

Institution: University of Surrey

Unit of Assessment: UOA 21 Politics and International Studies

a. Overview

The School of Politics has an established reputation for research in EU politics, with a growing presence in the area of international intervention. It is a dynamic unit which is looking to expand its reach within the discipline and its impact on policy. The School is a community of researchers focusing on innovation, public engagement and links with end users/practitioners.

Research in the School is organised around three research groups: **European Politics**, which includes the Centre for Research on the European Matrix (CRonEM); **International Politics**, which includes the Centre for Research on International Intervention (cii); and **Social Politics and Methodologies**.

Research highlights for the census period include: 1) the award of the Jean Monnet Chair to Warleigh-Lack; 2) three ESRC grants; 3) Whitehall launch of report on drones, *Hitting the Target*, 4) WAVE project on the needs of the injured from the Troubles in Northern Ireland; 5) launch of one new research centre; 6) membership of ESRC South-East DTC; 7) coordination of PSA Annual Conference 2011; 8) organisation of eight conferences, seven workshops and three summer schools.

b. Research strategy

A strategic decision was made in 2010 to double the size of the School, chiefly by recruiting early career researchers (ECRs) with a commitment to innovation and public engagement. This staff growth plan led to the rapid development of the School, engagement with new forms of dissemination (e.g. the @surreypolitics social media campaign, CRonEM's launch at Europe House, and cii's roundtable on drone warfare held at the Royal United Services Institute, RUSI) and the organisation of high profile events (e.g. PSA Annual Conference 2011). As a result, the Unit has made substantial headway in the field, consolidating its position as a significant centre for research on EU politics.

The School has achieved the strategic aims set out in 2008 for the Politics group in the University's European Studies submission:

- 1. Establish critical mass in two core areas of research (EU Politics and International Politics). This has been achieved by implementing a two-tier staffing strategy: a) Appointment of high-profile senior scholars (Warleigh-Lack and Breen-Smyth) to provide research leadership; and a senior-level practitioner (Aaronson) to develop our capabilities for influencing policy; b) Expansion of the ECR base to enhance research expertise in core areas. This strategy has produced substantial innovation in research e.g. cii's work on the responsibility to rebuild.
- 2. Develop International Research Network. Staff in the school have successfully developed a number of externally funded, multidisciplinary, international research networks, e.g. Warleigh-Lack's work on comparative regionalism; Guerrina's ESRC Network; Breen-Smyth's British Academy project; and Chappell's UACES funded network. The networks facilitate the production of high quality outputs e.g. special issue of Women's Studies International Forum and provide a platform for the development of future bids to research councils.
- 3. Facilitate pathways to impact. The School has developed a reputation for innovation, engagement and knowledge transfer. Established links with practitioners allow our academics to be responsive to the requirements of different funders, thus augmenting an approach to research that is theoretically informed, critical in nature and empirically grounded (e.g. Breen-Smyth's WAVE project). Academic staff are also encouraged to develop an international media profile, e.g. Holland's Sky News and BBC interviews on the Boston bombing and Exadaktylos' BBC interview on Golden Dawn in Greece.

There are <u>three research groups</u> in the School. They provide a sense of identity for academic staff and doctoral students, and are the main community-building mechanisms. Each group has a distinctive identity, with the European politics group focusing on policy analysis and institutional politics; the international politics group on security studies and international theories; and the social politics and methodologies group on participation and methodologies. Collegiality and collaborative research is supported through sandpits, brownbag lunches and doctoral days that allow for



exchange of ideas and the development of new research projects. The School currently runs three seminar series: 1. Politics research seminars, 2. CRonEM research debates and Jeanmonnet@CRonEM; 3. cii research seminars. In addition to this, the School regularly hosts public roundtables and lectures that reflect on current events and provide a springboard for interdisciplinary collaborations. A number of high profile speakers have contributed to these, e.g. Sarah Childs (Bristol), Nick Wheeler (Birmingham) and Nina Khruscheva (New School, NY). Finally, in keeping with the philosophy of the Unit, all groups have focused on expanding current links with policy/government departments (e.g. FCO, MoD and the Stabilisation Unit) as well as the wider practitioner community (e.g. Save the Children and Oxfam).

