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| <p>Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 24B: Anthropology and Development Studies: International Development</p> <p>a. Context</p> <p>The LSE Department of International Development (ID) has a strong commitment to generating research that has a bearing on public life. Its main beneficiaries are organizations undertaking interventions within International Development (both governmental and non-governmental); and people in developing countries who might be affected by such interventions. It seeks to achieve impact through supporting staff to produce high quality, peer-reviewed publications addressing problems in development, and by developing innovative and flexible means of engaging with policymakers, development organizations, media, and public audiences.</p> <p>ID has achieved impact across a range of issues and countries. One key area has been public service delivery (improving the quality of primary education in India; combatting corruption in southern African regional trade). ID's political economy research has influenced debates around land disputes in Africa and global financial stability, while ID's research on conflict has impacted policy thinking around crisis states and civil-military relations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The UoA's three impact case studies - on mass drug administration, the EU's doctrine of conflict and disaster, and donor-civil society engagement - further illustrate the range of ID's impact on development policy.</p> <p>In addition to core departmental research interests, ID hosts several major research programmes that use social science insights to address problems in development: the Justice and Security Research Programme (JSRP), the Civil Society and Human Security research unit (CSHSRU), as well as programmes funded before 2008, including the Crisis States Research Centre (funded by DfID) and the ESRC-funded Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA) programme (2004-2010). It is also closely linked to the DfID-funded International Growth Centre (IGC) (see REF5).</p> <p>ID staff also interact with a range of governmental, multi-lateral and bilateral institutions, including the World Bank, UK Department for International Development (DfID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the EU, NATO, Norwegian Foreign Affairs, AusAID, Swedish Foreign Ministry, UN Population Fund, Commonwealth Heads of Government. Staff also work closely with non-governmental development actors both in the UK and internationally to influence debate and policy. This includes large international NGOs such as Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund and Oxfam; national and local NGOs such as TERRA in Thailand, the Asia Monitor Resource Centre in Hong Kong, and the Karuna Trust in India; and the Ford, Rockefeller, Asia and Ford Foundations.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>ID's approach to impact is based on a core strategy (or what some call a 'theory of change') that links together fundamental research on important controversies in International Development with an institutional environment designed to enhance impact and a sustained record of active engagement with donors, policymakers, media, and public audiences. Departmental experience has shown that many important development problems suffer from either a lack of evidence, or a lack of awareness of the diversity of experiences of complex development problems and potential solutions.</p> <p>ID has a long history (as an institution and on the part of individuals) of conducting funded research on important controversies in International Development – often in collaboration with policy makers and practitioners in global, national, and sub-national arenas – to achieve its commitment to generate influential knowledge. Its flagship funded inter-disciplinary research units (listed above) are strategic vehicles for achieving direct contact with policy-makers, politicians and funders. ID also seeks impact beyond the academy by using communication tools such as blogs, for example, those on www.securityintransition.org and www.gcsknowledgebase.org, broadcast media, Facebook, Twitter, and public events. Important among the latter are the annual IGC Growth Weeks which regularly bring around 50 leading policy-makers to LSE from countries across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.</p> <p>The JSRP has invested heavily in creating a model for future impact where findings from the ground are fed directly into debates in international organisations, including the World Bank's hub project, of which the JSRP is a founding partner member. It also runs regular blogs on issues ranging from knowledge matters in development to the NGO-ification of Goma. It uses seminars,</p> |
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conferences, and workshops to reach policy-makers, practitioners and researchers (one example is the 2013 conference on evidence and power in policy-making). The CSHSRU uses the media, networks such as the London Transitional Justice Network, and seminars to communicate ideas. The NGPA programme also had a honed strategy for drawing practitioners and policy-makers effectively into the research programme. This enabled a practitioner from the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) to work with Prof. Howell to write a civil society report that has been discussed and adopted by governmental and development actors in Afghanistan. The organizational structure of the International Growth Centre has been shaped to maximize impact. With its London hub, 13 country offices, 10 research programmes with academics in world-class institutions, and a network of policy stakeholders in the developing world, it is well placed to connect research to policy.

Individual staff are also encouraged to provide policy advice, and undertake commissioned research and evaluations. Within the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has sought advice from, for example, Dr Gordon on stabilisation issues; Dr. Meagher on Nigerian politics; and Prof. Allen on the International Criminal Court Statute Review in 2010. DfID similarly has sought, among others, Prof. Howell's advice on civil society; Prof. Dyson on population; and Dr Venugopal on post-war Sri Lanka. Both Dr. Gordon in relation to Afghanistan, 2012, and Dr. Brett on Zimbabwe have contributed evidence to the International Development Select Committee of the UK Parliament. Dr. Faguet's work for the Inter-American Development Bank, 2010, on Regional Autonomies in Bolivia, led to significant improvements in Bolivia's Framework Law of Decentralization and Autonomies.

