On 18 March the PSA held a panel discussion on Brexit, young people and politics as part of our ongoing event series with the British Library. Differing from a more traditional panel format, the event involved eight young panellists; Alexandra Bulat (Communications Officer, PSA Early Career Network), Jake Cooper (Councillor for Belle Vue, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council), Esther Follis (Wallace High School, Lisburn - member of the winning team in the PSA’s 2018 Student Video Competition), Kira Lewis (British Youth Council), Shakira Martin (NUS President), Jack Norquoy (Scottish Youth Chair’s Message

The theme of this year’s Annual Conference is (Un)sustainable Politics. Some days that seems like an apt description of the challenges facing our profession — from the now familiar but increasingly competitive demands of the REF and TEF, the new and revolutionary future of Open Access, and the more individualised and isolating worries of casualisation, performance management and, as recently reported by UCU, the growing mental health worries in academia. This heady combination might seem an overwhelming hurdle for early career researchers as well as those more

Join Our Executive Committee!

Submit your nomination to be a trustee of the PSA!

For more information see page 3

Inside This Issue

PSA NOW ON THE GRAM - P5
ECN COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - P17
PSA STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION WITH FINANCIAL TIMES - P22

Young Leaders Shed Insights on Voting Age on Panel on ‘Brexit, Young People and Politics’ at British Library

By Andy Mycock (Huddersfield University) and Tom Loughran (Huddersfield University)

On 18 March the PSA held a panel discussion on Brexit, young people and politics as part of our ongoing event series with the British Library. Differing from a more traditional panel format, the event involved eight young panellists; Alexandra Bulat (Communications Officer, PSA Early Career Network), Jake Cooper (Councillor for Belle Vue, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council), Esther Follis (Wallace High School, Lisburn - member of the winning team in the PSA’s 2018 Student Video Competition), Kira Lewis (British Youth Council), Shakira Martin (NUS President), Jack Norquoy (Scottish Youth
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Young leaders shed insights on voting age on panel on ‘Brexit, young people and politics’ at British Library 1
Chair’s message 1
Three positions open on PSA Executive Committee 4
We need your help! Lecture Capture for Schools 4
PSA welcomes new Communications and Media Relations Officer 5
PSA Launches New Instagram Account 5
GOOD LUCK! 5
Website relaunch – Phase 2! 5
‘What’s happening.. Brexit: Towards the break-up of the Union?’ public panel held at British Academy 6
Congratulations to Total Exposure 2018 shortlist! 7
PSA-PSAI publish collaborative ‘Brexit Countdown’ blog series 7
The PSA has meeting rooms available to hire with discount rates for members 8
Joint International Teaching and Learning Conference 2019 8

OBITUARIES

Professor Duncan McTavish: in memorium 9
Professor David Held: In memoriam 9

DEPARTMENT AND MEMBER NEWS

Call for abstracts: EECES Women Academics’ Forum 2.0 at Swansea University 10
‘Britain in transformation: Brexit and beyond’ University of Kents holds ‘Conceptualising Remote Warfare: The Past, Present and Future’ conference 11
Kent students in Tate exchange take over 11
Jean Monnet Centre for Excellence in European Governance announces four-day summer school 12
Update from Goldsmiths 13
Podcast initiated by political studies academics from Cambridge Uni reaches 6 million downloads 13
The world’s greatest exercise in democracy – #IndiaVotes2019 14

PSA COMMUNITIES

Conservatism Studies commended by PSA Judges 15
PSA proud to announce new specialist group! 15
Call for papers for second annual Postgraduate and Early Career Network Conference by American Politics specialist group 15
The PSA Early Career Network in Nottingham 16
Nominations open for positions on PSA ECN Committee 17
Call for Papers! PSA Early Career Network Annual Conference: Making Sense of Contemporary Politics 18
Greek Politics ‘Using Experiments in Social Sciences’ seminar in Athens, 16-17 May 18

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary 19

JOURNALS

Political Studies awards 2018 Harrison Prize to Dr Saskia Pauline Ruth 20
PSA President Matthew Flinders honoured with this year’s EPS Prize 20

RESEARCH AND IMPACT

The De/Centralisation Dataset 21
Latest political science research rankings in Australia published 21

SCHOOLS

Applying to Study Politics at a UK University 22
Student Blog Competition: Is British Politics Broken? 22
Exciting Opportunities for Politics Teachers 22
Bring a lecturer to your classroom through our Seminar for Schools! 23
A Level Specialist Teacher Training Seminar 23

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Meet the trustees: Dr Rose Gann 24

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Chair’s message continued from page 1

established who entered the academy out of the simple desire to teach and research well.

In these complex and changing times, the role of learned societies must adapt and grow. As noted in the latest Times Higher Education Opinion section, those societies which remain the epitome of the old boys’ network risk losing their relevance to an increasingly more diverse profession. Fortunately, over the last few years, the PSA has made structural changes to bolster representation in governance and adopted a strategy and business plan to better serve our membership. Because of this, we are seen as forward-looking leaders in our sector.

The work of the PSA relies on a significant volunteer army to work alongside PSA staff. Trustee elections present an opportunity for members to help the PSA continue to offer relevant quality professional services and support. I encourage you to put yourself forward as a candidate. If that’s not quite for you, you can volunteer to help out in a more time-limited capacity with one of our many projects featured in the pages here or in the PSA Annual Report.

For example, if your lectures are audio captured, your department can select to highlight your lecture for our A-Level Teacher’s resource website. If you are a runner, you could support the Diverse Voices Scholarship Fund by raising money at your next 5k. Alternatively, you can work with your Specialist Group to plan a Pushing the Boundaries event.

As a positive way through these seemingly unsustainable times, the PSA is working with you as members to collectively provide information, services and opportunities to assist our colleagues in the wider profession. We look forward to hearing your research presentations at the PSA Annual Conference and to receiving your ideas about the future at the PSA Annual Assembly.

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strengthened or weakened the case for votes at 16. This ensured lively and passionate debate throughout evening, particularly on how young people can be more effectively involved in the political process after Brexit. While some panellists were confident of the UK’s future after Brexit, many were pessimistic about its impact on young people. Most of the panel supported improved political education in schools and colleges to ensure future generations were more informed and prepared to vote. There was some disagreement, however, about whether Brexit has strengthened the case for ‘votes at 16’.

Audience participation was a key feature throughout, producing some good-humoured challenging perspectives and exchanges with panellists. Live audience voting software was successfully used to gauge the views of the audience on key issues and as a debating point for the panellists. A short report will be forthcoming from the PSA and University of Huddersfield researchers based on these audience findings and the comments made by the panellists. A full recording of the event, as well as additional interviews with the contributors and photos, can be found on the PSA website.
Nominations are open for three positions on the PSA Executive Committee (EC): two trustee positions and one position for Membership Secretary. Each position is elected by PSA members for terms lasting three years. The trustees and Membership Secretary are required to attend quarterly London EC meetings.

In addition to the EC, the Membership Secretary is a member of the six-person Senior Leadership Team, comprising of the Chair, Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, the Equality & Diversity lead, and CEO, which meets in between and in addition to the EC meetings.

To run as a trustee or membership secretary, please email nominations@psa.ac.uk with the following information: your name; your institutional affiliation (if you have one); the position you are seeking; the name and email address of another PSA member who is willing to publicly second your nomination; and a personal statement (max. 150 words) that will be used within the election publicity as rationale as to why members should vote for you.

