

Institution: University of Warwick
Unit of Assessment: Politics and International Studies
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Engaging with non-academic beneficiaries is in the DNA of who we are and what we do: impact is fostered from post-doctoral researchers to the professoriate. Our core strengths are concentrated in three priority areas where PAIS achieves sustained reach and significance arising from international and interdisciplinary research: i) Informing and shaping the policy agendas of UK and overseas governments; ii) Influencing international policy communities, international organisations (IOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs); and iii) Enhancing international media and public debate. PAIS supports depth of engagement with user-groups by integrating them throughout the research lifecycle. This facilitates collaboration, the refinement of research design and the co-production of knowledge and output. Four RCUK impact awards worth £300,433 have supported activity in the present cycle: 'Enhancing Interaction between the Business and Trade Policy Communities' (ESRC, 2007-8, PI: Higgott); 'Policy Lessons from the Declassification and Management of US Intelligence and Security Records' (AHRC, 2011-12, PI: Aldrich, with Moran); 'Science and Security: Research Impact and the Co-Production of Knowledge' (ESRC 2013-15, PI: Croft, with Christou, Coaffee, Hassan and Vaughan-Williams); and 'Kenya 2013-2014: From election monitoring to longer-term reform' (ESRC, 2013-14, PI: Lynch).</p> <p><u>Informing and shaping policy agendas of UK and overseas governments</u></p> <p>First and foremost, PAIS has demonstrable impact in informing and shaping governments' policies, redrafting national and international legislation and shaping perceptions and behaviour among policy-makers. Beneficiaries in this context include UK government departments and agencies (e.g. Cabinet Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Pesticides Safety Directorate); overseas national governments (e.g. Australia, China, Egypt, India, Russia, US); and the EU Commission and Parliament (e.g. Home Affairs, Trade, External Policies). PAIS academics regularly present evidence to select committees (e.g. Higgott and Breslin appeared before the House of Lords European Sub-Committee in 2008 and 2010). In 2008 Higgott's ESRC funded research made recommendations that were adopted by the Australian Government's review of trade policy; in 2009 Grant's BBSRC funded project helped to design and implement new UK and EU regulation of biopesticide registration and usage; since 2010 Youngs' United Nations funded work has challenged conventional wisdom among EU elites on the prospects for democracy and human rights promotion in the Middle East; and for the past decade Breslin's variously funded research programme has shaped FCO thinking on UK China policy and relations. Lynch's 'Kenya's 2013 Election' project – funded by the FCO, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence through the African Conflict Prevention Pool – helped inform and shape the interventions of the UK government and other donors in the run-up to and immediate aftermath of Kenya's 2013 election through the coordination of "timely policy briefs and interactive discussions" by a team of 10 academics (FCO letter, 5 February 2013 available on request).</p> <p><u>Influencing international policy communities, IOs, and NGOs</u></p> <p>A second priority is to influence international policy communities. Users of our research include international institutions and organisations (e.g. the International Monetary Fund (IMF)); international think tanks (e.g. <i>Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior</i> (FRIDE)); non-governmental organisations (e.g. Ethical Sugar); and the private sector (e.g. the International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association). For example, Breslin has engaged in high-level knowledge transfer events with key stakeholders and policy networks on China via his involvement with i) the Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) and ii) the European Council on Foreign Relations. Scholte's Ford Foundation-funded research (2008-12) led to greater co-operation between IOs such as the IMF and civil society groups, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in global governance. Testimonials available on request demonstrate that Rai's research on gender, depletion and the role of women's work in national and international political economies has informed ActionAid's 'Unpaid Care Work Programme' in Africa (2011). Richardson is a member of the multi-stakeholder roundtable Bonsucro and a consultant for the Nuffield Council on bioethics for biofuels. PAIS enjoys strategic partnerships with influential think tanks, for instance Youngs' Directorship of FRIDE (since 2004), McCrisken's Directorship of the British-American Science Information Council (BASIC) (since 2007) and Breslin's Fellowship of Chatham House (since 2010). 18 PAIS staff engage with 25 think tanks, of which 10 are ranked in the 'Top 50' of the 2012 Go To Think Tank survey demonstrating international influence.</p>

