Politics@Nottingham
School of Politics and International Relations newsletter 2015

New courses launched for 2015
(see page 5 for details)

Book wins prestigious award
Winner of the Political Book of the Year

Student award winners
Celebrating recent achievements

Postgraduate students visit Brussels
Three days of practical international relations
Welcome to the School of Politics and International Relations

This newsletter will give you an insight into our vibrant academic community where we offer an excellent student experience that will equip you for a successful career. We are a tri-campus school, with sister schools at the University’s campuses in Malaysia and China. It’s therefore very easy for you to spend time studying in either of those countries without having to change institutions. In addition, through the Universitas 21 Scheme you can opt to spend a semester studying at one of our partner institutions in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Hong Kong, and Singapore, as well as across Europe.

One of the key aims of our school is engagement with ‘practical politics’, and we have partnerships with organisations who host our second year students as they undertake actual political research in the local community as part of their training. We also have a number of Honorary Professors with backgrounds in a variety of fields such as diplomacy, the charity sector, journalism, and the military, who contribute to our teaching and research. Current Honorary Professors include:

- The Rt. Hon Jacqui Smith, former Home Secretary
- Major-General Tim Cross CBE
- The journalist Michael Cockerill
- Sir Jeremy Greenstock, former UK Ambassador to the United Nations

We attract highly skilled scholars from all over the world and we have recently welcomed a number of new colleagues to the school. Dr Scott Moser (electoral behaviour) joins us from the USA, Dr Daniel Ritter (political sociology) comes to us from Sweden, Dr Carole Spary (gender and development) is from York, Dr Martin Monahan (British politics) hails from Birmingham, and Professor Cecilia Testa (political economy) has joined us from Royal Holloway.

Our research expertise enables us to make sense of the complex world of politics and communicate that understanding to a wider public, particularly through our popular blog Ballots and Bullets. You can read the blog at www.nottspolitics.org.

Those of you who have decided to join us in September will be sure to find your experience at Nottingham fulfilling and rewarding. For those of you who are still making up your minds, please feel free to contact us, using the details on the back page of this newsletter, if we can be of any help at all in coming to a final decision. If you have graduated from Nottingham, please feel free to contact us, using the details on the back page of this newsletter, if we can be of any help at all in coming to a final decision. If you have graduated from Nottingham, please feel free to contact us, using the details on the back page of this newsletter, if we can be of any help at all in coming to a final decision.

Graduate sees his work in print

Barclay Bram Shoemaker, MSc International Relations and Global Issues 2010–2014, wins International Affairs Forum Essay Prize

Barclay says:

“Last year I got one of those mass emails that most people ignore, advertising for a student writing competition hosted by the Taylor & Francis published journal, The International Affairs Forum. I entered an essay that I wrote for Dr Munford and Dr Cormack’s course Terrorism and Insurgencies and ended up winning. The grand prize was publication in the journal.”

They enjoyed the piece enough to commission some less academic pieces for their website, and have recently agreed to publish extracts from my thesis, on terrorism in China. Considering that one day I hope to apply for a PhD, having these publications is really beneficial. I enjoy writing, so it has been nice to have an avenue to publish my work. Now that I have graduated from Nottingham I am a British Council Generation UK scholar studying Mandarin at Fudan University in Shanghai.”

Alumnus Peter Blair’s exciting new job in Washington DC

Peter graduated from The University of Nottingham with a First Class Honours degree in Politics in 2009. He was also awarded a David Marsden prize for academic achievement and contribution to university life. Peter was School Education Representative and President of the Politics Society.

After graduating, he spent three years working for The Carter Center, based in Atlanta, GA USA, Guinea-Conakry, Côte d’Ivoire and Nepal on a mix of election observation and conflict resolution.

He recently graduated from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with a Masters of Public Affairs in International Development.

While at the Woodrow Wilson School he worked for the International Organisation for Migration Iraq based in Amman, Jordan on refugee and IDP issues and on the Syrian refugee crisis.

