

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Kent</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 21 Politics and International Studies</p>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>This rapidly expanding unit has a strong international research profile in conflict and security, regional and comparative politics, and political and social theory. Since 2008, research expertise within the UoA has been expanded within four internationally significant research centres: the Centre for Federal Studies (CFS); Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC); Centre for Critical Thought (CCT); and Global Europe Centre (GEC). All of the staff included in this Politics and International Studies REF submission are based in the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR). Working within one school ensures cohesion and coherence across the 31 highly active researchers included within this submission, and strengthens the organisation, management and support of this important research area for the University of Kent. We are distinctive from any other Politics and International Studies UoA in the UK in having a permanent research base, including five permanently-based academic staff, in our Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS).</p> <p>Our vibrant teaching practice enriches our research environment, and attracts some 200 undergraduates each year. At any time there are in excess of 150 taught and research postgraduates at Canterbury and a further 120 postgraduates in Brussels. The School was third placed for Politics in the National Student Survey 2012, confirming our commitment to high quality research-led teaching.</p> <p>Politics and International Studies scholars at Kent have played an international disciplinary leadership role for nearly half a century and this continues through editorial and advisory board memberships, and journal and book series editorships. We have a high degree of participation in the work of international academic and learned societies through holding officer and steering group positions and convening conferences, workshops and panels.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>The School's research strategy draws heavily on the University's Research and Impact Strategy (2013-16), which prioritises innovative, original and world-leading research. As an integral part of the UK's European University, the School strives to have a positive impact regionally, nationally and internationally. Our strategy across the REF period (outlined in RAE 2008) has been to build our long-standing position as a centre for research in Politics and International Relations in the UK into a greater international leadership role in the discipline. In large part this has been driven by substantial targeted investment in staff. The School has expanded its global research profile by nurturing and sustaining internationally excellent research and sub-disciplinary intellectual leadership in key areas: international conflict analysis, comparative and regional politics, and political and social thought.</p> <p>To this end during the REF period we have focused our research into four research centres in order to provide more effective mentoring and management; to channel greater financial resources to research; and to further stimulate an exciting and intellectually creative environment to facilitate the development of our researchers' work. Our research centres have also allowed us to deepen and expand our engagement with the users of our research beyond higher education, as outlined in our REF3 documents.</p> <p>Our longest standing research centre (established in 1986 as the Centre for the Analysis of Conflict) was re-launched as the <b>Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC)</b> in 2008 to create greater opportunities for national and international research collaborations on ethno-national violence and political accommodation, conflict management/prevention and minorities in conflict and post-conflict societies (Basaran, Blakeley, Clayton, Cochrane, Cunliffe, den Boer, Féron, Grundig, Haastrup, Hammerstad, Kurtulus, D.Lee, P.Lee, Loizides, Toros). This has been achieved through a policy of active recruitment of new staff within these areas, detailed below. CARC has doubled the number of its staff members during the REF period as well as opening itself to other areas such as security studies, migration studies, human rights and critical terrorism studies.</p>

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Our **Centre for Federal Studies (CFS)**, established in 2005, has gained increasing influence and recognition as a world-leading institution in this field and the only institution of its kind in the UK. The individual areas of research expertise of its members (Burgess, Dardanelli, Loizides, Pabst and Sakwa) has strengthened its focus on comparative federalism (covering Canada, Russia, Switzerland, Belgium, the United Kingdom). Our campus in Brussels has also facilitated and stimulated the widening of the Centre's remit to include issues of multi-level governance in the European Union.

The development of political theory was flagged as one of the School's strategic priorities over the REF period (RAE 2008), allowing us to energise our research activity in this field. We achieved our stated ambition to create a research centre for political theory with the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Politics and Spirituality (CSPS) in 2007 and have subsequently broadened our research activities in this area (the Centre was subsequently renamed the **Centre for Critical Thought (CCT)** in 2013). As outlined in our staff strategy below, we have made a substantive number of new appointments in this area. Research into the relationship between spirituality, religion and contemporary politics remains a core element of the centre (Develennes, Mavelli, Molloy, Pabst and Rossbach) but the centre has broadened its remit to embrace critical investigations into conceptions of the political (Azmanova and MacKenzie). CCT is an inter-disciplinary centre founded by the School in partnership with the Department of Italian Studies and Kent Law School. It also has links with other schools at the University of Kent (for example, the School of English, the Department of Drama, the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research), as well as external relations with partners such as the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA).

