

Welcome



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2011 Political Studies Association Awards Ceremony.

These are times of uncertainty in UK higher education as universities respond to new arrangements for tuition fees. University departments of politics around the UK can face them with confidence. Politics has for several years been growing in popularity both as an A-Level subject and as a university degree choice. Politics graduates are highly employable, with their analytical and problem-solving skills paving the way to career success in both the private and the public sectors. The quality of politics research at UK universities is very high; it was recently judged by an Economic and Social Research Council global review to be second only to that in the USA. And the expertise of political scientists has powerful impacts outside the academy both in challenging and shaping the policies our governments pursue, and in contributing to public debates which hold our governments to account.

The Political Studies Association exists to promote the study of politics. The Association has been at the forefront for over sixty years in thinking about - and challenging - how we govern ourselves. It has around 1,800 members, from the UK and beyond, from postgraduate students to founder members who joined in the 1950s. It runs a growing range of research groups, conferences and events, and publications - including the new magazine *Political Insight* which brings quality politics research to a broader audience. One of the Association's priorities in the coming years is to ensure political studies continue to flourish in changed times - not least by working closely with our new and growing teachers' section to make sure politics remains a popular and lively A-Level choice, by showcasing the skill and innovation with which politics is taught at university, and by working with employers and politics graduates to highlight the careers a politics education opens up.

This is the tenth Awards Ceremony to be held by the Association. Each year the Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognise academics, journalists, campaigners and politicians who have made an exceptional contribution to the study and the practice of politics. This year for the first time we have a special prize too for A-Level students following our schools video competition on the theme *In Defence of Politics*.

Many thanks too to those who made this evening possible: our awards jury, hosted as ever by one of the true stalwarts of the Association, Professor Lord Bhikhu Parekh; our Master of Ceremonies Jon Snow; Matthew Flinders and Helena Djurkovic for organising the evening along with Simon Coote of *Alive Events*; and our sponsors Wiley-Blackwell, Routledge, RSA and Parliamentary Affairs.

None of the award decisions were easy ones; the competition in each category was strong, so many congratulations to all our winners. We hope they, and you, have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Professor Charlie Jeffery

Chair, Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom

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Award Winners 2011



Politician of the Year

ALEX SALMOND

Alex Salmond, born in Linlithgow in 1954, made political history this May by returning as First Minister of Scotland on the back of an SNP majority. Following what was widely perceived as an electorally improbable victory, the Scottish National Party obtained 69 seats compared to its nearest rival, Labour, who secured 37. Having first been elected as an MP in 1987 Salmond has thus far represented three different constituencies in different capacities. His first election saw him become MP for Banff and Buchan, a position he held between 1987 and 2010. Between 1999 and 2001 Salmond was also MSP for Banff and Buchan but stepped down only to return as MSP for Gordon, serving in this constituency until elected as MSP for Aberdeenshire East at the last election. Salmond has long been a feature of the Scottish National Party leadership; serving as Leader of the Opposition from 1990 to 2000 and again as Leader from 2004. In this post he pursued his vision of 'social democracy with a Scottish face'.

Salmond is an economist by profession and graduated from St Andrew's University with joint honours in Economics and History. Following University he became an Assistant Economist in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Scotland before moving on to work at the Royal Bank of Scotland. Here he served as Assistant Economist, then Oil Economist, before finally integrating this latter role with additional responsibilities as Bank Economist. Salmond has also been a visiting Professor at Strathclyde University where he notably spoke on the theme of 'Moving Scotland Forward'.

Why he won:

Salmond, who previously won this award in 2007, was again selected unanimously by the judging panel for this award. They said:

'At the last Scottish Parliamentary Elections Alex Salmond demonstrated the full extent of his political skill. The campaign run under Salmond's leadership not only resulted in the party's best election result since the 1970s but also in a mathematically improbable majority. This performance demonstrates not only Salmond's appeal and political prowess but also the traits which single him out as Politician of the Year.'

In pursuing the SNP agenda Alex Salmond has expanded the party's appeal beyond the issue of national independence, a feat which helped secure its historic victory in the 2011 elections. However, Salmond is committed to pursuing the issue of independence and when asked in a recent interview for the Times; 'What is the earliest at which Scotland could become independent?' he stated: 'I am working on a referendum for this Parliament, so in a few years at the earliest. I believe the destination of Scottish independence is as near inevitable as anything can be.'

Award Winners 2011



Parliamentarian of the Year

ED BALLS

Born in 1967 Ed Balls has been a prominent figure in Britain's political landscape for over ten years and has gained a formidable reputation in Parliament. Currently serving as Shadow Chancellor, Balls has risen rapidly through the Labour Party front bench, serving first as Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 2006 to 2007, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from 2007 to 2010 and Shadow Home Secretary from 2010 to 2011. Prior to being elected as MP for Normanton in 2005, and subsequently for Morley and Outwood, Balls served as Economic Advisor to Gordon Brown between 1994 and 1999 and then as Chief Economic Advisor to the Treasury until 2004. In this period he worked on policies including the independence of the Bank of England, the New Deal jobs programme, Sure Start and the Minimum Wage.

Balls was educated at Keble College, Oxford and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. Prior to entering politics he was a Teaching Fellow at Harvard and an economics leader writer and columnist for the Financial Times. He has also written for the Guardian, New Statesman and Tribune.

Why he won:

Balls was unanimously chosen to win the Parliamentarian of the Year award by the jury. They said:

'Ed Balls has revealed why parliament matters. His experience within the centre of government combined with his willingness to adopt a forthright approach to debate has made him a thorn in the side of the coalition government across a range of policy area. Ed Balls is arguably unrivalled in his ability to take the fight to his opponents and is a deserved winner of the Parliamentarian of the Year Award 2011.'

Balls has given many impressive performances in Parliament but his speeches made as Schools Secretary are particularly indicative of his style. Honing a line of attack first developed in 2009 to counter Michael Gove's claims that GCSE questions were being dumbed down, in 2010 Balls reprised his Parliamentary performance as Quiz Master, subjecting the coalition front bench to a University Challenge style interrogation:

'Here's your starter for ten - no conferring on the frontbench. Who said this weekend 'the free schools are generally attended by children of better-educated and wealthy families, making things even more difficult for children attending ordinary schools in poor areas. Gove, Lady Margaret Hall...?'

