



Political Studies Association

AWARDS • 2007

POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2007

27 NOVEMBER 2007

Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED



Political Studies Association

AWARDS • 2007



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the Political Studies Association 2007 Awards. The PSA is the body representing tutors of politics in universities in the United Kingdom, although membership extends beyond that territorial and occupational boundary.

Today, we celebrate the achievements of those academics, journalists and policy-makers who have done much to enhance public policy and debate. Today's winners have made substantial contributions to the study, reporting or development of politics. It is a tribute to their quality that the awards jury of academics, MPs and journalists, so often found unanimity in their decision-making earlier this year, despite having to examine some exceptionally strong short-lists of nominations.

Amid the lazy claims of modern disinterest in politics, assertions made particularly regarding young people, some points are worth remembering today. In 2007, record highs were achieved a) in terms of the number of students studying for an A level in Political Studies, and b) the number of students entering UK universities to study Politics. Indeed, the number of students undertaking Politics degrees has risen every year during this decade.

That young people are inspired to make such academic choices reflects great credit on those who enhance political debate. Politicians and policy-makers do much to formulate policy and scrutinise its implementation. Journalists provide greater in-depth coverage of politics than has ever previously been the case. Academic research on Politics in the UK has recently been confirmed by an Economic and Social Research Council International Benchmarking Review as world-leading in most aspects of the discipline.

A great deal of effort from various sources makes possible this awards ceremony. I wish to thank particularly the members of the awards jury, especially Professor Lord Bhikhu Parekh for again generously hosting the deliberations, and Dr Sarah Childs for chairing the jury meeting. The PSA is indebted to James Naughtie for again acting as Master of Ceremonies at today's event. Jack Arthurs and Sue Forster at the PSA's national office have worked tirelessly with Simon Coote of Alive Events. YouGov kindly undertook the poll of PSA members to choose "The Best Prime Minister We Never Had". Professor Gerry Stoker and Dr Andrew Russell co-ordinated the PSA's response to the 'Governance of Britain' Green Paper. Today's event has been generously sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council, Wiley-Blackwell, and the Hansard Society.

I very much hope you enjoy today's ceremony, and I congratulate all the winners.

Professor Jonathan Tonge

Chair, Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom

The Political Studies Association exists to develop and promote the study of politics. We are the leading organisation in the UK linking academics in political science and current affairs, theorists and practitioners, policy-makers, journalists, researchers and students in higher education.



JOURNALS

WE PROVIDE A FORUM FOR SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH FOUR QUALITY JOURNALS, PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH WILEY-BLACKWELL



Political Studies is the leading UK journal in the field and attracts contributions from academics of international standing. Through articles, debates and research notes, it reflects the vigour and importance of the discipline of politics and contributes significantly to the development of political science internationally.



Political Studies Review brings together the unique book reviews service of *Political Studies* with a set of major review articles which survey key current issues in political science. The journal builds on more than fifty years of book reviewing which have made *Political Studies* the largest source of book reviews in political science in the world.



Politics publishes cutting edge political science research in all the sub-fields of the discipline, without restriction on themes, approach or country focus. The short article format means that articles are provocative, punchy and readable.

The British Journal of Politics and International Relations aims to influence international debates in political science. It encourages contributions from scholars in all parts of the discipline and from all parts of the globe, and is fast attaining a reputation for innovative interdisciplinary research.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

WE ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICS AND EXPERTISE THROUGH A RANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

Quarterly newsletter, featuring articles, news from departments, information about research grants and projects, plus details of conferences, specialist groups and other activities.

Annual Directory, listing all political scientists in the UK and Ireland by university and department. Published online at www.psa.ac.uk



Study Politics, our accessible guide to studying politics at university, distributed to all UK sixth-forms and colleges.

Media Register of Experts, promoting our members' areas of political expertise to the media. Published online at www.psa.ac.uk/experts



Political Studies UK, the definitive guide to studying, teaching and researching politics in the UK.

EVENTS

WE OFFER A UNIQUE ARENA FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERTISE THROUGH CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Annual Conference, attracting leading politicians, civil servants and academics, and comprising more than 100 specialist discussion panels covering all aspects of the discipline.

Network of Specialist Groups, covering all major fields of political research. Each provides a forum in which individuals with specialised research and teaching interests can develop their own seminars and conferences to supplement the Annual Conference.

Heads of Department Conferences, held to assist UK political science departments with planning and training for research and teaching.

Media Training Workshops, offering members expert training and practical preparation for TV and radio interviews.

www.psa.ac.uk

'Best Political Science Site in the World'
Lycos

Our award-winning website is an impressive research tool with over 5,000 links to political information sources. Online services include access to electronic versions of all the Association's journals, Annual Conference papers, Members' Directory and Register of Experts.

AWARDS

WE PROMOTE THE STUDY OF POLITICS THROUGH OUR ANNUAL AWARDS AND PRIZES



Our prestigious annual awards include:

- **The Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize**
for lifetime contribution to political studies
- **The W.J.M. Mackenzie Prize**
for best book published in political science
- **The Sir Bernard Crick Prize**
for outstanding teaching in political studies
- **Four dissertation prizes**
for best dissertation in any field of political studies

ABOVE

Gordon Brown accepting the Politician of the Year award in 2004.

