

Institution: University of Leeds
Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at Leeds is located within the faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law (ESSL) at a research-intensive Russell Group university that aims to achieve an influential, world-leading profile in all major areas of research. The school's academic mission is to <i>deliver world-class research at the intersections between the core discipline of politics and the contemporary challenges of global development and international security</i>. In pursuit of this objective the school is organised into three Academic Groups: 1) <i>Politics</i> 2) <i>International Relations and Security</i> and 3) <i>International Development</i>. The academic groups, led by Academic Group Leaders (AGLs), organise the bulk of our research and impact activity as well as providing the means to integrate academic staff, postdoctoral researchers, postgraduates, and visiting scholars. There are also a number of centres/clusters with more specific identities: <i>Centre for Global Development (CGD)</i>, <i>Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS)</i>, <i>Centre for Democratization Studies (CDS)</i>, <i>Leadership, Parties and Institutions group (LPI)</i>, <i>Centre for British Government (CBG)</i>. These centres provide interdisciplinary links with membership from across the university and allow us to shape the discipline through the organisation of external events and national/international networks. Research is monitored and supported by the School's Research Committee (RC), chaired by the Director of Research and includes the Head of School, the Postgraduate Research Director, and the three AGLs. Researchers in the school use the Academic Groups to peer-review outputs and grant bids, the Centres are used to develop national and international networks, and the Research Committee is used provide an overall direction and share best practice from across the groups. The organisational restructuring of the school and a renewal of our academic staff base have led to a step-change in our activity, with: 1) increased income levels, 2) a diversification of income streams, 3) enhanced methodological capacity, 4) the production of high-quality peer-reviewed research outputs, 5) the embedding of impact in school activities and 6) the development of national and international networks.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Since 2008 the school has radically restructured its research management and monitoring procedures as part of a university-led review. The school's strategy was to develop and support a research environment based around a new (71 per cent of the submission were not members of POLIS in 2008), younger (37 per cent of the submission are Early Career Researchers (ECRS)), ambitious cohort of academics who investigate problems in the areas of politics, international relations and international development. The step change in the unit's research culture was implemented through five mechanisms designed to maintain and support future leaders of the discipline and their research agendas. (1) Monitoring of research plans and in particular identifying Early Career Researcher (ECR) needs through a bi-annual review form that is discussed in RC, with AGLs providing advice to all members of their group on individual research strategies. (2) Mentoring of ECRs by senior academics and AGLs. (3) Creating the POLIS peer-review reading group designed to improve collegiality, interdisciplinarity and rigour where staff from all research groups submit articles for internal review prior to publication. (4) Internal workshops on grant capture and impact generation. (5) Reduced teaching loads for new entrants (see section C). This process of renewal has centred around a new research strategy and intellectual agenda directed towards seven priorities:</p> <p>1. Production of Excellent Research Outputs: This is evidenced by our publication portfolio, with 16% of submission being research monographs (11 items). Our research has been recognised as internationally excellent with McCargo's¹ monograph <i>Tearing Apart the Land</i> winning the Asia Society's inaugural <u>Bernard Schwartz Book Prize</u> for 2009. 82% of our submission is published in peer-reviewed journals, including: <i>African Affairs</i>, <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, <i>The Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, <i>The Journal of Politics</i>, <i>Political Analysis</i>, <i>Political Geography</i>, <i>Political Studies</i>, <i>Political Research Quarterly</i>, <i>The Review of International Studies</i>, <i>International Affairs</i>, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> and <i>The Journal of Peace Research</i> amongst others (57 items). This represents a step change from the 2008 RAE, when 20% of the UoA's outputs were monographs and only 55 % were peer-reviewed journal articles.</p> <p>2. Grow and Diversify our Grant Portfolio: To support our research we have increased our grant income generation by 46 % to £1.23 million in comparison to RAE 2008. The school has diversified its grant portfolio to include a large array of national and international funding bodies, including the</p>

European Parliament (Robinson), Research Council of Norway (Crawford), AHRC (Edyvane), British Academy (Ralph), ESRC (Davies, Ralph, McCargo), Leverhulme Trust (McCargo), Swedish Research Council (Robinson).

