

<p>Institution: St Mary's University College Belfast</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>St Mary's University College Belfast (the College) is a small, specialist higher education institution in the Catholic tradition. Its focus and specialism lie with the education of teachers; the College offers a four-year Bachelor of Education programme as well as postgraduate degrees in education. In the late 1990s, the College commenced a process of diversification, leading to the development of a BA degree in Liberal Arts, which supports government policy to increase participation in higher education. Since the inception of this degree, in 2000, the teaching of Politics and International Studies (PaIS) has been a core element of the programme. To service the delivery of teaching in PaIS, and to develop and strengthen the wider institutional research culture, the College appointed three academic members of staff, with expertise in European economic policy and development studies (McCann), political theory (Schippers), and cultural studies (Vaupel).</p> <p>Given the College's historical emphasis on teaching and learning, it has not participated in previous research assessment exercises. Focused research activities are continually expanding, as prioritised within the College's strategic plan, and the PaIS group has established itself as a vibrant and coherent research unit within the College's wider research landscape. To reflect this growth in research activities and output, the College embarked upon a consultation process with staff and external consultants, and a decision was taken to provide concentrated focus on the development of research by participating in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). The College's research is led by the Senior Tutor for Development, Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir; the research infrastructure includes a Research Office, the Research Committee and the Research Ethics Committee. In accordance with a memorandum between the College and Queen's University Belfast, College staff have access to library facilities and staff development events at the University.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The research strategy for PaIS provides direction for the promotion and encouragement of research and scholarly activities among its members. It is closely aligned with the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy, and with the College Research Policy and Research Strategy, and it aims to underpin the achievement of excellence in teaching and learning.</p> <p>Since 2008, PaIS has pursued the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop and cultivate a community of researchers within the College • to increase and strengthen research capacity and output • to build on and grow current research strengths • to highlight and disseminate research in PaIS in appropriate outlets • to extend research links with other universities and relevant bodies • to increase research income from funding bodies • to prepare for participation in the REF. <p>To pursue these objectives, PaIS deployed the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a plan of action in preparation for REF 2014 (in liaison with the College's Research Committee, the Research Ethics Committee and the Strategic Management Team) • Organisation of staff training and development events. Topics included writing of research proposals for funding, project management skills, writing for publication, research methods training and preparing for REF 2014 • Liaison with external consultants • Organisation of internal research seminars on PaIS and invitation of visiting speakers • Organisation and hosting of research panels at external events

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- Regular dissemination of information on funding opportunities, research conferences and seminars through the Research Office
- Participation in collaborative projects, both internally and externally
- Utilisation of support staff to facilitate the research activities of PaIS members
- Adjustments to teaching timetable in aid of research
- Use of research budget to support research activities, including conference presentations, publication subsidies, research fieldwork and periods of short-term research study leave

Since 2008, members of PaIS have offices located near each other on the campus to facilitate research collaborations and the development of a research culture. In the same period, their research activities and research output have increased substantially. These activities have led to a rise in the number of research publications, and an increase in the number of funded and collaborative research projects. Members of the unit present regularly at national and international research conferences; they are represented on editorial boards of research journals; they act as peer reviewers for academic journals and they have been invited as keynote speakers at research events. To further develop its research activities, the unit hosts a research seminar series (since 2010) with a focus on European issues (including European economic policy, citizenship and identity in the EU, and political theory). This focus reflects current research strengths and interests in the unit, and it mirrors the current teaching emphasis.

In light of developing interests within the unit, and to underpin recent changes to the teaching programme, the unit is currently developing a research focus on International Studies, specifically in the area of global justice. This emphasis is already visible in the emerging research output on development studies (McCann); on international political philosophy, global ethics, and human rights (Schippers) and on the cultural representation of minority identities, migration, and the exile experience (Vaupel). Further initiatives include changes to the research seminar hosted by the unit, in particular the expansion of the visiting speakers programme; the organisation of thematic workshops; an increased engagement with research users and the hosting of a conference, provisionally entitled 'Borders in Mind'.

The key challenge facing the unit is to expand its membership and to encourage new members to engage in research activities that will allow participation in future research assessment exercises.

c. People, including:

The unit consists of three members, with expertise in European policy and development studies (McCann), political theory (Schippers) and cultural studies (Vaupel).

