

**Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science**

**Unit of Assessment: 21: Politics and International Studies**

**a. Context**

Scholars in the Government and International Relations Departments produce research on crucial political and social issues from the design of democratic institutions to the prevention of genocide. Engagement with politicians, policy-makers, think-tanks and other private groups is central to the mission of both Departments. Beneficiaries of this research include politicians at all levels of government, security and foreign policy practitioners, global media, national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, corporations and the general public. Links between researchers and practitioner communities take a variety of forms, including giving formal and informal advice to international public and private actors, giving evidence to parliamentary select committees, serving on policy committees and the advisory boards of non-governmental organisations and think tanks, contributions to journalism and media appearances, consultancy work, participation in joint academic-practitioner seminars and informal discussion groups and public lectures. The impact of research in Government and IR ranges from shaping and influencing policy debate to shaping and influencing specific policy outcomes at different levels of governance.

For an example of the longstanding depth and scope of engagement with practitioners in the Government Department, see the LSE influential academics project (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/government/research/resgroups/BGatLSE/historyTimeline.aspx>). See also a wide array of initiatives and resources that includes the external speaker programme and off-the-record seminars of the British Government@LSE programme, and a series of blogs run by the Public Policy Group (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/about>). The IRD's reputation in this respect is attested to by its winning of the competitively awarded endowment for the Dinam (David Davies of Llandinam) Fellowship by the Dinam Trust in 2007, which is a recurring fellowship targeted at practitioners, focused on building bridges between academic and practitioner communities (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalRelations/dinamfellow/dinamfellowship.aspx>).

**b. Approach to impact**

Research impact is supported centrally by the LSE through the recruitment and retention of outstanding researchers, and investment in research infrastructure, including the Research Incentives Policy described in REF5 (d). LSE Enterprise puts practitioners in touch with relevant experts and manages consultancy contracts for staff. Advice is also centrally provided for staff undertaking media work. In addition, LSE has made HEIF4 and HIEF5 funds available to staff through a Bid Fund, to which staff can apply for research projects with a strong engagement and impact agenda. A total of £569k from these funds was secured for projects in Government and International Relations, including the British Government@LSE series of public events and seminars, the series of blogs by the LSE Public Policy Group, an induction training programme for new MPs, and the IDEAS 'Diplomacy Commission'. The School has a dedicated Knowledge Exchange Manager, an internationally renowned annual Public Events Series, and a Press Office which specialises in the translation of research findings for a general audience. The LSE has also set up a Knowledge Exchange and Impact Working Group in order to further develop School policy on impact.

**Government**

The Government Department's approach to impact has four main elements. First, we encourage *public dissemination of research* via press launches (coordinated with the LSE press office), private seminars for policy-makers, and via articles explaining research findings for a broad audience posted on one or more of our high-profile blogs: on Politics and Policy, European Politics and Policy, USA Politics and Policy, and Impact of Social Sciences. For example, the LSE Politics and Policy blog has over 25,000 Twitter followers, while the LSE EuroPP blog has over 8,500 Twitter followers.

Second, we *actively promote bringing politicians and policy-makers* to the Department to meet with

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faculty. For example, we launched the British Government@LSE programme in 2010, for the specific purpose of promoting engagement between academics and UK government officials, via public lectures by senior politicians, which are usually followed by private dinners with faculty members, and via off-the-record private seminars/discussions between senior civil servants and faculty in the Department and elsewhere at the LSE.

Third, individually and collectively, faculty in the Department submit *written and oral evidence to parliamentary hearings* in the UK, Brussels, and in several other countries. For example, since 2010 Government Department faculty have given evidence to the following House of Commons committees: Dunleavy (Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, July 2010); Travers (Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, Nov. 2010; and Public Accounts Committee, Nov. 2012; Communities and Local Government Committee, June 2013); Lodge (Public Administration Select Committee, Jan. 2011); Kissane (Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, July 2011); and Hix (European Scrutiny Committee, Feb. 2012 and June 2013).

