

Institution: University of Reading
Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Relations
a. Overview

Politics and International Relations is a tightly focused, research-intensive UoA of 17 staff, organised around two research themes: *Applied Political Theory* and *Conflict: Causes, Conduct and Consequences*. Working under these themes are four fluid research groupings: political theory; international relations; government; and, strategic studies. All members of the UoA are located in the Department of Politics and International Relations (PIR), which cooperates with the Department of Economics in the newly formed (2011) School of Politics, Economics and International Relations (SPEIR), within the newly formed (2011) Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (FAHSS). Research in the UoA is overseen by the Department Director of Research (DDoR). Since RAE 2008 the UoA has implemented a sharply focused strategy to streamline research themes, and establish itself as a home for outstanding and influential work on conflict, and political theory. As a result, in the REF 2014 period the UoA has achieved a 50% increase in PhDs awarded, and a 388% increase in research income, over the RAE 2008 period.

b. Research strategy

The key strategy indicated in RAE 2008 – forward-looking appointment of world class researchers who focus on the UoA's research themes – has worked well to improve the performance of the UoA along all research axes, and continues to be implemented. Many members of the UoA have homes in more than one group, and do research within both themes. Almost 50% (7) of the staff returned in RAE2008 (15) have been replaced, and 3 additional appointments have been made, i.e. there have been 10 new appointments since RAE 2008, and the UoA has as a result been radically revitalised. This has facilitated increased concentration of research efforts within the two themes and has led both to a streamlining of the UoA's research and to the creation of new synergies arising from comparative enquiry.

The *Conflict* theme has consolidated a distinctive identity with the appointment of Porter (Associate Professor, 2011), Kadercan (Lecturer, 2013) and Humphreys (Lecturer, 2013). Porter's field-leading work on military orientalism has added a new dimension to the group's work and complements Heuser's magisterial survey of the history of strategy (*The Strategy Makers*, Praeger, 2010). Kadercan's research interests in international security and international relations theory consolidate links between the strategists and international relations scholars (Zaum, Hellmich, and Behnke), and Humphreys' work on meta-theoretical questions in IR scholarship brings a new perspective. It will enable lively conversations about methodology between staff working under this theme but also under the *Applied Political Theory* theme. During the REF 2014 period Cromartie's Leverhulme Trust Major Research Programme, 'The Liberal Way of War' (£610 000), has been a prism through which much of the work of members of the *Conflict* theme has been focused, resulting in a number of major workshops and conferences, such as a workshop involving senior military officers and scholars from the United States and the United Kingdom on 'The Idea of a National Security Strategy' (May 2013), and various jointly produced outputs (for example, Hellmich and Behnke (eds) *The Epistemology of Terrorism* (London: Ashgate, 2012)).

An unusual and significant feature of the study of conflict at Reading is the extent, and quality, of engagement with members of the armed forces. In 2011 the UoA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, which supplies a framework for research-based interaction as well as educational engagement: a joint Reading/Sandhurst grant application examining the Northern Ireland Conflict is in preparation, and colleagues from the strategy group have received practitioner-enriched feedback on their research through discussion with colleagues at Sandhurst. The UoA has, since 2008, appointed a total of 6 defence professionals as Visiting Professors. For example, General Sir Rupert Smith (formerly General Office Commanding Northern Ireland and Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (NATO)), Admiral Sir Jonathon Band (formerly First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff) and Sir Rob Fry RM (formerly Commandant General, Royal Marines) have all engaged with the General Dynamics seminar series, and have been involved in PGR teaching. Sloan acts as Military Liaison Officer for the UoA (with a 10% workload allocation for this role), and the UoA will continue actively

to solicit mutually beneficial research enhancing links with individuals and institutions in the Armed Forces.