European Politics & CRonEM Under the leadership of Warleigh-Lack, this is the most established group in the School. The group's research includes work on European foreign and security policy, the role of the EU as an international actor, European integration theories, European equality policies and social policy, regionalism studies, area studies, environmental policy and opposition to the EU. CRonEM operates within this group. It was originally established in the early 2000s funded by the Faculty to support cross-disciplinary work. Re-launched in 2012, CRonEM is now the focal point for the development of a critical approach to European Studies that moves beyond disciplinary silos. Examples of work contributing to this overarching aim are: 1. Warleigh-Lack's workshop on greening European integration studies with the Schools of Law and Psychology and the Centre for Environmental Strategy; 2. Bee's work on civil society and European public space in collaboration with Psychology and Sociology.

International Politics & Cii The collaboration between Breen-Smyth and Aaronson, coupled with the expansion of the ECR base, has opened a creative space for the development of a critical approach to the study of international intervention. The group comprises staff who focus on crosscutting issues such as: human rights and humanitarianism; nuclear non-proliferation; security and defence; and foreign policy analysis. Particularly innovative is the work on the politics of international intervention, examining key drivers of foreign policy such as post-conflict reconstruction and stabilisation. cii operates within this group. Established with University support and since 2013 a Faculty Research Centre, its main aim is to produce a critique of traditional approaches to security studies by shifting the focus from interveners to the subjects of interventions and promoting a multidisciplinary agenda. Particularly relevant is Aaronson's workshop on The Responsibility to Rebuild, which drew on the expertise of private sector companies and civil engineers responsible for the implementation of rebuilding projects in transition countries. Basu's collaboration with the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) provides additional links with end-users.

Social Politics and Methodologies This is the newest addition to the School's research portfolio. Olssen is the senior academic in the group. The main strengths of the group are social/political theory, gender theories and public opinion analysis. The group also specialises in electoral behaviour, party politics and party patronage, campaigns and elections, and citizens' impressions of parties and their leaders. Capelos' work as Director of the International Society of Political Psychology Summer Academy (ISPP-SA) is one of the main outputs of this research group. The ISPP-SA provides high level multidisciplinary training to doctoral students. Guerrina's work on gender politics and feminist methodologies is another highlight. An interdisciplinary gender research stream is starting to emerge within this group in collaboration with colleagues from Sociology and Psychology. Finally, Exadaktylos' and Warleigh-Lack's work on research methodologies in European Studies is an example of cross-fertilisation between research groups.

Over the next five years, the School will continue to build its current reputation by leading field-defining projects and networks. In particular, the main research priorities for the School will be:

- 1. Establish CRonEM as a leading centre for the development of critical approaches to the study of EU politics. Most academics associated with the Centre work outside the mainstream of European Studies and adopt a constructivist methodology. CRonEM therefore provides a useful platform for exchange of ideas and methodological innovation. The first step in this process is to apply to become a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in 2015.
- 2. Consolidate Surrey's position as a centre for the study of international intervention. This will be achieved by developing the research potential of ECRs and capitalising on institutional



links with practitioners and end-users through cii.

- 3. **Develop the Social Politics and Methodologies research group**. Recent investment in new areas, e.g. parliamentary politics (Thompson) and political sociology (Bee), is the first step in consolidating this third research group in the School. An area of particular interest for future development is gender politics and feminist methodologies, under Guerrina's leadership.
- 4. **Increase recruitment of high quality doctoral students** as part of the ESRC South-East DTC. This aim will be facilitated by the development of research training opportunities (e.g. the Jean Monnet Summer School on the Euro-crisis, which will be held in June 2014).

Research Management and Governance

The research management structure of the School clarifies areas of responsibility, as well as the ethos and strategic priorities of the Unit. The School Strategy Group (SSG) plays a key role in shaping the overall strategy of the Unit. This group is composed of the Head of School (HoS), Director of Learning and Teaching, Director of Research (DoR) and Director of External Relations (DoE). The DoR is responsible for implementing the School's research agenda through the Research Committee. The DoE plays a strategic role fostering links with end-users and practitioners, thus ensuring maximum impact for the work of the School and associated research centres. In relation to our research strategy, collaboration between the DoR and DoE is particularly important as it ensures that the production of high quality outputs dovetails with the development of a research agenda that is both sensitive and responsive to the priorities of end-users (e.g. Breen-Smyth's work with the Oxford Research Group, Warleigh-Lack's CommEUnicate project).

