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| <p>Institution: Keele University</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: Politics and International Studies</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Researchers in Politics and International Studies are located in the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment (SPIRE), which has its own Research Centre (RC-SPIRE), which in turn is managed by the interdisciplinary Research Institute for Social Sciences (RISS). The RISS is responsible for stimulating and supporting research, enterprise and knowledge transfer activities, and for the training, supervision and support of research students. A Faculty Research Committee oversees research strategy, approves applications for research leave, and monitors reports on leave. The University Research Committee has overall responsibility for research matters while central Research and Enterprise Services provides relevant legal and financial expertise.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Research in Politics and International Studies at Keele is largely based on four research clusters in SPIRE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Research on Environmental Action and Thought (CREATE) • Centre for Comparative Politics and Policy • Emerging Securities Unit (ESU) • Political Theory (within the Forum for Philosophical Research) <p>These clusters represent the areas of strongest collaboration; by basing our strategy on them we support individual and collective research agendas, balancing responsiveness to current issues with an understanding of long-term factors that shape politics and international relations. All members belong to at least one group, and cross-group contributions are encouraged. This member-led structure provides a cohesive framework for fostering collaboration and maximising impact.</p> <p>As a research-led institution, Keele's strategy is to 'deliver international excellence and impact in focused areas of research' (Keele Strategic Plan). The four research clusters enable focus, whilst the Research Centre encourages a collective vision within which staff are encouraged to pursue research on issues of fundamental political significance. Since 2008, SPIRE has produced significant contributions to the understanding of: climate change politics (Doyle and MacGregor); the conceptual relationship between feminism and multiculturalism (Mookherjee); listening in democratic theory (Dobson); the concept of toleration (Horton); explaining support for right-wing extremism (Carter and Luther); the politics of blame avoidance (Catney); the internal politics of a major international non-governmental organisation (Doherty and Doyle); policing in the international (liberal) order (Ryan); British nuclear policy in historical perspective (Parr); strategies of US Presidents (Herbert); and the Europeanization of political parties (Ladrech). Research on these issues is a product of our long-term commitment to the development of particular groups of specialist expertise and is reflected in the continuity of our areas of thematic priority since 2008. Thus, in the 2008 RAE we identified plans to build on Keele's longstanding reputation for research on environmental politics through ties with external bodies and through multidisciplinary collaborations within Keele. Both have been realised through successful grant applications and on-going research on environmental thought and action.</p> <p>Researchers in CREATE have worked on environmental activism (Doyle, Doherty, and MacGregor), the actions of governments and business (Catney, Vogler), and green political thought (Dobson and MacGregor). New projects under development include MacGregor's investigation of environmentalism and feminist theory, Doyle's on environmentalism in authoritarian</p> |
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regimes, and Doherty's on criminal prosecutions of environmental activists. In its strategic plan the University has identified sustainability as one of its overarching institutional priorities and through these and other projects, the **CREATe** research cluster is central to delivering this.

Work on **comparative politics and policy** continues to build on established strengths in the study of political parties in Europe. Through ties established by the Keele European Parties Research Unit (KEPRU) with scholars in Europe, Carter, Ladrech and Luther have carried out projects on Europeanization and explanations for support of right-wing extremism. This is paralleled by inquiries into governmental institutions, such as Catney's ESRC-funded project on multi-level governance, and Herbert's work on the US Presidency.

The **Emerging Securities Unit (ESU)**, formed in 2009, reflects the interests of International Relations scholars in SPIRE in moving beyond traditional concepts to examine security in relation to spaces, histories, values and the aesthetics of war. This has led to work theorising post-conflict policing (Ryan); re-conceptualising human and environmental security in the Indian Ocean region (Doyle); and Parr's British Academy-funded project recovering the social history and political legacy of the Falklands war. This is complemented by Benwell's study of the implications of the Falklands war for understanding the nationalism of the young, and Åhäll's analysis of the role of gender in representations of warfare.

