

# Activism, Development and Violence: Global Systems, Local Encounters



Dr Linda Tabar

Professor Anna Stavrianakis

3<sup>rd</sup> year option, Spring Term 22/23

Image credit: Ahmed Jahaf, @a7medja7af



# Meet your tutors

- My name is Anna Stavrianakis; you can contact me on [A.Stavrianakis@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:A.Stavrianakis@sussex.ac.uk)
- I research the international arms trade, UK arms export policy and international arms control as vectors of security, insecurity and militarism. I've been working on these topics since 2003.
- I work a lot with NGOs, campaigners, journalists and MPs – I will bring that experience into the classroom.



# Meet your tutors



- ▶ My name is Linda Tabar; you can contact me on [L.Tabar@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:L.Tabar@sussex.ac.uk)
- ▶ My research focuses on settler colonialism, dispossession, racialized and gendered violence, and their intersections with development and humanitarianism. I also explore feminist and anti-colonial struggles and their connections to transnational solidarity.
- ▶ I have extensive experiences with development actors, grassroots movements and popular organizations in Palestine. I am excited to share these experiences and insights with you.




# About the module

- Our goal: to rethink development via a focus on global systems of violence
- Emphasis on decolonial, Indigenous, feminist, critical political economy, racial capitalist and activist perspectives
- Community-based learning: we will visit local sites to help us understand global systems of violence e.g. the EDO/Harris arms factory, Cowley Club, Royal Pavilion
- Places and issues: from Palestine to Yemen, across issues of war, policing and community development
- We will encourage you to reflect on what you associate with 'development' and how you/we might rethink it



# Indicative schedule




## *Part One: Groundings*

Rethinking development: between the bureaucratic and the political

Reform versus radical transformation

“Development beyond improvement”: solidarity, unsettling hegemony




## *Part Two: Encounters*

Humanitarianism/war/Yemen/Palestine + site visit: EDO factory and/or Cowley Club

Colonialism/reparations/WWI + site visit: Royal Pavilion

Abolition/policing/alternative development + site/speaker visit: Movement for Black Lives Brighton



## *Part Three: Reflections*

Consolidating community encounters through reflections

Essay planning/preparation



# Sample site: EDO/MBM Harris factory

Palestine



Iraq



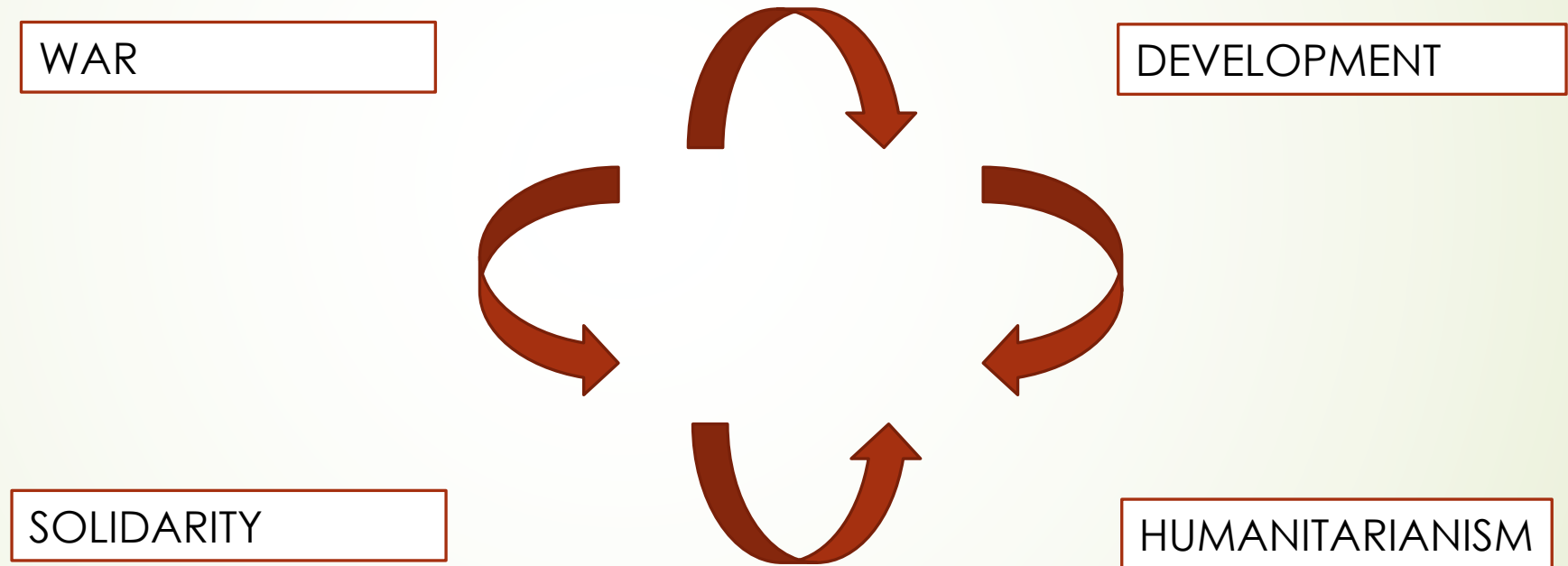
Yemen



Kurds



# From the 'will to improve' to circuits of humanitarianism and war





# Seminar format



- Weekly 3-hour seminar
- Combination of small group and individual work, class discussions, some lecture material
- We will use campaign materials, policy documents, NGO reports, journalism, videos as well as scholarly literature
- Empirical analysis of specific cases combined with theoretical and conceptual analysis of the meaning and significance of global systems of violence and our local encounters with them for global 'development'





# Assessment



- 1500-word portfolio, due in week 10, worth 30% of your grade

Reflection on conceptual themes of the module through site encounters

- 3500-word essay, due in the Assessment Block, worth 70% of your grade

Either standard research question or collaborative knowledge production with community-based actors



# Indicative readings

- Cowen, Deb (2014) *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade*
- Rutazibwa, Olivia (2018) "On babies and bathwater: Decolonizing International Development Studies"
- Khalili, Laleh (2020) *Sinews of Trade and War. Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula*
- Ziadah, Rafeef (2019) "Circulating Power: Humanitarian Logistics, Militarism and the United Arab Emirates"
- RAZACK(2007) "Stealing the Pain of Others: Reflections on Canadian Humanitarian Responses"