

## Impact template (REF3a)

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| <b>Institution:</b> Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)   |
| <b>Unit of assessment:</b> C21 Politics and International Studies  |
| <p><b>a. Context</b> The School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) at QMUL has achieved significant research impact of local and global scope. There are three primary groups of stakeholders for our research, with different types of impact activity associated with each: (i) policymakers and practitioners from UK and overseas central and local government agencies, security organisations, political parties, NGOs and think tanks (briefings, policy advice, joint research events and training); (ii) civil society, third sector organisations and local stakeholders (public engagement activities, exhibitions and training); (iii) the wider public (public lectures and media work). SPIR thereby informs and enhances policymaking; facilitates debate, research and problem-solving among disadvantaged local communities; and improves public understanding of contemporary political challenges. Impact themes reflect SPIR's three research clusters: European Politics and Policy focuses on EU enlargement and governance, public policy, parties and elections; International Relations, on international security and politics in developing countries; and Political Theory and the History of Ideas, on using theory to understand contemporary political problems.</p>  |
| <p><b>b. Approach to impact:</b></p> <p><b>(i) Policymakers and practitioners:</b> Staff have established close relationships with public officials to ensure regular engagement and research impact. Activities include briefings to UK government agencies and parliament (<b>Dodge, Guibernau, Jones, Kenny, Murray, Phillips</b>), the European Council, (<b>Guibernau</b>), EU governments (<b>Jones, Wolff</b>), Balkan governments (<b>Fagan</b>), the OSCE (<b>Murray</b>), the EU, World Bank and the World Health Organisation (<b>Harman</b>); consultancies for Latin American governments (<b>Dunkerley</b>), European political parties (<b>Bale</b>), and the Israeli government (<b>Murray</b>); and partnerships with/ appointments at leading think tanks like the IPPR, Demos, Policy Network, and the Runnymede Trust (<b>Bale, Diamond, Guibernau, Kenny, Woodford</b>), Chatham House (<b>Dodge, Guibernau, Harman, Phillips</b>) and the Netherlands Institute for International Relations (<b>Wolff</b>). To bring impact into the heart of our research activities, SPIR appointed leading policy practitioners as visiting fellows: Dr Henry <b>Kippin</b> (2020 Public Services Trust, RSA) and Lord Adonis (visiting professor, 2013-).</p> <p><b>Highlights:</b> research conducted in SPIR's interdisciplinary <a href="#">Centre for the Study of Global Security and Development</a> (CSGSD) generated policy advice on Iraq, to the UK Department for International Development (DfiD) and Foreign Secretary, and the Pentagon's Joint Strategic Assessment Team, testimony to the UK Parliament and Iraq Inquiry (<b>Dodge</b>, 2008-10); policy advice on Syria to the UK Cabinet Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), DfiD, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Chatham House and the Chinese and Norwegian governments (<b>Phillips</b>, 2011-13); and policy advice on Southeast Asian security, economic sanctions and Myanmar, for the FCO, MoD, DfiD, EU, French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Danish and Dutch Foreign Ministries, the UK parliament, and Australian and Myanmar NGOs (<b>Jones</b>, 2009-13). CSGSD research also underpinned training provided on the FCO's Diplomatic Excellence and Knowledge Enhancement programme (<b>Jones</b>, 2012), technical expertise provided to the WHO (<b>Harman</b>, 2013) and educational policy advice to the UK and Myanmar governments (<b>Dunkerley, Jones</b>). Staff from SPIR's interdisciplinary <a href="#">Centre for European Research</a> and <a href="#">Centre for the History of Political Thought</a> (CSHPT) hosted conferences on <a href="#">Labour and the New Left</a> and <a href="#">'One Nation Labour'</a> with senior party figures, generating a pamphlet launched at the Labour Party conference (<b>Bale, Davis, Kenny</b>, 2012-13), disseminated research on conservatism via events at the Conservative Party conference and consultancy for [text removed for publication] (<b>Bale</b>), advised policymakers and activists in Europe, Israel and China on parliamentary gender quotas (<b>Murray</b>), counselled the EU Commission, the Quebec government and the UK foreign secretary on separatism (<b>Guibernau</b>); advised national and local UK government officials on devolution (<b>Kenny</b>), and provided policy advice to EU Commission, Bosnian and Montenegrin politicians and the Balkan Civil Society Network (<b>Fagan</b>, 2009-13). The high-profile <a href="#">Mile End Group</a> (MEG), supported by SPIR and other QMUL schools, regularly engages leading UK parliamentarians and officials in joint research seminars, including Tony Blair, Ed Balls, Jack Straw, Dominic Grieve and David Willetts.</p> |

