

Department of Politics  
and International  
Studies (POLIS)



Annual Report  
2014/2015





# Contents

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- 3 Head of Department's Review of the Year
- 4 Reaching out beyond the department
- 5 Undergraduate Report
- 6 Graduate Report
- 7 Graduate Report - PhDs
- 8 CamPo
- 9 Lectures, Visitors and Events
- 10 Centres in POLIS
- 11 Research



# Head of Department's Review of the Year

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2014-15 was a year of continued growth and wide-ranging activity for the Department. Most significantly we welcomed the Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies (CCGS) as a new member of the Department's group of 'orbital' teaching and research centres. This is a very exciting addition to POLIS with great potential for developing interdisciplinary and collaborative work across the Department and the wider University. We are delighted to have Dr. Jude Browne, Director of the Centre, and Dr. Lauren Wilcox, lecturer in Gender Studies, join us.

We also welcomed three new university lecturers to Department: Dr. Graham Denyer Willis, who is a joint appointment between the Centre for Development Studies and the Centre for Latin American Studies; Dr. Chris Brooke, who works on intellectual history and political theory; and Dr. Iza Hussin, who works on Asian politics with a particular focus on law and Islam. These last two appointments were made jointly with colleges (Homerton and Pembroke respectively), with generous support from Trinity College and the Noah Foundation. We hugely value these relationships, which are a model for departmental/collegiate collaboration.

This year we were very sorry to see the departure of two long-serving members of staff: Professor Jonathan Haslam and Dr. Amrita Narlikar. Both have moved on to major appointments elsewhere: Professor Haslam to the George F. Kennan Chair at Princeton and Dr. Narlikar to the Directorship of German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) at Hamburg. We wish them both every success in these new endeavours. We also said goodbye after many

years of valued contribution to our graduate teaching and research on American foreign policy to Professor Stef Halper – again we wish him well for his retirement. We were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Professor Sir Chris Bayly, who as well as being one of the world's leading global historians was a driving force behind the Centre of South Asian Studies. His legacy is enduring and he will be deeply missed.

Early in 2015 we launched a major new outreach initiative with our Election podcast, which involved contributions from many distinguished guests inside and outside the University to discuss the British general election and wider political issues. This drew a lot of attention (including significant newspaper coverage and more than 120,000 downloads) and has helped to raise the profile of the Department particularly among schools from whom we are hoping to attract new applicants. We also launched a new annual lecture series on British politics, with the inaugural Antcliffe lecture being given in March by Lord Howard, the former Conservative party leader, on 'Thatcherism today'.

This series has been endowed by a generous gift from the friends of John Antcliffe in conjunction with Churchill College and we are looking forward to building up our collaboration with Churchill and the Archive Centre in the study of British politics.

POLIS continues to build its public policy programme, with the successful completion of the second year of the Masters in Public Policy and work towards the creation of a new YouGov Centre for Policy and Polling Research. There is huge potential for Cambridge to push forward exciting new projects in this area, drawing together work in the sciences and the social sciences, and POLIS hopes to be at the heart of these developments.



David Runciman  
Head of Department

October 2015



# Reaching out beyond the Department

Christmas 2014 saw the first in what we hope will become an annual Christmas collection for a local charity. During the month of December, POLIS staff, students and visitors to the Alison Richard Building collected donations in kind for Jimmy's Night Shelter. The collection, organised by Rebecca Burtenshaw, called for all sorts of practical items (sleeping bags, clothes) as well as tinned food and toiletries, and by Monday 22nd December there were over 550 separate items ready to be taken over to Jimmy's. This included 39 hats and scarves, 27 pairs of gloves, 80 cans of food and 30 packets of soup.



## Election Podcast

The ELECTION podcast saw David Runciman put a wide range of questions to philosophers, historians, scientists, and political thinkers in a weekly podcast series which ran from February until just after the General Election. Guests included Maurice Glasman on democracy, Clare Jackson on Scotland and Richard Danbury on the live television debates.



“So far, not a single podcast I've heard has ever come close to anything that the BBC produces at its best - not even, perhaps not especially, the dreaded Serial. Until now. ELECTION...is marvellous.” *The Times*

## Festival of Ideas

At the Festival of Ideas for the first time, POLIS put on three talks:

‘The Greatest Show on Earth?’ where Shane Guy spoke on the little known but outstanding Western efforts towards Russian nuclear disarmament and safety.

‘Sovereignty at Sea: Identity politics of Asian territorial disputes in East and South China Seas’ was delivered by Dr Kun-Chin Lin and Prof George Joffé, and ‘Shia Identity and the Arab Spring’ involved Michael Clark and Dr Toby Matthiesen.