“I’m now at the end of my elected term, and my three years as Secretary have been a privilege. Key responsibilities of the Secretary include supporting and expanding the PSA’s membership, overseeing elections, and co-ordinating our prize-giving processes, plus being part of the six-person Senior Leadership Team. I’d strongly recommend to anyone thinking of running that you should go for it, so submit your nomination straightaway!” Paul Tobin

“I was a trustee for three years and would advise anyone wanting to run to go for it. It’s important to understand it is a time commitment if you want to do it properly, with trustee meetings four times a year, other meetings if you get involved in particular project streams, plus events like the Annual Conference and PSA Awards, so make sure you have the time and your department is supportive too. It’s also a good idea to have some initial thoughts about the kinds of PSA things you want to get involved in, such as teaching and learning, or research, or events etc; I’d advise taking a look at the PSA website and the Strategic Plan to see what the PSA has planned over the next few years. It’s been a great experience and it’s also good for your CV (understanding how a charity works and what being a trustee entails for one thing). You will be able to build contacts and networks, attend really interesting events, and make a difference to students, academics, and the wider discipline.” Donna Smith

Nominations close on 18 April at midnight. Voting will open on 6 May and close on 23 May.

Please visit https://www.psa.ac.uk/psa/news/psa-seeks-nomineeselection-its-executive-committee for more information, our campaigning rules for candidates and a link to the Charity Commission guidelines. Please email info@psa.ac.uk if you have any questions.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! LECTURE CAPTURE FOR SCHOOLS

By Jamie Roberts (Development Officer)

The Political Studies Association has a priority to dramatically extend our outreach to schools across the UK. This includes encouraging a wider range of students to consider studying politics at university but also supporting students and teachers as best we can whilst they are still in compulsory education.

We believe that the PSA and Politics departments can achieve greater impact in schools by working together, whilst also achieving operational priorities and widening participation targets.

As many universities now provide audio lecture capture, for students, we’re asking that academics across the discipline share a lecture or two with the PSA School community. The most appropriate content will most likely be first-year introductory lectures of approx. 50-60 minutes.

Any topic is welcome, but we would like to emphasise the need for lectures on: Global Politics, UK Politics, US Politics, and Ideologies, which all feature prominently in the post-16 Politics curriculum.

Here are the key things you need to know:

• Contributors, departments and university logos will be promoted alongside the content.
• Universities will retain copyright. School members will be able to use them when logged onto the PSA website only and we will block any teachers or students from downloading the lectures to be used elsewhere.
• As a gesture of thanks, all lecturers who agree for their lecture to be included and who complete the one-page study guide form, will receive a one-time free registration to the PSA conference.

For more information on how to provide content or any general enquiries about how to get involved with the PSA School community please email jamie.roberts@psa.ac.uk.
GOOD LUCK!

By Phil Sooben

As you may know, I am moving on to pastures new and by the time that most of you read this, I will have served my last day in the PSA office just before this year’s conference. The events of the last week/month/year guarantee that it will be a particularly eventful one and I am aware of the very hard work that has gone in to planning the conference to ensure that it will be a great success. So congratulations in advance to the convenor team at Nottingham Trent University and to the PSA staff.

I can announce that Sarah Brown will be acting as part-time interim CEO from mid-April until the end of May. It is then hoped that a new permanent CEO will take up the position as soon as possible thereafter.

May I once again thank all those who have worked with me over the last two years on our many achievements and I wish the staff, trustees and members all the best for the future.

WEB SITE RELAUNCH – PHASE 2!

By Sydney Budgeon (Communications and Media Relations Officer)

By the time this issue of PSA News hits all of your mailboxes, we will have released our next phase of the website which has encompassed new specialist group pages, a new ECN page and a formal webpage for the new Teaching and Learning Network.

Also in this release, we have improved our sign-up form and our member’s portal! I encourage all of our members to log into the website and update their details in their new portal. Please be sure to update your institution, your birthdate and how you wish to be contacted by us, and any other details you wish to share! As we will be phasing out PSA membership numbers, it is important to update your birthdate and your email address, which we will be using now for verification.

To improve reporting on our membership, we also would appreciate if everyone could update their profile in terms of their gender, nationality and ethnicity. This will help us understand an accurate picture of our membership.

The PSA will continue to make improvements to the website in the next phase, which will include our expert’s directory and search functions, among other exciting changes!

PSA WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

It’s with a heavy heart that we announce that our current Communications Officer, Sydney Budgeon, is stepping down at the end of the month. Sydney is relocating to her native Canada, and we wish her all the best in her next steps.

The PSA wishes to welcome Nicole Johnson, who is taking over as the new Communications Officer. Prior to joining the PSA, Nicole managed communications for the Heinrich Boell Foundation North America in Washington, DC. Nicole holds an MA from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

PSA LAUNCHES NEW INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

The PSA has finally joined the Gram! Follow us @polstudiesassoc for behind the scenes content of life at the PSA, live event updates, and more. We also welcome content from any of our members, so submit photos and 60 second videos to Nicole Johnson at nicole.johnson@psa.ac.uk

psa.ac.uk
psanews
On 24 January, the PSA held a public panel exploring how Brexit might impact, and possibly jeopardise, the future of the United Kingdom in political, social and economic terms. Held at the British Academy, the event featured a very diverse turnout with an extended Q&A period followed by a drinks reception.

Representing various specialist groups, the panel speakers were:

- **Katy Hayward** (Queen’s University Belfast) from the Irish Politics specialist group
- **Scott Lavery** (SPERI, University of Sheffield) from the British and Comparative Political Economy specialist group
- **Timofey Agarin** (Queen’s University Belfast) from Ethnopolitics specialist group
- **Margaret Arnott** (University of the West of Scotland) from the Parliaments specialist group
- **Emily Rainsford** (Newcastle University) from Young People’s Politics specialist group
- **Matt Wall** (Swansea University) from Elections, Public Opinion and Parties specialist group

The event was also chaired by Stephen Bush, Political Editor at the New Statesman.

You can now watch the panel on our YouTube channel or our website!
CONGRATULATIONS TO TOTAL EXPOSURE 2018 SHORTLIST!

In November of last year, eleven pitches for TV, radio or podcast programmes related to politics were selected as the shortlist for Total Exposure 2018. The shortlisted pitches (prepared by 11 teams and 19 participants) were awarded the opportunity to be pitched in person to a panel of commissioners and producers in TV and radio.

All of the shortlisted were invited to attend a training day lead by Cathy Gormley-Heenan, whose Total Exposure pitch was commissioned into a radio programme ‘Walls and Peace’ for the BBC World Service. During the training, Cathy gave tips and feedback to participants about how to further tune and adapt their pitch ahead of the Pitching Event.

For the Pitching Event on 24 January, the participants were given 13 minutes to present their pitch and receive feedback from the judges about what worked; what would need to be changed to reach a public audience; or how it could be adapted. While the PSA is not involved in the commissioning process, the judges have all been invited and encouraged to approach any of the teams regarding their ideas.

