Promoting the global study of politics

Annual review 2013
The Political Studies Association
The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom was founded in 1950. The Association’s main objective, as set out in Clause 3 of the company’s Memorandum of Association, is to promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in other branches of the political sciences. The Association is an international and self-governing body composed of many of the social scientific communities’ leading academics.

Trustees and Governance
The Trustees of the Association are the Executive Committee. During 2013, the members of the Executive Committee were as follows:

**Chair**
Professor Charlie Jeffery

**Vice-Chair**
Dr Jacqui Briggs

**Honorary Treasurer**
Professor John Benyon

Honorary Secretary
Professor Paul Carmichael

Members of Executive Committee
Dr Rosie Campbell
Professor Terrell Carver
Dr James Chiriyankandath
Dr Alistair Clark
Professor Neil Collins
Professor Matthew Flinders
Dr Rose Gann
Dr Cathy Gormley-Heenan
Dr Lisa Harrison
Dr Jennifer Hudson
Professor Andrew Massey
Professor Gerry Stoker

Trustees are appointed to the Executive Committee via an election process in which a ballot by single transferable vote of the whole membership is held. Several trustees (maximum of four) may be appointed by co-option for a period of one year.

The Executive Committee convene four times a year and the Annual General Meeting takes place at the annual conference.
Welcome to our new-style annual report which looks back at the Political Studies Association in 2013. In the following pages you will find some of the highlights of the Association’s activities last year.

Among these we are especially proud of our growing collaboration with teachers of politics in schools around the UK as we work to bring the next generations of political studies students into our universities.

We have been working hard to connect our research on politics with political debate at Westminster and beyond through our media briefings, contributions to parliamentary committees and our new Special Projects Fund.

And we have relaunched our website to show what we do better and to open up new ways of presenting our work through our blog at https://www.psa.ac.uk/insight-plus/blog.

You will also read about the benefits of being a member of the Association, the second biggest in the field of political studies in the world. We give a platform to over forty different research network through our specialist groups and run an annual conference hosted each year in one of the major cities of the UK (last year in Cardiff, this year in Manchester).

We publish a stable of excellent journals, ranging from Political Studies, first established in 1950, to our newest, the magazine-style Political Insight.

And we work to influence government policies that affect our discipline, for example around the move towards Open Access publishing.

If you are not yet a member, I hope what you see in this report will convince you to join up.

Charlie Jeffery
(outgoing) Chair

A year of huge progress
The professionalisation of the Association continues

The radical upgrade of the website and introduction of new membership and conference IT systems have enabled us to expand the range of services offered to our members and allowed us to fight more effectively for the interests of the discipline. Even better these have been achieved without a significant increase in the financial resources expended.

The profile of the PSA continues to grow amongst policymakers and journalists, through our engagement with Parliament, close relationship with organisations such as the Institute for Government and our highly successful media briefings, creating growing opportunities for us to promote the academic research of our members.

In April 2014 we added to our full-time staff with the appointment of a Programme Development Officer, James Ludley, whose role is to work closely with the main constituent communities of the Association – the specialist groups, our graduate members and teachers and school children.

As we take on more staff we find we can work more effectively and find substantial operational savings, allowing us to deliver more to our members while keeping annual membership fee increases below inflation.

Sadly Jack Neenan, our Communications Officer, is moving to the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London after two years at the PSA. Jack has done a tremendous job for the Association by radically overhauling our internal and external communications and helping launch the PSA Blog. We will miss him but wish him all the best for the future.

Helena Djurkovic
Chief Executive Officer
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

Supporting the next generation of political scientists

In 2013 the PSA piloted a new internship programme exclusively to its Postgraduate Network members, in partnership with the House of Commons Committee Office.

The aim of the PSA/House of Commons Committee Office Placement is to provide some real-world experience of working in Westminster and to enhance the successful candidates understanding of the workings of Parliament, as well as expanding the pool of talent available to the Committee Office.

The PSA received a number of strong applications, and after consultation with the House of Commons Committee Office it was agreed that funding would be provided for two of our members to complete an internship.

We expect the 2014-2015 placement scheme will open summer 2014.