GRADUATE NETWORK

WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS



The Graduate Network exists to promote links between postgraduate politics students throughout the UK. The Graduate Network holds its own annual conference, regional group events and short conferences for members. All postgraduates can join the Association at a reduced rate, including free Graduate Network membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to everyone interested in the study and practice of politics. There are separate categories of membership for people who are retired and for companies.

To join call 0191 222 8021,
e-mail: psa@ncl.ac.uk, or visit our website:
www.psa.ac.uk

Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies

PROFESSOR JOHN DUNN



THE JUDGES SAY

John Dunn was chosen for the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies for his pioneering political thought on the nature and meaning of democracy. As the UK's most eminent professor of political theory, he has produced a wide range of important books in a distinguished career, such as The Political Thought of John Locke; Western Political Theory in the Face of the Future; and Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy. These books have become standard works on their subject and have stimulated scholars and students alike.

John Dunn was born in Fulmer, Buckinghamshire in 1940. He read History at King's College Cambridge and, after undertaking a Harkness Fellowship at Harvard, he returned to Cambridge as a Fellow of Jesus College, becoming a history lecturer at King's in 1966. He took up the post of lecturer in political science in 1972 and was made Professor of Politics in 1987. In addition to his Cambridge career, he has served as visiting professor at the University of Ghana, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Yale and the University of Bombay.

Professor Dunn's work on political theory and particularly on John Locke has established his reputation as a formidable intellect. His works have been reprinted numerous times and translated into many languages, including Spanish, Italian and Japanese. Professor Dunn has sought to place Locke's work in an historical context, rather than distort it by attempting to interpret it for a different age. In addition, he has sought to clarify the significance of Locke's theory of consent, which he says "is a theory of how individuals become subject to political obligations, and how legitimate political societies can arise. It is not in any sense whatsoever a theory of how government should be organized".

Professor Dunn's works include *The Political Thought of John Locke* (1969); *Western Political Theory in the Face of the Future* (1979); *Interpreting Political Responsibility* (1990); *The Cunning of Unreason: Making Sense of Politics* (2001); and *Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy* (2005). He has also served on the editorial boards of many journals and currently sits on the boards of *Critical Review*, *Political Theory*, *Reason in Practice* and *Review of Politics*.

The scope of Professor Dunn's work and the enduring success of his key publications demonstrate that he is a most deserving winner of the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize. Of the prize, he says it is "the nicest thing which has happened to me for some time, and fell from a clear sky (as it obviously should)".

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Setting the Political Agenda

ANGUS MACNEIL MP



THE JUDGES SAY

Notwithstanding the outcome of the investigations of the Metropolitan Police, Angus MacNeil has performed a public service in highlighting the sometimes contentious nature of the honours system in the UK. In drawing police attention to the continued existence of the "Cash for Peerages" Act, Angus MacNeil has surely erased – permanently – the distasteful possible linkage between party financial favours and public rewards. Given that this problem remained unaddressed for decades, Angus MacNeil may have helped bolster faith in our honours system.

Angus MacNeil was born in 1970 in Barra, the Outer Hebrides. After graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering from Strathclyde University he worked for Lilley Construction. However, shortly after he made two changes of gear regarding his career, working as a reporter for BBC Radio Inverness between 1993 and 1995, then training as a primary school teacher at Jordan Hill College. He then combined teaching duties with life as a crofter on Barra.

He first stood for parliament in 2001 as the SNP candidate for Inverness East Nairn and Lochaber, and was elected as MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar in the Western Isles in 2005. Arriving at Westminster, MacNeil was stunned when he gauged the level of indifferent acceptance of the apparent connection between donations or loans and peerages. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, raised the matter at Westminster, but met with an unsatisfactory response. MacNeil was already in his own words 'fizzing' about the matter and, after consulting the Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925 in the Commons Library, he contacted the Metropolitan Police. The Police took the matter very seriously and a prolonged investigation resulted.

MacNeil argues that "the cash for peerages scandal has cast a big shadow over our democracy", and in October 2006 he introduced a draft bill to the Commons which aimed to create stricter vetting and scrutiny procedures of the honours system. In praising MacNeil's determination, Nick Cohen remarked in the *Guardian* "I'm trying hard to avoid a cliché about an honest man being carried

over the sea from the outer isles on a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry to confront the decadent metropolis." However, it does seem that it has taken a Westminster newcomer to give fresh momentum to the debate on Lords Reform and funding of political parties. MacNeil has pushed these vital matters up the political agenda.

Setting the Political Agenda

SHAMI CHAKRABARTI



THE JUDGES SAY

The judges agreed that Shami Chakrabarti always puts a robust case for the defence of civil liberties; that her contributions to a wide variety of media ensure that the case is heard by the widest possible audience; and that her message is always accessible, whilst at the same time presented in a lively and engaging manner. Her attendance at the Conservative Women's Conference last year was particularly noted for showing Chakrabarti's willingness to take her message beyond the usual forums.

Shami Chakrabarti was born in London in 1969. She studied Law at LSE and was called to the Bar in 1994. She was a legal advisor to the Home Office from 1996 until 2001, where she worked for both Conservative and Labour governments on matters of law relating to asylum, criminal justice and human rights. She took up her position as in-house counsel for Liberty the day before the 9/11 bombings, and spent the next two years working tirelessly to ensure that the government did not compromise long-established civil liberties in the rush to defend the UK from terrorism. This made her a natural successor to John Wadham when he moved to the Police Complaints Authority, and she became Director of Liberty in 2003.

