

Environment template (REF5)

Institution: London Metropolitan University

Unit of assessment: UoA21 Politics and International Studies (PIS)

a. Overview

Research in UoA 21 Politics and International Studies (PIS) at London Metropolitan University was until 31 July 2013 located in the Faculty of Law, Governance and International Relations (FLGIR). FLGIR was dissolved on that date. This environment template refers primarily to the PIS research environment during the time that its members were in FLGIR (2008-July 2013). On 1 August 2013, PIS academic staff entered the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH), the hub of the university's research activities. FSSH has all six of the university's research institutes and is the location of the university's research and postgraduate office.

The move of PIS into FSSH involved relocation of its four research centres: (1) The Centre for Comparative European Survey Data (CCESD; created 1995); (2) The Global Policy Institute (GPI; created 2006); (3) The Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation (CSRCC; created 2008); and The Centre for Contemporary Aristotelian Studies in Ethics and Politics (CASEP; created 2009). In addition, FLGIR hosted London Metropolitan University's Faith and Citizenship Programme and the London Universities Consortium for the study of Religion, Politics and Society (LU) CORPS, founded in 2008.

(1) The Centre for Comparative European Survey Data (CCESD)

(<http://www.ccesd.ac.uk/Home>)

Specialising in cutting-edge developments at the interface of social science and informatics, CCESD has three key aims: To (1) develop information systems designed to improve the accessibility of comparative survey data; (2) carry out methodological research to improve the conceptualisation and operationalisation of inter-national and inter-cultural analyses; and (3) provide specialist support for members of the academic community wishing to work with secondary, comparative European survey data sets. Its real-time, interactive web-facilities for the simultaneous handling and integration of multiple, data sets, based on .Net programming, remain unique within the professional community. CCESD created and maintains the following three web-sites:



www.britscat.com for British Social Attitudes surveys



www.besis.org for British Election studies



www.ccesd.ac.uk for comparative European surveys (including British surveys)

(2) The Global Policy Institute (GPI) (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-centres/the-global-policy-institute/>)

GPI brings together academics from the social sciences and business disciplines to analyse the dynamics of globalisation and formulate policy solutions, especially in relation to Europe and the international context. GPI's research and consultancy seeks to be of direct practical use to decision-makers, policy formation, business users and civil society groups, and offers partnerships within and beyond the academic community. (At the dissolution of FLGIR on 31 July 2013, GPI moved to the Faculty of Business and Law)

(3) The Centre for the Study of Religion, Conflict and Cooperation (CSRCC)

(<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research-centres/csrcc/home.cfm>)

CSRCC is concerned with a vital topic in contemporary politics and international relations, especially in the developing world: Resurgent religion and its political results, especially: conflict and cooperation, poverty and exclusion. These issues are important political subjects in relation to interactions between civil society and the state in many parts of the world, including, Egypt, Turkey, France and the United States. In addition, in Europe, religious identity has also recently become an important concern for many countries, especially in relation to continuing policy debates about immigration, security, and integration.

(4) CASEP, the Centre for Contemporary Aristotelian Studies in Ethics and Politics

(http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/lgir/research-centres/casep/casep_home.cfm)

The activities of CASEP are primarily informed by the works of the internationally-renowned moral and political philosopher, Professor Alasdair MacIntyre, who joined CASEP as Senior Research Fellow in 2010. In June 2011 CASEP hosted the inaugural conference of a new specialist group of the UK Political Studies Association: Contemporary Aristotelian Studies.

(5) Faith and Citizenship Programme (www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/our-staff/lgir-staff/maurice-glasman/)

In June 2007, FLGIR hosted a major research seminar, bringing together for the first time leading academics and practitioners specialising in the area of Community Organising. Among those attending were Professor Leo Penta (Catholic University of Berlin), Professor Jane Wills (Queen Mary, University of London), Dr Luke Bretherton (King's College, London), Neil Jameson (Head of [The London Citizens' Organisation](#); LCO), Lord Glasman (FLGIR) and Catherine Haworth and Mathew Bolton, respectively lead organisers of LCO in west and east London.