It is this kind of performance which has gained him a reputation as a formidable Parliamentarian.

Award Winners 2011



Backbencher of the Year

STEPHEN DORRELL

Born in 1952 Stephen Dorrell was elected as Conservative MP for Loughborough in 1979, entering Parliament as the youngest member of the House of Commons - an accolade he retained until 1983. From these precocious beginnings Dorrell went on to establish a formidable reputation in the House, assuming roles as Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Energy between 1983 and 1987, Assistant Government Whip between 1987 and 1988, two years as Government Whip from 1988 to 1990, Junior Minister at the Department of Health between 1990 and 1992 and then as Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 1992 to 1994. He also served in John Major's second Government as Secretary of State for National Heritage in 1994, spending a year in this role before becoming Secretary of State for Health, a post he held until 1997. At the 1997 General Election Dorrell won the new Charnwood constituency and returned to Parliament to take up the shadow portfolio for Education and Employment. In 1998 he retired to the back benches where he has since served as co-chair of the Public Service Improvement Group and, in 2010, was elected as the Chair of the Health Select Committee.

Dorrell was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford from where he went on to work as personal assistant to Peter Walker MP. Alongside his Parliamentary work he was also a director of his family's industrial clothing firm, Faithful Group Ltd. He cites his interests as being economics, trade and industry, foreign affairs and health.

Why he won:

Dorrell was unanimously chosen by the jury, who summarised their reasoning as follows:

'Stephen Dorrell has made a major contribution to debate regarding the future of the NHS. The changes to the Coalition Government's plans for the health service, let alone the 'listening exercise', were in no short measure due to the sustained pressure orchestrated by Stephen Dorrell through his chairmanship of the Health Select Committee. He is an excellent candidate for the award of Backbencher of the Year 2011.'

Dorrell is renowned for his commitment to scrutinising policies to the full, a mission which has led him, at times, to criticise the Coalition Government. His approach is summed up in an interview he gave to the Health Service Journal:

'Asked if the white paper reforms offer the best means, Mr Dorrell says, with deliberate emphasis: "I think my answer is we've got to make it the best way, because it's the one the government has chosen and time isn't on our side." ... Asked directly for a verdict on Mr Lansley, he gives a one word answer: "bold".'

Award Winners 2011



Backbencher of the Year

TOM WATSON

Born in 1967 Tom Watson gained his degree and then served as Student Union President at Hull University. On leaving university Watson remained in the political arena, serving as Chair of Labour Students, then as Labour Party Deputy General Election Co-ordinator, a post he held until 1997, and subsequently as National Political Officer for the AEEU Trade Union. In 2001 Watson was elected as Labour Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East, a platform he has used to launch a range of campaigns including a call to ban the sale of Gary Glitter's latest album. Whilst pursuing a range of eye catching agendas Watson has also held an array of parliamentary positions including serving as Principal Private Secretary to the Paymaster General, Dawn Primarolo, between 2003 and 2004, Assistant Government Whip from 2004 to 2005, Government Whip from 2005 to 2006, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence for a year in 2006 and Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office from 2008 to 2009. Most recently he was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet as the Labour Party Deputy Chair and Campaign Co-ordinator. Since 2009 he has served on the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee where he has played a major role in getting to the truth about possible senior management complicity in News International's phone hacking activities.

Why he won:

Watson was unanimously selected by the jury for the following reasons:

'Although Tom Watson is probably not on Rupert Murdoch's Christmas card list he has done more than anyone to uncover the truth behind the phone hacking scandal. In doing so he has protected the vulnerable, challenged the powerful and - most of all - restored a sense of confidence in the capacity of parliamentary politics to make a real difference. He is an excellent candidate for the award of Backbencher of the Year 2011.'

Throughout the phone hacking investigation Tom Watson has been a prominent voice both in seeking to raise awareness of the issue and anticipating potential moves by News International to thwart any investigation. His blog provides fascinating insight into the extent of the work he has conducted on this issue and reveals how swiftly he has reacted to events. The following extract of a letter written to James Murdoch the day after News International announced that News of the World was to close illustrates his quick reactions:

'I am writing to seek your urgent assurances on what measures you intend to put in place to ensure the protection of information currently held by the newspaper and its contractor companies. It is critically important that the Metropolitan Police Service's investigations are not thwarted by the potential wholesale destruction of documents and the possible deletion of emails from News of the World.'

Award Winners 2011



Image: Iain Black Photography

Lifetime Achievement in Politics

DAVID STEEL

Born in 1938 David Steel has been a highly influential figure in shaping Britain's progressive politics. Amongst other achievements, he introduced a ground breaking private members Bill which led to the legalisation of abortion in 1967 and he played a leading role in the creation of the Social and Liberal Democrat party, now the Liberal Democrats. Elected in 1965 as MP for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, and subsequently the new constituency of Tweeddale, Etrick and Lauderdale, Steel served in Parliament until 1997. In this time he adopted roles as the Liberal's Employment spokesman, spokesman on Commonwealth Affairs, Chief Whip and Foreign Affairs spokesman. In 1976 Steel was elected as Leader of the Liberals, a position he used to engineer the merging of the Liberal Party and the SDP to produce the Social and Liberal Democrats.

Since renouncing his position as Leader, Steel has gone on to play a leading role in the construction of the Scottish Parliament and, following his peerage in 1997, was elected as SMP for the Lothians constituency. In May 1999 Steel was elected as the Scottish Parliament's first Presiding Officer, a role he held until 2003, when he stepped down from the Parliament.

Steel was educated in Law at Edinburgh University, where he also served as Student Union President. Following his graduation he retained links with the institution and served as a Rector of the University.

Why he won:

Steel was chosen as winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Politics Award. The jurors summarised their reasoning as follows:

'Since his election to the House of Commons in 1965 David Steel has played a leading role in British politics. Indeed, it is difficult to comprehend the scale and extent of this contribution due to the manner in which it has taken so many forms. From his Private Members Bill that led to the Abortion Act of 1967 right through to his role within the Scottish Parliament and more recently within the House of Lords, David Steel's life and politics deserves to be recognized. He is an excellent candidate for a Lifetime Achievement in Politics award.'

