

Institution: Birkbeck

Unit of Assessment: 19: Politics and International Relations

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

Birkbeck's UoA 19 has 16 members and is fully coincident with the Department of Politics. All members of the Department are included in the return. The UoA has a distinguished history of promoting socially progressive research on topical issues, supported by extensive public engagement and knowledge exchange and linked to the department's teaching programme for lifelong learners, many of whom work in relevant sectors. The specialisms of members of the UoA can be summarised as falling into two main groups:

British Politics and Public Policy: The UoA has particular depth in British politics, with a long-standing reputation for applied research in gender and politics that has influenced practices in Parliament and political parties.

International Politics and International Political Economy: While this part of the UoA covers a wide range of fields, the Population, Environment and Resources group provides a focus for research in political demography, geopolitics, climate change and food politics.

During this REF period the UoA has achieved the main goals announced in the 2014 assessment. Specifically, we stated an intention to build capacity in the area of Population, Environment and Resources through new appointments and complementary degree programmes. This has been achieved: new postgraduate degree programmes have been launched which have in turn facilitated the appointment of research-active scholars working on migration, political ecology and urban political economy. As we noted in our REF 2014 submission, the UoA is committed to facilitating inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations, and these have been particularly extensive in the area of Population, Environment and Resources, as detailed below. Research in this area within the UoA has drawn on expertise in demography and international relations, and this has been extended with new appointments to take in geopolitics and global political economy. The expanding range and scope of the field of political economy was not fully anticipated in 2014, but the UoA is well placed to participate in this growing field. Also not anticipated was the research agenda arising out of Brexit. Again the UoA has been well-placed with several scholars working on overlapping areas of British, EU and global politics.

The UoA's strategy for development and enhancement of research also maintains the priorities stated in 2014, specifically: (a) collective support for research through effective workload management, administrative support, departmental seminars, peer review of grant applications, mentoring and informal contacts; (b) promotion of networks, including interdisciplinary networks, within Birkbeck and beyond; and (c) an orientation towards public engagement, knowledge exchange and impact, particularly through outward-facing events bringing together academic and non-academic stakeholders as contributors, often under the auspices of the Centre for British Political Life.

Collective support for research is promoted by maintaining a collegial academic environment that supports individuals in pursuing their research interests. Specifically, this means sustaining the alignment of teaching and research so that all colleagues can pursue their research while fulfilling broadly uniform teaching obligations. It also means providing finance and personnel for the Centre for British Political Life so that it can maintain and extend its activities, while ensuring that it and

other centres connected with the UoA are sufficiently inclusive, both in subject content and methodological orientation, to allow all members of the UoA to benefit from their organisational resources and opportunities for networking and engagement.

Recognising that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have a significant impact on our research environment over the next five years, our core focus will be to build on our established strengths in British and international politics while promoting the research interests of younger colleagues. Specific areas for future development include a wide agenda in political economy, encompassing global political economy issues around population and environmental politics as well as issues of particular salience to the UK such as the reshaping of international relations affecting flows of goods, people and capital. Promising areas for future research in British politics include aspects of political communications which build on the UoA's existing expertise in open data, for example exploring patterns of engagement with traditional and social media and their impact. While the Centre for British Political Life provides one focus for these research agendas, strengths in other areas will continue to be developed through collaborations across disciplines, across the University of London, and beyond.

Impact objectives

Our principal impact objective is to enhance the public understanding of politics, with the emphasis on major contemporary challenges to do with the state of British democracy, environmental issues, migration and other sources of international tensions. In REF 2014, we outlined four main elements in our strategy to achieve this broad objective. These were (a) to extend and develop the public-facing work of the Centre for British Political Life; (b) to expand the events programme of the Population, Environment and Resources group; (c) to promote the development of impact in research grant applications; (d) to make full use of the opportunities for impact provided by the College's cross-disciplinary institutes.

The two impact case studies submitted in this REF reflect our significant impact in British politics. Campbell and Childs' work on 'The Good Parliament' and its aftermath was part of the UoA's close ties with Parliament, sustained and integrated into the Department by co-teaching the module 'Parliamentary Studies' in collaboration with the Houses of Parliament and coordinated and developed by the Centre for British Political Life. This impact extends beyond Westminster, both internationally and in the UK: Childs and Campbell were members of the Expert Panel on electoral reform convened by the National Assembly for Wales in 2017. Worthy's work on Transparency in Government has also sustained engagement with the Westminster Parliament, as well as the Scottish Parliament and local governments.