Peter has worked as a consultant for the United Nations (UN) Department of Peacekeeping Best Practices Office as part of his graduate policy workshop. The workshop focused on how the UN should operate in environments with transnational terrorist threats – including Mali, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Peter now works for the Results for Development Institute in Washington DC. He is responsible for the launch of its new Center for Innovations, which aims to identify innovative solutions to development challenges and take them to scale in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), energy, climate, health, agriculture and education.

Third years visit Westminster

In November 2014, the Parliamentary Studies module held its annual Westminster study trip.

For the fifth year running, Speaker John Bercow fielded questions to more than 50 third year students. The stellar line-up also included Coalition Chief Whip, Michael Gove and the Labour MP, Tom Watson. Mark Stuart, who runs the module, believes that part of its value lies in the fact that many Nottingham graduates are employed in parliament.

Michael Cowan Awards help researchers with their studies

Not only do we have a thriving community of undergraduates and taught postgraduates, we also have a dynamic research community composed of first class home and international doctoral students.

The six winners of the Michael Cowan Award - pictured left - each won £1,000 to help with their research and learning.

From left to right: Ekaterina Kolpinskaya; Vladimir Raulu; Stuart Fox; Cemal Burak Tansel; Jonathan Mansell and Marie Paxton
New courses

BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics

We are delighted to announce our new degree programme in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), available for 2015 entry. The course is provided in conjunction with the School of Economics and the Department of Philosophy, making this not only an exciting degree that combines the most important modern approaches to understanding contemporary states of affairs and the units of political concern, but brings together three of the UK’s leading schools/departments in their respective fields.

Students will share their time equally between the three disciplines during their first and second years in order to attain a key set of skills and knowledge in this highly respected subject. In the third and final year students can continue in all three subjects, or can choose to specialise in any of the two of the three disciplines.

PPE provides a set of interrelated and rigorous analytical tools, skills, and knowledge. This makes graduates highly sought after in a range of professional areas such as in government, politics, banking, charities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), business, research, and teaching.

One of the highlights of our calendar is the annual postgraduate field trip to Brussels and the Hague. In two days of our MA community (plus three staff) undertook the three-day trip.

The purpose of the field trip is to expose students – as emerging specialists in the fields of diplomacy, security, and international relations – to teaching practitioners and trainers in Europe. The trip allows students to experience the practical application of academic ideas and learning, and to learn more about unique institutions within these fields. It also provides significant networking opportunities for students looking to move into high-level careers and to become familiar with what such organisations and institutions look for when recruiting.

The trip began with a short flight from East Midlands Airport to Amsterdam. Accommodation for the first two nights was in the Student Hotel in the centre of the city. The two days in Amsterdam included three site visits, as well as leisure time. It began with a visit to Cipriani – The Netherlands Institute for International Relations. Cipriani offers training in diplomacy and conflict resolution at all levels. The students received a tour of the very impressive building situated within its own grounds, and then undertook a diplomatic training exercise which included a briefing followed by an assignment of portfolios. The bargaining game that ensued allowed individual students to negotiate for a resolution that was in their national interest, and gave an insight into the kinds of considerations and strategies that go into high-level diplomatic negotiations.

The second site visit was to Europol where students were treated to lunch and an introduction to Europol, by a former Chief of Police officer who was on secondment to Europol. The talk focused on the handling of operations in different countries for the purpose of gathering intelligence information, particularly with regards to organised crime. After that, the students visited The Hague Centre for Security Studies, which is an independent think tank conducting research for various governments and government agencies. The young and very dynamic staff advised on how to begin a career in research after graduation. They also gave presentations on recent research proposals that examined contentious issues including hacking, and security in the military.

For the final night the students travelled to Louvain in Belgium. They spent an evening sampling the restaurants and nightlife of this beautiful city before transferring to Mons to visit the Allied Command centre – SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) – one of two NATO strategic command centres. They received a tour, and were also given lectures and workshops that covered current research and strategic planning for existing and developing conflicts. The visit coincided with the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, and much of the question-and-answer sessions were about this hot topic.