After a lifetime of political achievements Steel still remains a prominent voice in politics. He has recently raised concerns over plans to pursue an eighty percent elected House of Lords and Nadine Dorries' attempt to amend the Health Bill. Of this latter legislation he argued:

'Under the Abortion Act, the Department of Health has complete power over licensing and de-licensing clinics. If there were any evidence of failure to carry out proper counselling of patients, they can close clinics. More positively, there is nothing to stop them issuing guidelines on counselling if they think that necessary. There is no need to amend the Health Bill.'

Award Winners 2011



Lifetime Achievement in Politics

MICHAEL HESELTINE

Born in 1933 Michael Heseltine was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford from where he went on to found Haymarket, the highly successful magazine publishing company. Despite finding financial fortune in business Heseltine made repeated attempts to enter Parliament. He was finally elected in 1966 as MP for Tavistock and later as MP for Henley. In total Heseltine served thirty five years in the House of Commons before being elevated to the Lords in 2001 as Baron Heseltine of Thenford. Serving as, amongst other things, Minister for Aerospace and Shipping at the Department of Trade and Industry from 1972 to 1974, Opposition Spokesperson for Industry from 1974 to 1976, Secretary of State for the Environment from 1979 to 1983 (and again from 1990 to 1992) and Secretary of State for Defence from 1983 to 1986, Heseltine was seen by many as the natural successor to Thatcher. Yet when he stood for the leadership he was defeated by John Major and went on to take up the roles of Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State. Throughout his career Heseltine has been devoutly pro-European and served as President of the Conservative Group for Europe.

Heseltine gained a reputation as somewhat of a political firebrand, a label obtained through his multiple resignations, his challenge to Thatcher's leadership and his notorious wielding of the mace in the House of Commons.

Why he won:

The PSA jury awarded the 2011 Lifetime Achievement to Heseltine voicing their rationale as follows:

'Since his election to the House of Commons in 1966 Michael Heseltine has played a leading role in British politics. For over thirty years he held a series of important positions in British public life which culminated in him becoming Deputy Prime Minister in the mid 1990s...he continues to be an influential figure today. He is an excellent candidate for a Lifetime Achievement in Politics award.'

Heseltine has a formidable reputation as a political operator. As a statement from a senior New Labour insider (quoted in the New Statesman) reveals: 'We knew that Heseltine would have been a more successful leader than Major. Thankfully, he made the crucial mistake of announcing his candidacy the morning after Howe's speech, and as the dust settled, he was seen as a traitor.'

More recently Heseltine was surrounded by rumours that he would return, following the 2010 election, to serve as an unpaid Minister in David Cameron's Government. Whilst unfounded, these claims demonstrate the high regard in which Heseltine continues to be held both within the Conservative Party and beyond.

Award Winners 2011



Influencing the Political Agenda

CAROLINE LUCAS

Caroline Lucas, who was born in 1960, made political history by becoming the first Green Member of Parliament. Elected in 2010 for the Brighton Pavilion constituency, Lucas has long played a leading role in the Green Party. Joining in 1986 she served as National Press Officer, Co-Chair, County Councillor and Member of the European Parliament, before being elected as Party Leader in 2008. As an MEP Lucas sat on the International Trade Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. She was also Vice-President of the cross-party Animal Welfare Group. In these roles she worked on issues as diverse as the British nuclear industry, genetically modified crops, foot and mouth vaccination, mobile phone masts and animal protection.

Since being elected as an MP Lucas has taken on roles as the Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary group on fuel poverty and is Vice-Chair of the Public and Commercial Services, Sustainable Housing, Animal Welfare and CND All Party Parliamentary Groups. She has also played an active role in the Environmental Audit Committee which examines the Government's green policy proposals. Beyond Parliament she is active in a range of pressure groups including the Stop the War Coalition, Campaign against Climate Change and Environmental Protection UK, and the RSPCA.

Lucas graduated with a degree in English Literature from Exeter University and went on to gain a diploma in journalism from Kansas University before returning to Exeter to complete a PhD in English and Women's Studies. She has a range of publications to her name including a book with Mike Woodin, entitled 'Green Alternatives to Globalisation: A Manifesto'.

Why she won:

Lucas was unanimously chosen by the panel of judges. They stated that:

'Caroline Lucas has made unprecedented steps forward in raising the profile of the Green Party. The achievement of winning a seat in Parliament under the First-Past-The-Post electoral system should not be underestimated. When considering these factors alongside her role in influencing the AV debate, we felt she was a worthy winner of the 2011 award for Influencing the Political Agenda.'

Lucas's website is a testament to the array of work she does to influence the political agenda. From her parliamentary work on issues such as tax havens, transport and pensions to her support of local and national campaigns such as the 'Fair Fares' campaign at Brighton station or 4Children's Give Me Strength campaign, Lucas works to influence the agenda not only on environmental issues but across the board.

Award Winners 2011



Speech of the Year

DAVID CAMERON, 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

Born in 1966 David Cameron was elected Prime Minister in 2010 in far from conventional circumstances; heading up the first coalition Government for seventy years. Elected as the youngest Prime Minister since Robert Banks Jenkinson took up the role in 1812 Cameron has had a meteoric rise through the Conservative Party.

Educated at Eton and then at Brasenose College, Oxford Cameron obtained a first class honours degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. From University he went to work at the Conservative Research Department where he wrote speeches for the then Prime Minister John Major, famously advised Norman Lamont during the Black Wednesday crisis and advised Michael Howard as Home Secretary. In 1994 he left politics to work as Public Relations Officer for Carlton Communications.

In 2001 Cameron was elected as MP for Witney and was returned in 2010 with almost 58% of the vote. Since his election to Parliament Cameron has held a range of high profile roles, including Deputy Party Chairman, Head of Policy Co-ordination and Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Skills. In 2005 he was elected Party Leader over David Davies with a mandate to change and modernise the Party. He undertook a rebranding of the party's approach to social policy with high profile commitments on overseas aid, the NHS and the green agenda. He also sought to revise the image of the Conservative Party with a push, via the 'A list', to select more female and ethnic minority candidates. Since being elected Prime Minister Cameron has overseen the implementation of a substantial deficit reduction programme, re-organisation of the NHS and welfare reforms.

Why he won:

Cameron was chosen as the unanimous winner of the 2011 award for Speech of the Year. The jurors summarised their reasoning as follows:

'The statement that David Cameron made in the House of Commons in June 2010 on the events of Bloody Sunday was widely reported around the world. His words displayed a bold and far-reaching example of the power of political oratory. For this reason we feel he is a worthy winner of the 2011 Speech of the Year award.'

