

## 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 <a href="http://www.aber.ac.uk/">www.aber.ac.uk/</a>
Date Chair Established: (mm, yyyy)	August 2007
Period of Activity Under Report: (mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)	July 2008 - July 2009
Report Established By: (name, position)	<b>Professor Colin McInnes: UNESCO Chair-holder</b> Email: <a href="mailto:cjm@aber.ac.uk">cjm@aber.ac.uk</a> ; Tel: +44 (0) 1970 622691 <a href="http://www.aber.ac.uk/interpol/en/staff/mcInnes.htm">http://www.aber.ac.uk/interpol/en/staff/mcInnes.htm</a> ; <a href="http://www.unesco.org.uk/Aberystwyth_Chair.htm">http://www.unesco.org.uk/Aberystwyth_Chair.htm</a>

#### **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 focus of the Chair is research. Its major objectives are: mapping policy on HIV, AIDS and security; empirical investigation into major claims made about HIV, AIDS and security; and developing partnerships and new capacity.

*Mapping policy.* Work has now begun on a major 4 year project examining the global governance of HIV in relation to 4 main narratives – bio-medical (the traditional narrative for disease), security (the focus of the Chair), human rights (a particular concern of UNESCO's programme on HIV and AIDS), and economism (including development, one of the key policy drivers for aid to Africa). The global governance of HIV will be contrasted with other health issues as part of a major ERC advanced investigator grant to the Chairholder (detailed below) and involves research by all of the team at Aberystwyth. The Chairholder and Dr Rushton also completed a small project funded by the Gates Foundation to map health interventions in conflict and post-conflict settings.

*Empirical investigation into claims made.* Work has focused on two key claims: that conflict acts as a vector for the spread of HIV; and that presenting HIV/AIDS as a security issue has led to policy changes. Work on both has been presented at conferences and has been/will be published. Of particular significance is the development of a new, more nuanced model to explain the spread of HIV in conflict, and the interim finding that securitising health does not *in and of itself* lead to major policy changes, but does lead to some operational level changes which may have major positive benefits.

*Developing partnerships and new capacity.* The main disappointment this year concerned the application to the Leverhulme Trust. We had developed a major network of partners involving the key institutions working on HIV/AIDS and health security in sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and North America, and were asking the Trust to finance this. Despite very positive referees' reports and favourable comments from the Trust, the application was ultimately unsuccessful. Although we do have some financing for limited visits to sub-Saharan Africa, we are reappraising how we can support links in a sustainable manner.

The major success was a €2.35M advanced investigator grant from the European Research Council. The award runs from Jan 2009 until December 2012. We believe this is the largest grant for several years in the field of Political Science/International Relations and has secured 60% of the Chairholder's time, two Full Time Research Fellows (Dr Simon Rushton and Dr Owain Williams), a 0.25 FTE administrator and a PhD studentship. In addition it funds three staff and one doctoral student at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who provide specialist support in public health, and form a strategic partnership with the Chair. In addition the Chair has been working closely with Global Health and Foreign Policy Initiative in the Paul H. Nitze School of

Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, working on health interventions in (post-)conflict settings.

## 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	
ii) Training	
iii) Research	<p>The Chairholder's research has focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between conflict and the spread of HIV, specifically further development of his model based on susceptibility and vulnerability. The model has been applied to five detailed case studies of conflict in Africa, and the University is considering an application for an RA to assist in further work.</li> <li>• The impact of the securitisation of HIV, especially UN Security Council Resolution.</li> </ul> <p>Dr Rushton's research has focused on the global governance of HIV, and on a detailed survey of the literature surrounding HIV and security. Dr Williams' research has also focused on issues relating to global governance, and also a detailed survey of the literature concerning access to medicines, especially the TRIPS agreement and anti-retroviral therapies for HIV.</p>

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

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

We applied to the UK National Commission for UNESCO's Cymru-Wales Committee for funding for an international roundtable on HIV in Cardiff to mark World AIDS Day (1 December 2008). Unfortunately, due to administrative delays in the Welsh Assembly Government, confirmation of this came in February 2009 and the event could not be held as planned. Instead, we held a roundtable in Aberystwyth on World AIDS day, which also included Duncan Green (head of research at Oxfam). The Chairholder also organised 7 workshops as part of the RCUK International Security Forum and Dr Rushton and Dr Williams organised 7 panels at the International Studies Association's annual conference in New York.

