

Institution: Cardiff University

Unit of Assessment: UoA 21 Politics and International Studies

a. Context: Bridging the Academic-Practitioner Divide is one of four strategic research priorities for Politics at Cardiff; impact outside academia is therefore integral to research planning, conduct and monitoring. Three research clusters (the Wales Governance Centre [WGC], European Governance, Identity and Public Policy Research Unit [EGIPP], and the International Affairs Research Group) have pursued sustained contact and dialogue with political practitioners and policy-makers. This has achieved three main types of impact:

i. Influencing Policy-Making Through Expertise: The expertise of Politics staff has informed policy-making at regional, national and European levels. **Regionally**, Scully and Wyn Jones' ESRC-funded research on public attitudes to devolution provided evidence central to the conclusions of the All Wales Convention (2010) and Silk Commission Part I (2012) reports, and Welsh Government evidence submitted to Part II of the Silk Commission; Cole, Loughlin, Palmer and Sutch have given expert testimony to National Assembly for Wales committees. **Nationally**, joint Cardiff-Edinburgh-IPPR work on Englishness was integral to the conclusions of the McKay Commission Report (2013); research-led briefings have been given to the FCO (Cumming), 10 Downing St (Wyn Jones, Compston), the Scottish Government (Wyn Jones) and Cabinet Office (Dorey, Wyn Jones); expert evidence has been given to the Commons' Political and Constitutional Reform committee (Wyn Jones), Lords' EU Select committee (Furlong), and the Scottish Parliament's Referendum Bill committee (Wyn Jones). At the **European** level, Dyson's research has directly informed briefings to the European Central Bank.

ii. Enhancing Public Understanding via the Media and Public Outreach: Taking seriously the duty to enhance public understanding of politics, Politics staff regularly contribute to media coverage. Recent **broadcast** appearances include Cole (Europe 1, Radio 4, Australian National Radio, Ta Nea); Donovan (Radio Wales); Dorey (ITV-Wales); Dyson (Slovak TV, radio interviews in Sweden, Australia and Brazil); Furlong (Radio Wales, Radio Scotland, Voice of Russia); Garrard (Radio 4); Scully (Radio 5 Live, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru, S4C, BBC Wales and ITV-Wales); and Wyn Jones (CBC Radio [Canada], Radio 4 [including Today and Westminster Hour], Radio 5 Live, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru, World Service, S4C and BBC Wales). Wyn Jones was the main 'expert pundit' for S4C's live coverage of the 2010 UK general election, 2011 Welsh Referendum and 2011 devolved elections. **Print** contributions include authored pieces for the Guardian (Wyn Jones) and Western Mail (Scully, Wyn Jones); staff and their work have been cited/quoted by over 100 newspapers, including Asahi Shimbun (Japan), Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, The Economist, Financial Times, The Guardian, The Independent, Le Monde, Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten (Denmark), Pravda (Slovakia), The Scotsman, Svenska Dagbladet (Sweden) and The Times. **Website and Periodical** contributions include Scully's Elections in Wales Blog (live since July 2013); articles in Click on Wales (Scully, Wyn Jones), The Conversation (Compston), ConservativeHome (Wyn Jones), LSE British Politics and Policy (Dorey, Wyn Jones) and the New Statesman blog Staggers (Wyn Jones); and Wyn Jones' articles for Welsh-language periodical Barn (monthly through 2008-13.) Numerous **outreach** events fulfil a responsibility to our local community, facilitating direct public engagement with major political figures. The WGC has been particularly active in this respect: speakers at their Cardiff events since 2011 have included the UK Deputy Prime Minister, current (Jones) and former (Gillan, Hain) Secretaries of State for Wales, the Deputy First Minister of Scotland, First Minister of Wales and leaders of every opposition party in the Welsh Assembly. Politics staff have also made numerous research-led presentations to major public festivals, including the 2010 and 2012 Dylan Thomas Festivals (Boucher), 2013 Hay Festival (Wyn Jones), 2012 Lincoln Arts Festival (Boucher), 2010 and 2013 National Eisteddfods (Wyn Jones) and 2013 Edinburgh Festival of Politics (Wyn Jones).