The LSE Press and Information Office regularly links experts in ID to media in the UK, while individual ID staff members, with their substantial overseas experience, are also independently involved. For example, Dr. Venugopal has been interviewed by France24 and BBC World Service on Sri Lankan politics. Prof. Forsyth gave interviews to the CNN, Fox News, BBC World, Channel 4 news (including a 10 minute live interview with Jon Snow) on Thai politics. With his substantial experience in Afghanistan, Dr Gordon was invited to appear in the BBC Current Affairs Documentary 'Afghanistan: War Without End' in November 2011. As a leading expert on population issues, Prof. Dyson was interviewed in the Horizon special on population hosted by David Attenborough in 2009. Similarly, Prof. Allen, a leading expert on justice and security issues in Central Africa, was interviewed many times including by BBC, Al-Jazeera, Sky News, Radio France International, Voice of America and CNN. Prof Kaldor participated in the BBC Two Newsnight special programme on the war in Iraq and the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme on the Eurozone crisis. Prof. Allen and his doctoral students at ID became a key alternative source of information relating to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) at the time of the ICC Statute Review Conference and in response to KONY2012 campaign. The *Christian Science Monitor* hailed Prof. Allen's 2010 book on the LRA the most useful publication available on the topic. Prof. Forsyth was interviewed by *The Guardian*, *The Times* of London, and the *Times of India* on Thailand. Prof. Robert Wade is a regular letter contributor to the *Financial Times* on political economy issues. Dr Birney was quoted in the *New York Times* on China's one-child policy, and in *The Economist* on dissent in China. Dr Green's work on Ugandan politics was cited in the *New York Times*, the *Irish Times* and the *East African* (Kenya). Prof. Howell was cited on aid, civil society and counter-terrorism post-9/11 in *The Hindu* (India) and *The Nation* (Kenya).

ID research and activities have been featured in more than 60 LSE Public Events between 2008 and 2012, including the annual Alistair Berkley Memorial Lecture (attracting 400 people in 2011). ID strategically links up with external bodies to enhance impact. In January 2011, ID arranged a special event with the *Global Poverty Project*, at which Bill Gates launched his annual letter. Two YouTube videos of this event received 12,800 hits by October 2013. Individual staff have also organised LSE Public Lectures, such as by Profs. Howell, Putzel, and Mkandawire on 'Chinese Agriculture: Lessons for Africa'. Staff in ID also benefit from LSE Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) for outreach. Prof. Howell, for example, received HEIF funding to disseminate findings from an ESRC-funded project on the impact of the War on Terror on civil society and aid policy, reaching policy-makers, practitioners and researchers in Kenya, Lebanon and USA.

The ID departmental website has a dedicated editor, and hosts blogs and links to research projects, publications and expertise. The website averages 10,000 hits per month, and a new alumni blog launched in July 2013 quickly received 2,000 visits. Prof. Howell's *War on Terror* blog,

funded by HEIF4, received 6,747 visits between 2011 and 2012. In May 2013 alone, the recently established JSRP blog received 1,095 visits. ID also organizes the University of London International Programme on International Development that produces YouTube videos and study guides available across the world. Prof. Forsyth's lecture on 'Introduction to International Development' received around 8,000 views in one year to July 2013. This programme has allowed some developing-world students to graduate to MScs.

c. Strategy and plans

a. ID is committed to building on these programmatic and individual initiatives for the future, using the JSRP, IGC and NGPA structures as effective models for combining research and impact. An important arena of expansion will be in global health, where Prof. Allen, Dr. Gordon, Dr Madon, and Prof. Shadlen and others have already published extensively, and which will provide synergies with staff working on livelihoods, poverty, and other aspects of global governance.

b. ID will continue to enhance outreach and networking activities. For example, the Programme for African Development (PfAL) is a rapidly developing initiative within ID, having attracted funding for 26 African scholarships and an annual African summit, which offers training to potential development leaders in Africa. One aim for the next 5 years is to scale this to 50 scholarships. The department will also continue its key role in the University of London's distance-learning courses, as well as expanding collaborative programmes of research and teaching with universities in, for example Uganda and China.

c. The LSE has recently adopted a new model of allocating research overheads which provides stronger incentives for both Departments and individuals to win high quality external funding. A key goal for the UoA will be to leverage this new scheme with a view to building sustained impact. ID will also introduce in 2013-14 new practices to support all staff to develop the impact of their research (such as Individual Impact Plans, individual mentoring arrangements, and a dedicated departmental impact committee). Illustrative here is the work of Dr. Sequeira on corruption in South Africa and Mozambique, which we expect will become an impact case-study for the post-2014 REF. Future recruitment procedures will also evaluate potential impact.

As a new department, ID has the opportunity to create new structures quickly. But ID also recognizes the need for flexibility with different research topics. For example, it is inappropriate (or undiplomatic) in some countries (such as China) to claim that foreign-funded projects have possible influence. Also, some of the most influential policy-related research is not openly acknowledged by bilateral and multilateral agencies.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three case studies of Professors Allen, Howell, and Kaldor illustrate and exemplify ID's theory of change for connecting research and impact. Prof. Allen's study of NTDs sought to establish new evidence on an under-represented problem in International Development policy, which has been communicated through research papers, editorials, and presentations to policy bodies. His research has not only instigated widespread public debate, but has been agenda-building in terms of health interventions. Prof. Howell's long-term academic research on civil society has been communicated in academic publications, blogs and at policy-relevant conferences. This work has fundamentally changed the strategy of AusAID towards engaging with civil society in developing countries, as reflected in a commitment to increased funding of NGOs. Prof. Kaldor's work on EU responses to conflict and insecurity is also based on a longer-term strategy of conducting and organizing academic research that has now become a subject of debate among policy-makers and other academics and think-tanks.. All three cases reflect a more general pattern within ID of conducting fundamental research on important and controversial challenges within International Development; building networks and engagement with other researchers, policymakers, and their arenas; and using LSE facilities (both School-wide and within the department: including generous sabbatical and other forms of leave entitlements that are critical for long-term field engagements and capacity building of the sort that ID favours) to present evidence about the significance and diversity of problems to practitioners, policy-makers, and different publics. All of these ID projects remain on-going, and are being used to inspire fresh research and impact within the department.