

## POLIS alumni

### Dear alumni

Welcome to our Easter 2015 newsletter. Thanks to all who responded to our request for updates: we have our first Spotlight feature below.

As always, please do get in contact if you have any feedback or if you wish to be featured in a future edition of the newsletter. You can email us at [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk) or tweet us at [@Dept\\_of\\_POLIS](https://twitter.com/Dept_of_POLIS).

You are receiving this e-newsletter as an alumnus/a of either CIS, Politics or POLIS. With this newsletter we aim to keep our alumni informed of developments within the Department, including events, new appointments and publications.



## POLIS gears up for Election 2015

Unsurprisingly, we at POLIS are excited about the upcoming UK General Election and are running events alongside it. Most notably, Head of Department David Runciman, along with academics Helen Thompson, Finbarr Livesey and Chris Brooke are broadcasting podcasts featuring guest speakers. So far, these have included Michael Howard, Martin Rees, and Rae Langton. Asking the questions that no one else is asking, David and team will release a podcast once a week, every week, until the new government is in place... "however long that takes".

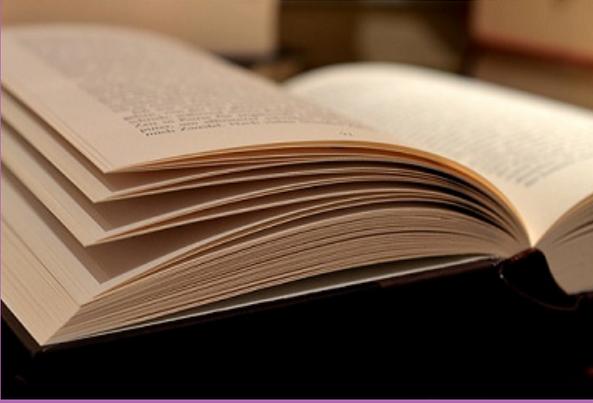
[Browse POLIS election podcasts](#)



## POLIS students in University Boat Races

POLIS was proud to have two of its students representing Cambridge in the Boat Races on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 April. William Warr (Queens') is currently studying for the MPhil in Public Policy and Evelyn Boettcher (Magdalene) is a PhD student, undertaking research on 'Building Trust and Ties Among Security Practitioners in the Asia-Pacific: Engagement Across Old and New Platforms, Engagement with Old And New Partners'.

[Read more](#)



## Forthcoming POLIS publications

POLIS lecturer **Dr Aaron Rapport** has published his first book, *Waging War, Planning Peace: US Noncombat Operations and Major Wars*. The book investigates how US Presidents and their senior advisers have managed vital noncombat activities whilst the nation is in the midst of war or preparing for war.

**Dr Graham Denyer Willis**, who joined the Department of Development Studies at the beginning of this academic year, published his first book in June 2015, entitled *The Killing Consensus: Police, Organized Crime and the Regulations of Life and Death in Brazil*.

**Justin Pearce** will have his first book, *Political Identity and Conflict in Central Angola 1975-2002*, published in June by Cambridge University Press. Justin has been working at POLIS since October 2014 as a Leverhulme Early Research Fellow.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

### Spring lunch in Cambridge

Saturday 9 May 2015

Hosted by CUSOC at Trinity Hall

### Alcuin Lecture 2015

Friday 5 June 2015

The annual lecture hosted by POLIS on the UK and Europe

### The Oxford and Cambridge Forum in Fiji

Friday 3 July to Wednesday 8 July 2015

Five days of discussion, talks and Fijian hospitality

### Bregenz Festival

Friday 7 August to Sunday 9 August 2015

Take in the Bregenz Opera Festival and enjoy a social programme for alumni

[See more Cambridge alumni events](#)



**Our first Spotlight interview: Ian Pryde**

**Degree:** MPhil International Relations

**College:** Trinity Hall 1983

**Current role:** Founder & Chairman, Eurasia Strategy & Communications, Moscow

"What can one say about Cambridge that hasn't already been said? It was all very enjoyable, as well as intellectually stimulating, and of course the city is magnificent. The course was relatively small (about 40 students) and all the staff were very friendly and accessible. I was in the first cohort that had to take exams on the MPhil course, rather than just write a thesis, but the courses I took in strategic studies, international relations theory and international law have proved invaluable ever since.

