

<p>Institution: SOAS</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Department's depth and breadth of knowledge of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and its expertise in areas such as conflict and security, diplomacy, identity politics, religion, rights and justice, migration, political economy, energy and climate change, make it a highly sought-after source of expertise and policy advice. In 2008-13 we have worked with a range of non-academic organisations and users. These engagements can be divided into two strands. First, we provide area expertise in the form of in-depth country and regional expertise, through foreign policy advice, briefings, training and expert evaluation of government policies and papers. Second, we offer substantive expertise on issues such as transitional justice; energy security and climate change; human rights and faith-based humanitarianism; gender and LGBT issues; migration, asylum and refugee issues; nuclear non-proliferation; and the future of the United Nations. The Department's strategy prioritises the production and dissemination of rigorous, original and independent research to many international constituencies and users, including government agencies, parliamentary bodies, international organisations, NGOs and corporate users.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The Department encourages staff to undertake impact activities via its impact strategy [see below], working closely with SOAS's Research and Enterprise Office (REO). Activities include tailored briefings, short courses, provision of evidence and advice to parliamentary committees, commissioned research and consultancy, television and radio appearances, and outreach to civil society and the general public. The Department grants leave of absence for staff to engage in international impact activities (e.g. with the ICRC and UN in Geneva, the EU in Brussels and Médecins sans Frontières in the Netherlands).</p> <p>Since 2008 work with government agencies has been initiated via direct approaches, the REO or the research councils. For instance, Tripp has delivered briefings at the FCO, DFID, units of the British Army, the RCDS, the Mubarak al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, Kuwait, the Royal Danish Defence College, the Swedish MFA and GCHQ based on his work on Middle East politics, especially Iraq. Adamson engaged with the FCO and Home Office in the context of an ESRC 'New Security Challenges: Radicalisation and Political Violence' grant. Chan's work on African politics led to him being the only academic member of the FCO Ginger Group on Africa, reporting directly on Zimbabwe at Ministerial level in the UK, and at Assistant Secretary of State level in the US. During the war in Libya, Chan advised the Benghazi Transitional Council and the UK Ministry of Defence, based on his knowledge of Qadhafi's strategic thinking. The FCO and the US, Irish and Swedish MFAs have called upon Khalili, Tripp, Nelson, Strauss, Kobayashi, Kong, Sáez for advice and briefings based on their research into the politics of the Middle East, Pakistan, China, Japan, North Korea and India, respectively. Plesch's work with British Pugwash 2008-2012 on a WMD free zone in the Middle East through a series of public conferences led to collaboration with the government of Norway on the same topic. Kobayashi organised a funded workshop on East Asian security at the Japanese Embassy in 2011. Clark's work on the Great Lakes Region of Africa has led to consultations at the FCO and briefings for the RCDS. Young's research led to DFID briefings, and to his delivery of a course on African politics for Brazilian diplomats, organised by the Brazilian MFA in 2011. Snyder regularly briefs senior US policy-makers based on his work on democratisation and war, human rights, and foreign policy, and Weiss has advised the Government of Japan on issues relating to global governance and humanitarianism.</p> <p>Throughout the period since 2008 Department members have provided evidence and advice to parliamentary bodies. In 2010 the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir consulted Bajpai on minority rights in India, and her research on India's constitutional assembly led to consultations with the Constituent Assembly of Nepal the same year. Chan's work on China's external aid relationships led the UK's International Development Committee to call upon his advice. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the UK Parliament called upon Fell for his research on Taiwan, Clark on Uganda, Nelson on Pakistan and Kong on North Korea. In addition, the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group consulted Young for his work on African politics. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly has been briefed by Adib-Moghaddam in connection with his work on Iranian politics, and in 2008 by Sáez as a result of his research on the Indian economy. Chan's work on Zimbabwe has been the subject of consultation with the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2011. In addition, Chan's expertise on China's relations with Africa has led to a series of engagements with</p>

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the African Development Forum and with African Central Banks concerned with Chinese investment strategies.