Delivering a truly international conference

The 2013 PSA Annual International Conference was held in Cardiff from 25-27 March and attracted over seven hundred delegates from over eighty countries.

In addition to many excellent panels and papers, there were a number of particular highlights to the conference weekend, including the conference dinner at the National Museum of Wales, at which The Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales, delivered an excellent pre-dinner speech.

Did you see?

On Wednesday 1 May the Guardian ran an editorial entitled In Praise of...Rallings and Thrasher which congratulated the two political scientists on their peerless work in relation to collecting election data, or, as the Guardian described it “having made a 30-year fetish out of ward election results”.

Interns Karolina Maclachlan and Libby McEnhill
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

Supporting our members

In 2013 the PSA’s Special Projects Fund was commissioned with a total allowance of £10,000 for the year.

The selection panel had many fine submissions to choose from, leading to the decision to award two projects with £5,000 each to pursue their projects, designed "to generate significant additional awareness or impact of UK political studies, nationally or internationally".

The 2014-2015 Special Projects Fund will be announced later in the year.

New initiative

In December 2013, PSA launched its Quantitative Methods Network (QMN) at an event held in Oxford. The network, led by Dr Steve Fisher, aims to help improve quantitative skills within the politics departments of British universities.

Visit the Communities’ section of the PSA website for more information on the activities of the QMN and how to join.

PSA ‘exchangers’ around the world

In 2013, the PSA’s popular ‘exchangers’ programme saw an unprecedented number of ‘outgoer’ applications.

Successful candidates travelled to Korea, Australia and Japan to attend national conferences - delivering papers and strengthening links between our respective organisations.

Current calls for 2014 include conferences in Brazil, Uruguay and Mexico, so be sure to check the website for more information on how to apply. The PSA also support a number of ‘incomers’ to our annual conference.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

More grants approved than ever before

In addition to the popular ‘exchanger’ programme, the PSA also approves a number of grants every year for our members to attend and deliver papers at ‘sister’ associations.

Recent grants have included visits to: APSA, IPSA, MPSA, CPSA and WPSA. To be eligible to apply for a grant you must have at least two years running membership to the PSA.

Visit www.psa.ac.uk to find out about how you can apply for a great opportunity!

Providing expert advice to the media

PSA continues to champion members’ research to the media with its very successful programme of election media briefings.

A well attended media briefing on the local elections with Professors Michael Thrasher, Colin Rallings and John Curtice took place on 17 April at the Institute for Government.

Those attending included Gary Gibbon (C4), David Cowling (BBC), Jeremy Vine (BBC), Adam Boulton (Sky News), Carolyn Quinn (BBC), Andrew Grice (Independent), Tom Clark (Guardian), Sue Cameron (Telegraph) and Jill Sherman (The Times). A similarly successful briefing took place on 11 September on the State of the Parties in advance of the party conferences.

Promoting research and impact – the Research Excellence Framework

The final stages of the REF represented an important focus for the PSA in 2013, with a particular emphasis on supporting the academic community in relation to impact-related matters.

Through participation at events and seminars, the annual conference and at the annual Heads of Department conference in December, the PSA was able to play a defining role in shaping the agenda externally but also supporting its members internally in the assessment and meaning of ‘impact’.
Publishing world-class research

The Association currently publishes four academic, peer-reviewed journals in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell. These are Political Studies, the British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Politics and Political Studies Review.

In addition, Political Insight, a full colour magazine-style journal, aims to reach out to the wider community by making academic research accessible to practitioners, students and the general reader.

2013 there were 636,148 downloads of articles from the four journals.

BJPIR achieved a Thomson Reuters ISI impact factor of 0.725 in 2012.

Google ranking: 14th in the global table of political science journals and 6th amongst those published in Europe.

A new and exciting look for 2014.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

Defending the interests of the discipline

Open Access has been an issue of great concern to the PSA this past year. Our view has been that there needs to be a more measured approach to the implementation of Open Access that recognises the needs of all colleagues and that social science ought to be treated differently to the STEM subjects. We have played a very active role in shaping the debate. We were instrumental in getting the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee and the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee to hold inquiries into the Government’s Open Access Policy. The PSA was invited to give evidence before the BIS Committee inquiry on 16 April. The Association was represented by trustee Andrew Massey.

