

Institution: University of Dundee

Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies

a. Context

The Politics and International Relations team have a strong record of interaction with members of the non-academic community at the local, national and international levels. Members of the team have presented the findings of their research to:

1) Members of the Scottish parliament, EU commissioners (Alex **Wright** – research on devolution and the fisheries industry in Scotland to members of the Scottish Government and Parliament);

2) Members of the diplomatic community and researchers in the analytical departments of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence (research of Martin **Elvins** on the international drugs trade, Xuanli **Liao** on EU and Chinese energy policy; Cameron **Ross** on Russian politics);

3) UN and NATO officials and members of the analytical departments of these institutions (Alan **Dobson** on transatlantic relations);

4) EU officials, politicians (Sarah **Leonard** and Christian **Kaunert** on European Security);

5) Police officers and policy makers on policing in Scotland (Martin **Elvins** on drug policy and police custody; Jonathan **Mendel** on police reform);

6) Journalists in the print and broadcast media in the UK and abroad (Alan **Dobson** was a historical adviser and participant in 'US War Plan Red: a TV documentary for Channel 5 and the History Channel broadcast 20 September 2011, David **Torrance** is a regular contributor to BBC Newsnight Scotland, Jonathan **Mendel** contributed to Times Higher Education Supplement pieces on government research and Freedom of Information Act requests. He has also used social media to engage around issues of government research and research impact. This generated significant discussion – over 230 comments on one piece – and aspects of this were Tweeted/Retweeted to more than 70,000);

7) European Political Parties activists and policy-makers (Richard **Dunphy** on European left parties, and the politics of coalition formation);

8) Members of national and international NGOs and legal bodies (Edzia **Carvalho**, human rights; Jonathan **Mendel**, human trafficking);

9) Members of the wider public (in 2012-13 David **Torrance** was a leading participant in a series of public debates ("5 Million Questions") on the Scottish Independence Referendum. These debates, which are organised by the College of Arts and Social Sciences (University of Dundee) were set up to stimulate wider discussion, apply academic rigour to the examination of these issues, and to engage with the public on all aspects of the Independence question. **Torrance** also helped organise the 'Reporting the Referendum' event on 12 April 2013, when a distinguished panel of media representatives discussed press & broadcast coverage of issues surrounding the independence referendum.

b. Approach to impact

Our programme actively supports high quality research which leads to non-academic impact. Members of staff have been supported financially and have been provided with sabbatical leave to engage in research which promotes interaction with the policy making community, politicians and researchers in local, national, and international governments. Members of the Politics and International Relations team have:

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1) Attended and given evidence to committees of the Scottish Parliament and the European Commission (over the period 2000-9, Alex **Wright** presented evidence from his extensive research on the Scottish Fishery Industry to the European Committee of the Scottish Parliament and the European Commission. In September 2009 he provided written evidence to the European Commission in response to its Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. **Wright** also presented written evidence to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee at the House Commons on Scotland and the EU (August 2008) and he provided written evidence to the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on Scotland (December 2009));

2) Presented evidence of their research to EU officials and diplomats (Christian **Kaunert** and Sarah **Leonard**, Ecole Nationale d'administration Paris, 24.04.13);

3) Organised conferences/workshops at Dundee where civil servants, senior politicians and researchers in government analytical departments participated (Alex **Wright** – conference on Scottish Devolution June 2011 which was attended by the Scottish Finance Minister and civil servants from the Scottish Government; Cameron **Ross** - conferences on Russian politics, June 2009 and June 2013 which were funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and included participants from the FCO; **Dobson** was a Discussant and Panel Leader at a NATO sponsored conference in Lisbon in May 2010; Jonathan **Mendel** organised workshops on human trafficking in 2013);

4) Organised workshops for political activists and policy-makers interested in European politics (Richard **Dunphy** – workshops on European Left Party. See details in his impact case study);