In its undergraduate outreach activities the Department held its first masterclass, organised by the Admissions Office, which was very well attended. The Butler Prize for 6th-formers, run jointly with Trinity College, continued and we launched a new prize, the Gamble and Hill prize, named for the inaugural Heads of the Department. More on that in next years' report.

# Undergraduate Report

The Department taught the Part IIA in Politics and International Relations for the first time within the new Human, Social and Political Sciences Tripos. 94 students took the Politics and International Relations track, 18 the joint track with Social Anthropology and another 12 the joint track with Sociology. This is the highest number of students the Department has taught in Part IIA since the introduction of a Part II in Politics in 2000-1.



Dr Helen Thompson

The Department reintroduced an essay paper into Part IIA for which students complete two 5000-word essays over the year. In Part IIB the Department expanded its teaching on the Middle East to include material on the politics of Muslim societies. The academic performance of our students in all three years was very good. The Department was delighted to see a Politics and International Relations student – Josh Simons from St John’s college – achieve a starred first in Part IIB of the Tripos for the first time in a number of years.

The Department has continued to expand its outreach activities to schools. We were particularly pleased at the enthusiastic response from school students to the Department’s ELECTION podcast. Several hundred people attended the Masterclass taught by Professor Runciman and March and we taught the Sutton Trust summer school for the second time, offering a wide range of sessions from issues in contemporary politics to the history of political thought.

The Department has been strongly involved in the plan to introduce joint Triposes in Cambridge for the academic year 2017-18. The Department will offer a History and Politics Tripos with the History Faculty. We believe Cambridge is uniquely placed to teach History and Politics and the course will balance a strong grounding in the two component subjects with the chance to explore the ways in which historical and political understanding together illuminate the modern world.

**Dr Helen Thompson**

Director of Undergraduate Education, October 2015



Asia Lambert

## Asia Lambert - Politics and International Relations Part IIA 2014/15

The HSPS course has expanded my understanding and interest within politics in a way in which I had never imagined. Prior to coming to Cambridge my perception of politics had been solely focused on the modern world, yet now, I look at politics from a far more historical and intellectual point of view.

Having the History of Political Thought as a compulsory component was daunting at first, but reading the original texts has provided a framework through which I can consider the events of today, and has been surprisingly enjoyable! It would be wrong to say that there have not been moments where I have found the course challenging, but what you learn is that you have the ability to overcome these challenges no matter how insurmountable they may seem at first.

Supervisions are most definitely my favourite part of studying at Cambridge; after all they are what is unique to the experience. It is really satisfying to go over a topic in depth with a supervisor one-to-one and explore the areas which you have not been able to fully understand through your own reading.

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to expand my knowledge in Part IIB. There are so many areas to choose from that it can make it rather difficult, but at the same time that’s the beauty of the course. No matter what you are interested in, there will be an avenue down which you can pursue it.

# Graduate Report



## The Gates Scholars for 2014/2015 were:

Andrea Binder, PhD Politics and International Studies  
José Ciro Martínez, PhD Politics and International Studies  
Reid Lidow, MPhil Development Studies  
Stephanie Gabriela Lopez, MPhil Latin American Studies  
Jeffrey Lockhart, MPhil Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies  
Ananya Mishra, MPhil Modern South Asian Studies  
Andrew Parker, MPhil Public Policy  
Elizabeth Presser, MPhil Public Policy  
Sophie Rosenberg, PhD Politics and International Studies  
Callie Vandewiele, PhD Latin American Studies

Thanks to two generous benefactors, YouGov Plc and Sherry Coutu, the Department was able to offer bursaries to three students taking the MPhil in Public Policy: Rachel Tan, Soramon Urapeepatanapong and Meaghan Malloy

2014/2015 saw POLIS appoint a Director of Graduate Education for the first time. Dr Tomas Larsson has been tasked with bringing together the seven MPhils offered by POLIS to ensure students receive the best possible experience during their time in Cambridge.



Dr Thomas Larsson

## MPhil in Public Policy: Work placements

A key element of the Cambridge MPP is the work placement that students undertake within governments, NGOs, or multilaterals, in fact in any organisation with a policy responsibility or influence. This year our placements have been incredibly strong and we are so very grateful to all of the organisations involved who are willing to take our students on and make them part of their teams for the 14 weeks of the placement.

