

<b>Institution:</b> University of Lincoln
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 21 – Politics and International Studies
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>This submission draws on research within the <b>Policy Studies Research Centre (PSRC)</b>, which aims to generate and support high quality policy relevant research. Membership of the PSRC includes all academic staff in the School of Social and Political Sciences, which encompasses the subjects of International Relations, Politics, Social Policy and Criminology, and associates in other Schools, particularly the School of Health and Social Care. The Centre currently has 37 academic members of staff and 18 research students. This submission is one of two which sit under the umbrella of the School of Social and Political Sciences/PSRC, the other being in Social Work and Social Policy (UoA22). While separate submissions are being made under UoA21 and UoA22, there is a strong commitment to inter-disciplinary collaboration, which is demonstrated through, for example, co-authored work and co-supervision of research students, as well as the broader research and teaching environments.</p> <p>Research within the PSRC is focused on five core research groups. These reflect established research within the Centre, and have been enhanced by new appointments within the REF period (see b and c below). Each is led by a senior academic and is comprised of more experienced staff and early career researchers. Those included in this submission fall primarily into three research groups, which also include other staff from the School, some of whom are submitted under UoA22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governance and regulation</b> (Allsop (UoA22), C. Bochel, H. Bochel (UoA22), Colosi (UoA22) Defty, Foo, Langlois, Parks, Saks (UoA22), Somerville (UoA22) Strange), including global, regional, national and local governance;</li> <li>• <b>Participation and representation</b> (C. Bochel, H. Bochel (UoA22), Briggs, Defty, Jordan, Kisby, Somerville (UoA22)) which includes work on political participation, citizenship education, electoral representation, Parliament and legislatures, and gender and sexuality;</li> <li>• <b>Global civil society and human rights</b> (Anitha (UoA22) Chebankova, Dobbernack (UoA22), Hinkkainen, Langlois, Obendorf, Parks, Randerson) encompasses research ranging from civil society in Russia, Europe and East Asia, to sexual and reproductive rights.</li> </ul> <p>Staff in this UoA have also contributed to research within the other research groups: <b>Social Inclusion/Exclusion</b> (C. Bochel, Jordan, Kisby) and <b>Pedagogy</b> (Briggs, Obendorf, Randerson). The groups provide a focus for research projects, external funding applications and staffing strategy. While there is some overlap between the groups in terms of staff, and to some extent, areas of interest, research projects are located within and led by one research group.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>The PSRC has an active and supportive research culture in which a well-developed collegiate approach to encouraging research and the generation of external income has been combined with a strategy designed to encourage external links with the wider research and policy community.</p> <p>The 2008 RAE submission identified a number of key objectives for Politics and International Studies at Lincoln:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to consolidate projects within its core research groups and provide support for newly emerging projects both within and beyond existing groups;</li> <li>• to expand the broader research base in terms of outputs, research students, income and intra- and inter-institutional collaboration;</li> <li>• to produce original research that has a broader engagement with audiences in the wider community, including academics, policy-makers, practitioners and other users.</li> </ul> <p>A more detailed strategy was outlined in 2009, in a new Faculty (now College) <i>Research Strategy 2009-2014</i>. The <i>priorities</i> identified were: enhancing research quality, primarily through staffing strategy (see c.i. below); increasing income generation (see d below); increasing numbers of postgraduate research student registrations and completions (see c.ii below); and an increasing focus on users/producers (see impact template and case studies). In response to this a number of</p>

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policies and structures have been put in place around the broad objectives of building capacity, stimulating new research, supporting existing research and enhancing quality, and engaging users:

*Building capacity:*

- new appointments arising from the University's strategic investment in the School have enhanced and expanded the focus of the existing research group on governance to include global and regional governance (Parks, Langlois), and coupled with existing staff (Briggs, Defty, and others submitted as part of UoA22), allowed the development of a new research group focused on participation and representation (Kisby, Jordan); they have also added substantially to methodological expertise, around both qualitative (e.g. Parks, Anitha (UoA22)) and quantitative approaches (e.g. Hinkkainen, Haux (UoA22), McKay (UoA22)).
- the research base has also been expanded by an increase in both external and internal collaboration. The PSRC brings together researchers from a diverse range of disciplines and is a significant driver of internal collaboration. The work of H. Bochel (UoA22) and Defty and H. Bochel (UoA22) and C. Bochel, for example, involves researchers from UoA21 and UoA22. A number of new initiatives draw significantly on links with other parts of the University, such as work by Kisby with staff in the School of Psychology on conceptions of identity and citizenship, by Jordan and Anitha (UoA22) with the School of Health and Social Care on domestic violence. New appointments, together with support for networking through, for example, conference attendance, have led to an increase in external collaboration, including Kisby and Sloam's (Royal Holloway) work on citizenship education and participation and young people, Parks' interdisciplinary research with Morgera (Edinburgh) on global environmental law, and Briggs and Celis' (Brussels) research on compulsory voting.

*Stimulating new research:*

- the PSRC has a long established strategy for nurturing new research, with staff acting as critical friends in the generation of ideas for research outputs and external income applications. Central to this have been the research colloquia, which allow staff, including PGRs, to present early research findings, draft publications and funding bids, to an audience of other PSRC members. Colloquia take place twice each term, and recent examples have included early drafts of Defty's work on tapping the telephones of Members of Parliament, Kisby's work on citizenship education, and Cotton's PhD research on Catalonia;
- the School also holds a biannual research away day, which combines a round-table plenary on key research issues such as income generation or research impact, and a series of small-group sessions at which staff table research proposals and draft publications for discussion. The away days are action-orientated, and each begins with a brief summary of progress on projects discussed at the previous away day;
- PSRC members have also benefitted considerably from pump-priming research funding, including that provided through a College Research Fund which was launched in 2011 and is now in its third round of funding. The Fund provides small sums of money (up to £3,000) to support research which might lead to a significant research output and/or an application for external funding, and sums of up to £5,000 to support collaborative interdisciplinary proposals involving. Seven politics and international relations staff have benefitted from this scheme, including four with outputs in this submission (C. Bochel, Defty, Kisby, Langlois);
- in 2013 the University launched a Research Infrastructure Fund, an annual £500,000 investment to assist academic staff with the development of new strategic research opportunities, including through funding for PhD studentships, equipment, and the pump-priming of new avenues of research. Two projects within the PSRC are being supported for 2013/14 for a total of £80,000, both comprising staff from UoAs 21 and 22.

*Supporting ongoing research and enhancing quality:*

- in addition to the colloquia and away days having been effective means of stimulating and developing new research, they have also been used to enhance the quality of research outputs and external funding applications. In addition, all applications for external funding and potential publications are subject to internal review before submission. For the former, this process

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involves a College Peer Review Group, comprising senior academics with a track record in attracting external funding, and usually includes external review by academics from other disciplines, either within the PSRC or beyond. Potential publications are reviewed within the PSRC before submission;

- the PSRC also has an ongoing programme of research mentoring designed to provide tailored one-to-one support for all academic staff. Individual research mentoring, which is provided by senior academics, is designed to monitor research careers and identify research needs. Peer support is also encouraged with all staff within the PSRC registering those research skills and activities on which they are able to offer advice and share best practice. These may include particular research methods, writing for publication or conference organisation;
- drawing on the resources made available following RAE 2008, the School introduced a pilot system of sabbaticals, or research leave. This has become an established part of the School's research strategy, and allows for two members of staff each term to benefit from study leave. This is explicitly linked to outcomes, normally the production of at least one publication or the submission of a research proposal to a major funder. Thus far, six politics and international relations staff have benefitted from a sabbatical, all of which have resulted in publications.

