

<p>Institution: University of Essex</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 21 – Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Essex Government Department has long been committed to work that is both theoretically informed and methodologically rigorous. Known for its work in formal and quantitative political science, the Department also highly values qualitative and theoretical work faithful to the canons of logic and argumentation. The overriding norm is that all work must meet the highest standards of rigour.</p> <p>The Department's 30 full-time continuing academic staff work across four divisions: Political Behaviour; Comparative Political Economy; International Relations and Conflict Resolution; and Political Theory. Many members' work straddles those divisions. There is a high level of intellectual exchange across the Department, even among members working in different substantive areas and in different intellectual traditions. There is a shared belief across the Department that good general theories should explain outcomes across different sub-fields and benefit from exposure to developments in and criticism from other traditions.</p> <p>University-wide institutions facilitating interdisciplinary work include the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), the Human Rights Centre (HRC), the Centre for Theoretical Studies (CTS), and the Essex Sustainability Institute (ESI). Essex hosts the Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, the <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> and the Central Services of the European Consortium for Political Research.</p> <p>Uniquely in the UK, Essex has been awarded a Regius Professorship of Political Science.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Ongoing objectives</p> <p>Our 'main objectives for the next five years' specified in 2008 (which remain the same for the period to 2020) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain Essex as a recognised international centre of excellence through a strategy emphasising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publications in top peer-reviewed journals and with major university presses ▪ Innovative research projects that attract external funding, in particular from the ESRC, the European Commission and other major agencies ▪ Contributions to academic public goods, including active participation in professional organisations and journal editorships ▪ Ensure that our academic researchers remain at the cutting edge of theoretical and methodological developments in their subfields through careful professional development, including judicious use of the Essex Summer School. ▪ Using our expertise in rigorous political analysis to generate 'impact' through contributions to policy debates and engagement with users, attracting research support from new sources such as private enterprise, international organisations and government agencies. <p>Achievements 2008-2013</p> <p>In terms of publications we have achieved our objectives admirably. In the five years since 2008 the current 30 full-time members of the Department have published some 29 research monographs, 45 book chapters and 400 journal articles.</p> <p>Provenance betokens professional impact. Books have been published with the very best university presses in our field – 5 with Oxford UP, 3 with Cambridge UP and one each with Princeton UP and Harvard UP – as well as prominent commercial publishers. Members of the</p>

department have published articles in **all the leading general journals** of political science worldwide: *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *European Journal of Political Research*; *Journal of Politics*; *Political Analysis*; and *Political Studies*. They have also published in **all the leading subdisciplinary journals** of: political theory (*Journal of Political Philosophy*; *Philosophy & Public Affairs*; *Philosophy*, *Politics & Economics*; *Political Theory*); international relations (*International Organization*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *World Politics*); political behaviour (*Electoral Studies*; *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*; *Political Behavior*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*); comparative politics (*Comparative Political Studies*; *European Union Politics*); and political economy (*American Economic Review*; *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*; *Public Choice*). Only a handful of the very top US departments could boast comparable coverage. The importance of these publications is reflected in the many awards they have won (see sec. c).

Substantively, the topics treated include some of the most pressing politically as well as professionally. What is the responsibility of democratic citizens for the wrongdoing of their states (Pasternak) and of humanitarian organisations for that wrongdoing of groups alongside whom they must work to deliver aid (Goodin)? Why do natural disasters impact differentially in democracies and autocracies (Plümper, Quiroz)? How does violence extend spatially (Gleditsch) and how can peacekeepers contain it (Dorussen, Gizelis)? Upon what bases do citizens cast their votes and parties campaign for them, and what does that mean for the quality of democracy (Bartle, Johns, Ezrow, Sanders, Whiteley)? Why is policy so badly aligned with the desires even of policymakers (King, Bartle), much less the public (Howarth)?