Chakrabarti's tenure as Director of Liberty has put the organization at the forefront of the battle to maintain the rights of British citizens. She has battled against proposals for ID cards, and has vigorously criticized ASBOs as a particularly insidious way of infringing civil liberties in the name of tackling crime and maintaining stability. She demonstrated her courage and tenacity by ensuring that Liberty's case against limiting rights, such as habeas corpus in the name of the War on Terror, retained a high media profile in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombings. However, despite, or perhaps because of, her fearlessness when it comes to standing against populist sentiment, she has earned a large degree of popularity in the public consciousness. In 2006 a viewers' poll for the Channel Four Political Awards put her second in the category of 'Most Inspiring Political Figure', beating both Tony Blair and David Cameron.

In addition to frequent news appearances, Chakrabarti is a regular contributor to the *Independent* as well as to a number of law journals, including *Public Law* and *European Human Rights Law Review*. However, she has also sought out different venues in a way which have made her and her message hard to pigeonhole. Last year she appeared on *Have I Got News For You*, and addressed the Conservative Women's Conference on arranged marriage and civil liberties.

This year Chakrabarti was made a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. She admitted that not everyone would regard her as a natural choice for such an honour, but said "I hope it will send a timely signal that democratic dissent is not disloyalty, it is a positive civic duty." As a member of the new Independent Commission on National Security, there is no doubt that her tireless work will keep the battle to maintain personal freedom at the top of the political agenda.

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Politician of the Year

RT HON ALEX SALMOND MSP



THE JUDGES SAY

The judges were impressed by the manner in which Alex Salmond's articulate and dynamic leadership of the Scottish National Party, led his party to become the largest in the Scottish Parliament, and placed him as First Minister. The SNP's pervasive appeal owed much to its leader's skills in rationalizing the case for independence. The judges also noted the clarity of Alex Salmond's consistent opposition to the Iraq war.

Alex Salmond was born in Linlithgow in 1954. He graduated with a joint honours MA in Economics and History from St. Andrews University, and then worked as an economist both for the civil service and the Royal Bank of Scotland. He is a contributor to publications such as *The Scottish Government Yearbook*, *Petroleum Review* and *Opec Bulletin*. In 2003 he was appointed as visiting professor at Strathclyde University. His regular appearances on television have included shows such as *Call My Bluff*, *Have I Got News For You*, and Channel 4's racing programme *The Morning Line*. His wit and attractive personality are evident on such occasions, but it is Salmond's political shrewdness which makes him a robust and serious leader.

Salmond first became active in the SNP as a student. He was elected to the SNP National Executive in 1981, served as vice-chair between 1985 and 1987, and vice-convenor (deputy leader) from 1987 to 1990, maintaining roles as spokesman on matters such as energy, the environment, fisheries and the constitution. He was first elected to Westminster for the constituency of Banff and Buchan in 1987. Three years later he was elected leader of the SNP, a post he held until his resignation in 2000, a year after his election to the new Scottish Parliament. He left the Scottish Parliament to lead the SNP group in Westminster. He successfully stood again as SNP leader after his successor John Swinney resigned in 2004. This year he was returned to the Scottish Parliament for the constituency of Gordon. He also became First Minister of Scotland, leading a minority SNP government.

Salmond signed the SNP up to New Labour's plans for devolution, but never lost sight of his overall goal of an independent Scotland. He believes that "Scotland may be small in population, but we are not small in thought or ambition. We are only small if we think small." He refutes arguments that independence is not economically viable or politically desirable. No doubt he would particularly welcome a distinctly Scottish foreign policy. He described British military intervention in Kosovo as "unpardonable folly". He sought to 'impeach' Blair regarding the war in Iraq, accusing him of manipulating intelligence in the run-up to the conflict. And Salmond has committed his party to organizing a referendum on independence within the lifetime of this Scottish Parliament. Whether or not this is possible, leading the SNP to government shows that Salmond's confidence in the ability of Scotland to carve out a distinctive role within Europe, has converted many others to his cause.

Special Recognition for Political Studies

PROFESSOR ANTHONY KING



THE JUDGES SAY

Anthony King deserves this award for a variety of reasons. He has been an author or editor of definitive studies of, among other items, UK general elections since the 1960s; the 1975 referendum on membership of the European Economic Community; the Social Democratic Party; and the imbalance between campaigning and governing among politicians. The quality of his written output has been matched for decades by erudite and incisive analysis within the media, perhaps most notably through his expert analyses for the BBC on election nights, and via his regular pieces in the Daily Telegraph. Professor King has not only analysed our political life; he has helped shape it, via his important contributions to the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and the Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords.

Anthony King was born in 1934 in Toronto. He studied History at Queen's University Canada, coming to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He stayed to undertake his doctoral thesis, *The British Liberal Party between 1906 and 1914* at Nuffield College. He became a Fellow of Magdalen College in 1961, and moved to the University of Essex in 1965, where he became Professor of Government in 1969.

Professor King's work has focused on opinion polls, elections and political parties. He co-authored two of the revered Nuffield Election Studies with David Butler for the 1964 and 1966 elections, and his work on the *Britain at the Polls* series of general election studies has helped produce an authoritative study on voters in the UK. His other works include (with Ivor Crewe) *SDP: The Birth, Life and Death of the Social Democratic Party* (1995); and *Running Scared: Why America's Politicians Campaign Too Much and Govern Too Little* (1997).