### *Engaging users:*

- all research projects within the PSRC require the submission of an engagement strategy which must include, for example, the dissemination of findings to research participants and potential users, and the generation of press releases. Researchers are supported in this by central services, such as the University Enterprise, Research and Press offices;
- the PSRC also engages with potential users through events such as the PSRC seminar series, which acts as a platform for research bringing together PSRC members including PGR students, others from across the University and other institutions, and potential research users, including representatives from local government and the charitable and not for profit sector;
- in addition, the College of Social Science has developed a programme of bringing in potential users to discuss their needs, including representatives of parliamentary select committees, the civil service, local government, charities and the third sector.

**Beyond 2014**, the PSRC will continue with its strategic aims of building capacity, stimulating new research, enhancing quality and engaging users. In pursuing these aims the unit has three key priorities for the next five years:

- although more than 90 per cent of staff in the School are research active, we will work to ensure that all staff meet the target of at least one peer-reviewed publication every year. This will be achieved through ongoing support for all staff, and targeted support for those who have been less active, through, for example, involvement in research groups, collaboration with established researchers in the generation of external income applications, and research mentoring. The focus will continue to be on topics that align with our research groups;
- to increase the proportion of world-leading outputs. In this case the focus will be on supporting all staff to focus further on the quality of research outputs, providing a rigorous but supportive process of internal review, and continuing to build internal and external research links;
- to grow PGR provision and numbers, through a commitment to enhanced facilities and the integration of PGR students in the life of the School, continuing to build our capacity for research supervision, and an ongoing programme of PhD bursaries.

### **c. People, including:**

#### **i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Staffing is central to the PSRC's research strategy. Strategic investment by the University has considerably expanded the research base in the School, with 15 new appointments since 2008, of which the great majority have been new posts. For Politics and International Studies this has allowed both a consolidation and expansion in the existing research groups (see b. above), while retaining our commitment to the appointment and development of Early Career Researchers, and

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at the same time increasing our ability to access research grant funding. There have been six new appointments in politics and international relations in the census period (Chebankova, Hinkkainen, Jordan, Kisby, Langlois, Parks), four of whom are ECRs (Hinkkainen, Jordan, Langlois, Parks).

In addition, existing research active staff have benefitted from a number of opportunities for career progression. Several who were entered as Early Career Researchers in 2008 have moved on to become Senior Lecturers (Foo, Obendorf). Accelerated progression has also been used to move research-active staff appointed during the census period up the lecturer scale (Chebankova, Jordan, Kisby, Langlois). As part of the annual academic promotions process others have moved from Senior Lecturer to Principal Lecturer (C. Bochel) and to Reader (Defty).

Several staff have benefitted from externally funded research leave and fellowships, including Langlois who was awarded a Bright Ideas Fellowship at the Genomics Forum in Edinburgh (2012), and Dobbernack (UoA22) who is currently undertaking a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute's Robert Schumann Centre for Advanced Studies in Florence.

All new academic staff, including Early Career Researchers, are guaranteed a lower than average teaching load in their first academic year and are free to apply for support such as sabbaticals and College Research Fund grants from the start of their contract. The School has also moved to provide stability in contracts, with all staff now employed on a permanent basis. The University fully supports the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and wider Vitae initiative by recruiting, supporting and retaining researchers with the highest potential to achieve excellence in research. It has introduced minimum academic standards regarding research productivity which are embedded in its annual appraisal scheme, with staff typically expected to produce at least one peer-reviewed publication each year.

Individual career planning and progression is also facilitated by the University's annual appraisal scheme. This process allows staff to set goals and review progress in relation to teaching and learning, research and income generation and wider contributions to the University such as administration, management, external engagement and impact-related activities. It also allows for monitoring the alignment of individual objectives with the College's research strategy and the identification of potential barriers to progress in both. Although the appraisal process is confidential, the results are fed into School and College objectives and any research-related learning and development needs identified by staff are shared with HR, the Centre for Educational Research and Development, and the Research Office.

