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<p>Institution: Oxford Brookes University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 21 – Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The importance of enabling research to have impact is recognised in current University and Faculty research strategies at Oxford Brookes University. To support these objectives, the University makes strategic investments using HEIF funding in business-facing knowledge exchange opportunities and allocates time within workload planning for knowledge exchange activities. These research activity strategies have supported the UoA, Politics and International Studies, to further develop their record of undertaking significant, international research with relevance and impact to non-academic, user-group, government and policy audiences. This is evidenced through research established both during the current period, e.g. Lister's research on securities detailed below, as well as research established in previous periods e.g. Miller's work on social change, family lives and policy. Undertaking research which engages with a wide range of audiences and users outside academia has been a continued focus in this period, involving local, national and international collaborations with think tanks, political parties, advocacy groups, civil society organisations and service-provider organisations. Examples of active engagement with different audiences include Whitmore's appointment as a political advisor to the Green-EFA group in the European Parliament (2011) and Lister's work with the African Community Centre in Swansea, Wales (2012). Media coverage and interest from policy makers has also ensured that our research reaches non-academic audiences and encourages public engagement and debate. Several colleagues have been invited to participate in national and international TV and Radio programmes and their work featured in other media, including Isaacs contributions to <i>Al Jazeera International</i>, <i>The Washington Times</i>, <i>Jylands-Posten</i>, <i>Eurasianet.org</i> and <i>ISN Security Watch</i>, Miller's appearances on BBC Breakfast TV (2013), Radio 4 (2011, 2013) and in <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>The Guardian</i> (2011, 2012), Hurt's contributions on the internet site <i>World Politics Review</i> (2010), Kuisma's opinion editorial in <i>Helsingin Sanomat</i> (2012) and Whitmore's appearance on Radio Ukraine International (2010).</p> <p>Across the UoA empirically-focused research areas include political movements, welfare systems and family lives, securities and globalisation, which are critically analysed through the lens of gender, ethnicities and inequalities. These areas have provided significant opportunities for colleagues to engage widely with non-academic communities within and beyond Europe. Evidence of engagement activities include Isaacs consultancy on potential investments and risk in the energy sector in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and Whitmore's expert opinion on the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko to Edouard Gaudot (August – September 2011). Other indicators include Ryner's appointment to the Crisis Commission of the Swedish Social Democratic Party (October, 2010) and Miller's advisory appointments to the World Health Organisation (2011 - 2013), the UK Labour Party (2012 - 2013) and the National Childbirth Trust (2012 -2013). Research undertaken in the UoA is supported by three major research clusters – Critical International Studies, Social and Political Change and European Politics and Society – which promote and actively facilitate knowledge transfer activities. These groups sit within the overarching frame of the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society, which provides research leadership and support, organises seminars and hosts visiting research collaborators under the directorship of Professor Axford.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p><i>Developing research of use to end-users:</i></p> <p>The primary approach of the unit of assessment to developing the impact of our work has been to produce significant research outputs which have relevance to individuals and groups beyond academia, underpinned by strong institutional support mechanisms. Staff have developed research which is of interest to a range of users, and in the process have developed relationships with governmental and non-governmental organisations, at domestic, European and international levels. A particular strength of the work across the UoA has involved fostering and enhancing public and policy understanding across a range of highly topical issues spanning globalisation and economic and social change in contemporary societies. Such an approach to impact is demonstrated through Lister's research on public understandings and attitudes to anti-terrorism</p>

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measures, **Miller's** research on work and family policies and **Whitmore's** work on Ukrainian domestic politics. The efficacy of this approach to reach out and develop relationships with end-users can further be seen in the impact that our work has had on advocacy and user groups, for example **Miller's** research being used as training materials by the National Childbirth Trust.

Governments and governmental organisations both nationally and internationally have also been users of research generated in the UoA. **Lister**, **Kuisma**, **Whitmore**, **Isaacs** and **Miller** have all worked with national and international political parties as advisors and consultants and have shaped areas of government policy. Examples of collaborative relationships include **Hurt's** co-authorship of the executive summary of a Chatham House workshop entitled 'Africa International: Agency and interdependency in a changing world' aimed at the policy-making community (2009). Government ministries have also drawn upon **Miller's** research, which has been cited in parliamentary debate (Hansard, 5 July 2013: Column 1254). Her research and publications on social change, family life and policy were used by David Lammy MP in a consultative policy review document prepared for the Labour Party. **Miller** also appeared on a Labour Panel discussing labour policies and fatherhood, convened by Jon Cruddas MP (2013). Within mainland Europe, **Ryner** and **Kuisma's** research has informed a range of European bodies including the International Labour Office and other think tanks officially affiliated with trade unions or parties represented in national European Parliaments or the European Parliament. For example, **Ryner** produced a specialist report which informed the Final Report submitted to the Swedish Democratic Party Executive (2011) and his work has led to numerous other invitations, for example to talk at *Crisis, Crises and the Crisis of the Euro* organised by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Berlin (2011). **Kuisma's** comparative research on welfare systems has led to a long-term cooperation with the Policy Network and he is regularly invited to contribute to European debates on the future of the welfare state and social democracy in Europe. **Ryner** and **Kuisma's** joint work on Nordic Political Parties has also been included in a Swedish language book aimed at a non-academic audience. **Whitmore's** research has led her to be invited to brief the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London on the impact of constitutional reform in Ukraine (2010). Whilst **Axford's** 'Talk about a Revolution: Social Media and the MENA Uprisings' was used by the Cabinet Office in their consultation on patterns of dissent in the Middle East and North Africa (2011).