The creation of the **Global Europe Centre (GEC)** in May 2013 allows for greater synergy and collaboration between the researchers of SPIR working on the study of Europe located within an international context. The affiliated researchers (Burgess, Casier, Dardanelli, Haastrup, Korosteleva, D. Lee, Loveless, Morgan-Jones, O'Mahony, Sakwa, Seyd, Whitman, Wroe) all combine European dimensions of comparative politics to investigate the place of Europe within a global context. The GEC also allows for greater inter-disciplinary research within the University by drawing into its membership research associates from the Schools of Economics, European Culture and Languages, History, Kent Business School and Law.

A major ambition across the REF period was to exploit the presence of the University of Kent at Brussels. We have pursued this through three routes. First, the Conflict Analysis Research Centre now has staff in both Brussels and Canterbury and this has allowed us to develop the Centre as a hub for further European collaborations, funding bids, and research contacts. Second, the Centre for Federal Studies has strengthened its focus on multi-level governance in the European Union, prompting the integration of research in Canterbury and Brussels on comparative federalism, EU and European Studies and broadening the involvement of staff. Third, and more recently, we have focussed the recruitment of new staff around the creation of the Global Europe Centre, integrating areas of expertise within both Brussels and Canterbury.

Our objectives for the future of our research are covered by a research strategy for the period until 2018, which commits the School to raising all of its research centres to world-leading significance. This will be achieved by further developing the range and scope of our activities and increasing the scale of our resources dedicated to research. Delivery of this strategy is through an annual Research Operating Plan (produced by the School Director of Research working with the SPIR Research Committee) detailing collective objectives for the forthcoming year. The Research Centre Directors set objectives within the Operating Plan for each of our research centres and, in turn, individual staff members produce an Individual Research Plan (updated each year) guiding their research and its relationship to the SPIR research strategy. The research strategy has four strands: support for the production of world class outputs; enhanced researcher mentoring and career development; widening research impact with academic and non-academic research-users; and increasing external grant and contract income.

A sustained commitment of financial and personnel support covering the period 2013-2018 will help ensure SPIR achieves these objectives. We have increased our School funds dedicated to research to £170K per annum, in addition to salary costs and resources made available by the University and the Faculty. These financial resources will be used to increase the number of

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research-related support staff; provide an enhanced School Research Support Fund for seed-corn funding for individual and collaborative research; create a researcher training support budget for specialist training in grant-getting and management; and provide activity funding for the School's research centres. In addition, the School is to create a new Deputy Head of School position to provide dedicated research career planning and training support to all staff members; Directors of research centres are to be provided with additional responsibilities (and hours within the School Workload Allocation Model [WAM]) to provide an enhanced level of appraisal and mentoring of staff; and the School will enhance the capacity of the research centres by providing appropriate administrative staffing support and increasing dedicated funding for research-related activities with non-academic research user engagement (£20K per annum per centre). We also intend to increase the overall level of staffing of our research centres through the active recruitment of established and post-doctoral researchers.

The School's approach to impact is to develop sustained relationships with a wide range of non-academic partners, detailed in REF3a. We build such relationships to enhance the understanding of the relevance of our research outside higher education and to develop symbiotically the skills of our researchers to gain greater reach and significance for their work; and to maintain the vitality and relevance of our research.

**c. People, including:****i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The staffing strategy has been threefold.

First, to ensure dynamic renewal and growth of staff, with an appropriate balance between new entrants and more senior academics, and strong administrative and technical support. The School has taken advantage of its devolved budget to plan actively its staffing strategy in order to ensure that this has been devoted to achieving balanced growth. In the current census period the School has grown significantly in numbers and substantially strengthened our core interests by boosting the expertise within our research centres. We have also greatly expanded administrative and technical support, with the appointment of a dedicated Research Support Officer, alongside our Student Support Officer and a Student Recruitment and Marketing Officer. This not only allows a significant administrative burden to be taken off the shoulders of academics, freeing up time for research, but also allows projects, grant applications, and research monitoring to be achieved in an efficient and effective manner.

Second, to develop the potential and capabilities of our existing staff through the provision of a series of professional development opportunities. This is achieved through numerous mechanisms: a rigorous probation procedure; timely and appropriate support for promotion; time management through our detailed Work Allocation Model (WAM); support for research and conference attendance through our dedicated conference support fund and investment in new research initiatives through our Research Support Fund (RSF); and ensuring that study leave is taken at appropriate intervals and is aligned with the broader goals of our research strategy.