Fourth, several faculty in the Department (including Dunleavy, Hix, Hertog, Hughes, Lodge, Page, Travers, Wehner) occasionally offer *direct advice to government ministries, other state institutions and private bodies* on request, for *inter alia* the Cabinet Office, the Home Office, the Treasury, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the London Mayor's Office, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the OECD, and other international institutions. In addition to the interactions described in the case studies, other examples of this practice include: Tony Travers' chairing of the London Finance Commission between July 2012 and April 2013 (<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/business-economy/championing-london/london-finance-commission>); Patrick Dunleavy's design of the "Supplementary Vote" electoral system for the London Mayor elections; Simon Hix's advice to the government of Israel on the reform of the Israeli electoral system, his work for the APSA President's Task Force on Electoral Reform, and his 2010 report (co-authored with Iain McLean and Ron Johnston) for the British Academy on options for reform of the UK electoral system; Mark Thatcher's "Ranking Tool" of independent regulatory agencies in the EU; Steffen Hertog's advice to the Saudi Arabian government on labour market reform; and Jim Hughes, Denisa Kostovicova and John Sidel assistance to governments, international organizations and civil society NGOs in designing and reform political institutions and practices in post-transition states in the CIS, Western Balkans and South East Asia.

**International Relations**

The IRD supports and develops the potential for research impact in two main ways. First, we give *institutional support to the development of individual researcher relations with practitioners*, for example through membership of external bodies such as Chatham House, RUSI and IISS, through LSE Experts pages and staff webpages, as well as supporting staff financially and through flexible working hours, to undertake consultancy, advisory and media work. Examples include departmental hosting of the International Trade Policy and European Foreign Policy Units, led by Woolcock and Smith respectively, and enabling involvement of colleagues in cross-disciplinary research centres, such as the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation in the case of Falkner. The IRD recognises colleagues' on-going roles as research consultants to governmental bodies as part of their academic workload. This creates possibilities for research to have specific impacts. For example Toby Dodge's research has played a major role in improving American and British military and diplomatic policymaking towards Iraq specifically, as well as the broader Middle East. Fawaz Gerges' *The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaeda* has become a key text in training American counter-terrorism officials, and his analysis has been sought by key policymakers in the US government. Michael Cox has contributed to preparation work for the United States' National Intelligence Committee's forthcoming long-term assessment. Chris Hughes' research informed his evidence to Parliament's assessment of the UK's China Strategy, and he is a highly valued consultant to both the FCO and MOD. On the basis of his work on China-Africa relations, Chris Alden was in 2009 invited to draft a section of a ministerial speech by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. He has twice been invited to host day-long sessions on China relations by the African Union Commission, and policymakers have sought his research and advice in contribution to Angola's 'progress and development'.

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Second, we have recently developed *institutional structures through which research impact can be further enabled*, notably with the Centre for Diplomacy and Strategy (IDEAS) and the Executive Masters programme in Diplomacy and Strategy. We also set up of the Middle East Centre and our recent Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), which will create opportunities for Alden's South-South co-operation research to reach a wider audience (CAF has committed £100k in the first instance).

LSE IDEAS was created in 2009, as a forum for sustained engagement and knowledge exchange between the LSE's academic experts and foreign policy and diplomacy practitioners, corporate leaders, and the general public. IDEAS runs invitation-only seminars, conferences and 'Strategic Dinners' to bring academics and policymakers together at all levels to engage in knowledge exchange. Representative attendees are Director-level officials responsible for strategy in the FCO, MOD, Cabinet Office, Home Office and intelligence services. IDEAS publishes reports that make research findings accessible to a wider policy and public audience. Since 2011 IDEAS has produced sixteen such reports, which have been cited in parliamentary proceedings and stimulated debate world-wide. An IDEAS report on UK foreign policy was extensively cited in the Foreign Affairs Committee's scrutiny of the UK's Strategic Defence and Security Review and National Security Strategy; and a report on India's power potential stimulated wide-ranging policy debate in the Indian media. Over ten-thousand people attend the one-hundred public lectures and seminars IDEAS organises annually. The Centre has over 7,000 twitter followers and consistently high ranking in the Global Go To Think Tank Rankings.

Together, individual staff, or research by members of, the Government and IR Departments received over 2,600 press mentions in the REF census period – in the main online, print and broadcast media monitored by the LSE Press Office. In addition, 103,622 megabytes of data were downloaded from the Government and IR Department and faculty webpages in the census period.

### c. Strategy and plans

**Key Goals:** Both Departments will continue to invest in faculty who will produce first-rate research. They will also work with central LSE bodies to increase externally funded research (which generally is required to support knowledge exchange and impact [KEI] activities) and to connect LSE academics to relevant practitioner communities. Both Departments will play a central role in LSE's new institutional vehicle to support KEI activities, the Institute of Public Affairs.

