

Institution: Durham University
Unit of Assessment: Politics and International Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Unit of Assessment maps onto Durham University's School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA), which is the sole focus of this document. SGIA's mission to develop research excellence in regional studies, firmly embedded within a strong political science and international relations disciplinary context, is reflected in the structure of research activity. In line with University strategy, research is consolidated in 2 research 'peaks': areas where SGIA possesses a comparative advantage developed through the assessment period, with potential for enhanced interdisciplinary and research user engagement. These are 'The Politics of the Muslim World' and 'Conflict and Ethics,' and they are manifested through distinct units including the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW), the al-Sabah Programme for Regional Politics and International Security, the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance and the recently established Durham Global Security Institute (DGSi). These units facilitate interdisciplinary research with other Durham University units (such as University Research Institutes in Hazard, Risk and Resilience, and Energy and the Global Policy Institute), and are fora for enhancing relations with external partners.</p> <p>Other research groups include: <i>History of Political Thought</i> (focused around the long-standing Centre for the History of Political Thought (CHPT)), <i>Asian Politics and Political Economy</i> (including the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS), and emerging research in <i>Nations, Nationalisms and Diasporas</i>. A new Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour was established in 2013 with a view to establishing a third research 'peak'.</p> <p>A Director and Deputy Director of Research oversee the SGIA Research Committee and a sub-committee for Ethics and Risk, both of which report to the Head of School and the Board of Studies. All research centres report regularly to the Research Committee. They are supported by a full-time research officer. Doctoral training and research is supported by the ESRC North-East Doctoral Training Centre (NEDTC) and the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance (DCIEF), which provide advanced research methods training and other support for students.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Embedding area studies in disciplinary context was SGIA's key strategic theme in its RAE 2008 submission. This continues to drive research strategy, but with greater ambition to consolidate the breadth and depth of international relations disciplinary strength in the School and to build greater interdisciplinary and end-user linkages into research activity.</p> <p>The Politics of the Muslim World peak instantiates this vision. The peak, which is a keystone of the Faculty research theme <i>Politics of the Arab World</i>, has been enhanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New appointments (2 Chairs – Jones and Piscatori, 1 reader –Gunning, and 2 Lecturers – Abou El-Fadl and Zaman); • Creation of the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance (partnering Durham University Business School) providing improved infrastructure and focus for developing the interdisciplinary academic community in this distinctive area of research; • Securing substantial research income (totalling £3.74 million) for CASAW and the al-Sabah Programme. • Securing external endowments for the annual Luce Fellowship and the annual Anne Lambton Lecture. <p>12 staff work in this field (Abou El-Fadl, Ahmed, Asutay, Davidson, Ehteshami, Gunning, Jones, Horkuc (externally funded PDRA), Murphy, Piscatori, Turner, Zaman), ensuring sustainability. Research vitality is demonstrated by the combined research outputs of this group in the assessment period: 16 monographs, 51 journal articles, 10 edited and co-edited collections and 62 chapters in edited collections. Excellence is indicated by articles appearing in journals including <i>Current History</i>, <i>International Affairs</i>, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> and <i>Third World Quarterly</i>; monographs with publishers including Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press, and Routledge, nominations for awards such as the BRISMES Book Prize (Ehteshami and Murphy), the al-Zayed Prize for the Best Book on Arab Culture (Murphy and Zweiri) and the Global Islamic</p>

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Financial Services Award for Education (Asutay), and by the renewal of CASAW funding from the AHRC in 2012. Murphy co-edits the journal *Mediterranean Politics*, while Ehteshami and Davidson are series editors for Hurst, Taylor and Francis and Ithaca Press.

Conflict and Ethics research has similarly been expanded and institutionalised through:

- New appointments (5 Chairs – Gregory, Held, Hills, Jones, Lewer; 1 Reader – Gunning; 1 Senior Lecturer – Bakonyi, 1 Lecturer – Keating (ECR)) enhancing regional specialisms in sub-Saharan Africa; the Middle East and South Asia;
- Creation in 2011 of DGSi, led from SGIA, as an inter-disciplinary institute for research, teaching and impact, incorporating 28 staff from across the University;
- Substantial University investment in this field and external research funding (see section 4).
- The transfer to Durham University in 2013 of the Pakistan Security Research Unit.
- Partnership with KPMG's Fragile States Unit, enhancing access to DFID project tendering.
- Repeated success in winning COFUND fellowships (Chubin, Dornschneider, McCloud, Page, Rolandsen, Weissman, Zaidi) and a Leverhulme ECR (McGahern).