In August 2008, the Faith and Citizenship Programme held an international conference at LMU on the complex relationship between faith and citizenship (<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/education/research/ctrc/faithandpublicpolicyforum.aspx>).

The conference was the launch event for (LU) CORPS, a network of London-based higher education academics and institutions with teaching, research and consultancy interests in the relationship between religion, politics and contemporary social life. CORPS goals are to: (1) encourage a reflection on religion, politics and society that engages other academics, policy-makers, the media, faith communities and a wider public, in a way that values and respects the autonomy of academic enquiry and debate; (2) support collaborative working in this field between academic colleagues across London universities by running consortium meetings and conferences, sharing knowledge, and disseminating information about relevant events and resources at each partner institution; (3) provide a framework for collaboration between London universities in this field, such as the development of collaborative research projects, and conferences and seminars to support the development of post-graduate students; and (4) make more visible the range of academic expertise in London on religion, politics and society to other academics, research funders, policy-makers, the media and the wider public.

b. Research strategy

During 2008-2013, a key PIS research strategy was both to create new and consolidate and develop extant research centres. The objective was to nurture progress and further embed PIS's already dynamic, vibrant and sustainable research culture, underpinned by production of REF-appropriate research outputs. The purpose was to produce international-standard scholarly works, provide material to form an integral component of teaching at undergraduate and especially postgraduate levels and to extend public impact of research findings. PIS had an increasingly focused approach to resourcing of research activity, with research centre staff receiving faculty funding for teaching relief in support of REF-able research outputs, external research grant applications and efforts to disseminate public impact of research findings. In addition, FLGIR provided support for PIS research-active staff via: funding for regular research seminars, organisation of international conferences by research centres, staff attendance at

national and international conferences, and internal promotions to both Reader and Professor posts, primarily to bolster the research profile of the PIS subject group.

During 2008-2013, PIS research-active staff were responsible for the production of:

23 books, 55 peer-reviewed journal articles, 54 book chapters, and five other REF-able research outputs.

During 2008-2013, PIS academic staff successfully supervised nine PhD students to completion. In late 2013, the Politics and International Relations subject area of FLGIR had around 25 postgraduate research students engaged in studying for doctorates, including five PhD students on coveted Vice Chancellor's scholarships, with costs of study met by the university.

To achieve these goals, the following measures were introduced and implemented during the assessment period:

- Engagement of PIS-research active staff with research students via a Research Student Seminar series. During 2010-2013, all PIS-research active staff were required to engage with research students in this way, via presentation of at least one research paper (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-events/>).
- Integrate previously inexperienced PIS staff into research student supervision via (1) the Vice-Chancellor's scholarship programme (2) other PGR entry, and (3) the supervisor training programme (STP). During 2010-11, two PIS staff took the STP, three in 2011-12 and four in 2012-13.
- Improve completion rates of PGR students in the Politics and International Relations subject area through new and improved mechanisms of supervisor oversight and advice. During 2010-11, four students transferred from MPhil to PhD. In 2011-12, the number increased to five and, in 2012-13, to six.
- Research Centres promote the PIS, faculty and university profile in various ways including: national and international lectures and conference presentations and, more generally, via the national and international research reputations of staff, who have a dedicated shop window via their individual staff pages and the research page of the faculty's website (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/>). During 2009-2011, both CASEP and CSRCC organised international conferences. In June 2012, CASEP and CSRCC co-organised a three-day international conference on the topic of religion, civil religion and the common good (details at: <http://philevents.org/event/show/936>)
- Enhance PIS output for REF2014, via award of teaching relief for research active staff with demonstrable capacity to produce research outputs of at least 3* standard.
- Facilitate the output of submissions for REF 2014, FLGIR granted 11 research active staff, mainly from the Politics and International Relations subject area, teaching relief in Autumn semester, 2010-11, and 15 research active staff in Spring semester, 2011-12. The teaching relief was paid for from income accruing to the faculty from RAE 2008 and it was tied to explicit research plans and outputs, which research active staff agreed with the faculty's associate dean for research and postgraduate, Professor Jeffrey Haynes. The aim was that each recipient of teaching relief would produce at least one piece of REF-able for the year they receive teaching relief.

