

POLIS alumni

Dear alumni,

Welcome to the May edition of your POLIS alumni newsletter.



Thank you, as always, for your feedback from the previous edition. We love to hear your news so, if you would like to get in touch, please [email us](#).

You can connect with POLIS via our [website](#), on [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#) or [Instagram](#). For our video content, head over to [YouTube](#).

Yours,

Andy Cuthbert,
Alumni Relations Co-ordinator



MPhil Team win Atlantic Council's Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge

In February 2019, four POLIS MPhil International Relations and Politics students (Tomass Pildegovics, Jamie MacColl, Gary Dreyer, Ainsley Katz) won the 1st place prize at the Atlantic Council's Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge. The competition featured 17 teams from around the United Kingdom and was hosted in the BT Tower in London. The first place grand prize is an all-expenses



Dr Holly Porter appointed as University Lecturer in Gender Studies

We are delighted to announce that Dr Holly Porter will be joining the Centre for Gender Studies as University Lecturer in Gender Studies from September 2019. Dr Porter is currently a Research Fellow in the Department of

paid trip to attend Black Hat USA 2019 (a cybersecurity conference) in Las Vegas in August 2019.

In the competition, teams take on the role of senior advisors to government ministers in responding to an evolving cyber attack. Over two days, the scenario evolves through three rounds with a grand finale in front of senior UK cyber security experts. The competition is multidisciplinary in nature, allowing those with a nontechnical background to test the waters of both cyber security and policymaking. The Cyber 9/12 Challenge underscores the importance of blended learning and cross-sectoral coordination that are critical to cyber security. This, in turn, emphasises the value of a diverse and innovative cyber-security workforce.

In addition to the competition, the Atlantic Council also organised networking sessions where the student team members had the opportunity to meet and learn from experts in the fields of cyber security, military, telecommunications, and journalism. Congratulations to all on behalf of the Department!

[Read more](#)

International Development at the London School of Economics and holds a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship with the Institute of Development Policy and Management (University of Antwerp) and the Conflict Research Group (Ghent University).

Dr Porter's research has focused on gender, sexualities, violence, and local notions of social healing and justice, particularly on women's experiences after rape in northern Uganda where she has lived for more than ten years. Previously, she has worked in South Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, and Palestine in the fields of access to justice, gender-based violence, transitional justice, peacebuilding and human rights.

She is the author of *After rape: violence justice and social harmony in Uganda*, published by Cambridge University Press. Her work has also been published in journals, including *Africa*, the *Women's Studies International Forum*, and the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.

[Read more](#)

Dr Cristina Peñasco and Dr Roberto Foa appointed as University Lecturers in Public Policy

Dr Cristina Peñasco

We are delighted to announce that Dr Cristina Peñasco and Dr Roberto Foa will be joining the Department of Politics and International Studies as University Lecturers in Public Policy from September 2019.

Dr Cristina Peñasco holds a PhD in Economics and an MPhil in Research in Economics and Business. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Applied Economics in the University of Alcalá (Spain) and currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge (UK). Since November 2017, she has been also a Centre Fellow at the

Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG) belonging to the Department of Land Economy of the University of Cambridge. Previously, she was a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Institute of Public Policies and Goods (IPP) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and a visiting researcher at the Energy Economics Group (EEG) of the Institute of Energy Systems and Electrical Drives at the Vienna University of Technology (TU WIEN).



Her research lines bring together multidisciplinary research in environmental economics, innovation policy and energy economics in green and energy efficiency technologies, with a focus on the policy instruments enabling the transition to low-carbon economies. She has a strong background on statistical and quantitative methods of analysis and econometric techniques that has served her to publish several articles in world-class journals such as *Technological and Economic Development of the Economy*, *Energy Policy* or *Business Strategy and the Environment* among others.

Dr Roberto Foa

Dr Roberto Foa is currently a Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Melbourne. His research examines quality of government, regimes, and comparative social indicators. He is also interested in political methodology, including comparative survey work, index construction and design, geospatial analysis, and multi-method research. He was a Peter Martin Fellow at the Financial Times, worked for the World Bank as designer of the Indices of Social Development, and while living in Washington DC, founded the Washington European Society.



Roberto Foa's academic work has been published in a wide range of Q1 journals, and cited in publications including *The Economist*, *the Financial Times*, *the New York Times*, *the Guardian* and *The Atlantic*.

2019 Antcliffe Lecture

The fifth annual John Antcliffe Lecture in British Politics took place at Trinity College on Wednesday 8 May and was very well attended. Dr Robert Saunders (Senior Lecturer in Modern British History at Queen Mary, University of London) gave a wide-ranging and entertaining lecture on 'Margaret Thatcher, 1989, and the Fall of the Berlin Wall' and took questions from the audience.