In February 2013 a Ministerial Roundtable on Open Access Implementation was held at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). It was attended by the Minister of State with responsibility for Universities, David Willetts, and representatives of the Finch Group, the funding councils, HEFCE, the publishers and senior officials from BIS. We were amongst a handful of learned societies that were invited to attend the meeting. The Political Studies Association was again represented by Professor Andrew Massey.

The Political Studies Association will continue to monitor the progress of Open Access, ensuring that the needs and concerns of the Social Science community are taken fully into consideration by policymakers and councils.

Growing impact – influencing and defending

Developing strong relations with schools

In recent years the PSA has become increasingly active in promoting the study of politics within schools. Government and Politics is a growing area of study in British sixth forms and the PSA can play an important role in helping teachers engage their students in the subject and in demonstrating to students, teachers and parents alike the benefits of studying politics at undergraduate level.

The PSA continues to organise an annual series of free one-day workshops for school students on Applying to Study Politics at a British University. Events were held in late June and early July 2013 in Edinburgh, London, Manchester and Nottingham.

The Association also offers teacher members the opportunity to request a visit to their school from a PSA academic member to give a lecture on any subject covered in the Government and Politics A level and Scottish Higher curricula. This programme continues into 2014, so get in touch to request a visit.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

Working closer with our specialist groups

The PSA’s network of over 40 specialist groups are a crucial part of the Association’s activities.

Over the past year our specialist groups have been involved, either directly or in a support capacity, in a wide variety of exciting events and series. There have been symposiums on Northern Ireland’s ‘culture wars’; workshops on political leadership and statecraft; seminars on multi-level governance and even a screening of a documentary about the invasion of Grenada by US-led forces in 1983.

The PSA has also made efforts to provide greater technical support for its specialist groups. The new website hosts a community system of mini-sites. Each of the PSA’s specialist groups is now able to create its own mini-site, controlled by the convenor or administration officer for each group. Many specialist groups have now established their psa.ac.uk domain as their main website.

A number of new groups were also established in 2013-2014 – Anti Politics and Depoliticisation; Young People’s Politics; Politics and Religion and Corruption and Political Misconduct. Visit psa.ac.uk for more details!

Members and the media

At the beginning of 2014 we began asking our members to start informing us whenever they have a scheduled media appearance on television or radio, or if they have appeared in any national or regional newspapers.

Members can inform the PSA by emailing the PSA’s Communications Officer at jack.neenan@psa.ac.uk. We will then promote the appearance on the PSA website and on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Our members are often approached by national and regional media outlets to solicit their expertise, and the PSA want to support you in ensuring the exposure for these appearances is as wide as possible.

Have you signed up to the Experts Directory? Visit ‘my account’ on the PSA website and sign up today!
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013

Celebrating achievements in politics

The 2013 Annual Awards Ceremony took place on the 26 November 2013 at Church House in the heart of Westminster. The awards dinner is an opportunity to recognise significant contributions to the study and practice of politics, as well as to promote and publicise the work of the Association and its members. The 2013 event was an unqualified success. Many of Britain’s most prominent politicians, academics and journalists were amongst the 200 people in attendance.

This year a host of new award categories were introduced: Policy Innovation; Political Impact; Campaigner of the Year; Enlightening the Public; and Democratic Innovation to name a few. These new categories really invigorated the ceremony, with attendees (and Twitter) far more engaged in attempting to guess who the worthy winners could be. Full List of Winners (ask Deeson to design a way of presenting this info dynamically – we have plenty of high-res professional photos)

- Parliamentarian of the Year – Natascha Engel MP
- Lifetime Achievement in Politics – Rt Hon Jack Straw
- Political Impact – Nigel Farage MEP
- Policy Innovation – Andrew Sullivan
- Democratic Innovation – Rt Hon David Cameron & Rt Hon Alex Salmond
- Campaigner of the Year – Stella Creasy MP
- Politician (Best use of Evidence) – Andrew Tyrie MP
- Journalist of the Year – Andrew Neil
- Enlightening the Public – Caitlin Moran
- Political Transparency – Full Fact
- Judges’ Award – The British Election Study Team
- Special Recognition Award – Professor Patrick Dunleavy
- Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies – Anniversary Professor Joni Lovenduski
- Political Studies Communicator – Professor Danny Dorling
- Innovation in Teaching Politics – Professor Philip Cowley & Mark Stuart
- W J M Mackenzie Book Prize – Dr Jean-Paul Faguet