Our overall public engagement, knowledge exchange and impact strategy takes a broad approach, seeking to build on and develop the UoA's links with policy communities and the wider public through (a) targeted advisory and collaborative relationships with practitioners, (b) wide communication, through blogs, non-academic articles, podcasts and broadcasts, and (c) the work of the Centre for British Political Life, which provides a structure for events planning, a focus for publicising the work of many colleagues, a mailing list, website and other dedicated administrative support.

The Centre runs events relating to many aspects of British political life, but its main focus and concern is with ways in which politics engages the public and thereby promotes an active representative democracy. The Centre takes a wide view of where and how representation takes

place. While close ties to the Westminster Parliament are foundational for the Centre, its work extends to devolved and local governments on one hand, and the UK's interaction with international and transnational venues on the other. This breadth of vision harks back to the foundation of the department where the UoA is based, notably to the work of Paul Hirst and the Charter 88 movement.

The Centre interprets its remit to ensure that it provides a venue to members of the UoA who do not work on British politics (narrowly defined). Recent examples of events which have enabled colleagues to bring their expertise to contemporary public issues include Bousquet's work on technologies of surveillance in war applied to pandemic testing and tracing, and a 'Food and Brexit' workshop organised by Colas and Edwards. The Centre also promotes the interdisciplinary agenda of the UoA, for example by coordinating contributions from Politics to Birkbeck's flagship Arts Week.

The UoA's impact strategy in the next five years will continue to revolve around the objective of enhancing the public understanding of politics. This naturally means that the strategy is responsive to events, as the quickly-launched programme of public debates on political aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic illustrates. Given the likely future evolution of the UoA's research objectives, there is likely to be some reweighting of impact towards political economy broadly defined. We envisage that the Centre will still play a leading role in facilitating that impact, but the extensive networks and diverse channels of public engagement described in section 4 below will also be important.

Interdisciplinarity

The mechanisms that sustain interdisciplinarity in the UoA include the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy (SSHP) and College research institutes. The School brings Politics together with the departments of History, Philosophy, Geography, Applied Linguistics and Psychosocial Studies in a range of research-related activities, including annual strategic research reviews (done with a partner department, recently Philosophy), discretionary allocation of additional funding for research expenses, and short-listing for PhD funding and postdoctoral applications. Research directors from the six departments meet regularly to share good practice and address common concerns.

There are two College research institutes with which the UoA has a long history of engagement: the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities (BIH) and the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research (BISR). BIH runs several major public-facing annual events and a funded fellowship programme, while BISR sponsors interdisciplinary working groups and events. As outlined further below, Politics has been heavily engaged with BISR in this REF period, taking a leading role in the Guilt Group and the Food Group as well as obtaining BISR support for one-off events.

Other recent initiatives which have yet to bear fruit in research outcomes but will develop the strengths of the UoA in the future include the creation in 2017 of the Birkbeck Centre for Political Economy and Institutional Studies, which brings together researchers from Law, Management, Economics and Politics. The Centre has provided a venue for collaborative teaching initiatives in Political Economy as well as running research seminars and workshops.

Birkbeck is a partner in LabexMed, a network of universities that brings together specialists working on various aspects of the Mediterranean. It is cross-disciplinary, involving Archeology, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Economics, Law and Philosophy as well as Politics. This network has supported visits to Université d'Aix-Marseille by Colas and Dimitrakopoulos.

Future exchanges are planned, particularly related to the doctoral programme.

An open research environment

The UoA has made some use of 'gold' open access (5/40 outputs submitted), but the central policy to promote access has relied on 'green' access through the institutional repository (BIRON), which is linked to each researcher's web page. Members of the UoA also facilitate early access by circulating drafts of papers through established channels such as ResearchGate and SSRN, as well as submitting papers to conferences.

