

# Global Development Research Group, GDRG

## Calendar of events for 2014/2015

This academic year the special focus of the Global Development Research Group is on *the state*, with particular reference to politics of international statebuilding and the discourse of state fragility. International statebuilding is a well-institutionalized policy field and it is claimed to have become central to contemporary world affairs. Why is it and how can we make sense of this zeal to build states?

Events are held in the Department of International Politics building, Aberystwyth University.

### First term

- **3 October, 2pm** - talk by **Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara**, entitled 'Assessing the 'situation on the ground'? Knowledge Production and International Statebuilding', Main Hall, International Politics building
- **31 October, 2pm** - presentation by Kate Kaczmarska, PhD researcher at the Department of International Politics, entitled: 'The myth of international community and the imperative to build states', Meetings Room, International Politics building
- **28 November, 2pm** - talk by **Dr Jeff Bridoux**, entitled 'From democracy promotion to democracy reception: competing political futures in the Middle East and North Africa', Main Hall, International Politics building
- **1 December, 5pm** - guest lecture by **Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hebert**, entitled 'Statebuilding from the outside-in' co-hosted by the Global Development Research Group and the David Davies Memorial Institute.

Dr Lemay-Hebert is Senior Lecturer in the International Development Department, University of Birmingham. He used to serve as the Director of the Centre for Peace Missions and Humanitarian Studies, University of Quebec. He authored *The semantics of statebuilding: language, meanings and sovereignty*

Venue: Main Hall, International Politics building

- **10 December, 1pm** – an informal session on **the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**. Tom Marshall and Katja Daniels, International Politics Department PhD researchers, will introduce TTIP and explain some of the concerns and controversies that the proposed agreement has raised. We will then open up a broad debate.

Venue: Steve Critcher Room, International Politics building

All are warmly welcome, and we would especially encourage undergraduate students to join us!

- **12 December, 2pm** - 'The state as theorised and practiced' – joint GDRG-GRIT symposium discussing *the state*. The key interest of the symposium is to compare how IR theory and policy practice approach the state.

Venue: Steve Critcher Room, International Politics building