

<p>Institution: University of Manchester</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 21 (Politics and International Studies)</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Inspired by the historic political legacy of the city of Manchester and its surrounding region, Politics at Manchester has a distinguished tradition of using our research to make a real difference to politics, society and citizens. Our world-leading expertise in <i>Electoral Politics</i>, <i>Global Political Economy</i>, <i>Public Policy</i> and <i>Critical Security</i> has translated into impact in four key ways. We have:</p> <p>[1] Improved the quality of government / governance as well as the efficiency of policy outcomes; [2] Empowered groups disadvantaged by asymmetries of power, economic inequality or prejudice; [3] Promoted peace and co-operation; [4] Raised public awareness and challenged conventional wisdoms.</p> <p>Our impact activities take place across a range of levels - local communities, civil society organisations, charities, NGOs and trade unions, political parties, elected governments, government departments, governmental scrutiny committees, regulatory bodies, constitutional courts and international organisations – and our research has been used in this REF period by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK government departments – Cabinet Office, No 10, Home Office (Richards, Ford and Sobolewska), HM Treasury (Richardson); Home Office (Ford), DCLG (Gains and Richardson), FCO (Barabantesva, Wilkinson), DFID (Wilkinson); DCMS (Humphreys). • UK parliamentary committees and parliamentary groups on 27 occasions - Public Administration Select Committee (Gains and Richards); Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (Richards); Communities and Local Government Select Committee (Richardson); the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Migration (Ford); APPG on Sex Equality (Annesley) and the Women’s Parliamentary Labour Party (Annesley). • Governments internationally – Bangladesh, Greece, Seychelles, South Africa, Turkey. • International organisations – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Commission, European Parliament, Open Society Initiative, UNDESA, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN Women and WTO.
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Our commitment to impact is based on the maxim that meaningful and sustained influence derives from excellence in research. From that base we aim to maximise the value of our research findings for political institutions, wider society and citizens through four key mechanisms.</p> <p>1/ Encouraging and enabling staff to engage in impact activities.</p> <p>Staff in Politics at Manchester get significant institutional support for impact activities from Department, School of Social Sciences (SoSS) and the University of Manchester (UoM) levels. The Department provides a fund of £1000 to all academic staff which can be spent to develop impact relationships and conduct impact activities. Staff are entitled to apply for a semester sabbatical leave after six which can be used for impact generating activities. In the period 2008-13 five members of Politics benefited from longer-term secondments to interdisciplinary research centres: Ford, Green and Gibson to the Institute for Social Change (ISC) [1, 2, 4], Richardson to Institute for Political and Economic Governance (IPEG) [1, 2], Wilkinson to Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) [2, 4] and Richmond and Mac Ginty to Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) [3]. These opportunities have allowed researchers to refocus workloads to invest time in building up strong impact relationships and implementing programmes of impact activities. Significant institutional support is provided at School level through the Research Support Services Hub and a team of conference organisers. PGRs have also worked with policy facing organisations such the Scottish Government [1] and Barnardos [2], some funded by ESRC internships.</p> <p>Impact activities are supported by the wider institutional context of the UoM: they are firmly embedded in its Strategic Vision 2020 and are rewarded through the UoM’s promotions procedure - knowledge transfer counts as one of four key criteria for promotion (along with research, teaching and service / leadership). In Politics, at least three of the successful cases for promotion to Chair during the REF period were based in part on impact achievements. The University’s media</p>

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relations office works closely with colleagues to disseminate all research findings and provides on-going media training for academics. Around key events such as UK or US elections, the University media relations team sets up expert teams to provide specialist commentary to which Politics scholars **Ford**, **Green**, Russell and A. Wilson regularly contribute. Key university-sponsored public and practitioner engagement networks such as Policy@Manchester receive significant input from Politics scholars: **Gains** and **Richards** serve on its board, alongside **Richardson** in an ex officio capacity as the CCP cluster convenor [1].