There are two main **mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing the quality of research**. The DoR meets with all staff every six months to discuss current and future outputs and help develop individual research strategies that support wider School objectives. The meeting also provides an opportunity to discuss external funding applications and think strategically about research outputs (e.g. targeting top journals). The HoS also meets with staff at six monthly intervals to evaluate progress against individual targets. The aim is for the HoS to be able to balance out workloads, thus ensuring that each member of staff is able to engage in high quality research.

The School supports staff development, research and dissemination activities in a number of ways. All ECRs, and where necessary mid-career researchers, are assigned a senior colleague or mentor, who acts as a "critical friend". All academic staff (including those on temporary contracts) are entitled to funding for conference attendance and to conduct field work. The School also supports staff continuous development and methodological innovation by funding attendance at internal and external research training opportunities. Finally, the School and the Faculty have made funding available for an administrator to support the work of the research centres.

In addition to the above, staff can draw on Faculty and University-wide mechanisms. At Faculty level, they can apply to the Faculty Research Support Fund to support attendance at international conferences and scoping for pilot projects. The Faculty Ethics Committee and peer review of bids are the main quality enhancement mechanisms. The Faculty Research Information Officer provides targeted circulations of calls, tenders and other external funding opportunities and is the main source of information about new initiatives. At University level, staff can draw on the expertise and resources of the Research and Enterprise Support Unit and the Surrey Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), which is funded by the University with the aim of promoting multidisciplinary work. The School has been particularly successful in obtaining funding from the IAS to organise multidisciplinary research five workshops and conferences, e.g. Warleigh-Lack's "Greening Economics, Greening Society" workshop.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The University has shown substantial commitment to the School through two major investment rounds in the last three years, totalling seven new appointments. In line with the University strategy to increase internationalisation, the School has developed its provision in the area of International Politics/Relations. The School's current academic staff comprises: four professors, one reader, two senior lecturers and eight lecturers. All staff are supported to develop their careers and profile. During the census period one Senior Lecturer was promoted to Reader, two lecturers were promoted to Senior Lecturer, and one ECR ended probation early.



The School staffing strategy (2010-14) has substantially changed the research profile of the Unit. The University's investment in the Unit enabled the School to expand its research coverage and expertise base. Three high-level appointments provided research leadership for the Unit and further links to practitioner communities, while also enabling the launch of a new research centre.

The School supports the research of all academic staff. Intensive periods of research are also supported by the University sabbatical policy. The Faculty Research Committee is responsible for reviewing applications for sabbatical leave and reporting on individual performance against the specified targets set out in the application at the end of the leave period. With regards to implementing The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, the University of Surrey undertook, in 2011, an institution-wide gap analysis and developed an action plan, on which further investment was based. The Researcher Development Programme, in addition to its services for doctoral training, also offers a growing workshop programme for ECRs as well as experienced researchers, covering topics including research project management, publication, funding and impact. A new Research Staff Lunchtime Series has been developed to provide opportunities to discuss topics with experienced academics across the University.

As a public body, the University is committed to implementing the principles of the Equality Act 2010. Institutional commitment is reflected in the Athena SWAN Bronze University award in 2013. The University operates a flexible working policy in order to respond to requests for changed work patterns. The School of Politics achieved gender parity in 2013 (out of a total of 15 academics, seven are women and eight are men). The School supports diversity and accommodates diverse needs, particularly in reconciling work and family life. For instance community-building events, research seminars and other key dissemination activities are held during office hours to ensure all members of staff have the opportunity to attend. Important meetings are scheduled in a way that accommodates individuals' working patterns and circumstances, e.g. part-time contracts.

ii. Research students

The School has a growing PhD community. The Postgraduate Programme Director is responsible to the Head of School and the Dean of Faculty for: admissions, students' progress, confirmation, appointing examiners, annual review and overall welfare of students. The School joined the ESRC South-East DTC in 2012. This is an important milestone that will support the delivery of one of the School's key objectives for the next census period, e.g. recruitment of high quality doctoral students.