Impact is ensured by institutional structures as well as personal networks linking Government Department staff to users. Through the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (IDCR) and the Human Rights Centre, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, EUROSTAT and IDEA engaged with Landman's work on human rights. King's work on constitutional reform led to changes in BBC reporting, and Birch's on electoral malpractice helped shape electoral reforms in the UK and Macedonia. Political parties regularly consult Bartle, Johns, Sanders and Whiteley. The latter was a Specialist Adviser to a 2009 Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation and through 2011 wrote a regular column for the Parliamentary weekly, the *House Magazine*. King gave testimony on three occasions to the House of Commons Public Administration Committee and gave the Audit Commission Annual Lecture 2010. King, Scotto and Natasha Ezrow make frequent media appearances.

Achieving our strategic goals to 2020

Our **core goals** from 2014 forward remain:

- maintaining excellence in our research and publications
- continuing to generate external research income for innovative projects
- providing academic public goods
- using our expertise to reach out to policymakers and users beyond the academy to ensure that our research has 'impact'

We will achieve these goals through the following **mechanisms**:

- A commitment to the prudent use of staff time, so that administrative and teaching loads are contained, ensuring sufficient time for conducting and supervising research
- Strong support in framing and drafting proposals for external research funding
- One term's sabbatical study after six terms' service
- Full financial support for presenting papers at international conferences
- Established staff supporting and mentoring junior staff's professional development
- Continually discussing ideas and findings with colleagues, at weekly Department seminars, regular subdisciplinary seminars and workshops, and frequent interdisciplinary seminars (organised by e.g. the ESI, the CTS, the HRC and ISER), and with colleagues in the other top-ranking research departments at Essex (especially Economics and Sociology).

Institutionally, priority developments for the Department include:

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- The launch, in 2013, of an Experimental Social Science Laboratory operated jointly by the Government and Economics Departments and ISER. Its Government Department Director, David Hugh-Jones, draws on his post-doctoral experience at the world renowned Max Planck Institute for Research into Economic Systems in Jena.
- The establishment in 2012 of the Institute for Social Science Data Analysis. The Institute conducts state-of-the-art applied quantitative research in three areas: survey analysis, evaluation analysis, and social analytics. It aims to contribute both to scientific knowledge and to public debates on pressing social challenges.

Substantively, the Department will continue to prioritise development of ongoing work on the classic questions of political science:

- The International Relations group will continue to analyse conflict and how to contain it, focusing particularly on the spatial dimensions of conflict and the role of contagion.
- The Political Behaviour group will continue to focus on democratic self-government and in particular on the question as to how public policy can remain effective whilst being better aligned with mass opinion.
- The Political Economy group will continue to work on how most effectively to marshal social resources for public purposes, making particular use of experimental methods in the Faculty's new Social Science Laboratory.
- The Political Theory group will continue to work on social justice and how to attain it, focusing particularly on the opportunities and constraints associated with discursive strategies, new technologies and social networks.

c. People

Our staffing strategy begins with, and relies heavily upon, getting the initial **selection** of staff right. The people we hire come well trained and highly motivated to contribute to the discipline at the highest international levels. Our policies reward and sustain that ambition.

The excellence of the Department's staff is reflected in the **awards** bestowed upon individuals and their research. Since 2008, members have won prizes for the best paper published in the *American Political Science Review* (Gleditsch 2012) and the *American Journal of Political Science* (Ezrow 2011). They have won APSA's Longley Prize for the best article on representation and electoral systems (Johns 2008); APSA's Jewell-Loewenberg Award for the best paper in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (Lindstädt 2012); International Association for Conflict Management's best article award (Gleditsch 2011); SOEP's Prize for the Best Scientific Publication (Neundorf, Stegmüller, Scotto, 2012); International Social Science Association's Stein Rokkan Prize for the best book in Comparative Social Science Research (Goodin 2009); PSA's Richard Rose Prize for his contribution to British Politics (Quinn 2011); and a PSA Special Recognition Award for contributions to electoral studies (Sanders 2012).

Four members of the Essex Department of Government are now **Fellows of the British Academy**, the highest proportion of any Politics and International Studies department in the UK. In the period under review, King and Whiteley joined Goodin and Sanders as FBAs.