The inter-disciplinary character of the School facilitates productive overlaps between research in political theory and philosophy, with several staff working across the two disciplines grouped as a cluster within the **Forum for Philosophical Research**. For instance, Baiasu is submitted under philosophy but co-ordinates the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Kantian Political Thought standing group. Those whose primary work is in **political theory** are fundamentally concerned with the intersection of normative concerns and major issues in contemporary society, such as the democratic deficit (Dobson), multiculturalism and toleration (Mookherjee, Horton), political legitimacy and obligation (Horton), and new aspects of feminist theory (MacGregor, Mookherjee).

The sustainability of our research culture is secured by encouraging cross-fertilization between the SPIRE research clusters and collaboration with other disciplines at Keele. Examples include: links between the environment and comparative politics and policy groups through Ladrech's work on climate change and political parties; Doherty's comparative work on environmental protest in Britain and France; and Catney's work on bureaucracy, contaminated land, and welfare and environmentalism. In addition, Doyle's work on environmental security and Dobson's work on biosecurity connects CREATe and the ESU, while Dobson and MacGregor are active in both CREATe and the political theory cluster. All four clusters collaborate with other disciplines at Keele - notably Geography, Criminology and History (with the ESU); Philosophy (with Political Theory); Social Policy (with Comparative Politics) and the Natural Sciences (with CREATe) in joint seminars, and through cross-Faculty events (see section e).

Our internal seminar series, at which all research-active staff normally present one paper per year, ensures that colleagues across the four clusters are familiar with research across the School. Work-in-progress seminars in the clusters enable PGRs to present their research to each other and to staff, and provide feedback on draft work, while internal reading groups also help to encourage inter-disciplinary thinking and collaborations.

These and other measures developed during the current REF period are intended to ensure that we produce the best possible research. For instance, staff are required to detail their anticipated research activity for the coming year, as well as to identify longer-term research strategy in annual Research Plans. These are reviewed by the Head of RC-SPIRE and the Director of the RISS, and used to: a) develop individual career research agendas; b) manage individuals' plans for research leave; and c) to identify collaborative research initiatives within clusters, the Centre and across the University. A central element in our research strategy is to increase grant income through targeted support for applications. All significant funding applications are subject to rigorous internal peer review; all bids are assessed by Faculty Research Office staff, the Head of the Research Centre,

the Social Sciences Research Institute Director, and within SPIRE.

Since 2008, this structure has been effective in helping researchers to produce high quality research outputs, secure significant grant income and fulfil Keele's strategic aim of expanding postgraduate research numbers. For the next five years our strategic aims are: **(a) to build on the four main areas of research strength.** We do not envisage that these will change, and new initiatives are already underway in each of the clusters including externally funded projects (e.g. Ladrech's ESRC-funded project on European Parties and Climate Change Policy, and an EU Marie Curie Fellowship for Demiray for two years from September 2013 to work on Kantian Political ideas, which is linked to the ECPR Standing Group on Kantian Politics); **(b) to facilitate further cross-cutting research and inter-disciplinary research when appropriate, linked to the university's strategic priorities.** Keele's commitment to sustainability as a major strategic aim, developed in this REF period, offers further opportunities for future collaboration within the university and with other partners; and **(c) further expansion of PGR numbers** (see section c).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

SPIRE provides a research environment that supports and develops researchers at all stages of their careers. The period since 2008 has been one of consolidation rather than expansion of staff numbers. However, new appointments were made in the area of Emerging Securities, Ryan (2009) and Åhäll (2012), which sustained capacity in that area after the departure of Lobo-Guerrero in 2012. This group of mainly early-career staff has also been supported strategically with eight PGR studentships since 2009. The Faculty has also made a significant investment in research through sponsoring applications for Leverhulme early-career fellowships: following an open competition, Benwell was successful in 2012, in part due to the synergy between his work and Parr's on the Falklands. Emeritus staff continue to be involved in our research activity, including mentoring their colleagues (O'Kane and Thornberry), contributing to the vitality of SPIRE's research culture.