**(ii) Local communities / third sector:** QMUL began life as an educational and cultural facility for east London's disadvantaged communities, and SPIR ensures that this community engagement work continues today. A highlight is **Shilliam's** extensive and innovative public engagement work based on his research on black diasporas (2012-). He established partnerships with black communities, NGOs, [political](#) and [artistic](#) groups and the Metropolitan police to facilitate debate on the [London riots](#), the challenges facing black Britons, and potential solutions. Events have empowered young people to [research these issues and trained them to produce films showcasing their findings](#), to generate further community debate and problem-solving. A new partnership is also being established with the George Lansbury Memorial Trust, whose board includes SPIR staff (**Davis**). Internationally, **Gabay**, with input from Kippin, established a partnership with War on Want, bringing African community leaders to speak at public events at QMUL (2012, 2013). SPIR also supports QMUL's work with schools in disadvantaged areas, disseminating cutting-edge research through developmental partnerships with politics teachers (**Gabay**, 2012-), participation in [RCUK's Global Uncertainties programme](#) (**Jones**, 2010), and work with students at BSix College in Hackney (**Jennings, Jones, Kenny, Shilliam**, 2010-), which was awarded the London Education Partnerships 'Building Bridges' award (2011) for its partnership with HEIs. Finally, staff testified to asylum tribunals (**Dunkerley, Jones**).

**(iii) Wider public:** SPIR staff enhance critical public understanding of contemporary political challenges, locally and globally. They have participated in public lectures and debates on topics including US foreign policy (**Mabee**, 2009), the Iraq War (**Dodge**, 2009; **Dodge, Mabee, O'Duffy**, 2011), Thailand's political crisis (**Jones**, 2010), Latin American politics (**Dunkerley**, 2010; **Webber**, 2013), economic sanctions (**Jones**, 2012), Garveyism (**Shilliam**, 2012), Syria (**Phillips**, 2012), Myanmar (**Jones**, 2013), Britain's EU membership (**Copeland**, 2013) and the politics of ethnic-majority nationalism (**Kenny**, 2013). Shilliam is also involved in developing a groundbreaking exhibition on Rastafarianism for the National Museum of Ethiopia, transferring to London in 2016. SPIR staff also maintain a global media presence. CSGSD staff discussed developments in Iraq (**Dodge**), Syria (**Phillips**), Myanmar (**Jones**), Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland (**O'Duffy**), and Latin America (**Dunkerley, Webber**). CER and CHPT staff developed critical public understanding of European elections (**Bara, Murray**), women in politics (**Murray**), devolution (**Guibernau**), and British politics (**Bale, Kenny**), and showed how political theory can be used to understand contemporary problems like multiculturalism, toleration and the politics of identity (**Kenny, Jennings, Thomassen**). Outlets include: Al Jazeera, BBC News, Bloomberg, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBS, Channel 4 and 5 News, Channel News Asia, CNN, Fox News, France 24, ITN, ITV News, Sky News; BBC Radio 2, 3, 4 and 5, BBC Radio London, Voice of America, Voice of Russia; *Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Guardian*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Observer*, *Standpoint*, *The Australian*, *THE*, *TLS*, and *Washington Post*.

### **Institutional support for impact**

**SPIR structures:** SPIR pursues the commitment in its research strategy to 'maximise our non-academic impact' through strategic appointments, and dedicated research support, resources and training. SPIR has appointed staff in high-impact areas (**Harman, Jones, Phillips**) and with established track-records of non-academic impact (**Bale, Diamond, Kenny**). Mentoring by senior academics helps staff build impact goals into their research objectives. SPIR's Research Committee reviews these goals, identifies other impact opportunities, and supports impact activities with grants from a general research fund (£30k pa). In 2012, SPIR appointed a Research Manager, who supports staff in identifying and securing opportunities and funding for impact, and an Events and Communications Officer, who helps communicate our research findings to external audiences and organises and promotes impact-related events, including via social media. Finally, SPIR developed its research centres (£5k pa funding) as focal points for impact, founding the CSGSD and CER, co-leading the CHPT, and supporting MEG.