The department is highly **diverse**. In terms of national origins members come from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Greece, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa and the US, in addition to the UK. PGR students are similarly diverse. Of the three women among the 30 members of full-time staff at the end of the period, one was promoted to full Professor, one to Reader, and the third granted early permanency all in this period.

i Staffing strategy and staff development

The Department has always been committed to a policy of **self-renewal**, replacing staff who leave or retire with the best possible appointments recruited globally. Since 2008, we have appointed 14 new full-time Lecturers and 2 Professors, replacing those who moved on. Our new appointees are

of the highest quality, across political economy (Berger, Hugh-Jones, Lindstädt); international relations (Bömelt, Chiba, Gizelis, Gartzke); comparative politics and political behaviour (Johns, Quiroz, Radean, Stegmüller); and political theory (Goodin, Howard, Pasternak). The new Lecturers are people at the beginning of their careers, recruited to build a strong cadre of next-generation researchers when the current senior cohort departs the scene. All of the new appointees have outstanding technical skills and publication records already, and hunger for more. These appointments will help maintain our standing for years to come as one of the leading political science departments in Europe, and beyond.

Mentoring and monitoring systems ensure continuing high performance. Probationary lecturers have reduced teaching loads and senior mentors to monitor their teaching and research and advise on career development, at the same time as reporting on progress to Senior Staff meetings. Annual **assessments** of staff performance come in meetings with the Head of Department, and special assessments by Senior Staff and the Research Director and Head of Department in connection with permanency, promotion and sabbaticals.

The PVC (Research) monitors the research performance and plans of all research active staff across the University on a biannual basis, in discussion with the Faculty Executive Deans, Departmental Heads and Research Directors. The University operates a **generous research leave scheme** (one term of leave for 6 terms' service). The PVC is responsible for approving research leave proposals, and monitoring outcomes.

In the day-to-day life of the Department there is **intense discussion** of one another's work across various venues, ranging from the weekly Departmental Seminar through regular specialist seminars of the divisions into which the Department is organised and Centres with which we are associated to informal conversations in the corridors, over meals and drinks. **Co-authorship** is a particularly important mechanism of quality control. Of all the books, chapters or journal articles produced in the Department over the past 5 years, some 65% are co-authored (about a fifth of them with other members of the Essex Department).

Among the 15 full-time members who have been at Essex for the entire 5 year period, 9 have enjoyed a period (8 a full year) of research leave during that period. One member had a period of maternity leave (Pasternak). Another member (Natasha Ezrow), although on a teaching-only contract while her children are young, is nonetheless fully integrated into the Department as coordinator of undergraduate research projects and Director of the International Development Studies Programme; and although notionally on a teaching-only contract she has actually published 3 books in the period under review. Members of the Government Department have many opportunities for continuing professional development. They are fully entitled to receive free first class methodological training at Essex Summer School courses – and to impart it by teaching there (see sec d). Professional renewal also comes from members presenting their work to their peers at conferences and workshops. The Department fully funds attendance at such events when members present a paper, and current members have presented approximately 400 papers to professional audiences over the last 5 years.

Equality and Diversity. The University of Essex has a very clear policy supporting equality and diversity in relation to both staff and students. Specific objectives are set each year and an annual report is produced indicating achievements against objectives. The University facilitates flexible working, has a set of harassment advisers, and trains all staff involved in making appointments in equality and diversity issues. It has carried out a project on 'Caring for Carers' that has developed recommendations to support staff caring for others. It recently secured an Athena Swan Bronze award for its work in eliminating gender bias and creating a culture that values all staff across the whole University. It also has accreditation for the use of the 'Two Ticks' disability symbol. Mentors and those carrying out appraisals in the Government Department help to ensure that those whose research is interrupted for maternity leave or any other reason are fully supported in their return to research activity. The University and the Department are committed to the highest standards of equality in their recruitment and promotion practices.

Maintaining research integrity. Ethical approval has to be secured for all research involving human subjects, whether the researcher is an employee or a research student (or indeed an undergraduate). The approval forms are detailed and the University also provides outline *pro formas* for informed consent. All research activity is monitored for integrity by the Departmental Research Director, who reports to the Faculty Ethics Committee.

ii Research students

We treat our PGR students as the research colleagues we expect them to become, co-authoring with them, commenting on their work and welcoming their comments on ours.

