

CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT

Skills Summary

- **Research** | Original research and analysis relating to global security and international relations.
- **Writing** | Material written to a very high standard for a variety of readerships and publications.
- **Presentations** | Lectures and briefings on a range of issues and for various audiences.
- **Projects** | All elements of project management, including managing staff and monitoring budgets.
- **Media** | Interviews (radio, television and print), press releases and media campaigns.
- **Publications** | Copyediting, proofreading and production management for all types of publications.
- **Facilitation** | Planning, chairing and rapporteuring of workshops, consultations and conferences.

Employment

June 2001 – date

Executive Director – Open Briefing

Founder and Executive Director of a new peace and security think tank. Open Briefing is the world's first civil society intelligence agency; an accessible platform for insight and analysis on key defence, security and foreign policy issues. Responsible for all aspects of establishing and running the organisation, including management, finance, funding and governance, as well as researching and writing assessments and briefings.

July 2009 – date

Freelance Writer and Consultant

Contracted as a freelance researcher, writer, editor or speaker for a range of government, corporate and civil society clients, from the British Ministry of Defence and Australian Federal Police to Greenpeace International. Example commissions include rewriting and copyediting a report on climate risk management for E3G; writing articles on the policing of protests, the psychology of international relations, and the security implications of climate change for Jane's Information Group; and giving a number of lectures and workshops on global security issues to members of the armed forces for the University of Bradford and Ministry of Defence. Other clients include TalkWorks, the NGO Peace and Security Liaison Group, Oxford Research Group and El Periódico.

September 2008 – June 2009

Deputy Director and Sustainable Security Programme Director – Oxford Research Group

A demanding dual role in one of Europe's leading foreign affairs and international security think tanks. Key responsibilities in the Deputy Director role included taking a lead in the management and strategic development of the organisation (as Chair of the Business Development Committee) and acting as a link between the staff body and the Programme Management Group and the Board of Trustees. Also responsible for managing the organisation's intern programme – including advertising for, interviewing, inducting and supervising all interns. The Programme Director role included continued responsibility for leading the organisation's Moving Towards Sustainable Security programme and the other tasks outlined below.

September 2006 – August 2008

Programme Coordinator and Researcher – Oxford Research Group

This senior role focused on directing ORG's sustainable security programme. This included developing and managing an integrated programme of work over seven countries and producing funding proposals and monitoring project budgets. Also undertook research and analysis of key security and foreign policy issues and produced in-depth reports, briefing papers and articles. In addition, responsible for ethical and environmental oversight; playing a key role in the development of the organisation programme of work as a member of the Programme Management Group; and managing the intern programme, office staff and external contractors.

April 2004 – August 2006

Research Officer – Oxford Research Group

After an initial period as an intern (October 2003 – March 2004), promoted and given responsibility for developing the new global security programme. This included preparing project proposals, managing the website and producing the monthly newsletter. Also responsible for publication strategy – including proofreading, editing and managing the design and printing of all publications – and writing associated press releases.

October 2003 – January 2004

Research and Campaigns Assistant – Philippine Indigenous Peoples Links

Part-time internship with this indigenous peoples' rights organisation. The role focussed on research, campaigns and communication. Responsible for researching abuse of indigenous peoples in the Philippines and preparing in-depth reports on mining companies, as well as writing a Corporate Research Guide for campaigners. Also responsible for the preparation and distribution of urgent action bulletins and press clippings to partner NGOs.

September 2002 – March 2003

Fundraising Coordinator and Regional Training Coordinator – Support Aid Solutions

Responsible for the recruitment, training, coordination and supervision of all fundraising teams across Oxfordshire, to ensure that monthly fundraising targets were met. Working largely from home, without supervision, this role required good communication skills and excellent teamwork. In December 2002, given the additional role of Regional Training Coordinator with responsibility for training all new fundraisers in the south/southwest region.

September 1999 – August 2002

Company Director – Ridgefellows Outdoor Training Ltd.

Co-established and operated an ethical expedition, survival training and teambuilding company. Responsible for the development, organisation and implementation of all UK-based training courses and expeditions to Central and South America. Other duties included working closely with university societies to promote expeditions. Included leading a three-month expedition to the Ecuadorian Amazon, living and working with the Huaorani.

Education

September 2000 – September 2001

M.Litt Social Anthropology & Amerindian Studies (pass with distinction) – University of St Andrews

Awarded a distinction for the dissertation, *The Authentic Indian: Rethinking Colonialism, Indigenous Identity and Social Change in Contemporary Amazonia*.

September 1996 – August 1999

BSc. (Hons.) Psychology (2:1 with honours) – Royal Holloway, University of London

Final year included a dissertation and research project. Received the Laurels Award in June 1999 for services to the Students' Union as Expedition Leader of the university's Yasuni National Park Expedition.

Training Courses

- **Business Start-up Programme** | Outset Cornwall (April-June 2011).
- **APM Introductory Certificate in Project Management** | The Projects Company (July 2008).
- **Presentation Skills: Performing with Presence** | Maynard Leigh Associates (February 2008).
- **Introduction to Arabic** | Arabiyya Ltd. (January – March 2008).
- **Basic Media Training** | ngo.media (September 2007).
- **JRCT Peace Leadership Programme** | Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (August 2007).
- **Terrorism: Causes, Trends and Responses** | University of Bradford / MoD (January 2006).