Encouraging internationally recognised excellence in research is a key principle of staff appointments, career development and academic promotions, as evidenced by promotions since 2008. Five of the eight staff who were promoted to Senior Lectureships were early career in the last RAE: Carter, Catney, MacGregor, Parr and Lobo-Guerrero. Ladrech and Luther were promoted to internal Professorships. Mookherjee (AHRC), Newey (Collegium of Helsinki), Dobson and Lobo-Guerrero (both Leverhulme) all held prestigious Research Fellowships during this period (Lobo-Guerrero and Newey subsequently gained Chairs abroad).

The University allocates research time through its workload model. In addition, the Faculty provides regular research leave (one semester in eight) for all staff who meet criteria of excellence. Early career staff are allocated additional research time and may apply for research leave sooner than the norm. They are further supported through the appointment of a mentor, who advises on research, and the induction programme provided by the Faculty Research Office. Staff are required to undergo training before supervising research students, and to take a course in Managing a Research Award if they have a grant involving responsibility for finance and staff supervision. All research involving human participants must be approved by the University's Ethical Review Panels. Research and Enterprise Services and the Faculty Research Office offer guidance throughout this process, and have helped to facilitate research on ethically sensitive subjects, such as the experience of veterans from the Falklands war and activists involved in illegal protests.

Policies relating to research management are subject to equality impact assessment; all members of appointing committees and staff who carry out appraisals are trained in equality and diversity issues. Keele has recently obtained the European Commission's Human Resources Excellence in Research Award. Part-time staff receive research support and access to leave on the same basis (pro-rata) as full-time staff. For example, a member of staff who was early-career in the last RAE chose to return to work part-time for a defined period following maternity leave. Support in maintaining her research career was provided through research leave plus support for a successful

grant application: she was subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer. Two staff members included in this submission are employed on part-time contracts; 40% (FTE) of staff submitted are women (compared to 27% representation in the discipline nationally in 2007 [Randall 2012]), as are four of eight staff promoted to Senior Lectureships since 2008. The careers of the five fixed-term Research Associates employed in the current REF period have been supported in line with the principles outlined in the Vitae Concordat for Researchers (2011); all have gone on to secure further employment in lecturing or research posts.

ii. Research students

We provide an environment in which postgraduate research students can develop their careers through: first-class facilities; appropriate research training; high quality supervision; and support for publication, conference presentations, and teaching. The University has invested its own resources to establish a competitive studentship scheme, which has been very successful in expanding PGR recruitment. Thus, despite the loss of ESRC funding following the decision not to support Doctoral Training Units, the number of PhD students has increased significantly since 2008: there are 2.6 FTE students per member of staff submitted (currently forty-one students registered in total). SPIRE applicants have been particularly successful in Keele's studentship competition, reflecting our strong international reputation and the support that prospective supervisors give applicants. 17 full and 5 part studentships were awarded to PGRs in Politics and International Studies between 2008 and 2013.

The recruitment, supervision, training, and examination of PGRs is governed by the regularly reviewed and updated University Code of Practice on Postgraduate Research Degrees, while formal progression and examination matters are approved by the Research Degrees Committee. Policy at University level is the responsibility of the University Postgraduate Research Committee working in collaboration with the University Research Student Liaison Committee. Within the Faculty, there is a PGR committee for Social Sciences (consisting of the PGR Director, Associate Directors for each Research Centre, and student representation) which establishes policies for training and support, approves supervisory and examination arrangements, monitors progress, and administers funds for training and research. Together, these bodies ensure that the academic and pastoral needs of PGR students are fully met.

Within SPIRE, the PGR Associate Director oversees admissions, supervision, and progression. All students have a lead and second supervisor, who help to identify training needs (underpinned by the RCUK/Vitae Researcher Development Framework) at an early stage. Training, together with general progress, is reviewed regularly through each student's Personal Development and Learning Plan, and through formal six-monthly progression reports submitted to the PGR Committee. A formal independent doctoral progression process also takes place after ten to twelve months for full-time students.

