

Institution: City University London
Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies
<p>a. Context</p> <p>International Politics (IP) research at City University London is focused on three areas: International Political Economy, International Social and Political Justice and Foreign Policy, Conflict and Diplomacy. Reflecting this expertise, our research has impacted principally in the following areas of international policy: (1) the UK government approach to asylum cases; (2) discussion among UK and EU ministers and civil servants and humanitarian agencies in the formulation of their country and collective policies on the Middle East; (3) UK, US and EU policy-makers' understanding of the financial regulation of offshore centres, the shadow banking industry and fiscal policy; (4) public awareness and understanding of complex political, economic, financial and cultural issues confronting the international community through analysis in the media, in public discussions and evidence provided to parliamentary, NGO and community groups.</p> <p>Beneficiaries include Government ministries and officials, including the UK Foreign Office, the UK Home Office and the Ministries of the Interior in France and Macau; decision-makers in positions of power including Jack Straw and Alistair Burt; researchers leading the fiscal and monetary policy debate such as Zoltan Poszar of the US Treasury and Thorvald Grung Moe of Norges Bank, Norway; members of NGOs, principally the Tax Justice Network, the Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions and Aid to Citizens (ATTAC, various European branches), Christian Aid, Oxfam and Policy Research in Macroeconomics (PRIME); and the audiences of broadcast and written media to which staff have contributed expertise.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Developing channels of communication to relevant policy-makers and opinion-formers. We capitalise on invitations and opportunities to provide advice and evidence to government departments, parliamentarians, the military and security sectors, business and financial institutions and NGOs. The UK's Foreign Affairs Committee invited Hollis to give oral evidence on UK-Saudi relations (29.1.13). Aran's research was cited in a House of Lords debate on the Middle East (6.2.09) and he served as an specialist on 'the European Taskforce for Peace' (2009-10), the joint initiative of the European Parliament and the Royal United Services Institute to revive the stalled Middle East Peace Process. The Royal African Society invited Palan to present a briefing in Parliament on tax avoidance and development in preparation for the G8 meeting in Ireland, June 2013. Deputy Foreign Minister Alistair Burt has benefited from advice on UK policy toward Israel and the Middle East peace process from Aran (25.3.13) and on the implications of the conflict in Syria from Hollis (8.2.11). European diplomats preparing to take up posts in the Balkans and the Middle East have been briefed by Collantes-Celador, Aran and Hollis (2011-13) and Swedish and Irish ambassadors to Israel by Aran (May 2013). Palan was invited by the French embassy to meet two members of the French National Assembly, Alain Bocquet and Nicolas Dupont-Aignan, to discuss international tax avoidance policy (April 2013). Researchers at the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), the US Treasury (e.g., consultation on a US Treasury policy piece on shadow banking, February 2013), the (Central) Banks of France and Norway and Fitch Ratings have all sought Nesvetailova's opinion on policy papers prior to publication and cited her work in their publications. She is also the European coordinator of the Global Shadow Banking Network, organised by a group of scholars in the USA and China (Beijing University).</p> <p>Engagement with Civil Society Groups: This is an important aspect of our strategy. Hoover is currently working with residents' groups in Washington DC and the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign on housing rights. Palan is a Senior Advisor on tax issues, including international evasion and avoidance, to the influential Tax Justice Network, supporting policy and strategy development; he is also a member of the Board of Directors of Tax Research, a charitable foundation. He is regularly invited by the Royal African Society to meetings with African policy-makers to discuss tax and money laundering and tax evasion issues. CITYPERC (City Political Economy Research Centre) will run an annual conference with the Tax Justice Network for the NGO sector.</p> <p>Engagement with non-academic audiences: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) invited Aran, whose research explores Israeli foreign policy, to serve as leading expert on a series of 'Understanding Israel' days (2009-2011). His article, 'Israel and the Arab Uprising' (<i>RUSI Journal</i>, 2012), was disseminated by the FCO among its staff to generate greater awareness and understanding of Israeli perspectives. The FCO and Department for International Development's</p>