Enhancing national and international media and public debate

PAIS research informs international media coverage of pressing issues. This activity has consolidated our profile as a powerhouse for cutting-edge, socially relevant research. We are consulted by outlets such as the BBC, *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *Handelsblatt*, *The Independent*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Our media engagement extends beyond high-level dissemination to enhance public debate and inform understanding. For example, Seabrooke's research on international financial regulation shaped media responses to the 2008 financial crisis. Aldrich and Moran's AHRC funded project raised popular awareness of state secrecy via primetime appearances in BBC documentaries such as 'The Fall of Singapore: The Great Betrayal' (aired on 23 May, 2012 on BBC2) and the flagship BBC2 programme *Newsnight* (10 June, 2013 attracting c.600,000 viewers). PAIS research also fosters direct public engagement, for example Scholte has given 51 presentations across 23 countries to audiences over 2,000 and his talk at Occupy London in 2011 attracted 23,000 followers on Twitter.

b. Approach to impact

There is a very strong culture of international networking in PAIS. We believe in a complex research ecology whereby our research benefits society and culture, and users inform and critique our research throughout its lifecycle. For this purpose, and to steer departmental strategy, in May 2013 we established the PAIS Impact Advisory Board, chaired by former Secretary of State for Defence Rt. Hon Bob Ainsworth MP, with representatives from media (Simon McGee, Head of Media, Department for International Development), business (Dr Cho Khong, Director of Political Analysis, Shell International), local government (Helen Braithwaite OBE, Head of Central Resilience Team, Department for Communities and Local Government), civil society (Elisa Peters, Senior Policy Officer, The Elders) and arts and culture (Paul Warwick, Director, China Plate Theatre). Alongside the Advisory Board, which provides direct advice on how to engage with impact communities, a range of departmental and University infrastructures are exploited to deepen relationships with beneficiaries and secure maximum impact. One of the central vehicles for bridging academic and non-academic stakeholders is the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR), which is a world-class research hub designed explicitly to encourage high-level impact activity in PAIS across our three priority areas.

The Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation

Currently directed by Breslin, the intellectual focus of CSGR is the changing nature of global order and the relationship between global and regional levels of analysis. Funded initially with over £4.3M from the ESRC (1997-2007), CSGR was established with the specific remit of creating opportunities for integrating key user groups in PAIS research. One mechanism for identifying research problems, co-producing findings with user groups and securing influence beyond academia is via the concept of the 'Warwick Commission'. This major University initiative, pioneered by PAIS staff during the RAE2008 reporting period, brings together an international and interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners to produce research-led recommendations and influence public policy and debate. During the current REF reporting period there have been two such Commissions on transnational regulatory regimes and both were directed from and embedded within CSGR/PAIS. Another key impact mechanism delivered via CSGR is GR:EEN (Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks). A €10 million European Commission FP7 funded project running from 2011-15, GR:EEN comprises a consortium of 16 international partners from various disciplines. The project studies the current and future role of the European Union in an emerging multi-polar world through a programme of stocktaking, multi-disciplinary research and complementary impact activities. GR:EEN shares its research findings through a web portal (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/csgr/green/>), newsletter (with a distribution list of 47,000), bespoke knowledge transfer events (in Madrid, Milan and Rome since 2011), policy-orientated impact dialogues and briefings on current affairs. Research impact is achieved through a dedicated work programme based on a 'Functional Calendar' of EU parliamentary events and the use of 'Case Study Integrity Fora' (CSIF). The purpose of CSIFs is to engage policy makers, major IOs and market leaders and present work-in-progress within a workshop format. Since 2008 CSGR/GR:EEN researchers in PAIS have used the CSIF format to engage with representatives from: the Foreign Affairs Select Committee; the Ministry of Defence; the Industry-Parliamentary Trust; the All Party Parliamentary China Group; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the UK Cabinet Office; the House of Lords EU Sub-Committee C; and ECRAN.

