

## UNITWIN UNESCO Chairs Programme

### UNESCO Chair Annual Progress Report

UNESCO Chair:	<b>HIV/AIDS, Education and Health Security in Africa</b>
Institution:	<b>Aberystwyth University</b> Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AX, United Kingdom www.aber.ac.uk
Date Chair Established: (mm, yyyy)	August 2007
Period of Activity Under Report: (mm, yyyy-mm, yyyy)	January 2008-July 2008
Report Established By: (name, position)	<b>Professor Colin McInnes, UNESCO Chairholder</b> Email: cjm@aber.ac.uk ; Tel : +44 (0)1970 622-700 www.aber.ac.uk/interpol/en/staff/mcInnes.htm

#### **1. Executive Summary:**

**Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO)**  
(Not exceeding 500 words)

The major objectives of the Chair are grouped into 3 categories: mapping policy on HIV, AIDS and security; empirical investigation into major claims made about HIV, AIDS and security; and developing partnerships and new capacity. In addition to these, it is worth formally reporting on the launch of the Chair.

*Launching the Chair.* The Chair was launched with a series of events in Wales organised by the UNESCO Cymru Wales Committee surrounding World AIDS day. Events included a public meeting in Aberystwyth (which the Chairholder co-organised and to which he contributed), the public launch of the Chair in the National Assembly (which included presentations from the Chairholder, AIDS activists and Ministers, with a piece subsequently televised by the BBC); a major radio interview on breakfast time news by the Chairholder, subsequently podcast on the BBC website together with a web-based article; and a two page spread in the *Western Mail* (the quality 'broadsheet' for Wales) to which the Chair contributed.

*Mapping Policy.* The Chair, in partnership with Griffith University in Brisbane, ran a project on the international political economy of health. The project was run by Dr Owain Williams and the Chairholder contributed by providing an analysis of the alternative, competing discourse centred around global health security. The contribution analysed the way in which policy had developed health – especially HIV and AIDS – as a national security issue. The results of the project will be published later this year/early next as an edited collection.

*Empirical Investigation.* Much of the Chairholder's research this year has been examining the claim made that conflict acts as a vector for the spread of HIV. This claim is common in the academic and policy literature. Initial results were presented at a conference in Australia and have been circulated through the Chair's network of partners. Results will be submitted to peer reviewed journals later this year.

*Partnership and Network Capacity.* Three grant applications were submitted by the Chairholder with support from Dr Williams. The first (for £120,000) was to the Leverhulme Trust for a research network on HIV and AIDS with partners in Africa, North America and Europe. We are through to the second round and would have heard the results this month but for the Trust's difficulties in finding sufficiently qualified referees. The second was to the ERC (for 2.4M euros) as part of their Advanced Investigator scheme for a research programme in health security which would involve capacity building. This is extremely competitive and the results should be due out later this year. The final, successful application was to the ESRC for a multi-disciplinary research forum on security. The award is for £138,000 and will involve organising a major international workshop on health security.

## **2. Activities:**

*Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period*

### **a) Education/Training/Research**

*(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period)*

i) Education	The Chairholder has begun the supervision of a doctoral candidate working on HIV and feminist security.
ii) Training	The Chair has received £30,000 from Aberystwyth University to establish a training programme in Global Health aimed at health professionals and at NGOs. HIV and health security form a very significant part of this package. We have been in discussion with the UK General Medical Council, including meeting with its chair Sir Graham Catto, and have received their endorsement for the programme.
iii) Research	<p>In addition to the grant applications identified in the Executive Summary, research has focused on two key issues.</p> <p>First, the development of security as a policy narrative for HIV. This involves a subset of questions: how and why did this narrative emerge? How effective has it been in influencing policy? What are the positive and negative policy implications of the securitisation of HIV? And what are the competing policy narratives? The work for the Griffith University project is a contribution to this, arguing that the securitisation of HIV fits into a broader narrative whereby health has been increasingly securitised in the policy vacuum following the Cold War. Although reflecting on policy, this is not immediately policy oriented.</p> <p>Second, the link between conflict and the spread of HIV. Work to date has examined five key risk factors and has additionally developed an explanatory model based on susceptibility and vulnerability. Research on risk factors is nearing completion and should be submitted for peer review over the summer; work on the explanatory model continues. Both elements have strong policy orientations.</p> <p>Third, Dr Williams in conjunction with the Chairholder has co-organised a series of workshops and exchanges with Griffith University, Australia. Whilst the first working conference was hosted in Brisbane in September 2007, Dr Williams has undertaken two further visiting fellowships in 2008 (April and June), directed toward the publication of a major edited volume with Palgrave in late 2008 ('The Crisis of Global Health Governance'). The volume includes a keynote chapter on HIV and security by the Chairholder who has also provided editorial assistance throughout the project. This volume will be followed up by a similar edited volume with Dr Sara Davies of Griffith University, on HIV/AIDS and access to medicines. Both bodies of work are seen as integral to the development of Centre for Health and International Relations, and fitting with the ethos and goals of the UNESCO award. The Chairholder has been pivotal in shaping the thrust of the collaborative work with Australian partners, which will evolve at least over the next three year cycle.</p>

### **b) Conferences/Meeting**

*(key conferences and meetings organised by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)*

- Public roundtable on 'AIDS: A Global Tragedy' in Aberystwyth, co-organised by the Chair and UNESCO Cymru Wales to which the Chairholder contributed.
- Roundtable on 'Global Uncertainties' organised by the ESRC. This was the flagship event of the Research Council's Festival of Social Science, held in Whitehall with senior policy figures present (up to and including Ministers of State).
- Paper on 'HIV, AIDS and Conflict' presented to biennial Oceanic Conference on International Studies, University of Queensland.

