

Institution: University of Glasgow

Unit of Assessment: 21 – Politics and International Studies

a. Context: Politics at Glasgow has particular research strengths in electoral politics, election systems and their relation to the quality of democracy, in the politics of a diverse range of nations around the world, and in international security and human rights. The Unit's research is distinctive in the expertise it brings to bear on important UK and global issues, reaching a wide range of non-academic beneficiaries and users, locally, nationally and internationally. The main types of impact and stakeholders who benefit from the Unit's research are:

- **Influencing policy** through expert advice to parliaments and policy makers in **regional and national governments**, by contributing to public debates, and through involvement in parliamentary and governmental forums and groups, e.g. *Scottish Parliament*, *Scottish Government*, where **Duckett** advised on the 'China Plan in 2011'; *UK Government Cabinet Office* and *Ministries of Defence* and *Overseas Development* where **Duckett** also spoke at a China strategy meeting in 2012; **Hume** reported on her work to a gathering of female parliamentarians in El Salvador, *Irish Aid* and the **UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office**. She was also one of six **European Union (EU)** nominated delegates to the *EU CELAC* action plan seminar on gender, Buenos Aires (November 2013). **Kollman** gave evidence on same-sex marriage to the Equal Opportunities Committee of the **Scottish Parliament** in 2013. **Lundberg** gave evidence on Scotland's mixed member electoral system to the *New Zealand Electoral Commission* in 2012. **Lundberg** also presented evidence to *Acció per la Democràcia* in Catalonia, a civil society organisation with members including government ministers who influenced the 2013 commitment to replacing the existing electoral system. **Lundberg** has also given evidence to the *Joint Committee on the Constitution of the Irish Oireachtas* (Parliament), which drew heavily on his expert testimony in their reports. **Mills** wrote a research report for the Scottish Government; **Tsakatika** contributed to a high level seminar, 'Europe of Results: Functioning of the European Commission', for the **European Commission's** Bureau of Economic Policy Advisers in 2008. She also participated in writing the Synthesis Report 'Options for Europe post-2009', put together in 2009 by the influential think tanks, Policy Network, ELIAMEP (Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy) and the London School of Economics European Institute. **Valeriano** advised the **Estonian Government** and **U.S. Defence Department** on cyber conflicts.
- **Informing and influencing public debate** through contributions to the media and by organising public debates (e.g. Scottish referendum) lectures (Stevenson Lectures on Citizenship) and other events. Beneficiaries of this impact include: Scottish, UK and international **newspapers, radio and television broadcasters** as well as new media outlets and the **wider public** at home and abroad. Examples of this during the review period, include: **Duckett** in *The Herald* (6.6.08); **White** in *Moskovskie novosti* (8.11.11); **Valeriano** in *The Independent* (11.8.12), *The Herald* (27.7.13), *La Vanguardia* (24.02.13) and 'Up with Chris Hayes' on the MSNBC network in the United States (February 2013). **Valeriano** also contributes regularly to the popular blog Duck of Minerva. Several (including **Carman, Duckett, Head, Kollman, Valeriano** and **White**) are occasional or more regular contributors to the Scottish media, especially BBC Scotland. For example, **Tsakatika** (like **Karyotis**) commented on Greece and the Euro, European political parties, and Scotland's relationship with the European Union for the UK and international media (e.g. BBC Scotland, New Zealand radio, and the Greek press between 2009 and 2013). **Sagarzazu** also provided analysis for media during the Venezuelan presidential election of 2013.
- **Influencing the delivery of services by international governmental and non-governmental organisations** through advisory and consultancy work and by building relationships with these organisations, including the World Bank (**Munro** and **Duckett**, who developed relations as part of pathway to impact in their research on evaluations of China's health system, 2012-13), as well as, Oxfam, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) and Trocaire, who have all consulted **Hume** on gender violence issues; **Valeriano** advised the Atlantic Council (an American nonpartisan think tank).
- **Enhancing school curricula** through the provision of teaching materials and the delivery of classes benefitting schools, teachers and pupils across Scotland (e.g. **Duckett** and **Munro** providing curriculum material on Chinese Government, policy and society for Scottish

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schools, from January 2013; **Carman** giving presentations to Scottish schools on U.S. and Scottish politics and elections).

These types of impact are relevant **across the range of our research** activity, with some variation between our three overarching research clusters: *Comparative Politics*, *International Relations* (especially research on cyber-security); and *Human Rights*.

b. Approach to impact: Our approach to impact is founded in a shared commitment to shaping public policy, improving service delivery, informing public debate and enhancing understanding of politics and government. Between 2008 and 2013 we sought to maximise the impact of our research through 4 main mechanisms:

- **Building and participating in networks and forums that bring together researchers and stakeholders in government, civil society and private business.** An example is the *Glasgow Human Rights Network* (GHRN), established in 2011. Led by **Mills**, with support from **Turbine** and others, the GHRN nurtures relationships with government, practitioners and civil society by organising high profile events, including lectures and seminar series, as well as exhibitions and a regular information bulletin and making good use of its website. The GHRN's seminar series at the Scottish Parliament in March 2013 and at Glasgow City Chambers in May 2013 successfully raised the profile of the neglected issue of citizen rights and immigration under any new constitutional arrangements. Through GHRN, **Turbine** organised a roundtable on Poverty and Human Rights in Scotland at Glasgow City Chambers (2013). **Duckett**, with **Munro** are members of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on China; **Duckett** is a member of the Scottish Government's China Strategy Implementation and Delivery Forum.
- **Establishing institutions/structures to communicate research to non-academic users and the public.** An example is the *Scottish Centre for China Research* (SCCR, est. 2008), which works together with the Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow (est. 2011; both are directed by **Duckett** with support from **Munro**) to communicate politics and other University research on China to the public, business and government. Together, the SCCR and *Confucius Institute* organise events such as lectures, exhibitions and workshops for school teachers (for which **Duckett** was awarded a Lord Provost of Glasgow Education Award in 2012). Politics staff also organise the Stevenson Trust's high-profile public lectures on citizenship, which in 2012-14 focused on 'Scotland's Citizens: The Referendum and Beyond'. This linked to the Crick Memorial Public Lecture, most recently delivered by Lockyer, which addressed the decision to extend the vote in September 2014 to 16 year olds.
- **Organising lectures to practitioner audiences and presentations to policy workshops attended by policy makers and government policy advisers.** For example **Hume** organised 'El Salvador 20 years since the peace accords' with the Salvadoran embassy in London; together with two colleagues in Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research she also organised 'Gangs and Global Exchange' at Glasgow's Mitchell Library (December 2009). She was also part of an EU-funded project with Central American Women's Network to organise lectures and capacity building. On 1 November she organised advocacy training for 25 Glasgow students with delegate from Nicaragua; she also has a strong relationship with the NGO, SCIAF, and has been organising public lectures with their visiting partners since 2006.
- **Using print and social media to disseminate research findings.** The University website hosts a Register of Experts and each member of staff lists their expertise on personal pages alongside details of research projects and outputs. By **establishing good working relationships** with journalists and programme editors who have approached staff through the Register, Politics staff have cultivated a reputation as reliable and informed experts. The [SCCR](#) and [CI](#) use microblogs (including the variant used in China) and Facebook. **Turbine** (@VikTurbine), active in GHRN, makes regular use of Twitter.

The Unit has received **institutional support** for this approach. In 2011 the University of Glasgow was one of the first universities to sign the **Manifesto for Public Engagement**. It has also **incorporated Knowledge Exchange (KE) activities** within job descriptions for all academic posts. Annual staff **Performance and Development Reviews** across the University

include KE, ensuring that it is encouraged and rewarded. The University of Glasgow regularly publishes *Horizons*, a magazine reporting innovation across the campus for a non-academic readership (the spring 2013 issue featured Glasgow Politics' large projects on Chinese public health, and on the relationship between social inequality and political instability in Russia and China). The University has appointed a dedicated **Media Relations Officer** for Social Sciences to advise on media contact and strategies. The University Staff Development Service provides **regular training courses** in KE and maximising impact.

The School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS), of which Politics is a constituent, appointed a dedicated **KE Officer** in 2012, working with an administrative assistant to advise staff across the School on how to maximise research impact. The School **workload model** incentivises KE activity by including leadership of KE networks and institutions. The School has also provided **technical and administrative support** (for example with website development and advertising) for networks, centres and other activities.

c. Strategy and plans: Over the next five years, Politics at the University of Glasgow aims to build on the practices and initiatives and growing institutional resources set out above and strengthen our approach to KE and impact. In line with the *SSPS 'Research and KE Strategy 2013'* Politics will achieve this by:

- **Diversifying modes of research communication:** making greater use of new technologies and software to communicate research findings to a broader audience – for example through such mechanisms as policy briefings, newsletters, websites, blogs and microblogs and social networking accounts;
- **Extending our range of KE activity:** through the GHRN and SCCR by organising more events to deepen established links with existing beneficiaries, and reach a wider range of stakeholders. KE seminars (with both internal and external speakers) will also be integrated into our research seminar series and mentoring systems for staff and students as a formal device for encouraging and supporting researchers to share and adopt best practice;
- **Embedding stakeholder engagement in research design:** for example by creating Advisory Groups to the Unit, the GHRN and SCCR;
- **Supporting staff secondments to stakeholder organisations and policy-oriented networks:** Politics has begun implementing this objective by fully participating in and benefitting from Policy Scotland, launched by the College of Social Sciences in June 2013 as a focal point for research and KE activities across several policy domains. **Carman** is undertaking a secondment to Policy Scotland of up to a year to build an extensive database tracking voting patterns in the Scottish Parliament. He intends to make this database available to public organisations to increase understanding of how the Scottish Parliament functions. This 50 per cent FTE secondment is supported by the Unit through reduced teaching and workload remodelling.

d. Relationship to case studies: All three case studies demonstrate the ways in which Glasgow Politics researchers engage with international and national users, as well as the range of beneficiaries we reach: government agencies (the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in China and the Department for International Development in the UK), elected institutions (the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament and the UK House of Commons Backbench Business Committee and Hansard Society), and the voluntary sector (Oxfam America). **Carman** (Scottish/UK Parliamentary petitions systems) and **Hume's** (gender violence in Central America) case studies illustrate our long-standing approach of communicating research to non-academic stakeholders via public reports, lectures and bespoke seminars to extend reach and impact. **Duckett** and **Hume's** case studies highlight the ways in which Politics research has been shaped and communicated through participation in multi-stakeholder networks. Their success has encouraged us to develop an approach to impact that includes formalising research networks and establishing permanent research centres, such as the GHRN and SCCR. These institutes, through their use of social media, networking and public activities, act as knowledge exchange hubs, evolving to further enhance the impact of Politics research.