#### Government

The Government Department's strategy for the future is to consolidate and strengthen the 4 approaches to impact discussed above. This means:

- Sustaining and strengthening the forums through which we disseminate our research to targeted audiences, in particular our use of online forums such as the policy blogs mentioned above;
- Continuing to enable regular face-to-face contact between researchers and policy-makers in informal face-to face settings;
- Recognising and rewarding public engagement and policy-relevant work, such as testifying to parliamentary committees, as an integral part of an academic workload;
- Supporting staff taking on direct advisory roles to governmental and non-governmental organisations, including allowing for secondments and buy-outs.

#### International Relations

The IRD's strategies for research impact build on past experience of where researchers have been particularly successful in gaining impact for their research work, notably, Dodge, Falkner, Gerges, Smith and Woolcock. This experience tells us that research quality is crucial but so is publicising research, building long-term relationships with practitioner communities, and being involved directly in working with practitioner individuals or organisations. On this basis, IRD's future plans include:

- Giving financial and logistical support for the development of high quality research projects and programmes (as detailed in REF 5 (d));
- Improving departmental web-site information, accessibility of scholarly publications, and the targeting of practitioner audiences for public lectures and seminars;

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- Recognising engagement and impact activities as an integral part of academic workloads and as something that can be taken into account in staff review and promotion;
- Developing the activities of IDEAS as the key forum for enabling impact for IR researchers in the areas of foreign policy and diplomacy.

**d. Relationship to case studies****Government**

Broadly speaking, our approach has produced identifiable impacts in two main areas, as shown in our 4 submitted case studies.

First, several individual and collective research projects have had an impact on policy debates as well as policy outcomes in the area of *political and constitutional reform in the UK*. The Public Policy Group project on improving the development of “digital era” practices in UK central government produced savings of £5.5m in 2011-12 and significantly improved customer satisfaction ratings of the on-line services of the Department of Work and Pensions. In 2013, the Public Policy Group also completed a 15 year collaboration with the UK National Audit Office on improving its value-for-money in auditing.

Second, a number of individuals and teams in the Department have had an impact on policy debates and policy outcomes on *political and policy reform elsewhere in the world*. Simon Hix’s [www.VoteWatch.eu](http://www.VoteWatch.eu) project has transformed the way voting in the European Parliament and the EU Council takes place, is reported by the media, and is used by politicians and policy-makers. In addition, Joachim Wehner, Martin Lodge, and the Public Policy Group team have been involved in projects on improving the quality of and reporting of public finance data by the OECD, World Bank, DfID, the Brazilian Finance Ministry, and the European Court of Auditors. Similarly, in our fourth case-study, research by Eiko Thielemann and the Migration Studies Unit has changed the way the EU and its member states implement their migration burden-sharing programmes.

**International Relations**

IRD’s approach of giving institutional support to the development of individual researcher relations with practitioners, as detailed in Section C above, has been central to all 3 IRD case studies. The ITPU and EFPU were created on the initiative of Smith and Woolcock respectively, but they could not have attained an institutional existence without IRD support. This involved underwriting a web-site presence and budget line, giving financial and time support for research and consultancy activities, and endorsing requests for School research leave and buy-outs. The Units enabled a stable interface between these researchers and relevant publics, through which their research could be publicised, and which in turn could provide an institutional home for further research required by practitioner communities, and a base on which funding bids could be made and in which research funds received could be managed. These units have enabled the development of strong and ongoing links between these two researchers and relevant policy communities, creating the context in which their research has become known and had effects in specific policy areas. In addition, the ITPU’s work has been supported by the work of LSE Enterprise and its management of consultancy contacts with the INTA.

In relation to Falkner’s ‘Improving Regulatory Capacity for Nanomaterials Risks’ case study, IRD research funds and publicity capacity has supported Falkner’s work on nanotechnologies, enabled his participation in the appropriate cross-disciplinary centres within the LSE and his 2 year buy-out from teaching and administrative duties 2010-2012 to enable him to write up the results of his research. Falkner has benefited from the IRD’s long-term institutional links with Chatham House, which commissioned the 2009 Report and was the major forum for the dissemination of the research findings. LSE IDEAS organised the major London event through which Smith’s Task Force Report was disseminated in March 2013.

All of the case study authors have benefited from the IRD’s flexibility in enabling staff to take time for public roles, from testifying to Committees and Public Hearings to co-chairing an EU sponsored Task Force.