Research training is provided through generic (e.g. Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Research Design) and more specific (e.g. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods) modules, as well as through short courses and workshops on specific methods (e.g. NVivo) and career development (e.g. on public engagement and impact, conference presentation, publication strategies, and teaching). Funding is also used to facilitate student attendance at specialist, external training events, such as the Essex Summer Schools in Data Analysis, and to support research expenses and conference attendance. More informal research training and career development are further supported by the annual residential weekend in the Peak District that SPIRE runs for PGR students across the Social Sciences (which includes workshops on various stages of the PhD, and student presentations of their work in progress), and through paid short-term PGR employment opportunities including assisting in running conferences and summer schools, administrative work on journals, and small-scale fieldwork with academic staff.

These support structures have had a clear impact on the career progression of our PGRs: of the 33 students who have completed their PhDs since August 2008, 24 have gained lectureships or post-doctoral research posts in the UK, USA, Austria, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey, the UAE

and Malaysia, and four have been appointed to senior research positions outside academia, such as Ercan Aslantas, who is now a Personal Advisor to the Minister for Internal Affairs in Ankara.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Moser Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences is the central hub for the Faculty's research. This new facility, built with HEFCE SRIF and University funding, was completed in 2008. It houses the Faculty Research Office (FRO), office space and facilities for research projects, offices for visiting scholars and postgraduate students, and meeting rooms. It underpins an efficient and flourishing inter-disciplinary research environment, with exceptional office and ICT facilities beyond Research Council minima for PGR students. Spending on PCs and other equipment specifically for PGRs in Politics and International Studies was £7,350 in 2012-13 with a further £6,500 allocated for 2013-14. In addition, £266,600 was spent on refurbishing the Faculty's PGR space between 2011 and 2013 (from HEFCE and University funding). The allocation of office space and hot-desking facilities results from a systematic survey of student needs, with the Moser Building serving as a social and intellectual hub for PGRs with weekly social events and drop-in sessions.

The Faculty Research Office provides expert guidance on funding opportunities, grant applications, and effective publicity, while further support on finance and administration is available to staff running research projects or organising seminars, workshops and conferences (including those organised by PGRs). As well as identifying funding opportunities, the FRO helps to ensure sustainability by encouraging inter-disciplinary collaboration, which is particularly important to sustainability and vitality in a small, broad-based university such as Keele. Research on environmental politics has benefitted from the opening of the Keele Hub for Sustainability in 2011. Located in what were previously derelict farm buildings renovated with a successful bid to the HEFCE Strategic Development Fund and additional funding from the Wolfson Foundation, the Hub provides a focus for research and teaching collaborations across Keele (including those between SPIRE and the Faculty of Natural Sciences) and has been an essential means for out-reach to the wider community and dissemination of the results of our environmental projects.

The development of this extensive infrastructural support, as well as the concentration on research clusters and individual career development, has contributed to SPIRE researchers' major grant successes since 2008. Research income per member of staff has more than doubled since RAE 2008. Major awards include: 'Researching Energy Consumption Through Community Knowledge Networks' (in collaboration with Keele natural scientists, RCUK); 'Friends of the Earth International' (ESRC, the results of which were graded 'outstanding' in the ESRC's evaluation), and 'Multi-level Governance, Europeanization and Urban Politics' (ESRC). Published outputs from all of these projects are part of our submission to the REF. We have also had substantial success in various smaller, but often very competitive, funding schemes: three clusters have hosted ESRC Seminar Series: on 'Biosecurity' (CREATE with natural scientists from Keele and Birkbeck); 'Regenerating Medium-Sized Post-Industrial Cities' (Comparative Politics, with Keele Social Policy); and 'Contemporary Biopolitical Security' (Emerging Securities Unit). The British Academy has funded work on: 'The Good Citizen' (Political Theory); 'Social Democratic Parties and Climate Change' (Comparative Politics and CREATE); 'Children's Understanding of Peak Oil' (Emerging Securities Unit, with Keele Social Policy); and the 'Falklands War' (Emerging Securities Unit). Such smaller grants act as important stepping stones to larger research projects such as Ladrech's ESRC grant (with Carter, York) on 'Climate Change and Political Parties', which developed from a BA small grant; other projects arising from these smaller grants are under development.