The PSA wishes to thank our judges, Susanne Curran (Burning Bright), and Jonathan Brunert (BBC Radio 4) who were involved in various stages of the shortlisting process and the Total Exposure Pitching Event. We also want to thank Steve Titherington (BBC World Service) who unfortunately could not attend the Pitching Event but was involved in the shortlisting. We also want to thank Cathy Gormley-Heenan as PSA project lead for the whole of Total Exposure.

Last but not least, the PSA also wishes to thank the participants! Our fingers are crossed for them that their insightful and interesting pitches will be hitting either the airwaves or TV screens soon!

Total Exposure 2018 Shortlist:
Matthew Alford – ‘The writer with no hands’
Doga Atalay and Umut Korkut – ‘Goal united’
John Parkinson – ‘Democratic spaces’
Roger Tyers – ‘The true cost of air travel’
Andrew Mycock, Jon Tonge and Tom Loughran – ‘Votes at 16: A very British ‘youthquake’?”
James Weinberg, Kate Dommett and Nikki Soo – ‘Utopian politics’
Clare Saunders and Joanie Willett – ‘Making cleaner clothing: How to revolutionise your wardrobe and help save the planet at the same time’
Francesca Granelli and Justin Jackson – ‘Clash of opinions: What our democracy has lost and why it matters’
Alexandre Christoyannopoulos and Charlotte Alston – ‘Taking Tolstoy’s politics seriously’
Arianna Giovannini and Steven Griggs – ‘Whatever happened to local government?7
Rosie Campbell and James Tilley – ‘The problems with elections’

PSA-PSAI PUBLISH COLLABORATIVE ‘BREXIT COUNTDOWN’ BLOG SERIES

On 20 February, the PSA and Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) launched a collaborative blog series marking a countdown to then-‘Brexit day’. From 20 February to 29 March, we published 27 blogs written by PSA and PSAI members taking on different, and many of the less publicized, angles on Brexit.

Why 27 blogs? This number was picked to symbolise the 27 member-states that would remain within the EU when the UK left. We timed the series to countdown from 27 days out on the assumption that ‘Brexit meant Brexit’ and the UK would leave the EU on the 29th of March.

Our Brexit Countdown blog series has now ended with a reaffirmation of the call emerging from our meeting last May in Belfast — that whatever constitutional and political changes occur, Brexit has demonstrated the need for all learned Associations to broaden and deepen the scope of relationships between us.

Thanks to all the fabulous contributors to the series at the PSAI for collaborating on this project. If you haven’t already, we urge you to read the blogs from our series, which can be found on the PSA’s website and the Irish Politics Forum.
JOINT INTERNATIONAL TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE 2019

By Jamie Roberts (PSA Development Officer)

The PSA is excited to be working with the American Political Science Association (APSA), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), and the British International Studies Association (BISA), to bring together academics from around the world for our first Joint International Teaching and Learning Conference.

Taking place in Brighton, 17-19 June, at the Jurys Inn Waterfront, the conference aims to provide a forum for political science educators to come together and explore the challenges and share their teaching practices.

The theme of this year’s conference ‘Teaching Politics in an Era of Populism’ and we look forward to welcoming contributions on issues such as civic engagement, using simulations in the classroom, decolonising the curriculum and education as empowerment.

A draft programme is now available on our website psa.ac.uk/...
OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MCCTAVISH: IN MEMORIUM

2nd July 1951 - 9th November 2018

The Public Policy & Administration Specialist Group would like to pay tribute to our friend and colleague Professor Duncan McTavish, who very sadly died in November. Duncan was a superb scholar and a mentor for many. The tribute below is an abridged version of one written by his close friends Bobby Pyper and Karen Johnston.

Duncan was an outstanding scholar, with extensive publications in the fields of public administration, public policy and politics. His research spanned topics such as the impact of neo-liberal public sector reforms, multi-level governance, good governance, accountability of the public sector, and inequalities. His first book, Business and Management in the UK 1900-2003, a fusion of economic and political history, and business and public administration, provided an important analysis of the dynamic between managerial issues in the UK business and public sectors. Duncan’s final book, Themes and Flux in British Politics, is a tour de force of British politics with commentary on salient issues confronting contemporary society such as nationalism and differentiated political loyalties.

Duncan epitomised a public service ethos. He played large part in our discipline’s journals, including being a former editor of Public Policy and Administration and serving on several journal editorial boards, including Teaching Public Administration. His collaborations with early career researchers and PhD students is a testament to his tireless efforts to mentor and support scholars. Duncan was a dedicated teacher and he handled the managerial duties of the modern academic with aplomb. He was the epitome of the trusted, collegiate professional. His steady judgement meant that he was a popular choice when a University department required an external examiner. In the midst of sometimes heated discussions about matters of academic policy and practice, he was a calming influence who introduced a sense of perspective.

Duncan’s career started in the implementation sphere of public administration, including work with Strathclyde Regional Council to provide economic development opportunities for the West of Scotland. Duncan’s academic studies started with a degree from the University of Strathclyde, followed by postgraduate degrees from the University of Glasgow, where he achieved a PhD in 2002. He held academic positions at the Open University, Northumbria University, and Glasgow Caledonian University where he became Professor of Public Policy and Management. The University conferred upon Duncan an Emeritus Professorship in 2017.

Duncan was one of those rare people who with humour and kindness gave of himself without any expectation of reciprocation. He was passionate about creating opportunities for others. His fundamental concern was the elimination of social exclusion, divisions, polarisation and inequalities. He worked tirelessly, and served as a board member, for various charities. His scholarly work was at one with his social concerns and reflected a desire to improve public policy for all.

Duncan’s death was unexpected and came far too soon. Our thoughts are with his beloved wife, Linda, and son, Iain. Our academic discipline has lost a fine and respected scholar, and many of us have lost a valued colleague and great friend.

PROFESSOR DAVID HELD: IN MEMORIAM

The PSA was saddened to hear of the death of Professor David Held, Master of University College, Durham and Professor of Politics and International Relations at Durham University.

Before joining Durham in 2012, David previously taught at the Open University and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). At LSE, he became Graham Wallas Professor of Political Science and co-directed the Centre for the Study of Global Governance.

Having produced more than 60 written or edited books, David was extremely well-published on the subjects of democracy, democratisation, globalisation, global governance and policy. One of his textbooks, Models of Democracy, (1987) was translated into seventeen languages. David was also greatly involved in academic publishing as well, co-founding Polity Press in 1984, and co-founding and editing Global Policy.

Lastly, David was also a prolific teacher and lecturer, remembered fondly by his students, his colleagues and around the world.
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: EECES WOMEN ACADEMICS’ FORUM 2.0 AT SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

Allison Edwards and Jasmin Dall’Agnola

With support from the ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Partnership and Swansea University, the one-day workshop of the Eurasian, East and Central European Studies Women Academics Forum (EECES WAF) will be hosted at Swansea University on 12 September 2019.

The EECES WAF 2019 edition will be held under the theme “Navigating in Academia as a Female Scholar” with a keynote delivered by Professor Josette Baer-Hill from University of Zurich. During this workshop, early-career female researchers are invited to present and discuss their research with other female scholars. In addition, a keynote and round table will be held, enabling early career female scholars to engage with established female academics on their research and experiences in academia.

Workshop organisers are inviting abstracts from early-career female scholars (doctoral students and post-docs) researching post-communist countries – in social sciences and humanities disciplines – on a variety of topics. Established female academics are also invited to join as a panel chair or attendee.