Through mentoring (see s.2 below) and general collegiality, the UoA supports compliance with the College's Code of Practice on Research Integrity. Aspects most relevant to this UoA include ensuring appropriate ethical review of research, and the promotion of free and open debate. The UoA has aired frank disagreements on population policy and demographic trends in its events programme, where it has succeeded in promoting respectful discussions.

All research involving human subjects is required to undergo ethical review. Understanding of the issues involved has increased in recent years, for example about the need to ensure the safety of the researcher as well as the research subject when working in repressive political environments. All applications for ethical approval are reviewed by the Department of Politics ethics officer, and those deemed non-routine are discussed at a School-level committee.

2. People

The recruitment and retention of productive and engaged researchers at all levels of seniority are essential to our research environment. Our submission of outputs contains a balanced distribution of work from very recent junior appointments through to established professors. The UoA currently comprises 16 FTE, all individuals on full-time contracts, 15 of which are permanent. This represents growth since the time of the last REF, when 12.8 FTE were submitted. Most recent appointments have been at or near entry level, and the UoA has retained these appointees and worked to ensure their steady career progression. Retention has been encouraged by College promotions practices that reward clearly-specified benchmarks of attainment. During this REF period, two colleagues appointed at entry level in 2012 have gained promotion to senior lectureships, two longer-serving colleagues gained readerships, and three have become professors. Over the same period, three senior colleagues (a reader and two professors) left to take up posts elsewhere in the sector, while two others retired fully having been on partial contracts at the time of the last REF.

New appointments have supported and expanded the UoA's established strengths, while achieving the necessary generational renewal. Appointments include in 2017 a new chair; and in 2018 a Lecturer A. The UoA has actively sought to minimise the use of temporary contracts. A member of staff appointed as a temporary lecturer in 2018 subsequently won an open competition for a permanent post in 2019. One staff member currently holds a grant funded temporary post.

All members of the UoA have a mentor. Mentors read and comment on mentees' research outputs, discuss plans for grant applications and advise on publication strategies, as well as supporting mentees in managing the time demanded by teaching and administration. The support of mentors is complemented by other colleagues through participation in research seminars and book labs (see below) as well as informal contacts. Permanent appointments include a probation period of three years for junior colleagues. Due to the small size of the UoA, the roles of mentor and

probation adviser are usually combined and held by a senior colleague. Ensuring that junior colleagues sustain progress in their research is a matter of providing support rather than imposing sanctions such as the threat of withholding tenure, which is not exercised. For all colleagues, new and established, a range of training opportunities are provided: the most popular are in PhD supervision and writing grant applications. Equalities-related training is also offered and is mandatory for colleagues serving on appointment panels.

There are no teaching-only contracts for salaried staff within the UoA, although there is some hourly-paid teaching and scholarship staff support. To maintain a collegial environment, all salaried colleagues have similar contracts involving roughly equal teaching and administrative workloads (apart from lower administrative loads for ECRs) and thus equal opportunities to undertake research and achieve progression through the College promotions process. Further appointments planned for the coming year will also be at or near entry level, with the expectation that junior appointees will eventually take over the research leadership roles of senior colleagues.

All members of the UoA meet in a regular research-in-progress seminar. Drafts of many of the outputs submitted for this REF received early feedback from colleagues at this seminar. We have also run several 'book labs', which take the form of half-day workshops in which external as well as internal readers provide review and feedback on manuscripts in draft and help colleagues to improve the final versions. All grant applications are internally peer reviewed, and colleagues are supported to share ideas for applications at an early stage. Sessions at the annual awayday are allotted to brief presentations of recent research in order to give everyone an overview of the UoA's current research portfolio.

All members of the UoA have an entitlement to £700 p.a. for conference expenses and other research support. Members can apply for a further amount, up to £2000, to meet additional expenses. This funding can be used to meet research costs such as survey expenses, particularly when expenditure can sustain a research project while external funding is sought. However, the bulk of expenditure in this UoA is on conferences. The UoA attaches importance to funding paper presentations and panel events at major US conferences such as APSA (Edwards, Kaufmann), EUSA (Hodson, Mabbett) and ISA (Bousquet, Colas, Guven, Tilley). Other conferences regularly attended by UoA members include BISA (Colas, Guven, Tilley), EISA (Colas), CES (Dimitrakopoulos, Hodson, Mabbett) and ECPR General Conferences and special sessions of workshops (Guyen, Mabbett, Worthy). The vast majority of outputs submitted to this REF were developed through presentation and participation at these conferences, where members of the UoA have also been active in organising panels, roundtables and other events (see s.4 below).