The Researcher Development Programme (RDP) is the primary source of training in research and transferable skills at Surrey. In addition, the Faculty, the School and its Research Groups provide discipline-specific training. The RDP content is fully in line with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF), which incorporates the precepts of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. The School further supports the University-wide programme of workshops on doing a PhD, the confirmation process, the viva, and learning and teaching with inhouse skills development activities, e.g. organising and chairing roundtables, marking and assessment. Mentoring for students to enhance employability is also available within the School.

PhD students constitute an important element of the School's research culture, and are supported in a number of ways. Full-time students have their own desk and computer, and part-time students have guaranteed access to a desk and computer when they are in the School. Doctoral training comprises not only supervision but generic and specialised provision, tailored to the needs of each student. Selected modules from our MSc programmes are also made available to students on the PhD programme. All new PhD students are required to take the research training component of our MSc programmes, unless they have undertaken equivalent training prior to registration. PhD students are encouraged (in a fully supported way) to teach on our programmes during their registration and all full-time students receive training on teaching methods. The School further supports the professional development of the PhD students by encouraging them to contribute to the Applied Political Skills programme and the School's external relations strategy.

The School has a number of mechanisms for monitoring students' progress: monthly meetings with the principal supervisors (with on-line report); six monthly progress reports; confirmation/transfer within 15 months of initial registration for those enrolled full-time. All PhD students are assigned two supervisors; the principal supervisor is responsible for the overall direction of an individual



student's programme of study and their disciplinary development, skills and general progress.

PhD students are also encouraged to engage with researchers from other disciplines, particularly via the research centres and through the University-wide annual PGR conference. The Researcher Development Team provides generic publication and dissemination training. Three PhD students organised a BISA-PGN sponsored event on "Gender in the Bunker of Defence and Security". They are also encouraged to contribute to bids and publish with staff.

The School also has a number of mechanisms to promote an integrated research culture. Doctoral training days provide PhD students with an opportunity to present work in progress to the School. In addition to this, Politics students are encouraged to attend the ESRC South-East DTC workshops and the series of Autumn/Spring Schools held jointly with the ESRC Oxford DTC. Ad hoc specialist reading groups and seminars led by members of academic staff or external speakers provide additional opportunities for exchange of ideas and disciplinary training.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research Funding

Staff within the School have contributed to and led a number of multidisciplinary research projects. Flagship projects during the census period are:

- FP7 Project: Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation (2009-12) (Total value of the award is £465k, of which £98k came to Politics). Three members of staff from Politics contributed to this large-scale comparative, interdisciplinary project involving 7 countries and 9 partner institutions. Guerrina coordinated the work package on policy analysis; Capelos was responsible for the work package testing existing datasets (e.g Eurostat, European Social Survey). Important findings resulted regarding the political and civic participation of youths, women, migrants and minorities. Key outputs produced by Politics staff as a result of this collaboration include: Guerrina and Bee's (2013) special issue of the Journal of Civil Society; and a number of chapters in edited collections.
- British Academy: On the Receiving End (£25k). Breen-Smyth leads this multinational project involving Surrey, Singidinum University (Serbia) and Birzeit University (Palestine). This project evaluates how international intervention has been practised, it documents local voices in areas that have experienced intervention and compare these to the views of policy makers. The Institute for Advanced Studies will supplement this funding by sponsoring a workshop on "New Ideas and Methods in Human Security" in 2014 based on the on-going work of the project.
- ESRC Research Network on the Unintended Gender Consequences of EU Policies (2012-14) (£25k). Guerrina coordinates this international, interdisciplinary project that includes colleagues from Queen's Belfast, McGill University (Canada), York University (Canada), Madrid University, Vrije University (Brussels), Nottingham Trent and Canterbury New Zealand. This network draws on lawyers, political sociology, IR and European Studies scholars. The network was launched in September 2012 and has already published a special issue of Women's Studies International Forum. Two additional special issues (Journal of Social Politics and European Integration on-line Papers) were submitted September and October 2013.
- WAVE Trauma Centre funded project on The Needs of the Injured and their Families in Northern Ireland (2011-12). Breen-Smyth was asked to tender for the project commissioned by WAVE and funded by the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland. An important interdisciplinary project, the findings are contributing to the development of future provision of services for the injured in Northern Ireland. Key outputs of this project include anarticle in Medicine Conflict and Survival and two films (10 mins; 60 mins) entitled Injured.
- ESRC Research Seminar Series, Unpacking the Intervention Matrix (2013-16) (£29k). The project's main aim is to explore competing understandings of international intervention. Through this project Aaronson will consolidate strategic links to key academic figures and practitioners thanks to funding from the ESRC funding. This project will involve Jennifer Welsh (Oxford/EUI), Nick Wheeler (Birmingham), Roger MacGinty (Manchester), Peter Walker (Feinstein International Centre), PA Consulting and the Royal United Services Institute.
- AHRC Research Project on European Television Representation of Islam as a Security
 Threat: A Comparative Analysis (2006-0) (Total value of the award is £419k, of which £200k
 came to Politics). Prof (now emeritus) Flood led on an AHRC funded project looking at