Applicants may apply by 13 May 2019. Further details can be found on the PSA’s website at www.psa.ac.uk/resources/calls-papers.

‘BRITAIN IN TRANSFORMATION: BREXIT AND BEYOND’

The German Association for British Studies and the Berlin-Britain Research Network, based at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, will be hosting a joint conference from 23–25 May to promote cutting-edge interdisciplinary dialogue and exchange on a UK that is in the midst of an extraordinary transition.

While Britain’s relationship with the EU has always been a troubled one, the 2016 referendum result not only has its roots in a long tradition of Euroscepticism, it can also be tied to more recent and wider social, economic and cultural dynamics within the UK. The terms under which the UK leaves the EU (or indeed whether the UK actually leaves the EU) remain to be seen. But it is clear that the vision of a one-off event, encapsulated by the portmanteau ‘Brexit’, that will fix in stone Britain’s future relationship with Europe for the foreseeable future is looking more and more illusory. Brexit is the current point of reference during a period of radical transition in Britain’s relationship with the EU, but it is an idea with numerous different interpretations and predictions. The origins of this transition can be seen long before the British EU-referendum, and yet what exactly will be the abiding character of Britain’s post-Brexit relationship with Europe will likely only gradually crystallise over a number of years following March 2019.

The conference “Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond” will provide an invaluable opportunity for participants and attendees to examine the internal and external state of the UK, three years after its citizens voted in a referendum to leave the EU. It will discuss, scrutinise and map out the origins and trajectories of this period of transition, looking in particular at the prospects of transformative processes in the UK: What has been in the past? How and why are things changing so radically now? Where will these changes take us? As well as the political and economic transformations that inevitably sit at the heart of the conference topic, the social, cultural and historical dynamics that are intertwined with these transformations will also form a major part of the discussion.

Please register at gbz@gbz.hu-berlin.de.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our conference.

Dr Marius Guderjan (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Dr Sam McIntosh (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Prof Paul Carmichael (Ulster University)
Lic Norbert Fabian (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Students from the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent took over Tate Exchange at Tate Modern on March 16/17th with a series of inventive and inspiring projects aimed at engaging the public in the idea of movement and resistance.

Activities included transforming big business advertising into origami birds; film work on borders, mental health and how people have responded to racism in sport; interactive image work on media representations of gender and politics, body positivity, the meaning of change, the relationship between art, politics, education and Brexit, and the nature of disagreement and conflict; performance work on identity politics; and an immersive experience in a pod exploring the connection between choice and resistance.

There were also 2,000 dominoes used to create some amazing constructions and, with some effort, the word 'move' in the form of a giant domino run.

This is the third year of the School’s involvement in the Tate Exchange project but the first time the whole floor - Level 5 of the Blavatnik Building – has been activated and animated entirely by the students. With over 1,000 visitors in two days, the students had a wonderful range of conversations with members of the public. As one visitor put it, ‘this is great, such amazing work!’

The students came from the undergraduate module, How to Start a Revolution, and the postgraduate module, Resistance in Practice taught, respectively, by Stefan Rossbach and Iain MacKenzie.

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In late February, the Oxford Research Group’s Remote Warfare Programme held a two-day conference at the University of Kent on ‘Conceptualising Remote Warfare: The Past, Present and Future’. The event brought together a wide range of experts from militaries, academia, civil society and parliament to explore the risks and opportunities that come with this shift in engagement, where Western and non-Western countries refrain from deploying large numbers of their own troops and rely instead on supporting local forces through the provision of training, equipment, air support, covert special forces, and other such activities.

The conference was sponsored by the British International Studies Association (BISA). The diverse range of speakers, from the UK, US, Yemen and several European countries provided theoretical examinations, as well as practical and policy-related discussions about how nations like the UK engage in military operations abroad. Presentations varied on the topics covered, grappling with legal, political, and military consequences of such operations, including for those who become victims of remote warfare. The keynote speech was delivered by military historian Professor Sir Hew Strachan and examined the relationship between strategy and democracy.

If you were unable to make it to the conference, fear not! You can find recordings of most of the panels as podcasts on our website. Additionally, look out for our upcoming briefing on the key themes and debates of the conference and - by early 2020 - a book which will be published on E-International Relations.

Do also get in touch (megan@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk) if you would like to contribute to the edited book collection or, more generally, if you are interested in these topics and would like to know more about our upcoming events and projects.
Qualitative Methods
Summer Training

Comparative Case Study Design
3-7 June 2019
Designing Research with Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
10-14 June 2019

University of Exeter - Penryn Campus, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9FE, UK

The modules are open to postgraduate research students, PhD students, postdocs, academics, and research-oriented practitioners who engage in social research, across the UK and internationally.

For more information, please contact penryn-methods@exeter.ac.uk

Congratulations to John Connolly who has been promoted to Professor of Public Policy at the University of the West of Scotland!

JEAN MONNET CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN GOVERNANCE ANNOUNCES FOUR-DAY SUMMER SCHOOL

By Arianna Giovannini (De Montfort University)

The Jean Monnet Centre for Excellence in European Governance at De Montfort University is delighted to announce a four-day Summer School from 1-4 July 2019. The Summer School will comprise of an intensive four-days of work. This will include two masterclasses delivered by leading academics within the Jean Monnet Centre: Jonathan Davies (Professor of Critical Policy Studies) and Estella Baker (Professor of EU Law and Justice).

In addition, attendees will have to submit a draft and deliver presentations on their current research projects to receive in-depth feedback from peers and a panel of experts from our Jean Monnet Centre. This part of the Summer School essentially mirrors in its structure the ECPR Joint Sessions, with thorough discussion of PhDs’ papers in a critical and supportive environment and within sessions led by experts, so as to aid doctoral students to strengthen their work (e.g. gearing it towards publication).

The Summer School is free to attend for PhD students currently registered at any university who will have had their abstract accepted. Applicants should submit a 200-word presentation abstract and title, a 100-word statement of interest, and personal details (including institutional affiliations and contacts) to Dr Arianna Giovannini (arianna.giovannini@dmu.ac.uk) by Friday 5 May.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided for participants throughout the four days of the Summer School. Accommodation and travel costs will be need to be covered by participants and/or their institutions.
Politics and International Relations at Goldsmiths has established a global reputation as a critical, heterodox and innovative research-led teaching department. We have created a lively transdisciplinary environment: one in which staff and students embrace the study of institutions, theory, economics, culture and conflicts, in ways that contest and disrupt traditional understandings of political phenomena.

We have undergone a successful period of expansion with a number of new appointments and new programmes on offer. New staff joining the department in 2018 included, Dr David Brenner, Dr Sahil Dutta and Dr Jeffery Webber. In addition, we recently made two further appointments who will take up their posts in September 2019: Dr Eskandar Sadeghi-Boroujerdi, who joins us as a Lecturer in Comparative Political Theory, and Dr Martina Tazzioli who will take up the post of Lecturer in Technology and Politics.

Complementing our innovative MA in Art and Politics and International Relations we have recently launched two new MA programmes. An MA in Global Political Economy, which explores the power relations that make capitalism, focusing on the fraying relationship between democracy, global capitalism and the natural world. And an MA in Politics, Development and the Global South which treats development as a site of contestation; wherein the Global South is a producer, and not simply a consumer, of theory, and as a site where novel forms of political struggle are emerging.

