

# Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS)



## Annual Report 2015/2016

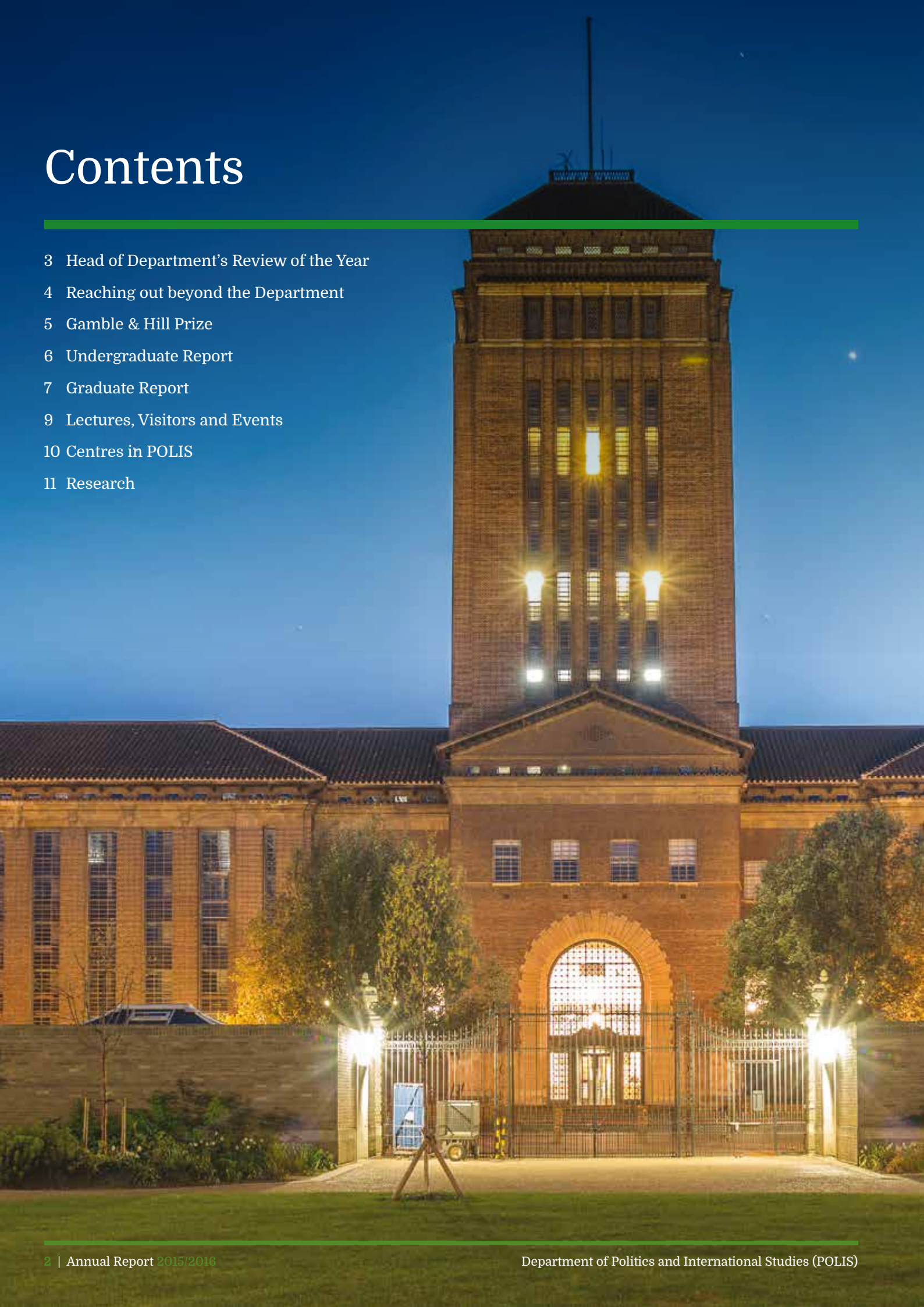




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# Head of Department's Review of the Year

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Whilst 2015-16 continued to see rising numbers of students coming to POLIS, it also marked a very special anniversary. The Centre of Latin American Studies celebrates their 50th Anniversary in 2016 and we are pleased that the long-standing interdisciplinary strengths of this Centre continue to flourish.