Diversity and equality are promoted in all aspects of the recruitment and career management of staff members. The School of Social and Political Sciences has a high proportion of women academic staff members. The School was ranked first in a recent study of the representation of women in UK political science departments (*Politics*, 2012, vol. 32, no. 3). Women hold posts at all levels within the School, and Briggs is one of only eight women heads of Politics departments in the UK. Staff have also been instrumental in promoting equality and diversity within and beyond the University. For example, in 2009 C. Bochel established a 'Women into Research' network within the University, which aims to encourage more women to get involved in research and to promote a broader research culture, for which she received a University Individual Merit Award, and Briggs was co-organiser of the PSA Diversity Awareness Forum (2009), which had a particular focus on ethnicity.

**Beyond 2014**, the University will continue its established policy of appointing high quality research active academics, and appointments will be made with a view to enhancing the existing research groups. The PSRC has put in place a number of measures designed to support researchers, including new researchers and those who have been teaching-focused, and to enhance the quality of research outputs (see b. above). Initiatives such as the sabbatical scheme, the Research Infrastructure Fund, and the College Research Fund, represent significant institutional investments which will continue to have an impact beyond 2014. There is also considerable support at a local (School/PSRC) level, including through research colloquia, away days, research mentoring and peer support, and support for conference attendance. The success of these measures will continue to be monitored by, the PSRC steering committee, the School, and by staff themselves.

**ii. Research students**



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The PSRC has sought to enhance its postgraduate research profile, with a particular focus on improving the infrastructure and facilities for research students, and increasing the number of completions and building capacity in research supervision. There are currently eighteen PGR students enrolled in the PSRC, thirteen of these sit within UoA22 and five in UoA21. There has been a particularly steep rise in completions in politics and international studies since 2008, with five of the eight PhD completions in the census period included in UoA21.

There is extensive collaboration between staff in UoA21 and UoA22 in the supervision of PGR students, with many students being supervised by members from both UoAs. Supervision is undertaken by a supervisory team of up to three academic staff members, at least one of whom must have supervised a PhD to completion. This allows for supervision which combines subject expertise and experience in research supervision. It also facilitates the development of new or inexperienced staff as research supervisors. All new staff are required to undertake research supervisor training, and established staff are required to undertake a refresher course every three years. In the period since 2008 a number of staff (Defty, Obendorf, Foo, Parks, Jordan, Kisby) have acquired their first experience of PGR supervision, three of whom (Defty, Obendorf, Jordan) have now supervised PhDs to completion.

PGR students are fully integrated into the academic life of the School. In addition to increasing PGR numbers and completions, the research strategy aimed to bring research students into the same office space as academic staff and to provide additional infrastructure support at a School level. Since 2008, additional facilities have been provided for research students within the School, including dedicated shared office space and networked computers within the same suite as academic staff. In accordance with the University's Student Engagement Strategy, PGR students play a full part in the work of the PSRC. PGR students are represented at PSRC committee meetings, and are expected to attend PSRC seminars and colloquia. They are strongly encouraged to present their work internally through the colloquia series, which provides an opportunity for presentations in front of a supportive audience before participation at external conferences. PGR students receive support to participate at external conferences on the same basis as academic staff, including, for example, those organised by the Political Studies Association and the Social Policy Association, and more specialist events, such as the North American Catalan Society and the Rural Entrepreneurship Conference.

Support for research students at a University level has also been enhanced considerably since 2008. All research students are members of the University's Graduate School, founded in 2011 to foster the development of postgraduate research and champion the interests of research students. The Graduate School provides research training and a range of services, including research funding and publishing workshops, careers advice, networking and social events. It also offers students the opportunity to present their work at seminars and an annual Postgraduate Student Conference.

While the PSRC has sought to build capacity by increasing the number of experienced research supervisors, the University has provided bursaries to attract new students. The PSRC offered two full-time studentships (graduate teaching assistants – GTAs) in 2009 for a period of three years, and a further two full-time studentships/GTAs for a further period of three years in 2012. Another round of appointments took place in 2013. One of the first two bursary-funded students submitted his thesis at the end of 2012, and the second has commenced writing up his thesis. Consequently, both the numbers of postgraduate research students, and the numbers of completed theses, have increased since RAE 2008.