3. Enhance our Methodological Capacity: A strategic priority for the school has been to enhance its methodological base in quantitative and qualitative approaches to increase the sophistication of our research activities. This investment is part of a long-term aim to increase the array of scholars who will contribute methodological rigour and innovation to the new research clusters that form part of our post 2014 research strategy (see below). The University has also invested heavily in enhancing current colleagues' methodological skills-set, with training in a variety of techniques including NVIVO, GIS and statistical modelling that academics in the school have attended. The school now has five colleagues with quantitative expertise (**Berger, Davies, Dunn, Evans, Gaines**) who apply their skills to analyse a variety of areas, including: UK public attitudes towards military action through the use of experiments (**Davies**^{1,2}), the first political analysis of US public support for Gay marriage (**Gaines**¹), Congressional Support for Aid to Egypt (**Berger**²). In the qualitative area the school has a critical mass of researchers who use Rhetorical Political Analysis (**Atkins, Hayton, Heppell, Theakston**) and political ethnography (**Anderson**¹, **Beresford**¹, **Crawford**^{1,2,3,4}, **McCargo**^{1,2,3,4}). Reflecting the school's focus on international fieldwork in emerging areas of the world our researchers have sophisticated language skills, examples include: Mandarin Chinese (**Edney**), Malawian languages (**Anderson**), Thai (**McCargo**), and Arabic (**Berger**).

4. Develop New Research Agendas: The school aims to develop research agendas that speak to 21st century problems across the globe. For example **Robinson**^{2,3} analyzes how new forms of media, specifically video games, influence attitudes towards politics and international relations, leading to a large grant from the Swedish Research Council to develop a research agenda examining how social media has been militarized. **Gallagher's**¹ research into genocide uses an interdisciplinary approach that synthesises IR theory with historical analysis; when combined with **Ralph's**^{2,3} research into the decision to invade Iraq this has led to the development of a research agenda examining Responsibility to Protect and Prosecute (R2PP) underpinned with an ESRC seminar series grant creating a national and international network. **Edney**¹ conducted the first political analysis of China's use of geo-engineering to deal with climate change. POLIS scholars conduct research around the world resulting in international profiles. Areas of investigation include: South African labour unions (**Beresford**¹), the role of lawyers in the Israeli army (**Craig**¹), the development of democracy in Ghana (**Crawford**²), the insurgency in Southern Thailand (**McCargo**^{1,4}), the rational underpinnings of risky sexual behaviour in Malawi (**Anderson**¹).

5. Internationalisation: There has been a step change in international activity since the 2008 RAE, with staff in the school contributing and organising networks and international conferences. In 2010 the school under the leadership of **Crawford** used the World Universities Network ((WUN) (UoL is a founding member)) to create the *Transformative Justice Network*, an eighteen university consortium that includes Bergen, Harvard, NYU and Sydney. **Davies** is part of an ESRC and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) network of 8 universities from the United States, Japan, Switzerland and the UK, presenting research at Kobe University and collaborating on Anglo-Japanese projects. The school has hosted several international conferences and workshops including the 2013 *University Association for Contemporary European Studies* (UACES) annual conference (section e).

6. Impact outside the Academy: The school has invested heavily in developing a *culture of impact* that maximises the opportunities to connect our research with broader policy debates. The school has added impact activities to the workload model, holding workshops on impact, using current case study authors as impact mentors, inviting external speakers who have a track record of impact generation and using HEIF and school monies to fund engagement activities (that provide the underpinnings of future impact cases). Our postgraduate students are also acting on the impact agenda, having organised an internal conference on Research Impact. Internal funds have been used to support our impact case studies financing impact activities in Afghanistan, the European Union, India and Thailand. Our case studies showcase the school's innovative and international approach to research impact, influencing debates and policies relating to a diverse array of areas, *the European Investment Bank (Robinson)*, *the Insurgency in southern Thailand (McCargo)* and *educational policies in Kenya, Afghanistan and India (Dyer)*.

7. Commitment to Postgraduate Research: The school plays a central role in the ESRC White Rose DTC (Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York consortium) being involved in both the

Politics and International Relations, and Development pathways. The DTC trains our postgraduate researchers in a variety of methods, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity across the social sciences. Examples of courses include GIS and Spatial Analysis, Realist Methods, Quantitative and Administrative Secondary Analysis of Social Science Data. Postgraduate researchers are integrated within our research culture having organised an international conference with Benjamin Barber as the keynote speaker. The *Botany House* seminar series organised by our postgraduate researchers showcases both staff and student research (see section C for further details).

