

**Institution: Brunel University**

**Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies**

**a. Context**

We engage with a wide range of non-academic users and audiences in the UK, Europe, North America, Asia and South Africa, including international organizations (EU, NATO, Council of Europe), policy makers, ministries and officials, armed forces and security agencies, think tanks, public institutions and societies (Arts Council England, UNESCO, National Trust), media and the public. Across these actors and regions, our research has generated three broad types of impact:

**(1) Public policy, regulation and public debate.** Impact in this field is facilitated by our *Public Policy and Political Theory* and *International Relations* research clusters with the support of the **Magna Carta Institute (MCI)**, the **Social and Political Thought (SPT) Research Group**, and the **International Studies (IS) Research Group**. The MCI's research on parties, parliamentary representation and public policy influenced the regulation of party finance and lobbying in the UK, Georgia, the Czech Republic and Poland (Fisher) and policies on multiculturalism in Canada (Uberoi). The SPT Research Group's research on green growth informed the trade-union sponsored programme 'One Million Climate Jobs' and EU Parliamentarians (Dale), and its international conference on the 'Right to Resistance' contributed to global debate on the Arab Spring (Del Lucchese; Thomas). IS Research Group members have advised UK policy makers on international conflicts and interventions (Hughes), informed EU Parliamentarians and NATO officials about the strategic implications of the rise of China and India (Scott), and proposed regulations for Private Military Companies to EU and UK policy makers and industry (Krahmann).

**(2) Practitioners, Professional Guidelines and Practitioner Debates.** Research produced by our *International Relations* cluster, specifically the interdisciplinary **Brunel Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies (BCISS)** which involves staff from Economics, Law and Engineering, has influenced professional guidelines, practitioner debates, policy making and regulation in intelligence and international security. BCISS research has led to its involvement in the drafting of the new UK Intelligence Doctrine (Davies & Gustafson), as well as the design and execution of a two-day intelligence training module for the EU External Action Service (Davies).

**(3) Culture and Society.** Our *International History* research cluster, based on the **Isambard Centre of Historical Research (ICHR)** and the interdepartmental **Brunel Heritage Research Network (BHRN)**, has provided public benefit in this field through research on international history and heritage, including the preservation of key slavery-era archives in the Caribbean (Morgan), advice to the Arts Council England on museum attendance (Swenson), and impact on public conceptions of history through presentations to British, French and German historical associations, on TV, radio and online (Carrol; Folly; Hughes; Palmer; Pietsch; Seligmann).

**b. Approach to impact**

The Department has a culture of promoting research and impact 'for the benefit of individuals and society at large' which builds on the University's Royal Charter and historic mission. Our approach is characterized by a clear impact strategy and supported by the University with a wide range of mechanisms, infrastructure and investments. A key driver frequent, direct and targeted engagement with end users, an approach that is embedded in departmental activities and permeates its regular practise. In **Public Policy and Political Theory**, research into citizenship, ethnicity and electoral politics is facilitated by a virtuous circle of interaction with political parties, parliamentary bodies and government agencies, a process which identifies needs, generates data and allows the dissemination of key findings at the most appropriate location. In **International Studies**, research feeds into training and doctrine via interaction with key institutional constituents, such as government agencies. In **International history**, engagement with core stakeholders such as records societies, the Historical Associations, broadcasters and publishers who speak beyond the academy ensures the widest possible dissemination and impact of research.

**Institutional support to enable impact**

The University provides key infrastructure for the realization of impact by facilitating research excellence, knowledge transfer and relationships with national and international end users. Our Research Support and Development Office provides an 'Impact Toolkit' to support effective impact

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pathways, and advice on liaising with external users and funding bodies; the University's Open Access Publishing Fund, the open-access Brunel Research Archive and external PG consultancy increase the visibility of our research. The University's competitive research leave scheme emphasises impact generation as a key criterion (Davies; Morgan; Folly; Dale; Neocleous). The Departmental impact infrastructure revolves around research centres and groups which act as contact points for external users, channel institutional support for research and dissemination, and promote stakeholder engagement. There are several mechanisms for this: One is the World Wide Web. With a Brunel BRIEF award of £15k and £6k from the Higher Education Academy the SPT Research Group set up an open access multimedia website ([www.brunel.ac.uk/machiavelli](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/machiavelli)). A dedicated web-presence is also maintained by the MCI, again with in-house support. Much use is made of conferences, symposia, workshops, seminars and public events, many of which receive university funds and organizational assistance. The MCI has informed public policy and regulation with £64k of funds, administrative support and a user contacts database, enabling a wide range of user engagement and knowledge transfer activities including two symposia (2009, 2012), an ESRC Festival of Social Science workshop at the House of Lords (2012), regular election briefings for journalists, business people and diplomats (2009-11) and an external speaker series. The SPT Research Group has influenced national and international debates with its public research seminar series, four international conferences (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013). BCISS' impact on intelligence practices has been facilitated by University funding of £2.5k for four practitioner workshops (co-financed by Raytheon UK), an ESRC Seminar Series (Davies) and three BRIEF-funded knowledge transfer events involving participants from the UK, North America, Europe and Japan. The IS Research Group has informed policy and public debate by organizing an ESRC Seminar Series, including two seminars at the House of Lords in collaboration with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disarmament and Global Security (2009-11) and an international conference with armed forces officials, co-funded by Brunel University and the US Marine Corps University Foundation (Hughes 2011). The ICHR and the BHRN have contributed to the work of public institutions, societies and citizens with two national and one international seminar series involving policy makers, a research workshop (2012) and a programme of public events involving the local community as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science (2012).

