

Institution: University of Sussex

Unit of Assessment: UoA 27 Area Studies

1. Overview

The focus of Area Studies at Sussex is Europe. The main locus of our multi- and inter-disciplinary network of active researchers is the Sussex European Institute, a research and postgraduate entity nested within the School of Law, Politics and Sociology. The SEI has sustained its crucial role in the development of European Studies, both in the UK and internationally, through the range and quality of its research and its successful Master's and research training programmes. European Studies at Sussex has also sought to make a significant contribution not just to academic research but to public-policy development through consultancy work and the impact of its research. More recently, the SEI has been augmented by the advent of the new Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption. While the latter does not have an exclusively European focus, it is already making a substantial contribution to the University's work on Europe. These research centres are home to three key clusters of Area Studies researchers at Sussex:

- European integration (currently comprising 8.2 FTEs, including Avdagic, Taggart, Szczerbiak, Oppermann, Mayhew, Holmes, Gasiorek, Smith, Treacher – plus Rollo, Monar, Quaglia who have retired or moved in the REF period).
- Comparative party and representative politics (currently comprising 9 FTEs, including Webb, Taggart, Szczerbiak, Hough, Oppermann, Hellmann, Rovira-Kaltwasser, Robinson and Diwakar – plus Bale who moved in the REF period).
- The politics of citizenship, migration and ethnicity (comprising 4 FTEs, including Sagar, Statham, Hampshire and Collard).

2. Research strategy

The SEI has a number of key strategic objectives:

- To foster internationally excellent research on Europe that benefits from, and is valuable to, both policy practitioners and the academic community.
- To recruit and train an ambitious and sustainable community of research students, with a thorough grounding in rigorous research standards, who will become integral to the next generation of scholars and practitioners.
- Through the above, to contribute to the political, economic and social well-being of the citizenry of Europe, and those with whom Europe interacts and inter-dependes.

The depth and breadth of the research culture of Area Studies at Sussex is demonstrated by a range of mechanisms and activities designed to achieve its strategic objectives, including external funding support, internationally recognised and valued publications, well-established and fruitful internal and external collaborations, a high-quality and well-resourced postgraduate community, regular research seminars, workshops and conferences, and valued consultancy on behalf of the European governance community. More specifically:

- A clear focus of work on defined research clusters and related research networks (such as the *European Parties, Elections and Referendums Network*).
- Substantial success in the capture of external research funding (with more than £1.1m raised so far).

- Its editorial roles in several high-profile journals (*The Journal of Common Market Studies*, *European Foreign Affairs Review*, *Party Politics*, *German Politics*, *The European Journal of Political Research*, *Government and Opposition*, and *Representation*).
- Its publication record (11 monographs or edited books in this submission, plus as many again outside the submission – a rate of more than one volume per FTE member of research-active staff).
- A successful postgraduate research training programme (producing 17 new PhDs in the period so far).
- An important record of consultancy to policy-makers in the EU and national governments across Europe.

3. People

Staffing strategy and management

Our staffing strategy over the course of the assessment period has driven investment in several strategic clusters, which relate to European integration, comparative representative politics, and citizenship, migration and ethnicity (see Section 5 below for more detail). Over the course of the REF cycle, there has been some turnover in each of these clusters, in ways that have enabled us to sustain and enhance their strength. Some changes have resulted in shifts of thematic emphasis (for instance, from the political economy to the law of European integration), while others have reflected a deliberate and forward-looking strategy of broadening the geographical scope of our expertise. The European integration cluster saw the retirement of Professor Jim Rollo in 2011, but was able to welcome Professor Susan Millns, a specialist in European law, as his successor as Co-Director of the SEI (note that Professor Millns is one of several members of the disciplines of Law and Sociology who are entered in those Units of Assessment rather than Area Studies, but who are nevertheless highly active members of the SEI, and therefore important contributors to its research environment). In the same year, Lucia Quaglia moved to take up a Chair at York and Tim Bale, an important member of the Comparative Politics cluster, moved to take up a Chair at Queen Mary, University of London in 2012. They were replaced by Dr Emily Robinson and Dr Rekha Diwakar, with further investment in posts for Dr Kai Oppermann and Dr Olliver Hellmann. The third of Sussex's research streams, on Citizenship, Migration and Ethnicity, has developed very significantly since 2008. To Professor Shamit Saggat and Dr James Hampshire, Dr Sue Collard and Professor Paul Statham have been added. This group maintains a longstanding linkage between the SEI and the internationally renowned Sussex Centre for Migration Research (see www.sussex.ac.uk/scmr), their work extending the interdisciplinary range of both the SEI and the SCMR, to the benefit of both.