Cameron's speech was widely praised by political commentators and most significantly the families of those whose relatives had died in the tragedy. The impact of Cameron's speech is effectively summed up in one comment from a Northern Ireland reporter who stated that 'If someone on the council proposed that David Cameron be given the Freedom of Derry he would get it!'

Award Winners 2011



Journalist of the Year

DANIEL FINKELSTEIN

Born in 1962 Daniel Finkelstein has had a diverse career in the political sphere as both a journalist and a political advisor to many prominent Conservative politicians. Finkelstein graduated from the London School of Economics from where he went on to join the SDP and become Chair of the Young Social Democrats. Upon the merger of the SDP and Liberal Party Finkelstein left the Party going on to work for three years at the Social Market Foundation. In 1995 Finkelstein took up the position of Director of the Conservative Research Department where he became, alongside George Osborne, political advisor to William Hague as Leader of the Opposition. During this period Finkelstein was awarded an OBE.

In 2001 he left the Conservatives to join the Times, where he has worked as Associate Editor, Comment Editor, Chief Leader Writer and since 2010, Executive Editor. His contributions to the paper range from comment pieces to his regular column the Fink Tank which offers football predictions and punditry. Finkelstein has also made regular appearances on programmes such as Newsnight, Daily Politics and Question Time. He has recently been announced as the new Chairman of the Centre-Right think tank Policy Exchange where he will take over from Charles Moore.

Why he won:

Finkelstein was unanimously chosen by the panel of judges. They stated that:

'Daniel Finkelstein continually offers cutting-edge yet thoroughly entertaining political commentary through his many newspaper columns and television appearances. The breadth of experience he brings to the role offers a unique insight into the political world. It is for this reason that we award Finkelstein the 2011 Journalist of the Year Award.'

Under Finkelstein's online editorship, the Times was the first newspaper to introduce an online pay wall, charging subscribers to read online content. Charging £6 for the weekly and £4 for the weekend editions the move was widely seen to be risky. Yet, as Finkelstein noted in interviews at the time 'we couldn't be sure that we were right, but we did have faith in our vision. We knew that people were willing to pay for our newspapers, our content and the editing and arrangement of that content and we wanted to preserve those values in our digital editions on the iPhone and Smartphone, our iPad edition and the website.' The gamble appears to have paid off and the Times has set a new precedent for online journalism.

Award Winners 2011



Broadcaster of the Year

EVAN DAVIS

Evan Davis, born in 1962, obtained his degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from St John's College, Oxford and went on to achieve a Masters of Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. Davis is most recognisable as a fixture of the BBC's broadcasting team. He joined the BBC in 1993 where he worked as General Economics Correspondent before moving on to BBC Two's Newsnight. In 2001 he was appointed the BBC's Economics Editor, a role he combined with presenting duties on the Radio Four programme the Bottom Line and BBC Two's Dragons' Den. In 2008 Davis began presenting Radio Four's Today Programme alongside John Humphries, James Naughtie, Sarah Montague and Justin Webb. He has also kept up his other presenting roles, recently fronting the programmes Made in Britain and Business Nightmares.

Prior to joining the BBC Davis worked as an economist at the Institute of Fiscal Studies and at the London Business School. He has written widely with publications including his recent book to accompany the series Made in Britain and Public Spending. At University he also wrote a pamphlet with Andrew Adonis on the role of the market in state education.

Why he won:

Davis was chosen as the unanimous winner of the 2011 award for Broadcaster of the Year. The jurors summarised their reasoning as follows:

'Evan Davis has been consistently impressive at connecting with a broad range of people and making economics palatable. This is a rare and valuable gift. He is a first-class interviewer who is not afraid to challenge politicians or engage with big ideas. He thoroughly deserves to be awarded the title Broadcaster of the Year.'

Davis is renowned for his uncompromising interview style, a point recently evident in his interview of David Cameron, where he interrogated the Prime Minister by comparing the behaviour of the rioters with that of the Oxford Bullingdon Club (of which the PM was a member). This line of questioning prompted the Prime Minister to respond 'We all do stupid things when we are young and we should learn the lessons.' Davis's willingness to ask the questions other journalists skirt around has earned him a formidable reputation, yet his journalistic career also has lighter points. Davis gained widespread attention for a prolonged fit of giggles whilst presenting Radio Four's Today Programme, a clip which has been immortalised on the programme's website.

Award Winners 2011



Special International Award

LINDSEY HILSUM, CHANNEL 4 NEWS

Lindsey Hilsum was born in 1958. She is currently Channel 4 News International Editor and over the past twenty years has reported from the Balkans, Africa, the USA, Europe and Asia. Hilsum graduated from the University of Exeter with a degree in French and Spanish and began her career as a freelance journalist in Latin America, an area on which she published her first article, which featured in the Guardian. She subsequently moved to Africa to work as Information Officer for UNICEF in Nairobi. Throughout the 1980s Hilsum reported for the BBC World Service, BBC Radio and the Guardian, moving in 1989 to work as Senior Producer for BBC World Service Radio. In 1994 she was the only English-speaking journalist in Rwanda when the genocide started and reported for the BBC, the Guardian and the Observer. Since 1996 Hilsum has worked for Channel 4 News where she has reported on the Libyan uprising, the Iraq War and NATO's bombing of Serbia. She joined the programme as Diplomatic Correspondent, but since 2004 has worked as International Editor, becoming a regular feature on the 7 o'clock programme. She also writes for the New Statesman, the Guardian, the Observer and literary magazine Granta and through these publications has worked to raise awareness of human rights issues.

Hilsum has been awarded a number of prizes including the 2011 British Journalism Review's Charles Wheeler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcast Journalism. In 2005 she won the Royal Television Society Journalist of the Year Award and in 2004 was named the One World Media Trust and Amnesty's 'Broadcast Journalist of the Year'. In 1996 she also won the Amnesty Award for a documentary on the role of the Church in the Rwandan genocide. She also holds an honorary degree from the University of Essex.

Why she won:

The PSA jury unanimously awarded the 2011 Special International Award to Hilsum. They outlined their rationale as follows:

'This award recognises the sustained excellence in the standard of reporting delivered by Lindsey Hilsum. Her reporting and analysis of international affairs is not only informative but also manages the delicate balance of engaging the audience without sensationalising the topic. Her deft ability to manage these pressures is to be admired. For these reasons we feel she should be awarded the 2011 Special International Award.'