**Beyond 2014**, it is planned that the number of PGR students will be increased further, to at least 25 in the School (across UoA21 and UoA22). This is an ambitious target, as currently six of eighteen PGR students are close to completion, but a significant investment in PGR provision at institutional level, coupled with an increased capacity for research supervision within the PSRC, makes this an achievable target.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

External income did not form a significant part of the Politics and International Studies submission to the 2008 RAE. The generation of external income has therefore been a significant priority in the census period, including expanding the proportion of staff involved in such activity. Outputs

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included in the current submission have drawn heavily on external income, including H. Bochel and Defty's work on the House of Lords and Welfare (Nuffield Foundation, 2007-2008, £7,402) and parliamentary scrutiny of the intelligence services (Leverhulme Trust, 2009-2012, £96,879), C. Bochel's work on petitions systems (British Academy, 2011-12, £4,220), and Langlois's work on bioethics (The Wellcome Trust, 2012, £4,985), all of which have led to high-quality research outputs and significant impact-related activities.

A number of the developments outlined above (b) have been used as drivers for the development of external funding applications, including the staff colloquia, research away days and research mentoring. In addition to providing opportunities to review potential funding bids, the PSRC has also facilitated the sharing of experience and best practice by maintaining an online bank of successful (and unsuccessful) funding bids, and by providing fora for those staff who have been successful in generating external income to share their experiences.

In addition to structures put in place by the PSRC, there has been considerable institutional support in this area. Research and external income targets are set annually, and delivery is supported by a Dean of Research and the Research and Enterprise team, with staff dedicated to each College, which promotes the generation of research income and the delivery of high quality research through a range of support mechanisms including: organising bid-writing workshops; providing access to external consultants who provide advice on external bids; identifying potential partners for collaborative research; the maintenance of a centralised on-line database of successful and unsuccessful bids; and enabling the dissemination of best practice. In addition, the College of Social Science has a Director of Research (H. Bochel (UoA22)), who provides strategic direction and has played a central role in ensuring quality, including through the establishment of a College Peer Review Group to review all external funding applications. The appointment of a dedicated College Research Administrator in 2010 also considerably enhanced research support by, for example, providing weekly updates on research funding opportunities and support in the development of funding bids, including carrying out costing, editing and managing the online submission of bids. This combination of staff working at University and College level ensures that approaches are structured, co-ordinated and effective with the result that there has been a significant shift from a base level in 2008 at which no research was externally funded, to one at which several externally funded research projects have been completed and others are ongoing.

External income will continue to form a central part of our research strategy and, reflecting this, the School has attracted an additional £480,000 in external research funding since 1 January 2013, including a project on global environmental law funded by the European Research Council (Parks) (£267,500 over 5 years) in collaboration with researchers at the University of Edinburgh, International Institute for Sustainable Development, and 2 NGOs – Archipelagos in Greece and Natural Justice, £58,000 from the Nuffield Foundation, and smaller sums, including from the British Academy and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

**e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

The PSRC continues to be a significant driver for interdisciplinary research and collaboration both internally and externally. It also plays a significant role in the development of the research base both locally and nationally by actively supporting the development of staff as active researchers. Indeed, while the Centre has a core of established researchers, one of the more striking features of work within this submission is how active new and less experienced staff have been in contributing towards a range of academic and public goods:

**Interdisciplinary/collaborative research:** the PSRC and the School are, by definition, interdisciplinary structures, and there is considerable collaboration between staff across the PSRC, School and the two UoAs – for example, H. Bochel and Defty's work on the House of Lords and welfare, and C. Bochel and H. Bochel's research on leadership in local government. Staff also work with other subjects within the University. For example, the College Research Fund has supported collaborative work by Kisby with staff in the School of Psychology on young people's conceptions of identity and citizenship, and by Somerville with the Business School on rurality. Staff have also collaborated with researchers in a range of other institutions, with recent examples being Kisby's research on citizenship education with Sloam (Royal Holloway), Dobbernack and Modood's (Bristol) work on cultural diversity; Parks's ongoing research with della Porta (EUI) on

social movements and with Morgera (Edinburgh) on environmental regulation; and Strange's work with Worth (Limerick) on the political economy of the EU.

