

<p><b>Institution: University of Westminster</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: UoA 21; Politics and International Studies</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>This submission is drawn from staff located within the Department of Politics and International Relations in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. The research of the Department is structured in three thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the theory and practice of democracy. The Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD) incorporates four principal research themes: critical democratic theory; democratic institutions and public policy; Islam and democracy; and governance and sustainability. Members include Anand, Blaug, Chandler, Frennhof-Larsen, Greenwood, Patricia Hogwood, Holt, Chantal Mouffe (Emeritus), Abdelwahab El-Affendi Osman, Pitcher, Smith (Director), and Tambakaki.</li> <li>• security studies and international relations. The Security and International Relations Programme (SIRP) has four main research themes: intervention and statebuilding; resilience and security; migration and security; theorizing security. Members include Chandler, Cross, Dannreuther, Fluck, Hehir (Lead), Moore, and Osman.</li> <li>• politics and international relations of the non-Western world. The Emerging Powers Programme (EPP) has three main research themes: social movements; politics of energy and resources; borders and territoriality. Members include Allinson, Anand (Lead), Cross, Dannreuther, and Farhang Morady.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p><u>Research Strategy from 2008-2013</u></p> <p>The RAE 2008 submission was based around CSD, which was, at that point, an independent research centre, an autonomous department, and only taught postgraduate students. The strengths of CSD have been: its tradition of public and intellectual engagement; its commitment to critical debates; its vibrant research programmes; and its well-known public intellectuals, such as John Keane and Chantal Mouffe. However, it was also recognised after REF 2008 that there was a need to have a stronger financial basis through income from undergraduate teaching, bring in a strong overarching disciplinary focus and ensure effective synergies with political scientists in other departments of the university. This conformed with a broader university strategy to shape departments - with the full range of research activities, doctoral programmes, and postgraduate and undergraduate teaching – as the core units within the university structure.</p> <p>In the period 2007-8, a strategic review was conducted so as (a) to preserve and enhance the existing strengths of CSD but also to promote a greater disciplinary focus, (b) to be more inclusive in the staffing, and (c) to define a clearer set of core research programmes within a new Department. The key outcomes of this review were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The merging of CSD with the political science components in the Department of Social and Political Studies, which had been primarily dedicated to undergraduate teaching; the new Department of Politics and International Relations was formed. This merger took place in 2008 and involved the bringing together of two different research and teaching cultures. Dannreuther was appointed Head of the newly-merged Department in 2009 and one of his key objectives was to ensure the success of this merger through the development of a unified research and learning and teaching culture.</li> <li>• The resulting enhanced disciplinary cohesion made it possible to identify the three distinct research groupings noted above that provide a focus for the research and impact activities of the Department. CSD continues as a centre and, though primus inter pares among the three groupings, is not the only site for research in the Department. Innovative research is also undertaken within the Security and IR and the Emerging Powers programmes.</li> <li>• The development of more robust and inclusive systems and procedures for encouraging</li> </ul>
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and developing individual and collective research plans. At the Departmental level, this included establishing an annual research audit which provides constructive advice and developmental support for individuals to produce high-quality research, to promote excellent research impact, and to facilitate and support research grant applications.

- The enhancement of the experience, quality and training provided to the research students within the Department.
- The development of wider School and University structures to support research activity. A notable development was the appointment in 2010 of a full-time Research Development Officer dedicated to the Faculty, who has helped in improving the institutional environment for research funding applications.
- Ensuring that the international reputation and intellectual traditions of CSD and its commitment to public engagement are preserved. This includes, for example, the continuation of the prestigious public events such as the CSD Encounter which involves a full-day engagement with a well-known political thinker. Recent Encounters include Agnes Heller (2013), Judith Butler (2011), Charles Taylor (2010), Stuart Hall (2009) and Julia Kristeva (2008). The annual C.R. Parekh Lecture, funded through the family trust of Emeritus Professor Lord Bhikhu Parekh, has similarly brought high-profile speakers, such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama (2012), Arundhati Roy (2011) and Ashis Nandy (2009).
- Extensive use of social media, including a dedicated youtube channel, facebook and twitter, to disseminate research and public engagement activities.