Third, and ultimately most importantly, the School has expended considerable effort in ensuring that it provides an environment conducive to international quality research and scholarship via the support mechanisms outlined above. We have sought to develop an ethos of scholarly excellence and, via continuous appraisal and mentoring of staff, to inculcate the ambition to produce work of the highest quality, published in international outlets or with leading publishers, but always open to critique and intellectual enquiry and inter-disciplinary cross-fertilisation.

From 21 members of academic staff in January 2008, the School has seen an increase of more than 50%, and currently has 35 permanent members of academic staff: 30 at its Canterbury campus and five at our Brussels site. This growth has been closely aligned with our research strategy to consolidate and strengthen our specialist research areas. Throughout these six years the School has consolidated its position as a leading centre for the study and research of Politics and International Studies internationally and nationally. Across the research centres we have country and regional research strengths in the politics and international relations of the UK, European nation states and the EU, eastern Europe and the Caucasus, Russia, the Balkans, China, Japan, the USA, Latin America, Cyprus, Turkey, Africa and the Middle East.

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Our staffing strategy was shaped by the definition of the priority research areas, which involved the consolidation and the strengthening of the Conflict Analysis Research Centre and the development of the new Global Europe Centre and the Centre for Critical Thought. We are committed not only to replace members of staff in these core areas at an appropriate level, but also over the period of assessment we have expanded our staffing base by focusing on recruiting new members of staff to reinforce and broaden the research identity of our research centres. For instance, the recruitment of Morgan-Jones in 2009, Loveless and Whitman in 2011, Korosteleva in 2012 and Haastrup in 2013 has radically raised the profile of Global Europe studies in the School. Similarly, the recruitment of Pabst (2009), Devellennes and Mavelli (2012), and Molloy (2013) was strategically organised in light of expanding first our research on politics and spirituality, and then to widen the area of expertise in contemporary political thought in general. This was also linked to the creation in 2011 of the MA in Political Theory and Practices of Resistance. Finally, CARC has grown significantly in the last five years with eight new members of staff joining (Cunliffe, Basaran and Féron in 2009, Clayton, Loizides and Toros in 2011, Cochrane in 2012, D. Lee in 2013).

A significant number of appointments in the REF review period were investments in researchers early in their careers coming in at the Lecturer level, as we have been keen to build a vibrant and sustainable research community for the future (Basaran, Clayton, Cunliffe, Devellennes, Haastrup, Klekowski von Koppenfels, Loizides, Loveless, Mavelli, Morgan-Jones, Pabst, Toros). However, we have been attentive to the need to ensure strong senior leadership. To this end we have appointed a Senior Lecturer (Féron), a Reader (Molloy), and four professors (Cochrane, Korosteleva, D. Lee and Whitman) in the period. The School Promotions Committee also conducts a proactive policy on advancement, identifying potential candidates early in the annual promotion cycle and encouraging and assisting in their applications, paying close attention to equality of opportunity. Of the existing staff members, just over a dozen have been promoted in the census period. Of the early career researchers listed here, already four (Cunliffe, Loizides, Loveless and Pabst) have been promoted to a Senior Lectureship. Azmanova and Blakeley have been promoted to Reader. New members of staff take the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE), which contains compulsory modules on Effective Research in Higher Education and Research Programme Supervision.

The School undertakes an annual peer review of the research of staff, conducted by the Director of Research and the School's Research Committee. The peer review is carried out to monitor and ensure the rigour and originality of research activities within the School and how they contribute in developing the existing research in the research centre; it also helps to improve the dissemination and recording of research outputs as well as to provide additional information to identify where financial support is required for research conference activities and field work.

Academics receive study leave of one term in seven. In total, 27 staff members had study leave for an aggregate number of 37 terms during the assessment period. In a few cases the School awarded and resourced additional leave to support the completion of longer-term research projects.