13 staff work in this area, (Bakonyi, Baron, Dumbrell, Ehteshami, Gregory, Gunning, Held, Hills, Jones, Keating, Lewer, Stirk, Williams), creating a sustainable research community. Research vitality is indicated by combined outputs in the assessment period of a further 8 monographs, 42 journal articles, 15 edited and co-edited collections and 32 chapters in edited collections. This includes work in journals including *Review of International Studies*, *European Journal of International Relations* and *International Relations*; and monographs and collection with publishers including Edinburgh University Press and Georgetown University Press.

DGSi's interdisciplinary character has created strong links with the departments of Law, Anthropology, History, Archaeology and Geography. This adds substantially to the vitality of research via co-sponsorship of seminar series and workshops, joint doctoral supervision, and attracting EU-COFUND supported visiting research fellows (7 to date, with 5.5 based in SGIA). Extensive practitioner involvement is structured via a Strategic Advisory Board including senior figures from the armed forces, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, industry and civil society, reinforced through CPD activities and joint grant applications. Research has been undertaken with other institutions including FCO, DFID, UNPOL and the USAID Kenya Mission. Many of these ties are reinforced through the incorporation into SGIA of the Pakistan Security Research Unit, a network which publishes regular Briefings authored by academics and practitioners.

The al-Sabah Programme locates area studies within a clear politics and international studies disciplinary context, offering opportunities for research partnerships with regional organisations (such as the Kuwait Fund for the Advancement of Sciences) as well as a working paper series.

Reflecting the importance of regional studies in disciplinary context, **Asian Politics and Political Economy** is an established strength in SGIA, enhanced during the assessment period via appointment of 1 chair (Gregory) and 2 Lecturers (Hellmann (ECR) and Sutherland) to join existing staff (Cheung and Kerr). The Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) provides an institutional focal point, its regular seminar series attracting speakers from East Asia and facilitating Fellowship exchanges with Chinese universities (3 in the assessment period). CCCS supports interdisciplinary research with the Business School, School of Modern Languages and Cultures, History and Anthropology, and is a key component of the University's East Asia Regional Interest Group. Research vitality is indicated by additional outputs including 5 monographs, 16 journal articles, 5 edited collections, and the SGIA-based journal *East Asia: an International Quarterly* (edited by Cheung).

The History of Political Thought is a long-standing research area, with 2 new appointments (Kennedy, Maffetone) complementing existing staff (Dimova-Cookson, Stapleton and Stirk). The Centre for the History of Political Thought supports two annual lectures (Henry Tudor and Alan Milne memorial lectures) and organises innovative events, such as that on Research Methods in the History of Political Thought in 2010. Research excellence is indicated by a strong track record of outputs in journals such as *European Journal of Political Theory* and *History of European Ideas*, and co-editorship (Dimova-Cookson, 2008-10) of *Contemporary Political Theory*.

b. Future strategic plans: Principal objectives for the next 5 years continue to embed regional

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studies in disciplinary context:

- Developing the newly-formed Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour and the Global Policy Institute to a comparable level of excellence and sustainability as existing research peaks over the next two REF periods.
- Establishing sustainable and impactful research-based networks with research end-users, underpinned by inter-disciplinary collaborations, which contribute in turn to research-led teaching of the highest standard.
- Continuing investment in the two existing 'peaks'; growing staff, post-doctoral student and doctoral student numbers to further embed sustainable research and contribute to enhanced vitality.
- Enhancing internal structures and processes for research management and income generation.

Specific research objectives for **The Politics of the Muslim World** peak include:

- Securing additional RCUK and endowment funding to augment research programmes and to extend infrastructure through an extension to the al-Qasimi building;
- Securing investment for a new appointment in the political economy of the Muslim World;
- Establishing more and deeper collaborative networks with regional partners (such as Kuwait University via the al-Sabah Programme) to facilitate staff and student research exchanges, doctoral and post-doctoral research internships and joint research activities.