The College has a policy of giving one term of sabbatical for every 9 terms served, with extra sabbatical entitlements for those serving as head of department or in other major administrative roles. Members of the UoA have used their sabbaticals and summers to strengthen research ties by taking up visiting positions, including Karl Franzens Universität Graz (Ashenden), Harvard (Mabbett), ANU (Mabbett), Bilkent (Guyen), Université d'Aix-Marseille (Dimitrakopoulos) and University of Illinois at Urbana (Hodson). These positions have supported research leading to submitted outputs; for example, Hodson developed material for *The transformation of EU treaty making* through meetings with Robert Pahre, an expert on two-level games, and accessing research materials on US state approaches to constitutional amendments.

Facilitating exchanges with organisations outside academia

We support and encourage colleagues to undertake voluntary advisory work, as well as allowing up to 30 days of paid consultancy. Examples have included Mabbett's membership of the Joint Expert Panel reviewing the operation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (an unpaid role involving 26 all-day meetings over a two year period).

The UoA has promoted exchanges with public bodies through its practitioner fellowship programme. Practitioner Fellows bring professional experience that complements the academic expertise of the UoA. .

The Centre for British Political Life hosts the Ben Pimlott writer in residence scheme. This was launched in 2014 to extend the Centre's range of engagement further into informal social movements and facilitate collaboration oriented towards the arts and humanities. The first writer in residence was Carlos Reyes Manzo, a photographer and photo-essayist who produced an exhibition, *Dwellings*, on housing as a fundamental human right. In 2018 the writer Sian Norris used her residency to produce essays marking the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, along with an exhibition and discussion run in cooperation with Parliament. In 2020/21 the Ben Pimlott fellow is Jaspreet Kaur Sangha, a poet, blogger and performer who will write a book on the experiences of South Asian women (*Brown Girl like Me*) during her fellowship.

All members of the Department/ UoA are expected to carry out research and disseminate it through appropriate public channels as well as academic networks. The Centre for British Political Life takes a leading role in organising events to provide a venue for staff to promote their research. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown, the Department replaced its planned public events with five online debates on COVID-19 and the Future of Politics. Ten of the 16 members of the Politics UoA participated. Members of the UoA have ready access to the 10 Gower St blog, which is the UoA's main online outlet, along with the Centre for British Political Life website. Editorial and administrative support is provided within the Department. Staff are also encouraged to promote their work through other blogs and podcasts. Dimitrakopoulos and Hodson have contributed posts to the blog of the ESRC's 'The UK in a Changing Europe' programme, Singh to the LSE's US Centre blog; Kaufmann and Richards-Gray to the LSE's British Politics and Policy blog, Kaufmann to the Fabians and Policy Exchange blogs, Colas and Edwards to the UK in a Changing Europe blog, and Mabbett to the Political Quarterly blog. Colas and Tilley have blogged about their work on internationalism and colonialism/postcolonialism respectively, on the website the Disorder of Things, and Tilley engaged in the debate about 'Emerging Markets' on the Discover Society blog.

Research students

Birkbeck is part of the Economic and Social Research Council's UCL, Bloomsbury and East London (UBEL) Doctoral Training Partnership. The UoA is part of UBEL's Politics and International Studies pathway along with UCL's Department of Politics and International Studies and SOAS's Department of Politics and International Relations. In 2019/20, the Unit had five ESRC funded students. This includes a part-time 2+6 award holder, the first student in the DTP to hold such an award. Three of our ESRC funded students started at Birkbeck as undergraduates. One of our internal award holders started as a certificate student. The makeup of our PhD student body speaks to Birkbeck's mission of widening participation, while demonstrating our ability to secure funding for excellent external candidates.

In 2018/19, the UoA joined the Consortium of the Humanities and the Arts South-East England (CHASE). Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Chase offers around 75 PhD

studentships annually. This provides an important new source of funding for PhD research in political theory, an area of research in which the UoA has significant strengths but which is typically not funded by the ESRC. We will look to make use of this over the next census period.