In addition to his academic work, Professor King has brought his powers of analysis to a wider audience through his contributions to the BBC's election night coverage, and with regular pieces in the *Daily Telegraph*. He regularly cuts through complex data to provide a straightforward assessment of what polls actually mean. For example, assessing the poor performance of the Tories in a run of by-elections he concluded "the inferences to be drawn are that by-elections generate less local excitement than Westminster's political junkies often suppose, and that only rarely do large numbers of ordinary voters undergo violent swings of political mood. David Cameron has certainly not succeeded in engineering any such mood-swing in the Tories' favour so far."

Professor King's impact on British political life has been extended by his contribution to the Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords, and by work on the Committee on Standards in Public Life, a body that was established to ensure rigour and integrity in British politics. As a member of the RSA's Commission on Illegal Drugs, he was one of the authors of a challenging report this year, which argued that addiction should be treated as a social problem rather than a matter of criminal policy. It is clear that whether he is analyzing the impact of policies, or shaping them, Professor King's contribution to the British political scene has been crucial.

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Special Recognition for Political Studies

PROFESSOR JONI LOVENDUSKI



THE JUDGES SAY

Joni Lovenduski was chosen for the Special Recognition Award for her pioneering research on the representation of women in politics and public life. Her work has led to a raft of well-regarded academic and policy-oriented publications. Professor Lovenduski's research has altered perceptions of the problem of women's under-representation, and obliged political parties to take measures to confront the issue of women's legislative recruitment. Her work has also led to important inputs to debates on these issues at the European level, through her role as consultant to the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Joni Lovenduski was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1945. She holds a BA and MA in Government from Manchester University. She worked as a lecturer and senior lecturer at Loughborough University whilst she completed her doctoral thesis, *Women and European Politics*. She went on to become the Director of the European Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Politics at Loughborough. She became Professor of Politics at Southampton University in 1995, moving to Birkbeck College five years later, where she is currently the Anniversary Professor of Politics. She has also served as a visiting scholar at the European University Institute, Fiesole, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of California Berkeley, and the London School of Economics.

Professor Lovenduski has published widely on gender and politics. Her works include *Women and European Politics* (1986); (with Vicky Randall) *Contemporary Feminist Politics* (1993); and *Feminizing Politics* (2005). Her current research focuses on Gender and the State, including political representation and public policy debates. She argues persuasively that European political parties themselves must address the issue of female under-representation within parliaments. Professor Lovenduski has served on the editorial boards of many journals including *British Politics*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *French Politics*, *Gender and Politics and Political Quarterly*. She was co-director of the *British Candidate Study 1992*, and the *British Representation Studies* in 1997, 2001 and 2005.

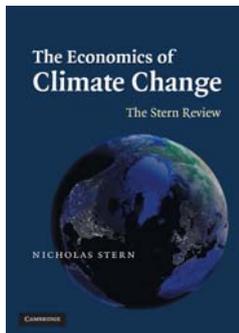
Professor Lovenduski has taken her work on gender and politics into the European arena. She was Vice-Chair of the European Consortium for Political Research from 2000 to 2003, and has acted as consultant on Gender and Politics for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the European Commission, and the Council of Europe. She directed the European Commission-funded investigation of the state of the art of research on Gender and Politics in Europe in 1996. Currently, Professor Lovenduski is European convenor of the European Science Foundation-funded Research Network on Gender and the State.

As one of the first generation of gender and politics scholars in the UK, Professor Lovenduski has acted as a mentor and inspiration for subsequent generations, through her own research, and also as one of the founders of the PSA Women and Politics Specialist group; the founder of the Standing Group on Women and Politics of the European Consortium for Political Research; and, on a personal level, in actively encouraging and supporting younger researchers.

Political Publication of the Year

PROFESSOR SIR NICHOLAS STERN

THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: THE STERN REVIEW



THE JUDGES SAY

This is the first time that the judges have awarded the Political Publication of the Year to an independent review. The decision reflects the importance of The Stern Review, which provided an admirably clear and balanced analysis of the magnitude of the problem of global warming. The Stern Review demonstrated the immense potential economic costs of climate change. The Review provided conclusive proof that doing nothing is simply not an option and, in highlighting the looming costs of climate change, has provided the economic impetus for rapid international action to combat the problem.

Nicholas Stern was born in Hammersmith, West London in 1946. He read for a Mathematics degree at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, and researched his doctoral thesis *Location and Rate of Development* at Nuffield College, Oxford. He lectured in economics at Cambridge University from 1970 to 1977, before moving to take a chair in economics at Warwick University. In 1987 he joined the LSE, becoming the John Hicks Professor of Economics. In 1994 Sir Nicholas moved from academia to the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, where he acted as Chief Economist and Special Counsellor to the President. In 2000 he became Chief Economist at the World Bank, and three years later Gordon Brown persuaded him to work at the Treasury. In July 2005 Brown commissioned Stern to undertake an economic review of the implications of climate change, and the findings were published in October 2006.

The Stern Review did not flinch from addressing the scale of the problem, but it was not a piece of doom-mongering. Indeed, Sir Nicholas concluded the review with the assurance that "there is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, if we take strong action now". The review pointed out that tackling these problems, far from being a costly business, would be an astute investment, cutting the cost of environmental strain from five per-cent of annual GDP to one per-cent, as well as avoiding the social catastrophes wrought by droughts, floods and shortages of resources. The review recommended three interlinked policies that must be exercised globally: pricing of carbon, investment in low-carbon technology, and energy-efficiency information.