'Arab Partnership Initiative' staff invited **Hollis** to serve on their external advisory panel (2012-13). The Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency invited **McDowell** to serve on its Advisory Panel on Country Information which decided asylum applications (2007-13) and benefited from his research and expertise on Sri Lanka (see impact case study). The European Policy Centre invited **Silvestri** to contribute to its 'Islam in Europe' research programme (2006-08); she contributed to a formal review of the UK Government's 'Prevent' policy (2010-11); and provided expert guidance on Gallup and NATCEN surveys on intercultural trends in UK and Europe (2009-11). She has been involved in training programmes for the European Commission diplomats on political Islam. The Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit commissioned **Davies** to contribute to the development of a set of 'Commonwealth Principles' and a 'Programme of Action on Embracing Civil Society' (2011).

Public Audiences: The Department encourages all staff to enhance public awareness and understanding of international and policy issues that feature in the domestic and international news media. The number of media appearances by staff from the Department averages three per week. On offshore and tax havens and related issues **Palan** was interviewed approximately 40 times in 2012/13 by media outlets including Bloomberg, BBC, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, NPR, PBS Frontline, Reuters. His work on Britain's 'second empire' was discussed in a documentary entitled 'The UK Gold', premiered at the East London Festival (May 2013) and will be aired on the BBC after the REF period. He was also interviewed for a documentary about offshore finance directed by Harold Crooks. On the Arab uprisings, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Libya and the Syria crisis, **Hollis** and **Aran** have been quoted or given expert commentary well over one thousand times since 2011, including on BBC Radio and Television, Al-Jazeera, ITN, Channel Four, The Channel, Radio France International, Voice of Russia, China TV, CCTV, Austrian Radio, Australian and Canadian Broadcasting. **Hollis's** appearance on the 'Today Programme' prompted Minister Alistair Burt to seek her advice on Syria. **Silvestri**, **Aran**, **Nesvetailova** and **McDowell** are also interviewed regularly by national and international media. The Department also supports behind the scenes engagement with the media. **Nesvetailova** is consulted regularly by writers for the *Financial Times's* Alphaville blog, BBC 2; **Palan** is consulted regularly by journalists from the *New York Times*, Reuters, Bloomberg and *The Economist* on issues of tax evasion and tax havens. We also encourage our PhD students to engage with the media. In 2013, Hannah Peterson was interviewed on fracking by national and international media.

Impact Events: Our research centres, CITYPERC and the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), are central to our impact strategy, particularly in leading the organisation of events aimed at disseminating research to non-academic users, tailored to their expertise and profiles. Since its establishment in 2012 CITYPERC has run four very successful international conferences bringing together academics, policy-makers, business and the media. They include an international two-day event in February 2013 on 'Shadow Banking: A European Perspective', supported by the EU COST action group. Those attending included leading academics from all over the world, regulators from the US Treasury, the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and delegates from the European Central Bank, Bundesbank, Norwegian and Irish central banks. Brooke Masters, Chief Regulation Correspondent with the Financial Times, gave the opening address and Zoltan Pozsar, Senior Advisor on financial stability at the US Treasury, delivered a keynote speech. Other plenary speakers included Antoine Bouveret, Senior Economist at the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), and Benjamin Cohen, BIS Special Advisor on the International Financial Stability Policy. A two-day workshop was held in June 2013 with the Tax Justice Network to formulate the NGO community response to the new OECD initiative on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), bringing together lawyers, accountants, tax officials and political scientists from the US, Europe, Japan, Israel and Argentina. A workshop on heterodox economics and poverty in November 2012 was supported by RESPEKT, Vienna, and featured a keynote speech by Anne Pettifor of PRIME; and another in October 2013 with colleagues from Copenhagen Business School, Denmark and NGO participants on network theory and organisational death.