2/ Securing and targeting funding to facilitate impact

45% of our research funding since 2008 has come from impact related sponsors, including grants from government departments, public bodies, NGOs and charities. This type of funding has played to our strengths of producing policy relevant research and has allowed us to closely align our research to the needs of diverse policy communities. We have also secured funding from research councils which is explicitly for impact focussed activities, notably:

- **Gibson** (£43,320) - collaborated with the mySociety charity to secure an ESRC Impact Grant for a project to explore whether the mySociety website is mobilising inactive citizens to participate more in political and civic activities [1, 2].
- **Sobolewska** (£161,652.37) - secured funding from the ESRC to develop the Ethnic Minorities British Election Survey (EMBES) into the interactive website Ethnic Politics (www.ethnicpolitics.org). This is a one-stop data shop that: 1/ provides an interactive way for citizens and voluntary sector organisations to evaluate the state of ethnic inequalities in politics; 2/ enables citizens to hold the government to account on their provision of fair access to power and delivery of targets on equality and 3/ helps public bodies deliver better outcomes on integration, cohesion and representation of political interests of ethnic minorities [3, 4].

Examples of other forms of funding from impact related sponsors include:

- **Richardson** - awarded multiple projects totalling more than £320,000 by central and local government (incl. Manchester City Council, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Stockport Council, Bolton Council, Communities and Local Government) which all focused on exploring, amending and improving practice in relation to public service reform, civic participation and community governance [1]. Notably, she was the research producer in the £3m knowledge transfer partnership, the North West Improvement Network, involving the UoM, the NW region and 47 local authorities.
- **Gains** - received £44,464 from the Equality and Human Rights Commission for a study on Pathways to Politics which made recommendations to address the under-representation of key groups, (women, ethnic minorities and disabled people) to the House of Commons [1, 2].
- **Ford** - built up links with the Changing Minds Consortium of six non-governmental organisations which led to a £250k grant to develop and deploy a module of 20 questions about immigration attitudes on the 2011 and 2013 British Social Attitudes surveys.
- **Wilkinson** - secured £234k from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation to organise the inaugural Global Poverty Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, January 2011. This high profile event brought together 50 of the world's leading poverty thinkers to influence progress on two international public policy initiatives (the Millennium Development Goals and the WTO's Doha Development Agenda) and led to two joint declarations [2].

3/ Developing strong relations with users of our research

Much of our impact activity derives from the establishment of strong, long-term relationships with research users. This has been enabled through demand from users for high quality, policy-relevant research as well as UoM institutional support such as Faculty investment funding for impact (SIRF), secondments to interdisciplinary research centres and Department sabbaticals to help develop impact relationships. Staff have been appointed to and have served as expert consultants to a number of external organisations on a sustained basis (e.g. government departments, international organisations, parliamentary committees and groups, local partnerships). These relationships are sustained and are on-going because of our strong record of delivering policy relevant, user-focused research. Some prominent examples across different types of impact include:

- **Annesley** is a member of the Management Committee of the UK Women's Budget Group, contributing to their analysis of the impact of economic decision making on women and working

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with a range of organisations to address the gendered impact of budgets [2].

- Guittet's research on security led to his contributing to a 2011 study for the European Parliament (LIBE Committee) on the EU Internal Security Strategy. The study was circulated among MEPs and EU agencies (e.g. Europol, Eurojust, COSI, Frontex and SitCen) and led to a revision of the budget allocated to the Europol Cybercrime centre to improve the transparency of the decision making process within the EU Security agenda as well as the involvement of European Parliament scrutiny [3]. A side effect of the report is that SitCen has been transformed into a new organization, IntCen.
- Since 2005, **Ford** has served as a consultant psephologist on all BBC elections programmes, contributing detailed analysis of the 2005 and 2010 general elections; local elections since 2006; the 2007 devolved Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly elections and the 2008 London Assembly election and the 2009 European Parliament elections (examining voting both in Britain and across Europe) [4].
- **Richards'** research on the core executive led to his appointment as special adviser to the House of Lords Constitution Committee's inquiry into the Role of the Cabinet Office and the Role of Central Government (2009) as well as to a Ditchley Foundation practitioner-based conference on 'Managing the Machinery of Government in Periods of Change', chaired by Sir John Major November 2009 [1].
- Russell's research on youth participation led to his appointment as an International Mentor for the 'Youth Forum' of The Open Society Institute (Budapest). The Fellows he mentored built on his work on youth engagement in established institutions and developed Youth Action Plans in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and the formation of a youth-led NGO in Bulgaria, Citizens' Initiative for Active Democracy (CIAD), which then stood as a newly established political party in the May 2013 elections.

