

<p>Institution: University of Cambridge</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Context The Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at Cambridge is a multidisciplinary department located within the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Its research covers politics and political economy at both domestic and international levels, using historical, legal and philosophical methods as well as those of political science. It also embraces the Centre for Development Studies and the area Centres specialising in Africa, Latin America and South Asia, all of which however retain significant autonomy, and should not be confused with our specialist research centres such as that on Rising Powers (see below). The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries and audiences for the research carried out by POLIS are: (i) Official policy-makers, inside the UK and beyond. Research is therefore concerned to have an impact on public policy; (ii) Parliamentarians, NGOs, and other civil society groups. Research therefore aims to have an impact on ‘attentive’ opinion, and on informed debates about emerging political issues of general social concern; (iii) Stakeholders in certain specific issue-areas. Research therefore aims to have impact on a specialised, expert, target audience, and speaks to a defined epistemic community, albeit one which reaches well beyond the academy; (iv) The general public. Here our research aims to have impact in the sense of widening popular understandings of major political and international problems, and to draw the public’s attention to important issues and areas of knowledge. This requires being able to attract the attention of the mass media.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact Our approach to impact starts from the assumption that contributions to public policy and public debate rely on prior success in fundamental investigations into the underlying nature of political behaviour. Yet politics is a particularly difficult context in which to achieve consensus on what constitutes expert knowledge, given the inherently ideological nature of the issues. At the international level the problem is compounded by cultural and geographical difficulties. These factors mean that in POLIS we accept the need to be sensitive over problems of ethnocentrism when disseminating research, and we recognise that however good research is by technical scholarly standards its impact will still be filtered through political argument.</p> <p>The Department also recognizes that there are many different forms of impact, varying from one type of research to another. Some research has an immediate policy relevance and may even translate into specific changes in policy or practices. The relevance of other forms of research may only emerge over time. It can lead to a gradual change in the ways that certain issues are understood, thereby affecting the knowledge, views and perceptions of individuals and groups in both government and civil society. Given this complexity, the Department adopts a flexible, pluralistic and context-specific approach to impact. We encourage our staff to think creatively about the kinds of impact that would be appropriate for the research they are planning, while recognizing that this will vary from one scholar and project to another.</p> <p>More concretely, this means that the impact of research in POLIS takes place in three time-frames. Firstly, there is work which <i>relates directly to current policy-making</i>. Hill, for instance, researches Member State and EU foreign policy, which entails a regular two-way engagement with practitioners in Brussels and national capitals – as with his participation, on the invitation of the Italian Foreign Ministry, in a panel in Naples on Italy and globalisation to mark the 150th anniversary of the Italian state, before an audience which included the President of the Republic. Narlikar’s work also addresses policy-makers, with the aim of assisting those from developing countries to work more effectively within the World Trade Organisation. Weller has advised the UN Secretary-General, and national governments at high levels, on issues of conflict resolution and minority rights. Most recently he has served as Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, drafting the 2012 Geneva communiqué, incorporated as paragraphs 6-11 of Annex II in UN Security Council Resolution 2118 (27 September 2013). This is the road-map for ‘a Syrian-led transition’. The Department reduced Professor Weller’s teaching load to enable him to take on this major public responsibility. More typically of this kind of research, Gamble and Thompson have brought political economy and historical perspectives to bear on the recent financial crisis, so as to balance the polemical character of most public debate.</p> <p>We actively encourage ex-practitioners to join POLIS to engage in research which draws on their past experience. Thus Dr Stefan Halper, a senior ex-US policy-maker, has been a member of the department for more than a decade. In this time he has produced monographs on US foreign</p>

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policy and on Tibet, as well as reports for the US Secretary of Defense on the endgame in Afghanistan, and on Chinese self-assertion in East Asia, all informed by his teaching of the M.Phil course on US foreign policy. More recently Dr Tristram Riley-Smith has joined POLIS from Whitehall as a Director of Research. Riley-Smith is External Champion for the RCUK 'Global Uncertainties Programme' which seeks to coordinate academic research relevant to government responsibilities on terrorism, cyber security and transnational crime. We also admit annually six officers from the UK armed services to our research Masters course. They often go on to senior policy-making positions in the Ministry of Defence and regularly testify to the benefits of having been exposed to academic research. Among the most successful have been the late Lord Garden, quondam Liberal Democrat defence spokesman in the House of Lords, Lt General Andrew Ridgeway, a former Chief of Defence Intelligence, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, also previously a Chief of Defence Intelligence and now Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff.

Second is the research which *provides a bridge between public policy and debates in civil society in a longer time-frame*. Here research findings have practical significance but are directed in the first instance well beyond government circles with the aim of influencing the climate within which public policy evolves. Srinivasan's research, for example, on the role of mobile phones and radio stations in the new patterns of participation in African politics and economic life, is actively directed towards informing public discourse in the countries concerned. The creation of the Centre for Governance and Human Rights in POLIS has provided the platform for this kind of work. Lin and Nolan have both worked on China's industrial miracle and the practical issues it raises for China and its trading partners. Hill's research on the external dimension of multiculturalism attempts to bring together the scholarly and the public agendas. Zarakol's book *After Defeat* examines the challenges for peoples and governments of having their identity affected by the stigma of defeat and marginalisation. In fact the work of most members of the Department connects up policy dilemmas with longer term political issues. As a result staff are encouraged to present their work to public audiences as well as to more specialised gatherings. In recent years POLIS has provided speakers for the annual Hay Literary Festival, which draws very large audiences, for the Cambridge Festival of Ideas – one of the leading UK public showcases for research in the humanities - and for media interviews (particularly on BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight* and the *Today* programme).