The *Applied Political Theory* theme brings normatively rigorous thinking to the study of the relationship between institutions and individuals at the domestic and global levels. Work in the theme has been strengthened by the appointment of two new rising stars, Tomlin (Lecturer, 2012) and Hyams (Lecturer, 2012). Tomlin shares interests with McKinnon in criminal justice and liberal political theory, and with Hyams in equality and distributive justice. Hyams shares research interests in climate change justice with McKinnon, creating opportunities for collaborative work with Zaum, who has recently been appointed (as an independent expert on conflict) to the Steering Board of a £1.5 million DFID/ Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) research programme 'Climate Change, Conflict, and Cooperation'. Hyams presently holds a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for a project exploring the role of intuitions in theorising the resolution of moral conflict, which is a methodological topic also of interest to McKinnon and Tomlin. Cromartie's work adds historical depth to the group, being centrally concerned with the origins of modern liberal thinking, and of the institutions it sustains, especially in the work of Hobbes. It is also a bridge to normatively- and historically-minded comparative research on cultures of war (Heuser), nationalism, territory and conflict (Kadercan), and religion and national identity in Ireland and Greece (Halikiopoulou). Halikiopoulou's recent (2012) appointment brings a depth of comparative knowledge about the far right that is creating synergies with Renwick's mastery of the field of electoral reform.

There are a number of new and developing initiatives in the UoA that are not yet producing visible outcomes, but are of strategic importance. Building on current success and reputation in political theory, and the study of conflict, the UoA is establishing two new Centres related to each of its research themes to coordinate activity with respect to major grant applications, conferences and workshops, collaborative endeavours, and PGR recruitment. The Centres are supported by a 0.8 FTE admin assistant, a 0.2 FTE web site administrator, and a 0.8 FTE marketing and publicity administrator. The UoA expects these Centres to be the hub of research activity in the post-REF period, and to enable substantial contributions to emerging University-wide research themes related to Securing Sustainable Societies, which the UoA has been influential in developing. A broader School-wide initiative that is enhancing interactions across and within both research themes is the appointment (in the Department of Economics in 2013) of a Professor of Public Policy. His interests in poverty and inequality at the domestic and international levels resonate with the interests of members of the political theory group working on inequality from a normative perspective. The work of the UoA's most recent appointment (Vlandas, Lecturer, 2013) focuses on international political economy and labour markets, thus creating new opportunities for cross-departmental research focused on public policy, reflecting the UoA's strategic vision. The new School MA in Public Policy also reflects this development.

The first Centre, *Reading Ethics and Political Philosophy* (REAPP), comes into existence in October 2013. It will unite (as core members) 5 political theorists from the UoA with 6 political philosophers and ethicists from the Reading's world-renowned (for ethics in particular) Philosophy Department, as well as drawing in (as affiliate members) staff from Law, History, Classics, and Business. Under the leadership of McKinnon (and Owens, in Philosophy), core members of REAPP have been meeting throughout 2013 to facilitate the setup of the Centre. REAPP's themes will be: Fairness, Normative Methodology, Criminal Justice, and Value and Rights. A major launch event - supported by University Reading Endowment Trust (RETF) funds - will be held in December 2013, with T.M. Scanlon as key note speaker.

Second, the Liberal Way of War Program finds a successor in a new *Ways of War* (WOW) Centre. Under the leadership of Porter and Cromartie, WOW will bring together scholars from across the University, and the world, with a shared interest in the phenomenon of political violence, and its implications for stability and security at the global level. WOW will exploit the overlap in research interests of members of staff working in IR, Strategic Studies, and Comparative Government, as well as drawing in others from the Departments of History, Economics, Classics, and Languages. Staff from all of these fields have been collaborating to create the Centre, to be established in 2013. The UoA has allocated funds to support setting up a website, marketing and publicity, and various events.

Priority developmental areas will continue to be organised around the UoA's two themes, broadly construed, and increasingly operating through the prisms of the two new Centres. Under

the guidance of the Department DoR and the HoD – and reflecting the careful, research-oriented, and targeted hiring strategy adopted since RAE 2008 – staff are encouraged to pursue their interests in synergy with colleagues. The UoA's present developmental areas have been selected in the light of its two research themes, broadly construed. Research is already being shaped by synergies encouraged by the establishment of the new Centres (for example, a major bid to the ESRC - under its 'Ethics and Rights in a Security Context' call - is under preparation). Porter's Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship (commencing 1/08/13) to work on globalism as a military ideology is another early fruit of this strategy.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The UoA is a fast-developing Department with research strengths at all levels of seniority. 7 of the 15 staff returned in RAE2008 have been replaced, and 3 further staff have been appointed. 3 of the 7 replaced moved to other institutions, and the remaining 4 retired. Recruitment since the last RAE has primarily focused on ensuring research quality. It has been undertaken to strengthen and support the UoA's two streamlined research themes (*Applied Political Theory*, and *Conflict*). Of the 10 new appointments since RAE 2008, 7 were taking up Lectureships for the first time (one of these has been promoted to Associate Professor), 2 were already Lecturers (one now promoted to Associate Professor), and 1 was a Senior Lecturer (now Associate Professor). The renewal of personnel in the UoA since RAE 2008 reflects the success of the hiring strategy, which was consciously adopted to streamline and enhance research focus.

