

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Exeter</p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 21 Politics and International Studies</p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>Researchers in the Department, working through five research centres, have generated several different kinds of impact for beneficiaries in the UK, other countries, and at international level:</p> <p><b>i) Influencing government organisations' policy and practice:</b> An ongoing relationship with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Natural England enables Centre for Rural Policy Research (CRPR) ecosystems research to influence agri-environmental policy (see impact case study). The UK Electoral Commission was reassured about adequate information from the media for voters in 2011's concurrent referendums and elections by <b>Banducci</b> and <b>Stevens</b> research (Centre for Elections, Media and Participation (CEMaP)). The New Zealand Electoral Commission improved voting administration using <b>Vowles</b> and <b>Karp's</b> research (see impact case study). An ongoing relationship with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office includes Centre for Advanced International Studies (CAIS) policy briefings: <b>Dumper</b> on managing conflict in Jerusalem (with an influential 2009 policy paper), <b>Heathershaw</b> on Central Asia (including to new ambassadors), and <b>Stokes</b> (from 2013) on US strategic rebalancing in Asia. A 2009 British Army inquiry cited <b>Basham</b> in recommendations to improve its equality and diversity practice. The South West health sector's coordination schemes were informed by <b>Durie's</b> Centre for Political Theory (CPT) research on service complexity in 2010 and <b>James' Centre for European Governance (CEG)</b> citizen survey questions were used by five public bodies in 2009-11.</p> <p><b>ii) Influencing international organisations and European Union bodies:</b> Ongoing relationships with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) informed their enhanced role in Jerusalem partially using <b>Dumper's</b> CAIS research on reducing conflict (2009-present). In ongoing work, the OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee, European Commission and World Bank adopted context-specific regulatory assessment responding to <b>Radaelli</b> and <b>Dunlop</b> (CEG, see impact case study).</p> <p><b>iii) Engaging and influencing civil society organisations:</b> The UK National Farmers Union's Bovine TB's impact assessment and the South West Forum of Voluntary Group's social purpose organisations have both been informed by CRPR models of rural communities in 2010-12. Beyond the UK, religious groups in Jerusalem responded to <b>Dumper's</b> CAIS research with new procedures for inter-religious discussion in 2012. The NGO Saferworld changed its Central Asia conflict management strategy in 2012 in response to <b>Heathershaw's</b> research. Events at the Museum of Australian Democracy, Australian Film &amp; Sound Archive and Institute for Commonwealth Studies' (2011-13) used <b>Schaap's</b> (CPT) collaboration with aboriginal groups on insurgent citizenship.</p> <p><b>iv) Influencing private sector business:</b> TNS Opinion, TNS BMRB and Kieskompas survey companies participated in a researcher training network from 2009 (led by <b>Banducci</b> (CEMaP)). Clinton Devon Estates, owning 25,000 acres of land, worked with CRPR in 2013 to develop advice for farmers on sustainable business models. Marketing Means, a survey company, used measures of citizens' attitudes towards public services in 2010 developed by <b>James</b> in CEG.</p> <p><b>v) Informing public debate about political institutions and policy issues:</b> The 2009 Brussels Tax Forum (500 stakeholders and EU policymakers) included <b>Radaelli</b> (CEG) as a key speaker and <b>Harcourt</b> participated in European Parliament public debates on media diversity in 2012. Debate in the 2011 New Zealand electoral system referendum was informed by <b>Karp</b> and <b>Vowles</b> (CEMaP) (see impact case study). Debate about US military sexual minorities was partly informed by <b>Basham</b> (CAIS) with RAND Corporation citing her work and media coverage of her co-authored Palm Center report prior to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell's repeal in 2011. Australian radio (the wire, 2CR) extensively covered <b>Schaap's</b> insurgent citizenship project on the Aboriginal Embassy in 2012.</p> <p><b>vi) Informing and influencing legislatures:</b> In the UK, research informed 4 House of Commons and 2 House of Lords committees; the Environment Audit Committee cited <b>Russel's</b> CRPR research in establishing a new expert advisor post in 2011. <b>Banducci's</b> finding to raise women's MEP participation using lists was presented to the European Parliament in three briefings and subsequently the 2010 Draft Report on Electoral Reform recommended parties put more women on lists. The New Zealand Parliament Justice and Electoral Law Committee used <b>Karp</b> and <b>Vowles' CEMaP</b> research on the mixed member electoral system in 2012 (see impact case study).</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>Researchers in the Department have a long track record of generating benefits from their research beyond the academic community, especially from research on UK and broader European public</p>