Talking Politics, the political podcast hosted by David Runciman (University of Cambridge) and sponsored by the London Review of Books, has passed the 6 million download milestone just following its 150th instalment.

The hugely popular podcast now averages 70,345 listens per episode and 492,415 listens per month. In 2018, it was listened to in 196 countries. 60% of listeners are in the UK and 10% are in the United States, where the audience is steadily growing.

Recorded weekly at the University of Cambridge, where Runciman is Professor of Politics, Talking Politics combines a regular panel of experts with invited guests. It is usually co-hosted by Professor of Political Economy, Helen Thompson.

The first episode, released in September 2016, featured Israeli historian and author of the bestselling book Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, Yuval Noah Harari. Other popular contributors have included historians Adam Tooze and Jill Lepore, philosopher Martha Nussbaum, authors Oliver Bullough and Pinkaj Mishra, and economist Thomas Piketty.

Recent topics have included surveillance capitalism, Facebook as a threat to democracy, and the place of fear in contemporary politics, alongside the politics of the World Cup, food and Brexit, and whether or not six-year-olds should be able to vote.

David Runciman said: “Keeping on top of the relentlessly breaking political news can feel like an impossible task. What we try to offer is an informative and genuine dialogue, where experts with differing opinions come to explore themes in a collaborative and non-combative way – as opposed to just providing a platform where guests present their views. The result is that you can often hear contributors thinking, changing their minds, or learning from each other in the course of an episode.”

Talking Politics is available via iTunes, Acast, Stitcher or any other podcast app. A new episode is uploaded every Thursday morning and transcripts are made available on talkingpoliticspodcast.com. Follow Talking Politics on Twitter @TPpodcast_.
On 10 April, Professor Katharine Adeney and Dr Carole Spary (University of Nottingham) participated in an Asia House roundtable on the Indian elections. In conjunction with speakers from the Confederation of Indian Industry’s India Business Forum and Linklaters, they reviewed Modi’s performance in his first term, the prospects of the various contenders and the challenges that will beset the next government.

The University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute (UoNARI) will be providing expert coverage of the Indian elections throughout the voting period (which lasts until mid-May). Professor Katharine Adeney, Dr Carole Spary and Dr Dishil Shrimankar from the School of Politics and International Relations (together with Dr Uditi Sen and Dr Paul McGarr) are producing a weekly briefing on the Indian elections, their expert comment on events so far as well as what to look out for in the week ahead — sign up at www.nottingham.ac.uk/asiaresearch. This supplements the daily analysis on the Institute’s online journal, The Asia Dialogue, much of it provided by members of the PSA Politics of South Asia Specialist Group, and regular commentary in the international media.

Carole Spary will feature in a forthcoming The Conversation podcast on women and politics in India, sharing the research from her two recent books Gender, Development, and the State in India (Routledge) and (with Shirin Rai) Performing Representation: Women Members in the Indian Parliament (OUP). A Politics of South Asia Specialist Group workshop on the results of the elections, co-sponsored by the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute, will be held at the University of Bristol on June 11 and 12.
CONSERVATISM STUDIES COMMENDED BY PSA JUDGES

Drs Anthony Ridge-Newman (Liverpool Hope) and Alan Convery (Edinburgh) have convened the PSA’s specialist group on conservatism studies, since 2016.

In 2019, the PSA Conservatism Studies Group (CSG) was nominated for specialist group of the year. Despite narrowly missing out on the title, the PSA judges awarded the CSG with an honourable mention for “embracing diversity and placing it at the heart of their very successful relaunch.”

In 2018, the group underwent an extensive relaunch to include the development of the Tory Research Impact Network (TRIN). The network includes high profile scholars and politicians and aims to promote impact from scholarly outputs related to the Conservative Party. The work of both the CSG and the TRIN have been commended for their active approaches to promoting equality and diversity through increased scholarly participation and engagement across a broad range of minority groups.

PSA PROUD TO ANNOUNCE NEW SPECIALIST GROUP!

The PSA would like to welcome Turkish Politics to the PSA specialist group community! Turkish politics is convened by Matthew Whiting and Yaprak Gursoy (Aston University) and Matthew Whiting (University of Birmingham).

You can join Turkish Politics via www.psa.ac.uk!

Psanews

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SECOND ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE AND EARLY CAREER NETWORK CONFERENCE BY AMERICAN POLITICS SPECIALIST GROUP

By Andrew Wroe (University of Kent)

After the success of its inaugural event last year, the American Politics Group (APG) is pleased to announce its call for papers for its second Postgraduate and Early Career Network Conference. The Eccles Centre at the British Library will host the event on 4 July 2019.

The broad conference theme of ‘Continuity and Change in the Trump Presidency’ can be approached in various ways. Papers could, for example, take a long-term historical perspective when reflecting on the Trump presidency so far. We would also be happy to receive proposals beyond this particular theme. Papers or panel proposals that examine contemporary US political institutions or processes, foreign policy issues and/or political history would be welcomed.

The conference organisers would also welcome papers that address comparative themes or relevant theoretical or methodological issues.

The APG is a diverse group of scholars. As such, we will not consider panels that consist solely of male presenters.

Proposals (no more than 150 words for single papers, 300 words for panels), as well as enquiries regarding the conference, should be sent to Darius Wainwright (d.wainwright@reading.ac.uk) by no later than 7 May 2019.

This conference has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Political Studies Association (PSA) through its ‘Pushing the Boundaries’ programme. As part of the PSA, the APG is the leading scholarly association for the study of US politics in the UK and also has members in continental Europe and the USA.
ECN Committee Members Sumedh Rao (left) and Joe Greenwood (right) after the Demystifying Early Career Academia event in Manchester, March 2019

The PSA Early Career Network (ECN), which replaced the former Postgraduate Network in 2016, aims to support all postgraduate, postdoctoral and early career academics within the PSA. The ECN is committed to investing in the postgraduate and early career pipeline, encouraging equality and diversity, and strengthening academic networks across career stages.

The ECN has lined up a series of events in Nottingham which attendees from all professional backgrounds and career stages are encouraged to attend:

WELCOME BREAKFAST
Monday 15 April, 08:30 - 09:15, Old Chemistry Theatre, Nottingham Conference Centre
The ECN are delighted to welcome so many early career academics to this conference. We are aware that for many of you this may be your first international conference. To help you navigate the conference, we have teamed up with the PSA’s Membership Committee to host this welcome breakfast. Pastries and refreshments will be accompanied by the sage wisdom of PSA trustees and seasoned conference goers. We look forward to seeing you there!

ECN SPEED MENTORING
Tuesday 16 April, 12:30 - 13:30, Hooley Room, Nottingham Conference Centre
After the success of the last two years’ events, the ECN speed mentoring session returns. At this event you will have the opportunity to network with, and ask for feedback/advice from, senior scholars in the discipline. Participants will sit for 5 minutes at a time with each mentor before circulating. Come prepared with questions about CVs, publishing, the job market, collaboration, impact, REF and TEF, and general life in academia!