Specific research objectives for the **Conflict and Ethics** peak include:

- Securing University Research Institute status for DGSi (increasing central University funding and other institutional support);
- Establishing a network of formal research relationships with leading security institutes around the world through initiatives including the newly located Pakistan Security Research Unit and an emerging network on conflict policing including UNPOL;
- Expanding the number and diversity of Early Career and Visiting Fellows from diverse disciplinary backgrounds;
- Developing a diverse portfolio of research and education income to support DGSi, with a focus on impact generation.

c. New initiatives

The two emergent research areas identified in section 1, *Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour* and *Nations, Nationalisms and Diasporas*, represent developing initiatives with strategic importance.

The *Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour* arises from new Lectureships (Hellmann and Vivyan (both ECR)), joining Cohen, who possesses a track-record of RCUK funded research in political parties, Welch with expertise in political culture and Murphy who has researched Middle East election systems. NEDTC collaboration with Newcastle creates inter-institutional research interest links. Vivyan's initial appointment was to support the DTC through skills in quantitative research, and has resulted in ESRC funding (see section 4).

Nations, Nationalism and Diasporas (Baron, Cheung, Dimova-Cookson, Schweiger, Stapleton and Wittlinger) was stimulated by a new Lectureship (Sutherland) with expertise in South East Asia, and connecting to Asian Politics research. Early success is indicated by Sutherland securing funding (see Section 4) for work with museums on presenting and interpreting material culture in nationalist narratives, building new partnerships with Durham University's nationally significant museum collections and the material culture groups in Durham University's Anthropology and Archaeology departments. Excellence is indicated by outputs in journals such as *Nations and Nationalism*, *Government and Opposition* and *International Affairs*.

The appointment of Held in 2011 provides momentum to the development of international political economy at Durham University, specifically bringing the journal *Global Policy* (accepted into ISI 2013, 195,000 article downloads in 2010/12) to Durham (supported by £100K by Durham University) and the appointment of 2 new Lectureships in Global Ethics and International Political Economy for Autumn 2013 (Maffettone and Raviv – starting September 2013 as well as a Journal Managing Editor (Nag)). Further investment in this field includes an initial £50K in 2013-14 to support establishment of a Durham Global Policy Institute which will include a Global Observatory

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for data collection and management.

d. Priority development areas for supporting research.

Research funding from a very diverse range of sources has grown substantially since 2008 (from £686,599 in 2001-08 to £1,409,464 in 2008-13). Maintaining that growth remains a priority, with the foci being interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research, greater engagement with RCUK funders in particular, a shift towards winning longer, larger grants – and specifically winning awards relating to global security and global policy issues. We aim to generate external funding for increased staffing and doctoral research in these key development areas. Innovative exercises such as a *Dragon's Den* (competition for seed corn funding) and *research proposal speed-dating* (providing intensive feedback on application documents) are using internal funding to support stronger application development. SGIA remains a prominent partner in Durham University's ambitious programme for benefactor and alumni donations, which has recently delivered private funding for the al-Sabah programme. Research in Islamic Finance and via DGSi has created an income stream associated with professional training.

Facilities and staffing. SGIA's growth from 14 academic staff in 2004 to 34 in 2013 and from awarding 58.45 doctorates (2001-08) to 112.8 (2008-13) are key indicators of success, but place pressure on infrastructure. SGIA is looking to add new space and extend existing facilities.

c. People:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

a. Recruitment, promotion, equality and diversity: During the REF cycle, academic appointments have been overwhelmingly full-time and non-fixed term, indicating our commitment to the growth and sustainability of key areas such as research peaks, emerging high-potential research groups and strategic initiatives. Retirements (Wilson) and departures (Miyagi, Coleman) have been replaced in the same subject area ensuring continuity and sustainability of research. Part-time appointments are role-specific, with inter-departmental collaboration and recognition of diverse modes of university service, such as Faculty officers, College principal-ships and consultancy roles. ECRs have been successful in either attaining permanent posts in SGIA at the end of their fellowships (Miyagi) or in finding permanent posts elsewhere (McGahern, Gandolfo, Klausner). Staff must attend University Recruitment and Selection training before serving on a recruitment panel.