While much of the funding for SPIRE's research activity has come from external funders, generous internal funds are available, particularly seed-corn funding, to develop research networks, and to facilitate debate and dissemination of research findings through seminars, conferences and workshops at Keele and elsewhere. This funding has led to subsequent success in gaining both small and larger grants. For example, Dobson, Catney and MacGregor developed ties with community groups prior to bidding successfully for their £425k RCUK grant.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Most of our major externally-funded research projects have involved collaboration with researchers from other disciplines or groups from outside academia. 'Reducing Energy Consumption through Community Knowledge Networks' was a SPIRE-led Keele collaboration with Physical and Geographical Sciences and the Marches Energy Agency (a leading regional third sector organization). The project compared communities with the aim of better understanding how information within communities circulates and is converted into knowledge and action. The research provides guidance relevant for the policy community on energy conservation, fuel poverty and the Green Deal. International collaboration with other research users has also made an important contribution to the research environment. For example, La Rocca was funded as a Practitioner Fellow from Friends of the Earth Australia in 2008, connected to the ESRC-funded project on Friends of the Earth International. The innovative engagement of Practitioner Fellows and support they received was commended in evaluations of this project and of the ESRC Non-Governmental Action Programme as a whole.

All three ESRC Seminar Series hosted by SPIRE since 2008 have been interdisciplinary in their design and reach. 'The Socio-Politics of Biosecurity. Science, Policy and Practice', which examined the management of perceived dangerous biological mobility and exchange, was led by Dobson, working with Taylor (Biology, Keele) and Barker (Geography, Birkbeck) and included contributors from anthropology, political theory, ecology, geography and environmental management, who worked together to produce a joint publication that defines biosecurity as a form of governance through a range of scientific and knowledge practices (Dobson et al, 2013). 'The Biopolitics of Security' (ESU) also examined governance, through a focus on the implications for theories of power when life itself is the subject of power. Participants included historians and geographers alongside scholars of international relations and politics: keynote speakers at the four seminars at Keele came from the Universities of Ottawa, Sydney, Amsterdam and the Peace Research Institute Oslo. A key outcome of the series was the establishment of an ongoing international research network on this topic (www.keele.ac.uk/bos) involving 110 leading scholars in the field, which is hosted by the ESU. 'Regenerating Medium-sized Cities', organised by the Centre for Comparative Politics and Policy (with Social Policy), drew together researchers from political science, sociology, geography and urban planning, as well as think-tank representatives and regeneration practitioners to examine the complex socio-economic and political challenges confronting medium-sized cities across Western states. This project has been sustained through the creation of an inter-disciplinary Keele Urban Research Network which will provide the basis for future joint research at Keele between SPIRE social policy and criminology.

In addition, SPIRE hosted other major conferences, including 'Epistemologies of the Political, the Global and the International' (2011, ESU co-hosted by the British International Studies Association (BISA) Poststructuralist Working Group); 'Examining the Extreme Right in the Local Political Arena', organised by the Comparative Politics group (2011). the 10th Annual Aberystwyth-Lancaster Graduate Colloquium (2012); 'Toleration and Pragmatism: themes from the work of John Horton' (2012), the papers from which are to be published in *Philosophia* and a conference investigating the meaning of 'Britishness' (2013) organised by the Political Theory group with colleagues from Social Policy, which featured on Radio 4's 'Thinking Allowed'. Developing links with Turkey have led to a seminar series on Modern Turkey co-organised with the Center for Strategic Research of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which funds six academic seminars per year at Keele.