We welcomed two new university lecturers to Department: Dr. Adam Branch, who is a joint appointment with Trinity Hall, as a lecturer in African Politics and Dr. Peter Sloman, a joint appointment with Churchill College, who works on British politics. After two College-linked appointments in 2014-15 it is good to see the Department building up strong relationships with Colleges.

30 September 2016 marked the retirement of two Professors in the Department: Professor Christopher Hill, Sir Patrick Sheehy Professor of International Relations, and Professor Peter Nolan, Chong Hua Professor of Chinese Development. You can read more about Prof. Hill's valedictory lecture on page 8 of this report.

The second season of Talking Politics, our politics podcast, started in January 2015 covering the American primaries and a wide range of international elections. We conducted some fascinating interviews with interesting voices, including journalist James Naughtie, foreign policy analyst Anne-Marie Slaughter and

venture capitalist Bill Janeway. The conversations, from inside and outside of Cambridge, now continue each week, see [www.polis.cam.ac.uk/about-us/talking-politics](http://www.polis.cam.ac.uk/about-us/talking-politics) for further details.

Finally, in honour of our two founding Heads of Department, Prof Hill and Professor Andrew Gamble, we launched the Gamble and Hill Prize. We asked students in Years 12 and 13 to create a short video explaining what politics meant to them.

We had joint winners, Livvy McComb, King Edward VI Five Ways School and Guste Rekstyte, King Edward VI Grammar School Sixth Form, who both made powerful films which can be viewed on our website.



David Runciman  
Head of Department

November 2016





# Reaching out beyond the Department

Launched in July 2015 and named after the first two heads of the Department of Politics and International Studies (Prof Andrew Gamble and Prof Christopher Hill), the Gamble and Hill prize is our new prize for sixth form students of Politics and International Relations. The prize is awarded for the best short film submitted by a student, and the winner receives £200.

The judging panel were looking for originality, personality and personal engagement with the topic. The quality of the film was less important than the content, but both of the top entries were also of a very high quality.

The judges felt that Guste Rekstyte's entry on the war in Syria was notable for its "emotional power, technique and lack of point scoring". Livvy McComb's entry offered "a pointed critique of the first-past-the-post system...the case is very effectively made, not just on behalf of young people but of everyone."



Livvy McComb, King Edward VI Five Ways School



Guste Rekstyte, King Edward VI Grammar School Sixth Form

## ARB Green Team achieves Gold award

On 2nd June, the Alison Richard Building Green Team was presented with the NUS Green Impact Gold Award, in recognition of the work it has done to make the building and the departments working within it more environmentally sustainable. To achieve an award, teams must provide evidence of changes to policy, procedures and attitudes within the department or College. The ARB Green Team was one of only 16 teams to attain Gold. Some of the ARB achievements include installing PIR lights to save electricity, improving biodiversity by putting up a nestbox, monitoring duplex printing and encouraging greener travel with our Sports Relief bike challenge. POLIS was also recognised for a Special Award, as joint Runner-Up in the Environmental Improvement Award category for creating a new online admissions database, saving 6 000 sheets of paper each year.



Talks that took place during the Festival of Ideas included "Future World, Future Security Threats" by Ian Shields, "Claiming Rights at Sea: Sovereign and Private Negotiations from the Middle Ages to Today" which included Dr Kun-Chin Lin and "Unusual Suspects: Football Fans and Medical Revolutionaries" presented by Dr Sophie Roghburg.

## CalAid

During the year, POLIS staff organise a number of charitable activities such as the Macmillan Coffee morning and Comic Relief. During Michaelmas Term 2015, we asked for donations of clothes and practical items for CalAid, a charity which supports the refugees currently living in the refugee camps in Calais.