Research Strategy: 2014-2019

The main priorities and objectives for the next five years include the following:

- Under the leadership of Smith, recruited from the University of Southampton, in collaboration with Chandler, to initiate a forward-looking review and define the longer-term strategy for CSD. This will set a strategic path for CSD to meet the core challenges for the study of democracy, to sustain and enhance its international reputation and to provide intellectual leadership following the retirement of Keane (2010) and Mouffe (2013). It will build upon strong foundations in political and democratic theory (Blaug, Chandler, Moore, Smith, Tambakaki); democratic institutions and public policy (Blaug, Frennhof-Larsen, Hogwood, Pitcher, Smith); sustainability (Greenwood; Smith); and Islam and Democracy (Osman and Holt).
- To develop and enhance the Security and International Relations Programme. While maintaining the internationally recognised research on intervention and statebuilding (Chandler and Hehir), new strategic directions are being developed on the themes of resilience (Chandler) and migration and security (Cross).
- To develop the most recent of the research groupings of the Department – the Emerging Powers Programme – that was launched in 2013. This involves developing research through the interconnections between social movements (Allinson), the international politics of resources (Dannreuther), borders and territoriality (Anand) and area studies specialism in India and Tibet (Anand), Middle East (Allinson, Morady and Osman), Russia (Dannreuther) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cross).
- To review the current system for allocating more extended periods of research leave to ensure inclusivity while maintaining the highest quality of outputs and impacts.
- To enhance and develop structures and processes for research impact, as described more fully in REF3a.

Priorities for Development

The most important priorities include:

- Ensuring the successful transition to the new leadership of CSD; the enhancement of existing national and international collaborative frameworks; the creation of new national and international collaborative frameworks in emerging research areas; the generation of research grant income; and enhancing the vibrant research environment to meet the

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contemporary challenges for research in democracy.

- Defining complementary dynamic research programmes which incorporate the strengths in security studies, international relations, and non-Western politics.
- Developing coherent and efficient management of research grant applications which seeks to concentrate resources through more focused and proactive support of both large research grant applications and small to medium-research grant applications.
- Continuing to raise the ambitions of staff to produce higher quality and more innovative research. This will be facilitated by effective mentorship by the Director of Research and the research programme leads, alongside the University's implementation of a new workload allocation model which requires greater accountability of the research time allocated to members of staff.

**c. People, including:**

Despite financial challenges to the University in the period 2010-12 which resulted in the staff base being reduced in some areas, the Department, along with others in the Faculty was protected and in fact has increased staff FTE over the period 2008-13. This has been made possible by the Department's success in income generation through teaching and research.

Succession Strategy

At the same time as considerable organizational change and reform, the period also coincided with the retirement of a number of some of the most senior and well-established scholars within the Department, who had been intimately connected with CSD. These include Keane (retired in 2010), John Owens (2011) and Mouffe (2013).

The strategy to replace these high-profile retirements by senior staff with strong track records in research publications and management led to the recruitment of Dannreuther in 2009 as Head of Department (previously Professor of International Relations at the University of Edinburgh); Blaug in 2010 (previously Senior Lecturer at the University of Leeds and appointed as Reader); and Smith in 2012 (previously Professor of Politics at the University of Southampton). The fact that the Department has been successful in recruiting such internationally recognised scholars is an indicator of the vitality of the research environment in the Department, its intellectual ambition, and its promise of future sustainability. These senior recruitments have extensive prior experience of management and mentoring (with Dannreuther and Smith as heads of department), of developing research centres (Smith), and have strong impact and research funding track records. The mixing of the old and new diverse cultures of research, intellectual engagement, and impact activities makes the Department a dynamic and vibrant environment.

Support for Early Career Researchers

There has been a strong commitment in the Department and the Faculty to support early career researchers as part of the long-term sustainability of the research environment. In 2009, permanent appointments were made for two early career researchers who had been on fixed-term research contracts (Tambakaki and Greenwood) so as to enhance CSD.