The School provides the strongest possible equality of opportunity in the research careers of its staff. We are committed to active participation in the implementation of the Athena SWAN charter across the institution. Our staff recruitment and promotion strategy is based on a proactive policy of attraction and advancement to improve the gender and ethnicity profile of the School. To demonstrate this, in the recent recruitment round we have recruited two female professors (to enhance the School gender distribution at senior level), we have promoted to readerships two female academics, and we made an early career researcher appointment that enhances the black and minority ethnic staff member profile of the School. The University has won a European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award for its institutional arrangements for achieving the key principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The interlinking system of Research Committee and School workload management has helped to identify any issues jeopardising research productivity and provided the Head of School with tools to assist in staff development. The Head of School uses the School's Workload Allocation Model (WAM) to ensure that workloads are balanced across the full range of activities (research, teaching and administration). The WAM has been rebalanced and retuned to give added weight to encourage research. Thus, points are allocated separately for preparing and managing research

grants, as a means of incentivising staff to significantly raise levels of grant income.

## ii. Research students

The University's Graduate School was established in 2008 with a mission 'to lead and champion the strategic development of provision for graduate education and research at the University of Kent'. At the departmental level, our ground-breaking Research School in Politics and International Relations (RSPiR) has been a model for the University. The Graduate School runs the Researcher Development Programme for all postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers. This offers training and career development in line with the Researcher Development Framework and utilises the *Vitae Every Researcher Counts* resources.

The Graduate School strongly supports the personal and career development of postgraduate students. Each year the Postgraduate Experience Awards fund a number of student-led events that have an external and/or interdisciplinary focus. An annual research festival provides a forum for students to present papers and posters as well as to attend lectures focused on their career development. The *GradPost* is a regular postgraduate magazine, edited and contributed to by students and supported by the Graduate School.

The School is committed to help students financially in their postgraduate study. The increase in fully funded doctoral students in the School constitutes one of the most significant changes for postgraduate research since the last census. Scholarships have been funded by the ESRC (through Open Competition, staff Research Awards and, since 2011, the South East Doctoral Training Centre), the James Madison Trust (for the Centre for Federal Studies), as well as highly competitive studentships from the University of Kent and the School. Since 2008 there have been seven ESRC studentships, four full and two partial studentships from the James Madison Trust and 21 studentships from University and School scholarship competitions. Of the 24 research students that have started since September 2012, 20 have been fully funded through this range of prestigious awards.

The School was recognised by the ESRC as a Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) in 2011, with its collaborating universities Surrey, Reading and Royal Holloway. The DTC provided the opportunity to review and revise our research training provision. We have strengthened our core and specialist research training, and have implemented compulsory research training for our new research students at the Canterbury campus. A number of DTC scholarships are available across the consortium each year for the most outstanding candidates in the social sciences. The School has secured five studentships in the open competition with our consortium partners (Kotouza in 2011, Wordingham and Hoppen in 2012, and Abbs and Turner in 2013). A key reason for this success is that the research centres have proved to be nurturing environments for the identification and support of candidates applying for scholarships.

The School, in conjunction with Kent's Schools of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research; Law; and Business; has been awarded £1.15 million for five years (2013-2018) to deliver training to embed quantitative skills training and an understanding of research design in the politics curriculum. The School is co-host of one of fifteen UK Q-Step Centre's funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the ESRC and the HEFCE. The School will also greatly benefit from its membership of the Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South East England (CHASE), which successfully bid to become an AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

The Centre for Federal Studies, in partnership with the Centre for International and European Studies (CIFE) in Nice, has delivered three Summer Schools for doctoral and post-doctoral students (2009-2011), the second of which was held in partnership/collaboration/association with the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

During the assessment period, the School spent over £533k on support for PhD students and a further £281k on the payment of further postgraduate (part-time) teaching and research assistance. Those doctoral students in receipt of scholarships contribute to the life of the research groups in a variety of ways. For example, a University-wide Latin American research cluster, a research-student led initiative under the auspices of the CARC, has been started by three recipients of School Scholarships in 2010 (Thomson, Maher and Ashby); and they secured funding for a conference to explore the security and conflict issues that blight the region.

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Postgraduate funding and research selection are closely aligned to the research activities and objectives of the research centres. In addition, the School has increasingly modelled both postgraduate as well as undergraduate teaching to allow for progressive engagement with our areas of research expertise, from the BA level to the PhD level in Politics and International Relations at Kent. The research culture is all driven from the research centres – and the recent additions of the MA in Migration Studies, the MA in Comparative Politics and the MA in Political Theory and Practices of Resistance are examples of this process. The School has committed itself to create and facilitate a ‘deep-learning’ environment designed to make its research more coherently integrated into teaching practices. This ‘deep-learning’ environment is intended to bring more visibility and space to the work undertaken by the researchers as well as to allow students to greatly benefit from the distinctiveness of the School as a research and teaching institution.