**Relationships with key users**

The development of strong relationships with public and private users is a major feature of our approach to impact. Close collaboration with stakeholders is facilitated through their regular involvement in our research centres and groups, secondments and consultancies, and the co-financing and organization of research and dissemination activities. The MCI's external speaker and briefing series have formed close links with national and international politicians and officials, facilitating research and impact on party finance and lobbying (Fisher). The MCI's stakeholder database and high profile events have supported impact on policies of multiculturalism (Uberoi). BCISS has promoted collaboration through consultancies for the MoD (Davies & Gustafson) and the EU External Action Service (Davies). BCISS also seconded Gustafson to the UK Cabinet Office where he wrote a horizon scanning paper for the Joint Intelligence Committee (2009), and to Afghanistan where he served as MoD mentor for local police special forces (2012-13). BCISS' practitioner seminars (some co-funded by Raytheon UK) have formed long-term relations with and disseminated research to industry and officials from the US, Turkey, Romania, Switzerland, South Africa, Australia and Mexico (Gustafson, Davies). The ICHR and the BHRN have close links with national and international museums and archives (Swenson, Pietsch, Carrol, Morgan), historical associations (Seligmann, Hughes, Folly), heritage foundations (Swenson), enabling Morgan to preserve and make accessible 60 slavery deed books from St Vincent. Close contact is maintained with the local community, including museums, historical and military associations, all of which publicly showcased our three research clusters as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2012.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The University Strategic Plan identifies impact and knowledge transfer as a primary aim. The Department has translated this into three goals and devised highly successful implementation strategies, based on the 'Payback Framework' developed by Brunel scholars Buxton and Hanney. With these strategies we are well placed to expand our national and international research impact. This will be facilitated by rigorously focusing on those key research areas in which Brunel already

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has internationally recognised expertise. Thus, the existing record of excellence in, for example, intelligence doctrine and practise, quantitative electoral analysis, political theory and modern military history will be strengthened by a research strategy that prioritises these areas.

**International research excellence and relevance**

The University recognizes that impact rests on internationally excellent and policy relevant research and has identified external funding, strong research centres and interdisciplinary research as the means to achieve this outcome. BCISS' transformation into an Interdisciplinary Research Centre and its role in impact case studies from two UoAs (Politics, Economics) illustrate our strategy and its success. With the new interdepartmental BHRN we are applying it to the field of international heritage, and by turning our SPT Research Group into a University Research Centre we will enhance its profile and strengthen its impact on public debate and policy.

**Effective research dissemination and knowledge transfer**

To maximize our research impact we employ a strategic mixture of tailored knowledge transfer and open-access research dissemination, the effectiveness of which is monitored with feedback forms and user metrics. Our briefing sessions and workshops at government institutions (e.g. House of Lords and EU Parliament) target national and international policy makers. We advise military and civilian practitioners with workshops, and through secondments and consultancies. With public lectures, conferences, media contributions, and multimedia websites we inform many national and international audiences. To widen our reach, we will expand our collaboration with intermediaries and knowledge brokers, and increase our use of online platforms.

**Mutually beneficial engagement with stakeholders and end users**

To enhance research relevance and impact the Department promotes mutually beneficial engagement with external users at all stages of research from design to dissemination. To improve this collaboration we will expand non-academic membership in our research centres, e.g. former National Imagery Exploitation Centre Chief Geoffrey Oxlee's membership of BCISS. We will also increase staff involvement in public committees and advisory boards, e.g. Fisher in the Magna Carta 800 Group. Specific emphasis will be on expanding our international impact partnerships and consultancies, illustrated by our participation in an international bid for a consultancy framework contract with the EU Parliament. A strategy will be developed for utilizing the University's Knowledge Transfer Scheme involving the identification of potential partner organisations and the broadening of projects to encompass the additional goals of this scheme.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The Department's case studies illustrate the reach and significance of our research impact. As examples of best practice, they have informed our strategy by demonstrating the importance of external funding, strong research centres, effective knowledge transfer and dissemination, and engagement with end users. **Fisher's** impact on the regulation of party finance and lobbying in the UK, Georgia, the Czech Republic and Poland was enabled by the MCI's close links with politicians, which not only facilitated his involvement in public bodies such as the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption, the Electoral Commission, the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Public Administration Select Committee, but also led to funding from the Council of Europe for his review of party finance legislation in Georgia (2013). **Uberoi's** research on multiculturalism was partly financed by the British Academy and benefitted from regular engagement with UK and Canadian officials. Its impact on Canadian government policies was facilitated by the MCI's contact database and organizational support for an externally-funded symposium and follow-up workshop involving politicians and officials, which led to his advising the Canadian Department of Citizenship and Immigration. **Davies' and Gustafson's** research on intelligence agencies and analysis received a Leverhulme Research Fellowship, British Academy and ESRC Seminar Series grants. Its impact on intelligence practitioners and debates in the UK and Europe built on BCISS' close relations and regular engagement with intelligence practitioners, as well as the secondments of Gustafson to the Cabinet Office and MoD. As scholars with trusted advisor status whose research is informed by close collaboration with intelligence practitioners, they were selected for two consultancies involving the writing of new UK Joint Intelligence Doctrines and the design and execution of intelligence training for the EU External Action Service.