Since 2008 work with NGOs and international organisations has included Khalili's extensive engagement with the International Transport Workers' Federation and with the Nasawiyya Feminist Collective in Beirut. Hoggood's research into the politics of international humanitarian and human rights organisations has led to briefings and consultancy with Amnesty International and Médecins Sans Frontières. Weiss's work on global governance, humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect has led to advisory roles with the UN Foundation, UN Security Council, International Development Research Centre, and One Earth Future Foundation. Sáez's expertise on the political economy of India has led to consultations with the World Economic Forum, the OECD, the UN in Geneva and the EU in Brussels. His research on energy security has been utilised by OPEC, the IEA, and the International Energy Forum. Meanwhile in 2008 the Asian Development Bank consulted Nelson for his research into the legal empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups in Pakistan. Engagements with wider civil society include building research networks that include policy-makers and organising public events. Adamson is co-founder and co-chair of the London Migration Research Group (LMRG) and Vinjamuri's work on transitional justice led her to found and co-chair the London Transitional Justice Network – a network of NGOs, funders, public sector participants, academics and others. In 2012-13 Plesch's work on international responses to Nazi atrocities in the Second World War led to collaboration with the Wiener Library. Khalili has collaborated with the Nottingham Contemporary Museum and the ICA on events dealing with the politics of culture in the Middle East, whilst in 2011-13 Tripp's research into the art of resistance and the occupation of public space in the Middle East led to engagement with Occupy London at St Pauls, as well as to public lectures on the art of the Arab uprisings at the Frontline Club, the Gulf Cultural Club, the Mosaic Rooms and Rich Mix in London.

A particular Departmental focus has been consultancy in relation to refugees and asylum seekers. Since 2008, this has included the Fahamu Refugee Programme (Nelson, Rao), the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada relating to Rwanda and Uganda (Clark), as well as the ICRC, the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics and the Association of Iraqi Academics in relation to the Middle East (Tripp), and reviews of Home Office Country reports (Adamson, Nelson). Surak is a member of the Migration Industry and Markets for Managing Migration Network based in Copenhagen. Members of the Department regularly give expert testimony to solicitors in cases of asylum seekers at the Immigration Appeals Tribunal, many on a *pro bono* basis.

The Department's work on the politics of religion has led to engagement with faith communities and religious institutions regarding interfaith relations and the politics of sectarianism. In 2010 the Archbishop of Canterbury consulted Bajpai for her insights into secularism, religion and minority rights. In 2011 the Middle East Ecumenical Network was advised by Tripp due to his work on the Arab Uprisings and Christian communities.

Our engagement with commercial entities and companies has included briefings and tailored training programmes. For example, John Swire & Sons consulted Kobayashi for her expertise in Chinese politics, building on a link created by SOAS library's holdings of the company's historic archives and leading to a three-day training programme for the company's new recruits. Royal Dutch Shell consulted Sáez due to his work on the Indian economy, as did HSBC and Price Waterhouse Coopers. In 2009-11 Shell also consulted Tripp for his research into Iraqi politics, and Rothschilds consulted him on the implications of the Arab Uprisings.

The Department's Centres encourage involvement with external users. The Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice (CCRJ) runs a Research Associate scheme for practitioners to study at the Centre. It also started an ezine *openGlobalRights*, in association with *openDemocracy*, to provide a multilingual, international platform for the discussion of global human rights. In 2011 the Centre for Energy Politics and Security (CEPES) organised a series of international workshops, bringing practitioners from the FCO, Shell, BP, OPEC and the IEA together with academics to benefit from their expertise in energy policy.

c. Strategy and plans

Since 2008, the Department has developed a robust engagement and impact strategy. First, it has connected with new audiences and disseminated its research findings via social media by establishing a blog, Facebook page, newsletter and Twitter account, recently ranked among the top 10 in the UK. Two Department members (Rao and Sabaratnam) are also part of *The Disorder of Things* blog team, which won a 2013 OAIS award in San Francisco. Second, the Department

