

Institution: University of Surrey

Unit of Assessment: UOA 21 Politics and International Studies

a. Context

Committed to linking theory and practice, the School of Politics mission statement focuses on collaboration with end users of research as well as engagement with the general public.

Below is a list of the School's collaborations with end users and impact generating activities:

A range of **Non-Governmental Organisations** (for example, National Association for Women's Organisation, Oxford Research Group, Warrington Peace Centre and the Muslim Council of Britain) regularly draw on Surrey's expert knowledge to help with the development of responses to government policies and data analysis.

Government departments The Commission for Victims and Survivors, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Stabilisation Unit (SU), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Metropolitan Police Service Counter Terrorism Command - liaise regularly with academics in the School for advice and training. This work allows for knowledge transfer and has the potential to influence attitudes of policy makers towards work in the area of international intervention, counter-terrorism and EU policy.

Interest groups and Consultancies Academics working within CRonEM have worked directly with interest groups, e.g. European Movement for Europe, and the Fabians, on public engagement activities on issues relating to the debate about the future of Europe. Professor Sir Mike Aaronson is non-executive director of Oxford Policy Management Ltd, thus directly shaping key decisions of a leading development consultancy firm. Prof. Breen-Smyth has produced work for Campaign for All Injured, Handicap International, Human Rights Media Centre (South Africa) and the Oxford Research Group.

European and International Organisations Staff also provide expert services to a range of organisations, e.g. NATO, European Central Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross. In his role as Senior Advisor to NATO, Professor Sir Mike Aaronson helps to shape the strategic dimensions of the Organisation's civil-military and political relations. Dr Usherwood has worked with the European Central Bank and participated in briefings with the European Commission Representation and the European Parliament Representation in London. Dr Guerrina addressed an event organised by the European Parliament (UK Office) and attended by the head of the European Commission (UK Office). Prof Breen-Smyth works with Handicap International and the British Council in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

b. Approach to impact

The Unit has always been flexible in its interactions with non-academic users welcoming enquiries from potential beneficiaries. The applied nature of our research in EU politics and policies, international intervention, drones and public opinion particularly lends itself to outreach and engagement activities. The main areas of activity include:

Participative Action Research

Prof Breen-Smyth's use of participative action research with victims groups in Northern Ireland is shaping the way practitioners approach and deal with victims of political violence. She was invited to brief the new Victims Commissioner for Northern Ireland and has regular contact with a range of Westminster and Stormont politicians about aspects of policy for victims and survivors in Northern Ireland. Her use of documentary film as a tool for research and dissemination has allowed her to form close working relationships with research participants and with a range of film makers and community based media organisations in Northern Ireland and South Africa.

Impact template (REF3a)**Engagement with End-Users Through Networks**

The appointment of Professor Sir Mike Aaronson (former Director General of Save the Children UK and Civil Service Commissioner) as Director of the Centre for International Intervention (cii) strengthened the School's links with end users. He is External Director on the governing board of the National School for Government International. His report on drones, with influential London-based Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), a prestigious think tank used by government, received national media coverage and the results were published in high impact media outlets, for example, The Guardian.

High ranking officials in NGOS, government and NATO (Jamie Shae, NATO; Geoff Loan, ICRC) regularly visit and contribute to events organised by the School.

The School regularly organises a number of high level public events with practitioners, such as our yearly public event series "Politics Month" which draws government advisors and officials, civil servants, civil society organisations, local NGOs and members of the public to Surrey.

Training

CRonEM organises training events for teachers on current trends in EU politics. The School also organises a yearly Schools Question Time for local teachers and students, attracting local and national politicians, activists and journalists.

In 20120 Dr Guerrina, Dr Usherwood and Dr David were invited to lead a training session on state-building for members of the Lessons Team and the Planning Team in the Stabilisation Unit.

