

<p>Institution: University of Aberdeen</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 21 Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview Politics & International Relations (PIR) has developed an international reputation as a centre of academic excellence for political research over the course of five decades. It is a distinct academic department situated with two related departments (Anthropology and Sociology) in the School of Social Science, one of six Schools within the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). PIR's research strategy is managed by a Research Coordinator (Smith), working with the School's Director of Research (Gimlin, Sociology), the Head of Department (Bain), and other senior PIR staff members (Professors Haerpfer, Keating, and Zalewski); Zalewski also serves as Head of the School of Social Science. Postgraduate teaching and research are administered at the School level and through the CASS Graduate School, which oversees recruitment, grant partnerships, and scholarships. Compared to the RAE2008, PIR has more than tripled its research income and has published more books and articles in leading PIR journals. In addition, PIR has expanded its strong interdisciplinary and international orientation, thanks to the development of existing networks and the growth of the School of Social Science, but also because of the development of new PIR-related research clusters. These include the Centre for Global Security and Governance, the Interdisciplinary Approaches to Violence research cluster, the New Europe Centre, the Centre for Gender Studies, and the European Centre for Survey Research.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>PIR will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014. Through a range of consultative mechanisms discussed below, PIR staff members continually review our research strategy in light of developments in the discipline, the University's strategic goals and pedagogical needs, broader social/political trends, and the evolving research interests of our staff members. Since 2008, the Department has focused on four core research themes: a) <u>Political Organisation and Participation</u>; b) <u>Conflict and Security Studies</u>; c) <u>Comparative Politics</u>; and d) <u>International Relations (IR) Theory</u>. Our specific research projects, networks, and outputs overlap across these themes, and PIR does not maintain a rigid barrier between the fields of Politics and IR in developing research projects. A clear strength of our research culture is the fact that our staff members incorporate a comparative/international dimension to their work, even though their primary focus might be on various aspects of domestic politics. A second feature of PIR research at Aberdeen involves balancing the more traditional focus on empirical political behaviour with a more critical examination of the conventional wisdom about political life, both in advanced democracies and in the developing world. Finally, our research culture is explicitly interdisciplinary in nature, and involves intensive collaborations with other disciplines, in the social sciences and otherwise, especially in the areas of security/conflict resolution, representation/civil society, various aspects of public policy, and the politics of identity (for example gender, ethnicity, and sexuality).</p> <p><u>Political Organisation and Participation</u> brings together researchers working on political behaviour, parties/elections, public policy, civil society, and democratisation across a range of political systems. Our work on political participation in general and contemporary European democracy in particular has been especially prominent. Bennie's research on political party adaptation was funded by the ESRC and resulted in her recent book on the Scottish National Party (Oxford University Press). Her work on 'gendered nationalism' in the Scottish National Party appeared in <i>Party Politics</i>, and her analysis of Scottish local elections appeared in the <i>Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties</i>. PIR also has a long history of researching the role of interest groups in contemporary democracies, and Bernhagen has continued this tradition by directing several ESRC-funded research projects on interest groups/political participation and the concept of 'borderless politics'. His work on the media and lobbying in particular has appeared in several major journals: the <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>, <i>Political Studies</i>, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>, and <i>European Union Politics</i>. Haerpfer was part of a major European Union (EU) 7th Framework Programme (FP-7) project on survey research, political participation, and health politics in former Soviet republics, conducted between 2009-12; findings from this project have appeared in a number of journals dealing with public health policy. Like Bennie, Keating also has a strong interest in Scottish politics and published a book on the Scottish independence movement in 2009 (Oxford University Press), as well as articles on the evolution of the modern welfare state (including one in the <i>British Journal of Politics and International Relations</i>). These projects were funded in part by an ESRC Professorial Fellowship. Our most recent hire, Toke, enhances</p>

Aberdeen's expertise in public policy and policy networks, mainly regarding energy/environmental policy. His work on a range of modern policy problems has appeared in several leading journals in the policy sub-field, including *Environmental Politics*, *Public Administration*, and *The Political Quarterly* (among others). He also recently published a book on energy politics/policy: *Ecological Modernisation and Renewable Energy*, and has published on the topic of 'multilevel' citizenship in France, in the journal *Global Society*.