PUBLISHING ROUNDTABLE: MEET THE EDITORS
Tuesday 16 April, TBC
The ECN is acutely aware that the mystic world of publishing and the ‘pressure to publish’ are the source of great anxiety for early career academics. Hosted by the Public Policy and Administration specialist group and chaired by Early Career Network Chair Sumedh Rao, this roundtable aims to demystify the process and answer your questions about how and where to get published. Colleagues — both junior and senior — are invited to hear from journals editors on publishing as an early career academic. If you’re not sure how to ‘target’ a journal, tick the right boxes for editors, deal with rejections, respond to reviewers’ comments, make comments as a reviewer, or stay ahead of the curve, then this is the event for you.

ECN DRINKS RECEPTION & TALK
Tuesday 16 April, 18.00 – 19.15, Old Chemistry Theatre, Nottingham Conference Centre
In keeping with tradition, the ECN would like to welcome its members — and academics at all stages of their career — to a reception on the second evening of the conference. Come meet colleagues in the discipline from across the country and beyond. Canapés and drinks will be provided.

ECN ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL
Tuesday 16 April, 19:30 onwards, The Angel Freehouse & Microbrewery
The ECN looks forward to welcoming you to our third annual alternative social. For those of you who are unable to attend the main (ticketed) conference dinner, the ECN is hosting an alternative event for academics at all stages of their career. The ECN has reserved a private space at The Angel Freehouse & Microbrewery, a venue in the heart of the city and only a short walk from the conference venue. A Nottingham landmark, the Angel offers creative and tasty traditional pub fare options including vegan, vegetarian and meat versions of nearly all dishes, such as fish, vegetarian or vegan fish and chips!
The Early Career Network (ECN) Committee is looking for new members for the 2019-2020 academic year and would be delighted if you would like to nominate yourself or another member. The specific positions that are available are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer. The brief role descriptions can be found below. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in an active, dynamic, and highly collegiate committee, to contribute to an array of well-received events and activities organised by the ECN, and to shape the future of the PSA’s provision for early career researchers.

Nominations are now open and will close on Saturday 1 June, with elections held as necessary after that. To nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission) please send an email to ecn@psa.ac.uk indicating the position that you or the nominee wish to stand for along with a short (200 words maximum) statement on why you or the nominee are suitable for the post and wish to stand for it.

All of the roles entail attendance at ECN meetings, which take place at most once a month, either in person or via Skype. Further, all committee members are involved in the organisation of the ECN’s events (such as activities at the PSA Annual International Conference, and the ECN’s own annual conference), and should be available to attend at least some of the events over the course of the year. All travel and subsistence costs incurred in relation to ECN activities can be claimed back from the PSA, and ECN committee members enjoy free attendance at the PSA Annual International Conference.

Chair
- Chairs and introduces public events organised by the ECN
- Chairs the monthly ECN committee meetings
- Represents the ECN to and within the PSA
- Acts as the first point of contact for high-profile external speakers at ECN events
- Contributes to the general activities of the ECN and, especially, event organisation

Secretary
- Drafts and circulates the agenda and minutes relating to the monthly ECN committee meetings
- Coordinates the activities of the ECN committee and ensures relevant information is shared
- Manages the ECN’s shared Dropbox folder
- Supports the Chair in their activities
- Contributes to the general activities of the ECN and, especially, event organisation

Treasurer
- Drafts the ECN’s annual budget request to the PSA, in consultation with the ECN committee
- Maintains a record of the ECN’s expenditure and available funds
- Advises the ECN committee on appropriate expenditure relating to its activities
- Maintains contact and coordinates with the PSA Finance Officer
- Contributes to the general activities of the ECN and, especially, event organisation

Communications Officer
- Maintains the ECN’s Twitter account and Facebook page
- Regularly posts information and updates on the ECN’s activities via the above social media
- Draws together and sends the ECN’s quarterly e-newsletter and additional mailshots as required
- Sets and maintains the schedule for ECN communications as well as keeping the ECN committee appraised of the copy deadlines for PSA News and the PSA’s e-newsletters
- Maintains contact and coordinates with the PSA Communications and Media Relations Officer
- Contributes to the general activities of the ECN and, especially, event organisation
The Political Studies Association Early Career Network is happy to announce a call for papers for its third annual conference. Following on from its highly successful conference in Sheffield last year, the ECN warmly invites members to submit paper proposals for its 2019 Conference: Making Sense of Contemporary Politics. The conference will be a one-day event, held at the University of Exeter on 24 June.

The conference aims, first and foremost, to give early career academics a chance to air new or developing research ideas, gain experience of academic presentations, and receive constructive criticism on both. We therefore welcome papers from early career academics at all stages, whether you are in the first year of your PhD or already hold a teaching/postdoctoral contract.

Theme: Making Sense of Contemporary Politics

The events of recent years have increasingly called on scholars of politics to find explanations for – or simply to provide clear accounts of – complex and contested events which have challenged our ability to make sense of the political world in terms of old models and concepts; from the destabilising effects of Brexit on almost all areas British politics, to the Trump administration in the US, to the maturation of European populist movements which have now begun to govern countries and overthrow existing equilibria in continental political systems.

At the same time, many of these challenging developments have deeper roots connected to longstanding structures and historic legacies of violence, oppression and marginalisation in many countries. In making sense of the sometimes alarming current state of global politics, therefore, we should also recognise the opportunities to provide new analyses which make sense not only of recent developments but also recognise what was left out of the old ways in which problems were conceptualised.

Call for Papers:

The Early Career Network of the Political Studies Association invites abstracts for papers which help explain and make sense of the increasingly challenging nature of modern politics, and how scholars of politics should respond. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Brexit and Developments in British Politics
- Contested Politics and New Social Movements
- Elections and Electoral Volatility and Change
- Political Trust and Divisions between Elites and Citizens
- Developments in Political Institutions (Parliaments, Government etc.)
- Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Politics (Race, Gender etc.)
- Crisis in International Politics and Institutions

Abstracts should be no more than 200 words and include a brief speaker biography (up to 50 words).

Please submit abstracts to ecn@psa.ac.uk by 3 May 2019. Successful applicants will be notified by 10 May. Please note that presentations will not require full papers to be submitted. The conference will also be free to attend for all ECN members but a nominal fee may apply for non-members or senior colleagues. A limited number of travel grants will also be available for those without funding from their department or another source.

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Greek Politics ‘Using Experiments in Social Sciences’ Seminar in Athens, 16-17 May

By Stella Ladi (Queen Mary University of London)

The Centre for Political Research of Panteion University in collaboration with the Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG) will be holding a two-day intensive seminar delving into theory, methods and techniques of experimental research in Social Sciences. During the last years, experiments have been developing into a fundamental and innovative methodological tool in Social Sciences. This seminar will offer the opportunity to doctoral students and advanced postgraduate students to acquire or deepen their knowledge of conceptual and empirical perspectives related to experimental research by focusing particularly on the field of Political Science. Which steps should be followed in order to create an experimental research design? Why are the concepts of causality and validity significant for an experimental design? Are there different kinds of experiments? These are a few of the substantive queries which will be covered and discussed through the theoretical and lab sessions of this seminar.

The confirmed speakers for the seminar include: Tereza Capelos (as keynote speaker), Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham; Yannis Tsirbas, Lecturer, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; and Eleni Georgakakou, Researcher and Project Manager, Associate of the National Centre for Social Research.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Democracy, the Digital and Public Sphere
25 April 2019, University of Westminster
This one-day conference will encourage a theoretically diverse and interdisciplinary conversation on the impact an increasingly digitally mediated public sphere has on contemporary democracy.