Future Research Strategy Post 2014:

The school and university will continue to invest heavily through appointments and seed-corn funding in an ambitious programme directed towards five strategic aims:

1. Increase Research Tempo and Support New Initiatives: The school will accelerate its research activity by increasing levels of collaboration through the creation of new research clusters directed towards big problems, using a range of methodological approaches to tackle them. In order to achieve this objective the school has created a Strategic Research Investment Fund (SRIF) of £20,000 a year, to support research, impact and networking initiatives. This pump-priming fund is specifically directed towards the generation of longer and larger grant bids through the development of interdisciplinary clusters. This new strategic direction will begin with an interdisciplinary cluster investigating *Intervention and Responsibility to Protect* led by POLIS but involving colleagues from Philosophy and Law. This cluster has already received seed-corn funding from the White Rose University Consortium to develop a national and international network of scholars investigating humanitarian intervention and has recently been awarded an ESRC seminar series grant to make Leeds a reference point for R2PP research post 2014. Further clusters will be based around this model and will provide the organising structures for future research and impact activity.

2. Further Intensification of Postgraduate Research Activity: The school, as an active member of the ESRC White Rose DTC, already provides an intense research environment. We will increase PGR numbers and intensify postgraduate research activity by requiring third year PhD students to present at the school seminar series and through a commitment by staff to increase the amount of co-authored research with PhD students, thus embedding them in high-level research activity.

3. Increase and Diversify Research Funding: The school will increase both the size and frequency of grant bids. The development of outward facing research clusters with international links and enhanced methodological capacity will provide the underpinnings of grant activity by allowing teams within the school to target European Union funding such as Horizon 2020. We will continue to increase diversification by looking towards private sources and further funding from charitable foundations.

4. Embedding Impact Activities: Building on impact activities from the current REF cycle, the school will continue to embed a *culture of impact* and intensify its activities. Impact activities will continue to be protected and supported through the workload model, allocation of internal and external funding, bi-annual review assessing staff impact needs, annual impact workshops and mentoring by current case study authors.

5. Further Internationalisation: POLIS has a diverse range of staff with recognised regional expertise and links in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The school intends to maintain and enhance this diversity through increasing linkages with universities and NGOs in these areas. A strategic research priority will be to increase our regional expertise in Asia, the school is developing links with the *East Chinese University of Politics and Law* and will use this link to foster collaborative international research. The school as a member of WUN has already created the Transformative Justice Network and we will use our extensive international links to further raise our international profile.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staffing strategy has aimed at strengthening research capacity by investing in the future through recruiting and developing ECRs (37 per cent of our submission); attracting, recognising and retaining research leaders; and enhancing in particular methodological (including quantitative) capacity and the spread of regional expertise. More than half of our staff has been recruited since the previous research assessment, replacing retiring or departing staff, or being appointed to new investment posts as part of our post-2008 renewal strategy. A total of two full professors and 13

other new academic staff have been externally recruited to the School since 2011. In addition to the six new lectureship posts created in 2012, external funding (£200K from the Pears Foundation) supports an investment post on Israel and Middle East politics. This expansion and the influx of new entrants have helped to build on POLIS's existing strengths, bringing in new expertise and talent, and revitalising and deepening its research culture. POLIS is strongly committed to following the University's guidance on recruitment and promotion processes that provide equality of opportunities. Overall, the School's academic staff base includes more women than in 2008 but the most striking aspect of the demographic profile is that the median age is now under 40. POLIS has a strong cadre of talented, enthusiastic and ambitious younger and early/mid-career staff appointed because of their outstanding track record and their potential to become international leaders in their fields. Research achievements and excellence were recognised by eight internal promotions (including three female staff) to associate or full professor 2008-13.

A number of staff have been employed on fixed-term lectureships during the assessment period, with their length of contract (typically one- or two-years) depending on POLIS's teaching requirements and research grant funding. Such colleagues are treated as an integral part of the research community; they present their research at staff seminars and are able to call on the support of POLIS's research officer. Similarly, POLIS's approach to researchers and research fellows is aligned to the 'Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers'.

