

Institution: University of Leicester

Unit of Assessment: UoA 21 Politics and International Studies

a. Context

The research conducted by academic staff in the Department of Politics and International Relations ranges from the theoretical and highly abstract to the more applied and policy oriented. Naturally, it is the latter that has the greatest potential for impact outside of academia. The types of impact achieved by the Department's research include influencing public policy, enhancing professional standards and training, stimulating public and professional debate and guiding political parties.

Impact is present in the work of members of all three research clusters. Members of the *Intelligence, Security & Strategic Studies (ISSS)* cluster have engaged with and influenced policymakers, intelligence service professionals, security professionals and humanitarian organisations. Members of the *Global Ethics and Political Theory (GEPT)* cluster have engaged with and influenced stakeholder groups concerned with the protection and support of marginal groups including children and animals. Members of the *Parties, Participation and Public Opinion (3PO)* cluster have engaged with, and influenced, political parties, journalists, and media organisations.

The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences for the Unit's research are wide-ranging and varied – a testimony to the reach of its impact – and include:

Political parties, and policymakers - particularly those working in the areas of defence, migration, asylum devolution and animal welfare; Government at local, regional, national and international levels, including intelligence service professionals and security professionals working in the field of nuclear weapons, arms control and strategic stability; Stakeholders working in the area of peace and conflict resolution, including humanitarian organisations; Police forces and military professionals; Her Majesty's Prison Service; Journalists and media professionals; Businesspeople; Independent think tanks and policy institutes; Stakeholder groups concerned with the protection and support of marginal groups including children and animals.

b. Approach to impact

The unit's approach is guided by the University's commitment to maximising the economic and societal impact of its research. A key aspect of the strategy is the development and sustainability of an internal culture that encourages, supports and builds further the capacity for impact.

Initially, the lead was taken by senior members of the Department (particularly **Garner, Phythian** and **Henderson**) whose research has long had a public policy dimension and involved practitioner involvement. More recently, the Department has developed and adapted procedures to further the impact agenda. Junior staff, for instance, are encouraged to consider the impact of their research as part of the mentoring process. In addition, as part of the regular process of scrutinising research, colleagues are asked now to outline the impact possibilities of their research, and applications for study leave are now required to outline the impact of the research programme submitted, and leave is only granted where there is a clear statement of routes to impact. Finally, requests for Departmental funding for conferences and workshops are evaluated, at least in part, according to the degree to which they are likely to have an impact outside of academia.

Impact has also been utilised as one of the criteria in the recruitment of academic staff. There has been considerable investment made by the University in the Department since 2008 and the new posts made available have given the Department opportunities to utilize the impact agenda as an important selection tool. Recent appointments - including **Cook, Daddow, Futter, Guerra, Morales**, and **Moran** - all have an impact dimension to their work (see below). Use has also been made of institutional resources in order to increase the impact of the Department's research. These have included the Leicester Exchanges scheme – an event-based and online forum which enables academics to lead debate on issues of public importance and interest – and the University's Social Science College Research Development Fund which has been accessed to fund knowledge

dissemination networks and events targeting politicians (examples below).

Using these Departmental and wider institutional resources, researchers have built relationships with key stakeholders among the user/beneficiary groups relevant to their work, through networks, practitioner focused conferences, personal contacts and appointments to external bodies and organisations. Specific examples include:

