices over the last two years.

Yet, the slowdown in global growth does have one positive side-effect: it reduces the pressures on the world's increasingly scarce natural resources. And it may reduce the speed at which global climate change is taking place. Climate change, and its impact on poor people, is in danger of being forgotten amidst the financial crisis. Here at BWPI we aim to keep the issue to the fore. Our Rajendrapur Conversation with BRAC, which begins in January, is about translating knowledge into action on how to adapt Dhaka and urban Bangladesh to climate change in ways that prioritise the needs of the poor.

We are delighted that the recently announced second gift from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation will support Rajendrapur as well as the many new activities that BWPI is initiating. BWPI has become a unique institute: one that works on some of the biggest global challenges through the activity of our Chair, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, and one that is increasingly active in bringing knowledge to bear on action in some of the world's poorest countries. The University of Manchester is well placed to help meet the world's biggest problems, and the second gift from the Brooks Foundation is enabling BWPI to make its contribution.

So as we close the year, the challenge for us all is to ensure that when the global economy comes out of recession, it is built on a more environmentally sustainable basis. This must include protecting and securing the natural capital that supports the lives of some of the world's poorest people. And we must protect the poor during the recession itself, the implementation of social protection is a clear and urgent need, and research from BWPI and the Chronic Poverty Research Centre has demonstrated that social protection is workable in many different contexts. Do visit our web site for more news of our work on this and other issues, and do join us in the conversation around poverty during 2009.

**Tony Addison**

**Executive Director, BWPI  
Associate Director, CPRC**

### **In our latest e-newsletter:**

- browse the latest research published as [BWPI Working Papers](#);
- join in the conversation at the 'Ending World Poverty' [blog](#);
- learn more about recent and upcoming [events](#);
- get updated on [BWPI staff](#) and partner organisations.

## Some recent working papers

[Social Transfers and Growth: A Review](#) (Armando Barrientos and James Scott)

[Micro-insurance in the Context of Social Protection](#) (Thankom Arun and Susan Steiner)

[Contention and Ambiguity: Mining and the Possibilities of Development](#) (Anthony Bebbington, Leonith Hinojosa, Denise Humphreys Bebbington, Maria Luisa Burneo and Ximena Warnars)

[Indigenous and Colonial Origins of Comparative Economic Development: The Case of Colonial India and Africa](#) (C.A. Bayly)

[Historical Lessons about Contemporary Social Welfare: Chinese Puzzles and Global Challenges](#) (R. Bin Wong)

[The Story of the Grameen Bank: From Subsidised Microcredit to Market-based Microfinance](#) (David Hulme)

The complete list of [BWPI Working Papers](#) is available to download from our website. Proposals for submitting a working paper to be considered as part of the BWPI series should be addressed to the [knowledge manager](#).

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## 'Ending World Poverty' Blog

If you have an opinion on poverty, then the BWPI blog is the place to voice it. Recent blog posts:

### [Get Fair on UK Poverty](#)

The UK has got a lot richer over the last twenty years - we are the world's fifth richest country - but not fairer....

### [Bottled Water. To Buy or Not to Buy?](#)

Too few people across the developing world have access to safe water. Too often they end up walking miles to unsafe water sources...

### [Leading the Global Debate from the South](#)

The debate on global policy, including such critical issues as climate change and globalization, is still dominated by the North....

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## Recent and upcoming Events

**Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) – forthcoming Panel Discussion**  
21 January 2009, University of Manchester

[WIEGO](#) is a global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. Their opening of an office in Manchester provides an opportunity to explore shared research interests with researchers at the University of Manchester.

BWPI, the Global Urban Research Centre (GURC), the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) and WIEGO are jointly hosting a Panel Discussion on New Perspectives on Informality on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009, 12-2.30pm in room 1.69, Humanities Bridgeford Street Building, University of Manchester.

The Panel will discuss three main research areas linked to informality: trade and migration, social protection, and urban policies.

**University of Manchester Foundation Day Lecture 2008 given by Professor Joseph Stiglitz**  
8 November 2008, University of Manchester

BWPI Chair Joseph Stiglitz gave the University Foundation Day lecture on the current financial crisis. The lecture can be listened to via the University website [here](#).