In the medium-term, 2014-2019, the PIS research strategy is to:

- Promote inter- and cross-disciplinary approaches through workshops and seminars and to generate more collaborative and innovative research proposals;
- Embed research more deeply within the university politics and international studies teaching curricula, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- Build stronger formal and informal partnerships nationally and internationally around core research areas;
- Increase funding from research councils and other funders commensurate with demonstrating both the importance and sustainability of excellent research;

Evaluate the achievement of these aims through:

- Involvement of increasing numbers of staff in research, especially younger colleagues;
- Build on already impressive numbers of high-quality research outputs;
- Focus on securing increased research impact and income; and
- Ensure improved recognition of PIS research both inside and outside the university.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

During 2008-13, staffing strategy and staff development in PIS were focused in the following:

Research as Scholarship

Most academic staff in PIS have research activity within the terms of their contract and this provides an opportunity to maintain and develop research as a scholarship theme, bringing well-developed inquiry skills to the classroom.

The Education-Research Interaction

The value of research, in particular its applications through education, is a core purpose of the University as identified in its *Strategic Plan 2010/2013*. There are various ways that PIS research helps to deliver this goal, including making manifest links between research and postgraduate and final year undergraduate study, both for research students and taught masters courses (MAs in International Relations and International Security Studies). Finally, the work of Associate Professor Steven Curtis exemplifies a significant dimension of PIS research-teaching nexus. Curtis has an international reputation for his teaching, scholarship and research in Learning and Teaching in Politics and International Relations as demonstrated in his Impact Case Study.

Enquiry-led learning developments

- Regular research seminars targeted at both undergraduates and postgraduate students, led by both internal and external speakers;
- Research methods training for both undergraduates and postgraduate students;
- Undergraduate and postgraduate Projects . of varying lengths, between 10,000-20,000 words . that reflect a research focus and utilise research outputs, knowledge and skills of research- active faculty staff;
- Undergraduates involved and employed on staff projects, for example as focus group facilitators or co-researchers, leading to one group of second-year undergraduate students giving papers at two national conferences and writing a book chapter on educational blogging with their tutor.

ii. Research students

Five PIS students began their doctoral studies in 2010 and 2011 funded by Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships. All four are studying with CASEP or CSRCC; all are expected to complete their PhDs successfully in 2013 or 2014. One of the PhD students was the co-organiser in September 2013, along with CSRCC, of a one-day conference: *Competing approaches to morality and inclusion: Global North and African attitudes towards LGBTi communities in Sub-Saharan Africa* (<http://conferencehound.com/conference/competing-approaches-to-morality-and-inclusion-global-north-and-african-attitudes-towards-lesbian-gay-bi-sexual-trans-sexual-and-inter-sex-lgbti-communities-in-sub-saharan-africa/232660>).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

During the assessment period, PIS research income was in the region of £400,000, accrued from RAE2008 spending allocation. Most of this research income was spent on funding teaching relief for selected research-active PIS staff expected to enter four research outputs for REF2014. In addition, PIS research-active staff gained another £365,000 from research grants. The final combined PIS research income for 2008-2013 was around £0.75 million.

Before taking voluntary redundancy on 31 August 2013, Dr Maurice Glasman (Baron Glasman of Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill who sits on the Labour benches in the House of Lords) was a Reader in FLGIR. In December 2007, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) awarded Dr Glasman (along with Luke Bretherton, Kings College) a grant of £165,783 for a three-year research project: *Christianity, urban politics and the pursuit of the common good through broad-based coalitions: the case of the Citizens Organisation Foundation* (Arts and Humanities Research Council Research Grant AH/F010451/1)

During 2009-2012, Associate Professor Steven Curtis acquired research grants totalling more than £200,000 in relation to various projects: (1) *It's Good to Talk: Feedback, Dialogue and Learning* (De Montfort University, London Metropolitan and Warwick University, Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship Scheme project: £200,000); (2) *Writing in Public: Exploring the Use of Web 2.0 in Developing Students' Academic Writing* (Learn Higher-funded project: £2000); (3) Funding from *Write Now* CETL to develop students' academic writing through blogging and other techniques on an International Relations theory module: £1000.