**Contributions to professional networks and associations:** the PSRC has built on its success in hosting international conferences, such as the Political Studies Association annual conference in 2004, by hosting the Social Policy Association (SPA) annual conferences in 2010 and 2011. PSRC members were involved in the steering committee for the SPA conferences, and research by staff from this UoA featured prominently in both conferences, including work by C. Bochel, Defty, Jordan and Kisby. Members of staff play prominent roles in a number of professional associations. Briggs, for example, is a Vice-Chair of the Political Studies Association and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, H. Bochel (UoA22) is a visiting fellow at the Hansard Society, and C. Bochel is a member of the Executive of the Social Policy Association. Others have begun to develop a role by, for example, convening specialist groups (Kisby PSA Young People's Politics, co-convenor with Sloam and Briggs) and conference panels (Langlois PSA annual conference 2010; BISA/ISA annual conferences 2012; Kisby PSA annual conference 2013).

**Conferences/invited keynotes:** staff from the School have been invited to speak at a diverse range of events. Within this UoA, Briggs has had numerous invitations to speak including at Queen's University, Belfast on compulsory voting in 2008, the National University of Ireland, Cork on developments in teaching politics 2009, and as a keynote speaker at the C-SAP Annual Conference in Birmingham in 2009; Dobbernack (UoA22) was invited to speak at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC on 'The End of Multiculturalism in Europe?' in May 2012, and on 'Misrecognition and democratic empowerment: the case of Muslim organisations at the General Election 2010', at the University of Bristol, Thinking Futures Festival, in November 2012; Langlois was invited to give talks at the Bioethics Centre in London in July 2011 and the Centre for Innovation, Knowledge and Development at the Open University in April 2012; C. Bochel was invited to speak to the House of Commons Backbench Business Committee and give oral evidence to the Political and Constitutional Reform select committee about her research on e-petitions; and Briggs and Kisby were invited to participate in a PSA-sponsored workshop on youth political participation at the University of Liverpool in November 2013.

**Journal editorship and peer-review:** Staff within this UoA hold a number of prestigious editorial positions. For example, C. Bochel is joint managing editor of *Social Policy and Society*, and an editorial board member of the *Journal of Social Policy*. Briggs is associate editor of *European Political Science*, and is on the editorial board of *Politics*, *Political Studies* and the *Irish Journal of Public Policy*. Strange has been an elected member of the editorial board of *Capital and Class* since 1999. It is notable that newer members of staff have also gained considerable experience in peer reviewing articles for a diverse range of journals including *Comparative European Politics* (Kisby), *Conflicts and Change* (Parks), *Europe-Asia Studies* (Chebankova); *Globalizations* (Jordan), *Global Policy* (Langlois), *International Feminist Journal of Politics* (Jordan), *Political Studies* (Kisby), *Post-Soviet Affairs* (Chebankova), *Research in Social Movements* (Parks), and *Representation* (Kisby). Staff have also reviewed monographs for publishers including Palgrave, Routledge and Policy Press, and research grant applications for a range of funding bodies including the ESRC (H. Bochel, Briggs, Kisby), and the Wellcome Trust (Langlois).

**Contribution to the development of the discipline:** In addition to teaching what they research, staff across the PSRC are committed to researching what and how they teach, and have a particular interest in pedagogical developments and innovations. Briggs is Chair of the Political Studies Association sub-committee on Education and Skills, and has spoken on teaching and learning at numerous PSA events. She Chaired the Review Committee for the review of the Subject Benchmarking Statements for Politics. Staff have published work on teaching and learning, including on small-group teaching (Briggs), student feedback (McCann), and the use of the Model United Nations simulation as a teaching tool (Obendorf and Randerson). The School has a track record of attracting funding for pedagogic research, including participation in an FDTL project on preparing students to study politics (2005-09), and HEA funded projects on employability in the social sciences (2010), open educational resources (2012) and students' use of feedback (2012).