Support for new research active staff. New members of staff are supported by reducing their teaching load by one third during the first year of appointment. Each new member of staff is assigned a mentor from the senior staff (in the same field, wherever possible) to serve as the first port of call for any questions, and to provide advice and guidance on ends and means related to research. Staff who are new entrants to the profession are required to obtain the Reading Postgraduate Certificate of Academic Practice, which includes training in research team management, postgraduate supervision, grant preparation and grant management. Upon arrival, new research staff are issued with a brochure on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, which helps staff plan their career from PhD student to professor. The UoA takes career progression seriously, and annual Research Review meetings with the Department DoR enable planning for promotion. During the REF period: 3 people who were Lecturers at appointment have been promoted to Associate Professor; 2 who were Lecturers at the start of the period have been promoted through Associate Professor to Professor; and one has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.

Generous research leave allowance. All members of staff are eligible for a sabbatical term (bringing relief from teaching and administration) every nine terms, but such sabbaticals may be awarded earlier at the discretion of the HoD, where necessary for the completion of key research activities (Tomlin benefitted from this during the REF period). Eligibility for a sabbatical normally depends on submission of a grant application in the twelve months prior to the proposed light term, and always requires submission of a formal proposal to the School Research Committee. On returning from a sabbatical a member of staff is expected to present research undertaken during the period at the Departmental Research Seminar. They are also required to provide a written report on their activities to the School DoR, for consideration at the School Research Committee.

Generous internal financial support. Every member of staff has a generous Self Development Account (SDA) annual allowance of £1500, which can be spent on research related items such as books, conference attendance and travel, and IT equipment. Additional funds for specific items and projects may be requested directly from the HoS (for example, one colleague purchased voice recognition software as a result of such a request). SDA accounts are also held by colleagues who have been awarded income from other sources, and it is the University's policy is to pay a proportion of grant income directly into the SDA of the PI for the grant. Funding sourced in SDAs is complemented by a university travel grant fund, to which non-professorial colleagues may apply when presenting papers abroad. And the Faculty administers funds from the Reading Endowment Trust Fund (RETF) to provide targeted support for research; for example, both McKinnon and Renwick received RETF awards of £2000 each to provide teaching relief enabling the completion of major grant applications.

Supportive Research Review Meetings. Each member of staff completes an annual Personal Research Plan (PRP), covering research, publishing, and grant-getting activity for the year in question, and for the two years to follow. PRPs feed into the Annual Research Review meeting between each member of staff and the Department DoR, where progress is discussed against the PRP for the previous year, and plans are reviewed. These meetings are confidential and non-minuted, and provide a valuable opportunity for staff to identify hurdles to the achievement of their objectives, get feedback from the DoR on their medium term research plans, and personally tailored information on the resources available to support their plans in the UoA and wider University. The meetings also enable the DoR to provide research-related advice to staff planning to apply for promotion, to identify emerging research synergies, and to seek support from the HoD/HoS to enable staff to mount any hurdles they may face.

Constructive Peer Review for Outputs and Grant Applications. The UoA operates internal and external peer review procedures to assess the quality of outputs, the results of which are fed back to individuals by the Department DoR and HoD. Every grant application undergoes internal peer review involving the DoR, a subject specialist (where possible) and a nonspecialist. Written comments are provided, and the DoR meets individually with the PI to provide direct and in depth constructive feedback on how to improve the output or application.

Professional Support for Grant Applications. Grant applications and income are monitored quarterly by Research and Enterprise Services and fed back to the UoA via the Faculty Board for Research. Research and Enterprise Services provides a one-stop shop for staff involved in the preparation of proposals, and the management of projects, offering a very useful library of successful proposals, and various guides to funding sources, preparing applications, and managing a project. The UoA's liaison officer in Research and Enterprise Services attends Faculty Board for Research meetings, undertakes targeted distribution of calls for proposals, prepares costings, and engages in peer review. She meets regularly with the DoR to review the UoA's needs, flag up impending opportunities, and communicate activities taking place elsewhere in the University with which the UoA may want to get involved.