Research undertaken by colleagues in the UoA has enjoyed significance and impact, nationally and internationally. For example, as a result of her prestigious research, **Whitmore** was invited to brief the new British Ambassador on Ukrainian domestic politics (FCO, June 2012), and **Isaacs** has undertaken an on-going advisory role at the National Center of Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) in the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. **Whitmore** has also provided expert opinion on 'The Concept of Amendments to the Legislative Acts of Ukraine to Improve the Functioning of the Verkhovna Rada (The 'White Book' of Ukrainian Parliamentarism)' in 2010 for The Westminster Foundation for Democracy. **Hurt's** work on EU trade and development policy has led to consultancy work for the LSE Public Policy Group, which involved acting as lead reviewer of Special Reports (2009, 2010, 2012) published by the European Court of Auditors on development policy issues. **Axford** was a keynote speaker at a workshop set up under the auspices of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (Lille, 2008) and supported by a range of international organisations including the National research Agency and the Italian Il Centro di Ricerca su Tecnologie, Innovazione e servizi Finanziari.

Staff support to enable impact and institutional support mechanisms

In relation to developing impact, all staff are required to produce a rolling five year research plan, which is updated and discussed annually with the Department Research Lead (**Miller**) or the Faculty Associate Dean for Research (**Browning**). The plan prompts staff to consider their research and what support might be required to enable impact to be achieved and/or maximised. All research active staff are encouraged to plan activities designed to engage a range of non-academic users with research outputs, such as participation in seminars and workshops aimed at non-academic audiences as well as via social media e.g. blogs and press releases. A research mentorship scheme also supports individual research activities in relation to outcomes and impact. At the Faculty and University level staff are assisted in impact generating activity with end users through the allocation of financial resources. The Faculty Grants Panel have also held a number of

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seminars and produced podcasts on how to develop external partnerships in order to enhance impact.

c. Strategy and plans

In order to align institutional, Faculty and UoA aspirations to embed current activities and effectively evaluate existing impact with a view to maximising future developments, both University and Faculty research strategies will be reviewed following the current submission. The Faculty's existing Impact Steering Group, which includes University-level representation and the Faculty's Impact Lead, will feed into the development of these strategies. As part of this, the UoA will aim to adopt the JISC-funded tools and procedures for tracking and recording research impact piloted in UoA 20; undertake a series of workshops in order to share experiences of different modes of impact (e.g. using social media); develop discipline-appropriate approaches to evaluating impact and secure Faculty and University support for further integrating impact development and measurement through, for example funding and time made available for staff to engage with non-academic end users of their work. Funding will also continue to be available for the costs of developing impact, such as travel, to be met. The university's work on Knowledge Exchange will also be used as a route to impact with new developments such as 'impact' scholarships for PhD and early career staff, the appointment of Knowledge Exchange departmental champions for specific types of impact (public discourse, cultural life, economic impact, policy making) and the creation of public engagement fellowships and support for academics to take short sabbaticals to work with NGOs, think tanks, local and national government departments. Where appropriate existing collaborations e.g. **Miller** and the World Health Organisation will be used to develop new modes of impact.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies submitted reflect aspects of the broad research focus taken in the UoA on securities, globalisation, welfare systems and social, political and policy change, which are examined through a critical appreciation of gender, ethnicities and inequalities at the individual, group and country level. The *Anti-Terrorism, Citizenship and Security in the UK* case study shows how counter-terrorist measures impact on perceptions or experiences of security and citizenship within the UK; and the significance of geographical residence and ethnicity as explanatory factors within this. A key finding has been that ethnic minority citizens more broadly, and not just Muslim or those of South Asian background, feel targeted by anti-terrorism measures. This raises the possibility that anti-terrorism measures may exacerbate issues and problems around citizenship and highlights genuine concerns surrounding the universality of citizenship within the UK, and the rights, responsibilities and opportunities for political participation associated with this status. A further finding shows the ways in which ordinary individuals are conscripted into the state's security apparatuses through a process of "stakeholder security"; a conscription that positions citizens precariously as simultaneously technologies, subjects and objects of security. The impacts arising from this case includes policy influence at the government level and public debate. This research also provides a vital platform for the development of future impact through a broader European comparative focus being adopted. The *Gender, Parenthood and Public Policy* case examines micro-level processes and policy contexts involved in family, parenting and paid work. It shows the intricate ways in which social structures and policy mediate individual experiences and societal expectations. The findings from the research in this case study have influenced public policy on parenting in the UK and helped to illuminate reasons for policy under use. The socio-cultural aspects of the case have been used in international (HPV) vaccine guidelines. Public engagement and knowledge exchange has been demonstrated at local, national and international levels through impacts arising from this case.

Across the two case studies different methods of research and impact are highlighted. Across the UoA our approach to impact has produced significant results, which reflect the way that we see our research having meaningful consequences for individuals, groups, organisations and sectors at local, national and international levels. These varied audiences and modes of impact will provide a major focus in our future research impact activities, and will be monitored and further developed through our University strategy.