The Unit has always sought to sustain a healthy balance between senior, established and junior colleagues. We recognise the particular potential for exciting and innovative input that the latter can bring to any research organisation, and take seriously our responsibilities for helping to nurture their professional development. There have been two early-career appointments in the period of assessment (Emily Robinson and Olliver Hellmann), and five excellent post-doctoral scholars (Cristobal Rovira-Kaltwasser, Kai Oppermann, Lee Savage, Ben Stanley and Annika Hennl) have won funding (three from Marie Curie, one from the ESRC, and one from the German Research Foundation) to join Sussex. Early-career staff and post-docs are mentored by senior members of faculty, a process that includes departmental induction, planning of workload, formal annual appraisal, and regular informal progress meetings. Their research is supported by allocations of light teaching and administrative demands at the outset of their careers, and they have access to a full programme of staff development, including training in research techniques, career advice, support to develop transferable skills, and financial assistance to attend and present at external academic conferences. They also develop personal research plans which are discussed and monitored by the School's Director of Research. They have been involved from the outset in the

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various research clusters and seminar series of the Department and have quickly become part of collaborative research projects.

All faculty are appraised annually by the Head or other senior members of the Department, an important formal mechanism for reviewing and supporting their research and, indeed, general career development. In addition, the School's Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (Webb) assesses and discusses the Personal Research Plans that each member of academic faculty has to produce. The School operates a system of academic peer review of external research grant applications before they are submitted to funders, and the University's Research & Enterprise Division provides further valuable support to all faculty and post-doctoral researchers in respect of applications for external funding. Internal seed-corn funding and School administrative support is available on a competitive basis to assist some researchers in leveraging external research funding.

Research students

Area Studies faculty at Sussex have consistently demonstrated an ability to attract doctoral students, some of whom are recruited from the SEI's two successful Master's programmes (in Contemporary European Studies and European Politics). In total, academic faculty in the Area Studies submission have supervised 22 research students to successful completion since 2007; five of these individuals have been awarded ESRC studentships (Keith, Bennister, Fitzgibbon, Partos and Power) and a number of others have benefited from sundry other sources of funding, including national governments. In addition, a further 8 visiting research students have come to Sussex from overseas universities for periods of expert supervision.

The SEI, and the School in which it is embedded, provide an excellent environment within which students develop. Research-student training needs are initially identified as part of the first year and formally re-assessed annually. These needs are largely met by the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre and a wide range of general and specific research-methods training courses, mostly from the umbrella of the highly successful ESRC-recognised MSc Social Research Methods programme, although research students who are not formally registered on the programme are also able to take any specific units they need. Students are provided with dedicated research space and computer facilities, and are able to call upon a conference-support funding scheme that is designed to promote active contributions by PhD students to specialist, disciplinary and postgraduate conferences in the UK and abroad. Research students are also strongly integrated into the various research clusters described below. They attend – and present papers at – weekly research seminars. Several SEI research students have been attached to the major journals listed above as editorial assistants. In conjunction with the DTC, the SEI encourages research students to prepare themselves for the academic jobs market at every stage of the doctoral process.

The SEI maintains particularly rigorous procedures for the monitoring of doctoral students and their supervisors. This culminates in the presentation of a research outline to faculty and other doctoral researchers and an annual review meeting involving students and faculty not directly involved in the supervision process. The processes of research-student recruitment, induction, monitoring, training and support are managed by the SEI's own Research Convenor.

The quality of SEI research students is demonstrated by the jobs in academia and the national and European governmental sectors to which they have gone after Sussex – and by their growing presence as paper-givers at major national and international conferences (organised by, among others, UACES, ECPR and the PSA). Students (Massetti and Guerra) have also won places at prestigious ECPR summer schools and as visiting scholars at the European University Institute in Florence. Increasingly, their work is published in respected journals while they are still registered as doctoral students (e.g. Partos and Phelps in *Political Quarterly*, Sanderson-Nash and Bennister in the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Massetti in *Representation*). Several of our recent doctoral students have been appointed to academic positions in the UK and abroad, including Van Kessel, Guerra, Massetti, Bennister, Fitzgibbon, Edwards, Keith and Sanderson-Nash.

Visiting Fellows

As well as inviting outside paper-givers to its weekly seminars, the SEI regularly welcomes a number of academic visitors, all of whom make important contributions to collaborative research and general research culture. Among those we have brought to the SEI in these capacities are Professor Paul Lewis (Open University), Professor John McCormick (University of Indiana), Professor Sarah Childs (University of Bristol), Professor Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff (Alice-Salomon-University of Applied Sciences, Berlin and former Minister for Health, Berlin State government), Professor Christopher Pollitt (University of Leuven), Dr Tania Verge (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Dr Sean Hanley (UCL-SSEES), Dr David Evans (Director for Exante Poverty Impact Assessment of Macroeconomic Policies), Dr Elin Haugsgjerd Allern (University of Oslo), Dr Agnieszka Lada, (Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw), Dr Masahiro Iwasaki (Nihon University, Tokyo) and Dr Fortunato Musella (Universita di Napoli Federico II). All of these people have been actively engaged in research collaborations with faculty at Sussex, covering such fields as trade policy, anti-corruption measures, political leadership, public-policy evaluation and party politics.

4. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The SEI and SCSC Directors sit on the School's Research Committee (which is co-chaired by the LPS Director of Research, Paul Webb), which meets termly, and reports to the School's Executive Board and the University Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee. This Committee's role is to develop research strategy and policy; to monitor the activities of the SEI and SCSC (among others) annually, and to review the five-year strategic plans of each; and to encourage, comment on and oversee applications for external research funding. Much of the day-to-day work in this regard is conducted by the Director of Research. The Director and the Committee are assisted by administrative support from the School Office. Research ethics matters are managed by the Cross-School Research Ethics Committee for Social Sciences.

Members of Sussex's Area Studies submission have, to date, raised more than £1,100,000 since 2007, a 30 per cent increase on the total achieved in RAE2008. Each individual is expected to submit an individual bid or – more usually – participate in a collective bid to an external funder every year, unless already engaged in a funded project. The research-cluster structure of the SEI increasingly propels us in the direction of collective bids. We operate a strong and supportive system of encouraging and vetting such bids, as all funding proposals are subject to the School's peer-review system. Further feedback is generated informally from colleagues and by research seminars. Notable research-funding successes since 2007 include the '5th EU Enlargement Impact Study', an SEI team project led by McGowan and Rollo (£40,000); Webb's ESRC grant with Sarah Childs of Bristol University on 'Sex, Gender and the Conservative Party' (£476,000, of which Sussex's share was £199,000); Avdagic's European Research Council grant on 'Employment Protection Legislation in Central and Eastern Europe' (£157,000); Sagar's ESRC-funded Knowledge Exchange Fellowship in the UK Government Equalities Office (£118,000); and Quaglia's ERC grant on Financial Services Governance in the EU (£283,000).

5. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The collaborations and contributions of Sussex Area Studies faculty to the discipline are myriad. It should be taken as read that all are regular peer-reviewers for leading academic journals and publishers. In the space available it is only possible to list a few highlights, as follows:

Cluster 1: European integration

Within the European integration cluster, Sussex has a number of specific research foci, prominent among which has been the highly innovative work of Taggart and Szczerbiak on *the domestic politics of integration* across Europe, East and West. Funded by the ESRC, this spawned the *Opposing Europe Research Network (OERN)*, with its own website and regularly published series of working papers (26 to date), election briefings (70 to date) and referendum briefings (18 to date).

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This has subsequently broadened in scope and been recast as the *European Parties, Elections and Research Network (EPERN)*. OERN/EPERN has run several conference panels and workshops at the Political Studies Association, American Political Science Association and European Consortium of Political Research in recent years, and generated the publication of the two seminal Oxford University Press volumes edited by Szczerbiak and Taggart that are submitted under REF2, as well as a special issue of *West European Politics*, and a number of further articles and reports.

Also prominent in the SEI's contribution to the study of European integration has been its work on *the political economy of integration*. Among other things, this has spawned work on *enlargement* as new member-states adapted to the EU *acquis* and the EU's 'neighbourhood' policy, at the core of which lies the 'Wider Europe' network initiated by Mayhew under initial funding from the Jean Monnet Programme. This has sustained a network of economists, political scientists and lawyers working on the European Neighbourhood policy and on Ukraine's relations with the EU, produced briefing papers and spawned a number of conferences held in Sussex, Warsaw, Kiev, Brussels and Paris (see <http://www.wider-europe.org>).

Avdagic's contributions and collaborations include the co-direction of projects that have generated the edited volume *Social Pacts in Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and a special issue of the *British Journal of Industrial Relations* (forthcoming 2014); membership of the ESRC Peer Review College; member of the Executive Council of The Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), 2007–2010 and 2010–2013. She has also been Co-ordinator of SASE's research network on Industrial Relations and Political Economy; a member of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, and of the Advisory Board of the Warsaw Forum of Economic Sociology; external examiner of PhDs at the European University Institute, Florence (September 2013); convenor of a workshop on the Consequences of Labour Market Reforms (Brighton, December 2011); reviewer for ESRC and Swiss National Science Foundation; and an invited keynote speaker at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Lecture Series (June 2011), The University of Milan, Department of Economics (June 2009), and The London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Management, Employment Relations and Organisational Behaviour (May 2009).