Personal research fellowships. Staff in the UoA have a high international profile through various personal research fellowships awarded to them. These successes have enhanced the dissemination of research findings with academia, and also policy making circles. Most notably: in April 2013 Porter was awarded a 12 month Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship to work on 'Globalism as an Ideology in the Military-Strategic Domain' (588 applications were made in this round, and 93 Fellowships were awarded); in 2008-10 McKinnon held a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship for the project 'Corrective Justice and the Precautionary Principle', which fed into her 2012 monograph *Climate Change and Future Justice* (in the relevant round of application that scheme had a 5% success rate); and Zaum has held an ESRC Public Sector Placement Fellowship in the UK Stabilisation Unit (2011-12), and a DFID Senior Research Fellowship in Conflict and Fragility (2011-13). Additionally, many members of staff have held Visiting Professorships and Fellowships around the globe, in places such as the Sorbonne, the University of Oxford, and – commencing 2013 (McKinnon) – the Nanjing University Institute of Information Science and Technology (with which the University has an evolving academic exchange program monitored by the Internationalisation office, who provided support in setting up the visiting position).

ii. Research students

The UoA has transformed itself as a home for PGRs since RAE 2008: 50% more PhDs were awarded in the REF 2014 period (34) than in the RAE 2008 period (22). This reflects both the greatly improved quality of the research undertaken in the UoA since 2008 (achieved as a result of our deliberate and focused hiring strategy), and various procedural and structural changes implemented in the UoA in order to help PGRs do the best work possible, within a reasonable time frame. All PGR matters are managed by the Department Director of PGR Studies (with a 20% workload allowance), who reports to the School Research Committee.

Training. The UoA sees its research community as populated by both staff and research students, and strives to ensure that PGRs are well equipped to be active in that community. All PhD and MRes students within the UoA must take 60 credits of specialist research training during their first year. This training covers philosophy of social science, the fundamentals of research

design, and both quantitative and qualitative methods. In addition, students in any year can choose from a wide range of generic and transferable skills training sessions provided by the University's Graduate School (housed in a dedicated building on campus), as well as further training in specific quantitative and qualitative methods. The UoA's Director of PGR Studies was involved in the consultation on, and development of, the Graduate School's Research Training Programme. The UoA is part of the ESRC's South-East Doctoral Training Centre. The use of Learning Needs Analysis and monitoring and review processes ensure that students are getting the training they need to undertake their projects and for their career development as researchers.

Supervision. All students have two supervisors. They meet their first supervisor at least eight times a year and their second supervisor at least three times a year. Supervisors provide written feedback on work submitted to them within two weeks, and provide annual evaluation of progress made to feed into the annual monitoring process in the summer.

Monitoring. Each student is also assigned two monitors annually, who provide an additional source of advice besides the supervisors, and help to ensure that all is proceeding to plan by providing reference points for reflection on training and learning needs analysis. They meet annually with the student to discuss progress, report feedback from supervisors, and (often) provide perspectives on the student's work from their own disciplines. When the student is confirming their registration, monitors also read sample chapters of the student's thesis. Written reports are fed back by monitors to the PGR Director, and are also available to the students.

Research Community. The UoA runs two weekly seminar series for PhD and interested Master's students: one covering all issues in Politics and International Relations, the other specializing in Strategic Studies. Some sessions cover issues such as writing a literature review or moving from description to analysis; others let students present their latest findings; still others focus on recent important publications within the discipline. In addition, research students are strongly encouraged to attend our weekly Department Research Seminars, when members of staff and invited external speakers present their research.