In 2011, the Faculty decided to use a research fund to support postdoctoral teaching and research fellowships with an explicit restriction to applicants who had completed their dissertation not more than 15 months earlier. The fellowships include mentoring for both teaching and research with a lighter teaching load than for a standard lecturer contract. The Department appointed Allinson and Fluck on this basis, who have strengthened the Security and IR and Emerging Powers research programmes. Allinson has now been made a permanent member of staff. In 2013, two new early career appointments were made with Cross, strengthening research on migration and

security, and Frennhoff-Larsen for EU policy and institutions.

### Prestigious Research Fellowships

A number of research fellowships that indicate the national and international standing and reach of research in the Department were awarded, including:

- Dannreuther as an ESRC /FCO/AHRC New Security Challenges Fellow from 2008-2010.
- Osman as an ESRC/AHRC fellow in the RCUK Global Uncertainties Programme from 2009-12.
- Chandler as visiting fellow at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Kate Hamburger Kolleg, University of Duisburg-Essen in 2012-13.
- Smith as Senior Visiting Scholar at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in Autumn 2013.

### Equality of Opportunity

The Department seeks to provide a fair and equitable distribution of resources for the conduct and dissemination of research. This is facilitated by the devolution of QR funding to the Department where it is used, in substantial part, to reduce the teaching load of research-active staff. This generally involves a reduction of one third of the full teaching/administrative load according to the University workload allocation model. Generous financial support is offered for presentation of research papers at national and international conferences.

Resources are also targeted to support those at an early stage in their research careers. This includes mentoring by senior staff and the preparation of staged and clearly delineated research plans for individual researchers. Funds for research time and activities such as conference attendance and organisation follow from these plans.

Such research development planning and mentoring includes specific attention to those staff members who in the past had teaching-only focused contracts. Particular efforts have been concentrated on staff from the previous Department of Social and Political Studies which focused primarily on undergraduate teaching. These staff had had many years of part-time teaching contracts and permanent positions were only obtained in the mid-2000s. Some of these colleagues have a strong reputation for pedagogical research and others for innovative research that defies traditional disciplinary and scholarly boundaries. While recognising the value of this work, support such as conference funding, research buy-out and mentorship have been made available to support scholarship that is more relevant to the Research Excellence Framework.

### Research Students

There has been a significant enhancement of the PhD programme within the Faculty in the period since 2008, in order to provide more extensive and rigorous research methods and professional training, an improved working environment and a stronger sense of postgraduate research community. Completion rates have improved over the period 2008-13.

The strategic ambition is to have a vibrant PhD community marked more by quality than quantity and where students genuinely gain added value by being fully integrated into the Department as well as being members of the University Graduate School. We see ourselves as offering a 'niche' market for those students attracted to the traditions of critical and radical thought associated with CSD, our strengths in the two more recent research programmes on security and emerging powers and the international standing of the staff of the Department. Our aim is to have around 5-7 new PhD students joining us each year. We have broadly met this target with 32

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students who registered onto the programme, and 25 completions, in the period from 2008-13.

There have been a number of initiatives at both Faculty and Department level to enhance the PhD programme:

- At the Faculty level, a streamlined and more robust system of regulation and accountability has been introduced with a strategic aim to improve completion rate. The various stages where the student progresses – including the initial registration (after 3 months) and the transfer to PhD (after 12-18 months) – are now more challenging with formal reviews by senior members of staff outside of the supervision team. Regular progress reviews are enabled through ensuring that each full-time student has at least six meetings a year with their Director of Studies where formal logs are updated. Each year the Director of Studies is required to complete an annual progress report on each of their students. As a consequence, there is much improved strategic oversight of the Faculty's PhD programme.
- This also involves, at both Faculty and Department level, an enhanced provision of research training courses. The University has established a pan-University Graduate School with an explicit mission to extend the provision of research training both in research methods and in professional preparation. At the Departmental level, a discipline-specific Politics and IR methodology and research methods course has been introduced which all first year PhD students are required to attend. This is supported by an annual PhD conference where students in the Department present their doctoral research to members of staff and other postgraduate students.
- The Department has introduced PhD scholarships, using QR funding for this purpose. In 2009 this involved one full scholarship (fees + £15,000 per annum; in 2010 there was a further full scholarship and 2 partial scholarships (fees + £5,000); from 2012-13 there were 2 partial scholarships awarded each year. These scholarships have been successful in attracting highly qualified applicants who have contributed to the success of the PhD programme and the broader research culture of the Department.
- There has been a strengthening of the quality of the PhD programme. There is now a more systematic and transparent process of providing teaching opportunities for PhD students. We seek to ensure that all PhD students have teaching opportunities in order to enhance their future employability. All PhD students are required to successfully complete the PG Certificate of Special Study for Supporting Learning so as to prepare them for teaching.
- PhD students have been allocated two dedicated large rooms in the heart of the Department which helps to integrate them into the research environment. They are positively encouraged to participate in all the research activities of the Department, such as the weekly seminars, public lectures, research conferences and seminars. Frequently, PhD students are involved in generating ideas and the planning and preparation of these events.

### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The UoA obtained a number of externally funded research grants. These were broadly divided across the three research areas in the Department:

- Four large grant awards. Smith is PI for the £965,000 RCUK-funded project on 'The role of community-based initiatives in energy saving' (originally awarded at Southampton); Dannreuther was a work-package leader for an EU FP7 €2.3m project on Policy Towards Natural Resources (Polinares); Osman was PI for the ESRC-AHRC funded project on 'Narratives of Insecurity' from the Global Uncertainties programme and was awarded £234,570; and Smith is also funded for work on Participedia as part of the ESRC Connected Communities Imagine consortium which was awarded £1,817,744.
- Five medium-sized awards which include Keane for two projects related to the future of democracy ((£54,000 and £85,000); Chandler for a 9-month visiting fellowship at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Kate Hamburger Kolleg, University of Duisburg-Essen for which he was awarded £42,000; Greenwood on an EU-funded project on Developing Postgraduate and Doctoral programme on sustainable development (GAVA) and for which he was awarded £42,462.02; and Smith for a 4-month Senior Visiting Scholar Fellowship at the Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School to the value of \$20,000.
- A number of smaller grant awards to Anand (2 projects for £12,000 in total); Hehir (£3,000); Holt (3 projects for £8,000); Owens (£3,000).

The strategy for generating research grant income has involved a number of measures which seek to provide structured opportunities for staff to identify and pursue research grant applications. These include the annual individualised research audit when opportunities for potential grants are discussed with all members of staff; mentoring by the Departmental Research Director and research programme leads; the advice and support provided by the School Research Development Officer who regularly identifies potential opportunities and leads discussions with relevant research staff; a regular 'Research in Progress' seminar series where staff present their ongoing research and the potential for external funding of this research; and a twice-yearly Research Clinic when more directed advice is provided by staff with experience of applying for and managing research grants.

It is recognised that attention will be needed for the period 2014-19 to ensure the effectiveness of procedures and strategies for generating research grant income, particularly given the likelihood of a more challenging environment. This will involve a dual strategy. First, resources will be committed to obtaining large research grants through members of staff with a past track record (Smith, Dannreuther) and/or who have developed an international reputation (Anand, Chandler, Blaug). Second, mentorship and advice will be given to support more junior staff to either be involved in larger research grants or to develop their own smaller grant applications. The role of Research Director shifts in 2014 from Anand to Smith, with an explicit task of setting general and individual targets for income generation.

In terms of physical infrastructure, the University engaged in a major redevelopment of the Regent Street campus in 2011-12. This included developing a dedicated state-of-the-art seminar room, the 'Westminster Forum', which is used for the Department's research activities, such as the regular research seminars. The two PhD rooms, which can accommodate up to 10 students in each, were also fully re-equipped with new computer equipment and furniture. A massive expansion of online resources by the Library enables access to cutting edge international research outputs for both staff and postgraduate students.