Conflict and Security Studies is defined very broadly by PIR; it includes work on traditional and non-traditional approaches to violence within and between states as well as more theoretical explorations about the politics of peace and conflict in contemporary IR. There is a strong focus on regional security in the Department, including work on Europe, South America, and the Middle East/Islamic world. **McEvoy** has published several works on security, conflict resolution, and the European minority rights regime. Her co-authored book on this topic outlines a theory of regime effectiveness regarding the European minority rights regime, while a related article on the securitization of this regime appeared in *Security Dialogue*. Building on this research, **McEvoy's** forthcoming book from the University of Pennsylvania Press examines the issue of power-sharing in deeply divided societies. **Oelsner** has examined regional governance, identity, and security in South America (particularly involving Mercosur); her work on this topic appeared in *International Studies Quarterly*. She also researches the evolution of the concept of international friendship; her findings on this topic have appeared in *Security Dialogue*. The Department's research on European security has been enhanced by the arrival of **Smith** in 2010, who brought with him three remaining years of a large (one million euro) European Research Council (ERC) grant on EU conflict resolution missions. **Smith's** article on the grand strategy of the EU was a featured article on the *Journal of European Public Policy* website, and was the number one or number two most downloaded article from that journal throughout 2011 and 2012 (downloaded over 2,800 times). **Smith** also published a comprehensive book on international security, which applies a new political analysis framework across a full range of contemporary security issues. **Teti** focuses on the Islamic world/Middle East; his expertise on democratization and conflict in the Middle East was reflected in an article published in *Middle East Critique* and in other publications.

As with our approach to conflict and security, Comparative Politics involves traditional cross-national comparisons of political phenomena as well as work that falls more under the heading of IR. Here most of our outputs can be grouped in two areas: Europe/EU (including multilevel governance in Europe) and comparative/international politics in the developing world. Regarding European/EU politics, PIR staff members share a range of research interests. Comparative political representation and civil society building in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are the subject of two articles by **Haerpfer**; these appeared in the *International Political Science Review* and *East European Politics and Societies*. **Haerpfer** and **Bernhagen** are co-editors of *Democratization*, a major (456 pages) book published under the Oxford University Press imprint. This volume included contributions from some of the leading international figures in the comparative study of democratization, including several Aberdeen staff members (**Bain**, **Bernhagen**, **Haerpfer**, and **Oelsner**). **Keating** studies territoriality and interest representation in Europe; his analysis of territorial politics appeared in *West European Politics*. He also published a comprehensive assessment of the 'state of the art' in European political science in the *European Political Science Review*. **Smith** was invited to author the chapter on "European Foreign Policy" for the volume on Foreign Policy Analysis in the comprehensive *International Studies Compendium* project, organized by the International Studies Association. **Vij** has produced several articles on political culture and identity in contemporary Japan (in *Alternatives* and *Protosociology*); her work synthesizes insights from sociology, gender theory, and critical theory to explain changing concepts of citizenship, civic engagement, and homelessness in Japan. On politics in the developing world, we would mention **Bain's** work on Latin America (Cuban-Russian relations); he published a book on Russian-Cuban relations since 1992 as well as a *Diplomacy and Statecraft* article on the political history of Soviet-Cuban relations. In addition, **Oelsner's** work on Mercosur and South America, together with **Vij's** work on East Asia and India and **Teti's** work noted above, add to our strengths on comparative politics and international relations in the developing world.

The Department's work in IR theory is reflected especially in the work of **Smith**, **Teti**, **Vij**, and

Zalewski. Helping to link PIR's strengths in IR theory, security, and European politics, **Smith** applied institutional theory to a critique of the EU's new European External Action Service in an article in a special issue of the *Journal of European Public Policy*. He also guest-edited the other articles on this topic in the same journal. **Teti** has applied a constructivist perspective to the politics of international identity, publishing a detailed analysis of the relationship between constructivism and post-modernism/post-structuralism in *Contemporary Political Theory*. A related article by **Teti** in *Mediterranean Politics* examines the EU's response to uprisings in the Arab world; this work also demonstrates our intellectual linkages between IR theory and comparative politics. **Vij** published an edited volume on Hegel and international relations and two articles on gender politics in Japan (in *Protosociology* and *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*); her work on this topic builds upon her studies of Japanese political culture noted above. **Zalewski** has produced a wide range of publications that challenge core topics of IR through critical feminism. Recent examples include a contribution on human rights in an edited volume published by Cambridge University Press and articles in *The Review of International Studies* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. She also reorients core topics in IR through her work on masculinities and IR theory. More recently her work has turned toward the impact of the theoretical interventions of feminist theory on the discipline of IR; recent articles have appeared in *The Review of International Studies* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Her research monograph on *Feminist International Relations: Exquisite Corpse* appeared in 2013.