The placements are structured in 2 parts – 4 weeks onsite with the organisation and 10 weeks back in Cambridge to complete the research and writing of a 5,000 policy paper. This serves as the students final paper for the MPP and as a product for the organisation to use. In 2014/2015 the placements included:

- What should government policy be towards clusters, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
- Social impact bond feasibility studies, Cabinet Office
- Addressing the Global Burden of Dementia: Lessons from National Dementia Strategies, World Health Organisation
- Rethinking Skills & Productivity, HM Treasury
- Behavioural insights and social enterprise, Acumen
- The changing landscape of humanitarian assistance, UN World Food Programme
- The Future of Hydropower on the Mekong River, International Energy Authority

## The MPhil Directors in 2014/2015 were:

MPhil International Relations and Politics  
Dr Pieter van Houten

MPhil African Studies  
Professor Harri Englund

MPhil Development Studies  
Dr Maha Abdelrahman

MPhil Latin American Studies  
Dr Joanna Page

MPhil Multidisciplinary Gender Studies  
Dr Jude Browne

MPhil Modern South Asian Studies  
Professor Joya Chatterji

MPhil Public Policy  
Professor David Howarth

MSt International Relations  
Dr Ayse Zarakol  
Dr Mike Sewell

# Graduate Report - PhDs

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The Department's PhD programmes continued strongly during 2014/2015. We were pleased to be able to send PhD in Development Studies student Noura Wahby to the first Global Cities 2015 conference. This was hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Financial Times between the 27th and 29th May 2015 in Chicago. Noura wrote about her experiences for Cambridge Review of International Affairs (CRIA) blog, where she considered 'The Race to The Global City-Who Gets Left Behind?'

## PhDs awarded in 2014/2015:

Mr David Gioe:	The Anglo-American Special Intelligence Relationship: Wartime Causes and Cold War Consequences, 1940-63
Mrs Maha Kamel:	International Monetary and Financial Negotiations in Times of Crises: The G20 Leaders' Summits (2008-2011)
Mr Vsevolod Samokhvalov:	Russian-European Relations in the Balkans and the Black Sea Region
Mr Pongsiri Vorapongse:	The Politics of Monetary Policy Reform in post-1997 Thailand
Mr Taleh Ziyadov:	Toward an Open Access Order – The Role of Resource Dependence
Mr Jonathan Cook:	Senator Henry H Jackson and the Cold War c 1953-83
Ms Nicole Janz:	The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on Human Rights and Labor Standards: An Industry Sector Approach
Miss Nivedita Manchanda:	The Politics of Representation: Imagining Afghanistan since 2001
Dr Jamie Trinidad:	Self-Determination in Disputed Colonial Territories
Miss Weeda Mehran:	The Political Economy of Warlord's Democracy in Afghanistan
Mr Mike Saenko:	Building Hegemony: The Evolution of Power and Violence in Morocco
Mr Luke Fletcher:	The Grand Area: The Conception, Design and Construction of the American Global Economic Order, 1939-1960
Mr Todd Nichols:	The Iraq War and the Politicization of the U.S. Military
Mr Joe Hatfield:	Virtue, Purpose, and War: Secular Moral Foundations for Reasoning about Warfare
Mr Judson Birdsall:	A Great Leap Faithward: Barack Obama, the Cairo Speech, and the Reshaping of American Religious Diplomacy
Miss Banu Turnaoglu:	The Formation of Turkish Republicanism (1299-1923)
Mr Umberto Marengo:	The European Union in the International Energy Regime and Relations with the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 1981-2013
Mr Thomas Maguire:	British and American Intelligence and Anti Communist Propaganda in Early Cold War Southeast Asia, 1948-1961
Mr Peter Dixon:	Barriers to Cooperation in Post-Cold War Conflict Interventions
Mr Kenji Takamiya:	Recently Acceded Members of the World Trade Organization: Membership, the Doha Development Agenda, and Dispute Settlement

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## In the Centre of Development Studies:

Mr Nicholas Duncan	A situational analysis of the role of identity and interdependence on ethics and norms of cooperative behaviour within a highly successful Sub-Saharan African organisation
Ms Ying Miao	Social Identity, Attitude and Behaviour of the Chinese Middle Class
Ms Invake Mamic	What role does the founding vision play in determining corporate longevity?
Mr Spencer Thompson	Bringing Society Back into the Theory of the Firm: the Adaptation of the Mondragon Model in Valencia and Beyond
Mr Tayyab Safdar	Agro-Industrial Value Chains in Developing Countries in the era of Globalisation – The case of Sugarcane in Punjab, Pakistan
Ms Yan Zhang	Governing commons in China – evidences from Lancang River
Mr Todd Tucker	Institutions and Development Ideologies in Investment Treaty Arbitration



## In the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies:

Ms Halliki Voolma

Domestic Violence in the context of Human Rights: Women with insecure immigration status exposed to domestic violence in England and Sweden – a comparative study.