Investing in PAIS impact mechanisms to support all colleagues

Impact template (REF3a)

Beyond the externally-funded work of CSGR/GR:EEN, departmental strategy is to encourage and support all PAIS researchers in achieving impact from their research by engaging with external users in one or more of our priority areas. PAIS has sought to showcase research impact and to institutionalise external network building to develop links between the Department and areas of practice. We have updated and refocused our web presence, and produced a bespoke impact brochure. In June 2013 we organised a milestone impact event at the House of Commons – hosted by Rt. Hon Bob Ainsworth and with Advisory Board members and other non-academic beneficiaries in attendance – designed to highlight our six case studies and establish future impact priorities. PAIS continues to organise regular high-level briefings with public bodies such as the Industry and Parliamentary Trust and a range of impact events at Westminster, Whitehall and Brussels. The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) has strategic oversight of PAIS impact activity. In 2011 a designated Director of Research (Impact) was appointed (Vaughan-Williams) along with a Research Impact/Dissemination Officer to manage departmental PR (Richardson). PAIS has also secured HEIF funding for the appointment of Post-Doctoral Research Assistants to maintain an archive of impact work and liaise with end-users (Greaves and Hammond). DRC is a key mechanism for supporting colleagues through the provision of impact training at research away days, the dissemination of new information regarding the impact agenda and the coordination of tailored feedback on impact related research proposals. PAIS has developed an intranet resource to inform impact activity, the Cluster Activity Research Proposal (CARP) mechanism to support stakeholder events and we also provide desk space and administrative support for Visiting Impact Fellows who help us to bridge academic and policy worlds (e.g. Rachel Briggs from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue). Generous financial and administrative support enables colleagues to hold external appointments and concurrent Directorships and Fellowships of think tanks and policy research institutes (e.g. Breslin, McCrisken and Youngs). As well as nurturing a strong culture of impact, these strategic collaborations allow us to co-produce research with end-users, for example McCrisken and Rai have secured ESRC PhD studentships working with BASIC and BasicNeeds.

Exploiting institutional support to secure maximum impact

Various institutional mechanisms at both Faculty and University levels are exploited in order to optimise the impact of PAIS research. We have worked closely with Research Support Services (RSS) and the Faculty Research Impact Officer to develop our impact strategy, to advise colleagues on designing impact into their research plans and to provide on-going impact training. Through this collaboration we have shared best practice on impact with colleagues in other departments throughout the Faculty of Social Sciences. Via the Institute of Advanced Study, PAIS has received funding for the appointment of Visiting Impact Fellowships (e.g. Mr Ravindra Garimella, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Parliament of India in partnership with Rai). These Fellowships have enhanced opportunities for engagement with key non-academic user-groups and helped to raise the profile of PAIS internationally. We also work closely with the University Communications Office in order to coordinate press releases, media interviews and social media channels including the online 'Knowledge Centre' portal <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/knowledge/>.

c. Strategy and plans

PAIS will enhance existing strengths in our three core impact areas by developing mechanisms through which further opportunities can be identified, supported and realised. Our plan for maximising impact has five elements that reflect broader departmental research strategy:

1) To foster world leading, international, and interdisciplinary impact-facing research

a) We will consolidate our reputation for impact in International Political Economy and International Relations and Security via CSGR and develop Comparative Politics and Democratisation and Political Theory to an equivalent status via the Centre for Studies in Democratisation and Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs.

b) We will continue to appoint high quality academic staff and use impact track record and future impact plans as criteria for appointments. In the short-term, we are investing in a new full-time administrative post to assist in the delivery of our impact strategy, manage key stakeholder relationships and develop new infrastructures to measure and capture impact.

2) To enhance our culture of research impact

a) We will continue the process of cultivating a stronger 'impact first' philosophy for policy-oriented research. Our strategy is to ensure that impact is designed into research before it commences.

b) Researchers in PAIS will be incentivised to develop their profile by making impact a core component of applications for research study leave and grant income. We will use the Annual

Impact template (REF3a)

Personal Research Review process to support impact training and development.
 c) We currently have excellent examples of impact that are focused on specific individuals, projects and centres. Our ambition is to connect all of our colleagues to impact groups spanning all four research clusters in order to maximise relationships with key beneficiaries and users.