Once again the trip was a great success and proved to be very rewarding for the students. Given that many of our MA graduates go on to careers in similar sectors all over the world, it was a chance to see international relations in practice and to relate academic learning and research to real world events.

New degrees

MA Asian and International Studies

We have introduced an exciting new MA programme in Asian and International Studies, which offers a unique opportunity to benefit from our position as a truly global University. You will be taught by academics across our UK, Chinese and Malaysian campuses who are experts on Asian politics, history and international relations, as well as directors of other initiatives. This will give you first-hand knowledge of Asia.

Our module content reflects the region’s latest political and cultural developments, ensuring that you will be equipped with essential real-world skills and knowledge that will enhance your global career prospects.

This programme will provide an ideal foundation for those seeking a career in Asia or those already working in the region, and it will develop your understanding of this complex society.

Find out more about the courses we offer: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus

Brussels 2014: Three days of practical IR

The research will be on ‘Poverty Alleviation in the Wake of Typhoon Yolanda’, and will be carried out in partnership with The University of the Philippines Diliman, involving fieldwork in the typhoon-affected areas.

This year to consolidate and enhance our record for award-winning teaching, the school has created a Centre for Teaching Development which provides a new institutional focus for the nurturing of teaching excellence. The centre holds seminars led by experts in the field, and offers a regular forum for the dissemination of new ideas and best practice.
News from overseas

Malaysia bulletin

Assistance Professor Linda Quayle joined an international team of academics and practitioners as an invited speaker at the annual seminar of the Gao Reng Swe Command and Staff College in Singapore.

The theme of the seminar was International Security in the Asia-Pacific: Beyond ASEAN—Centred Security? Dr Quayle’s contribution, which was part of a panel on non-traditional security threats in Southeast Asia, was entitled Subnational Conflict Mitigation and Civil Society: Networks, Innovations, and the Uncertain Place of ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Assean, she argued, despite several laudable initiatives that have a bearing on conflict mitigation, is still grappling for a meaningful role in this area, and most of the load is currently shouldered by individual regional states, external players, and civil society entities of various kinds.

Update from the School of International Studies (History and Politics) – Ningbo China

Dr May Tan-Mullens has become Head of School in Ningbo. Her research interests relate to non-traditional security issues, particularly concerns around environmental governance and political ecology of marine resources. In addition she is now researching China’s environmental footprint linked to corporate social responsibility and the investments of Chinese firms in Africa. Her most recent book (along with Mohan, G, Lampert, B and Chang, D) published by Zen Books is entitled: Chinese Migrants in Africa: the next imperialists or new agents of development?

The United Nations Association of The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) held the 8th Annual Model UN Conference in October. Delegates came from a variety of universities in China to participate in two and a half days of intense, educational debate. Dr Grant Dawson from the School of International Studies gave the keynote address at the opening ceremonies.

The school continues to grow steadily. It now has 24 Masters students in addition to its growing undergraduate community.

Prizes: celebrating our student achievements

Student achievements

Dee Goddard has good reason to smile – she was the recipient of the Professor Frank Stacey Prize for the Best Single Honours finalist. In addition Dee won the University prize for the Best Graduating Student in Politics and American Studies.

It is not only our final year students who receive prizes. Thanks to the generosity of two of our alumni, Keith and Angela Hamill, we also have prizes for the best overall progression performance in the first and second year. Pictured here are winners Johnathan Block (second year) and Thi Hong Ha for the best overall progression performance in the first year. They are accompanied by (from left to right) Professor Mathew Humphrey, the Head of School, and their personal tutors Dr Kyriaki Nanou and Dr Tony Burns.

Hugo O’Donovan was the proud recipient of the 2014 Hannah Elledge Memorial Prize for the best performance of a graduating student in Politics and American Studies.