MPhil/PhD students are required under the College's MPhil/PhD Regulations to maintain satisfactory academic progress during their studies. Academic progress is taken into account when deciding whether students should progress from one academic year to the next and from MPhil to PhD status. Full-time students complete the MPhil Review in their first year and the Transfer of Status Review in their Second Year. Students in year three and above complete an annual PhD Review. Part-time students complete the MPhil Review in their first, second and third years, a transfer of status review in their fourth year, and subsequent annual PhD reviews. The Department's Graduate Teaching Committee meets annually to receive the reviews, discuss the implementation of the progression policy and make recommendations for revision as appropriate.

The UoA's research environment for MPhil/PhD students has been significantly enriched over the census period. The College has invested substantially in the Birkbeck Graduate Research School (BGRS) which coordinates support and training for students and supervisors across all disciplines as well as providing a single point of administrative contact for research students. Our participation in the Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network with other institutions in Bloomsbury has further widened the range of research training available. Provision particularly relevant to Politics students includes ESRC-recognised qualitative and quantitative research methods modules. The convening of these modules is based in the Department of Politics. At the Department level, a full programme of events has been developed that includes workshops on research design and a biennial seminar on Big Books in Political Science run with UCL's Department of Political Science. Politics research students participate in sessions on managing PhD stress run with Birkbeck's Counselling Services, an annual writing retreat on the Kent coast and a careers workshop on publications, postdocs, academic administration and interviews. They also participate in the Department's Research in Progress Seminar and will in future benefit from its exchange opportunities with Aix-Marseilles. Research students participate in Centre for British Political Life events and are represented on its Board, while PhD students from Birkbeck and other universities across London have been regular participants in the Gender and Politics seminars convened at Birkbeck. PhD students are encouraged and supported in arranging events; for example, Sam Mutter organised a one day conference on the Subterranean Infrastructure of the Global City under the auspices of the Population, Environment and Resources group with financial support from BISR. They are also encouraged to participate in networks hosted by other universities: for example, PhD student Matt Bevington contributes regularly to the UK in a Changing Europe programme.

Our PhD graduates have gone on to varying careers in research, policy and academia during the census period, including lectureships at the University of Southampton, Queen Mary University of London (and Liverpool Hope University. Our part-time PhD students, in particular, bring considerable practical experience of politics prior to graduation, which adds to our distinctive research environment.

Equality and diversity

The UoA has a long-standing reputation in research on gender and politics, established and led for many years by Joni Lovenduski. Rosie Campbell took up the baton at Birkbeck until 2018, when she left to head the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at KCL. Before her retirement, Diana Coole, a political theorist, took her research on feminism and gender politics in a new direction with

her work on the global politics of population, and this widening geographical lens has been sustained with the appointment of Lisa Tilley. She has a particular interest in the decolonisation of the curriculum, which is connected with other shifts in the orientation of the UoA, with more research and teaching on the Global South. Building on this research, the UoA led on efforts within the College to develop a new inclusive curriculum checklist designed to encourage greater diversity on reading lists and in assessment and pedagogic practices.

The College's Equality Strategy actively audits equality performance and supports Equality Leads across all Schools within the College. The UoA participates in and supports relevant College policies, including the 'Disability Confident' initiative which ensures that appropriately qualified candidates with disabilities are offered interviews. All members of selection panels must complete interview training related to awareness of equality and diversity, as well as other aspects of fair interviewing practice. A member of the full-time staff of the Department of Politics is designated as Equalities officer and participates in policy development and information-sharing initiated at the School level. The Department of Politics is represented on and has supplied information to the SSHP Self-Assessment Team for the planned application for an Athena SWAN Bronze Award. The application was originally planned for November 2020 but has been delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The College has supported the establishment of Staff Diversity Networks, comprising a Staff Disability Network, a LGBT+ staff network (OutatBirkbeck), the BAME staff network (Race, Equality and Cultural Heritage (REACH) network) and a Parents Network. Members of the UoA participate in these and other College initiatives.