Long before it became a priority of the ESRC, Essex pioneered grounding research and research training in methodologically sophisticated and theoretically based analysis. We run a range of MA, MSc and MRes degrees spanning the discipline, all stressing theoretical and methodological rigour. From 2008 to 2012 (when ESRC changed its funding regime) we secured ESRC recognition for 3 Masters programmes. Over the 2008-2011 period, we received 17 PhD quota awards. In 2011, in collaboration with the Departments of Economics and Sociology, ISER and others, we successfully bid for an ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, which provides funding for 16 new PhD students per year across the University. Faculty funds support 3 further PhD scholarships per year.

The Department typically has an intake of over 15 PhD students and over 60 MA students per annum. Each student has a named individual supervisor as well as a PhD board normally including two additional individuals that assesses progress twice a year. The Department encourages PhD candidates to submit their dissertations within four years, and over this period 45% have completed within 5 years. Research students make good use of the Essex Summer School to acquire advanced methodological skills. Students completing their PhDs during the assessment period went on to good positions at, e.g., the Universities of Amsterdam (Ruggeri, Schudel); Bremen (Seelkopf); CEU (Popescu); Leicester (Clemmens); LMU Munich (Neudorfer); Nottingham (Nanou and now Neundorf); Royal Holloway (Heath); UCL (Metternich); and the World Bank (Larizza).

As well as the standard provision of desk space and computing facilities, research students are also supported in giving conference papers through the Department's research fund. We actively encourage collaboration and co-publication with members of staff. A Professional Development Seminar provides first year PhD students with advice on preparing papers for publication, presenting work at conferences, and the peer-review process, including how to respond to referee criticisms. A weekly Colloquium enables students to present work-in-progress by way of induction into the Department's research culture. Regular specialist workshops are run for graduate students across various subfields. The Graduate School's Proficio programme, central to our successful bid for DTC status, offers high quality advanced skills training through short courses commissioned and evaluated by the Graduate School and delivered by academics and experts; from 2013 all incoming PhD students will be given the equivalent of £1,000 each to spend on advanced training courses of their choice, in consultation with supervisors.

The success of these strategies is evinced by the prizes our PhD students have won for their research: Nils Metternich the 2010 Dina Zinnes Award for the best graduate student paper to the International Studies Association and the Stuart Bremer Award of the Peace Science Society (International) for the best graduate student paper at its 2011 annual meeting; Andrea Ruggeri the 2010 Cedric Smith Prize for Peace or Conflict Research from the Conflict Research Society; Ben Clements the David Butler Prize for best paper by a graduate student at the Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, PSA Conference (2008) and the Arthur P McDougall Prize (PSA) for the best PhD thesis on elections, electoral systems or representation (2009); and Anja Neundorf shared the 2013 SOEP Prize mentioned above.

The Department has been home to postdocs or fixed-term lecturers in this period who have gone on to potentially continuing posts at, e.g., the Universities of Oxford (Milewicz, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation); Konstanz (Elff, funded by German Academic Exchange Service,

DAAD); Kobe (Pickering); Trinity College Dublin (Raleigh).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In recognition of the enduring excellence of the Department's ongoing research culture, traditions and infrastructure, a **Regius Professorship** of Political Science – the only one in our discipline nationwide – was awarded to the Department of Government in 2013.

The **Department seminar**, now in its 38th year of continuous existence, is open to all staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students. It provides a **weekly forum** for members of staff to present research ideas and findings and brings in leading outside researchers and practitioners. Its vitality evidences the research culture of the Department.

In terms of **external grants**, over 2008-2013 the Department had over £ 4.2M in research income from 53 grants from external funding agencies including ESRC, European Commission, European Research Council, British Academy, Leverhulme, Nuffield, AXA, PRIO and Folke Bernadotte Academy. Members of the Department have also collaborated in projects based at other host institutions funded by Framework Programmes 6 and 7 of the European Commission and by national research councils abroad (Australia, Norway, US).