Conferences and Workshops. The UoA is particularly proud of its annual two-day PhD Conference, at which all PhD students present the current state of their research. This is an excellent occasion for catching problems and providing feedback and also affords the students – including those normally based away from the University – the opportunity to interact with each other and exchange ideas. Beyond this conference, students can participate in the annual conference of the Politics Pathway of the ESRC's South-East Doctoral Training Centre. The first such conference was hosted by the UoA in March 2012 and included papers by students from the University of Kent and Royal Holloway University of London, as well as Reading. Around fifty students attended in total. The UoA also holds PhD workshops on selected themes. In October 2012, at the suggestion of its PGRs, the UoA hosted a student-led conference on The Private Sphere and the Public Sphere. In July 2012, eight of the UoA's students presented at our conference on Liberal Wars: Strategy, History, Ideology. In December 2012 the UoA held its first ever workshop on 'How to write a PhD Proposal in Politics', to which third year undergraduates, recent MA students, and prospective PhD students were invited. The aim of the workshop was to encourage better quality applications, increase application rates, and publicise the UoA as a home for talented PGRs.

Financial Support. The UoA actively encourages students to attend international conferences and to submit items for publication. All PhD students are eligible for an annual research allowance of £300 to support such activities, and the University runs a Travel Awards scheme to support participation in workshops and conferences, to which PGRs may apply. UoA students recently presented at the ECPR General Conference in Reykjavík in August 2011, the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops in Antwerp in May 2012, and the BISA–ISA Conference in Edinburgh in June 2012.

Success Stories. The quality of the UoA's provision can be measured in part by what students go on to do after they graduate. One student, whose thesis won the Political Studies Association's Lord Bryce Prize for best thesis in International Relations/Comparative Studies and the THESEUS Award for Promising Research on European Integration, both in 2009, went on to become a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for European Integration Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and is now an Assistant Professor of EU Politics in the Department of Political Science at the IHS in Vienna. Another student, who finished in 2010, is now a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Two others, who completed in 2011 and

2012 respectively, are among former students who have gone on to academic appointments in their home countries. In 2012, 2 of the 6 PGRs funded by the Liberal Way of War Programme secured academic appointments before the examination of their PhDs: a permanent lectureship at the University of Exeter and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Warwick.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Effective management of research. Research in the UoA is overseen by the Department DoR, and School DoR (in the REF 2014 period, these offices were held by the same person, McKinnon), with a 30% workload allowance. The department DoR reports to the Department Board of Studies, and the School DoR reports to the School Research Committee. Both bodies meet termly to discuss research activity and data, and feeds into the Faculty Board for Research. An annual Research Review meeting is held involving the School DoR, HoS, the Dean, and the PVC Research and Enterprise, for which a substantial report on the year's research activities is produced.

Pro-active support for grant-seeking. The UoA supports and acknowledges applying for funding at all levels of seniority. Within the Department, staff are partly incentivised to apply for grants by the fact that eligibility for a light term depends on a grant application having been made in the 12 months preceding the target light term. All grant applications are internally peer reviewed (involving 3 reviewers), and written feedback is provided. At the School level, SPEIR runs a termly Research Synergy seminar, at which colleagues from Politics and from Economics alternate in presenting their current work, to encourage inter-departmental grant applications. This has led to collaboration towards two major project grants. At the Faculty level, targeted use has been made of RETF funds to support major grant applications (Renwick and McKinnon each received RETF funds for this purpose). Finally, at the University level, grant income targets are set annually at a 10% increase on the previous year's income. In addition, the University's Centre for Quality Support and Development (CQSD) provides a range of workshops and events related to applying for, and managing, grants (e.g. courses on writing grant proposals, being a successful PI, and networking).

Reading Endowment Trust Fund (RETF). RETF funds provide much support for research activity. As already noted, the RETF provides pump-priming for grant applications. In addition, the Faculty administers RETF funds to support workshops and conferences in the UoA (e.g. the launch event for REAPP is funded in this way), and runs an annual Best Research Output Prize competition. Hellmich's book on Al Qaeda came second in this competition in 2012, and Renwick's book on electoral reform was a runner up in 2011; both received RETF funds paid into their SDAs.

