

## POLIS Alumni Newsletter - Jan/Feb 2018

Dear POLIS alumni,

Welcome to the latest edition of the POLIS alumni newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your feedback from the previous newsletter. We love to hear your news updates so, if you would like to get in touch, please contact us at [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk).

You can also connect with POLIS via our [website](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), [Instagram](#), or on [YouTube](#).

Yours,  
Andy Cuthbert,  
Co-ordinator of Alumni Relations



## POLIS welcomes first History and Politics students



In Michaelmas Term 2017 POLIS welcomed the first group of 41 students in new History and Politics Tripos. The new degree builds on Cambridge's longstanding strengths in the history of political thought, modern political history, and international relations, and encourages students to explore the evolving intellectual relationship between the two disciplines.

### **British Politics seminar series 2018**

The second annual POLIS-Robinson College seminar series in British Politics will take place on Fridays at 5pm in Robinson College (unless otherwise indicated).

This term's speakers will include the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Lamont of Lerwick; Theresa May's former chief of staff, Nick Timothy; the drafter of Article 50, Lord Kerr of Kinlochard; Jeremy Corbyn's former spokesperson, Matt Zarb-Cousin; and two senior Labour MPs, Dame Margaret Hodge and Nia Griffith.

Full details can be found [here](#)

### **POLIS MPhil Careers Day - 15 January 2018**

On Monday 15 January, we hosted our second MPhil Careers Day. Current MPhil students had a chance to learn more about how to enter the fields of Media and Journalism, Law, the Civil Service, Research and Consultancy, and the Development and Human Rights sector. Advice on undertaking further study was also given.

The department is very grateful to those alumni that participated by discussing how their studies were useful to their careers and how they got to where they are. Thank you so much to those who got involved in this event, it was greatly appreciated by the students.

If you would be interested in being involved in future such events, please contact us on [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk)

### **POLIS MPhil Student Awarded MBE**

Major Damian Flanagan, a current student on the MPhil International Relations and Politics programme was awarded an MBE in the Military Division of the Queen's New Year Honours List 2018. The award was in recognition of service during his previous appointment in the Army Headquarters where he was responsible for officers' terms of service and manpower policies.

In this post he devised and implemented an array of modernising initiatives addressing all stages of an Army officer's career: from scholarship and bursary schemes to attract officer entrants, through proposed changes to promotion rules, to adjustments in the length and structure of an officer's full career.

This period of time saw increased focus on the Army's personnel programmes, for all ranks, including the introduction of flexible working arrangements and the opening of all roles to women. Major Flanagan was instrumental in moving forward these complex and sensitive programmes designed to 'Maximise Talent', benefitting both the individual and the organisation. His was a substantial contribution to maintaining the Army's unique position in society as a fair and inclusive employer – respected, and respectful of diversity – whilst upholding its responsibility to maintain the defence and security of the nation.



## The Business of Excellence

Justin Hughes, a current POLIS student in the Master of Studies in International Relations programme is celebrating the release of his latest book in paperback. Justin is a former RAF pilot and veteran of over 250 displays with the Red Arrows, and is now the managing director of Mission Excellence, a consultancy firm that partners with organizations committed to high performance.

His book, *The Business of Excellence* offers a unique and compelling perspective on the drivers of excellence in teams and organizations, bringing together case studies from Justin's wide and varied experience.



## Award for 'Political Islam in Tunisia'

The American Library Association's *Choice* magazine has chosen 'Political Islam in Tunisia' as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles for 2017.

The study aims to uncover the secret history of Tunisia's main Islamist movement, and is the work of Anne Wolf, a Junior Research Fellow in Politics at Girton College.

As the first full history of the Ennahda movement, this book is a major contribution to the literature on Tunisia, Islamist movements, and political Islam in the Arab world.

## POLIS Student's Documentary Airs



Horizon follows the story of Richard Gray and his remarkable recovery from a life changing catastrophic stroke. The film shows - in extraordinary detail - the rarely seen journey back to recovery. Recorded by his wife Fiona Lloyd-Davies, a Master of Studies student at POLIS, 'Richard's War' shows, in uncompromising detail, the hard work of recovery.

Initially bed bound and unable to do anything, including speak the initial outlook was bleak, yet occasionally small glimmers of hope emerged. Armed always with her camera Fiona captures the moment Richard moves his fingers for the first time, and then over months she documents his struggle to relearn how to walk again.

The story also features poignant footage delivered in a series of flashbacks – in which we see and hear Richard at his professional best. He was a peacekeeper with the United Nations, immersed in the brutal war in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

We also hear from the surgeons and clinicians who were integral to Richard's remarkable recovery, from describing life-saving surgery, high-risk reconstructive surgery, to intensive rehabilitation programmes that push the former soldier to his limits. As the film starts Fiona asks "will Richard, my Richard still be there?" By the end the answer is clear...

This programme is available to watch on catch up [here](#)

## Talking Politics - Latest Podcast:

### **80 | The Fundamentals**

With stock markets swooning and financial volatility back, we talk about the deeper trends underpinning our politics and our future. Why have British governments never managed to fix the housing crisis? What does the state of the American economy mean for Trump's long-term prospects? And will a period of economic growth make our politics more stable, or are the wild times set to continue? These are the fundamentals. With Helen Thompson, Chris Brooke and Aaron Rapport.



[Read more](#)

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.



Department of Politics and International Studies

Call: +44 (0)1223 767261  
Email: [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk)

Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT, United Kingdom

We sent this message because you are subscribed to receive departmental alumni emails from the University of Cambridge.

We are committed to protecting your personal information and being transparent about what information we hold. Your data is used by us for alumni and supporter relations, and for fundraising. Please read our [full data protection statement](#).

[Update your mailing preferences](#) | [Privacy policy](#)