The collection, organised by Lydia Mizon, was sorted and volunteers from POLIS (students and staff) made weekend trips to Calais to take donated items and provide practical assistance in the refugee camps, as part of CUCRAG (Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group).

# Undergraduate Report

This is an exciting time to be an undergraduate in POLIS. Our papers and options are attracting large numbers of students, and the undergraduate student community is highly engaged. With the political events of the last year, it is no surprise that the study of politics and international relations is seen as centrally important. How can we make sense of the referendum results in favour of Brexit, and what does this mean for the European Union and for the UK? How and why did Donald Trump emerge as the Republican candidate for President of the United States, and what can we learn about the politics of representation, identity and protest? How is the refugee crisis framed, and does this challenge or reinforce notions of citizenship and state sovereignty? Why is it so difficult to resolve the Syrian crisis, and why hasn't the United Nations been able to play a larger role in resolving the conflict? Undergraduates in POLIS grappled with these questions, and many more.

The undergraduate programme has expanded, in terms of student numbers but also in terms of the number of paper options and choices available. In 2015-16, there were over 300 students taking POLIS papers, including 194 students on the Politics and International Relations track in Part II, along with 21 students in the joint track with Sociology and 30 students in the joint track with Social Anthropology. The two politics and international relations papers offered in Part I continue to inspire students and to serve as important foundations for further study. Sadly due to retirement, 2015-16 marked the final year that Professor Hill taught the first year undergraduate paper in international relations. For many years, this paper introduced students to the various

approaches and normative debates in international relations, and Prof Hill will be greatly missed.

There were several new papers introduced for students in Part II. For the first time, we offered a paper in Statistics and Methods in Politics and International Relations. There was also a new paper on 'The Idea of a European Union' as well as a new paper on 'Politics and Gender'. We were pleased to see the interest in these new papers. We are also progressing with plans to introduce a History and Politics Tripos with the History Faculty starting in 2017-18.

We are delighted that undergraduate programme is thriving and that there

is a buzz among students in the Alison Richards Building. Student societies and activities are flourishing, and students have participated actively in POLIS meetings and decisions. Our outreach activities in schools continue to be well-received.



**Devon E.A. Curtis**  
Director of Undergraduate Education,  
October 2016



Professor  
Helen Thompson

## Studying Politics at Cambridge - what is it like?

In this podcast, Professor Helen Thompson speaks to three final year students - Micha Eversley, Rebecca Verlander and Charles Bonfils-Duclos - about their experiences of Cambridge and studying politics.



# Graduate Report

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship aims to identify and select applicants who are academically outstanding and are likely to be transformative leaders for the benefit of others in all fields of endeavour.

Competition for the Scholarships is fierce. The successful candidates were selected on the basis of their intellectual ability, commitment to improving the lives of others, leadership potential and academic fit with Cambridge.



## The Gates Scholars for 2015/2016 were:

Miss Karin Bashir MPhil in International Relations and Politics program  
Ms Jocelyn Perry MPhil in International Relations and Politics program  
Mr George Saba MPhil in International Relations and Politics program  
Mr Daniel Barcia MPhil in International Relations and Politics program  
Mr Yusef Al-Jarani MPhil in Development Studies program  
Mr Manus McCaffery MPhil in Public Policy program  
Miss Aliya Khalid MPhil in Public Policy program  
Mr Chiedozie Ibekwe MPhil in Public Policy program  
Ms Lauren Power MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies program  
Miss Sophie Hermanns PhD in Politics and International Studies program  
Mr Carlos Gonzalez Sierra MPhil in Latin American Studies

In 2015-16 Rebecca Tabachnyk (nee Diamond), who took the MPhil in Public Policy, was awarded a bursary from YouGov.