How to gather memories from ‘Home to Home’
8 May 2019, London
An oral history workshop led by Dr Sue Onslow which will offer the opportunity to gain important foundational skills around interviewing techniques and capturing family oral history.

Using Experiments in the Social Sciences
16-17 May 2019, Athens
This two-day seminar, in collaboration with the Centre for Political Research of Panteion University, will delve into theory, methods and techniques of experimental research in social sciences. More information on page 18.

Interpretive Political Science Winter School
20-22 May 2019, University of Southampton
A course for students in the social sciences, especially in political science, public policy and public administration, who decide to undertake qualitative or interpretive research feel they are unqualified to do so. The course will equip students with a toolkit that will enable them to both conceptualise and execute an interpretive project.

The First Decade of ‘The Troubles’: What we now know, and what we don’t know, about the role of security and intelligence
12-14 June 2019, University of Salford
This three-day symposium will bring together academics, former practitioners, civil rights groups and members of the public to reflect on what we now know, and what we don’t know, about ‘the troubles’ in Northern Ireland.

Annual Conservatism Studies Specialist Group Workshop
13-14 June 2019, University of Hull
The Conservatism Studies specialist group’s workshop offers the chance to present work in progress in an informal environment, and to receive more detailed feedback than the traditional conference format normally allows. There will be keynote addresses from the PSA Chair, Angela Wilson, and Lord Norton and a workshop dinner, with plenty of opportunity for networking.

The Crisis of European Social Democracy: Causes and Consequences in an Age of Political Uncertainty
14-15 June 2019, Italy
A conference by Italian Politics. The aim of this conference is to shed light not only on the circumstances that have contributed to the crisis of social-democratic parties over the last ten years but also on the impact that such crisis has on democratic processes and public policy.

International Teaching and Learning Conference 2019
17-19 June 2019, Brighton
The first ever joint PSA, ECPR, APSA and BISA Teaching and Learning Conference. The theme of this conference is Teaching Politics in an Era of Populism. The deadline to register is Monday 10 June 2019.

Launch of PSA Teaching and Learning Network
June 2019, Brighton
The newly established Teaching and Learning Network will be hosting their official launch at the International Teaching and Learning Conference. Details about the launch event will be made available on the Teaching and Learning Network’s page and the PSA events calendar at www.psa.ac.uk.

Continuity and Change in the Trump Presidency
4 July 2019, London
The second annual American Politics’ Postgraduate and Early Career Network Conference which will be held at the Eccles Centre at the British Library. See more information about the call for papers on page 15.
The Editors of Political Studies are delighted to announce that the winner of the 2018 Harrison Prize is ‘Populism and the Erosion of Horizontal Accountability in Latin America’ by Dr. Saskia Pauline Ruth, currently a Research Fellow at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

Dr. Ruth’s article focused on the factors that shape Latin American populist presidents’ incentives and their ability to engage in institutional change, and identified three conditions as most decisive: distribution of public support, the existence of a ‘power vacuum’ in the political arena, and the absence of unified government. Dr Matt Sleat, one of the editors of Political Studies, said ‘While there were several high-quality papers under consideration by the panel, Dr. Ruth’s article stood out on the grounds of its methodological rigour and the significance of its main findings. The question of the conditions under which populist leaders can, and cannot, undertake institutional change is of particular importance today, and we very much hope that this paper is widely read by anyone working on or interested in the nature and prospects of populist politics’.

The members of the 2018 Harrison Prize panel were: Dr. Saskia Bonjour (Amsterdam), Professor Allelien de Dijn (Utrecht), Dr. Patrick Flavin (Baylor), and Professor Jeremy Jennings (Southampton). The paper is available to read via Political Studies’ homepage on Sage Publications (access via this link), and the prize will be officially awarded at the Political Studies Association 2019 annual conference.

The PSA would like to congratulate its President, Matthew Flinders for being awarded with this year’s European Political Science (EPS) Prize. He has been awarded the prize for his article ‘The future of political science? The politics and management of the academic expectations gap: evidence from the UK’ which appeared in Issue 4 of Volume 17 of the journal European Political Science.

The entire article is available to download for free via the Spring Link website.

From the winning article’s abstract:
“Political science has for some time been afflicted with an existential and empirical angst concerning impact and relevance. This is by no means a new or unique disciplinary pathology, but it is one that has intensified in recent years. The reasons for this intensification have been explored in a burgeoning literature on ‘the tyranny of impact’. The central argument of this article is that a focus on the ‘relevance gap’ within political science, and vis-à-vis the social sciences more generally, risks failing to comprehend the emergence of a far broader and multifaceted ‘expectations gap’. The core argument and contribution of this article is that the future of political science will depend on the politics and management of the ‘expectations gap’ that has emerged. Put slightly differently, the study of politics needs to have a sharper grasp of the politics of its own discipline and the importance of framing, positioning, connecting vis-à-vis the broader social context.”

To learn more about the prize and the jury’s verdict, please see the announcement on the European Political Science’s website.
RESEARCH & IMPACT

THE DE/CENTRALISATION DATASET

By Paolo Dardanelli (University of Kent)

How have federations evolved since their inception? Why do some federations become more centralised over time whereas others become more decentralised?

The De/Centralisation Dataset (DcD) helps researchers answer these, and other questions about federalism, by offering measures of policy and fiscal de/centralisation in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Switzerland, and the United States from their foundation to 2010.

Policy de/centralisation is measured in 22 fields, ranging from agriculture to transport, and two dimensions, legislative and administrative, on 7-point scales, ranging from 7 (exclusive control by each constituent unit) to 1 (exclusive control by the federal government).

Fiscal de/centralisation is measured in five categories on 7-point scales based on numerical indicators or qualitative assessment, where 7 represents maximal autonomy for each constituent unit and 1 represents minimal autonomy.

Compared to other datasets, the DcD offers three main advantages: (a) detailed measures of legislative and administrative de/centralization for 22 public policy fields; (b) measures that capture the fiscal autonomy of the constituent units as opposed to their fiscal capacity; and (c) measures for the entire life of each federation.

The DcD is available from the De/Centralisation Dataset website and the UK Data Service.

The DcD is the product of a collaborative research project led by Dr Paolo Dardanelli (University of Kent) and Prof. John Kincaid (Lafayette College), and including Prof. Alan Fenna (Curtin University, Australia), Prof. André Kaiser (University of Cologne, Germany), Prof. André Lecours (University of Ottawa, Canada), Prof. Ajay Kumar Singh (Jamia Hamdard, India), Dr Sean Mueller (University of Berne, Switzerland) and Stephan Vogel (University of Cologne, Germany).

The conceptual, theoretical and methodological framework underpinning the project and its empirical results have been published in a special issue of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, volume 49, issue 1.

The project was funded by the Leverhulme Trust and received additional support from the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Forum of Federations.

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Table 1 The published 2018 ERA Rankings for ‘Policy and Administration’ and for Political Science
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICS TEACHERS

Pearson have exciting opportunities for Politics teachers to become Examiners for our GCE A Level Qualification.

If you are passionate about Politics and wish to develop your teaching career further then we want you to join our Pearson Associate team, and become an Examiner for Pearson.