5) been invited to and attended conferences organised by the UK Government and international bodies (Martin **Elvins** was invited as a rapporteur at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Wilton Park conference on the international drugs trade (WP1029 Latin America: Tackling the cocaine trade, 19-21 April 2010). He authored a 6,000-word conference report that was circulated to all delegates and published on the Wilton Park website in May 2010. Xuanli **Liao** was also invited to present two papers at Wilton Park conferences (WP911: Energy Security in the European Union: Green Linkages and Black Sea Synergy, 13–16 May 2008 and WP932: “Trade-related Issues – Labour Standards and Environmental Agreements: the New Protectionism or Do They Make Globalisation Palatable?” 19-21 October, 2008). She also presented a paper on EU Security in Brussels which was organised by the European Commission-Joint Research Centre, 31 January 2013, and she participated in a high level roundtable symposium, on international affairs organised by the International Forum of the Deutsche Bank, which was held in Moscow, 19-20 June 2008. In 2009 Jonathan **Mendel** presented a paper to the Ministry of Defence Science and Technology Laboratory project on social change and he was also invited to participate in a special symposium organised by the Ministry of Defence);

6) Worked directly with public bodies to help improve policy (research carried out by Martin **Elvins** on policing in Scotland had an impact on police practice concerning police custody – see his impact case study).

c. Strategy and plans

Our impact strategy has three key aims: 1) to provide new forums where members of the team can discuss ways of generating greater non-academic impact, 2) to seek new ways of disseminating the results of our research to a wider audience, 3) to support research initiatives which bring together academics from our programme with non-academic experts and practitioners.

Our current plan is to provide greater levels of financial support for research which has a non-academic impact. To this end members of staff are being encouraged to develop their existing relations with policy makers in local, national and international governments, EU officials and politicians, and members of the analytical departments of government ministries and NGOs. In addition, our sabbatical policy will incentivise staff to focus on funded activities with proven

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impact value. We shall also seek to appoint new members of staff who have a strong impact record. In the coming REF cycle we shall organise a series of impact seminars to develop ideas for new collaborative research projects that will generate high quality impact. Funds shall also be made available (and grants sought) for a series of conferences and workshops which will bring together academics, members of NGOs, officials, and researchers from the Scottish and UK governments, the EU and NATO. We shall also support sabbatical leave for members of our team who apply for internships in UK ministries and EU institutions, and we shall explore new ways of disseminating the results of our research to as wide a public as possible through much greater use of social media and digital marketing.

Two of our new members of staff (**Kaunert** and **Leonard**) are experts on European security. The politics programme shall actively support their further engagement with members of the EU parliament and executive bodies. Here we shall capitalise on the recent success of **Kaunert** who has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in EU Justice and Home Affairs. The project team based in Politics will serve as a hub that connects to the different stakeholders in the field of EU internal security, i.e., EU policy-makers, civil society and the academic community. It will provide an important platform for the exchange of ideas between policy-makers, civil society and academia in the field of EU internal security. Our new Centre for Freedom, Security and Justice, which we plan to be up and running in September 2014, will play a key role in supporting these initiatives and generating new research projects.

Carvalho, who researches human rights, is an associate member of the Geneva Foundation, a human rights advocacy group. We shall support the dissemination of her research to members of the NGO community. **Ross** will continue to develop his extensive contacts with the Head and members of the Eastern Research Group in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where he has already built up close relations. He shall organise seminars at Dundee which will bring together members of the FCO and academics to discuss Russian domestic and foreign policy.

We shall also build on our close relations with other schools and research bodies in the University, such as the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) based at Dundee. **Martin Elvins**, **Christian Kaunert**, **Sarah Leonard** and **Jonathan Mendel** have worked with this Institute. **Jonathan Mendel** is developing an ESRC application on forensic anthropology, with a Co-I in Life Sciences. Finally, we are currently exploring the possibility of working on collaborative research projects with the School of Law and with the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy. Academics, practitioners and policy makers in these areas will be invited to participate in workshops at Dundee. This initiative has developed from our recent work with these schools to create new taught postgraduate programmes which will begin in 2014 and 2015.

d. Relationship to case studies

Each of our case studies reflects the success of our strategy in producing research publications which have been of value outside of the academic milieu and have generated strong non-academic impact. Thus, for example, the authors of our two case studies, **Richard Dunphy** and **Martin Elvins**, were granted sabbatical leave (of one semester) to carry out the research which underpins their impact case studies. The field work for the impact case studies was also part funded by the Politics and IR programme. Travel funds from the Politics and International Relations Programme have also helped to finance **Dunphy** and **Elvin's** participation at international conferences and public forums where the results of their case studies have been disseminated. Funds were made available for **Elvins** to present a paper at the Nordic Police Research Conference held at the Finnish Police College in November 2012. Likewise, **Dunphy** was provided with a travel grant to attend the Conference on Europarties, organised by the University of Maastricht, 20-21 June 2011.