## The MPhil Directors in 2015/2016 were:

MPhil International Relations and Politics	Dr Pieter van Houten
MPhil African Studies	Professor Harri Englund
MPhil Development Studies	Dr Ha-Joon Chang
MPhil Latin American Studies	Dr Joanna Page
MPhil Multidisciplinary Gender Studies	Dr Jude Browne/Dr Lauren Wilcox
MPhil Modern South Asian Studies	Professor Joya Chatterji
MPhil Public Policy	Professor David Howarth
MSt International Relations	Dr Ayse Zarako & Dr Mike Sewell



# Graduate Report - PhDs

The Department's PhD programme continued through 2015/16 and saw impeccable levels of work from the students resulting in 33 PhDs being awarded.

## Politics and International Studies:

Victoria Phan	The Place of Reconciliation in the Work of International Criminal Tribunals
Marc Ozawa	Trust and European-Russian Energy Relations: The Cases of German-Russian and British-Russian Co-operation IN Oil and Natural Gas
Anser Kazi	The Politics of Blasphemy: Religion and Public Reasoning in Pakistan
Christian Bluth	The Political Economy of National Fiscal Rule Reform in EU Countries
Caroline Ashcroft	The Grammar of Politics: Power and Violence in the Thought of Hannah Arendt
Andrew Sharpe	The Proconsul dilemma: the strategic leadership of international intervention
Alasia Nuti	Historical Structural Injustice: On the Normative Significance of the Unjust Past
Tomohito Baji	Commonwealth: Alfred Zimmern and World Citizenship
Burcu Ozcelik	Reclaiming reconciliation: pro-Kurdish rights claims and the politics of recognition in Turkey, 2002-2015
Pierre Bocquillon	Embedded Inter-governmentalism: Cooperation and Conflict in EU Energy and Climate Change Policy-Making
Renad Mansour	The Kurdistan Region's sub-state diplomatic practice
Alia Al-Kadi	Indecisive Identities: The case of the Society of Muslim Brothers in Jordan
Brian Simbirski	Technology in Mid-Twentieth Century North American Political Theory
Andreas Hirblinger	Dealing with the Trouble at the Margins: Discourses on Conflict and the Rationality of Local Government in South Sudan
Tom Barker	Real Work: The contested nature and value of work
Ryan Rafaty	A Kinder, Gentler Political Climate: Government Performance on Climate Change Mitigation Policy in Advanced Industrialized Countries
Alexandra Bocse	Achieving European energy security: a policy network approach
Annette LaRocco	The Politics of Land, Conservation, and the State in Postcolonial Botswana
Raphael Lefevre	The 'Islamic Emirate' of North Lebanon: The rise and fall of the Tawheed movement in Tripoli, 1982-1985

## In the Centre of Development Studies:

Serik Orazgaliyev	Political economy of MNE-Host country bargaining relations in developing world: A case study of Kazhksan's petroleum industry
Iman El-Marashly	Financial Stability and Islamic Finance
Dinh Vu Trang Ngan	The young people of Vietnam and how they see the world
Sherilyn Reindorf-Partey	Development for Whom? Discourses of Modernity in Angola's Post-War Reconstruction
Roberto Borghi	Growth trajectories in the globalisation era: a macrosectoral analysis of China and Brazil
Igor Lopes Rocha	Essays on Economic Growth and Industrial Development: A comparative Analysis between Brazil and South Korean Internal Examiner
Torplus Yomnak	Corruption in Thailand: A Study of Corruption and Anti-Corruption Reforms in Thailand's Construction Sector
Muhammad Irfan	A Political Economy of Subsidies and Countervailing Measures in International Trade and Development
Natalya Naqvi	Essays on the Political Economy of Financial Systems and Economic Development
Ming Leong Kuan	Manufacturing Productive Capabilities: Industrial Policy and Structural Transformation in Singapore



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

Helen Mussell

Care and Business: Can there be a Connection?