The Chairholder spoke on disease and security at the High Level Cabinet Office review of the National Security Strategy (attended by the Secretary of State and Lord West), and presented the following:

- 'HIV, AIDS and Conflict in Africa', paper to International Studies Association annual conference, New York NY, February 2009.
- 'HIV, AIDS and security: where are we now?', keynote address to conference on biosecurity, University of Sydney/ANU, Sydney, February 2009.
- 'Health, the environment and security', presentation to conference on *Health, the Environment and Security*, Institute Francais des Relations Internationales (IFRI), Paris, September 2008.
- 'HIV, AIDS and security', presentation to AIDS Security and Conflict Initiative (ASCI) conference, Long Island, September 2008.
- 'HIV, AIDS and Conflict' paper to Oceanic Conference on International Studies, Brisbane, July 2008.

Dr Rushton presented the following:

- 'Global Health Governance and the Battle of Ideas'. Paper for 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Political Science, Santiago, Chile, 12-16 July 2009. With Owain Williams.
- 'AIDS and international security at the United Nations: Looking Beyond the Council'. Paper for conference on *Unhealthy Governance: Securitising Infectious Diseases in Asia*, Hong Kong, 21-22 May 2009.
- 'HIV/AIDS and Security in the UN System: Dominant Discourse or Passing Fad?', Paper for 50<sup>th</sup> Annual International Studies Association Convention, New York, 15-18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- 'Global Health Governance as a Contested Space: Competing Discourses, Interests and Actors', Paper for 50<sup>th</sup> Annual International Studies Association Convention, New York, 15-18<sup>th</sup> February 2009. With Owain Williams.

Dr Williams presented the following:

- 'Global Health Governance as a Contested Space: Competing Discourses, Interests and Actors', Paper for 50<sup>th</sup> Annual International Studies Association Convention, New York, 15-18<sup>th</sup> February 2009. With Simon Rushton.
- 'Global Health in Crisis', special lecture to the globalizations consortium, RMIT, Melbourne, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- 'Global Health Governance as a Contested Space', lecture to Deakin University Medical School, Melbourne, 21 April 2009.
- 'Global Health Governance and Swine Flu', lecture to the School of Public Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

### c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships (principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions)

Dr Owain Williams was a Visiting Fellow at the Department of International Relations, University of Queensland, Brisbane, April-May 2009.

### d) Publications/Multimedia Materials (major publications and teaching/learning materials)

<i>tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:</i>	[tick]	[no.]
Books		
Books (edited)	✓	1
Books (chapters)	✓	5
Monographs		
Research Reports	✓	1
Journal Articles (refereed)	✓	1
Conference Proceedings & Occasional Papers		
Teaching/Learning Materials		
Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)		
Multimedia Materials (Video)		
Multimedia Materials (Other)		

Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

Professor McInnes:

- 'Conflict, HIV and AIDS: a new dynamic in warfare?', *Global Change, Peace and Security* 21/1 (February 2009), pp.99-114. Twentieth anniversary special issue.
- 'Health and security' in Paul Williams ed, *Security Studies* (Routledge, 2008), pp.274-288.
- (with Simon Rushton) 'Medical diplomacy and health aid: the use of medical initiatives in conflict and peacebuilding', paper for World Health Organization expert group meeting on Health Diplomacy,

Bellagio, 2-5 June 2009, available at [http://ezcollab.who.int/Bellagio\\_Global\\_Health\\_Diplomacy/](http://ezcollab.who.int/Bellagio_Global_Health_Diplomacy/)

- 'National security and global health governance', in Adrian Kay and Owain Williams eds., *Global Health Governance: Crisis, Institutions and Political Economy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), pp.42-59.