Among the more **substantial grants** involving members of the Department were:

- Parliamentary Strengthening Programme (Westminster Consortium, Landman collaborator): DFID Global Transparency Fund, £5M.
- British Election Study (Sanders, Whiteley et al.): ESRC, £1.5M
- Effective Non-violence? (PRIO, Gleditsch collaborator): Research Council Norway, £1.37M
- Conflict, Strategies & Violence (Gleditsch): ERC Starting Grant, £1M
- Citizens in Transition (Whiteley et al.): ESRC, £398,000
- Core Values & the Stability of Foreign Policy Attitudes (Scotto): ESRC First Grants £391,000
- Policy & Administrative Failure in the Contemporary UK (King): ESRC, £341,000
- Identity Management: Public Responses to Identity Technologies and Services (Norval): ESRC £251,000
- Deliberative Democracy in the Public Sphere (Goodin collaborator): Australian Research Council, £234,000
- The Norm of Honesty (Hugh-Jones): ESRC Future Leaders, £230,000
- Analysis of Civil Security Systems in Europe (Dorussen, Kirchner): EC FP7, £217,000

In terms of **diversifying income** streams, the British Election Study team created a commercial partnership, the British Polling Index (BPIX), that has generated over £70,000 in profits that were ploughed back into more and better BES surveys.

The **Department's Research Committee** provides an organisational base for formulating research strategy and discussing new funding opportunities, and acts as a formal link between the Department and the University's Research and Enterprise Office (REO). The Department Research Committee provides feedback on proposals, and assists their development with seed money allocated on a competitive basis through a **Departmental Support Fund**. In 2012-3 over £26,000 was devoted to fifteen nascent projects under this scheme.

The REO provides **unified and comprehensive support for pre- and post-award external research grant activity**, and for 'third-stream' research applications including knowledge-exchange and commercialisation. This includes a team of Research and Enterprise Managers who provide: expert advice on sources of funding; support with preparing research proposals; support for faculties in providing opportunities for collaborative research brainstorming; training events some of which are particularly directed towards early career researchers; links to external bodies and research funders. The REO's Research Governance and Planning Manager also: facilitates the development and implementation of research governance and ethics policies; provides training on good research practice and research integrity; advises staff and students on research governance and ethics review requirements; and ensures that research is undertaken in

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compliance with legislation and funders' requirements.

The Department's Research Director is responsible for **ensuring ethical practice** in the design, conduct and reporting of research, in storing sensitive data and in giving full credit to all authors. S/he reports to the Faculty Ethics Committee, a sub-committee of the University Ethics Committee.

The **Essex Summer School**, which is organised by the Government Department (Plümper, Lindstädt, Directors), is approaching its 50th anniversary. It annually offers over 50 courses and has around 900 participants, making it the largest social science research methods training programme in the world. The Summer School invites leading researchers in tightly defined methodological fields to train students in state-of-the-art research techniques that universities fail to offer because of their high level of specialisation. The Summer School is also a prime forum for scholarly exchange and networking between members of the Government Department and leading social science methodologists from all over the world.

High quality **hardware and software** and office facilities are available to all staff members as a matter of course. Government Department members also benefit from the close proximity of **ISER**, the **UK Data Archive** and the **Departments of Sociology and Economics**. The presence of these institutions means that there is a large pool of expertise that can be consulted and deployed to ensure that research proposals from Government Department students and staff are developed using the most appropriate methodological tools and data resources. The ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change at ISER buys out staff members' time (Scotto). Facilities available to the Department's researchers now include **Experimental Social Science Laboratory**, a new 32-workstation facility for conducting a wide range of experiments with student and non-student subjects (see sec b). With David Hugh-Jones as director, the Experimental Lab in its first year ran 121 experiments, hosted a short course on experimental methods with participants from across Europe and 10 University-wide seminars, and dispensed £12,500 in seed grants to help start research projects.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Disciplinary infrastructure

The Essex Government Department has contributed mightily to the **intellectual infrastructure** of the discipline. Essex provides **editors** for important **journals**: the *British Journal of Political Science* (Gleditsch, Goodin, Johns, Lindstädt, Ward co-editor); *Electoral Studies* (Johns co-editor until 2013); the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (Gartzke, editor); the *Journal of Peace Research* (Dorussen assoc editor); the *Journal of Political Philosophy* (Goodin editor); and *Political Theory* (Norval consulting editor).