In addition to these themes, PIR actively fosters interdisciplinary research on several other topics. For example, public policy research is often conducted by specialists in scientific and policy fields, and several of our staff members have developed expertise in various aspects of public policy. These topics include environmental policy (**Bennie, Bernhagen, and Toke**) which also feeds into the institutional cross-disciplinary research theme of Environment and Food Security, and is relevant to the RCUK Living with Environmental Change theme; health policy (**Haerpfer**), which relates to the institutional research theme of Pathways to Healthy Living, and also the RCUK Livelong Health and Wellbeing theme; welfare policy (**Keating**); and energy policy (**Toke**), which again relates to our institutional research theme Energy, as well as the RCUK energy theme.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staff research is supported in various ways at the University, College, and School levels. A University Research & Innovation team advises researchers on available funding options, deadlines and application guidelines; sponsors visits by representatives of funding bodies; and oversees the application process. The University also has a Researcher Development Unit (RDU) to provide a regular professional development opportunities for researchers, irrespective of level or discipline. These programmes range from induction courses for new appointees to an International Leadership Development Programme, with input from external consultants. All activities are aligned with the national Researcher Development Framework to demonstrate progression across phases of a career. The RDU also supports researcher-led and co-development of initiatives through a Researcher Development enabling fund. Thanks to these efforts, Aberdeen was one of the first UK universities to be awarded the Human Resources Excellence award from the European Commission for its researcher development programme; the University has also been awarded a bronze Athena Swan Award for fostering a supportive environment for female researchers.

Several PIR staff members (**Bennie, McEvoy, Oelsner, and Smith**) have taken advantage of the training opportunities offered by the RDU by attending courses on various topics (grant writing, presentation skills, colleague mentoring, budget management, and research impact), while **Bain** and **Oelsner** were awarded seed money from the Principal's Excellence Fund for their individual research projects. In addition to this support, PIR has developed several mechanisms to enhance our overall research environment in terms of our research outputs and increasing external grant income. Specific measures have included research 'away days', the weekly Departmental seminar series featuring research talks by PIR staff and invited outside experts, internal peer review of all grant applications, and a formal mentoring programme for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to improve their individual research profiles and research grant applications. ECRs also have reduced teaching hours and administrative responsibilities to allow greater time for research and other professional development opportunities during their three-year probationary period.

As with other units in CASS, PIR also conducts annual Research Development Reviews (RDRs) with each research-active staff member to enhance collegiality, foster joint projects, and provide detailed advice on where and when to publish specific pieces of work. The RDRs also provide advice on writing grant proposals and performing other professional development tasks. In addition, PIR has devised a teaching schedule to optimize the amount of time made available to conduct research. All PIR staff members also engage in informal peer-to-peer mentoring to foster collegiality and maximise opportunities for research collaboration, while the professional development of junior and mid-career staff is supported by the unit via their placement in key administrative roles within the department and School. Examples include **Vij's** position as Director of the Teaching & Learning Committee for Social Science and **Bain's** role as Head of PIR. Thanks to these efforts, we can report that PIR has retained many of the staff members submitted for the RAE2008 exercise, nearly half of whom were ECRs at the time. Two PIR staff members (Salmon and Jordan) have retired since 2008, while the departures of several other staff members have been offset by the arrival of **McEvoy, Smith, and Toke**. The Department has also been authorised to hire seven more full-time staff members in 2013-14, and a strategic review of our priorities was undertaken during the summer of 2013 in anticipation of filling these positions.

The University is committed to equality for all staff and students and the University court has overall responsibility for implementation of the Equality and Diversity policy. A vice-principal has responsibility for implementing this policy. The University applies the policy to all areas of employment within PIR including: recruitment and selection of staff, promotion opportunities, evaluation of jobs and grading, training and development opportunities, discipline and grievance procedures, redundancy procedures and dismissals. Staff members within PIR have access to Equality and Diversity e-training with two modules available. "Diversity in teaching and learning" focuses on issues relating to teaching practice and about developing an inclusive learning environment, while "Diversity in Teaching and Learning," focuses on issues relating to teaching practice and about developing an inclusive learning environment.