4/ Broad dissemination of our research through a range of media

Over the REF period we have shaped public debate and challenged conventional wisdoms [4] through over 500 contributions to broadcast media analysis and discussions including to BBC TV and radio programmes, ITV, Sky, NPR, Voice of America, Al Jazeera, France 24, China Central Television. For example:

- Russell is a regular commentator in the media on all aspects of British politics. He worked with The BBC's Politics Show North West to develop and present a programme on Phil Woolas and the Oldham election. This programme was awarded the 2011 Royal Television Society North West Prize for 'Best Current Affairs Programme' [1].
- **Green, Papadimitriou, Ford** and Wilson have all provided extensive media commentary around key issues associated with their areas of expertise. A. Wilson has appeared on multiple BBC programmes - from BBC Breakfast to Newsround - to discuss the 2012 Obama election, LGBT politics in the US and EU, and the 2012 Connecticut elementary school shootings [2, 4]; **Papadimitriou** has given multiple interviews with international broadcast media on the Greek financial and political crisis [1, 4]; and **Green** was the election expert for the BBC World Service's all night analysis of the 2010 election [4]. **Ford's** research on UKIP was widely discussed in the media around European and local elections [3, 4].

c. Strategy and plans

Politics' strong commitment to impact beyond academia is firmly supported by the UoM's strategic goals to 2020. Its vision for research gives 'parity of esteem to discovery, application, knowledge transfer and impact' and through its social responsibility goal, the UoM is committed to contributing to the social and economic success of the local, national and international community by using its expertise and knowledge to find solutions to the major challenges of the 21st century. The current REF period has proven to be a particularly fruitful period of impact activity in Politics. Over the next five years, we seek to further enhance and maximise the impact of current and future research programmes in the Manchester city region, nationally and internationally. Without compromising on excellence in research, our current strategy is shaped by our ambition to be world leading in the impact of our research. To achieve this we are:

1/ Enhancing systems for identifying new impact potential. It is of primary importance to us that all Politics staff – in particular ECRs and PGRs – continue the Politics and UoM tradition of

developing impact from research excellence. We are working with individuals through annual Personal and Development Reviews, mentors and training for ECRs and Continuation Reviews for PGRs to identify the potential impact of research, impact training needs and strategies to develop impact relationships in local, national and international contexts. We share examples of best practice in Politics seminars, staff and cluster meetings and away-days to inspire and inform all staff about strategies for developing impact from research excellence.

2/ Investing in the development of new areas of impact activity. We are investing to develop new impact activity among all individuals, clusters and interdisciplinary research centres. A major focus is on providing support for future impact associated with a/ our new flagship research projects - the British Election Study, Gender and Institutional Change and Critical Security - and b/ those areas of research where impact activities have featured less prominently in this current REF period.

3/ Expanding resources for impact development. Institutional support for developing impact relationships and activities is being significantly enhanced over the coming years by a new Impact Support Team as well as a Business Engagement Manager in the Faculty of Humanities. The SoSS Research Hub has a dedicated impact officer who is working with a broader range of individuals, clusters and centres to identify and secure future funding or secondment opportunities to facilitate impact activities. We strongly anticipate that Politics' high quality research and impact ambition will allow us to benefit extensively from UoM strategic investments funds (SIRF) and the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account, which provides the UoM with a fund of £1.4m to enhance impact from excellent research. The UoM funded Policy@Manchester initiative will be co-ordinated by Politics from September 2013 and provides significant resources for policy-facing impact activities, including the new blog.

4/ Enhancing avenues for recording and disseminating impact activities. New online systems for increasing the visibility and accessibility of our research by non-academic users will be developed through the new SoSS and Politics websites and will include a Politics Expert Media Group page. These resources will be complemented by SoSS and Humanities initiatives to provide more systematic institutional and on-line recording and dissemination of our research activities, for instance through blogs, film, podcasts and public events.

d. Relationship to case studies

The five submitted case studies were selected from a shortlist of eight which included three further cases on local democracy, the media and youth political engagement. The five submitted case studies are all based on programmes of original, high quality research but demonstrate different approaches to developing impact relationships and pathways to impact.

Ethnic Minorities, Global Trade and Civic Behaviour each demonstrate how successful bids for research funding can develop into major impact agendas. They also show the rewards that can be made by secondments which allow time to develop enhanced relationships with research users.

Ethnic Minorities and Gender Equality illustrate how research created by a collaboration of researchers across a specific area of research specialism can translate into substantial impact agendas.

Gender Equality, Civic Behaviour and Global Trade illustrate how research can generate impact in local, national, regional and international policy arenas.

Greece demonstrates how a solid piece of empirical research can, though targeted impact relationships, translate into major legislative change.