iii. Engaging Practitioner Communities and Stimulating Political Debate: We regularly organise and participate in events that stimulate political debate by engaging with relevant political practitioners. The WGC has hosted numerous Cardiff **Breakfast Seminars** (seven since 2009, plus a joint 2011 event with the Scottish Election Study team at the Institute of Government) where key findings of Scully and Wyn Jones' research on Welsh public opinion and electoral behaviour are shared with substantial audiences of politicians, civil servants, journalists, party staffers and civil society representatives, and implications of those findings debated. Public launches in London and Cardiff

of two reports on public attitudes in England (jointly with colleagues at Edinburgh and IPPR) have similarly stimulated debate with key practitioners. Throughout 2012-13, the **UK Changing Union** project has run a Chatham House-style seminar series, involving politicians, officials, journalists and NGO representatives from the four UK territories: this constitutes the only attempt we know of to 'join-up' constitutional debates across the UK. Two British Academy-supported **Europeanising Devolution** conferences (Cardiff and London, May 2013), part of Cole's Leverhulme-funded International Network, brought together academics, practitioners and politicians from the UK, France, Germany, Spain and Belgium to explore the relationship between sub-state empowerment and European integration; the First Minister for Wales stated that they had helped the Welsh Government 'think imaginatively about our European future' (press release, 22/05/2013). Dyson and colleagues ran a successful **European Commission**-funded seminar series on European Economic Governance in 2011-2012 which brought together academics, politicians and officials to explore the Euro crisis and related challenges. Sutch, as a **Wales Centre for International Affairs** Trustee, has worked with it both on public engagement events and dialogue with practitioners and civil society actors (particularly NGOs), most notably in relation to a public campaign on the Responsibility to Protect.

b. Approach to impact: Our approach to impact is based on three clear principles:

- Impact should be grounded in high-quality research.
- Impact is most likely when engagement with non-academic users is not a 'bolted-on' after-thought, but integral to research plans.
- Individual researchers can most effectively maximise the Impact of research by operating within appropriate structures of unit- and institutional-level support.

Individual staff, and research units and centres, have been encouraged to use field-specific knowledge to explore the most effective and creative pathways to impact; however, there is a duty to provide them with structured support and advice. Impact has thus been made central to research management and support in the following ways:

i. Impact has been embedded since 2009 as a core heading within biannual **Research Monitoring** of staff and PGRs. Possibilities for engagement and impact of research projects are actively explored in all monitoring meetings; these involve the UoA Director of Research, who since 2011 has also been designated as Impact Champion.

ii. Since 2011, ring-fenced **funding** of £10,000 p.a. for Impact activities has been provided within the Research Committee budget: this has funded, for example, Bueger's participation at an event on the Global Fight Against Maritime Piracy in 2013 (also involving the FCO, International Maritime Organization and the Royal Navy). Further support (£15,000 since 2008) has been accessed from HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement fund.

iii. Dedicated **administrative support** has been provided by an External Relations and Project Manager, for help with event organisation; promotion of events via conventional and social media and where possible creating podcasts of events; collecting media reports of events; maintaining a central database of events; and gathering post-event testimonials to capture impact. We have engaged professional writers to craft event-narratives.

iv. Staff are strongly encouraged to draw on **institution-level training opportunities, expertise and resources**. Research Monitoring and Staff Appraisal consider training needs and relevant opportunities in the University-wide professional career development programme (The Cardiff Researcher Programme) which includes an entire section of workshops on Engagement, Influence and Impact. The University's Community Engagement Team provides support to staff disseminating research via media and press releases, and by facilitating public talks and dedicated events. A university-wide strategy ensures Cardiff representation in the ESRC, and facilitates regular meetings between Directors of Research that include frequent discussions around Impact.