As to the future, my co-author Suzanne Stafford and I are working on a book which expands the ideas in our article *Putin's Prism: Russia's Problems Cannot Be Solved by Policy Tinkering* and places developments in a wider global context. We are also in conversation with prospective investors to establish a global television channel with in-depth coverage of politics and international relations from a new perspective."

**[Read the interview with Ian in full](#)**

---



## Centre of Geopolitics and Grand Strategy

In late 2014, Professor Brendan Simms convened a forum at POLIS on geopolitics. The core disciplinary focus of this forum was the history and politics of the state system, supported by expertise in international history, international economics, international law, constitutional design, international political economy, military history, the history of humanitarianism and human rights and the geopolitics of race and religion.

The forum was a first step towards the establishment of a Centre of Geopolitics and Grand Strategy (CoGGS) within POLIS, a new interdisciplinary centre for the study of grand strategy and statecraft at the University of Cambridge. The aim of CoGGS is to provide rigorous training in international affairs, military history, and geostrategic thinking and to develop world-class strategic thinkers and decision-makers who understand how to calculate risk and recognise opportunity within the appropriate historical and contextual perspectives. Our vision is to bring together the brightest students and the most innovative international thinkers from academia, politics and business, to study Britain's role in Europe, and Europe's role in the world, in their broadest historical and intellectual contexts. The central discipline will be the history and politics of the state system, but we will also draw from the disciplines of geography, economics, political economy, business and risk management, divinity, sociology and law to offer a truly innovative research and teaching environment, which will also provide insights to the wider world.

It is intended that CoGGS will form a key element of the Cambridge University Public Policy Programme, a new initiative set up to coordinate, support and encourage the development of innovative, integrated, cross-disciplinary and evidence-based approaches to public policy, informed by the best available research, teaching and practice. If you are interested in the Centre, please contact Dr Maeve Ryan, Development Coordinator for CoGGS at [mcr39@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr39@cam.ac.uk).

---



## ClassNotes: new on the POLIS website

Our new ClassNotes page is there for you to keep up with your former classmates. Please take a moment to **[send us your name, date of matriculation and a short description of where you are now](#)** and we'll include it on our website.

**[Visit the new ClassNotes website](#)**

### MPhil Director is tennis superstar!

Pieter Van Houten (lecturer and current director of the MPhil in International Relations and Politics) won two medals at the 2015 'Young Seniors' tennis world championships in Antalya, Turkey. Pieter won a bronze medal with the Netherlands team in the over-45s team event and a gold medal in the over-45s doubles (with Australian Chris O'Mara, pictured right) in the individual tournament.



### Gates Cambridge Alumni Association

Did you study at Cambridge under the prestigious Gates Scholarship? The Gates Cambridge Alumni Association aims to develop an international network of Gates Cambridge scholars, to promote the Gates Cambridge scholarship.



[Read more](#)

### Comic Relief Bake Sale

The POLIS administrative office held a 'Bake Off' bake sale to raise money for Comic Relief, and raised a grand total of £70.20.



### Talking to terrorists: lecture by Jonathan Powell

Tony Blair's former Chief of Staff Jonathan Powell will be visiting the department on 21 May as a guest lecturer.



[See the POLIS lecture calendar](#)

### Politics In Spires

Visit our Politics In Spires blog, a new collaborative venture between POLIS and the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Oxford.



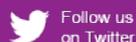
[Read more](#)

### Art @ ARB: Journeys

Paul Janssen's collection *Journeys* includes his sketches and paintings from the last 20 years. It will be exhibited in the Alison Richard Building on the West Road site until 25 June 2015.



[Read more](#)



**Tel** +44 (0)1223 767261

**Email** [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk)

**Website** [www.polis.cam.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.polis.cam.ac.uk/alumni)