In a recent article for the Independent Hilsum reflected on the question of whether there is something especially dangerous about being a female frontline correspondent. She argued: 'For the most part, I believe the answer is no. In more than 25 years of reporting wars, coups, uprisings and the like, I am lucky enough never to have been sexually assaulted. I have, however, cowered as bombs fell, ducked gunfire, argued with drunken soldiers on checkpoints and been badly beaten - just like my male colleagues'.

Award Winners 2011

Publication of the Year

'THE SPIRIT LEVEL' BY PROFESSOR RICHARD WILKINSON & PROFESSOR KATE PICKETT



Co-author
Richard Wilkinson



Co-author
Kate Pickett

Published in February 2009 'The Spirit Level' has gained widespread attention for its innovative take on the issue of equality. Looking at a range of social ills, including homicide, lack of social mobility, distrust, stress, poor mental health and low mortality rates, the authors argue, using extensive statistical analysis from 23 countries and 50 US states, that the key to the good society is equality. As the strap line indicates, the book argues that equal societies almost always do better, a prognosis which invites politicians to look beyond the pursuit of economic growth to consider the gap between rich and poor. They argue that the short-term, headline grabbing initiatives pursued by politicians are unable to achieve the long-term cultural changes needed to address inequality.

The book has received widespread interest, with Ed Miliband and David Cameron both referencing the central argument. Recommended by TED as one of five must read books, it has gained international attention and sold over 100,000 copies. However, the text has not been uniformly welcomed and has already prompted rebuttals from Christopher Snowden in the book 'The Spirit Level Delusion: Fact-checking the Left's New Theory of Everything' and Professor Peter Saunders in 'When Prophecy Fails'.

The book's authors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett have a track record in this area. Wilkinson, a retired Professor, works on social inequalities in health whilst his co-author Pickett, is Professor of epidemiology at the University of York and co-founder of the Equality Trust. Since publishing the book the two authors have become prominent speakers on the issue of equality, attending events around Britain.

Why it won:

The PSA jury unanimously decided to award Publication of the Year to 'The Spirit Level'. They stated their rationale as follows:

'The Panel considered The Spirit Level simply to be a brilliant book that had been influential far beyond the academic sphere. As attested by the phenomenal book sales this text has had an impact way beyond academia. The authors' scrutiny of an issue fundamental to the political visions pursued by politicians should be commended therefore we feel the Spirit Level is a worthy winner of the 2011 Publication of the Year Award.'

As David Runciman, writing in the London Review of Books, has written; '[t]he argument of this fascinating and deeply provoking book is easy to summarise' and so too is the impact of this text. The response from readers around the world has been phenomenal prompting a global debate not only about equality but also about the role of politics in attaining such a vision. Whilst Runciman identifies at times a utopian tone to this book the issues it confronts are very real, making this text a fascinating read.

Award Winners 2011



Jane Garvey



Jenni Murray



Jill Burridge

Engaging the Public

WOMAN'S HOUR, BBC RADIO 4

First broadcast on the 7th October 1946 Woman's Hour has become a fixture of the BBC's programming. Although the first presenter was a man, Alan Ivieson, since his departure the programme has offered a platform to an array of female talent including Joan Griffiths, Olive Shapley, Judith Chalmers, Jenni Murray and Jane Garvey. The programme has retained widespread appeal, reaching over 2.5 million people a week, 40% of them men.

Originally scheduled at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a time when chores would have been completed but the children had not yet returned from school, the programme was designed to comply with traditional expectations of women in this period. Now the programme is formatted as an hour long slot between ten and eleven every weekday. Programmes offer interviews, serialised plays and discussions of issues including health, cookery, family, home, sex, international affairs, arts, politics, work, fashion, education and culture. Whilst originally focused on topics such as 'how to hang your husband's suit' the show has gone on to deal with a range of previously off limit issues including the menopause and female circumcision. The range and unpredictability of issues covered has helped secure the programme's success.

The show has had appearances from a wide range of celebrity figures over the years including Eleanor Roosevelt, Nancy Astor, Cilla Black, Vera Brittain, Margaret Thatcher, Hillary Clinton, Aung San Suu Kyi, Germaine Greer, and politicians Tony Blair, Michael Howard, Gordon Brown and David Cameron.

Why it won:

Woman's hour was unanimously chosen as winner of the PSA award for Engaging the Public. The judges explained their decision as follows:

'Woman's Hour is an exceedingly well-crafted, thoughtful programme that is willing to consider issues with a political dimension in a clear and provocative manner. The programmes have not only contributed to a greater understanding of politics but have also worked consistently to engage the public. For these reasons we feel Woman's Hour is the deserved winner of this award.'

Over the years Woman's Hour has addressed a range of political issues, spotlighting the work of Parliament, the campaigns of pressure groups and local community issues. Recent programmes have focused on topics including super injunctions, gender equality in the budget, paternity leave, sexual stereotypes and pre-nuptial agreements.

Award Winners 2011



Special Recognition Award

PETER KELLNER

Born in 1946 Peter Kellner is a prominent figure in British journalism. Kellner obtained an MA in Economics and Statistics from King's College, Cambridge before going to work at the Sunday Times, where he remained for eleven years. In 1980 he became Political Editor of the New Statesman and went on to work at the Independent, the Sunday Times, the Observer and finally the London Evening Standard. During this period he also worked as a political analyst on Newsnight and appeared on Radio 4's Analysis, Channel 4's A Week in Politics, and election night results programmes. In 2000, while still working at the London Evening Standard, Kellner launched the online polling firm YouGov, where he took up posts first as Chairman and then as President. YouGov, whilst most famous for its electoral polling, also undertakes work for corporate clients such as Asda.

Away from YouGov, Kellner is Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society and is a visiting fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. He has served on a range of committees set up by the Economic and Social Research Council to commission research into elections and social exclusion. Kellner has also co-authored three books titled 'Callaghan: The Road to Number 10', 'Democracy: 1,000 Years in Pursuit of British Liberty' and 'The Civil Servants: An Inquiry into Britain's Ruling Class'.