#### **e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base**

The Department is located in the centre of London and has an internationally-focused, outward-looking and collaborative approach to conducting its research and in seeking to contribute to debates within the discipline. The CSD Encounters and the C.R. Parekh Lectures mentioned above are only the most public face of a dynamic seminar programme, which includes regular Tuesday and Thursday seminar series that reflect the interests of the three research programmes. There have also been frequent international conferences and workshops conducted through the Department and its research groupings. These include, for example, Politics and Markets (2013); The Promise of Democracy (2012); The Politics of the Brain (2011); Democracy and Dissent in China and India (2011); Killer Narratives (2010); Revisiting India-China Border Dispute (2010); The Future of Statebuilding (2009). The Department provides dedicated resources to attract speakers with international reputations. In 2010 and 2011, the Department developed a seminar series at the House of Lords through a collaboration between Dannreuther and Emeritus Professor Lord Parekh which sought to bring academic research to policymakers and practitioners.

Individuals serve on the advisory and editorial boards of numerous journals including Contemporary Arab Affairs, South Asian Diaspora, Discourse, SMC Journal of Culture and Media Studies, darkmatter, Global Discourse, Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security, Environmental Politics and Middle East Memo. The Department has also been home to two journals. Chandler was the founding editor and co-editor with Hehir of Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding; in 2013, Chandler was the founding editor of Resilience: Policies, Practices and

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Discourses. Tambakaki and Chandler are also editors of a book series Advances in Democratic Theory which is a collaboration between CSD and the publishers Routledge.

### Interdisciplinary research and research collaborations

The open research culture of the Department and University has led to success in the promoting and engaging with interdisciplinary research and developing national and international research networks and collaborations. Examples include:

- Smith with his continuing role as PI on a RCUK-funded Energy and Communities project 'Community-based initiatives for energy saving' which involves a variety of social scientists and engineers from Reading, Exeter and Southampton. The project is built around an innovative field experiment that requires the insights from different disciplines to understand the determinants of energy saving practices.
- Smith is on the Executive Committee of Participedia – an innovative open global knowledge platform for researchers and practitioners in the field of democratic innovation and public engagement – involving academics from (amongst other institutions) Harvard, Penn State, UBC and Bremen as well as internationally-recognised practitioners.
- Dannreuther was a work-package leader for an EU-FP7 project entitled Polinares which was novel in the way in which it brought together political scientists, economists, geologists, engineers and resource specialists to determine the future of conflict and cooperation over access to oil, gas and minerals. He was responsible for developing the project's theoretical framework, picked up by the Commission and other stakeholders.
- The Governance and Sustainability strand of CSD includes not only political scientists but also geographers and researchers in urban and development studies. The programme is also institutionally affiliated to the Lemuelson Center for the Study of Invention, the Smithsonian Institute and John Hopkins University.
- Blaug has worked on a number of projects with the Good Work Commission, Work Foundation, Health and Safety Executive and BBC Trust, resulting in a number of co-authored commissioned reports.

### National and International Academic Collaborations

A number of members of Department have had visiting fellowships at other universities. These include Anand, at the University of California Berkeley (2008), Australian National University (2009) and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi (2013); Chandler, at Kobe University in Japan (2009) and the Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Kate Hamburger Kolleg, University of Duisberg-Essen (2012-13); and Smith, at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2013). Hehir has been involved in establishing a BISA Working Group on Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect in 2013 with colleagues from the Universities of Leeds and Manchester.

### Other Contributions

Dannreuther, Osman and Smith are members of the ESRC Peer Review College. Smith was on the commissioning panel for the ESRC Transforming Social Science Research Call (2013) and was invited as a participant to the RCUK Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) Journey to Adaptation Event in 2013. Chandler has been Panel Chair for the Finnish Academy (2012-13); for the Norwegian Humanitarian Research (2012); on the Commissioning Panel for the 2013-2014 ESRC Centres and Large Grants Competition; and is EU FP7 Project Advisor for Conflict and Governance in Europe and India (2012-14).