Gerard McCann is the UK country manager for the 'Intercultural Dialogue and Linguistic Diversity via Moblang' project, funded by the European Union's Education and Culture DG; director of the 'Zambia-Northern Ireland Universities' Knowledge Transfer and Business Initiative' and an Erasmus Coordinator. He has been the UK coordinator of the EU's Intensive Programmes 'Migration and Narration', based in Krosno College (PWSZ, Poland) since 2010 and 'Intercultural Dialogue', based at *Szent István* University (SZIU, Hungary) from 2013. He was the academic manager of the Department for International Development (2005-2008) and Trocaire (2008-2011) funded 'Global Dimension in Education Project'. He was Chair of the Centre for Global Education in Belfast for seven years and is the copy editor of *Policy and Practice*. Recent books include: *Ireland's Economic History: Crisis and Development North and South* (Pluto, 2011); *Issues in Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa* (University of Zambia, 2011) edited with Chrispin M. Matenga and *From the Local to the Global: Key Issues in Development Studies* (Pluto, 2009) edited with Stephen McCloskey. The latter has been revised and adapted for publication into Polish (2010), Greek (2011) and Slovakian (2011). Articles have been published recently in the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *ZNAK Miesiecznik*, 'Migration, Narration, Identity', *Irish Political Studies Journal*, *Policy and Practice*, *The Journal of European Economic History* and *PRACE: Naukowo-Dydaktyczne*. McCann is currently working on a manuscript on the European Union's international cooperation policy.

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Birgit Schippers' principal research interests lie in contemporary social and political theory, specifically in feminist theory and the politics of identity; in democratic theory and the affective and embodied dimensions of politics. A monograph on the relations between the influential Franco-Bulgarian critical theorist Julia Kristeva and contemporary feminist thought (Edinburgh University Press, 2011) is Schippers' most significant publication to date. Her current research engages with international political philosophy and global ethics. At present she is completing a book on Judith Butler's international political philosophy and interventions into post-9/11 public political discourse (Routledge, forthcoming 2014). Further work engages with political theories of violence and with discourses on the human and human rights. Schippers was convenor of the roundtable on Julia Kristeva and political thought at the 2009 Manchester Workshops in Political Theory; she is also the convenor of the College's European Studies Research seminar series. Between 2008 and 2013, her research has been presented at national and international conferences (including UCD, CEU Budapest, LSE, QUB). Invited talks include a workshop presentation at the University of Aberdeen and a keynote lecture at the Society for Women in Philosophy Spring Conference 2013 at UCD. Schippers is a reviewer for the LSE Review of Books blog; she has also reviewed for the *Journal of International Political Theory* and *thirdspace: a journal of feminist theory & culture*. In 2013, Schippers was invited to join the Irish Research Council Peer Review Panel.

Angela Vaupel's research interests draw from Cultural and Film Studies, as well as Exile and Identity Studies. Issues such as how cultural media relate to ideology, nationality/ethnicity, gender/sexuality and social class, are central aspects of her research activities and output. Approaches employed within her work combine social and political theory, literary and film theory, as well as feminist theory for the examination of cultural phenomena, such as the formation of cultural identities and their representation in the cultural media; the analysis of socio-political structures within a given culture as mirrored by the cultural media; the relationship between cultural practices and power; exile, migration and otherness as presented in cultural media. Vaupel is the author of two books, on the post-1945 German reception history of exile literature 1933-45 (Peter Lang, 2007) and on the representation of women in Nazi film (Kovac, 2005), and has recently co-authored a multilingual text book (University of Ljubljana Press, 2012) aimed at promoting a European dimension in the study of social science subjects in post-primary education. Between 2008 and 2013, she presented her research at national and international conferences and has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on young people's perceptions of Europe, on representations of identity and otherness in European cultural media and on the role of intercultural competence in educational contexts and social integration processes. Vaupel has been the editor of *The International Feuchtwanger Society's Newsletter* (ISSN 2156 0676) from 2006-2010.

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The three members of the unit (McCann, Schippers, Vaupel) were recruited as part of the College's diversification process and the establishment of its BA in Liberal Arts. All staff in this unit are Category A staff, employed on open-ended contracts. They have commenced their contracts prior to 2008.

The College is an equal opportunities employer. Its Equal Opportunities Policy can be accessed at: <http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/administration/personnel/equalofops.asp?cid=127228591823>

The College, through its Research Office, the Research Committee and the Research Ethics Committee, support staff in the development of their research. The Research Office acts as a central resource in promoting the development of a research culture in the College. The Research Committee has the responsibility of cultivating a community of academic researchers; its aim is to create capacity commensurate with research-informed teaching and learning in a higher education institution. The College's Research Ethics Committee scrutinizes all research proposals involving research with participants; it also provides advice and guidance to staff who are preparing proposals. Relevant ethics documentation can be accessed at: <http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/academic/research/ethics.asp?cid=116118888256>.