ii. Research students

The development of the Departmental research environment has had an impact on PGR numbers, particularly funded studentships. All research postgraduates are provided with shared offices and their own networked PC. After the first year they are normally offered undergraduate teaching, an important way of integrating them into the intellectual life of the School as well as giving valuable professional experience. Our total PGR student body currently numbers around 40, and we have awarded 17 PhD degrees between 2008-13. Of our currently enrolled PGR students, eight are enrolled on the MRes, the majority of which are likely to continue towards a PhD, and all of the current group of PhD students have commenced doctoral research since 2008. Among our PhD students who have completed or commenced their studies since 2008, four have been awarded 1+3 or +3 ESRC studentships; another four overseas students have been awarded ORSAS studentships plus CASS contributions; and another four have been awarded 3-year doctoral studentships from CASS covering fees and, in some cases, living costs.

In addition to the doctoral students that have been awarded funding, four of our recent or current MRes students are recipients of CASS awards and two are currently applying for doctoral funding by Carnegie, while **Smith's** ERC grant funded an additional PhD student for three years. One of the six successful bids in the first year of the new CASS Research Project Award Scheme (RPAS) is headed by **Zalewski** and **Teti**; this award provides funding and partial maintenance for four PhD students over two years. Five of our current PhD students and two of our current MRes students have received such RPAS awards. The success of our current PGR students in securing internal or external funding indicates the exceptional quality of students that our PGR programme has managed to attract over recent years; research topics of current doctoral students range from diaspora politics in the former Soviet Union, minority rights regimes, energy security, corporate social responsibility, violated bodies and the political, corruption, and comparative party system analysis in developing countries, to questions of constitutional reform and media politics in the UK, EU security policy, and Latin American politics. PGR supervision duties are shared across the Department as well as with other units in the School of Social Sciences, and the range of PGR research topics closely reflects our strengths in particular research themes.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Aberdeen's Framework for Research Governance outlines the key principles underpinning its approach to research governance. Within this general framework, the Research and Innovation (R&I) unit at Aberdeen consists of a team of specialist advisors dedicated to maximising the University's research income, identifying intellectual property opportunities, and successfully exploiting innovative ideas. R&I are the first point of contact for PIR researchers applying for funds to undertake research. In addition to circulating information on grant opportunities, R&I co-ordinate the College's peer review and mentoring process (as appropriate) for applicants, and serve as institutional links to our research governance and finance teams. Through workshops and one-on-one advice, R&I ensure that proposals are accurately costed and that all necessary authorisations are obtained prior to submission of a grant and conduct of the research. In 2012 the Directorate of Information Technology (IT) introduced a new research support infrastructure to advise on IT elements in external funding bids, including in social sciences.

In terms of research awards, the Department has shown increasing success in winning major grants from research councils, large charities, and the EU; our total funding from all sources has amounted to £2.2 million since 2008. This represents a dramatic improvement compared to the RAE2008 submission, when our funding for that period amounted to just under £700,000. Funding from the ESRC alone since January 2008 has been well in excess of £1.0m, anchored by several major awards. These include **Keating's** ESRC fellowship (£365K) and three ESRC projects directed by **Bernhagen**: on British business and public policy (£95K); on the 2009 elections to the European Parliament (£280K); and a new project on the concept of borderless politics (£500K, shared with the University of Glasgow). **Smith's** ERC project on EU international security assistance operations was transferred from the University of St Andrews (£630K transferred from an original award of £800K) upon his arrival at Aberdeen in 2010. **Toke** brings with him (as Co-Investigator) an ESRC award to investigate the delivery of renewable energy. Most recently, **Haerpfer** (with **Teti** as Co-Investigator) was awarded £2.5 million by the EU's FP-7 programme for a project on political change in the Arab world, to run between 2013-15. This project was launched with a major press event in Brussels in June 2013.

PIR has also had considerable success with research charities and other academic/cultural bodies such as the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (among others). **Vij** won awards from the British Academy, the Carnegie Trust, and the British International Studies Association (BISA) to organise several conferences, while **Zalewski** was awarded funding by BISA to host an online conference to launch a new website, the Gender in Global Governance Network (co-hosted with colleagues from the Universities of Birmingham and New South Wales). European funding has supported large-scale work on civil society and working conditions in the EU. One major example is **Haerpfer's** project on 'Health in time of transition', funded by the European Commission for work on several former Soviet republics. A number of smaller grants have been awarded by the EU COST programme, the European Commission, the Nuffield Foundation, and other sources.