Furthermore, and with support from the Chairholder, Dr Williams has presented papers on health and political economy, including the securitization of infectious disease, at:

- The International Studies Association Conference, San Francisco (March 08), 'The International Political

Economy of Health Governance’.

- Paper to the Oceanic Conference on international Studies, University of Queensland (July 08).

In collaboration with the Chairholder, Dr Williams has also organised the submission of eleven separate panels on global health, security and political economy to the forthcoming International Studies Association Conference (New York, February 09). This will involve work by some 60 scholars from diverse disciplines and countries, and has already help secure three book offers for the Chairholder team.

### c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

*(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions)*

The principal effort here has been in taking the lead on the application for a network grant to the Leverhulme Trust. Core partners are: the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal; the University of Pretoria; the Clingendael Institute in the Netherlands; Johns Hopkins University; and the US Social Science Research Council project on AIDS and security.

The Chairholder has also been closely associated with the development of a partnership on global health governance (which has clear health and security dimensions) with Griffith University. It is likely that the Chairholder will be awarded a visiting fellowship at Griffith on HIV/AIDS and security at some point in 2009.

### d) Publications/Multimedia Materials

*(major publications and teaching/learning materials)*

*tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:*

	[tick]	[no.]
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Books (edited)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Books (chapters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Monographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Journal Articles (refereed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Conference Proceedings & Occasional Papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Teaching/Learning Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Video)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.*

Colin McInnes, ‘HIV/AIDS and national security’ in Nana K. Poku ed. *Governing a Pandemic* (Ashgate).

Colin McInnes, ‘Health’ in Paul Williams ed., *Security Studies* (Routledge).

Colin McInnes, ‘HIV, AIDS and Conflict’ paper to 2008 OCIS Conference, Brisbane.

Colin McInnes, ‘HIV/AIDS and securitization, in Williams.O and Kay. A (eds.) *The Crisis of Global health Governance* (Palgrave, forthcoming).

Owain Williams (and Adrian Kay) eds. *The Crisis of Global Health Governance* (Palgrave, forthcoming).

Owain Williams, ‘The International Political Economy of Health Governance’. ISA, San Francisco, March 2008.

### e) Other

*(any other activities to report)*

The Chairholder has co-organised the development of global health as a major conference theme in the International Studies Association annual conference. Health has largely been neglected by the discipline of International Relations, and the annual conference is the prestige forum for exchange and dissemination. Health and security are strongly represented in the programme for the 2009 conference in New York, with a specific panel on HIV/AIDS and security.

### 3. Available Resources

Overview of resources placed at the disposal of the Chair in the reporting period

#### a) Human Resources

Research/programme assistant (Dr Owain Williams) 0.5 FTE

#### b) Other Resources

tick sources of financial contribution

	[tick]
Host Institution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partner Institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNESCO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other UN Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>
IGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Private	<input type="checkbox"/>

Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.

- ESRC £138,000 (80% FEC) grant, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. Part of this is to run a series of four workshops on security issues, including food security and health security.
- £30,000 for calendar year 2008 from Aberystwyth University to run training programme.
- Aberystwyth University have granted me research leave 1 May-30 November 2008 to pursue research related to the Chair.
- Aberystwyth University have also provided office accommodation and supplies for Dr Williams.

### 4. Future Plans and Development Prospects:

Outline of action plan for the next biennium. And short/medium and long term development prospects. Please feel free to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced (Not exceeding 500 words)

Much hinges on the success or otherwise of the research grant applications. In particular the application to the Leverhulme Trust, if successful, would provide the necessary finance for a series of workshops on HIV, AIDS and security, involving not only academic institutions from north and south, but civil society and policy practitioners. Without external funding such a scheme would be much more difficult to achieve. Similarly the application to the ERC would transform the Chair's capacity and potential, not least in buying out the Chairholder for a significant period of his time over the next 4 years. Nevertheless the current ESRC grant will allow for one international workshop on health and security, while my colleague Dr Owain Williams has bid for several panels in the forthcoming International Studies Association conference in New York (March 2009) to further develop international partnerships.

The training programme was received enthusiastically by the GMC who offered invaluable advice. In particular, to secure professional interest, they advised we broaden the focus out from one on global health security to include other global aspects of health provision, including regulatory aspects. I view these elements as something of a Trojan Horse to enable practitioners to secure authorisation to attend the programme. Our hope is that this eventually becomes self-financing and will be held twice a year, once in the north and once in the south.

The focus of the Chair is on research, and earlier this year the Chairholder began a major project on the links between HIV and conflict. This has both academic and policy implications and is progressing well. Initial feedback from one of our partners in South Africa has been very supportive of the explanatory model under development, while the presentation of initial findings at a major international conference in Australia went well. The problem in terms of publication however is that this sort of multi-disciplinary research is not always well received by either International Relations or by Public Health journals, tending to fall between the two stools. An alternative would be a monograph study aimed as much at the policy world as the academic.

Finally in terms of educational programmes, although I continue to supervise PhDs and contribute lectures at various levels on health and on HIV, my current commitments as Head of Department means my focus is less on teaching than management. This will change once I finish my term as HOD.