The lecture was set up in 2015 by the friends and family of John Antcliffe (1961-2010), who studied History at Corpus Christi College before going on to become a respected public relations professional. The lecture was also attended by Dr Stephen Meredith, who is this year's John Antcliffe By-Fellow at the Churchill Archives Centre where he is working on 'One Nation' Conservatism during the 1960s and 1970s.

We are grateful to the John Antcliffe Memorial Fund for supporting the lecture, to Dr Glen Rangwala for helping to organise the event at Trinity College, and to Professor Jason Sharman for hosting a dinner at King's College afterwards.

[Read more](#)

POLIS Announces New PhD Studentships

The Department of Politics and International Studies is pleased to announce five new PhD studentships. Each will fund a full-time 3-year doctoral degree in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge covering fees and maintenance at the standard Research Council rate. Four of these studentships are part of a long-term initiative to support postgraduate study in Politics and International Studies, funded by YouGov.



The award of these studentships will be merit-based, with preference to applicants from the UK/EU.

[Read more](#)

In brief

Congratulations to Pedro Mendes Loureiro

Pedro Mendes Loureiro, University Lecturer in Latin American Studies at the Centre of Latin American Studies, has won Honourable Mention for Best Dissertation from the Brazil Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

[Read more >](#)

New Edited Volume from Dr Duncan Bell

Dr Duncan Bell is pleased to announce the release of his new edited volume: *Empire, Race and Global Justice* (Cambridge UP, 2019).

[Read more >](#)

Graham Denyer Willis publishes in the American Political Science Review

Dr Graham Denyer Willis, Senior Lecturer in Development and Latin American Studies in the Department of Politics and International Studies, is published in the *American Political Science Review*:

Legitimacy in Criminal Governance: Managing a Drug Empire from Behind Bars

[Read more >](#)

Forum on Geopolitics Announces Move

The Forum on Geopolitics (<https://www.coggs.polis.cam.ac.uk/>) is pleased to announce that it will be relocating to a suite of rooms in Fitzwilliam House on Trumpington Street from July. Many alumni will remember the building from the time of the old Centre for International Studies. The Forum is an interdisciplinary space created by leading academics to consider within their historical contexts the world's most pressing current geopolitical questions.

Director Brendan Simms and Deputy Director KC Lin are working towards developing the the Forum into a fully-fledged Centre of Geopolitics and Grand Strategy (CoGGS), which will deepen the study of grand strategy and statecraft at the University of Cambridge, offer innovative opportunities for collaboration with practitioners and engage with the wider world. We are currently working to put the Centre and its planned lectureships, studentships and events programmes on a sustainable basis. We would welcome contact with alumni, and ask all those who wish to be put on our mailing list to contact our Administrator Dr Thomas Peak (tp354@cam.ac.uk).

Spotlight Interview

Seth Thomas

After a career focused on international markets and issues, MPhil in International Relations alumnus [Seth Thomas](#) is now at the Bank of England covering international policy and political risk.



[Read more](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Would you like to appear in our Spotlight feature?

If you'd like to be featured in our Spotlight feature, please **email Andy**. The Spotlight is an 800–1200 word guest article written by a former POLIS student. Your article should include information about your time at Cambridge, your work now and, if possible, the link between the two.

For inspiration, previous Spotlight features are [on our website >](#)

Latest podcast episodes

163 | Adam Tooze on US vs China May 11, 2019

An extra episode with Adam Tooze to catch up on the latest in the US/China trade wars. What's really at stake and what does Trump want? Is this about economics or security? What does it say about the future of capitalism? And where does Joe Biden fit in? With Helen Thompson.



[Listen now](#)

162 | President Bernie? May 08, 2019

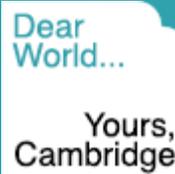
We talk about socialism in America: where it comes from, what it means, why it's so

associated with Bernie Sanders and whether it can actually reach the White House. What's the difference between democratic socialism and social democracy? How would the workers gain control of businesses like Facebook and Amazon? Who are the workers these days anyway? Plus, we ask what a Sanders vs Trump contest would actually be like. With Adom Getachew, from the University of Chicago, and Gary Gerstle.



Listen now

Our campaign for the University and Colleges of Cambridge is raising funds to attract the brightest minds, create the finest facilities and give the freedom to create more world-changing ideas. To do this, we need your help.



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