There are clear structures for, and a rigorous approach to, monitoring, reviewing and supporting staff research plans and performance. Each of our academic groups and research centres has a mix of senior, mid-career and ECR staff. Academic group leaders have a strong advisory, mentoring and support role for the staff in their groups, and hold regular research reviews. These are supplemented by a system of formal annual academic reviews that involves the research director and the head of school, and by the university's staff review and development scheme in which staff evaluate and reflect on their progress, achievements and development needs. Research plans and performance are a central concern of the probation advisers and mentors appointed for all new staff. The workload model aims to protect the research momentum of newly appointed staff by allocating extra weighting for those taking on teaching duties and module responsibilities for the first time. POLIS's academic groups/research centres hold regular meetings to integrate staff and promote a coherent and supportive research culture. Each group sets objectives and engages in collective planning for generating research grant income.

Staff are eligible for research leave for one semester every three years, subject to agreed plans for research, publications, grant applications and impact in that period (during the relevant period, 26 periods of study leave were awarded). Academic groups and centres have budgets to support their research activities, staff can bid for internal pump-priming resources (see section [d]), and staff have individual personal research budgets of £1000 p.a., which they can supplement by bidding for POLIS, faculty and university funds to support research and impact activities. A rigorous system of internal approval and peer review has helped to strengthen the quality of research grant applications, and improve success rates and research income performance.

The university's Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU) offers extensive support and training opportunities to enhance the capability, skills and competence of staff at all levels and of research students. The university's ethical review system provides clear guidance, advice, information and training, as well as mechanisms to maintain research quality and integrity through the central university Research Ethics Committee and its faculty-level equivalents (POLIS has its own ethics representative who is able to advise staff).

ii. Research students

The PGR student experience is a key part of the vision of POLIS and is reflected in the quality of training and supervision arrangements, the high ratings given by its students in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), and the strong PGR culture. PGR students are integrated into POLIS's research culture through their attachment to its academic groups and research centres. PGRs are encouraged to attend School research seminars and workshops on impact and on grant applications. In addition POLIS PGRs themselves organise and run a very successful

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seminar programme based on paired presentations by staff and students that often attract audiences of 50-80 staff and students (including taught postgraduates and undergraduates). They also convene an annual PGR conference and in 2011 organised and ran a successful two-day international conference on 'Global Insecurities' which attracted notable international and public speakers including John Simpson and Benjamin Barber.

An average of 8.1 doctoral degrees per year were awarded in the REF period (2008-13), up from an average of 6.3 per year in the previous RAE period (2001-07). A significant number of the current PGRs have been awarded competitive scholarships. Four international PGRs have university or POLIS scholarships, while nine are funded by scholarships or government ministries from their home countries. Thirteen home/EU students have university or POLIS scholarships, one has an ESRC White Rose DTC award, and two are funded by employers. We are also responsible for the joint supervision of two ESRC-funded students who are part of the international development studentship network in Transformative Justice.

Research supervision and training is organised and monitored through the university's Postgraduate Development Record System. Each PGR is co-supervised by two members of staff, with the Postgraduate Research Director having overall responsibility for research student matters. Training provision is subject to continuous review and enhancement. POLIS PGR students attend a taught module providing an 'Introduction to Post-graduate Research' that runs through the first year of their programme. There are also many opportunities for them to attend training workshops at faculty and university levels, including through the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, the SDDU, the Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI), and the LEAP Training Hub, which provides access to transferable skills training and development opportunities for PGRs and early career researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The emphasis on excellence in research training, interdisciplinarity and inter-institutional collaboration fostered by the White Rose DTC in particular helps to drive up and ensure the highest quality of skills and methods provision for all PGRs. It supports and enriches the experience of POLIS PGRs by providing first-class training and an interdisciplinary environment and networks. POLIS PGRs also contribute to the Researchers in Development Network (RIDNET), a multi-disciplinary, cross-faculty network for PGRs and ECRs working in international development at the University of Leeds, with a programme of seminars, workshops and conferences.