Affiliations

- Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Social and International Studies (Department of Peace Studies) at the **University of Bradford**.
- Honorary Sustainable Security Consultant to **Oxford Research Group** and founder and Associate Editor of **SustainableSecurity.org**.
- Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre for Governance and International Affairs at the **University of Bristol** (2008).
- Member of the **Futures Analysts' Network**, the **World Security Network** and the **Peace and Collaborative Development Network**; associate member of the **Asset Protection Network**; and recent member of the **British International Studies Association** and the **Foreign Affairs & Global Risks Network**.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Abbott, C. (2010). **21 speeches that shaped our world: the people and ideas that changed the way we think.** London: Rider.

Portuguese edition: Bertrand Editora (forthcoming); Russian edition: Astrel (forthcoming); Japanese edition: Eiji Press (2011); Korean edition: Eiji 21 (2011).

Abbott, C. Rogers, P. and Sloboda, J. (2007). **Beyond terror: the truth about the real threats to our world.** London: Rider.

Catalan edition: Icaria editorial (forthcoming); Spanish edition: Los Libros del Lince (2008); German edition: Edition Nautilus (2008); Dutch edition: A.W. Bruna (2007); Portuguese edition: Editorial Presença (2007).

Reports and Briefing Papers

Abbott, C. (2011). **As the Dust Settles: Avoiding the Mistakes of Oslo and Utøya in Future Media Coverage of Suspected Terrorist Attacks.** London: Open Briefing.

Graham-Brown, S. and Abbott, C., eds. (2009). **Securing peace. Preventing conflict and building peace: the UK's role in a changing world.** London: NGO Peace and Security Liaison Group.

Abbott, C. and Phipps, T. (2009). *Beyond dependence and legacy: sustainable security in Sub-Saharan Africa.* London/Pretoria: Oxford Research Group and Institute for Security Studies.

Abbott, C. and Marsden, S. (2009). **From within and without: sustainable security in the Middle East and North Africa.** London/Alexandria: Oxford Research Group and Institute for Peace Studies.

Arabic edition: Institute for Peace Studies (2009).

Abbott, C. and Marsden, S. (2008). **Tigers and dragons: sustainable security in Asia and Australasia.** London/Singapore: Oxford Research Group and Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

Abbott, C. (2008). **An uncertain future: law enforcement, national security and climate change.** London: Oxford Research Group.

Spanish edition: Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (2008).

Abbott, C. (2007). **Mission accomplished? A way forward for the UK in Iraq.** London: Oxford Research Group.

Abbott, C. Rogers, P. and Sloboda, J. (2006). **Global responses to global threats: sustainable security for the 21st century.** Oxford: Oxford Research Group.

Thai edition: Kobfai Publishing Project (2008); Spanish edition: Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (2006).

Abbott, C. (2005). **Rights and responsibilities: resolving the dilemma of humanitarian intervention.** Oxford: Oxford Research Group.

Sloboda, J. Kemp, J. and Abbott, C. (2004). **Putting people first: the way forward for the UK armed services.** Oxford: Oxford Research Group.

Articles

Abbott, C. **Viewed through an *ism*.** *New Internationalist*, July/August 2011.

Abbott, C. **Boiling point.** *Jane's Police Review*, 29 April 2011.

Abbott, C. **Resilient communities are the ones that will last.** *The Cornishman*, 28 April 2011.

Abbott, C. and Gilmour, A. **Mind games: avoiding groupthink in international relations.** *Jane's Intelligence Review*, November 2010.

Abbott, C. **Nuclear cat and mouse.** *Global Dashboard*, 29 September 2009.

Abbott, C. **Changing climate.** *Jane's Police Review*, 10 July 2009.

Abbott, C. **Trapped and beaten by police at climate camp.** *openDemocracy*, 9 April 2009.

Abbott, C. and Marsden, S. **Toward sustainable security.** *China Dialogue*, 21 January 2009.

Abbott, C. **How the UK will weather climate change.** *Jane's Intelligence Digest*, 5 December 2008.

Abbott, C. Paskal, C. and Phipps, T. (2008). **A climate of change for emergency services.** *Crisis Response Journal*, 5 (1), 30-32.

Abbott, C. **A storm brewing.** *Jane's Police Review*, 18 July 2008.

Abbott, C. **Un nuevo concepto de la seguridad.** *El Periódico*, 10 June 2008.

Abbott, C. **Military-based policies have failed in Iraq.** *Open House*, 28 March 2008.

Abbott, C. **A new security paradigm.** *Cosmopolis*, January 2008.

Abbott, C. **How to withdraw from Iraq.** *New Internationalist*, December 2007.

Abbott, C. **Beyond terrorism: towards sustainable security.** *openDemocracy*, 17 April 2007.

Abbott, C. **Sustainable security.** *New Internationalist*, August 2006.

Abbott, C. **Climate change: the real threat to security.** *China Dialogue*, 23 June 2006.

Abbott, C. (2005). **Rights and responsibilities: the dilemma of humanitarian intervention.** *Global Dialogue*, 7 (1), 1-15.

Sloboda, J. and Abbott, C. **The 'Blair doctrine' and after.** *openDemocracy*, 22 April 2004.

Letters

Abbott, C. **Regaining trust.** *Jane's Police Review*, 24 December 2010.

Abbott, C. **Fair justice system?** *Bradford Telegraph & Argus*, 21 July 2010.

Abbott, C. **Tony Blair's deadly legacy of toxic waste.** *The Independent*, 20 May 2006.

Abbott, C. **Considering nuclear power.** *International Herald Tribune*, 30 March 2005.