In 2009 the School won a University Supervision Prize (for the work of Rossbach) for the overall structure of the research school. These award-winning support structures provide an excellent environment for students to produce high-quality work in good time. One of the key indicators of the success of this supportive environment is growing number of successful completions. As the figures in REF4 demonstrate, successful completions have almost quadrupled between 2008 and 2013. Another important indicator is that two research students were recently awarded the Cedric Smith Prize for best graduate paper given by the Conflict Research Society: Dr Suda Perera (2011/12) and Dr Govinda Clayton (2012/13). The doctoral completion figures provided in our REF4 do not reflect the full story of our successful record of PhD awards as our Brussels-based PhD student completions are excluded under HESA reporting requirements. The number of successfully completed PhDs at BSIS between 2008-2013 was 11, making a total for the School over the period of 45.5, of which 15.5 were in 2012/13.

In the context of a growing research school it has been recognised that the new intake of scholarship students require space to work and exchange ideas. The School has increased its provision from one mixed work and social space to two fully equipped work rooms dedicated to research students and four fully equipped work rooms for those who also teach. New staff and PGR social space has also been created in the last two years. In addition, research students are able to apply for dedicated work space within the library.

The School runs a weekly Graduate Research and Training Seminar (GRTS), which is at the centre of our developmental and training work for our research community. In addition to student presentations, GRTS also features regular professional skills and academic research training sessions.

The School also holds an annual conference for postgraduate research students. This is a one-day event held every summer term. The majority of research students present their work as panel members, and academic staff act as discussants. Keynote and plenary speakers that have joined us in recent years include Prof Richard Jackson, Prof Stephen Chan, Prof David Phinnemore.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The University’s dedicated research support office provides advice and training in developing, costing, negotiating and managing research grants, and more broadly in supporting the University’s research culture. This includes facilitating interdisciplinary working, through regular ‘PVC Lunchtime Seminars’ and internal funding to support the development of large, complex and interdisciplinary projects; an Early Career Researcher Network, which encourages ECRs to meet those in other Schools and share good practice; and the award winning ‘Grants Factory’ programme, in which staff who have been involved with Research Councils and major charities provide advice to those with less experience. All of these initiatives are supported by a comprehensive information service, utilising traditional and new media, such as surgeries in Schools, visits, newsletters, email updates, Twitter, and a ground-breaking blog, ‘Fundermentals’.

The School devotes considerable financial resources to the support of research. In addition to salary expenditure the School provides core funding to the research centres, as well as underwriting major international conferences and events, a dedicated conference and workshop attendance support fund for staff (£2K pa per researcher), and a £50K Research Support Fund (RSF) open to all staff to support seed-corn funding of new initiatives, workshop activities to pursue new research agendas, and for additional conference attendance support. In 2013 the School

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created a new Annual Thematic Research Programme fund with £40K (four £10K grants) available per annum to encourage the development of new strands of collaborative research within each of its four research centres.

The School's funding allocation strategy is to offer enhanced support for training needs of early career researchers, especially probationers, and to prioritise support for internationally significant research that strongly contributes to an increase in the impact and vitality of the research centres. These financial resources include funds available for conference and workshop support and other activities to raise the international profile of the School.

The School is further supported by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kent by the Small Grant scheme (up to £5K) to make further grant bids. Twenty members of the School were recipients of these small grants, enabling them to successfully bid to larger funding schemes. Within each research group there are strong incentives to submit yearly grant applications to national as well as European funding bodies. Successful grants are core to each centre's research and help to frame the agenda of the research activities. Research groups within the research centres play a key role in the incubation of research ideas and projects.

These strategies have proved to be successful. CARC staff have obtained awards individually, or in consortia, in excess of £980K in a total of eight research grants. The CFS has continued to receive James Madison Trust funds. The GEC has already secured over £500K funding via the EU's Jean Monnet programme, and the CCT will make grant application success one of their key objectives for the next REF period.