Employability skills are fostered from the outset and a careers session is included in the introductory module (POLIS got high scores in the 2011 PRES survey on encouraging PhD students to think about the range of available career opportunities and reflect on their career development needs). Many of POLIS's PGRs go into academic positions in the UK (e.g. Bath, Glasgow, Lancaster, Manchester) or internationally (e.g. Roskilde, Ghana), and are helped to develop the necessary skills through opportunities to act as teaching assistants and attend training courses provided by the SDDU and the faculty. Others go into international public policy (e.g. the Directorate General of Internal Policies of the European Parliament), governmental posts (e.g. researcher for MPs) and non-governmental organisations (e.g. global advocacy co-ordinator for Sightsavers International).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

POLIS views the pursuit of external income as central to its mission of producing high-quality research with enduring impact. In total, £1.23 million of grants were won in this period of assessment. The total value, number and diversity of research grant awards has increased significantly since RAE 2008, with important international funding being won. POLIS staff in this period have worked on projects funded by the ESRC, AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, Nuffield Foundation, British Academy, Swedish Research Council (a recent 400K grant), United States Institute of Peace, Research Council of Norway, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Academic staff are assisted in preparing and submitting research grant applications (and in post-award grant management) by a coordinated system of support at school, faculty and university level, and by a process of internal academic peer review, advice and mentoring. Strategies for research income generation are developed by academic groups and research centres, in

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consultation with academic staff. Plans, targets and applications are reviewed and monitored by the research committee and the director of the research. The annual research planning process also involves dialogue on these issues between POLIS, the ESSL faculty and the university. All bids receive advice and support from POLIS's own dedicated research officer (1 FTE), the faculty's research team (3.5 FTE), and (where necessary) the EU and international team in the University's central Research and Innovation Service. The Faculty Knowledge Transfer (KT) Support officer works to identify and exploit KT opportunities. Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF5) has been used within the ESSL faculty to enhance engagement with external partners and foster PGR skills training by supporting a number of placements. POLIS staff have used this funding to develop impact partners in South Africa (**Beresford**), at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (**Beresford, Gallagher and Ralph**) and with think-tanks (**Davies, Ralph**). Emphasis is increasingly being put on high-quality, large-scale and collaborative projects and funding bids. The POLIS Strategic Research Investment Fund (£20k per year) provides funds to research centres to develop and promote their plans and activities, and also funds, via a robust bidding process, pump-priming projects/activities which further the School's strategic aims of maximising research income via the submission of large interdisciplinary grant applications, strengthening external networks, and furthering engagement and impact.

Research in politics and international studies at Leeds is undertaken in a context in which social science research at the university is fostered and strengthened by a number of key interdisciplinary developments that support ECRs as well as PGRs and research staff more generally. These include: (a) the *Leeds Social Science Institute* (LSSI) which promotes interdisciplinary and international collaboration, promoting relations with external partners in the public, private and third sectors and coordinating training and skills development for social scientists particularly in relation to methodological innovation. (b) The *'Building Sustainable Societies' transformation fund project*, which is a dynamic and interdisciplinary research project that aims to develop new knowledge, analysis and policy to address the major social and economic challenges facing contemporary societies across the globe, notably in the fields of work and security (the BSS project on security and justice is run jointly by the School of Law and POLIS and involves scholars from other disciplines). It focuses on developing synergies between researchers working in these key fields in order to address intersecting areas of concern and develop a holistic approach to building sustainable societies. The cash value of this fund of £1 million is indicative of the University's commitment to funding inter-disciplinary research addressing major societal challenges.

University facilities provided for research activities are considerable and of high quality. Leeds has one of the largest research libraries in the country, with over 3 million books, 37,000 journal subscriptions and 850 databases. Its social sciences team provides specialist library and information support and academic skills training for POLIS staff and PGRs. IT facilities are excellent, and staff and PGRs have access to an extensive range of IT packages used for research. An £8 million refurbishment (in 2013-14) of the Social Science Building to provide modernised accommodation, teaching and research facilities for staff, research students, research partners and teaching is further evidence of the University's strong ongoing support for POLIS and its research plans.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

POLIS has sought to shape the disciplines of politics, international relations and global development through its academic groups and by extending its presence in local, national and international networks of activity. Academics across the school are recognised as international experts in their fields, helping maintain research quality across the discipline by reviewing an array of research outputs (e.g. *The American Political Science Review*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Oxford University Press* monographs) and maintaining the quality of research inputs through membership of the ESRC peer review college (**McCargo, Ralph, Robinson**), reviewing for the Norwegian Research Council (**Anderson**), the AHRC (**Robinson**) and Leverhulme (**Theakston**). **Crawford** was an invited member of two research commissioning panels, the ESRC Professorial Fellowship Scheme 2009-10 and the ESRC-DFID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development. We are developing the next generation of researchers with our ESRC funded White Rose DTC with York and Sheffield, providing opportunities for our students to present research at White Rose PGR conferences and seminar series at all three institutions and