The demography of the School facilitates our research strategy. The School comprises 11 professorial staff, 5 readers, 5 senior lecturers, and 13 lecturers. This profile provides a strong model of leadership while substantively engaging young researchers and reflecting the promotions achieved by them (9 internal promotions since 2009, 9 staff under 40 years old). Our staff body is diverse, including 13 different nationalities and with many coming from the regions studied (Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Turkey and USA). Reasonable adjustments accommodate the religious holidays and obligations of staff. We currently include 8 women among our staff, including 2 professors, 1 reader and 2 senior lecturers. Women currently occupy senior positions in the department management structure, including the Directors of Research, Learning and Teaching, and Postgraduate Studies. PIs are offered training in ensuring that they conform to the University equality and diversity policy when planning research posts and are offered an e-learning training *Diversity in the Workplace*. In 2003 the University won the Opportunity Now Education Award for gender-focused staff training programmes. In 2004 it was recognised as the third most improved public sector organisation by the Race For Opportunity benchmarking scheme. SGIA has a diversity officer, who liaises with the University's Diversity Manager. The University has achieved Athena Swan Bronze status and is actively encouraging all eligible departments to attain Athena Swan accreditation. It also holds the Two Ticks Positive about Disabled People award and is a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

All staff are eligible to apply for promotion through a university-wide system on an annual basis. Promotion is judged against criteria laid out by the University. Within the School, meetings of the senior management group consider applications to determine School endorsement. Regardless of this, staff may submit their application to the University committee. The University adheres to the HERA methodology in grading new research posts and has clearly defined career pathways.

b) Support and Development: In line with Durham University's commitments to the Concordat, the

importance of researchers' personal and career development is recognised and promoted throughout their career. All staff complete an Annual Staff Review including a Personal Research Plan (PRP). These encourage staff to think strategically about their research, focusing on achieving identifiable international excellence through a five-year time-frame. PRPs address funding applications, projects, collaborations, publication plans, research-related training, impact development and support required from the School or University. Reviews take a mentoring as much as monitoring function. ECRs and staff on probation are provided with mentors from among the senior staff of the School. Mentoring arrangements are monitored centrally and supported by a Coaching and Mentoring Network Group. Probationary staff must successfully complete the Durham Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching, which includes training in research grant application and management. Post-doctoral fellows, part-time staff and doctoral students are encouraged to complete the HEA accredited Durham Learning and Teaching Award.

ii. Research students

Doctoral training is provided through i) research training masters programmes; ii) The Doctoral Research Training Programme (DRTP); iii) subject-specific participation in the NEDTC and the DCIEF; iv) SGIA Doctoral Research Support Workshops. Training is centred on the Training Needs Analysis. The DRTP offers centrally-provided generic skills-related and development opportunities. All doctoral students engage with either the NEDTC or the DCIEF. SGIA students may apply for financial support for specialist training opportunities provided outside the University. They are expected to attend the weekly Research Support Workshops in their first year, creating a sense of cohort and community. In their second and third (or equivalent) year research students may apply for teaching opportunities and undertake the Durham Learning and Teaching Award. Teaching is monitored through peer review and student questionnaires. Research students also have access to the University Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre, Key Skills Award, Library, IT Centre, and Language Centre. In SGIA research students organise and attend weekly research seminars at which they may present their own research work. They are encouraged to work with research peaks in developing projects, co-publishing with staff and applying for research funding. Internships are available to them with CASAW, the al-Sabah Programme, DGSi and Global Policy.

Individualised work stations are available for all research students in SGIA and there is a separate work space for the Doctoral Training Centre in Islamic Finance. Buildings have wi-fi access throughout, and one computer room houses PCs connected to the University network, lockers and printer access. Students have 24-hour access to work space, as well as photocopying, fax facilities, printer credits, a library-based document delivery service and financial support for conference attendance when presenting a paper. They may apply to Research Committee for funds to support events which they organise. Research students are reviewed annually, at 9 months, 21 months and 33 months (or equivalent) in line with University policy. Completions rose from 56 during the last RAE period to 112.8 during this REF cycle.