As evidenced by section **A** above and by our case-studies, this approach to Impact has proven generally effective, although it is kept under regular internal and institutional-level review.

We recognise an important balance can sometimes arise between research ethics and impact agendas. As confidentiality is at the core of ethics, so the impact of our research is conditioned by considerations of confidentiality and informed consent.

c. Strategy and plans: Over the next REF period, we intend to continue pursuing the same forms of Impact: seeking and exploiting opportunities to deploy our expertise to inform policy-making; continuing to enhance public understanding via the media and a programme of public outreach events; and seeking to engage with a wide variety of practitioner communities and make important contributions to stimulating political debate. Our impact strategy envisages a variety of forms of partnership with governmental actors, NGOs, think tanks and other practitioners; in some cases (such as work with IPPR and YouGov) this means continuing long-standing collaborations.

- The **WGC** will continue to pursue research on public attitudes and electoral behaviour in Wales, using findings to inform the continuing work of the Silk Commission and broader constitutional debates in Wales, and through various means of dissemination working to enhance public understanding. The UK Changing Union project, led by Wyn Jones, will continue to stimulate political debate through exploring the social, political and legal-constitutional implications of devolution directly with political elites. WGC will also continue to play a leading role in public outreach, building on the programme of over twenty public events it held during 2013.
- **EGIPP** will be a core component of the EU-funded Cardiff Jean Monnet Centre, strengthened by synergies with legal scholars such as Smismans, Hunt and Priban. Planned research activity includes Dyson's new British Academy-funded project on central banks in the euro-zone, which will involve significant interaction with key policy-makers (Ivo Maes of the Belgian Central Bank is Co-Investigator) and also raise public awareness of complex European monetary issues. Cole and Stafford's Leverhulme Trust-funded project on Territorial Governance will actively promote learning and debate between governance communities in Wales, Brittany, Andalucia, Wallonia and Saxony.
- The **International Affairs Research Group** will continue work on 'legalization and just war'. Sutch will be PI on a joint research project on the impact of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which will involve collaboration with two civil society organizations: the International Coalition on the Responsibility to Protect and the United Nations Association-UK. Collaboration with WCIA will also continue, involving both dialogue with key practitioners and outreach events to raise public awareness. Bueger's work on 'Counter-Piracy Governance' (funded under the ESRC Future Research Leaders scheme from October 2013), will include a 'Lessons Learned' project with the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, and broader collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation and the European Commission.

d. Relationship to case studies: Our nominated case studies (*Public Opinion and Welsh Devolution*, and *Delineating England*) both draw on research by the WGC, a centre which, as described above, has developed particular strength in Impact. The two case studies collectively illustrate the three of types of Impact discussed above:

- Both constitute examples where research expertise directly influenced the policy process. *Public Opinion and Welsh Devolution* describes how Scully and Wyn Jones' research on public attitudes to devolution in Wales shaped the findings of All Wales Convention and Silk Commission reports, and thus influenced the Welsh devolution settlement. *Delineating England* describes joint Cardiff-Edinburgh research on political attitudes in England that substantially influenced the McKay Commission report.
- *Public Opinion and Welsh Devolution* describes how, through working alongside the polling agency YouGov to make possible more regular polling in Wales, public understanding of politics was enhanced.
- *Delineating England* exemplifies both the stimulation of public debate and the engagement of practitioner communities (in this instance through influencing the thinking of the Labour party.)

Our nominated case-studies are also illustrative of our broader approach to Impact:

- Impact grounded in research excellence: both cases are based on robust research, supported by external research grants and evidenced by high-quality publications.
- Engagement with non-academic users (in the collaborations with YouGov and IPPR, and in dissemination of major research findings) was integral to the planning of both projects.
- Both projects were provided with School and institutional-level support to facilitate Impact.