**“Who Owns Development?” Public Forum**

16 October 2008, University of Manchester

Following the success of ‘Who Owns Science?’ earlier in the year, BWPI and IDPM held ‘Who Owns Development?’ in October. The public forum brought together a panel of four distinguished speakers from across the globe, including; Admos Chimhowu, Lecturer in Development Studies at IDPM; G3rman Escobar, Executive Director of the Latin American Center for Rural Development (Rimisp), Chile; Sugata Marjit, Director of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India, and Ananya Roy, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Division of International & Area Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Chaired by David Hulme the forum was attended by students and staff from across campus and beyond and prompted a healthy Q & A session. This event was also the first BWPI event to be filmed in full and the coverage is now being streamed via the BWPI website - click [here](#) to view.

**Poverty Summit**

15-16 October 2008, University of Manchester

In mid-October BWPI hosted a two-day Poverty Summit which brought to Manchester over thirty senior representatives from poverty research groups based at a wide range of organizations across the globe. The purpose of the event was to encourage the sharing of experiences between these groups engaged in research at the nexus of scholarship and practice, addressing a series of core issues ranging from interdisciplinarity and funding to engaging with the media and policymakers. A report on the meeting's proceedings was prepared by BWPI Lewis-Gluckman post-doctoral Research Fellows, and is available upon request.

**Conservative Party Annual Conference**

28 September 2008, Birmingham

At this year's Tory Party Conference BWPI hosted a fringe event “Ending Global Poverty: Moving the agenda forward”. Lewis-Gluckman Fellow, Vinny Pattison, organised the event with David Hulme and Armando Barrientos presenting papers on the Millennium Development Goals and Social Protection respectively. The event was chaired by Paul Vallely of The Independent.

**International Conference: Social Protection for the Poorest in Africa - Learning from Experience**

8-10 September 2008, Entebbe and Kampala

Development Research & Training, the Chronic Poverty Research Centre and the Brooks World Poverty Institute co-hosted this international conference on social protection. The conference brought together practitioners, researchers and policy-makers involved in the development, design and implementation of social protection programmes. Its particular focus was to address extreme and chronic poverty, with the aim of learning from existing programmes and informing the extension of social protection in Africa. David Hulme, Armando Barrientos, Tony Addison and Susan Steiner presented papers and led panel discussions.

For further details of BWPI events past and future please see the [events](#) section of the website.

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## News

### **Second gift from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation**

We are very pleased that the [Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation](#) has recently made a second, very generous gift to BWPI. The gift of £1.4 million was announced at the September meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York, which brings together global leaders from the political, business, and philanthropic communities. This second gift builds on previous support from the Foundation of £1.5 million, and is the largest ever gift to European poverty research. Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester said: "We are honoured to be working on this profoundly important work in partnership with such far-sighted and thoughtful benefactors as Rory and Elizabeth Brooks. They continue to demonstrate a deep commitment, not just to the University, but more importantly to the global endeavour to reduce chronic poverty. This further generous commitment, with its focus on new global partnerships, promises to take the solutions-driven work of BWPI to the next level."

### **Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta joins BWPI**

Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta - who is an expert on international development and the environment - has been appointed as a Professor of Environmental and Development Economics at the University's Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) and Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI). Professor Dasgupta is a world authority on the relationship between environment and development. Commenting on his appointment, Professor Dasgupta said, "Academic development economists should also have studied the role of nature in development processes but haven't done so. Much of my work during the last three decades has been to reconstruct economics by taking nature into account. I shall continue to work on that at The University of Manchester which is uniquely placed in the UK to look at these issues." For further details please visit the [news](#) section of the BWPI website.

### **International Conference on Climate Change and Urban Poverty, to be held in Bangladesh, January 2009**

BWPI, EcoCities: The Bruntwood Initiative for Sustainable Cities (BISC) and the Global Urban Research Centre (GURC) are setting up a partnership with BRAC University's Development Institute and Department of Architecture on the theme of urban poverty and the adaptation of urban Bangladesh to climate change. This unique partnership aims to join the knowledge of the poor themselves, and those working with them, with the knowledge created by the community of poverty researchers. This ethos is reflected in the newly formed "Rajendrapur Conversation", the first of which takes place in January 2009 at the BRAC Centre, Rajendrapur, Bangladesh, and is being supported by the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation under their second gift to BWPI. The event will include field visits, a work shop and a one-day international conference. The conference which will be on "Climate Change and Urban Poverty - Infrastructures of Development" will take place on 28 January 2008. Look out for updates on the Rajendrapur Conversation and the conference on the BWPI [blog](#).