The School receives significant central support to maintain an excellent research infrastructure for staff and research students. The main resource in this context is the University's Templeman Library, which has a dedicated Academic Liaison Librarian who regularly attends School meetings and works with the School's Library Representative. The library is currently being extended and enhanced to the cost of £27 million. The Politics and International Relations library materials fund stands at £148K for 2013/14. Key research resources are protected by inclusion in a 'top slice' to which Schools contribute according to staff and student numbers. These resources include journal 'bundles' from major publishers including Wiley Blackwell, Sage, OUP, ScienceDirect and Springer as well as resources including Academic Search Complete, FT.com, Nexis, Keesings, Web of Science and Scopus. In addition to these, the School subscribes to a further 138 individual journal titles of direct relevance to Politics and IR outside the main publisher 'bundles'. All but a handful of these titles are available online. The Library was also able to make strategic outright purchases of *The Economist* and *Financial Times* archives this year, providing permanent access. All online resources are authenticated by EZProxy and/or Shibboleth and are available anywhere and at any time.

The School's Research Ethics and Governance Officer works with their University counterpart to guide and advise researchers on good research practice, ethical review and regulatory requirements, providing policy, guidance and training. A network of research ethics committees (RECs) convenes at Faculty or School level, dependent on volume of applications, to ensure review timescales are kept to a minimum. RECs report to the University-level Research Ethics and Governance Committee which acts as a forum for the sharing of best practice and ensures that research integrity is established at the heart of the University's research activities.

The School has supported international-level research collaboration by continuing to fund its membership of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House) and the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES). At the level of individual staff, the School has spent a total of over £77K to support conference attendance by researchers between 2008 and 2013, with the expenditure targeted towards the travel and subsistence costs of early career researchers to encourage engagement with internationally significant conferences such as the International Studies Association (ISA).

**e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

Members of the School play a significant role in the Political Studies Association (PSA), American Political Science Association (APSA), British International Studies Association (BISA), International

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Studies Association (ISA), the Conflict Research Society, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), the Jean Monnet networks, the Politics Association, and the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES). These ties, a cosmopolitan staff and a range of international teaching collaborations, endow the School with a strongly European and international character.

Blakeley is the elected Secretary of BISA (January 2012-December 2014) and programme chair for the annual BISA conference 2013-2015. She also served as a member of the BISA Board of Trustees from January 2010-December 2011. Dardanelli is a member of the Executive Board of the Comparative Federalism and Federation research committee (RC28) of the International Political Science Association. Pabst is a Fellow of the Centre of Theology and Philosophy. Korosteleva is a co-opted member of the BASEES executive committee responsible for developing synergies between BASEES and UACES. Sakwa has been ex officio member of the BASEES executive committee since 2002 and is an Associate Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), a member of the Advisory Boards of the Institute of Law and Public Policy in Moscow, chair of the Advisory Board of the Eurasian Political Studies Network and elected an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2002. Whitman is an Associate Fellow Chatham House and of the European Policy Centre, was elected an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in October 2007 and the elected Chair of UACES 2009-2012.

Our peer reviewed academic journal *Global Society* (published by Taylor and Francis) promotes the analysis of the internationalisation and globalisation from a multitude of disciplines, including international relations and political science.

The fortnightly School of Politics and International Relations Research Seminar (SPIRRS) for staff and doctoral students provides a venue for members of staff and research postgraduate to listen and meet some of the leading figures of the discipline and its multiple specialist branches.

The School is home to the editors of four Routledge book series: *Europe and the Nation State* (Burgess), *Studies in Federalism* (Burgess and Dardanelli), *Russian and East European Studies* (Sakwa) and *Studies in European Security and Strategy* (Whitman). D. Lee is editor of the Palgrave *Diplomacy and International Relations* series. Burgess sits on the advisory editorial board of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* and the editorial board of *Regional and Federal Studies* with Dardanelli as its Review Editor. Dardanelli is advisor to *Federal Governance*, a new online journal for postgraduates. SPIRRS provides associate editors for four journals: *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (Kurtulus), *Critical Studies on Terrorism* (Blakeley), *TELOS* (Pabst) and *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* (Loizides). Basaran is a member of the editorial board of *Cultures & Conflicts*. D. Lee is a member of the editorial board of *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy* and *The International Journal of Diplomacy and Business*. Loizides sits on the editorial board of *Federal Governance* published by the Forum of Federations. Whitman is on the editorial boards of *European Security* and *Studia Diplomatica*.