SGIA's doctoral student provision was recognised through the award of significant number of studentships, including 12 ESRC/AHRC-funded CASAW studentships, 5 North East Doctoral Training Centre studentships (3 in 2011/12, 2 in 2012/13 and a further 2 for 2013/14), and 3 Durham Doctoral Fellowships (including one inter-disciplinary award). The student body is heavily supported by studentships from overseas including government sponsors (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Bahrain and Egypt), educational bodies (e.g. International Islamic University of Malaysia and the Commission on Higher Education of Thailand) and private institutions such as the Islamic Research and Training Institute. We were awarded postdoctoral fellowships during this cycle from the ESRC (2 CASAW), the Leverhulme Foundation (1), and the COFUND (6).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

a) *Income*: Research income generated grew from a total of £686,599 during the 2008 RAE cycle to £1,402,694 during the REF 2014 cycle. The initial ESRC/AHRC/HEFCE/SFC allocation for the Centre for Advanced Study of the Arab World brought £5.2 million to the Durham/Edinburgh/Manchester collaboration and a total of £1.237 million to SGIA (2007-12), of which £566K supported staff and ECR activity. In 2012 SGIA won AHRC extension-funding of £385,300, of which £175,000 will come to SGIA to support events and internships. Other funding for the **Politics of the Muslim World** research peak has included £110,000 from Turkish private sources to support a PDRA (Horcuk), £97,000 from the State Department to support an initiative

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on Iranian civil society, and a work package in a FW7 project on youth exclusion around the Mediterranean (POWER2Youth) worth £183,000 (Murphy). The **Conflict and Ethics** peak has generated funds from the ESRC (£76,500, Klausner), the United States Institute for Peace (Williams, £29,000), European Union COFUND fellowships (Stirk and Gunning £90,000) and a Leverhulme ECF (McGahern, £50,000), as well as winning substantial internal university investment (£323,000 for development in 2011-12 and 3 professorial investment posts in 2013 Hills, Jones, Gregory). Success in other research areas includes a 2009 AHRC £67,000 fellowship (Stapleton), a 2012 ESRC award of £100,000 (Vivyan), and a Marie Curie Fellowship worth £158,290 (Sutherland). Research income strategy has seen a re-focusing away from maximising quantity of applications towards concentration on quality, maintaining a balance between prestigious RCUK award income and internationally diverse private and third sector awards. Actions taken include providing appropriate training in grant writing; improved communication and coordination of University-wide responses to funding calls; internal and Faculty-based peer review of grant applications; and rigorous assessment of ethical issues and reputational risks associated with funding bids.

b) Infrastructure and facilities: The Unit is spread across three proximate buildings. The al-Qasimi Building houses 23 staff offices and 2 administrative offices (as well as an IT suite and a study room for postgraduate use), 5 seminar/lecture rooms and kitchen/storage facilities. South End House offers 19 staff offices, 3 lecture/seminar rooms, kitchen and storage space. An annex houses a tutor's room and 2 large postgraduate offices. Plans to expand facilities include raising gifted funds to build an adjacent building, or to extend existing buildings. In the near future, we are likely to re-locate from South End House to a larger building. All buildings have full wi-fi and internet connections. Further wi-fi connected study space is available in all student Colleges and the Main Library.

Researchers have access to the recently extended (£11.5 million, 42% increase in floor area) Bill Bryson Library, home to 1.6 million printed items, 17,500 electronic journals, 290,000 e-books, 308 online databases, 1300 technology-enhanced individual study spaces, guides, training and one-to-one support. The library also manages the Durham Research Online and Durham E-Theses repositories. The University further houses two museums (including the UK's only dedicated Oriental Museum) and four Special Collections. A research librarian works alongside our subject specialist librarian (Sunuodula), who sits on the School's Board of Studies and Staff-Student Consultative Committee. Targeted training is offered to all researchers, research students and ECRs (121 library training sessions 2008-12 amounting to 4146 man hours). Since 2008, additional library funding for Politics and International Studies has amounted to £31,101.57 in addition to resource spend by the Library which has itself seen a 47.78% increase over that period, amounting to £80.37K in 2011/12 alone. An additional £15,000 was raised through summer schools for the Middle East collection between 2008 and 2011.