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exposing them to approaches beyond their institutional boundaries. Members of the school have added to the research base through the development of freely available analytical techniques such as a multinomial bias estimator that improves the measurement of electoral polling accuracy (**Evans**¹) and through the creation of new publically available datasets (**Davies, Evans**). During the census period members of the school have edited *Civil Wars* (**Newman**), a book series on intrastate conflict (**Newman**), *Parliamentary Affairs* (**Evans**) *Democratisation* (**Crawford**), *Critical African Studies* (**Beresford**). Staff have been members of journal editorial boards including: *British Politics*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Compare*, *Human Rights*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *Nomadic Peoples*, *Review of African Political Economy*. The school's academic groups give focus to our research activity, providing the organisational framework for research collaborations and for the school's contribution to the discipline.

Politics Academic Group: (**Atkins, Dean, Dunn, Edyvane, Evans, Gaines, Hayton, Heppell, Lee, McCargo, Robinson, Smith, Theakston, Woods**). In this academic group there are three clusters of excellence that showcase collaborations across the discipline and make a contribution to shaping academic debates. (1) the Political theory group has developed a cluster of expertise in friendship studies, resulting in the creation, with academics in New Zealand, of a new online open access interdisciplinary journal housed at Leeds called *Amity* (www.amityjournal.leeds.ac.uk) that engages with scholars across the social sciences (co-editor: **Smith**). Members of the group (**Edyvane, Woods**) have organised workshops on the *Idea of Friendship* bringing together a range of international and national scholars leading to a special edition of *Res Publica*. The group in conjunction with colleagues in York and Sheffield developed the *White Rose Association for Political Philosophy* holding a conference entitled 'On Vice: Political Ethics and Moral Conflict'. **Dean's** British Academy grant underpins the creation of a new national network of scholars looking at *Gender Dynamics of Protest Movements*. While the *Centre for Democratisation Studies* regularly holds seminar series inviting leading international scholars including Thomas Pogge, David Beetham, Marc Stears and Simon Caney. (2) The Leaders, Parties and Institutions (LPI) Centre develops theoretical and empirical understandings of political leadership. POLIS set up the PSA Political Leadership specialist group and has used it to organise national events. Notable achievements of the group include a conference on Toxic Leadership, resulting in a national network of scholars and a special edition of *Representation* (eds. **Heppell** and **McCargo**). From the LPI group, **Theakston** organised and led an international symposium (held in The Hague) on the role and activities of former leaders in modern democracies (resulting in an edited book, and stimulating follow-up work on former leaders in other countries, including Australia and Canada). (3) Centre for British Government (**Theakston, Atkins, Hayton, Heppell**) focus on the interactions between party politics, political leadership (including leadership selection), rhetoric and oratory, and political ideologies in Britain. **Hayton** convenes the PSA specialist group for the study of Conservative politics and has also organised two conferences on oratory in British party politics (producing edited collections). **Atkins** is secretary of the Rhetoric and Politics PSA specialist group and co-convened a symposium on 'Rhetoric in British Politics and Society' (resulting in an edited collection). **Theakston** has been working with the History & Policy organisation and the network of scholars involved in revamping the historical sections of the official Number 10 website. In addition, **Theakston** and **Heppell** took part in comparative work on evaluating prime-ministerial performance, orchestrated through an international workshop in Melbourne funded by the Australian Research Council, and have submitted evidence to parliamentary committee inquiries on government ministers and the position of the prime minister. The group has also organised conferences on *Coalition Leadership*, *Opposition Leadership*, and *How Labour Governments Fall*, all of which resulted in networks of scholars publishing edited collections.

The International Relations and Security Academic Group: (**Berger, Craig, Davies, Gallagher, Newman, Ralph**). This Group's contribution centres on understanding security interventions, in particular the legal, normative and political aspects influencing the use of state power. Scholars in the group use a variety of theories and methods to analyse intervention, examples including the English School (**Ralph**⁴, **Gallagher**¹) or Time Series analysis to examine the effect of the Iraq Intervention on other actors in the international system (**Davies**⁴) as well as analysis informed by liberal theory of the domestic determinants underpinning Western interventions (**Berger**^{1,3,4}). **Newman's**^{1,2} work has impacted on debates about Human Security and has contributed to UNESCO projects which seek to operationalize the concept. This group is