## Impact template (REF3a)

policy, rural policy, electoral systems and the Middle East. Our third strategic research aim (see environment template) has been to develop a more systematic approach with three main elements:

**i) Knowledge exchange including collaborative research:** The five centres are key to these activities and tailor their approach to be appropriate for their specialist area. Centre seminars, workshops and advisory boards involve non-academics to exchange ideas and experience, and promote research relevant to policy problems and issues. Research teams allow collaboration with other disciplines which is often necessary for problem or issue focused research. Centres facilitate public debate with non-academic communities and draw on their skills and experience including through exchange of research fellows and students. Highlights of these relationships are:

- CEG's advisory board members from the regulatory policy community, including the World Bank, facilitated **Radaelli's** establishment of a World Bank Institute regulation course in 2008 and access to OECD's Regulatory Policy Committee (see impact case study). EU Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence status (2009) was part recognition of the Centre's openness to civil society.
- CEMaP's joint projects with users included a joint training network (ELECDEM) with TNS Opinion, TNS BMRB and Kieskompas survey firms, led by **Banducci** from 2009, with PGR students having placements in the firms. A long term relationship with the New Zealand Electoral Commission, including collaboration on questions in major surveys, helped **Karp** and **Vowles** use their findings to improve electoral administration (see impact case study).
- CRPR's interdisciplinary work with environmental scientists included joint projects with Defra and Natural England entailing user-funded research fellows and, on average, two new PGRs starting each year part funded by non-academic organisations. The length and multiple dimensions of these relationships helped **Winter** influence Defra and Natural England's agri-environmental policy using ecosystems research (see impact case study).
- CAIS and CPT have been building their capacities as centres during the current REF period (see future strategy). In CAIS, **Dumper** brought researchers together with UN bodies (UNESCO, UN-OCHA, UN Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) in workshops assessing the UN's role in Jerusalem and their work with Palestinian refugees (2009-13). In CPT, **Durie** worked jointly with regional health bodies in the South West and with the Scottish Chief Medical Officer to develop health improvement schemes informed by complexity theory.

**ii) Supporting staff to achieve impact and producing a research impact culture:** Impact activity is a criterion for awarding research leave, for example, **Winter** worked with Defra in 2010/11 on ecosystems and national rural environmental guidelines. Centres develop researchers' specialist skills. For example, **Radaelli** (centre director) worked with **Dunlop**, OECD and World Bank on regulatory impact. **Dunlop** is now using this experience working with the UK Health and Safety Executive. The three most established centres, CEG, CEMaP and CRPR, have administrative support for seminars, managing relationships with partners and responding to research calls and opportunities to provide evidence. A Department research administrator provides additional support, for example supporting **Schaap** (CPT) to develop work with cultural groups on insurgent citizenship. Departmental research away-days share experience each year with a special research impact away-day in 2011. We have discussed good practice including using ESRC pathways to impact tools and RCUK guides as part of their *Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research*. Academic leads (see environment template) review individuals' impact activity and discuss their plans for impact, creating a culture of impact activity across the Department. Staff make use of the web and social media (especially Twitter and Facebook) to discover opportunities, disseminate their findings and interact with beneficiaries. The administrative support in centres helps regular updating which could otherwise be time consuming for staff.

**iii) Institutional support and external grants to provide resources for achieving impact:** The University Research and Knowledge Transfer (RKT) unit helps identify opportunities for impact, supports funding bids and assists arrangements for collaborative working. Complex projects for impact are particularly assisted. For example, **Russel's** National Ecosystem Assessment 2 (£100K 2012-14) project on policymakers' use of ecological knowledge had joint funding from Defra, Scottish Government, NERC, ESRC and AHRC. Department seed money (<£1k) supports meetings with non-academic beneficiaries (**Banducci, Dunlop, Dumper, Harcourt, Heathershaw, James, Radaelli, Schaap, Vowles, Winter**). For example, **Dumper's** 2 day workshop with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees led it to reconsider its strategy informed by his research. Larger funding from 10 University grants (between £1K and £10K) included funding **Heathershaw's** joint-working with the NGO Saferworld on conflict management in Central Asia

(£9K, 2013). External impact grants included **James'** ESRC Follow-on Grant (£24K, 2009-10) for citizen survey measures about public services used by a private firm (Marketing Means), Devon County Council and the Welsh Assembly Government. CRPR's ESRC Knowledge Exchange Small Grant (£7K, 2011-12) developed environmentally sustainable farming plans for 50 stakeholders.