Broader university support for research is provided under the direction of the PVC Research (responsible for strategy and policy) and the Research Office (operationalization and support). Training for researchers is provided by the Centre for Academic and Researcher Development (CARD), while the Computing and Information Services (CIS) supports three Faculty Academic IT Team Leaders who ensure that University IT support is appropriate to the needs of researchers. The managed computing service provides access to core applications and the deployment of specialist research software to specific groups. The Communications Office supports researchers in identifying research with potential for external/media interest, publicising research, promoting researchers, monitoring coverage, training in media skills and facilitating relationships with media bodies. Development and Alumni Relations (DARO) supports departments in identifying and working with philanthropic supporters of research (SGIA has received £3.06 million in donations since 2008). Finally, the International Office is invaluable to SGIA, supporting the development of strategic partnerships such as that with the patron of the Al-Sabah Programme, and high-quality international students (managing their visa status requirements), and providing support for international networks such as the Matariki Network of Universities through which staff exchanges support our research culture, (eg: Baron and Williams to Queen's University, Canada in 2011).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

a) Interdisciplinary research is at the heart of SGIA's research strategy, presenting opportunities for

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intellectual cross-fertilisation and the potential to leverage additional funding for research. Selected examples of interdisciplinarity include:

- **DGSi** is explicitly established to support interdisciplinary work (the Deputy Directors are currently based in the Law School and Anthropology Department). DGSi co-sponsors research seminars series with the Anthropology Department and the Law and Conflict research group of Durham Law School. Williams has utilised funding from St Aidan's college in Durham to hold a workshop on Just War theory that brought together people based in Philosophy and Theology departments as well as political theorists. A USIP-funded workshop in Washington in 2010 also included gender scholars and people working in US military education in support of an edited collection for Georgetown University Press (2013).
- Work within **Politics of the Muslim World** engages Middle East Area Studies and Arabic language colleagues at Durham, Manchester and Edinburgh through CASAW. The Language-based Area Studies initiative which funds CASAW deliberately brings Language training together with research in both the Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences. Research streams working on themes such as Asianisation of the Middle East, Empowering Youth, and The Tentmakers of Cairo have engaged researchers from across disciplines, institutions and countries and resulted in interdisciplinary publications (eg: Daoudi and Murphy, "Framing New Communicative Technologies in the Muslim World", *Journal of Arab and Muslim Research* 4(1), 2011).
- The **DCIEF** is a joint venture with the Business School, enabling PGR students to benefit from quantitative skills and accountancy training as well as the Behavioural Economics and Finance, Marketing, and Organisational Dynamics research groups. Working with Professional Development and Research Institutions around the Muslim World (such as the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance in Dubai and the International Shariah Research Academy in Malaysia), the DCIEF brings scholars and practitioners from Islamic studies, international finance, economics and political economy of the Muslim World.

b) Networks and collaboration: SGIA staff work extensively with international partners in pursuit of research excellence and applicability. Key examples include:

- Lewer is recognised by DFID as a 'deployable expert' in conflict and mediation and has worked on projects in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Nepal in the last five years, consulting on the efficacy of aid programmes and delivering conflict resolution and mediation training programmes to government, military and civil society organisations.
- Bakonyi, Davidson, Ehteshami, Gregory, Gunning, Jones and Murphy have worked with the FCO on UK foreign policy in the Middle East, Persian Gulf, Africa and Asia, co-producing research and consulting on research priorities for the FCO's internal research teams.
- Middle East-focused research networks include Ehteshami's service as Advisor to the World Economic Forum's Energy programme; Piscatori's role in the Walid Bin Talal Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding at Georgetown; and Gunning and Murphy's role in founding the Critical Middle East Studies Network.
- Ahmed and Asutay's work on Islamic Economics and Finance has included working with Islamic banks and other banks (eg: the Islamic Development Bank, Gatehouse Bank) and regulatory bodies such as the Islamic Financial Services Board. Their training activity has established a unique network of practitioners working in financial institutions around the world, providing an on-going resource for PGR students and staff.
- Hills was a founding member of the UNDP Police Division's International Policing Advisory Council, and is currently part of the UN Police Division's Global Policing Community, bringing their Strategic Guidance Framework Discussion to Durham in 2013.