We make an important contribution to capacity building in the discipline through our international networks, particularly through our role in co-ordination of ECPR Standing Groups, convening four groups, more than any other ECPR member institution: Environmental Politics and Policy (306 members), co-ordinated by Doherty and MacGregor; Extremism and Democracy (308 members), co-ordinated by Carter; Kantian Political Thought (120 Members), co-ordinated by Baiasu (Philosophy); and Political Parties (204 members), co-ordinated by Luther. Our role in the standing groups enables us to work internationally with numerous colleagues and raises Keele's profile

through our work in convening sections and approving panels and workshops at ECPR events. For example, at the Bordeaux 2013 General Conference, over seventy papers were presented in the Sections convened by SPIRE staff, and the papers from a workshop that Ladrech co-ordinated at the 2010 Joint Sessions in Munster were published as a symposium in a 2012 issue of *West European Politics*. We have also contributed to developing future generations of politics scholars by organising Environmental Politics and Policy Summer Schools for PhD students in 2008, 2010 and 2013, sixty-one students from eleven countries participated in total. Luther has contributed to or co-convened three summer schools for the ECPR Standing Group on Political Parties since 2008. The Keele European Parties Research Unit also hosted a European Network for the Analysis of Political Text workshop for eighteen PhD and early career researchers on methodologies for analysing party manifestos (2009).

Staff have held other posts in national and international organisations within the discipline: Vogler was Convenor of the BISA Environment Specialist Group until 2013; Ladrech was elected to the Executive of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies in 2013; Lloyd was on the Executive Council of the International Studies Association 2009 -2010, and is on the standing committee of the British International History Group; Doyle is a member of the International Political Science Association's Research Committee 15 on 'Political and Cultural Geography' for 2012-2014.

Since 2008, SPIRE has hosted visiting academics from Argentina, Australia, China, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Spain, Turkey and the USA for periods from several weeks to six months. Close working relations in the field of environmental politics led to the appointment of Meadowcroft (Carleton), Schlosberg (Sydney), and Wissenburg (Nijmegen) as Visiting Professors. Four SPIRE staff served as Visiting Professors in this period at the Universities of Chiba, Japan (Dobson); The College of Europe, Bruges (Ladrech); Hamburg (Lobo-Guerrero); and Vienna (Luther). In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study of Austrian Politics, Luther was awarded the Cross of Honour for Science and Art (April 2009) by the Austrian government. Carter's article with Poguntke won a prize for best article in *West European Politics* in 2010, and Horton's work was the subject of a special conference in Gdansk, Poland in 2010. MacGregor has been awarded a prestigious fellowship by the Rachel Carson Centre, University of Munich for six months in 2014 to work on a monograph exploring feminist theory and environmental politics. Doyle's joint appointment with Adelaide enables synchronicities between the Keele Emerging Securities Unit, CREATE, and the new Indo-Pacific Research Centre at Adelaide (Doyle is Director), funded by a major Australian Research Council grant. Doyle and MacGregor have completed a major edited work on environmental activism (2013) with the widest existing coverage (contributors from twenty-four countries) of environmental movements to date; Doyle worked with Doherty on the ESRC-funded project on Friends of the Earth International; and staff participated at a major international conference of academics and policy-makers on climate change and security in Hyderabad, co-organised by Doyle in 2010.

Staff contribute to the discipline through work as reviewers for publishers, funding bodies (the ESRC Peer Review College, other UK funders, and overseas national research councils), and as editors of academic journals and book series. **Journal editorships** include: *Environmental Politics* (MacGregor); *Social Movement Studies* (Doherty, to 2013); *Politics, Religion and Ideology* (Sheikh); and the *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* (Doyle). **Book Series editorships** include: *Introductions to Environment and Society* (Doyle: Routledge, 2011-); *Transforming Environmental Politics and Policy* (Catney and Doyle: Ashgate, 2009-); *Revolutionary Lives* (Doherty: Pluto Press, 2009-13); *Key Studies in Diplomacy* (Lloyd: Continuum, 2011-). Lloyd is on the International Relations Standing Board of the Oxford Bibliographies series, which won a 2012 PROSE award from the Association of American Publishers. In addition, eight staff are members of the editorial boards of academic journals.