In terms of infrastructure/facilities support, all PIR staff members are provided with an office, computer, printing facilities, and technical support. Laptops and tape recorders are available for fieldwork, and specialist software is provided in addition to the normal suite of office productivity software installed on all University computers. All PIR staff members also receive an annual research budget from the University to purchase materials, attend conferences, and conduct fieldwork. In 2011, the University opened a new £57m Library, which features state-of-the art IT and research facilities, dedicated exhibition spaces, a greatly improved Special Collections area with its own seminar room, plus a variety of other meeting rooms on each of the seven floors. Aberdeen has also invested heavily in subscriptions to online e-journals and bibliographical databases, such as JSTOR, while extra library funds are routinely made available for new research projects, or to support the needs of newly appointed staff and the development of their courses.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The Department encourages both collaborative and individual research, and nearly all staff members are involved in extensive research networks at the national and international levels. Thanks to these efforts, PIR has demonstrated clear improvement since the RAE2008 in terms of publications, grant income, involvement in the discipline, and our overall research environment.

In addition to our research outputs, PIR staff members have contributed to the discipline through a variety of academic service roles since 2008. **Smith** is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of European Public Policy* and *European Security*; he also guest-edited (and contributed to) a special section of articles for the *Journal of European Public Policy* on the performance of the EU's new External Action Service. Most recently, he is under contract by the Major Works series editors at Routledge to edit a four-volume (1,600 pages) major reference work on the topic of European security affairs. **Vij** is on the editorial boards of *Globalizations* and the *Journal of Comparative and International Social Policy*; she was also recently named as an associate editor of *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*. **Zalewski** was a founder and editor of *The International Feminist Journal of Politics* and still serves on its editorial board; she is also on the editorial board for the Social Justice book series (Routledge). She also co-guest-edited and contributed to a special issue of *Men and Masculinities* (Sage) on the theme of Masculinity and Responsibility.

Keating serves on a wide range of journal editorial boards, including *Comparative Political Studies*, *West European Politics, Environment and Planning, Government and Policy, Space and Polity, Modern and Contemporary France, Spanish Cultural Studies, Regional Studies, Politique et Sociétés, Journal of Public Policy, Ethnopolitics, British Politics, Politika - Revista de ciencias sociales, Revue Fédéralisme Régionalisme, L'Observatoire de la Société Britannique*, and *European Urban and Regional Studies*. He also serves on the editorial boards of several book series, including the PSA Reference Book series on Politics (Palgrave), the Queen's Papers on Europeanisation (Belfast), the ECPR Monograph series and the ECPR Classics series, the Colección de Estudios Internacionales (Universidad del País Vasco), the 'European Studies' series of the Editura Institutul European, (Romania), and Papeles del CEIC (Centro de Investigaciones sobre la Identidad Colectiva). He is also a member of the scientific committee for Perspectives on Federalism (Centro Studi sul Federalismo).

Regarding professional association service roles and awards, **Keating** is a fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, as well as an Academician of the Social Sciences. **Smith** served on the conference committees of the European Union Studies Association (Marina del Rey, California, 2009) and the ECPR Standing Group on European Union Studies (Riga, Latvia, 2008). **Vij** served as a section chair for the ECPR's Standing Group on International Relations conference (Warsaw, 2013). **Zalewski** received an 'Eminent Scholar Award' at the International Studies Association annual convention (San Francisco, 2013). She is the first British scholar to receive this award, in recognition of the international impact of her scholarship.

PIR staff members have also delivered keynote lectures/speeches to international audiences in recognition of their contributions to scholarship. **Smith** delivered several keynote speeches for various events, such as a workshop on EU grand strategy (Loughborough University) inspired by his article on that topic, as well the conference "EU External Relations Law and Policy in the Post-Lisbon Era," (University of Sheffield) and the conference "Export Controls and the European Defence Market" sponsored by the Flemish Peace Institute in support of the Belgian EU Presidency (Brussels). He was invited to present his views on a new European Global Strategy at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. Most recently, **Smith** was invited to lecture at the 'EU School' of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) in Brazil, as well as participate in a roundtable discussion on EU foreign policy during the FGV's annual 'Europe Day' public conference. **Zalewski** has delivered keynote speeches at The Graduate Institute (Geneva); the University of Warwick; the University of New South Wales (Sydney); and the London School of Economics. She was also one of twelve International Guest Professors invited to lead a 'Master Class' (Ideas Lab) in Critical International Relations Theory at Gregynog, Wales (run by Aberystwyth University).