## In the Centre of Latin American Studies:

Ms Ramona Braun

Laparoscopy as a neo-eugenic practice in gynaecology, 1940s-60s

Ms Cherilyn Elston

Modernity's Rebel Daughters: Feminism, Writing and Conflict in Contemporary Colombia

Mr Niall Geraghty

Kafka and his Progeny: Toward an Immanent Critique of Capitalism and Political Violence in the work of César Aira, Marcelo Cohen and Ricardo Piglia

Mr Geoffrey Maguire

Political Postmemory: Childhood, Memory and Politics in Argentina's Post-Dictatorship Generation (2003-2013)

Ms Chandra Morrison

Saturated Cities: Graffiti Art in São Paulo and Santiago de Chile

Ms Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra

Touched Bodies: Corporeal Ethics in Latin American Art at the Onset of the Media Age

Ms Elsa M. Treviño

Belonging Elsewhere: Fictional Space and New Approaches to Identity in Mexican Narrative at the Turn of the Millennium

Mr Joseph Whitfield

Punitive Cultures of Latin America: Power, Resistance and the State in Representations of the Prison

## The programme directors were:

PhD Politics and International Studies

Dr Duncan Bell

PhD Development Studies

Dr Maha Abdelrahman & Dr Shailaja Fennell

PhD Latin American Studies

Dr Joanna Page

PhD Multidisciplinary Gender Studies

Dr Jude Browne



Thomas Maguire

### Lisa Smirl Prize for Best PhD 2014-15

British and American intelligence and anti-communist propaganda in early Cold War Southeast Asia, 1948-1961

“...this thesis is outstanding. It is a credit to the candidate, the Faculty and the University. I would like to say that the quality and the breadth of the research that underpins it is most impressive...”

# CamPo

The Department and Sciences Po, Paris, set up an academic exchange programme in 2014/15. This scheme will continue in 2015-2016 and applications are now open. PhD students whose research would benefit from spending a period of time in the other institution are encouraged to apply for a two month visit.

“ Spending time at Sciences Po has been a great occasion for me. The research centre is extremely welcoming and organises weekly seminars that are not only very interesting, but also different from what we are used to in Cambridge. Visiting students are encouraged to present their work, which is normally discussed by a member of the faculty. Needless to say, this is a marvellous opportunity to receive valuable feedback!! The PhD office is beautiful and well equipped, and helps in creating a good sense of community. Having a tutor here is also extremely good as it gives the opportunity to have another academic getting in touch and discussing my research. And all this, in the marvellous Paris! ”

Lucia Rubinelli, 2015 CAMPO visitor





# Lectures, Visitors and Events

## The Antcliffe Lecture.

The inaugural Antcliffe Lecture took place in March 2015. This annual lecture was set up following a donation in the name of John Antcliffe, who studied History at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, before going on to become a respected public relations professional. John Antcliffe passed away in March 2010 and had a keen interest in British Politics, the theme of this

annual event. The Lecture was given by Lord Michael Howard of Lympne on the subject of “Thatcherism Today”. During 2014/2015 we undertook to film a number of our key events – they can be found on our streaming media website at <http://sms.cam.ac.uk/collection/1918925>

## Audrey Richards Annual Lecture in African Studies

Professor James Ferguson

Give a Man a Fish: From Patriarchal Productionism to the Politics of Distribution in Southern Africa (and Beyond)

## Alcuin Lecture

Neal Ascherson, Scottish historian and journalist

‘Our infinite Scotland small?’ Choosing worlds to join.

## Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship Lecture 2014

Professor Jacqueline Rose

Feminism and the Abomination of Violence

## Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship Lecture 2015

Professor Jack Halberstam

A New Kind of Wildness - the Rite of Spring and Other Queer Journeys into the Wild.

## Hinsley Lecture

Professor Timothy Garton Ash

“International Relations”: The Struggle for Power Over the Internet in a Post-American World

## Kingsley Martin Memorial Lecture

Professor Mrinalini Sinha

The political in question: abolitionism in India’s twentieth century

## Simón Bolívar Chair in Latin American Studies 2014/2015

Professor Diamela Eltit

## Professor David Runciman’s Inaugural Lecture



David Runciman gave his Inaugural Lecture on 24th February 2015.