**College structures:** QMUL Public Relations provides expert advice and tailored strategies for connecting research with the right audience via press releases, Twitter and RSS feeds, podcasts, iTunesU and a Youtube channel. Their ['Find an Expert'](#) tool helps connect external research users to our staff, and media appearances are also archived centrally. QMUL's Centre for Public Engagement (CPE), led by a Vice-Principal for Public Engagement

## Impact template (REF3a)

(with **Jones** on its Faculty Stakeholder Group), is establishing new international standards for HEIs' public engagement. Using a £300k RCUK grant and £1m HEIF5 funding (2011-15), the CPE provides training, support and funding for public engagement activities for academics, PGRs and ECRs. It awards over £100k pa, including £10k to SPIR to support work with ethnic minority communities (**Shilliam**), the Labour Party (**Bale, Davis and Kenny**) and the Conservatives (**Bale**). SPIR staff have undertaken impact training at the National Centre for Social Research, and media training at QMUL's Centre for Academic and Professional Development. PGRs receive impact and public engagement training through QMUL's Researcher Development Programme and ESRC Doctoral Training Centre. QMUL's promotions policy explicitly incentivises and recognises impact and public engagement contributions.

### c. Strategy and plans

**SPIR's Research Strategy 2013-2015** supports impact through: (i) redeploying and increasing internal funding for impact-related activities; (ii) developing the new Research Manager and Communications and Events Officer roles, (iii) enhancing mentoring, and (iv) promoting and supporting funding applications to enable impact activity.

**SPIR's future plans** include:

- (i) To develop further our Impact and Public Engagement Strategy, firmly embedding these activities in academic work through training, funding and support;
- (ii) Developing partnerships with think tanks and NGOs to establish collaborative research programmes and applications for Collaborative Doctoral Awards (AHRC) and Post-Doctoral Fellowships (ESRC, Leverhulme).
- (iii) Founding a Centre for the Future of UK Governance and Politics as another focal point for policy impact (**Bale, Davis, Diamond, Kenny**).
- (iv) The appointment of practitioners as visiting research fellows in each of our centres, beginning with leading journalist Matthew D'Ancona (2014-17).
- (v) Planned impact activities, including: conference on the post-2015 international development agenda, with policymakers, practitioners and activists (**Gabay**, Sept 2014, c.£30k, British Academy), a workshop for policymakers on economic sanctions (**Jones**, spring 2014), PGR-led public engagement work with local schools around the European elections (2014), a second One Nation Labour conference (**Bale, Davis, Diamond**) and two annual seminars on Syria (**Phillips**, 2014-17, £6k, Asfari Foundation), and a joint public event with UEA on 'Prime Ministerial Performance in British Politics' (**Diamond**, 2014).
- (vi) Ongoing funding bids for high-impact research projects, including: **Guibernau** on European referenda (ESRC, £210k), **Phillips** on Syria and its Neighbours (Chatham House, Norwegian and Swiss governments, £1m), **Harman** on leadership in global health, involving the production of a documentary (ESRC, £580k), and a workshop with policy makers and analysts on EU responses to the Arab spring (**Phillips, Wolff**, QMUL, £7k).

**d. Relationship to case studies** The three case studies are on Conflict Reduction in Iraq (CS1), Security and Intervention (CS2) and Women's Political Representation (CS3). CS1 and CS2 emerge from research within the IR cluster, showcasing SPIR's extensive expertise in conflict and security in developing countries, while CS3, based in the CER, illustrates SPIR's strength in European politics. Each case shows how SPIR research generated significant impact of international scope, focusing on engagement with policymakers and the wider public. The research underpinning each case was supported by SPIR structures and policies, including help with funding, research leave, and event organisation through the Centres.