comparing the way Islam was constructed in the British, French and Russian Media. The edited collection on *Political and Cultural Representation of Muslims: Islam in the Plural* (Brill) is the main output of this project.

Strategies for generating research income

The research groups (and associated research centres) are the main mechanisms for acquiring external research funding. The groups provide both a critical mass and a wide range of expertise in the fields of European and international politics, as well as research methods and approaches. They also allow colleagues to draw on established national and international networks, the experience of advisory board members in the crafting of bids, and an intellectual framework within which the projects can be carried out.

The University and Faculty provide additional support for staff from the inception stage of a project through to submission. Research and Enterprise Support help staff to identify suitable sources of funding for specific projects and the development of bids. At School level the Research Committee plays a key role in monitoring and coordinating staff applying for external funding and consultancies to support the research projects. The Research Committee is also responsible for the overall quality of the bids submitted and provides the main interface with the Faculty peer review structures.

Infrastructure

The School is centrally located on the main campus and all staff have individual offices with high quality IT facilities and online access to all key materials. Collaboration with international partners is facilitated by the use of Adobe Connect, Skype and an Access Grid video-teleconferencing facility, and the University International Office and the Associate Dean International facilitate the establishment of international collaboration and provide funding for exploratory research involving members of the University Global Partnership Network. Centrally, the University has invested in developing research training facilities at the Library, within a new £13.2m Library extension which opened in 2011. The Library provides off campus access to the majority of online research information, including over 140 databases of bibliographic and other information, 42,000 subscribed e-journal titles, and over 300,000 e-books. The Surrey Research Insight (SRI) Team provides support for academic staff in raising the visibility and impact of research publications deposited in SRI, Surrey's Open Access Repository, and covers best practice with regards to publishing in the open access era. Training and development in relation to research environment changes linked to RCUK policy requirements are supported by the Library and the Research and Enterprise Support Unit.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

CRonEM and cii are hubs for scholars interested in engaging in critical approaches to European politics and international relations. Both centres have been very active in organising conferences and workshops. Our excellent and varied contacts with policy makers and end-users are also securing Surrey Politics' key position as a meeting place for academics and practitioners.

All academic staff are strongly encouraged to develop collaborative working relationships with colleagues at other institutions both with the disciplines of Politics and International Relations, but preferably also with other disciplines within and outside the social sciences.

Conference Organisation

The School has a very strong record in organising high profile events. In 2011 the School was academic convenor for the **PSA Annual Conference**. In addition to this, since 2007 the School has hosted a number of high-level conference and workshops in its core areas of research. Every year the School organises the **CRonEM Annual Conference**. This has covered a range of themes, such as "European Studies Beyond Methodological Nationalism" in 2013 and "Civil Political and Cultural Engagement" in 2010. Over the years this conference has been jointly hosted by Surrey and partner organisations, e.g. Runnymede Trust, AHRC, and VU Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society (Free University Amsterdam). In addition to this each research group has organised events around core research areas, for example: **PSA Women and Politics Working Groups Annual Conference**: "Gender, Equality & Politics: European Futures" (also funded by UACES), 2008; **UACES funded Collaborative Research Network on European Security and Defence Policy workshop** on "CSDP Strategy: A Reality or Wishful Thinking?"