Why he won:

Kellner was the unanimous choice of a jury of distinguished academics and journalists to gain the Special Recognition Award. They stated:

'The award is specifically for Peter Kellner's work and success in bringing polling and the intelligent use of numbers and figures to election coverage. Independently and through YouGov he has offered fascinating insight into the political world and it is for this reason we feel he deserves to receive the 2011 Special Recognition Award.'

As well as producing the polls which have become central to election coverage Kellner also writes a blog in his capacity as YouGov President which provides a pollsters perspective on politics. He has recently posted under headings including: 'How today's leaders can learn much from previous election results...even if they seem to bear no resemblance to current events', 'Why Labour's lead is fragile' and 'Why the Big Society isn't working'.

Award Winners 2011

Campaign of the Year

THE GUARDIAN, 'THE PHONE HACKING SCANDAL'



In 1821 the Manchester Guardian, as it was originally known, was founded by John Edward Taylor. Published weekly until 1836, then twice a week, it finally became a daily paper in 1855 when the stamp duty on newspapers was abolished. In 1907 C.P. Scott bought the Guardian and went on to lay down its founding principles in the paper: 'Comment is free, but facts are sacred. ...The voice of opponents no less than that of friends has a right to be heard'.

In 1976 the Guardian moved to London and began utilising content from the Washington Post and Le Monde. The paper gained a reputation for its left wing opinion pieces and investigatory journalism. In 1993 when other major Fleet Street papers were slashing their prices the Guardian invested resources in its staff to ensure their ability to continue breaking big stories. This gamble paid off with an increase in circulation and a series of high profile stories including revelations of sleaze concerning Neil Hamilton and Jonathan Aitken.

In 1999 the paper launched its online content in the form of Guardian Unlimited which gained the accolade of the UK's most popular newspaper website with over 2.4 million unique users in 2001.

Why it won:

The Guardian was unanimously awarded the PSA Campaign of the Year. The panel of judges stated:

'We feel the Guardian is a worthy winner of the 2011 Campaign of the Year Award. Over the past decade the journalists and editorial team have displayed a dogged determination to uncover the truth about the phone hacking scandal. Their tireless work has begun to pay off with sustained public, political and police scrutiny of this issue. We seek to recognise this achievement with this award.'

The Guardian has played a critical part in bringing the phone hacking scandal to public attention. Even before the raid on the office of a private investigator in 2003 the paper played a pivotal role in the investigation of phone hacking. The paper has run stories on the victims, the role of top executives at News International and their connection to senior figures in the Conservative Party. In 2009 the paper reported News International's attempts to cover up phone hacking by suppressing evidence through the courts and making huge payouts to victims of the practice. Such instances reveal the paper's commitment to exposing the truth behind the phone hacking scandal.

Award Winners 2011



Special Recognition Award

PROFESSOR PIPPA NORRIS

Born in 1953 Pippa Norris attended the University of Warwick before gaining her PhD from the London School of Economics. Norris first worked at the University of Northumberland, moving to become Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh University. In 1994 she went to work at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard as Lecturer in Public Policy and Associate Director before, in 2002, gaining her current post as the McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics. Currently Norris is visiting Professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. Her research lies within the field of democracy, democratization, elections, political communication and gender politics and she has delivered courses on the topics of democratic governance, analysing elections and public opinion, and comparative institutional design.

Norris has served as Director of the Democratic Governance Group at the United Nations Development Programme in New York as well as advising organisations including UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the World Bank and the UK Electoral Commission. She has received awards including the Johan Skytte Prize with Ronald Inglehart for 'contributing innovative ideas about the relevance and roots of political culture in a global context'. She also received the Doris A. Graber Award for her book 'A Virtuous Circle'.

Norris has published almost forty books and her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Her most recent books are 'The Role of the News Media in the Governance Reform Agenda' and 'Democratic Deficits: Critical Citizens Revisited'. She is soon to publish 'Why Democratic Governance? Prosperity, Welfare and Peace.' Norris has also served on a range of executive bodies including the American Political Science Association and the International Political Science Association.

Why she won:

Norris was chosen by a jury of distinguished academics and journalists to be awarded the Special Recognition award. They explained their decision as follows:

'Pippa Norris has undertaken ground-breaking work on political disengagement, democratic change and gender politics. Throughout her career she has worked relentlessly to improve understanding in this area and for this reason we feel she deserves to receive the 2011 Special Recognition Award.'

Norris not only analyses but also provides a wealth of databases through her website www.pippanorris.com. These include the 2010 General Election results, democracy time series data, The British Parliamentary Constituency database 1992-2001 and The World Values Study.

Award Winners 2011



Special Recognition Award

PROFESSOR WILLIAM PATERSON

Born in 1941 William Paterson is a renowned scholar on German Politics. Paterson began his career in 1967 as Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Aberdeen. After three years he moved to the University of Warwick as Lecturer in German Politics and by 1989 he had become Professor of Politics at Warwick. In 1990 he moved to the University of Edinburgh as Salvesen Professor of European Institutions where he also served as Director of its Europa Institute. In 1994 he moved again, this time to the University of Birmingham where he became Professor of German and European Politics and Director of the Institute of German Studies, retiring from this post in 2008. Since 2009 he has been Honorary Professor of German and European Politics at Aston University.

In 1999 Paterson was awarded an OBE for 'scholarship in German Studies', an accolade which reflects his previous award of the German Order of Merit for 'outstanding contribution to British-German relations'. Academically he has also obtained a lifetime achievement award from the International Association for the Study of German Politics. His academic publications are prolific, having produced over twenty-five books including 'The Kohl Chancellorship', 'The Future of the German Economy' and 'Research Agendas in European Union Studies: Stalking the Elephant'. His most recent article is entitled 'The Reluctant Hegemon? Germany Moves Centre Stage in the European Union'.

Why he won:

Paterson was chosen to win the Special Recognition award by the jury for the following reasons:

'William Paterson has conducted ground-breaking work on German politics, British-German relations and European integration, producing a wealth of highly insightful books. His contribution to these literatures marks him out to receive the 2011 Special Recognition Award.'

Paterson's research has offered an insightful commentary on contemporary EU-British relations. In 2007, writing with Simon Green, he reflected on Tony Blair's interactions with Europe, including his Third Way project with Gerhard Schröder and events such as the Iraq War and the election of Angela Merkel. Conducting retrospective and speculative analysis - in this instance predicting the problems Gordon Brown faced - Paterson consistently demonstrated his formidable knowledge in this area.