involved in interdisciplinary research, specifically across Law and International Relations. **Ralph** for instance collaborated with Crawford (Leeds School of Law) on the 2011 CUP volume *International and Comparative Criminal Justice and Urban Governance*. **Ralph's**² research into the decision to invade Iraq combines legal analysis with the English school and was recently included in a virtual issue of the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* showcasing "some of the best work the journal has published". Likewise, **Craig**¹ adopts an interdisciplinary approach to legitimacy to analyse the legality of security policy using contemporary Israeli military operations and changes in UK war crimes legislation as case studies. This interdisciplinary research agenda is supported by the Security and Justice hub of the Building Sustainable Societies Transformation Fund, which convened an interdisciplinary conference in October 2011. The IR and Security group convened and hosted the BISA US Foreign Policy annual conference (September 2010). Delegates included FCO and Human Rights Watch representation. This was funded by the ESRC, the US Embassy and Taylor and Francis. Papers were edited by **Ralph** and Oz Hassan (Warwick) and published as a special issue of *International Journal of Human Rights* on democracy promotion in US foreign policy. The group has also convened a seminar series (2011-12) and one-day workshop (July 2012) on British foreign policy and the use of force, both funded by the British Academy. The latter again included FCO representation. The group has collaborated with third sector organisations, specifically the Foreign Policy Centre, presenting research at Parliament (**Davies, Ralph**) and submitting evidence to Parliamentary Inquiries (**Davies, Ralph**). **Davies** has interdisciplinary links with political scientists in Japan (Kobe) and Social Psychologists (Tokyo) conducting experiments to analyse Japanese attitudes towards military conflict (underpinned with funding from JSPS, ESRC and Suntory Foundation). **Ralph** is a Senior Research Associate at the Foreign Policy Centre. **Newman** is a co-director of a UN University project 'Peacebuilding in Conflict-affected Societies: Comparative Experiences and Local Perspectives', which brings UN and national stakeholders together (e.g. Ghana and Bosnia) and has produced UN policy reports. The group has been represented on the BISA board of trustees (**Ralph** elected member 2010-2011) and convenes the BISA Working Group on the Responsibility to Protect (**Gallagher**).

The International Development Academic Group: (Anderson, Beresford, Crawford) Has a strong Africanist expertise, with a particular emphasis on southern and western Africa. A central focus of their research has analysed the interface between national/international political issues (Governance, NGOs, party politics, social movements) and core developmental challenges such as HIV/AIDS (**Anderson**¹), livelihoods and labour (**Beresford**¹) and rights-based activism (**Crawford**^{1,2}). POLIS houses the Leeds University Centre of African Studies (LUCAS) and founded the Yorkshire African Studies Network (YASN). The Centre for Global Development led by **Crawford** was instrumental in the creation of the WUN transformative justice research network from 15 universities including anthropologists from NYU and CUNY, historians from the University of Western Cape; political scientists from Oslo and third sector actors involved in the Open Society Justice Initiative (New York) shaping the academic agenda on transformative justice. The inaugural conference took place at Leeds in 2011, attracting international academics (Peru, Australia, US, South Africa). LUCAS is an interdisciplinary research centre containing not only political scientists (**Anderson, Beresford, Crawford**), but also scholars from the schools of English, Fine Art, Geography, Education and Food Science. LUCAS produces the *Leeds African Studies Bulletin* (since 1964) providing a reference point for interdisciplinary research into Africa. The group regularly hold seminars and guest lectures with notable international speakers including Chinua Achebe. Other areas of strength relate to **Anderson** who is part of a Global Health network with colleagues from Australia (ANU, Griffith, Sydney); Canada (Carleton, UBC) and the US (Washington, Rutgers) crossing the boundaries of public health, international relations and development. These networks have resulted in panels presenting research at international conferences such as the International Studies Association. The International Development group have hosted the 'Global Crisis and the Developing World' (2012-13) seminar series at Leeds bringing in major international speakers such as Patrick Bond. The group have co-organised the 'Democratisation in Africa' conference with support from the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), 2009; convened a section on 'Participatory Democracy: An Impetus For 'Real' Democracy in the 21st Century', at IPSA-ECPR Joint Conference 'Whatever Happened to North-South?' 2011, convened the 2009 annual conference for the Society of Latin American Studies, and in conjunction with LUCAS hosted the African Studies Association of the UK bi-annual conference (2012).