- **Henderson's** expertise on small nations in Europe became important to the UK parliament in terms of the developing debate on Scottish independence. She was allocated research leave in 2012 to engage in impact activities on the basis of previous research. She spoke at a conference on *Scotland and the UK* in April 2012, organised by the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the results of which were presented as a report and contributed to the British Academy's evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee's inquiry on *The Economic Implications for the United Kingdom of Scottish Independence*. As a result of this, Professor Iain McLean of Oxford University asked for **Henderson's** advice when preparing evidence for the House of Lords inquiry. During his oral evidence to the Committee, he advised the Committee to approach **Henderson** for information on the division of Czechoslovakia. Henderson provided written evidence in September 2012 and gave oral evidence to the Committee on 9 October 2012. She is cited twice in the report. Following this she was asked by the Cabinet Office to give a one-hour seminar on the subject in December 2012.
- **Cook's** work on schools, children and social justice has been promoted to a wider community of policy workers, including the Fabian Society, the Social Market Foundation, and London Citizen Schools. Cook took advantage of the Leicester Exchanges scheme to organise an event in London (chaired by the University's Vice Chancellor) on schooling and justice which involved a number of stakeholders in a live debate and subsequent online discussion. This event in turn led to a primary network with a London Citizen Schools organiser and the Institute for Public Policy Research, which formed the basis of the empirical policy focussed research. As part of this work the researchers later obtained the support of key members of the Shadow Cabinet Education team for the project and a pamphlet on Citizenship in Schools for the IPPR.
- **Futter's** research on nuclear weapons led him to participate in the *China-UK Next Generation Nuclear Dialogue Project* - designed to promote dialogue between those working in the field of nuclear weapons, arms control and strategic stability - the UK Project On Nuclear Issues Annual Conference 2012 - organised by Royal United Services Institute, a think tank noted for its influence on UK defence policy - and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies Trilateral Track 2 Nuclear Dialogue in Paris, France.
- **Moran** conducted training (from 2011-2013) in Intelligence Reform as part of a course on Security Sector Reform supported by the European Union and organised by the Austrian Ministry of Defence/Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution. In 2011 he was invited to join the *Home Office Virtual Network on Organised Crime* which brings together Home Office officials, academics, police and security officers to discuss specific topics related to organised crime. Finally in 2012 he was invited to give an overview of anti-corruption strategies pursued by the police for a seminar organised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), which brought together officials from the National Offender Management Service dealing with Prison governance, including HMIP officials including its head Mr Nick Hardwick, prison governors, prison security and threat intelligence officers, human resources managers, representatives from the Home Office organised crime section and serving police officers. After giving the presentation **Moran** was also involved in the subsequent discussion which aimed at deciding whether the HMIP should conduct a thematic (national) inspection of the prison estate in terms of the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, or whether the HMIP should integrate anti-corruption into the normal inspections of individual prisons. The latter course was decided on in December 2012.
- **Guerra's** research has facilitated her role as an adviser to Giuseppe Civati, a regional councillor for the Lombardy region in Italy, and a member of the national executive of the Democratic Party. She provides political intelligence on populism and the emergence of new movements, often contributing to Civati's blog. **Guerra's** 2012 paper to the PSA Annual Conference in Belfast

informed a policy paper by Civati.

- Drawing on his work on William Hague's reforms of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in 2013 **Daddow** advised the National Government of Quebec on reform of its Ministry of External Relations. His work was requested by the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs before it questioned William Hague in July 2013. In pursuing these activities, **Daddow** was funded by the Department and received extra funding beyond the normal allocation to help him develop networks in the areas described above. He also utilized the College of Social Science's Research Development Fund to organise (in March 2013) a Roundtable discussion, *New Labour: A Retrospective*, which examined the New Labour Government's domestic and foreign policy. Attendees included current and former Labour Party advisors.
- **Morales** collaborated, in 2011-12, in a Tender Contract of the EU Social Cohesion Fund led by the King Baudoin Foundation and the think tank 'Migration Policy Group' (both based in Brussels) with a large consortium of policy-oriented foundations that have conducted a European-wide survey of Immigrant Citizens. The resulting *Immigrant Citizens' Survey* (published 2012) is already highly visible in EU documents. As a consequence of this, **Morales** was invited by the European Commission Directorate General of Home Affairs to participate in the Expert Seminar on *Social Inclusion and Active Citizenship Indicators* that was organised in Lisbon on 29-30 November 2012. Related to this, in November 2012, **Morales** was invited by the UK Home Office to contribute to the development of the European Migration Network by becoming a member of its UK National Contact Point (NCP).

c. Strategy and plans

In the future, the approach already put in place (described above) will be reinforced. The emphasis on impact in the Department's recruitment policy is expected to bear fruit in the next REF period. **Futter**'s work on nuclear weapons, for instance, is expected to have a considerable impact, and the Department has decided to go beyond the terms of his recently awarded ESRC grant by freeing him from teaching and administrative responsibilities for three years. **Guerra**, similarly, has collaborated with Patrick Kitterick, a Leicester City Councillor, who is keen to utilise her research to encourage the greater political involvement of Polish and Lithuanian migrants to Leicester. The Department will facilitate this work by meeting any necessary expenses, and by factoring **Guerra**'s impact work into the workloads document. The Department will also continue to pay due regard to impact when considering staff applications for study leave, conference funding, the content of Departmental research seminars, and overall workload allocations. It will also make greater use of the resources provided by the University, encouraging staff to engage with the College's Business Development Manager, and to make greater use of the Research Development Fund in particular. As a result of these initiatives, it is to be expected that the impact activities of the Department will broaden and deepen.

d. Relationship to case studies

The selected case studies have been chosen to illustrate impact on a range of different audiences. **Garner** has engaged extensively with a variety of stakeholders in government and the NGO community, while **Lynch** and **Whitaker** have built up a relationship with senior officials and politicians in UKIP. **Phythian**'s impact is built on an extensive network of contacts within the intelligence community. His impact work was assisted by 12 month's leave, funding to attend conferences in the United States to meet practitioners, and to begin working as a member of the UK Police National Intelligence Model Working Group.

All the selected case studies draw on the work of senior and long-standing staff within the Unit. Indeed, the experience and expertise of more senior staff has been used as a driver towards embedding impact more broadly within the Unit. This has already produced results. For example, **Garner**'s research linking theory to practice in animal rights directly encouraged **Cook** to apply his pioneering work on ethics and justice to the public sector.