The School's four research centres are the cornerstones of our wider contribution to the discipline. The **CARC** carries on a long-standing Kent tradition of academic impact beyond higher education. Pioneering academics such as John Burton, John Groom, Hugh Miall, Chris Mitchell, and Keith Webb have shaped a long tradition of public policy intervention in the field currently continued by Blakeley, Cochrane, and Loizides and other CARC members. Across the period of review covered by the REF, the CARC has received funding from the British Academy, ESRC, European Commission, Leverhulme, Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada) to support research investigating and benefiting populations most directly affected by conflict and its consequences. Currently funded projects have focused, for instance, on rendition/secret detention (Blakeley), the securitisation of displacement (Hammerstad), the role of diasporas in conflict mitigation (Miall) and the conditions enabling peaceful return of displaced persons (Loizides). Research at CARC has also focused on assisting parties to reach workable arrangements in divided societies, for instance in Bosnia (Aybet and Bieber) and have explored critical issues of international security such as energy diversification (Stokes). The inaugural John Burton Lecture in May 2013 was presented by Prof Stathis Kalyvas (Yale). Overall, the CARC has maintained and further developed an international reputation on research of critical importance for world politics and particularly vulnerable communities impacted

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by violent conflict.

The **CFS** is the only such centre of its kind in the UK. It has become the hub of research activities on federalism in the UK, attracting visiting scholars from abroad and a total of eight PhD students for the School. Burgess (Director of the CFS) is the Vice-President of the International Association of Centres for Federal Studies (IACFS) and a member of the 'Comparative Federalism and Federation' Research Committee of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). The CFS has been at the cutting-edge of international research on comparative federalism.

The Centre hosted the inaugural Annual Conference of the International Association of Centres for Federal Studies (IACFS) in September 2009. In 2008 and in 2011 it hosted the Biennial International Research Workshops on, respectively, 'Sub-national Constitutions: Explaining Change and Development in Federations and Federal Political Systems' (in partnership with the Centre for State Constitutional Studies, Rutgers University) and 'History as Past Politics and Politics as Current History: The Contemporary Significance of Historical Legacies in Federations and Federal Political Systems' (UNED, Madrid). The Centre also hosts an annual lecture delivered by an internationally significant scholar, with recent speakers including Prof Richard Simeon, (University of Toronto, Canada) and Prof Ferran Requero (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain). The proceedings of these events have been published as edited volumes of essays, the most recent of which has been based on interdisciplinary research with legal scholars from the Center for State Constitutional Studies at Rutgers University (Burgess output 3).

The objectives of the **CCT** have been to focus on the critique of liberalism, and the return of the political and the interactions of spiritual experience, religious practices and political action involved in the formation of persons, communities and societies around the world. It organises the prestigious annual Kent Lecture in Political and Social Thought that attracts an audience of c300 (William Outhwaite in 2011, Chantal Mouffe in 2012, Bernard Stiegler in 2013); an annual Winter Workshop on 'the political'; Beacon Lectures aimed at communicating the pertinence of political thought to contemporary issues to first year and school students from the local area; and a number of collaborative ventures with colleagues from other disciplines, including Theatre Studies, Philosophy, Law and Italian. These activities provide a blend of internal support for research work in progress and external stimulation to provoke fundamental research into the political. In February 2012 the then-nascent CCT co-organised the international conference on *Deleuze, Philosophy and Transdisciplinarity*, and *Creative Practices/Resistant Acts: Cultural Production and Emerging Democracies in Revolutionary Nations* in May 2012 with the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London.

Our newest centre, the **GEC**, has already established an important position since its launch in May 2013. Its work explores the relationship between the wider Europe and European Union and the interaction with the processes of global politics and global political economy. The GEC hosts the Energy Analysis Group (EAG) which studies Europe as a global actor on energy issues. EAG workshops highlight, analyse and make policy recommendations on key contemporary issues within energy, bringing together participants from political, economic and industry based energy organisations, as well as involvement from higher education institutions across the UK and Europe. These events have benefited from the support of the British Academy, Chatham House, College of Europe, the Finnish Institute, Pan-European Institute, COPURA (in Germany), EGMONT, the Royal Institute for International Relations (in Belgium) and the Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies (CEELBAS).

In summary, Politics and International Studies research at the University of Kent operates within a dynamic environment which provides a strongly supportive and intellectually invigorating context for researchers. Our research environment is designed to ensure maximum impact for our research, beyond higher education. The significantly increasing scale and scope of our activities across the last six years, coupled with our strong focus on originality and national and international collaboration, demonstrates the strong vitality of our research environment. Our continuing investment in resources to support our research agenda, and our staff, highlights our sustained commitment to maintaining the international significance of Politics and International Studies research at the University of Kent.