Cluster 2: Comparative party and representative politics

The second major cluster has attracted a number of visiting doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and senior academics working in the field (e.g. Lee Savage, Kai Oppermann, Elin Haugsgjerd Allern, Paul Lewis, Robin Kolodny and Sarah Childs). Webb's record of contribution and collaboration includes the following:

- elected an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences (nominated by Political Studies Association) in 2010 and a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts in 2009;
- co-editor of *Party Politics*; served as a member of Commissioning Panel for ESRC's British Election Study (2012), and a member of Commissioning Panel for ESRC Professorial Fellowship Scheme, 2011-12;
- was an invited member of International Assessment Board, for the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Schemes, 2010 and 2013;
- was an invited participant in a House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee seminar on Prime Ministerial Power and a contributor of written evidence to the same inquiry, February 2011;
- a member of International Kuratorium of Institut für Deutsches und Internationales Parteienrecht und Parteienforschung (PruF), Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (since 2010);
- an external examiner of PhD candidates at the Universities of Surrey (March 2008), Cambridge (February 2009), Birmingham (October 2009), Brunel (December 2009), Dublin City University (September 2013) and Twente University, Enschede in the Netherlands (November 2013);

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- a frequent reviewer of research applications for the ESRC, the Leverhulme Foundation, the British Academy, the Nuffield Foundation; and
- a contributor of invited keynote presentations to The British Politics Group (APSA Annual Meeting, Toronto, September 2009); L'Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociale, Rome (November 2010); Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (November 2010); and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Conference on 'The Future of Mainstream Parties' (Beja, Portugal, March 2013).
- He has also been involved in numerous international research collaborations since 2008, the highlight of which is a project on 140 party organisations in 20 democracies that he is co-directing with Susan Scarrow of the University of Houston (see <http://www.politicalpartydb.com/> for details).

Hough's profile includes:

- Editor, *German Politics* (since 2010);
- external PhD examinerships at the Universities of Malta (2013), Cambridge (2012) and Melbourne (2011);
- Secretary of the International Association for the Study of German Politics (2007–2010);
- member of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) PhD/Postdoctoral Scholarship committee (since 2009);
- German Studies Association (GSA) Annual Book Prize Judging Committee member (2011); and
- a member of the Executive Committee of the Bernd Trautmann Foundation (since 2003).

Szczerbiak's profile includes:

- Reviews editor of *Party Politics* and Editorial Board member, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *East European Politics* and *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*;
- author of Politics section of *Economist Intelligence Unit* Country Reports, Country Forecast and Country Profile on Poland;
- member of the Advisory Committee, *European Union Democracy Observatory (EUDO) Observatory on Political Parties and Representation* (since 2009); and
- Chair of judging panel for *Journal of Common Market Studies* Prize for Best Article (2011).

Taggart's profile includes:

- Co-editor, *Government and Opposition*;
- invited Annual Kossmann Lecture ('The Problems of Populism'), University of Groningen, October 2011;
- external PhD examiner at the University of Sheffield, Aston University, the University of Siena and the LSE.

Robinson was:

- elected a Fellow of Royal Historical Society (2012);
- co-opted as a member of RHS' Research Policy Committee; and
- was one of 12 historians invited to meet Minister for Science and Universities, David Willetts, to discuss the implications of government policy for the historical profession.

Cluster 3: The politics of citizenship, migration and ethnicity in Europe

The final European research cluster at Sussex originally stemmed from the appointments of Saggat and Hampshire in 2004. The former's work on ethnic minorities in Britain (in the form of both applied research for the Cabinet Office, and orthodox academic research) is an outstanding case of research of direct use to policy-makers in government (see impact case study), and has most recently been recognised in the award of an ESRC-funded Knowledge Exchange Fellowship in the UK Government Equalities Office, which runs for the calendar year 2013. This is

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complemented by Hampshire's closely related work on immigration and citizenship in Britain that has resulted, among other things, in his appointment as Specialist Adviser to the House of Lords EU Select Committee (Sub-Committee F) inquiry into the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). Both Saggar and Hampshire have published important monographs in the field during the REF cycle (see REF2). They have been boosted since 2007 by the arrival of Collard (from Modern Languages at Sussex) and Statham (from Bristol). The former has launched an innovative pioneering study of the role of EU foreign nationals in fostering European citizenship through their participation in local elections, which has resulted, among other things, in a commissioned contribution to the UK Annual Report to the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency. Hampshire has been a member of the EU-funded IMISCOE Research Network of Excellence; was PI for a project on Migration to Europe in the Digital Age with co-investigators at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Osnabruck, Germany, PRIO in Norway, and Koç University, Istanbul; and, from June 2013, has been Deputy Editor of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Statham has produced a considerable body of seminal work on the contribution to identity of a European public sphere, as well as innovative research on the phenomenon of 'return migration' in Europe, and has recently taken over as Editor of the *Journal of Migration Studies*.