## **BWPI/ Rimisp collaboration**

Several of BWPI's researchers - Armando Barrientos, Tony Bebbington, Dennis Rodgers, Susan Steiner and Matthias vom Hau - already maintain a vibrant research agenda across many Latin (and Central) American countries. To expand this presence, and to consolidate the dialogue between research and practice, BWPI will partner with Rimisp, a Spanish acronym for the Latin American Centre for Rural Development. Rimisp is a long-standing network of researchers and practitioners based in Santiago, Chile, but with a presence across the continent (and with other partner universities in North America). Focusing on rural poverty, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, Rimisp aims to enhance the quality of research and policy conducted in response to rural development, and create a new generation of rural development professionals in a region characterised by high levels of rural poverty (especially among indigenous peoples).

Led by BWPI Associate Director Professor Tony Bebbington, BWPI will:

- jointly design and co-ordinate a postgraduate training programme
- this will run alongside a programme of academic exchange to help Rimisp update their syllabi and ensure that their students are receiving instruction in the latest research theories and methods
- develop joint events in Latin America with Rimisp, including conferences and training programmes. Topics will include: social protection; extractive industries and poverty; and rural-urban poverty dynamics.

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## **BWPI in the media**

**20/10/2008** – Commentary on the Global Financial Crisis in the New Statesman by BWPI Chair, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, “Guided by an Invisible Hand”.

[Link to the New Statesman website to read the article](#)

**07/11/2008** – Widespread media coverage on a paper written by BWPI and LSE researches on how bestsellers can give powerful insights into aspects of poverty that are overlooked by scholars, government advisors and pundits. Read the Telegraph article [here](#).

[Link to University press release](#)

[Link to full paper](#) (pdf file)

Access these and other stories at [BWPI in the media](#)

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## **Publications**

[\*\*\*Making Peace Work: The Challenges of Social and Economic Reconstruction\*\*\*](#)

By Tony Addison and Tilman Brück

Part of the Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Development Economics and Policy, published for UNU-WIDER and edited by Tony Shorrocks, this book provides an insight into some of the principal issues that arise in post-conflict economic and social reconstruction, and offers examples of what works, and what does not. Each chapter tackles a key theme, with illustrations from a selection of countries.

**[Insecurity and Welfare Regimes in Asia, Africa and Latin America: Social Policy in Development Contexts](#)**

By Ian Gough and Geof Wood with Armando Barrientos, Philippa Bevan, Peter Davis and Graham Room.

Now reprinted in paperback by Cambridge University Press, this book explores the conditions under which social policy operates in the poorer regions of the world. Written by a team of experts, it seeks to develop a new conceptual framework for understanding different types of welfare regime and to break away from the traditional focus on Europe and North America.

**[Socialist Review: "Revolutionaries, barbarians, or war machines? Gangs in Nicaragua and South Africa"](#)**

By Steffen Jensen and Dennis Rodgers

**[New Left Review: "A Symptom Called Managua"](#)**

By Dennis Rodgers

**[Special Issue in Studies in Comparative International Development: Revisiting State Infrastructural Power](#)**

Edited by Hillel Soifer and Matthias vom Hau

The goal of this collection of articles is to unpack the widely used but only loosely defined concepts of state strength and weakness by demonstrating the utility of Michael Mann's concept of state infrastructural power. The articles argue that the concept has the distinct theoretical advantages of highlighting the spatial dimension of the state and the relational nature of its power. The substantive articles put the concept to work for topics as diverse as democratization, civic violence, race relations, nationalism, and social development. Contributors to the issue include the editors, Michael Mann, Daniel Ziblatt, Dan Slater, Matthew Lange, and Daniel Schensul.

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## **BWPI staff update**

**Dr Manoj Roy** will be joining BWPI in January to work as a Research Fellow on the joint BWPI/EcoCities: Bruntwood Initiative for Sustainable Cities programme of research on the adaptation of urban Dhaka to climate change. Dr Roy trained as an architect and has a doctorate in Urban Planning and Management.

**Ms Julia Shepherd** has joined BWPI as a Doctoral student with effect from September 2008. She is working on a research project on 'Ageing, wellbeing and development. A comparative study of Brazil and South Africa', part of a programme on New Dynamics of Ageing funded the UK Research Councils. She is the recipient of an ESRC PhD studentship.

See BWPI [staff profiles](#) for information about all staff members.

*The Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) is dedicated to better understanding why people are poor, what keeps them trapped in poverty and how they can be helped - drawing upon the best international practice in research and policy making. The Institute was launched in Manchester on 1st February 2006 with the generous support of the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation. Nobel Laureate, Professor Joseph Stiglitz, one of the world's leading figures in economics and poverty research, is Chair of BWPI.*

[www.manchester.ac.uk/bwpi](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/bwpi)