Thriving research culture. In order to sustain a lively and evolving research culture the UoA runs a number of complementary seminars and workshops throughout the year. At the core of all of them is the weekly Departmental Research Seminar, (50% internal speakers, 50% external speakers) which covers all aspects of the discipline of Politics. All members of staff are expected to attend this seminar. It is run by the most junior permanent member in the UoA, and the call for suggestions for speakers is put out at least 6 months in advance. As well as being a formal event, it provides an opportunity for PGRs to socialise with members of staff and external speakers at the well attended drinks afterwards. In addition, the strategic studies group runs a weekly lunchtime research seminar, involving internal and external speakers, and PGRs; the Liberal Way of War Programme has hosted fortnightly seminars throughout 2009-12; as of October 2013, REAPP and WOW will hold termly events; and the PGR community meets on a weekly basis to discuss the work-in-progress of one of their number, or pieces of particular interest in the literature they are engaging with. At the most formal level, the UoA hosts an annual Peter Campbell Memorial Lecture, at which the (then) Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, gave a public lecture on Global Citizenship in 2011 (other speakers have included Shami Chakrabati, Lord Gus O'Donnell, and Peter Riddell).

Communications and publicity. There are various publications that communicate – both internally, and externally – research activities and successes. The School produces an Annual Research Review magazine which is disseminated throughout the University. The University produces a termly Research Review magazine, in which the research of UoA staff frequently features. Facing outwards, the UoA hosts a blog, which is posted on regularly by staff and students, and a number of colleagues post frequently on Twitter, to a large following. A number of

UoA staff make regular appearances on radio (e.g. Radio 4's The Today Programme, and Start the Week), TV (e.g. BBC News Channel, Al-Jazeera, Sky News), and in print journalism (e.g. The Guardian, The Independent, The Telegraph, Sydney Morning Herald, Huffington Post). All staff have media training available to them, and the University's Press Office provides prompt assistance and support in this area. The University's institutional repository for research papers and manuscripts (CenTAUR) promotes access to the research of staff in the UoA, and enables appropriate outputs to be made Open Access.

'Liberal Way of War'. A major funded research programme in the UoA has been Cromartie's Major Research Programme The Liberal Way of War: Strategy, Ideology, Representations (Leverhulme Trust), which ended in 2013. This £610,000 grant was secured in 2008 as the outcome of an open competition inviting institutions to put together teams to study 'Security and Liberty'. It brought together 15 Reading scholars from four Departments (Politics, Law, History, and Modern Languages) to research the shifting nature of the constraints on 'liberal' states arising from their liberal commitments. The Programme was original in conception. Led by a historian of political thought, it was ultimately practical in focus; its aim was to bring to bear insights drawn from cultural and intellectual history upon the present-day strategic problems experienced by major Western powers. From 2009-12, the Programme supported nine fully-funded PhD students (six of them based in Politics; three in the other UoAs), who met at least weekly in term-time to give presentations or hear external speakers. The Programme organised seven major workshops and a large conference on 'Liberal Wars'. The more notable events included a workshop comparing Western and Islamic laws of war and the first ever multi-disciplinary conference that was devoted to 'Interrogation'. Besides individual outputs, it has already resulted in two book-length publications within the REF period from Politics alone: *Knowing Al-Qaeda*, eds. Behnke and Hellmich (Ashgate, 2012); and *Atrocities in Insurgencies and Counterinsurgencies* (special issue of *Civil Wars* Vol. 14 No. 1, 2012) eds. Heuser and Walton. Further outputs are in preparation, and include four books and a special issue of a journal.

'Power After Peace'. A further major programme undertaken in the REF period has been 'Power After Peace: The Political Economy of Post-Conflict State-building' (2009-13) funded (\$390 000) by the Carnegie Corporation of New York under its International Peace and Security Programme, with Zaum as PI (along with Mats Berdal of King's College London). This project focused on the different ways in which state-building activities have *failed* to transform pre-conflict economic and political structures, and on the importance of informal institutions (often, generated by the needs of war) in the transition from conflict to peace (institutions that are often overlooked by policymakers). The programme involved a range of workshops involving both academics and practitioners (e.g. a major conference at Wilton Park in 2011), and led to a co-edited volume (*Political Economy of State-building: Power after Peace*, eds Zaum and Berdal (Abingdon: Routledge, 2012)). Further work on corruption and state-building attracted funding from the World Bank, and led to an agenda-setting co-edited book, *Corruption and Post-conflict Peacebuilding: Selling the Peace?* (Zaum and Cheng (eds), Abingdon: Routledge, 2011)).