3) To support the next generation of impactful researchers

- a) We are taking active steps to ensure impact occupies a pre-eminent position in the mentoring of post-doctoral researchers, typically via a programme of targeted workshops (e.g. media training).
- b) We will continue to apply for impact-facing RCUK funded PhD studentships.

4) To benchmark against the highest international standards

- a) Systematic evaluation of impact activity will be put in place through internal and external peer review of existing research projects and future research proposals.
- b) We will draw on the expertise of our Impact Advisory Board to act as external non-academic peer reviewers of our impact strategy and future research outputs.
- c) We will embed a series of quantitative impact measurement techniques (e.g. Google analytics) to judge how our online research is reaching and influencing key user-groups.

5) To raise the international profile of PAIS impact

- a) We will enhance our online presence via targeted podcasts and online interviews with impact champions, a new research impact-focused blog 'Politics@Warwick' (<http://politicsatwarwick.net>) and an outward-facing impact portal with a directory of research expertise for end-users.
- b) Through our Impact Advisory Board we will develop external networks and exploit new opportunities to showcase PAIS research, typically in Westminster, Brussels and online.

d. Relationship to case studies

Taken together, our six case studies reflect the considerable reach and scope of PAIS research across the three priority areas. Our impact is demonstrably *international* understood both in terms of the substantive content of projects and their range of beneficiaries. In some cases the nature of the research is comparative, as reflected in the study of intelligence across UK and US contexts in *Landscapes of Secrecy* and the role of regulatory frameworks in the UK and EU in *Biopesticides*. In others, such as *China and the Changing Global Order*, the intellectual focus is on particular states in the global order. That order is itself the subject of *Regulating Global Trade and Finance*, *Civil Society and Global Governance*, and *EU Human Rights and Democracy*. Beneficiaries of the research featured in the case studies include not only UK government departments and agencies (e.g. the FCO in *China and the Changing Global Order* and the DA-Notice Committee in *Landscapes of Secrecy*), but also overseas national governments (e.g. Australian trade policy in *Regulating Global Trade and Finance*), the EU Commission and Parliament (e.g. the European External Action Service in *EU Human Rights and Democracy* and the EU's REBECA programme in *Biopesticides*), IOs (e.g. the IMF in *Civil Society and Global Governance*), NGOs (e.g. Bonsucro in *Regulating Global Trade and Finance*) and international media (e.g. *The Economist* in *Regulating Global Trade and Finance*). The case studies also reflect the genuinely *interdisciplinary* nature of research in PAIS. While our research tackles issues found at the core of the discipline of Politics and International Studies, we do so by working collaboratively with, for example, biologists (*Biopesticides*), economists (*Regulating Global Trade and Finance*, *Civil Society and Global Governance*, *China and the Changing Global Order*), and historians (*Landscapes of Secrecy*). As such, our research profile spans the remit of – and has been supported with external income from – three RCUK councils (AHRC, BBSRC and ESRC). All six case studies also reflect the range of *infrastructural mechanisms* on offer in PAIS that are designed to enhance impact opportunities throughout the research lifecycle. The centrality of CSGR as a hub for coordinating PAIS research impact activity is reflected by the fact that four case studies showcase underpinning research that was supported by and developed under its auspices and/or that of GR:EEN (*Regulating Global Trade and Finance*, *Civil Society and Global Governance*, *China and the Changing Global Order*, *EU Human Rights and Democracy*). Three of our case studies have benefited from direct engagement with Impact Advisory Board members from the design phase (Elisa Peter was consulted as part of *Civil Society and Global Governance* and *China and the Changing Global Order*; Dr Cho Khong acted in an advisory capacity for *Regulating Global Trade and Finance*). Finally, all colleagues featured in our case studies have received generous teaching relief, administrative assistance and financial support for impact activity and have benefited from the Department's established reputation as a world-leading centre of excellence in research.