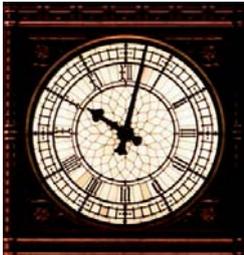
The Review was welcomed by the British Government and the European Commission and, importantly, it also received support from business groups. Richard Lambert, the head of the CBI, said that "provided we act with sufficient speed, we will not have to make a choice between averting climate change and promoting growth and investment." Statements like these show the extent to which Stern's reasoned assessment of climate change has been absorbed by major economic players.

Nicholas Stern was knighted in 2004. This year he returned to the LSE to take up the new IG Patel Chair and to work as Director of the Asia Research Centre. He will also continue to research on the impact of climate change, which he is confident can be managed with concerted action, arguing "we have the time and knowledge to act but only if we do act internationally, strongly and urgently."

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Political Programme of the Year

THE WESTMINSTER HOUR



THE JUDGES SAY

The Westminster Hour was awarded Political Programme of the Year for its informative, in-depth coverage of political matters. Its serious and thorough coverage of political issues belies claims of 'dumbing-down' made in respect of media coverage of politics. Through accurate and concise analysis and excellent interviews with politicians, journalists and academics, The Westminster Hour provides a model of how to cover politics seriously, in an accessible and lively form.

The Westminster Hour has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 since April 1998. An average of 650,000 listeners now tune into the programme, which combines interviews with politicians and incisive previews of policy initiatives and forthcoming legislation. Despite the name, the programme's brief covers not just Westminster, but also the devolved assemblies of the UK, and events in Europe. Each autumn the team hits the road to follow the main party political party conferences in depth. The *Independent* pinpointed *The Westminster Hour's* broad appeal, noting that the programme "has a highly serious agenda and packs a lot into an hour without appealing only to obsessives".

One of the most compelling features of the programme is the *Sunday Supplement* which takes up a quarter of the show's airtime. The supplement is sometimes a light-hearted take on both recent and past political events, and it can also act as a space for reflection on intellectual and cultural debates. In the last year this slot has allowed Douglas Hurd to share his thoughts on the contemporary resonance of Anthony Trollope's novels, and Professor Paul Cartledge to consider how much British politics owes to the ancient Greeks. Even without the wealth of interviews and analysis which the rest of the programme provides, this slot stands as a rebuke to insinuations that British political journalism is superficial and obsessed with personalities or spin.

In January this year, Carolyn Quinn, a former member of the *Today* team, took over as presenter from Andrew Rawnsley. Quinn's knowledge of British political life is extensive, and she has also previously

contributed her own *Sunday Supplement* slots. She thinks that *The Westminster Hour* has a unique role in Radio 4's political programming, as it "can take the time to examine issues that otherwise in the hurly burly of day-to-day news might be overlooked". It seems that, in an age of twenty-four hour news coverage, a programme that can step back from the sheer volume of information being thrown at us, and provide such witty and thoughtful analysis, is needed more than ever.

Best Political Satire

ANN TRENEMAN



THE JUDGES SAY

Ann Treneman's parliamentary sketch for The Times has established itself as the best of its type. Witty, irreverent and with an acute sense of the peculiarities or pomposities of certain parliamentarians, Ann Treneman's sketch is, on a daily basis, guaranteed to make its reader laugh heartily.

Ann Treneman was born in 1957 in Iowa, USA. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a BA in Journalism, and worked in the USA for ten years before coming to the UK. Starting on the *Kent Messenger* followed by the *London Daily News*, she moved to national newspapers, including the *Observer* and *Independent*. She joined *The Times* in 1999, and a year later she was named Feature Writer of the Year at the British Press Awards. She began her parliamentary sketches in 2003.

In Treneman's joyfully irreverent worldview, parliamentarians are often reduced to the status of squabbling schoolchildren. Hence the first 'face-off' between Ed Balls, the new Children's Secretary, and his Tory counterpart, Michael Gove, possessed "the aura of a school prize-giving. The two boys sat, clutching their speeches, Adam's apples bobbing, hair flattened, suits pressed. Both were trying, and failing, to look cool." Depicting MPs as animals is another of Treneman's trademarks. Prescott's last days as Deputy Prime Minister saw him taking on the appearance of "an ancient raging rhino, charging this way and that, with no real idea of what he is doing. I didn't want to look, but it was impossible not to, not least because you don't see a crazed rhino at the dispatch box all that often."

This year Treneman's sketches have charted the end of the Blair era, presenting the outgoing PM arranging his glorious exit from the Commons free from serious scrutiny. Covering his appearance before the Liaison Committee this June, Treneman noted: "Mr. Blair, who is taking his cue from Edith Piaf when it comes to Iraq, was at his most messianic yesterday." Following the PM as he embarked on the task of

"putting the final touches to the Great Legacy Tour", she even had the opportunity to describe her own metamorphosis into a feral beast, Blair's own description of the press pack: "How exciting is that? I stopped taking notes for a minute. Indeed, I am not sure that feral beasts have to take notes. Why bother with fiddly notebooks, when you can roam round, foaming at the mouth, mauling wildebeests and reputations? I checked my hands. Yes, they looked different. I was growing claws."