Links with the military. The class of graduate students funded by the Liberal Way of War Programme has formed the hub of a much larger grouping that integrates the study of war into more general humanistic and social scientific studies. In combination with the contributions of Reading's military Visiting Professors, it has helped make the UoA a uniquely lively place for the discussion of strategic problems, and has united colleagues working under both of the UoA's research themes. As already noted, many members of the Ways of War Centre will be drawn from the Liberal Way of War programme, and the Centre will capitalise on and maintain the momentum generated by the Programme. The Liberal Way of War Programme has been complemented by the more professionally-oriented General Dynamics Seminars (funded by grants won by Sloan from the General Dynamics Foundation), and by the Mackinder Forum (also organised by Sloan, and funded by the Ministry of Defence). A recent notable achievement is a grant awarded to a member of staff as PI (with a PGR as CI) by the ESRC and the Royal British Legion to explore soldiers' status in society. Taken together, these activities have done much to sustain and develop Reading's place as a leading centre of for the study of conflict.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Global presence. Much of the UoA's research has an international focus, and staff actively seek – and are sought out by – collaborators around the globe. Many staff engage in interdisciplinary research in international networks. Beyond the Liberal Way of War Programme situated in the UoA during the REF period, individuals have cultivated and sustained their own international networks. For example, Behnke cooperates with the Terrorist Transgression network which includes art historians, artists, and historians, and which focuses on different aspects of visual representations of terrorism; Hellmich is a member of an international network with the theme 'Who does not become a terrorist, and why?'; and McKinnon is forging links with climate change researchers in the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology through a Visiting Professorship (commencing 2013) at their School of Public Policy (supported centrally by the University's Internationalisation Office). Beyond on going international collaborations, staff in the UoA have a global presence through their appearances as keynote speakers at prestigious, high profile occasions. For example, Heuser gave a keynote lecture at a conference on African Security and Strategy at Stellenbosch University in 2012, McKinnon gave a Distinguished Lecture at the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute in 2011, and Porter delivered key note lectures at Texas A&M University 2012. In some cases, participation in such events has required reorganisation of teaching commitments, and the UoA has ensured flexibility to enable this. Invitations at this level always come with a commitments to cover all expenses, but otherwise attractive invitations are sometimes made to staff without this financial commitment. Here, the UoA's generous SDA allowance enables acceptance of these invitations; for example, in 2013 Tomlin spent a week at a closed residential workshop on criminal justice in Croatia by using his SDA allowance to cover expenses.

Engagement with the discipline base. Staff in Politics are active in ways that promote the health of the discipline of Politics nationwide through managerial involvement in professional associations, and by being at the forefront of developmental disciplinary initiatives. For example, Cromartie is an Elected Committee Member of the UK's newly formed (2009) Association for Political Thought. In 2013 Hyams attended a 3 day 'Engaging with Government' workshop run by the AHRC; places were allocated by competition, and Hyams' applications was strengthened by the robust internal peer review processes operating in the UoA. Partly as a result of this, Hyams has been invited to a Research Councils UK Energy Programme scoping workshop for a responsible innovation study on unconventional hydrocarbons, as the representative of the AHRC academic community. Renwick has written two briefing papers for the Political Studies Association: 'The Alternative Vote: A Briefing Paper' and 'House of Lords Reform: A Briefing Paper'. Prof. Vicky Randall, Chair of the PSA at the time, commented that 'British politics scholars regularly develop mutually useful links and dialogues with politicians and the news media. The Political Studies Association has done much to cultivate such links and to demonstrate the immediate relevance of its expertise for making sense of British politics, perhaps the most impressive recent example being its widely cited briefing paper on the Alternative Vote (Renwick, 2011).' (in British Politics 2012).

Peer review. Members of the UoA routinely serve as referees and reviewers for the world's best journals, across all areas of the discipline, including: International Studies Quarterly, International Security, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, History of Political Thought, Journal of Political Philosophy, Utilitas, Journal of Politics, Law and Philosophy, Journal of Strategic Studies, Review of International Studies, Historical Journal, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, International Security, Ethics and International Affairs. Members of the UoA are also active in reviewing manuscripts for the world's top academic publishers, including: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Cornell University Press, Columbia University Press, Edinburgh University Press. And they also serve as peer reviewers for research council applications, including the ESRC, the AHRC, the ERC, the Dutch NOW, and the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council.

The UoA is looking ahead to REF 2020 with a reinvigorated membership, a clear sense of the distinctive strengths it has in its research themes, and a commitment to institutional vehicles to enable continuing excellence and growth.