David Runciman

‘Political Theory and Real Politics in the Age of the Internet’ explored the varieties of realism in political theory, and asked what it might mean to have a realistic theory of politics in the age of the internet.

<http://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/1918927>

## Some of our 2014/2015 visitors



Prof Diamela Eltit



Prof Jack Halberstam



Prof Jacqueline Rose



Prof Mallory Factor



Lord Howard



Neal Ascherson

# Centres in POLIS

2014/2015 saw the expansion of POLIS as the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies (UCCGS) moved into the Department. Led by Dr Jude Browne, The Jessica and Peter Frankopan Director of the Centre, along with Dr Lauren Wilcox, the Deputy Director, UCCGS brought a new dynamism and fresh impetus to the Alison Richard Building.



Dr Jude Browne



Dr Lauren Wilcox

The Centre of South Asian Studies and the Centre of Latin American Studies saw changes in their directorships, with Professor Joya Chatterji and Dr Joanna Page taking up their respective roles. There was also sadness in April 2015, when the former director of South Asian Studies, Professor Sir Christopher Bayly, died suddenly whilst overseas.

## Other Directors of the Centres in 2014/2015

Centre of Development Studies  
Centre of African Studies

Professor Peter Nolan  
Professor Harri Englund



Prof Joya Chatterji



Dr Joanna Page



Prof Harri Englund



Prof Peter Nolan

## 50 years of African Studies in Cambridge

The Centre of African Studies has been Cambridge's hub for humanities and social science research in Africa since the mid-1960s and celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2015.



## Research Centres

Despite staff changes the Centre for Rising Powers had a successful year, with grant funding being awarded for its work on the South China Sea.

### The Research Centre Directors for 2014/2015 were:

Centre for Governance and Human Rights  
Centre for Rising Powers  
Centre of International Studies  
European Centre @ POLIS

Dr Sharath Srinivasan  
Dr Kun Chin Lin  
Professor Brendan Simms  
Dr Julie Smith

Prof Simms, in addition to leading the CIS, also started the Forum on Geopolitics and Grand Strategy, a multi-stranded research centre aimed at deepening the study of grand strategy and statecraft at the University of Cambridge, offer innovative opportunities for collaboration with practitioners and deliver impactful engagement with the wider world. The Department is currently working hard with partners to fund this Centre and its planned lectureships, studentships and events programmes.



Prof Brendan Simms



# Research

The Department's community of Postdoctoral researchers continued to grow. New Junior Research Fellows included Dr Or Rosenboim (Queens'), Dr Paul Sagar (King's) and Dr Waseem Yaqoob, Randall Dillard Research Fellow at Pembroke.

Dr Helen Thompson and Dr Pieter van Houten were successful in securing a 3-year project from the Philomathia Social Sciences Research Programme.



Promoting Human Values  
and Science through Education  
and Research

'The consequences of the politics of austerity in the European Union' focuses on fiscal austerity, the fiscal rules and fiscal policies devised to deal with budget deficits and national debt.

This project aims to further our understanding of the politics of austerity by addressing the following questions: How have EU member states exactly implemented austerity programs? What can explain differences in the nature and size of these programs? What are some of the main social consequences of these programs, and why do these differ across states? How do citizens perceive and evaluate the austerity programs and their consequences? Dr Juan Munoz Portillo joined POLIS in October 2014 as a Research Associate to work on the programme.

## Some of our publications this year



## Other successful grants and awards in the Department this year included:

- 'Local communities, institutions and peacebuilding in Northern Uganda' Alborada, Dr D Curtis
- 'Politics, the State and Limits of Oil Led Development in Uganda and Ghana' Alborada, Dr KC Lin
- 'Forensic Fictions: Event, Archive, and Violence after the Latin American Boom' British Academy, Dr Fonseca
- 'Art in India and its global context 1947 – 1975' British Academy, Dr Singh
- 'Hierarchies in World Politics' Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, Dr Zarakol
- 'Professing the Law: African Lawyers, Politics and the State in Zimbabwe 1950-2010' Leverhulme Trust & Isaac Newton Trust, Dr George Karekwaivanane
- 'Ecological Visions in Mayan and Quechua Literature: A Comparative Study' Leverhulme Trust & Isaac Newton Trust, Dr Charles Pigott



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Green Impact is the University's environmental accreditation scheme, encouraging teams across the collegiate University to reduce their environmental impacts. Led by our Facilities Manager, Jamie Brittain, for the second year in a row the Department and the Alison Richard Building achieved the Silver Award.