A vibrant Graduate Network

In 2013, the PSA welcomed a new Executive Committee of its Graduate Network: Orland Ward – Chair; Jennifer Thompson – Conference Co-ordinator; Javier Sajuria – Communications Officer.

The new team have been very active, organising their annual graduate conference at the University of Oxford in December 2013, as well as a Professional Development Conference in February 2014. Members can follow the activities and announcements of the Graduate Network either on the PSA website or via their page on Facebook.

Establishing new partnerships

In 2012, YouGov offered summer work experience placements to the two winning students of the PSA Short Video Competition and at the end of 2013 suggested a formal partnership with the PSA to offer work experience as one of the benefits of winning the competition. This has been agreed and as of 2014 will be advertised as part of the prize for the winning team.
The PSA website, having undergone a complete redesign in 2013, offers an impressive hub of information and is a state of the art research and communications tool for its members and the wider political community.

Online services exclusively available for members include:

- access to electronic versions of the PSA’s journals;
- access to annual conference papers;
- eligibility to apply for PSA grants and prizes;
- inclusion in the online Directory of Political Studies;
- professional development resources;
- updates on upcoming inquiries and consultations.

The new website allows the PSA to communicate far more effectively and immediately with its membership. News stories and events are now posted daily. Entirely new features such as the PSA Blog and Schools’ section have increased the PSA’s capacity to engage with potential new members, as well as areas of the membership that were previously under-represented.

The website also includes sections on: professional development; early-view Political Insight articles; academic job listings; the Experts Directory; government and research consultations; links to relevant external websites; an archive of PSA News and the Association’s e-Newsletter and much more. The PSA is also posting more and more video footage from the annual conference and our many other events on the website and our YouTube channel.

The quarterly member magazine PSA News also underwent a design revamp in 2013 to compliment the new website. Edited by Dr Rosie Campbell and PSA Communications Officer, Jack Neenan, PSA News keeps members informed of the activities of the Association, its specialist groups and politics departments around the UK. It also publishes new sections on special projects, engagement and research & impact stories.

All these streams of communication have been redesigned in 2013 to display a consistent ‘brand’ identity.
A Solid Financial Foundation

Treasurer’s Report for 2013

Income
Total income during 2013 was £802,957. This was a rise of nearly 5% on the previous year but 2% lower than 2011. The main reasons for these fluctuations were variations in income from the publishing partnership with Wiley, and differences in income from conferences and from membership subscriptions, the latter largely caused by the Association’s change from a calendar-year membership to rolling membership. The different sources of incoming resources are shown in Figure 1.

Expenditure
The total resources expended by the charity during 2013 were £703,388, which was a rise of 5% on 2012. Figure 2 shows expenditure for each of the main areas of activity. Expenditure on the national office was higher than usual mainly because of the large investment in the new website and databases, including systems for handling membership and conference bookings. The costs of running the 63rd annual international conference in Cardiff were lower than anticipated whereas expenditure on publications rose as a result of additional activities. Outgoings on other areas were broadly in line with expectations.

Reserves
The Association ran a surplus of £99,569 in 2013 which was slightly higher than that in the previous year. As a result, the charity’s funds carried forward rose to £1,243,884 (from £1,144,315 at the end of 2012), represented by £1,241,384 in its bank accounts, plus £110,279 due from debtors, less liabilities and deferred income of £107,779. The size of the reserves accords with the Association’s policy that reserves should amount to at least 1.5 times the level of expenditure.

