



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLIS Alumni Newsletter

September 2015



## Dear alumni

Autumn has arrived once again, and with it the Michaelmas term, a new cohort of students at the University of Cambridge, and of course this newest edition of the POLIS Alumni Newsletter!

Thanks for all who responded to our request for updates; some of your contributions are featured below.

As always, we would love to hear from you, your circumstances since leaving Cambridge University and your memories of your time here. POLIS is branching ever further out into the world of social media (see feature below) so there are ever more ways in which to contact us! You can always email us at [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk) though.



POLIS welcomes

# New Academic Staff for 2015-6

The Department of Politics and International Studies is delighted to welcome three new academics to the staff for this 2015-6 academic year.



## **Dr Adam Branch**

Dr Adam Branch joins us as a University Lecturer in African Politics, and as a Fellow of Trinity Hall. He has joined us from the Makerere Institute of Social Research in Kampala, Uganda, where he was a senior research fellow. Prior to that, Dr Branch was associate professor of political science at San Diego State University. His research focuses on African politics, in particular questions of political violence, foreign intervention and popular resistance.

**[Read more](#)**



## **Dr Payam Ghalehdar**

Dr Payam Ghalehdar is appointed as a Temporary Lecturer in International Relations for 2015/6. Dr Ghalehdar joins us from the University of Duisburg-Essen where he held a teaching position. His research interests include international relations theory, foreign policy decision making, regime change and other forms of military intervention, international hierarchy and US-Iran relations.

**[Read more](#)**



## **Dr Peter Sloman**

Dr Peter Sloman is appointed as a University Lecturer in British Politics and as a fellow of Churchill College. Dr Sloman joins us from a ten-year stint at Oxford University, where he obtained his DPhil and held a junior research fellowship at New College. Dr Sloman's research interests are British economic and social policy, party politics and electoral sociology and liberal political thought and its relationship to public policy.

**[Read more](#)**

As we gain new staff, inevitably others move on. Dr Amrita Narlikar has left her position as a Reader in International Political Economy to take up a role as President of the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg. Professor Jonathan Haslam, who has worked almost continuously at the University since 1988, has been appointed George F. Kennan Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. We wish both Dr Narlikar and Professor Haslam the very best with their new roles.





# Blast from the past... is this you?

Summer vacations can be long and so the POLIS team thought it would be the perfect time for a clearout... but you never know what you might find! Tucked away amongst old reading lists and transcripts was the above picture- we think it's of some MPhil students from 1998-99 but we're not sure. Get in touch if you recognise yourself, and let us know what you're up to now.



## Dr Geoffrey Edwards receives Lifetime Achievement Award

We are thrilled to announce that the University Association for Contemporary European Studies has awarded Cambridge academic Dr Geoffrey Edwards the 'UACES Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to contemporary European Studies.

Dr Edwards is Emeritus Reader in European Studies, and teaches courses on Europe In The World, Security and Foreign Policy and the Politics of European Integration. He has also held research posts at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Chatham House among others.

The award was presented to Dr Edwards at the Annual UACES Conference in Bilbao this September.

[Read more](#)



## POLIS on Tumblr and LinkedIn

The Department of Politics and International Studies continues its foray into social media with its latest offering, the POLIS Tumblr page. We will regularly post articles written by our academics, postdocs and students.

In addition, we have launched a group on LinkedIn specifically for POLIS alumni, to help us keep up with our students. It's small at the moment but growing fast; follow the link below to join up!

[Visit the POLIS Tumblr site](#)

[Visit the LinkedIn Page for Cambridge University POLIS Alumni](#)

## Spotlight: Matthew Neuhaus

**As part of our ongoing alumni outreach, we ask one of our POLIS alumni for their memories of Cambridge, as well as an update on what they are doing now. Our alumnus for Michaelmas 2015 is Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus.**

In 1985 I first came to Cambridge to study for an MPhil in International Relations. I had recently joined the Australian Foreign Service, and this was a great opportunity to develop my skills further. I enjoyed Philip Towle's lunchtime seminars with the great and the good- and the not so good- at Queens' College, Brownlie and Greenwood's lectures on International Law, and seminars on African history. A highlight was joining the Cambridge team on an international law moot in The Hague. The friendliness of the Trinity Hall MCR, and chapel and formal dinners in its ancient courts by the Cam were very special for a young man from "the colonies".

Little did I know that my MPhil thesis on "The Commonwealth's Role in Contemporary Crises" with special reference to Rhodesia, under the supervision of Professor Anthony Low would define my life. Firstly, I married his daughter- though we didn't meet until my degree was awarded! Then I went on to be Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London from 2002 to 2008 and most recently the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe for the last four years.



[Continue reading](#)

### **Alcuin Lecture - view online**

The 2015 Alcuin Lecture, "Our Infinite Scotland small?" by prominent journalist Neal Ascherson is now available online, in both video and transcript form.

[View or read the Alcuin Lecture here](#)



### **Save The Date: POLIS Alumni Event!**

We have been putting our heads together in POLIS over the last few months to arrange an alumni event, and are in the initial stages of planning. Save the date of SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016!  
We welcome all ideas, so get in touch at the usual address!



If you haven't already, please do visit our ever growing Alumni website and submit your ClassNote. It's a quick and easy way to let the Department and old classmates know what you're up to now as well as seeing which far flung edges of the world our alumni have ended up in! Alternatively, you can email us on [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk)



### **Lisa Smirl Prize**

Congratulations from all in the Department of POLIS to Tom Maguire, who has been awarded the Lisa Smirl Prize for work towards his dissertation.



[Read more](#)

### **John Dunn Lectures**

Emeritus Professor John Dunn has been speaking internationally on Democracy, including lectures in Seoul, Amsterdam and St Andrew's. His book *Breaking Democracy's Spell* is now available in Russian and Korean.



[Read more](#)

### **Raphael LeFevre wins Bill Gates prize**

POLIS congratulates PhD student Raphael Lefevre on winning the third Bill Gates Sr. Prize for his outstanding work on Middle Eastern politics. The Prize gives Scholars the opportunity to nominate a fellow Scholar for their achievements.



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