Award Winners 2011



Special Recognition Award

PROFESSOR ALBERT WEALE

Born in 1950 Albert Weale attended Clare College, Cambridge. He graduated with a degree in Theology in 1971 before going on to do his PhD at the University. In 1974 he obtained the Sir James Knott Fellowship at the University of Newcastle where he stayed for two years before moving on to become Lecturer at the University of York. In 1985 he became Professor of Politics at the University of East Anglia, moving in 1992 to become Professor of Government at the University of Essex. In 2010 he became Professor of Political Theory and Public Policy at University College London. He currently holds an ESRC Professorial Fellowship in 'Social Contract, Deliberative Democracy and Public Policy'. Weale has also held visiting positions at Yale University, the University of Dar Es Salaam and the Australian National University.

Weale has worked primarily within the field of political theory and public policy. He cites his main intellectual influences as John Rawls, H.L.A. Hart, J.S. Mill and Henry Sidgwick. His current work focuses on contract theory, deliberative democracy and public policy but he has an ongoing interest in the linkages between political theory and public policy as reflected in his books 'Equality and Social Policy', 'Cost and Choice in Health Care' and 'Democracy'.

Why he won:

Weale was chosen as winner of the PSA award for Special Recognition. The judges explained their decision as follows:

'Albert Weale is specifically granted this award for Special Recognition because of his ground-breaking work on democratic theory, social policy and the politics of equality. The breadth and practical applications of his work singles him out as truly worthy of this award.'

In 1993 Weale was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has also been a Fellow of the British Academy since 1998 where he serves as Vice President for Public Policy. Since 1998 he has been a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and is currently Chair. In this role he has looked at issues including bio fuels, dementia care and synthetic biology.

Award Winners 2011



Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies

PROFESSOR JACK HAYWARD

Jack Hayward was born in 1931. He gained his degree in Government at the London School of Economics, going on to also complete his PhD at the institution. Working in the area of comparative European politics and specifically French politics, Hayward has produced numerous books including 'Elitism, Populism and European Politics', 'Governing from the Centre', 'Core Executive Co-ordination in France' and 'Leaderless Europe'.

After completing national service between 1956 and 1958, Hayward took up the post of Assistant Lecturer at the University of Sheffield. In 1963 he moved to Keele University, first as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, during which time he became a Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford for a year. In 1973 he became Professor of Politics at the University of Hull, but returned once again to Oxford in 1993 to become Director of the University's Institute of European Studies and Professorial Fellow at St Anthony's College. In 1999 he returned to Hull as Research Professor of Politics, and also retains a post as Emeritus Professor at the University of Oxford.

Why he won:

The PSA jury awarded the 2011 Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies to Hayward voicing their rationale as follows:

'Jack Hayward demonstrates the characteristics of a great academic. Achieving excellence in the fields of comparative and French politics he has also held a range of high ranking positions. His time at the PSA saw the Association go from strength to strength. His professionalism and academic rigour is to be highly admired and for these reasons we feel him to be a highly deserving recipient of the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Political Studies.'

Previously Chair, President and Vice-President of the PSA, Hayward was instrumental to the organisation's development. His contribution to political studies both through his research and professional roles has been frequently recognised; indeed he is a previous recipient of a PSA award for Lifetime Achievement in Political Studies, an accolade he picked up in 2003. In 1980 he gained the Chevalier De L'Ordre National Du Merite followed in 1996 by the Chevalier De La Legion D'Honneur. He has also been a Fellow of the British Academy since 1990. In 2001 Hayward applied his knowledge of the powers of the Parliamentary Ombudsman to secure an apology from the Ministry of Defence for maladministration concerning his internment in China during the Second World War. The £10,000 compensation was given to charity to underline that it was the insult to him as a British citizen that rankled.

Award Winners 2011



Politics/Political Studies Communicator

PROFESSOR RON JOHNSTON

Ron Johnston was born in 1941. His research has focused on three main areas: urban social geography, the recent history and nature of human geography and British electoral studies. Over the course of his career Johnston has authored and edited over ninety books and written over eight hundred and fifty book chapters and articles.

Johnston obtained his BSC in Ecology and MA from Manchester University, moving to Monash to complete his PhD. He also has honorary degrees from the University of Essex, Monash University, the University of Sheffield and the University of Bath. Johnston's career began at Monash where he took up successive roles as Teaching Fellow, Senior Teaching Fellow and then Lecturer. In 1967 he moved to the Department of Geography at the University of Canterbury where he became Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer and finally Reader. In 1974 he became Professor at the University of Sheffield where he spent eighteen years before becoming Pro-Vice Chancellor for academic affairs. From 1992 he spent three years as Vice Chancellor at the University of Essex before moving in 1995 to his current post as Professor of Geography at the University of Bristol.

Johnston has received a number of awards including, in 2011, an OBE for his services to scholarship. The Royal Geographical Society has also twice recognised his work, first in 1985 with the Murchison Award and again in 1990 with the Victoria Medal. In 1999 he was elected Fellow of the British Academy and in 2010 obtained the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers.

Why he won:

Johnston was chosen by a jury of distinguished academics and journalists to be awarded the Politics/Political Studies Communicator Award. They explained their decision as follows:

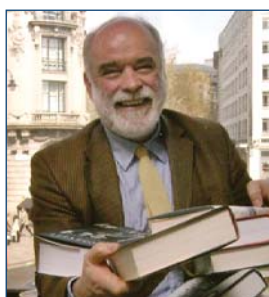
'Through his work with the Electoral Commission on boundary changes Ron Johnston has made a considerable contribution not only to political studies but has also helped shape the future of British Politics. He stands out as a clear communicator who has the capacity to communicate complex issues in an accessible manner. It is for these reasons that we feel he is a highly deserving winner of the 2011 Politics/Political Studies Communicator Award.'

In 2010 Johnston co-authored the report 'Drawing a New Constituency Map for the United Kingdom: The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill 2010' which looked at the coalition Government's proposals for electoral reform. He has also written about the proposals on the LSE British politics and policy blog.