Dr Rushton:

- 'Global Governance Capacities in Health: WHO and Infectious Disease' in Adrian Kay & Owain Williams (eds.), *The Crisis of Global Health Governance: Crisis, Institutions and Political Economy* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).
- (with Alan Ingram and David McCoy), 'Health and Security' in *Global Health Watch 2* (London: Zed Books, 2008).
- 'A History of Peace through Health' in Neil Arya & Joanna Santa-Barbara (eds.), *Peace through Health: How Health Professionals Can Work for a Less Violent World* (Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2008).

Dr Williams:

- Owain Williams with Adrian Kay (eds.), *The Crisis of Global Health Governance: Crisis, Institutions and Political Economy* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

### e) Other

*(any other activities to report)*

## 3. Available Resources

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

### a) Human Resources

The award of the ERC grant funded 60% of the Chairholder's time for research purposes, and allowed the Chair to employ to employ a part time administrator (Dr Rachel Owen) and two Research Fellows (Dr Simon Rushton and Dr Owain Williams). Dr Rushton's work is focused on HIV, Dr Williams' on access to medicines especially anti-retroviral treatments for HIV. All started on 1 January 2009. Prior to that, Dr Williams acted as a part time programme officer and research assistant for the Chair.

During the reporting period the University provided the Chairholder with a fixed term post-doctoral part time research assistant for work on HIV and conflict (Dr Marie Woodling).

### b) Other Resources

*tick sources of financial contribution*

Host Institution	[tick]
Partner Institution	✓
Government Body	
Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)	✓
UNESCO	
Other UN Agency	
IGO	
NGO	
Industry	
Other Private	

*Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.*

The host University provides individual office space for staff associated with the Chair.

In addition the host university funded Dr Williams at 0.5FTE (c.£8k from 1 August 08 until 1 January 2009) and Dr Woodling at 0.5 FTE 1 June - 30 September (£4K).

The Department provides staff with a £900 research allowance per annum on a pro rata basis and office support (photocopying, telephone, office supplies etc).

The ERC grant pays 0.6FTE for the Chairholder, 1.0 FTE for both Research Fellows and 0.25 for the administrator. With travel and other costs plus overheads, the amount provided for the first ERC reporting period (1 Jan 09- 30 June 2010) is €430K.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, via Johns Hopkins University, provided \$10,000 to support work on health initiatives in conflict and post-conflict settings.

#### **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)**

The next four years will be dominated by work on the ERC grant. The significance of this for the Chair should not be underestimated. It offers medium term financial security and significant capacity building both in Aberystwyth and in London. Most important however is the research it will generate on HIV, contrasting the global governance of HIV and AIDS with three other health issues, and the security narrative with three others. We have successfully completed the project mobilisation phase and will by the end of August have completed the literature review phase. Field work will commence later this year with a series of interviews. Throughout the period of the award, the Chair will publish its findings and engage more widely with the community of scholars, health professionals and policy makers, as well as the general public where appropriate.

In addition the Chairholder will continue his work on the relationship between HIV and conflict. A major article on this has already been published and another accepted for publication. The next phase will be to examine a wider range of case studies in sub-Saharan Africa. He will also continue his work on assessing the impact of the UN Security Council's intervention on HIV and AIDS. This intervention is widely seen as instrumental in developing the idea of HIV as a security issue, and it seems appropriate now, a decade on from its first intervention, to assess what this achieved. The editor of *International Affairs*, the journal of Chatham House, has expressed a strong interest in this work.

We have developed strong links with a number of institutions globally, and will continue with this. The biggest single problem however has been in securing the finance to develop links with key institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. The problem is in large part one of the multi-disciplinary nature of the Chair's research. Grant awarding bodies in the medical sciences are hesitant because of the social science nature of this research, while social science research and funding is more heavily oriented towards development studies rather than the interface between international relations and public health (for example the recently announced joint ESRC/DfID programme). The Leverhulme Trust application was typical in this respect – the decision on our application was delayed because of their inability to find suitable referees and was heavily influenced by a wariness over the novelty of combining the two disciplines of International Relations and Public Health. We will be examining alternative avenues to fund these activities.

After our experiences with Welsh Assembly Government, we have decided to institute an annual public lecture in Aberystwyth to mark world AIDS Day. Stefan Elbe, one of the leading researchers on HIV, AIDS and Security globally, has agreed to deliver this year's lecture. We hope that the lecture will be podcast on our website.