## In the Centre of Latin American Studies:

Elsa Trevino Ramirez

Belonging elsewhere: Fictional space and new approaches to identity in Mexican narrative at the turn of the millennium

Grace Livingstone

British policy towards the dictatorships of Argentina and Chile 1973 to 1982

Rachel Randall

Children on the threshold: biopower, gender and agency in contemporary Brazilian, Chilean and Colombian film (1996-2013)

## 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/Dr Lauren Wilcox



Alasia Nuti

### Lisa Smirl Prize for Best PhD 2015/16

Congratulations to Alasia Nuti, who has been selected as the 2016 winner of the Lisa Smirl Prize for her fantastic work towards her PhD and thesis, "Historical structural injustice: on the normative significance of the unjust"

"...this is an excellent thesis that I thoroughly enjoyed reading. It is ambitious in its objectives... it is a beautifully presented piece of work and written with an impressive command of language..."

Internal Examiner

# Farewell

At the end of the 2015/2016 academic year we said thank you and farewell to Professor Christopher Hill.

Professor Hill joined the University in 2004, first as Director of the Centre for International Studies (CIS). He later became Head of Department of the newly merged POLIS, serving between 2012 and 2014. In his final year Chris has taught the large Part I International Relations paper, an MPhil course on Foreign Policy Analysis and has carried an heroic administrative load as one of the senior members of the Department.



Professor Hill gave his valedictory lecture in May 2016: 'What's left of the international?', which can be found here [www.sms.cam.ac.uk/media/2238317](http://www.sms.cam.ac.uk/media/2238317).

He retired on 30th September 2016 but we hope to see him around the Department for many years to come.



# Lectures, Visitors and Events

## The Antcliffe Lecture.

### **Pragmatism versus Populism: Building a winning Labour Project in the age of anti-politics – Tristram Hunt MP**

The lecture took place in April 2016. Tristram Hunt is Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central. From October 2013 until September 2015, Tristram served as Labour's Shadow Education Secretary focusing on developing Labour's policy on teachers' professional development, vocational education and early years education.

Speaking in the aftermath of the General Election results, he called on Labour's ruling National Executive Committee "not to rush our election", saying there was time for a "brutal post-mortem" about Labour's "underlying philosophy and thinking".

The filming of the event can be found here <http://www.sms.cam.ac.uk/media/2234998>

## The Kingsley Martin Memorial Lecture

**Professor Jonathan Spencer - University of Edinburgh**

Three scenes from rural life: Cambridge to Colombo and back again, 1954-2016

## The Salvador Allende Memorial Lecture

**Professor José Bengoa - Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano**

The Chilean road to capitalism: The role of agrarian reform and peasant revolt before the coup

## The Audrey Richards Lecture

**Professor Derek R. Peterson – University of Michigan**

The Uganda Museum and the History of the Heritage Industry in Africa

## The Hinsley Lecture

**General Sir Mike Jackson**

General Reflections: a look at UK defence in an era of Middle East turmoil, an adventurist Russia and a burgeoning refugee crisis in Europe

## The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship Lecture

**Professor Mignon Nixon**

War Is Over! (if you want it): Yoko Ono's Bed Peace

## Simón Bolívar Chair in Latin American Studies 2015/16

**Leonardo Waisman**

Highly esteemed and award-winning musicologist from the Universidad de Córdoba in Argentina

## Professor Lawrence Hamilton awarded NRF/British Academy SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair



In February 2016 Professor Lawrence Hamilton was awarded an NRF/British Academy SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair in Political Theory.

He spends 6 months a year in the Department of Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa and 6 months a year in the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), Cambridge, UK, building research networks in political theory between the two institutions.

The Chair has four central purposes: to enable the two institutions to build on their excellence in political theory through a vigorous exchange of ideas from the perspectives of two very different contexts; to use this collaboration to increase the prominence and promise of political theory in South Africa, transforming both the discipline and showing how the growth of political theory in South Africa is central to its transformation agenda; to build a vibrant exchange programme for graduate students and colleagues between the two institutions; and for Lawrence to supervise graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at both institutions.