Unlike some other satirists Treneman has not been stumped by the replacement of Blair with Brown, who she has described as a "big square bear of a man" and "Hurricane Brown". With a new cast of cabinet characters to send up, her sketches look set to remain a hilarious overview of the absurdities of the daily workings of the mother of all parliaments.

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Political Studies Communication Award

PROFESSOR COLIN RALLINGS & PROFESSOR MICHAEL THRASHER



THE JUDGES SAY

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher were chosen by the judges for the Political Studies Communication Award in recognition of their crucial work on elections over a sustained period of time. Countless academics and journalists, in addition to a wider audience, are indebted to them for their pioneering database of local election results; their forensic analytical and predictive skills in modeling election outcomes, and for the clarity of their interpretation of events for, among various media outlets, ITN, Sky, the Sunday Times and the Local Government Chronicle. The judges were impressed by their ability to combine academically rigorous study with rare communicative skills, which allow the public to make sense of electoral change.

Colin Rallings was born in Colchester in 1951. He holds a degree in Politics and Modern History from the University of Manchester, and an MSc in Politics from Strathclyde University. After completing his doctoral thesis, *White-Collar Workers: Class and Politics* at the University of Essex, he started lecturing at Plymouth in 1976. In 1997 he was made Professor of Politics at Plymouth.

Michael Thrasher was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1953. He read for a BA in Politics at Liverpool University, where he also undertook his doctoral thesis, *The Political Theory of English Local Government 1834-1972*. He began lecturing at Plymouth in 1977, becoming Professor of Politics there 20 years later.

Rallings and Thrasher's complementary interests and research background led them to begin studying the neglected field of local government elections. Their first jointly-authored publication appeared in 1981: the start of a collaboration that has seen them write more than 500 books, reports, book chapters and articles together, for a range of academic, specialist media and mass circulation outlets. Their books include *Local Elections in Britain* (1997); *Turnout at Local Government Elections* (2000); and *One Vote, One Value* (2002).

In 1985 Professors Rallings and Thrasher established a research centre to collect, collate and publish the results of local elections in England and Wales. The *Local Elections Handbook* is now in its 23rd year. Since 1989 the centre has been sponsored by the *Local Government Chronicle*, part of the EMAP media group. A series of grants from the Economic and Social Research Council, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, has enabled the creation of the British Local Elections Database, which covers contests dating from, in the case of London, the nineteenth century. They continue to produce the 'official' general election statistics on behalf of the Electoral Commission, and in 2007 produced the seventh edition of *Electoral Facts*.

Rallings and Thrasher have jointly, and separately, established a considerable public profile. They regularly conduct research for bodies such as the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Association, as well as making presentations to specialist audiences of politicians, civil servants, local government chief executives, electoral administrators and foreign diplomats. Rallings has served as a specialist adviser to four House of Commons Select Committee enquiries on electoral matters, while Thrasher has assisted the Standards Board for England.

Professor Thrasher has been the Sky News elections analyst since the station's inauguration in 1989, and Professor Rallings has provided similarly cogent commentary for ITN since 1992. Together they have also made regular contributions to the *Sunday Times*, which has supported their unique system for modelling and predicting local election results, for over twenty years. They have also written specialist articles for the *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Guardian*, *Mail on Sunday*, and the *Sun*.

"When we started compiling local electoral data, no-one else was doing it because it was seen as too large and complex a task," Professor Thrasher explains. "We now like to think that we have produced the raw material for the development of a new sub-field in the discipline." Certainly the Local Government Chronicle Elections Centre has become indispensable in the coverage and analysis of the ebb and flow of electoral events, and the judges felt that recognition of the contribution of its architects was overdue.

Special Award for Lifetime Achievement in Politics

AUNG SAN SUU KYI



THE JUDGES SAY

Aung San Suu Kyi was the unanimous choice of the judges for a Special Award for Lifetime Achievement in Politics. Her persistent championing of the cause of democracy in Burma has been at huge personal cost, having spent more than ten years in detention under a repressive military regime. Aung San Suu Kyi has become an international symbol of resistance via her principled leadership of the National League for Democracy in Burma, deservedly winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, and continuing to provide inspiration for democrats everywhere.

Aung San Suu Kyi was born in Rangoon in 1945. Her father, General Aung San was assassinated in 1947, six months before Burmese Independence, for which he had fought, was established. Aung San Suu Kyi lived in India, Japan, Bhutan and the UK, where she read PPE at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. She returned to Burma in 1988 to care for her sick mother, and soon became involved with pro-democracy campaigners. Aung San Suu Kyi took her inspiration from Luther King and Gandhi, and stressed non-violence in the rallies she organized to demand political reform, including free and fair elections. However, when the Burmese army seized power later in the year, they brutally put down any opposition and Aung San was placed under house arrest in 1989. In 1990, the party she leads, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won the Burmese general election, but the military junta ignored the result and stayed in power. Aung San was released from house arrest in 1995, but detained again in 2000. Released in 2002, she was once more placed in 'protective custody' by the military government (which styled itself as the State Peace and Development Council) a year later.

In the earliest years of Aung San's confinement she was stuck in virtual isolation, and was cut off from the international community. Restrictions were slightly relaxed later on, and there have been sporadic negotiations between the junta and the NLD. However, Aung San had to take the traumatic decision not to visit her dying husband in Britain, as she knew she would not be able to return to Burma to provide leadership through the difficult and tentative negotiation process.