Award Winners 2011



Professor Alex Danchev



Honorary Professor
Ion Trewin

Innovation in Teaching Politics

PROFESSOR ALEX DANCHEV AND HONORARY PROFESSOR ION TREWIN

Alex Danchev is currently Professor of International Relations and Director of Admissions at the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham. Danchev was educated at University College, Oxford, Trinity Hall, Cambridge and King's College, London from where he gained his PhD. His rather unconventional career path saw him serve as an Officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps. From there he moved to become Fellow at the Wilson Centre in Washington DC before returning to the same post, first at St Anthony's College, Oxford and subsequently at Queen Mary, London. Danchev specialises in art, politics, Anglo-American relations and the intersections therein. He has produced numerous books including '100 Artists' Manifestos', 'On Art and War and Terror', 'The Iraq War and Democratic Politics' and 'Oliver Franks: Founding Father'.

Born in 1943 Ion Trewin is Honorary Professor at the University of Nottingham. His career has, however, primarily taken place in the literary world. Most renowned for his biography of Alan Clark he has also edited the Hugo Young Papers and biographies of Michael Palin and Judi Dench. Beginning as a journalist for the Independent and South Devon Times, Trewin went on to work at the Sunday Telegraph and the Times. He has worked for a series of publishing groups including Hodder and Stoughton and Orion and is currently Editor in Chief at Weidenfeld & Nicolson publishers. In 1975 he won the Ronald Politzer Award for Publishing Innovation, having created the paperback review pages for the Times Saturday Review. Trewin is literary director of the Man Booker Prize and President of the National Academy of Writing. His other work includes books entitled 'Journalism' and 'Norfolk Cottages'.

Why they won:

Danchev and Trewin were unanimously selected by the jury for the following reasons:

'Alex Danchev and Ion Trewin have demonstrated an innovative approach to teaching which not only stimulated their students but also offers a template for best practice across the country. We feel their combination of academic and professional expertise marked their teaching methods out, making them ideal recipients for the 2011 Innovation in Teaching Politics Award.'

Danchev and Trewin teach a third year course on political biographies. Using two hour seminars and small group discussions they guide students through the history of political biography using, not PowerPoint, but a series of interactive tasks. These include drafting Tony Blair's pre-obituary, an entry to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and students' own biographies. For more information see the THE article at: www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=403552

Award Winners 2011

2011 W.J.M. Mackenzie Book Prize

'The Conservative Party from Thatcher to Cameron' BY PROFESSOR TIM BALE

'What's Wrong with the British Constitution?' BY PROFESSOR IAIN MCLEAN

Tim Bale was educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge where he gained his undergraduate degree. He went on to gain his MA from Northwestern University, Chicago and PhD from the University of Sheffield. His career has seen him work around the globe, starting with a Lectureship at the University of Sheffield. He soon moved to take up the post of Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. In 2003 Bale moved to the University of Sussex where he still works as Professor of Politics in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology. In 2008 he won the PSA's Bernard Crick Prize for Outstanding Teaching and is also active in the Association as convenor of the Conservatives and Conservatism specialist group. His research has focused on this topic but also takes in political parties, centre-right politics and comparative European and British politics.

Iain McLean was educated in Edinburgh before moving to Oxford to complete his MA, M.Phil and D.Phil. Upon completing his PhD he took up a two year post as Research Fellow at Nuffield College, leaving in 1971 to become Lecturer at the University of Newcastle. In 1978 he moved to University College to become Fellow and Praelector in Politics, spending three years in this post before taking up a Professorship at the University of Warwick. He currently holds the posts of Official Fellow in Politics at Nuffield College, Oxford and Professor of Politics at Oxford University. He has also held visiting Professorships at Stanford, Yale and the Australian National University. McLean's research covers a range of areas including party and electoral systems, social choice, public choice, political science in the 18th century and public policy.

Why they won:



Professor Tim Bale: 'The Conservative Party from Thatcher to Cameron'

'Tim Bale has composed a thoughtful, perceptive and exhaustively researched study. It covers all aspects of the Conservative party - organisation, policy, ideology, political strategy - in a finely researched and meticulous way. He has managed to secure a remarkable degree of access to key figures within the Conservative party and has obtained a formidable amount of primary material (often quite candid and on-the-record) from its very extensive interview programme. Full of shrewd and astute judgments, it offers a mine of factual information and will for years be an indispensable source of understanding of the contemporary Conservative party. This book is written in a fluent, highly accessible and often witty style and demonstrates impressive narrative

Award Winners 2011

skills. It makes a major contribution to our understanding of the Conservative party and hence of modern British politics. Another significant contribution is the concept of 'party in the media.' Bale shows how proprietors, journalists and commentators not only reported the party but represented a powerful constituency within it. An enjoyable, well-written and substantial contribution to the study of political parties.'



Professor Iain McLean: 'What's Wrong with the British Constitution?'

'A very acute, thought-provoking book written with verve, wit and clarity. It has the following aims: to demolish Dicey's theory of parliamentary sovereignty; to demonstrate that received wisdom about the peaceful, incremental and evolutionary character of UK constitutional development is at best a partial and one-sided view; to show the relevance of 'veto player theory' to understanding the operations of the UK political system; and to provide a manifesto (and programme) for constitutional reform. The contradictions between Dicey's theory and his actual behaviour are well brought out and his depiction of what he convincingly portrays 'as a successful coup against the elected government of the UK' over Home Rule immediately prior to the First World war demolishes the orthodoxy about peaceful constitutional evolution. The 'veto player theory' adds an embryonic basis for a different starting point to our understanding of the political system. The programme for constitutional reform follows from the logic of the historical analysis and adds to the contemporary relevance of this book. It is a thought-provoking study and offers a compelling challenge to conventional thinking about the UK's constitutional trajectory. McLean deals with crucial issues over the future of British democracy so the book deserves a wide readership.'

Why award a joint prize?

The judges felt that a joint prize was appropriate because the two books say a great deal that is complimentary about the unhealthy state of British democracy. Politics and constitutional issues are in the hands of a small elite of often unknown and unaccountable figures drawn from the mixed worlds of politics, the medias and other power holders. Citizens and even party activists are very much on the margins. For an established democracy Britain shows little clarity that it is 'we the people' who are ultimately in charge and offers a style of politics that asks little of citizens but that they wait for their political and constitutional masters to decide what is for the best. Little wonder that there are signs of substantial political disenchantment in the UK. The PSA thinks that these books add to other work that has emerged in recent years (some of which were also prize winners) to argue that there is something troubling in the state of our political system. Moreover both books make their contribution in a manner which is highly engaging and take important arguments out to a broad community.



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