New books

Staff in the School of Politics and International Relations have an outstanding record of publication in books and journals. We host a number of key journals in the field, and staff have editorial involvement with several other leading publications. Here are some recently published books, which reflect the diversity of what we do.

For further details of recent books published by academic staff and journals with editors based in the school, visit the publications page on our website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics/research

Free Trade and Transnational Labour Andreas Bieler

The Devil’s Long Tail: Religious and Other Radicals in the Internet Marketplace Philip Cowley and Robert Ford

Sex, Lies and the Ballot Box Steven Fielding

A State of Play Steven Fielding

The Devil’s Long Tail: Religious and Other Radicals in the Internet Marketplace

Current Affairs

Dr Linda Quayle.

Revolt on the Right: Explaining Public Support for the Radical Right in Britain (Routledge) by Matthew Goodwin and Robert Ford has won the Political Book of the Year at the Paddy Power Political Book Awards.

The judges agreed that it was “a ground-breaking book which provides essential and enjoyable reading for anyone who wants to understand the shifts in modern politics.” Lord Ashcroft commented, “Revolt on the Right is an insightful book which is scholarly and analytical yet accessible and readable at the same time. It is a superbly timed work that does exactly what it says on the tin, charting the reasons for the rise of Ukip as a political force.”

Upon its release in March 2014, the book was reviewed in almost every national newspaper. It was described in The Spectator as “one of the most important books on British politics for years” and in The Times as “the book to arm yourself with for those dinner parties when the talk turns to politics.”

The book was subsequently listed by both The Financial Times and The Guardian as one of the best books of 2014. Goodwin and Ford were also awarded the Political Studies Association Communicator Prize for their efforts to share the research findings widely, described as providing “a model for how political science research should be disseminated.”

The book was officially launched at Chatham House, with an audience of more than 200 journalists, academics and policy makers and a panel discussion between Matthew Goodwin, Ukip leader Nigel Farage, Conservative MP Laura Sandys, YouGov pollster Joe Tyrman and BBC journalist Sarah Montague.

Throughout the year, Revolt on the Right was mentioned in more than 170 national newspaper articles on British politics and was also cited in speeches by the Leader of the Opposition, Ed Miliband, and the two Conservative MPs who defected to Ukip, Douglas Carswell and Mark Reckless.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics
Politics PGT student celebration

Our postgraduate students celebrated the end of their coursework period with a lively social event, which was held in the beautiful surroundings of the walled garden at Highfield House, on University Park.

Activities included a Wii dance and tennis competition, and everyone agreed the event was the perfect way to wind down after their hard work.

Isabella Carter, PGT Social Rep said: “I was so very pleased with the turn-out and our PGTs have been talking about it every time I’ve met them since!”

Find out more about our events at www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics

Ballots and Bullets

Our blog, Ballots and Bullets, is actively engaged in disseminating research with a very contemporary and slightly off-centre focus. It is the second most-read politics and international relations blog in the UK.

The blog posts are written by staff, PhD candidates and undergraduate students. The focus is on providing an intellectually refreshing and novel take on vast range of topics. It hosts a number of thematically organised blog posts – such as the one on Clausewitz – as well as collaborations, such as one with the London School of Economics on Euroscepticism. Ballots and Bullets also hosts an audio archive including podcasts of guest lectures hosted by the school. The blog is hugely popular and receives 10,000 views each month. Read the blog at www.nottspolitics.org

Social media contacts

You can keep in touch with us and find out more about life in the School of Politics and International Relations, through our social media.

- Our Twitter feed has more than 5,000 followers and promotes the school’s research, events and activities
- The school’s Facebook page has more than 1,100 likes, has a more student-oriented focus and promotes events organised not only by the school, but also by our active and engaged students
- Our Instagram account has more than 200 followers, and shares pictures from the school and campus
- We also have an active and growing podcast series in which our academics discuss and provide analysis on the most pressing issues of the day

Follow us to find out more:

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@NottsPolitics
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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.
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