In 1991 Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. At the presentation, the Chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Francis Sejested, called her "an outstanding example of the power of the powerless". She has also been awarded the Sakharov Prize by the European Union and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom. Despite the personal cost of her principled refusal to buckle to the Junta's demands, she remains resolutely determined to bring about peace and democracy in Burma. She says, "It is not power that corrupts, but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it, and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it." Although international pressure has so far failed to encourage Burma's military rulers to release her, she remains a symbol of hope for her party and her people.

As the Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, commented at this year's Labour Party conference: "Wasn't it brilliant to see Aung San Suu Kyi alive and well outside her house last week? It will be a hundred times better when she takes her rightful place as the elected leader of a free and democratic Burma."

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Political Journalist of the Year

NICK ROBINSON



THE JUDGES SAY

As the BBC's political editor, Nick Robinson has proved that political coverage can be made accessible to a broad audience. At the BBC, and previously at ITN, Nick Robinson has covered political events with clarity and verve, in an accessible and highly informative style. His online Newslog encourages lively political debate. Nick Robinson's ability to convey accurately and concisely key political and electoral developments, from a variety of pressurized 'live' settings - ranging from Downing Street to election studios - make him the judges' unanimous choice for the Political Journalist of the Year award.

Nick Robinson was born in 1963 in Macclesfield. He read PPE at University College, Oxford. He worked for the BBC as a producer between 1986 and 2002 for a variety of programmes, including *On the Record*, *The Vote Race* and *Panorama*. He took the unusual step, for a producer, of moving in front of the camera, becoming a political correspondent for the BBC in 1996, and Chief Political Correspondent for *BBC News 24* in 1999. He was poached by ITN in 2002, and his role as Political Editor was deemed to be one of the key reasons behind the victory of the *ITV Evening News* in the News Programme of the Year category at the 2004 Royal Television Society Awards. ITN were very keen to hold on to him, but he returned to the BBC in 2005, when he took over from Andrew Marr as Political Editor. In addition to his broadcast journalism, he has contributed a regular column for *The Times*.

Robinson ran a Newslog for the BBC before his departure for ITN, and took up the reins again upon his return. The Newslog is a charmingly personal and light-hearted review of current affairs. When Robinson opened an entry with the confession that he was less than excited by the publication of Alastair Campbell's diaries, he updated the blog within a couple of hours: "Reading back on what I wrote above, I realize that there's a danger my dismissal of the Campbell Diaries shows that I'm in a sulk about him. Since writing the entry, I discover that he makes just one reference to me and that is to call me a jerk. Believe it or not, this is not the reason for my genuine lack of interest". Within minutes of the publication of a new topic, Robinson's comments will spark off a spirited volley of postings.

Robinson says that "the job of BBC political editor is to bring drama, insight and analysis to a subject too many say they dislike, but most know they simply cannot ignore." Robinson has proved well-suited to the task, and he has become an integral and respected part of the BBC's flagship news bulletins. He regularly brings his audience a cogent overview of political events in a relaxed and engaging manner. Thus, Robinson does rather more than "mere hanging around", the charge brought against him this year by an exasperated President Bush. Rivals remain envious of his "iconoclastic and challenging style of journalism" which David Mannion, his former boss at ITN, believes makes him "a quite exceptional journalist", an assessment shared wholeheartedly by the judges.

Parliamentarian of the Year RT HON JOHN DENHAM MP



THE JUDGES SAY

In choosing John Denham for the Parliamentarian of the Year award, the judges recognized, in particular, his skilled chairing of the Home Affairs Select Committee. In this capacity, John Denham has deployed his forensic analytical skills in ensuring that Home Office ministers are held to account by parliament. His expertise on other areas, notably work and pensions, have also earned him deserved widespread respect across the House and beyond.

John Denham was born in 1953 in Seaton, Devon. He studied Chemistry at Southampton University and served as President of the Student Union. After graduating from Southampton in 1977, he worked as an advisor to the Energy Advice Service, before becoming a campaign officer for organizations such as Friends of the Earth and War on Want. Denham became a Labour Councillor in 1981, serving first Hampshire then Southampton Council. He contested the seat of Southampton Itchen in 1983 and 1987, winning it in 1992. He was a minister for the departments of Social Security, Health and the Home Office, and resigned in 2003 over the Iraq War. That year he became Chairman of the Select Committee of Home Affairs.

Denham's tenure on the Home Affairs Select Committee coincided with a period where the Home Office itself came in for increasingly excoriating criticism, and where anxieties over issues such as asylum and national security have led to controversial government policy proposals, including identity cards and regulating migration from within the European Union. Coordinating the scrutiny of such rafts of legislation, and the government's handling of critical issues, Denham never shirked from holding his own party to account. When the then Home Secretary John Reid tried to claim that the wholly inaccurate estimate of Polish citizens who would seek work in the UK was not a Home Office figure, Denham's reply was blunt: "You commissioned it. You paid for it. You published it. You took comfort from it."

Award sponsor



In addition to providing effective leadership of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Denham has spent time tackling another thorny issue. He has published two Fabian Society pamphlets outlining his own plans for pension legislation, arguing that the public will only provide support for the difficult reforms required, if proposals can answer the questions, "Does it work for me? What do I get out for what I put in? Is it fair, to me and others?"