An Examiner marks candidates’ responses in accordance with the pre-defined mark scheme, whilst adhering to Code of Practice and examination procedures. Most subjects will be marked onscreen using ePEN, which can be done from home. A few subjects are still marked in the traditional method, using paper scripts sent through the post. A high level of subject knowledge is necessary in order to apply the mark scheme. Each examiner will receive an agreed allocation of scripts.

Becoming an Examiner is a great opportunity to:

- Develop your career in education
- Earn some extra money in a part-time role, alongside any full time commitments you may have
- Gain invaluable insight into assessment
- Network with likeminded professionals in your field

Competencies Required

- You will have the ability to work well under pressure
- You will have the ability to meet deadlines
- You will have a high level of subject knowledge in order to apply the mark scheme.

For more information on the requirements, go to: https://home.edexcelgateway.com/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=2979

Please note that while we welcome applications for all papers we are particularly interested in receiving applications for the following:

- 9PL0 01
- 9PL0 02
- 9PL0 3A
- 9PL0 3B

If you need any further information regarding any of this role, please don’t hesitate to contact the Recruitment and Resourcing by visiting associate.pearson.com.

STUDENT BLOG COMPETITION: IS BRITISH POLITICS BROKEN?

By Jamie Roberts (Development Officer)

The Political Studies Association and the Financial Times are pleased to announce the launch of our New School Blog Competition.

We’re seeking creative and forward-thinking ideas from 16-19-year-olds in this joint competition to find the best political blog. Students from across the UK are invited to write 500-600 words by Friday 31st May on ‘Is British Politics Broken?’ Students should aim to demonstrate excellent writing skills; presenting a well-reasoned argument, individuality and where appropriate backing up their arguments with relevant data and research.

The winning blog will be published on the FT, the PSA Blog and printed in the PSA’s magazine Political Insight. More details about winning articles will be released soon.

Please visit psa.ac.uk/student-blog-competition for the competition’s full T&Cs.
BRING A LECTURER TO YOUR CLASSROOM THROUGH OUR SEMINAR FOR SCHOOLS!

By Jamie Roberts (Development Officer)

School member David Sparkhall (Langley School) and Dr Kate Mattocks (University of East Anglia) took part in the programme this March. Here’s what they had to say about their experience:

“On Wednesday 20 March, Dr Kate Mattocks, Lecturer in Politics at the UEA, visited Langley school and gave a fascinating and enlightening talk to Politics A level students on whether democracy is a good thing. Her talk started with the etymology of the term democracy and the basic features of it that are intrinsic to our contemporary political environment. She then discussed with the students the main types of democracy that are used in the UK and which countries are more supportive of representative democracy and which tend to favour autocracy. The students were then asked to list a number of points both for and against the premise that democracy is a good thing. This provoked a lively discussion on the arguments in favour of and opposition to this question, including the issues of political stability and tyranny of the majority and how far these are evident in the UK. The current Brexit debate was, of course, mentioned once or twice! Of particular interest to me, however, as an A level teacher, were the similarities in content between the Edexcel A level Politics course and the substance of Kate’s talk. Although the depth of her presentation was far greater than sixth form students are used to, it was still gratifying to learn that we are not poles apart in terms of subject topics.

Dr Mattock’s talk was a great eye-opener for my A level students and gave them a good idea of teaching and learning at the level they should expect when they go to university. The overall experience, therefore, was excellent and I thoroughly recommend it to any other A level Politics teachers. I will certainly book a date for next year!”

David Sparkhall (Head of Politics and Teacher of History at Langley School)

“The subject of the seminar, aimed at Politics A-level students, was ‘Is democracy a good thing?’ After reviewing a bit of history and some main features and types of democracy, the students brainstormed the pros and cons together, and we came up with two lists as a group. We discussed topics such as ‘the tyranny of the 51%’, education and informed publics, individual versus collective interests, and the differences between representative and direct democracy in the context of whether the UK’s referendum on EU membership was democratic. Aside from engaging discussion on some classic theoretical debates, it was a great chance to talk about some of the most pressing issues of contemporary politics with young people, something am sure most of us find very rewarding.”

Dr Kate Mattocks, (University of East Anglia)

Requesting a speaker is easy! Visit psa.ac.uk/psa-schools/seminar and complete our request form. Please give us at least 6 weeks’ notice before a planned event or your preferred date!

A LEVEL SPECIALIST TEACHER TRAINING SEMINAR

By Jamie Roberts (Development Officer)

We’re excited to announce the date for our latest in the series of Seminar days, for teachers, in partnership with the Parliament Education Service.

Taking place on Tuesday 11th June, 09:00-15:00, the day is aimed at teachers of A Level government and Politics or those with a keen interest in current political affairs.

This year’s seminar will be themed around the power of political parties and ask questions of whether an MP can survive as an independent? A full programme of speakers will be announced soon.

UK Parliament covers travel expenses for those in the state or voluntary/charitable education sector and lunch is also provided. Last year the theme of the day was ‘The Resurgence of the Backbencher’. We heard from a variety of speakers and received amazing feedback from participants:

“This was an excellent day! Great range of speakers, very useful.
[on Dr Louise Thompson’s presentation] thought this was the most relevant -it was excellent and drew on lots of interesting ideas”

“Excellent presentations and can imagine using some of these approaches and ideas in class”

“Very elegant and clear speakers and on point with our questions!”

“[on Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP] He was great, very informative – I even learnt some new things about Select Committees and the role of the back bencher”

Spaces are filling up fast for this year’s event so make sure to register soon via psa.ac.uk/events.
I have been a Trustee on two occasions, from 2003-2006, and more recently since 2013. On both occasions, my motivation for standing for election developed out of my passion for teaching politics and my desire to encourage greater awareness in young people as to what studying politics at university involves. As someone who did not have the opportunity to study politics until university, I am especially keen to support the PSA’s outreach work with schools and teachers to encourage greater interest and awareness of studying the subject. Also, as I have spent most of my academic career at post-1992 universities, I believe it’s important to have this sector represented on the PSA Exec and to maintain and grow politics as a subject among this university group.

As a trustee, I enjoy the opportunity to develop new initiatives with the PSA’s great staff — such as the teacher seminar days we co-host with the Parliamentary Education Service biannually at Westminster for A-level politics teachers — and the opportunities to have an impact on national policy relating to the study of politics. One highlight was my 2014 visit to APSA to explore how they support undergraduate students studying politics, which inspired the creation of the PSA Annual Undergraduate Conference. Another highpoint was serving from 2014-2017 as the PSA’s representative on DfE, Ofqual and exam board stakeholder groups tasked with reforming the A/AS level Politics curriculum.

The best changes to the PSA since my first time as a trustee is the development of the PSA office and growth of its staff. This has transformed the capacity of the PSA (and its Trustees) to develop and maintain new initiatives. Another positive development has been how the PSA executive has mainstreamed equality and diversity into all areas of its activities — especially with the allocation of its prizes and awards.

My current remit as trustee is to grow the new teacher membership package. You can find out more about it on the PSA’s website, and I welcome your ideas and suggestions at info@psa.ac.uk. Along with my department, I am also delighted (and slightly daunted) to be hosting both the PSA Annual Undergraduate Conference and PSA Annual International Conference here at Nottingham Trent University this April.

In addition to being a PSA trustee, Dr Rose Gann is Head of Department, Politics and International Relations at Nottingham Trent University.