These examples of collaborative work with academic and non-academic partners and the networks that they sustain give SGIA staff the ability to locate research within a global context sensitive to current leading-edge intellectual debates and to the research needs of key partners and users. These have contributed to public lectures by, amongst others: Tony Blair, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Conor Gearty, Antony Giddens, Stanley McChrystal, Richard Monk, and Justin Welby.

Staff contributions to the discipline are bolstered by visiting fellowships around the globe (eg:

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Schweiger at Central European Policy Institute in Bratislava; Davidson at Kyoto University; Williams at University of Queensland; Cheung at National University of Singapore) and engagement in diverse advisory bodies (eg: Ehteshami and Qatar University College of Arts and Sciences International Advisory Board and World Economic Forum's Network of Global Agenda Councils; Jones and Command Advisory Group to the Chief of Staff; Murphy and British Council Steering Group for the Hammamet Leadership Initiative; Gregory and Academic Advisory Board National Defence University of Islamabad and USAID in Pakistan; Piscatori and Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University, Casa Arabe International Institute of Arab and Muslim World Studies in Madrid). Three staff are Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences (Dumbrell, Ehteshami, Murphy), Murphy and Ehteshami are Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts, and Piscatori was elected to the Society of Scholars of Johns Hopkins University.

Alongside high-profile activities SGIA has hosted workshops and conferences (in Durham and overseas) on subjects as diverse as research methods in the history of political thought, the Arab Spring, the Obama Presidency, Jewish Security, China-Gulf Relations (with the Gulf Research Centre in Dubai), and Chinese Foreign Policy. In total, over 120 research events have been held in SGIA during the REF period, including 9 workshops with over 300 participants, 9 conferences with over 400 participants, 6 art exhibitions and a performance of Iranian music and poetry with an audience of over 100, indicating the vitality of the research environment.

d) *Journals, Professional Associations and Funding Bodies.* SGIA staff play a great many roles in professional associations, journals, funding bodies and the management of institutes at Universities across the world, including the US, Australia, Germany, Sweden and Spain. Principal examples of this work include the following:

- Editors of *The Review of Islamic Economics* (Asutay), *East Asia: an International Quarterly* (Cheung), *Socialist History* (Cohen), *Critical Studies on Terrorism* (Gunning) and *Global Policy* (Held). Murphy is co-editor of *Mediterranean Politics*.
- Other major editorial roles and board memberships of leading (ISI ranked) journals include: *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*; *Journal of Peace Education*; *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*; *Ortodogu Etudleri*; *Historical Materialism*; *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*; *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*; *Middle East Critique*; *Journal of Islamic Studies*.
- SGIA has hosted the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies administrative office throughout the REF period and staff have held association officer positions (Asutay, Ehteshami, Gunning). Staff have played leadership roles in other professional associations, including PSA specialist groups in German, American and Pacific-Asian Politics and British Idealism (Wittlinger, Dumbrell, Sutherland and Dimova-Cookson respectively), the Transatlantic Studies Association (Dumbrell) and BISA (Williams convened the English School working group from 2010-13).
- SGIA staff are also active on funding bodies including AHRC Panel A and peer review college (Stapleton) and ESRC peer review college (Cohen, Murphy and Williams).
- Jones is Chair of the European Association of Israel Studies.

SGIA values the contribution that this work makes to the research environment (recognising it in the workload model) because of the way in which it brings staff into direct contact with debates about the direction of research within disciplines and sensitises them to the way in which research agendas are changing and being shaped. This better enables them to plan and manage their own research in order to maintain and spread best practice and to identify emerging research groups and leaders.

e) *PGR training and examination:* SGIA is a member of the ESRC NEDTC, a joint venture between Durham and Newcastle Universities. (See details in Section Cii). Excellence of research and supervision has been recognised by staff being invited to act internationally as thesis examiners (eg: Ehteshami and Piscatori for universities in the Netherlands, Australia, Malaysia, USA, Pakistan, France; Dumbrell in Ireland; Murphy in Australia and Italy; Jones in Israel; Ahmed in Australia; Lewer in Canada and Norway; Kerr and Gregory in Pakistan).