Earlier this year Denham returned to the front benches. Gordon Brown appointed him Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. In July he announced proposals for education reform that would increase maintenance grants for poorer students, and give sixth-formers clear information on what financial support they could expect at university, so that they could make choices based on guarantees on what they would receive and what they would need to pay. Having Denham back at the front means that Labour can take full advantage of his clear-sighted and honest approach to some of the most difficult and controversial issues in British politics today.

Political Studies Association Award Winners 2007

Lifetime Achievement in Politics

LORD ASHDOWN OF NORTON-SUB-HAMDON



THE JUDGES SAY

The judges felt that the domestic and international contributions of Lord Ashdown merited a Lifetime Achievement in Politics award. Domestically, his achievement in building the Liberal Democrats from an uncertain start to becoming an important intellectual, political and electoral force was hugely impressive. Internationally, Lord Ashdown played an exceptionally vital role in consolidating a fragile peace process and assisting in the reintegration of a fractured polity, in his capacity as High Representative of Bosnia from 2002 to 2006.

Jeremy Ashdown (Paddy is a childhood nickname) was born in 1949 in New Delhi. On leaving Bedford School he joined the Royal Marines, rising to the rank of Captain. After leaving the Marines in 1972, he joined the Foreign Office, and then worked in both the private and public sector, including organizations such as the Westland Group and Dorset County Council. He contested the seat of Yeovil for the Liberal Party in 1979, and won it in 1983, becoming the Liberal Spokesman for Trade and Industry. When the Liberals merged with the SDP in 1988, he became leader of the new party, and also took the post of Spokesman on Northern Ireland.

Lord Ashdown resigned as Liberal Democrat leader in 1999 and stood down at the 2001 election. He was knighted in 2000 and was elevated to the Lords the following year, becoming Baron Ashdown of Norton-Sub-Hamdon. By the time he had resigned, Ashdown had led his party to the best results for Liberals, in their various guises, since the 1920s, with 46 seats secured in the 1997 election.

Lord Ashdown had been a passionate advocate of international intervention in the conflict that exploded amid the break-up of Yugoslavia. Between 2002 and 2006 he served as the High Representative of the International Community, and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year he published a cogent defence of international community intervention. However, *Swords and Ploughshares* is also scathing about the money wasted by well-meaning, but

ineffectual, NGO projects, which in Bosnia "made precisely no impact apart from creating handy employment for the middle classes". Lord Ashdown argues that governments and charities must take a longer-term coordinated view of what they can achieve through intervention.

As a long-term supporter of increased co-operation between the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party, it was no surprise that Gordon Brown prevailed upon Lord Ashdown to join him in a 'government of all the talents'. Ashdown's army, party-political and international career, demonstrates his talent for charismatic leadership and 'can do' positive action, on which Brown will be sorry to miss out. However, Lord Ashdown will hardly be redundant, having recently taken on the tough job of Reviewer of Parades in Northern Ireland.



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International Benchmarking Review of UK Politics and International Studies

A Panel of leading international scholars, chaired by Professor Bob Goodin (Australian National University) visited the UK in January 2007, and held discussions with UK academics from 12 departments. From this evidence and submissions from departments, a commissioned bibliometric report and a survey of non-academic users of research, the Panel compiled a report which assessed UK Politics and International Studies in relation to: research quality, research capacity, impact on policy and practice, leading to an overall assessment of its future.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Political Science Association (PSA) and the British International Studies Association worked together to compare the quality and impact of UK Politics and International Studies research against international standards. By looking for diversity and originality, the review provides an insight into the discipline's strengths and weaknesses in an international context, and helps us

to identify areas where we need to focus resources, and acknowledge and celebrate successes.

The review Steering Group (chaired by PSA Chair Professor Jonathan Tonge, and made up of research funders, senior academics and research users) accepts the International Panel's report and looks forward to working together to address the report's recommendations.

Findings

The review concluded that UK Politics and International Studies are:

- just as diverse, and sometimes in interestingly different ways from the United States
- of high quality
- a world leader in many areas of the discipline with considerable strengths in: political theory, electoral studies, the 'English School' of international relations, European Union studies, 'critical' security studies, political economy (domestic and especially international), and in certain areas of public policy and administration and of comparative and area studies
- in robust health in terms of student numbers with strong demand in both undergraduate and postgraduate courses
- demographically balanced, with no looming 'retirement crisis'. Very promising young scholars are being recruited into junior ranks and progressing well through the ranks. The internalisation of the profession (especially Europeanization) represents an important source of high quality recruitment to UK social science

- strong in terms of research capacity, though could be further strengthened with more women and ethnic minorities. The Steering Group acknowledges this, although notes that the position is improving significantly
- able to demonstrate strong engagement with end-users in the policy and practice community at a national, international and/or local level
- making an enormous contribution to social, cultural and intellectual capital throughout the wider UK community.

The Review identified weaknesses in:

- Language-based area studies, although this is already being remedied by a joint ESRC/Arts and Humanities Research Council/Higher Education Funding Council for England initiative (five language-based area studies centres);
- Advanced research methods, including formal, statistical, modelling and game theoretic methods, as well as in basic research design and in qualitative methods.

A copy of the full report is available on the ESRC Society Today Website at www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/P_IBR-Final_Report_tcm6-23426.pdf



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