Staff can apply to the College's research budget to obtain funding for conference participation and field trips. All three members of the unit have availed of this opportunity since 2008. Short-term

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study leave is available to staff, subject to prior permission, while the organisation of the teaching timetable is also sensitive to the research activities undertaken by the members of this unit.

ii. Research students

According to the College's memorandum with Queen's University Belfast, College staff can act as second supervisors to research students. College management is currently exploring the possibility of future supervisory activities for its staff.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Since 2008, the three members of the unit have obtained research funding for seven research projects, totalling £267,798:

1. 'The global dimension in education' (2005-2008) received funding from the Department for International Development. (Total = £147,646)
2. 'The use of Trocaire's resources within the global dimension in education' (2008-2009) received funding from Trocaire for a new strand of the first project. (Total = £25,000)
3. 'Knowledge transfer and the enhancement of business education between Zambia and Northern Ireland' (2009) received funding from the British Council. (Total = £57,000)
4. 'Intercultural dialogue and linguistic diversity via MobLang' (2009) was a collaborative project as part of a larger European research consortium, which received funding from the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. (Total = £14,450)
5. 'Perception, attitude, movement: identity needs action (PAM:INA)' (2009-2011) was a collaborative project as part of a larger European research consortium, which received funding from the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme. (Total = £14,995)
6. 'Julia Kristeva & feminist thought' (2010) received funding from the British Academy. (Total = £2,707)
7. 'Open sustainability in education resource' (2010-2011) was a UK-based collaborative project, which received funding from the Higher Education Academy and the Joint Information Systems Committee. (Total = £6,000)

Most of these funded projects led to publications, such as research reports, articles or books, by members of PaIS. Some of the projects underwent a competitive tendering process and/or peer review.

To facilitate the generation of research income, the College deployed the following strategies: staff training on the writing of research proposals; invitation of speakers from funding bodies; Internet searches for possible funding opportunities; networking with outside agencies for possible funding. The College's finance department manages the financial administration associated with externally funded projects and liaises with staff on the recording and management of the associated research budgets.

The Research Office assists with queries relating to research and research funding, provides advice and circulates information on dissemination and funding opportunities, assists staff with the development of research proposals or funding bids and collates and maintains information on publications, grant proposals and conference presentations.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

McCann's contribution to the discipline of Politics and International Studies has evolved out of his understanding of the European Union's economic and development policies. He has been working on these themes for fifteen years and has developed an international reputation on the role of the European Union and its member states in international affairs. This has led to numerous invitations to participate in conferences and departmental discussions on issues pertinent to this topic. He has often been invited to give guest lectures in universities worldwide and, where possible, contributes to policy papers and political forums on these subjects. *McCann* has also developed innovative links and partnerships with universities and non-governmental organisations in sub-Saharan Africa which have assisted in the formulation of research initiatives. This has enabled him to develop an

understanding of international development policy from the perspective of the recipient regions.

'Analysing Lived Experience: Resistance to Structural Dominance', in Peter Leese, Carly McLaughlin and Waldek Witalisz (eds) *Migration, Narration, Identity* (2012) Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main, pp.21-43. ISBN 978-3-631-62824-9

Issues in Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (2011) Edited with Chrispin M. Matenga (University of Zambia) ZAM, Lusaka. ISBN 987-0-9553472-10. pp.1-186.

Challenging Poverty in Northern Ireland (September 2010) with Dr Niall Coll, Dr Gabrielle Maguire and Prof. Peter Finn, St Vincent de Paul, Belfast, pp.1-60.

'Ringing the Change: The 2009 European Parliamentary Elections' (June 2010) with Dr Paul Hainsworth (UUJ), in the *Irish Political Studies Journal*. Volume 25, Number 2, pp.303-314.

From the Local to the Global, (2009) Edited with Stephen McCloskey, Pluto Press, London and New York. ISBN 978-0-7453-2842-3, pp.1-308.

'Global Development and the European Union' (2008) in Stephen McCloskey, *Development Reader: An Introduction to International Development Issues*, Centre for Global Education, Belfast, ISSN: 1748-135X, pp.40-57.

Schippers was invited to contribute to a workshop at the University of Aberdeen and to deliver a keynote address at UCD; she was also an invited speaker at a Belfast Bright Club event in 2012. Further, she received invitations to contribute chapters to edited collections on radical democracy; on the teaching of political theory and, more recently, on the work of Judith Butler. She organised and convened a roundtable on Julia Kristeva and political thought at the 2009 Manchester Workshops in Political Theory. Within the College, she founded and convenes the European Studies Research Seminar.

Vaupel was a consortium member of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning programme-funded PAM-INA project. During the lifespan of the project (2009-2012), she collaborated with colleagues from the University of Education Freiburg; the University of Ljubljana; the University of the Aegean; Lyon University 1; the University of Education Cracow; the European University Cyprus; Mälardalen University; NUI Maynooth and Plymouth University. These collaborations included participation in international symposia and conferences and production of two peer-reviewed book volumes, a multilingual toolkit (based on research results), a project website and a training unit for in-service teachers. From 2011-2012 she collaborated with Dr Stephanie Schwerter (*École des hautes études en sciences sociales*, Paris), which resulted in one single-authored publication and an invitation to be a conference speaker at West Saxon University of Applied Sciences in Zwickau. Vaupel organized and convened two roundtables on *PAM-INA* (March 2010), and on *Borders in Mind: transcultural approaches to memories – past, present, future* (April 2013), which is her current research project.