2013; UACES funded Collaborative Research Network on Opposition to the EU workshop on "Euroscepticism: the state of the Art", 2011; UACES sponsored Re-EUnion on "20 Years of the Danish No" with University of Copenhagen, 2012. Finally, the School has been able to secure funding from the IAS (University of Surrey) for a number of two day interdisciplinary workshops: "Greening Integration", 2013; "Hitting the Target", 2012; "The Responsibility 2 Rebuild", 2010; "The Mother War Continues", 2009. These events are particularly important because they bring to Surrey high profile speakers, e.g. Carol Bacchi (Adelaide); Hugo Slim (Oxford Humanitarian Group); Sven Biscop (EGMONT Royal Institute for International Affairs); Joni Lovenduski (Birkbeck); Sir Stephen Wall; Geoff Loane (International Committee of the Red Cross).

Collaboration with Practitioners

Collaboration with research users is central to the research conducted in the School. Examples are: Breen-Smyth's work with WAVE and London Metropolitan Police; Aaronson's work with FCO, MOD, ICRC, Stabilisation Unit; Guerrina's work with the Fabians, NAWO, European Women's Lobby; Holland and Exadaktylos, media commentaries, Sky and BBC; Warleigh-Lack's work with European Commission representation in London. Particularly worthy of notice is **Aaronson's** *Hitting the Target* report produced in collaboration with the RUSI. The Report was launched in Whitehall with a roundtable comprising Lieutenant-General Sir Graeme Lamb; Jamie Shea, Deputy Director of NATO; and Louise Perrotta, former Head of the Lessons Team at the Stabilisation Unit.

Collaborative Research Networks

A number of staff in the School coordinate collaborative research networks. Three funded networks fall under the remit of CRonEM and are testament to the standing and quality of research current being conducted in the School. Dr Guerrina is leading the **ESRC funded international network** on *The Un-intended Gender Consequences of EU Policies*. In addition to this we also coordinate **two UACES funded networks** on *European Security and Defence* and *Popular Opposition to the EU*.

Journal editorship:

Breen-Smyth is co-editor and co-founder of the journal *Critical Terrorism Studies*, a key outlet for scholars seeking to challenge dominant approaches to terrorism and political violence. Additionally, David is co-editor of the *Journal of Contemporary European Research*, the main outlet for publications by ECRs in UACES. Finally, one of our doctoral students is also Deputy Editor of e-International Relations.

Executive Committees:

Considering the size of the School, we are well represented in professional associations, particularly UACES and BISA. Three academics are holding or have held key positions in the executive committee of UACES. Warleigh-Lack was chair of the association between 2006-09. Breen-Smyth is currently member of the BISA executive committee and Capelos is deputy chair of the International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP), chair of the Political Psychology section of ECPR and Director of ISPP Summer Academy. Two additional members of the School sit in the executive committees of specialist groups. Exadaktylos is a member of the PSA Greek Politics Specialist Group Executive Committee and Olssen is chair of the PSA Higher Education Action Policy Advisory Committee (HEPAG).

Advisory boards

Staff also act in an advisory capacity on external projects. For example, Aaronson is member of the advisory board for Wheeler's (Birmingham) ESRC funded project on "The Political Effects of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles on Conflict and Cooperation Within and Between States"; he is also Honorary Fellow at Nuffield College (Oxford) and non-executive director of Oxford Policy Management Ltd. Guerrina is member of the steering group of the AHRC Motherhood in post-1968 Europe network (2010-13).

Prizes: The Asako Okukubo Prize for the best Doctoral Thesis

The Okukubo International Society for the promotion of Education and Culture (OISPEC) promotes education and culture in a number of countries including Japan, England and Asia. The School of Politics has been chosen as the British recipient of this philanthropy. The Okukubo Prize was established in 2001. It is awarded every year to a student who has completed a research degree within the School and who has produced a doctoral thesis that makes an outstanding contribution to the field. The prize is worth £1200.