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Figure 1 – Incoming resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary income (subscriptions)</td>
<td>109,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities – conferences</td>
<td>122,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities – publishing</td>
<td>512,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for generating fundssale of advertising space</td>
<td>2,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>13,724</td>
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</tbody>
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Total incoming resources: **802,967**

Figure 2 – Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Expenditure</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Office</td>
<td>131,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>193,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and events</td>
<td>77,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>107,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and impact</td>
<td>38,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards and prizes</td>
<td>41,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and resources</td>
<td>24,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International and external relations</td>
<td>37,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and skills</td>
<td>9,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and engagement</td>
<td>19,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expenditure: **718,523**
Figure 3 shows the rise in the charity’s reserves during the last 22 years. In 1991 the reserves amounted to £66,806, by 2001 they had risen to £320,111 and by 2011 they were £1,047,641. Since 1991 the Association’s reserves have risen nearly nineteen-fold and this reflects the rise in income and expenditure during this period.

Financial Assessment
The charity is in good financial health. The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom has experienced a virtuous circle of growing activities, additional publications, increased professionalism, better international links, a heightened reputation and profile, and a rising membership. The steady pace of growth has enabled the charity to build its reserves while expanding and developing its activities.

Figure 4 shows the rise in income and expenditure for selected years since 1991. The rises are considerable but both income and expenditure reached a peak in 2011 and have fallen somewhat since then. There are various reasons for this and a close watch must be kept on risks and on uncertainties about future income and expenditure.

In particular, income from the charity’s journals needs carefully monitoring. The growth of open access and electronic publishing, cutbacks in library budgets, and the expansion in the use of licensing arrangements, are factors the effects of which cannot be predicted with certainty. Any decline in income from the journals, or from other sources, will require imaginative responses. The Association is currently negotiating a new publishing contract which will come into effect in 2016 and it is hoped that this will address the key issues.

Concluding Comments
I would like to end my report by thanking everyone who assisted me during 2013, including the trustees and especially the officers – Charlie Jeffery, Paul Carmichael, Jacqui Briggs. I am also grateful to Helena Durkovic, the Chief Executive, and to the Association’s staff, especially Sandra McDonagh, the charity’s auditors and the staff at Wiley with whom I worked during the year. I would also like to thank Linda Bradshaw for her assistance with the book-keeping. My greatest thanks are due to Robert Pugsley, the Finance Officer, who has been a great help and support during the year.

In conclusion, the Association has continued to prosper and is in good financial shape. It can look forward with confidence while there is clearly a need for continued care and prudence. This will entail increasing income where possible and maintaining a tight watch on expenditure, while being prepared to invest in new developments in furtherance of the charity’s overall goal of promoting political studies and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government.

John Benyon
Treasurer
As this annual report illustrates, the PSA has gone from strength-to-strength in recent years. Not only does it organise a large number of events for its members but it also undertakes a huge amount of less visible, but no less important, work in relation to influencing the broader policy environment.

Much credit for this should go to Helena Djurkovic and the PSA staff and also to the trustees who dedicate a great deal of time and energy to the Association. However, if thanks are to be given then it is difficult to overstate the incredible contribution of Charlie Jeffrey during his period as Chair. New projects and initiatives introduced during his term include the much enhanced PSA website, the PSA Blog, the Special Projects Fund and regular media briefings.

Charlie has been part of the PSA Executive – with a few sabbaticals – for the best part of two decades and will always be a great friend of the association. I’m sure I speak for all when I offer him our best wishes for when he takes up his new role as Senior Vice-Principal at the University of Edinburgh in October.

In terms of the future of the PSA, my application to become Chair was clearly linked to an emphasis on increasing both the breadth and depth of the association. Breadth in terms of the membership and how we fulfil our charitable obligations to promote the study of politics; depth in relation to the services and resources we offer our members.

Most of all I want to democratise and open-up the PSA by developing new forms of internal consultation and external visibility, as part of a broader effort to encourage more members to stand for election and get involved (and more non-members to join the Association). In order to deliver this twin emphasis on both breadth and depth, I will be establishing two Consultative Chairs Commissions later in the year. In the meantime, a new era in the history of the PSA will be marked by its move to new offices in central London and the increased opportunities and capacities this move brings with it.

I am really looking forward to working with members, trustees and the association’s staff as we face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Matthew Flinders
Chair (elect) of the Political Studies Association