The third category of our work *expects to have impact largely in the long term* by virtue of the fact that the pursuit of fundamental scholarship inherently affects assumptions about the relationship between the past, the present and the future, the result being a reconsideration of where we stand and where we are heading. Arguably this understanding of long-term change is the most critical of all. Yet while much of our research addresses perennial issues it may still attract interest from practitioners. For example the inclusion of Runciman's book *Political Hypocrisy* (2008) on the reading list for the UK Shadow Cabinet by the current Prime Minister when in opposition, derived from his strategy of writing for public outlets such as the *London Review of Books* and the *Political Quarterly* (whose 2011 Bernard Crick prize he won with an article on democracy). His current project on conspiracy theories is of obvious social interest and has already been picked up by the BBC. In the same vein Haslam's work addresses the key issue of Russia's role in the modern international system, which led to an invitation to give evidence to a Parliamentary Committee. The research of Bell and Recchia contributes to the slow but vital raising of consciousness on international ethics which has taken place over the last three decades. Basic research of this kind can have real impact by changing the intellectual climate and the parameters of political argument.

c Strategy and plans The Department's tradition, while acknowledging the diverse nature of scholarship, and the many different kinds, levels, and time-frames in which impact takes place, has always been geared towards pursuing research which is both accessible and of interest beyond the academy. Our strategy towards impact therefore consists in reinforcing the general emphasis within the Department on (i) applied research; and (ii) interaction with policy-makers present and future. But it also has two other legs: the approach to new appointments, and the development of a specific programme in Public Policy.

Our *recruitment* of academic staff always takes into account the importance of research which is relevant to society, and ideally also accessible to non-specialists. All our six most recent appointments have been of young researchers whose work, while excellent in terms of scholarship, also has the potential for significant impact. To take only the two most recent cases: Bickerton's

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work focuses on understanding the complexities of multi-level governance in the contemporary EU, while Rapport has published on US decision-making on the Iraq war, and is attempting to improve our understanding of why and how decision-makers take gambles on future outcomes. All staff can draw on the services of the University's Public Engagement Team, and can make use of the Cambridge Impact Fund, an ESRC-funded pilot scheme.

The new *Masters in Public Policy (MPP)* epitomises our growing concern with fostering work with the potential for impact. It is sited in POLIS and overseen by an interdepartmental Centre for Public Policy (CPP), through which it has access to Cambridge's highly successful Centre for Science and Policy (CaSP), enabling collaboration on such themes as the environment, the use of knowledge in public policy, and the technologies of surveillance. Between 2011-2013 CaSP set up 74 meetings between individual POLIS researchers and practitioners from the UK government, European Commission or private sector. A new Strategic Research Initiative in Public Policy in Cambridge will link the MPP to colleagues in STEM subjects working on areas such as food security. This and other work in the CPP will maximise our connections with practitioners. The latest appointment in POLIS, that of Livesey, was specifically made in Public Policy to ensure that postgraduate research and links with practitioners in this area steadily develop. Livesey is supported in this for the first two years by the appointment of a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow who is working specifically on the links between science and public policy (Goodwin). Our plan for the MPP envisages the recruitment of PhD students, post-docs and more permanent staff over the next five years. Closely aligned is the special relationship we have achieved with the polling firm YouGov, which has made donations to underpin research in the Department and to provide bursaries for the new degree. 'YouGov Cambridge' denotes a structured relationship whereby the two sides consult on research plans via a designated individual in each institution, with polling facilities made available for both staff and postgraduate research into public opinion. A yearly Forum is held under the auspices of YouGov Cambridge to bring more than 100 politicians, journalists and senior executives to the University for two days of panels. In 2013 the theme was 'Public Opinion and the Evolving State'.

d Relationship to case studies The four case-studies chosen by the Department show how our research has been able to have significant impact in a wide range of different ways. They all relate to current policy issues to some degree, but numbers 2 and 3 below also demonstrate impact in terms of helping to bridge public policy and debates in civil society, even globally to some degree:

Narlikar's case study epitomises the way in which many members of POLIS combine *detailed policy-relevant work* with wider themes of scholarly and political significance. It shows how Narlikar has used her research on trade negotiations in the WTO to increase the ability of developing countries to form coalitions which can improve their position in the international balance of political and economic power. It demonstrates how the impact of work in political science can be technical without being inaccessible. **Chang** also studies trade policy, although in a different way and with some different normative implications from the work of Narlikar. Chang operates at the macro level, where his challenges to economic orthodoxies have empowered developing country elites in their attempts to assert themselves in international economic institutions across the board. His work also has an extraordinary degree of *public outreach*, thus impacting on attitudes beyond policy circles. At both the elite and the public level his work has helped to shape debates over the medium and long terms. **Simms'** research, on both the specific case of Britain's role in the Bosnian war of 1992-1995, and the history of humanitarian intervention, has had a significant impact on British thinking about national foreign policy, and it has been a key reference point for the wider international debate over qualifying the norm of non-intervention. It demonstrates that the belief in providing an *historical understanding* of contemporary dilemmas, which characterises the research culture in POLIS, can have important advantages in terms of impact as well as meeting scholarly criteria. By the same token its influence is potentially long-term as well as on particular policy dilemmas. **Weller's** case-study is based on ongoing research from the last thirteen years on how to settle conflicts within states, especially those which spill over into neighbouring societies. Its detailed findings about such matters as power-sharing, autonomy, minorities and transitional arrangements, have shaped the implementation of various complex settlements, including Kosovo and South Sudan. The case-study is a prime example of the *multi-disciplinary nature* of POLIS's approach to research and to impact, given that it combines legal, political and negotiating forms of expertise. The case also illustrates how academic work can engage directly even with the most profound and intractable issues in international politics.