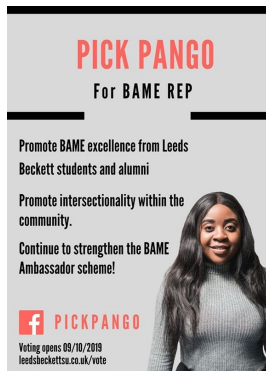


### Active Politics & Volunteering

There was the usual diverse range of experiences for students on the *Active Politics & Volunteering* module, which gives them the opportunity to work with a range of local, national and international organisations to develop confidence in the workplace and build their employability skills and networks.



**Mphango Simwaka** was elected Black & Ethnic Minority (BAME) Rep for the Student's Union and developed BAME Ambassadors and Black History Month activities, and used this voluntary role as the basis for her assessment.

**Andreea Dumitrascu** was an intern at Oservatorio di Pavia research Institute in Italy, where she undertook analysis of media material for gender stereotypical language.

**Beth Keeling** volunteered with House of Bread, a charity for vulnerable and homeless people in Staffordshire, acting as PA to the Director and undertaking case work.



**Adam Suleman** taught English at the Palestinian Centre for Education & Cultural Exchange in Hebron.

**Ahmed Ibrahim** helped to set up the Leeds Beckett Student Newspaper, including designing the outline and visual concept of the newspaper. Ahmed also produced a documentary film which included interviews with students and staff, directing, camera work, editing and post-production.



**Joanna Bonson** and **Jemima Murray-English** volunteered with Pugwash, an international organisation campaigning to rid the world of nuclear weapons, where they planned meetings, organised speaker events, managed social media accounts, and developed the Student Society.

**Max Conway** and **Matthew Baker** worked with their local Labour Party offices in Pudsey and Leeds on election campaigns, including leafletting, canvassing, planning community events and phone banking, while **James Frost** volunteered with the Liberal Democrats in Richmond. **Amber Tatum** worked in the Parliamentary Office of Gillian Keegan MP (Conservative, Chichester) where, during the time of Brexit negotiations and prorogation of Parliament, she helped prepare the conference diary, briefings for events at conference, and notes for Chamber, as well as responding to constituency enquiries.



**Ellie Waddington**, **Anna Crooks** and **Sophie Jones** volunteered at the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve in Costa Rica where they helped with translation of materials, wildlife filming, social media promotions and education in local schools.

Other students worked with charities in Leeds supporting vulnerable people, such as Barnardo's, Shelter, St. George's Crypt, British Red Cross and Hamara, while others volunteered in Malawi, Sri Lanka, Greece and Cambodia.

## Student leadership

Three PIR students were elected to paid leadership roles in the Students' Union for 2020-21. In post next year will be **Anna Crooks** (Activities & Events), **Barbara Pereira** (Union Affairs) and **Pango Simwaka** (Welfare & Community Education). Congratulations to all of the elected officers.



## New Staff

**Dr Olayinka Ajala** joined PIR in March this year. His primary research interests lie in the broad field of security and conflict with a focus on Africa. In particular Olayinka explores topics of conflicts and conflict resolution mechanisms, terrorism and counter-terrorism, resource conflict, human security, formation of insurgent groups and impact of climate change on conflict. He is currently working on a project titled '*Catalyzing participation through innovation to strengthen rural-urban climate resilient futures in Namibia*' supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund.



### Recent research

Ajala, O. (2018) MEND in the South, Boko Haram in the North: Political Authority and the Emergence of Insurgent groups in Nigeria. *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 29(1): 112-130.

Ajala, O. (2018) US Drone base in Agadez, Security threat to Niger? *The RUSI Journal* 163(5): 20-27.

## Alumni news

**Dr Craig Brown** (PhD 'Non-violence in the Tunisian Revolution', 2019) is now Assistant Editor and Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Resistance Studies*, and Board Member of the European Peace Research Association.



**Iva Draganova** (BA International Relations & Global Development, 2019) is now Assistant Children & Family Practitioner, The Children's Centre, Douglas, Isle of Man.

**Mubassir Hussein** (MA International Human Rights Practice, 2019) is working at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as part of the Covid-19 emergency response.

## Staff research

**Dr Sophia Price** has been awarded funding to create the UACES *Network on EU-Africa Research* (NEAR). Sophia was also invited to present at the 'All Party Parliamentary Group on Africa Symposium on UK' on UKAfrica Trade and Brexit at the House of Commons in January 2020, alongside the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Minister for Africa.

**Dr Rachel Julian** received funding for the project '*Policy development-oriented research leading to counter human trafficking protection and prevention policies in Kenya*'. Working with Haart Kenya the project will collect new data to be presented to Kenyan Government on developing services to victims and survivors of human trafficking.

**Dr Maria O'Reilly** authored '*From Gendered War to Gendered Peace? Feminist Perspectives on International Intervention in Sites of Conflict*' in the Handbook of Intervention and Statebuilding (2019) Edward Elgar, pp. 303-313.

**Dr John Willott** and Dr Naeema Hann (School of Languages), together with colleagues at NATECLA (National Association for Teachers of English and Community Languages), completed a contract to provide a Literature Review and expert advice for the project '*Suitable and Effective ESOL for Refugees*'. This is part of a national project led by Migration Yorkshire, who have been appointed by the Home Office to deliver it in collaboration with Strategic Migration Partnerships across England. The project is developing a free toolkit on effective practice in commissioning and delivery of English language to refugees.