Media Engagement

Dr Usherwood, Dr Guerrina, Dr Exadaktylos, Dr Holland and Prof Breen Smyth - appear regularly on the BBC, the Islam Channel and Sky News. They are sought to provide commentary on national, European and international events thus informing public debate.

Education Resources

The School also engages in a vibrant social media campaign that allows exchange with end users. Dr Usherwood, Dr Holland and Sir Mike Aaronson are regular contributors to the *Politics@Surrey Blog* and the cii blog. Dr Usherwood has also contributed an essay to E!Sharp, an online resource for practitioners.

The School's active engagement in a range of outreach activities results from our commitment to contribute to and influence policy debates. Examples of our events are:

- Public RoundTable on the Future of a Palestinian State. Funded by the British Academy and attended by local political parties, lobby groups, and members of the public.
- CRonEM re-launch at Europe House featured Sir Stephen Wall versus Dr Richard Corbett in a debate on the Future of UK Membership of the EU.
- Cii launch held at RUSI in Whitehall featured contributions by Lieutenant General (Rtd) Sir Graeme Lamb, Former British Army officer and Commander, Field Army; Dr Lou Perrotta, formerly of the UK Government's inter-departmental Stabilisation Unit; and Dr Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO.

Departmental Support to support these approaches, the Unit established a strong relationship with the University's Media and Publicity Office and staff have had extensive contact with media environments.

University Support: the School is supported in its approach to impact by the University's Research and Enterprise Support (RES) team. As well as providing KTP expertise and support for consultancy, RES provides project management for the key partnerships and requisite commercial, legal and IP expertise to help enable the creation of impact.

c. Strategy and plans

The majority of the School's impact activities to date have been intentional and anticipated; highlights are included in section (b). The successes in the period have informed the unit's strategy for achieving impact going forward.

Goals and plans to maximise impact:

1. Develop work that is sensitive to the needs of end users, i.e. engagement with key stakeholders in the early/developmental stages of research projects.
 - Ensure regular contact with research users and ensure research projects have practitioners on their advisory boards
 - Organise workshops aimed at users to explore synergies for future research
2. Produce high quality theoretically informed and empirically grounded research that can be used by practitioner communities
 - Organise dissemination events that include practitioners. This allows the dissemination of research findings to users, thus enhancing opportunities for impact and influence
 - Develop innovative ways to disseminate findings to reach target communities, e.g. documentary films, blogs and practitioner publications
3. Provide support for end users of research in a systematic way through consultancy work for civil society organisations and government departments
 - Nurture links with NGOs and government departments, as in the case of Prof Breen-Smyth's work supporting victims of the troubles in Northern Ireland
 - Provide buy-out and leave for academics to work directly for, and on behalf of, government departments and organisations. Dr Basu was hired specifically for her links with development organisations and her work for the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC).

Staff will be supported in achieving these goals by the following initiatives:

- Update annual staff appraisals to recognise and reward achievements in impact, and recognise excellent impact at University level through annual impact awards
- Increase exposure and dissemination of impact activity within the Department through the appointment of an 'Impact Champion' who will report to the Politics Research Committee
- Strengthen our alumni programme to ensure that our graduates remain advocates for the Department's research and technical capabilities throughout their careers

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies exemplify the approaches to realising impact in section b.

Case Study 1: "Injury due to armed conflict"

This case study is the culmination of a longstanding commitment to understanding the social and psychological repercussions of political violence in Northern Ireland. Prof Breen-Smyth's position as a champion for the victims enables her to contribute to current debates and shape service delivery. This case study is a clear example of the School's impact focused research strategy and the practitioner engagement ethos of the Unit.

Case Study 2: "Mothering the Union"

This case study illustrates the School's innovative use of new social media in its communications and is an example of how academic research can influence public debate. Research on equal opportunities in the labour market led to Surrey's role in broadcast programme development and policy deliberations of political organisations, ultimately resulting in invitations to participate in public engagement activities and for ongoing work with interest groups and media organisations.