PIS research benefitted from continuing university and faculty support. Recent promotions (Dr. Mark Wheeler to Professor in 2011; Drs. Kelvin Knight and Maurice Glasman, both to Reader in 2011) were significant in underlining the importance of strengthening and expanding the portfolio of PIS research at LMU. The strategic investment in research strengthened PIS teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

PIS research at LMU benefits from library services available which include a dedicated Politics and International Relations Specialist Librarian (Ms. Christine Smart). Until its move to the London School of Economics in January 2013, PIS researchers at LMU benefitted from the close proximity on site of the Women's Library, with a wealth of crucial documentation on women and gender issues. The Women's Library is Europe's largest collection of material relating to the lives of women and is a key part of British heritage. Objects related to the suffrage movement within the collection are already internationally recognised and The Women's Library is committed to further enhancing the profile and reputation of this exceptional collection.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

PIS research results are made known to a variety of external audiences via public events and lectures and stakeholder dissemination via, for example, national and international conferences. See individual webpages for: research students (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/research/current-students/>) research seminars (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-events/>) research students' supervisors' research interests (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-staff-and-students/>), faculty research newsletters

(<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/lgir-research/lgir-research-news/>).

Involving and consulting the public and stakeholders in research.

This is done for example by the national and international conferences, to which members of the public are positively welcomed and via other initiatives including, for example, the Faith and Citizenship Programme, directed by Dr Maurice Glasman

(<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/our-staff/gir-staff/maurice-glasman/>).

Contributing to public debate and seeking to influence policy makers

Dr. Diana Stirbu specialises in devolution and territorial politics in the UK, with a particular interest in Welsh and Scottish devolution. She regularly undertakes various advisory and consultancy work in relation to the National Assembly for Wales. In December 2010, Dr. Stirbu and Prof. Laura McAllister were commissioned by Sir George Reid, Chair of the Remuneration Board at the National Assembly for Wales to produce a briefing paper ('Rethinking the Role of Elected Representatives in Wales'), in the light of proposed changes to the pensions and allowances of Assembly Members. The work was presented on the 9th of December 2010, during a colloquium bringing together politicians, senior members of staff, and academics from Wales.

Dr. Stirbu also provides expert advice on constitutional and legislative matters. In August 2012, she, together with Prof. McAllister and Dr. M. Cole from the University of Liverpool submitted a research report: 'UK Changing the Union Project: The Capacity of the National Assembly for Wales' commissioned by the Wales Governance Centre in the light of Silk Commission's deliberations on Welsh devolution arrangements (http://www.clickonwales.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapter_1.pdf). Stirbu, McAllister and Cole presented their finding at a public seminar in Cardiff in October 2012. In addition, Dr. Stirbu presented written evidence to the All Wales Convention, a joint submission with Prof. McAllister in July 2010. Earlier, in March 2008, Dr. Stirbu co-wrote (with McAllister) a paper, 'Parliaments and Citizens: A whistle stop tour of relationships between citizens and parliamentary services elsewhere'. The paper was commissioned by the Parliamentary Service Board (National Assembly for Wales) in the context of developing the Assembly's public engagement strategy.

Dr. Stirbu submits written evidence to the National Assembly committees on matters related to Assembly procedures. In June 2011, Dr. Stirbu, together with Prof. McAllister submitted written evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Standing Orders Committee. In November 2011, Dr. Stirbu and Prof. McAllister provided written evidence to National Assembly Legislation Committee on Local Government Measure (Wales) on equality and diversity issues stemming from the proposed Assembly Measure.

Contributing to new media-enabled discussion forums.