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has encouraged a strong media presence to inform public debate on current affairs, with dozens of appearances by staff on radio and TV (BBC, Sky, CNN, al-Jazeera, etc.), as well contributions to print media (New York Times, Guardian, Open Democracy, etc.). Third, the Department has worked closely with the Faculty and REO to provide financial support for impact activities. In 2010-11, the Department secured an internal HEIF grant to improve Knowledge Transfer (KT) and initiated an internal funding scheme to support impact activities. The results of this initiative included a policy-oriented workshop on Southeast Asian security in June 2013, and a policy conference on Rwanda in October 2013. Also in 2013, Nelson's fieldwork on corruption in education in Pakistan, encouraged by his engagement with the International Development Committee in the House of Commons, was made possible by a School grant. Finally, the Department has actively encouraged staff to include KT and impact as part of their research strategies, supporting applications for KT grants. This resulted in Heder securing an ESRC KT grant in 2011, resulting in a secondment to the Open Society Institute. He was later approached by Human Rights Watch to head their Cambodia programme on the basis of his work on post-Khmer Rouge Cambodia. Adamson's ESRC grant included a major conference on the securitisation of Muslim communities post-9/11 and 7/7, bringing together 60 policy-makers, community leaders and academics from the UK, US, France and Germany in June 2008. KT and impact activities are included as part of the criteria for promotion and are part of staff's annual review process.

Beyond 2013, the Department's strategy is to build on the infrastructure it has developed since 2008 to focus on three key areas. First, it aims to increase grant and funding applications, with a particular focus on links between research and impact activities, monitored by the Departmental Research Committee. Second, the Department and Faculty are expanding financial support for Departmental research centres and clusters to increase capacity, to disseminate research and to engage new audiences and users. Third, the Department will expand its engagement with non-academic users through a range of new initiatives, such as student internships, academic secondments, practitioner associates and reaching out to new constituencies via CISD's new distance learning, policy-oriented degree programmes. A priority for the Department is to ensure that, while expanding its engagement activities, it also maintains its focus on rigorous, original and independent research. A strength of the Department is its ability to keep a critical distance from particular policy initiatives or private interests, ensuring high levels of impact as an independent source of expertise for users and across a range of public debates in the UK and abroad.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three case studies embody the twin strategies of the Department to encourage original, independent and critical research, based on detailed knowledge of the regions of our specialisation, and at the same time to maximise its impact, through engagement with organisations that develop policies for action in the field. We have thus presented representative case studies from departmental work that has had a concrete impact in Africa (Clark), South Asia (Nelson) and Southeast Asia (Heder). **Clark's** research into the aftermath of conflict in the African Great Lakes region led to his thesis that local, communal judicial practices provide robust forms of accountability and reconciliation. It was this that led to critical engagement with and advice to the ICC, the UN and the UK's CPS, contributing thereby to the reformulation by Western policy makers and legal practitioners of their responses to mass atrocities in Central Africa, as well as to the outcome of at least one significant case before the International Criminal Court in the Hague. **Nelson's** research on religious education in Pakistan was made use of by the International Development Committee of the House of Commons in two ways: the first was through his understanding of the political consequences of DFID's investment in education in Pakistan, its underlying aims and direction; the second was in connection with his investigation of corruption in Pakistan's public examinations and the effects this could have on the policies pursued by DFID. **Heder's** extensive expertise on the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, based upon years of research, led the UN to seek his assistance for the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia in the trials of former party leaders, indicted for the atrocities committed during their rule of the country. He acted as the only academic member of the judge's international team and later as an expert witness in the trials. Furthermore, once the trials were under way, the independent and valued nature of his knowledge, the depth and authority of his research, as well as the impact that it was likely to have on the course of the trials were made clear when his testimony was requested by both the prosecution and the defence.