CIPS reflects the growth of the Department's work in Foreign Policy, Conflict and Diplomacy and International Social and Political Justice and its commitment to engage policy-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors more directly to support effective dissemination and impact of research findings. The aim of CIPS is to spark the interest of potential end-users of the research at an early stage so that they are keen to learn about findings.

These activities are supported by further conferences, seminars and panel discussions,

Impact template (REF3a)

attended by non-academics and members of the public, which allow us to showcase our research output. They also provide opportunities to learn about current concerns in the policy-making and NGO communities. The 2013 'Shadow Banking' conference brought key policy-makers from the USA, Europe and the UK, delegates from many European central banks and leading financial journalists from the *Financial Times*, Bloomberg and Reuters to the University and was widely reported in the media. We also encourage the engagement of non-academic users in planning and directing research activities, particularly through our CITYPERC honorary research fellows, who provide an additional channel for impact. They include Ann Pettifor, director of Policy Research in Macroeconomics (PRIME), known for her leadership of Jubilee 2000, an international campaign that placed the debts of the poorest countries on the global political agenda; and Dr Geoff Tilly, a member of the Government Statistical Service since 1989 and the Government Economics Service since 2006. Honorary fellows are involved in the running and planning of CITYPERC events and in the 'brown bag' discussions of current events and policy recommendations.

Staff Support: The Department supports such engagement by offering recognition for staff efforts in individual appraisals and promotion cases. Events and media appearances are advertised on the University's media and news webpage. In addition, ECRs and research students are encouraged to volunteer for mock radio and TV interviews conducted by students in the Department of Journalism. The University provides staff with the opportunity to run professional mock interviews in the Journalism studios in preparation for important TV interviews.

c. Strategy and plans

Under the leadership of the Associate Dean (Impact) in the School of Arts and Social Sciences in line with the University's framework for research impact, our impact strategy for the next period will be grounded in the research centres and based on the following principles:

To continue to invest in resources which directly underpin our impact activities and to fund public dissemination of our research whenever possible.

To encourage staff to engage in research projects in collaboration with users and, through consultancy and advisory work, to build sustainable relationships with external organisations.

To take account of the potential impact of research in academic staff recruitment to ensure that new staff are inducted into an environment where the importance of research impact is clearly understood and to support them in their aspirations to develop their impact activities.

To ensure that knowledge exchange and similar activities arising from staff research are weighted in our workload model appropriately according to the time invested in them and on a similar scale to other duties and to ensure that knowledge exchange and impact objectives are more regularly set as part of staff appraisals alongside other duties.

To clearly identify areas of staff expertise on our website and to develop yet stronger relationships with a range of media conduits in order to disseminate our research expertise as widely as possible. We will also identify a member of staff to work as impact coordinator/developer.

Through CITYPERC and CIPS we aim to engage with practitioners and policy makers in the areas of finance, economy and financial regulation. Policy impact relies on specific knowledge of financial processes, institutions and products, on-the-ground engagement and an ability to provide an overview of development in the financial system. Further collaboration with Cass Business School colleagues forms a key component of future impact plans in order to develop expertise and close contact with the policy and business communities. We will continue to run major events engaging with users, including a conference on global food policy to be organised jointly with City's Centre for Food Policy and one on the future British growth model with SPERI (Sheffield).

d. Relationship to case studies

The impact case studies reflect the Department's aims to capitalise on its expansion in staff and research capacity and to maximise the uptake, influence and impact of its research findings outside academia. City academics are encouraged to share and develop techniques for informing decision-makers - in government, business, the armed forces, and/or non-governmental and civil society organisations, as well as the media - about their research findings.

The relationship between the Department's impact strategy and the case studies is two-fold. The Department has benefited in many ways from the expertise and expert networks offered by **Hollis** (the Olive Tree Programme, Chatham House) and **McDowell** (advisory and consultancy work for the government and international organisations). The case studies have shaped our approach to research impact during our period of rapid growth. Rigorous, policy-relevant and high quality research outputs are at the core of our research strategy beyond REF 2014.