PIS research staff regularly contribute to internet blogs. In March 2012, Dr Diana Stirbu contributed 'Westminster can learn a lot about gender equality by looking at Welsh and Scottish levels of political representation' to the LSE's British politics and policy blog (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/archives/category/diana-stirbu>) In April 2012, Professor Mark Wheeler contributed a web blog item 'The democratic worth of celebrity politics is dependent on whether or not there is ideological substance behind the politician' to the London School of Economics' British politics and policy blog (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/2012/04/23/celebrity-politics-wheeler/>). In addition, Professor Wheeler appeared in a published debate on 'Celebrity Humanitarianism' with Professor Ilan Kapoor, York University, Ontario, in *The New Internationalist* (September 2012, Issue 455; <http://newint.org/sections/argument/2012/09/01/should-celebrities-promote-charities/>). Professor Wheeler was also invited to address the Celebrity Managers Forum (a networking group for those whose role is to manage relationships with high profile supporters of

UK charities) at Sparks Charity in November 2012.

Professor Jeffrey Haynes wrote 'Twenty years after Huntington's clash of civilisations' which first appeared on e-International Relations (the world's leading website for students of international politics <http://www.e-ir.info/2013/02/10/twenty-years-after-huntingtons-clash-of-civilisations/>), February 10, 2013, before being posted on 'The Glocal' Hong Kong No. 1 network (<http://www.glocal.org.hk/articles/11191>) By the beginning of August 2013, Haynes' blog had been viewed over 850 times. Professor Haynes is also series editor of the 'Routledge Studies in Religion and Politics' which has published numerous books by leading international scholars, including: Jonathan Fox, Steve Bruce, Peter Beyer and Carsten Anckar. During 2010-2013 the series published 15 books (details at <http://www.routledge.com/books/series/RSRP/>). In addition, since 2008 Professor Haynes has been co-editor of the journal, *Democratization*, published seven times a year by Taylor and Francis (<http://tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13510347.asp>). *Democratization* is listed in the prestigious Thomson Reuters ISI Impact Factors (IF). *Democratization*, enjoying its first listing in the IF released in June 2011, received an IF of 0.917: a strong start! *Democratization* is included in the 'Political Science' category and ranked 46/139 in 2011, which put *Democratization* in the top third of journals in that category. Finally, Professor Haynes is both convenor of the European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on 'Religion and Politics' which has over 250 subscribers to its thrice-yearly newsletter, produced by Professor Haynes (<http://www.ecprnet.eu/standinggroups/rap/index.aspx>) and elected Chair, International Political Science Association Research Committee 43: 'Religion and Politics' (<http://www.ipsa.org/research-committees/rc/RC43>)

Opening facilities, events and courses to the public

PIS promulgated an extensive programme of events open to the public, including international conferences, and summer schools (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/summer-school/>). During July 2013, PIS ran week-long summer schools in Public Administration and Diplomacy and Global Governance. Each was open to the public, and collectively attracted 34 attendees, paying over £25,000 in course fees. Those taking the summer schools enjoyed a welcome reception, a mid-school excursion and course visits of academic interest.

Pro-active engagement with community groups

This is done for example by Dr Maurice Glasman. His 'Faith and Citizenship Programme' works with community groups including London Citizens (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/our-staff/gir-staff/maurice-glasman/>). Professor Jeffrey Haynes has a close relationship with a community group, the Dialogue Society, where he regularly takes part in events open to the public. (See <http://www.dialoguesociety.org/tag/Prof-Jeffrey-Haynes.html> for a list of recent events at the Dialogue Society involving Professor Haynes.)

Engagement with alumni

The faculty has an alumni association (<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/law-governance-and-international-relations/our-students/alumni-society/>). It is a key network for former FLGIR students to keep in contact with the faculty and former classmates. The alumni association holds social gatherings and seminars. It began in June 2011 with a launch event with refreshments at the House of Commons. Since then, the association has had speaker meetings on the US Presidential Elections in 2012, on the Eurozone crisis, on the 'Arab Spring' in December 2012 and the 'The Euro-Crisis and Southern Europe' in February 2013. Each talk was followed by a drinks reception.