Between 2000 and 2012, Essex was home to the **British Election Study**. During this period, the Study has produced a range of high-quality datasets – all made available very rapidly to the user-community – on various aspects of electoral politics in Britain. In the assessment period, these datasets have included: the 2010 Face-to-Face Pre/Post Election Survey; the 2010 Internet Campaign Study; the 2008, 2009 and 2010 waves of the 9-wave 2005-2010 Internet Panel Survey; and the Monthly Continuous Monitoring Surveys (60 monthly Internet surveys, Jan 2008 to Dec 2012). One member of the BES team, Sanders, was also involved in the production of the 2010 Ethnic Minority BES (EMBES) dataset.

Gleditsch, with others, maintains **other publicly available databases** providing historically accurate maps of states (Cshapes), on political leader transitions (Archigos), expanded data on GDP and trade among nations, and historical data for the Polity Project.

Essex has provided members and chairs for important **disciplinary associations**. In the period under review, Vicky Randall Chaired the **Political Studies Association** and Whiteley its Publication Committee. Sanders chaired the Politics and International Relations Section of the **British Academy**. Gleditsch is convenor of the **ECPR** Standing Group on Political Geography and

was Program Co-chair of the 2011 **International Studies Association** convention. Essex also continues to host ECPR Central Services. In 2010, Plümpner (with colleagues at Oxford and LSE) founded the **European Political Science Association** (EPSA). With 800 members from more than 50 countries, it organises a widely acclaimed annual conference and sponsors a general political science CUP journal, *Political Science Research and Methods*. EPSA is a major new player promoting political science in Europe and enhancing exchange and collaboration, not only across Europe but also globally (almost 40 percent of its members are non-European).

Members of the Essex Government Department are also central players in other important **scholarly networks**: Sanders sits on the Planning Committee for the next module for the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems collaboration linking election studies across more than 50 countries and on the Advisory Boards of election studies in Australia, Canada, Italy and Germany and of the ESRC UK Household Longitudinal Study. Under the ESRC scheme of Networks for Methodological Innovation, Glynos, Howarth and Norval convened a **Discourse Analysis Network** that, through a series of conferences, workshops, seminars and master classes across the UK, brought together scholars in health and human sciences, linguistics, psychology, sociology and political science to explore alternative discourse-based approaches to social science research.

Cross-institutional collaboration

Well over half of the Department's publications in this period were co-authored with outsiders, many of them abroad. This is facilitated by the Department's policy of fully funding members' participation in any conference where they are presenting a paper.

Virtually all the prize winning essays and books in sec. c were co-authored with collaborators elsewhere: Gleditsch's in the *American Political Science Review* was co-authored with colleagues at ETH Zurich (Cederman) and Konstanz (Weidmann); Ezrow's in the *American Journal of Political Science* with colleagues at UC Davis (Adams) and Vanderbilt (Somer-Topcu); Gleditsch's prize from the International Association for Conflict Management was for an article co-authored with colleagues at Maryland (Cunningham) and North Texas (Salehyan); Goodin's prize winning book was co-authored with colleagues in Australia (U Queensland, Rice; Flinders U, Eriksson) and Finland (STAKES, Parpo).

Examples of specific cross-institutional collaborations include:

- Essex formed part of an ESF European Collaborative Research Project on 'Disaggregating Civil War' with additional participants ETH Zurich and the Peace Research Institute Oslo.
- Essex is a participant in the EU Cooperation on Science and Technology Action, on a European Network of Conflict Resolution, with 23 other European institutions.
- The 'IMPRINTS' (Public Responses to Identity Management Techniques and Processes) project, funded by EPSRC and in which Norval collaborates, was identified in 2011 by Research Councils UK as one of the *Big Ideas for the Future*.
- Sanders was lead co-editor and contributor on a 2-volume OUP study on European Citizenship involving collaborators in 16 European countries which arose out of a major EU-funded Framework Programme 6 project (IntUne).
- Goodin was co-editor and contributor on a 44 chapter *Oxford Handbook of Political Accountability* with co-editors at Utrecht and contributors from 7 countries across 3 continents.
- Whiteley and Sanders have a long-standing collaboration over the BES with Harold Clarke and Marianne Stewart at the University of Texas at Dallas. It has produced two major monographs and over 20 journal articles in the current REF cycle.
- Sanders was involved with colleagues at Oxford (Heath and Fisher) and Manchester (Sobolewska) on an Ethnic Minority BES project (EMBES) which produced a co-authored OUP monograph in September 2013.
- Pasternak and Goodin work with colleagues at ANU (Barry), Warwick (Page), Oxford (Butt) and LSE (Ypi) on 'benefiting from injustice'. Pasternak and Page convened a 2012 conference funded by the Uppsala Forum on Peace, Justice & Democracy.

Through the Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts in South-East England, Essex is linked with East Anglia, Kent, Sussex, Goldsmiths, Open U and the Courtauld Institute of Art to promote excellence in research, postgraduate research training and knowledge exchange. Political theorists particularly benefit from the connection (Norval is one of 2 Essex link persons for the scheme).

Major strands of interdisciplinary research

The Department of Government plays a major role in the following interdisciplinary areas.

The Political Economy of Natural Disasters: This research area, which combines Political Science, Geography and Economics, was highlighted by the publication in late 2013 of the *World Development Report 2014: Managing Risks for Development*, for which Plümper (with Keefer and Neumayer) wrote a background report on the politics of disaster risk reduction. Plümper has numerous publications with Neumayer on natural disasters and the gender gap in life expectancy, famines, the politics of earthquake, hurricane, and flood damage, and natural disaster politics and mortality. Quiroz has analysed the influence of natural disaster mortality on political stability. The importance of this research area should not be underestimated: in the post-war era more people died of natural disasters than of international and civil wars together.

Comparative Welfare studies: Goodin worked with scholars in Australia (Rice, Eriksson) and Finland (Parpo) to produce an innovative way of using time-use data to measure 'freedom'. Their book *Discretionary Time* was awarded the International Social Science Council's Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research. Goodin presented this work to policymakers at: the World Bank's Social Science Research Seminar, Washington, DC; STAKES, Helsinki; Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA), Helsinki; and NOVA, Oslo.

Conflict studies: Gleditsch participates in the EU-funded COST Action for a 'European Network of Conflict Research' (ENCoRe) to advance conflict datasets through an integrated online portal allowing researchers and policy makers to analyse and predict the outbreak and course of conflicts around the world. Dorussen provided 'Analysis of Civil Security Systems in Europe' under a major FP7-funded project. Gizelis examined factors affecting the spread of AIDS in the influential journal *Social Science and Medicine*. The book *On Complicity & Compromise* that Goodin co-authored with Chiara Lepora guides her day-to-day decision-making as manager of programmes across the Middle East for Médecins Sans Frontières, and issues from the field feed powerfully back into the work of Goodin, his colleagues and students.

Monitoring and promoting human rights and democracy: The Department's work in this area is discussed more fully in two of our impact case studies. Landman's methodology for measuring human rights and democracy have been adopted by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, EUROSTAT and IDEA; he was invited to address the UNDP's Oslo Governance Forum and he sits on the UNDP Working Group on ways in which human rights can be mainstreamed into country-led governance assessments. Landman, Scotto and Birch were part of the The Westminster Consortium, a collaboration between parliamentary staff in the UK, the Westminster Foundation, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Thompson-Reuters Foundation, the International Bar Association and the National Audit Office to train members of parliaments and NGOs in emerging democracies about the use of data and evidence in polity analysis. Birch's work on electoral administration and malpractice has led to presentations to House of Commons committees, the European Parliament and work with UNDP and the Cabinet Office. Knowledge transfer is two-way, with deep engagement with practitioners illuminating important avenues for academic research at the same time as academic research serves as an aid to good practice.

Such is the excitement and vitality of the University of Essex's Department of Government.