PIR staff members are also regularly invited to give research presentations about their work at various academic institutions in the UK and beyond. **Bain** was the only participant from Western Europe to be invited to the conference "Two Centuries of Latin American Independence," held at the Institute of History at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Other presentations were made at leading institutions such as the Europa Institute of the University of Edinburgh (**Smith**), King's College London (**Smith**), the ARENA Centre for European Studies at the University of Oslo (**Smith**), the American University in Cairo (**Teti**), the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund

University (**Teti**), the SAIS Bologna Centre of Johns Hopkins University (**Zalewski**), the 40th Anniversary Conference of *Millennium: Journal of International Relations* (**Zalewski**), and the Women in Foreign Policy conference of the Institute of the Americas (**Zalewski**).

Our collaboration in international research networks is extensive: **Bain** has on ongoing collaboration with the Centro Estudios Hemisfericos y sobre Estados Unidos at the University of Havana in Cuba. **Haerpfer** serves as one of the advisors for two major international networks involving global public opinion research: the Steering Committee of the Globalbarometer Survey Group and the World Values Survey Association. **Keating** is a member of the advisory/scientific boards of several research institutes: the Centre sur la diversité au Québec (CRIDAQ); the Centre on European Governance, Identity and Public Policy (Cardiff University); and the Standing Group on Regionalism of the European Consortium for Political Research. He also serves as a Referee for the Italian Ministry of Research. **Smith** is a member of the new international Collaborative Research Network on strategy and the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (sponsored by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies). **Teti** is a Senior Fellow of the European Centre for International Affairs in Brussels; a consultant for the Istituto per gli Studi Politici Internazionali, (Milan); and Co-Director of the Critical Middle East Studies network of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES). **Zalewski** is on the International Committee of the Women's World's Congress to be held in Hyderabad in August 2014.

PIR research at Aberdeen has invited attention from a range of media outlets: **Bain** has been interviewed by *The Scotsman* about recent UK-Argentina tensions over the Falklands Islands. **Bennie** and **Keating** have made numerous contributions to media reports (print and television, including the BBC) in a range of outlets on the topic of Scottish independence, while **Teti** has been a frequent international media commentator on the Arab uprisings in Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, and Syria; his views have been disseminated by the BBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, ITV, Al-Jazeera's *Inside Story* (in English), *Affari Italiani*, *Deutsche Welle*, Australia's SBS, France24, Radio Pacifica, and several local media outlets. In addition to the activities highlighted in our impact statement and case studies, a number of PIR staff members also disseminate their research ideas in public forums and through public institutions. Much this activity can be viewed in terms of impact as it provides evidence of the external reach of our work beyond academia. For example, **Bain** was one of only five people invited to participate in the briefings of Tim Cole, who assumed the role of the UK's new (2012) Ambassador to Cuba. **Keating** is the co-founder and co-director of the Scottish Policy Innovation Forum and the co-founder and co-director of the Scotland in the World Forum. **Smith** provided written background briefing material to the House of Lords European Union Sub-committee on External Affairs regarding the performance of the European External Action Service. **Teti** was invited to give a presentation on Egypt's trade union movement at the UK's Department for International Development.

Finally, PIR at Aberdeen hosts scholars from around the world to help develop our internal and external research networks. In addition to our regular weekly seminars by leading PIR scholars, we have secured funding from a range of sources to bring scholars to Aberdeen to discuss their work and develop joint projects. For example, **Bain's** Latin American studies network noted above received funding from the Royal Society of Edinburgh International Exchange Programme for a Cuban colleague to visit the University of Aberdeen for a month. **Smith's** ERC grant funded six postdoctoral research students from throughout the EU, for one year each, all of whom were working in the area of EU conflict resolution operations. **Smith** has already published two co-authored articles with two of these students (on the EU's first-ever counter-piracy naval operation, in *Contemporary Security Policy*, and on the European Gendarmerie Force, in *European Security*); several other co-authored articles are currently under review. **Vij** won external funding to organize two international workshops at Aberdeen: one on Hegel and IR (sponsored by the British Academy) and one on post-coloniality and the limits of post-structural IR (sponsored by BISA). **Teti** and **Zalewski** hosted scholars from Australia, Finland, and the UK at a symposium on 'Inter-disciplinary Approaches to Violence.' With this record of achievement, and with the addition of seven new colleagues to be appointed by 2014, our 50th anniversary year, Aberdeen will continue its long tradition as a vibrant and innovative place to research politics and international relations.