**c. Strategy and plans**

The Department's research committee sets the overall strategy and provides support with the five centres developing plans for their specialist areas. The less established centres, CAIS and CPT, are developing using others' experience to move from individual academics having relationships with beneficiaries to an approach using the centre structures. All centres will be assisted by more extensive planning and reporting of impact aims as part of their existing annual reporting to the research committee. This will include scoping for potential beneficiaries and funding opportunities, considering opportunities cutting across centre boundaries, specifying pathways to impact and developing improved measures of impact outcomes. We will improve advice and training for staff to supplement our informal sharing of experience. A new College impact manager (from 2013) will provide bespoke advice and we will trial individual staff impact diaries as part of Academic Lead review meetings (which already review impact). The ESRC SW Doctoral Training Centre plans 20 per cent collaborative PGR studentships, and investment in international security and quantitative political science staff (see environment template) support centres' plans, including new initiatives:

- CAIS will work with the new (from 2012) Strategy and Security Institute (SSI) in the College with **Stokes** research on grand strategy helping inform the 2015 UK Strategic Defence and Security Review. Working with SSI will give access to security policymakers and think tank staff, including in the Royal United Services Institute, who work with SSI. **Heathershaw's** new Open Society Institute/Swedish International Peace Research Institute grant (£10K, 2013) will develop recommendations for international policymakers on managing small scale armed conflicts.
- CEMaP will work with partners on public opinion, including a new EU Marie Curie European Industrial Doctorate on voting advice applications (**Banducci, Katz and Stevens** (£0.71m)) assisted by 2 new quantitative *Q-Step* initiative researchers in 2014, enabling PGRs to work at Exeter and with industry partners. **Banducci's** ESRC research on political knowledge and media systems (£171K, 2012-14) will benefit media organisations and Ofcom.
- CEG will build on collaboration with regulatory policymakers including new work by **Radaelli** and **Dunlop** with the UK Health and Safety Executive in 2014 on regulatory burdens (with pilot funding from a £4.3K university grant, 2013). **James** will collaborate with public service providers on citizen interaction with services (including as part of EU FP7 funded research until 2014).
- CRPR will build on **Winter** and teams' participation in the original UK National Ecosystem Assessment (see impact case study) using a new UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow-On project led by **Russel** to help refine the assessment and its implications for policy in 2014.
- CPT will build on **Schaap's** research with marginalised groups on citizenship and **Castiglione's** work on representation (also with **Kröger** in CEG). This plan will be supported by **Durie's** participation in the Exeter RCUK Public Engagement Catalyst (£0.3m to 2015), in collaboration across the University, to allow the involvement of societal groups in these areas of research.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The three case studies show the breadth of beneficiaries and the benefits of centres for achieving impact. They have been used in research away-days to learn about impact and to inform our future impact strategy and plans. *Shaping Regulatory Reform (CEG)* shows how collaborative research and training with the OECD and World Bank drew on **Radaelli** and **Dunlop's** findings to challenge thinking and change guidance produced by these international policymakers. *Informing Choice of Electoral System and Improving the Quality of Electoral Administration (CEMaP)* shows how a set of projects pursued by the Centre, including collaborative surveys with research users, led to findings that informed the New Zealand Electoral Commission, changed their practice and informed debate in a national referendum. Impact grants to **Vowles** and **Karp** facilitated meetings with electoral policymakers in New Zealand during 2012 where findings were communicated. *Shaping Land Policy and Management (CRPR)* shows how long term collaboration between CRPR, Defra and Natural England, facilitated by the Centre's inter-disciplinary working and joint research projects, changed ecosystems national guidance and agri-environmental policy. Research with Defra was further assisted by **Winter's** research leave to achieve impact in 2010/11.