## Some of our 2015/2016 visitors



Professor Derek R. Peterson



Tristram Hunt MP



Prof Mignon Nixon



Prof Jonathon Spencer



Leonardo Waisman

# Centres in POLIS

2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Centre of Latin American Studies. Founded in 1966, it is one of the five original “Parry Centres” that were established in Oxford, London, Cambridge, Glasgow and Liverpool following the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Latin American Studies, chaired by Dr J. H. Parry (1962-64).



## Amartya Sen

The students and staff at The Centre of Development Studies had the pleasure of having coffee and a chat with Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen when he visited the Centre in May 2015



Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen

## Directors of the Centres in 2015/2016

Director of the Centre for Gender Studies  
Director of the Centre of South Asian Studies  
Director of the Centre of Latin American Studies  
Director of the Centre of African Studies  
Director of the Centre of Development Studies

Dr Jude Browne  
Prof Joya Chatterji  
Dr Joanna Page  
Prof Harri Englund  
Prof Peter Nolan



Dr Jude Browne



Prof Joya Chatterji



Dr Joanna Page



Prof Harri Englund



Prof Peter Nolan

## The ASAUK biennial conference

The African Studies Association UK biennial conference was held at Robinson College in September 2016. The conference brought together scholars from a variety of academic disciplines and from across the globe. The conference attracted 660 attendees, 630 panels, 1300 papers from 93 countries. This included Prof Harri Englund, CAS Director, who chaired a panel. Polis academics Dr Justin Pearce and Dr Devon Curtis both presented and chaired panels also. For further information about this event please visit the website <http://www.asauk.net/>



Photographs by Iconic Productions

## The Research Centre Directors for 2015/2016 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



Dr Sharath Srinivasan



Dr Kun Chin Lin



Prof Brendan Simms



Dr Julie Smith

# Research



Dr Ayse Zarakol

Dr Ayse Zarakol was part of a large, 5-year award from the European Research Council (ERC) for the project 'Diplomatic Face-Work Between Confidential Negotiations and Public Display' (DIPLOFACE).

The project, held at the University of Copenhagen, explores the relationship between diplomatic negotiations and the public, taking the concept of 'face-work' to the international level. DIPLOFACE combines participant observation, interviews and digital studies, generating new knowledge about how the information revolution challenges and transforms diplomacy, how leaders and diplomats handle new media, and the role of face-saving and face-threatening strategies in international relations.

DIPLOFACE seeks to advance our understanding of diplomacy in the 21st century beyond existing International Relations and diplomatic theory.

We also welcomed a number of new Postdoctoral researchers to the Department, including:



Dr Rosalind Raddatz

Dr Rosalind Raddatz, SSHRC, 'Individual African Culture-Based Negotiation Tactics & Techniques'



Dr Gyda Maras Sindre

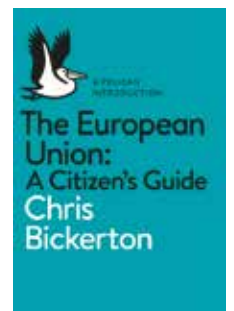
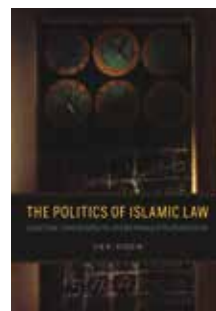
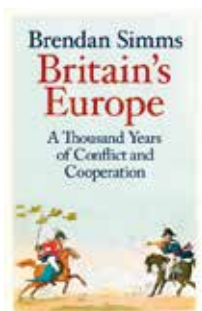
Dr Gyda Maras Sindre, Marie Curie, 'Political parties in the aftermath of war: Formation, organization and mobilization'



Dr Peter Price

Dr Peter Price, SSHRC, 'Reconceiving Politics: Transnational Patterns of Democratic Reform and Civic Engagement in the Interwar Years'

## Some of our publications this year





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and International Studies**

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