As noted above, the norm in the UoA is for staff to be on permanent contracts which combine teaching and research and offer long-standing and robust opportunities for progression as well as standardised provision for sabbaticals, contractual entitlements for sickness absence, and allowances for compassionate leave. The promotions process includes provision for confidential statements of personal circumstances which allow candidates to indicate how their research trajectory has been affected by illness or caring responsibilities. Promotions, along with the seniority and pay profile across the College are monitored for equality and diversity. Financial support for conference attendance includes childcare costs and additional costs arising from disability as allowable expenses. During the COVID-19 lockdown, support for flexible working was mainly provided in kind (upgrading laptops and other equipment) but cash expenses for some additional costs were also reimbursed when appropriate to do so. The College launched a Covid Recovery Scheme within its Research Innovation Fund, which is open to academics and researchers at all levels and seeks to support colleagues whose research has been affected by ill-health or caring responsibilities.

As it happens, all staff in the UoA are currently on full-time contracts but part-time and flexible working options are available. The College's responsibilities as employer for the wellbeing of staff are delegated to heads of department (assistant deans) and made clear to them in induction training when they take up their posts. The wellbeing of research students is actively monitored by the research student director. Regular contacts were organised during the COVID-19 lockdown and special efforts were made to provide appropriate study spaces once the College reopened. All members of the REF output selection panel had equality and diversity training. The selection of outputs was reviewed at College level to check for biases relating to protected characteristics.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities*Research funding*

Staff are encouraged to apply for national and international research grants. During the REF period approximately £720,000 in research funding from national and international bodies was attributable to the UoA, compared with £690,000 in 2014 (see REF 4b). This includes particular success with the Leverhulme Trust, including most recently Worthy's project 'Who's Watching Parliament? Monitory Democracy at Westminster' (£51,000) which funded the employment of a part-time post-doctoral researcher. While at Birkbeck, Childs won a Leverhulme award for a project on 'Building Feminist Institutions: Parliaments, Institutionalism and Change' (£50,000), while Tilley moved to Birkbeck with a Leverhulme ECR for 'Race, intimacy, and extraction on an internal frontier'. Other significant awards included the ESRC's Representative Audit of Britain (£561,000), for which Birkbeck was the lead institution. (Amounts in brackets refer to the total value of the grant, not all of which is attributable to the UoA.)

Internal peer review and assistance from colleagues with drafting and checking applications has played a significant role in these successes. Grant-winners have reciprocated this support by making applications available to colleagues and facilitating learning from their experience. This has recently been augmented with the creation of research grant labs, modelled on the positive experience with book labs. Instead of relying on a single peer reviewer, grant labs bring together several members of the UoA and, where possible, external colleagues, to review draft applications. As well as improving applications, we see grant labs as having the potential to increase colleagues' knowledge about possible funding sources and familiarity with application-writing.

Organisational infrastructure supporting research and impact

The Birkbeck Centre for British Political Life, based in the Department of Politics, provides a forum for research workshops and seminars alongside range of public engagement activities, as well as supporting grant applications. The Centre works with an active Board of public figures, including some of the department's alumni who have entered politics and high-profile public policy roles. Events organised under the auspices of the Centre promote the work of members of the UoA on contemporary issues of representation and provide them with the venue and resources for public engagement. The Centre has provided a home for a number of PhD students over this REF period, working on projects about political leadership, political careers, representation of young people, gender dimensions in party politics and voting behaviour, and freedom of information. Research students are represented on the Centre's board and encouraged to initiate events and supported in funding applications. Most recently, a student gained BISR support for a workshop on progressive politics in Northern Ireland. The Centre has run numerous well-attended public events. Even before the COVID-19 lockdown forced a move to entirely online events, recordings were attracting a wide audience. For example, a talk by David Lammy was listened to more than 400 times online.

Operational infrastructure

All members of the UoA are co-located in Georgian houses at 10-14 Gower St in central London. The buildings include a seminar room which houses Paul Hirst's library and serves as a central place for meetings, seminars and workshops. In normal times, the UoA makes intensive use of its central London location by hosting events with colleagues from other London institutions as well as policy practitioners. Staff and students have at their disposal an enormous number of research workshops, training courses, seminars and lectures that are convened within Birkbeck and the University of London as well as numerous opportunities to forge productive associations across the

Bloomsbury Colleges. Birkbeck offers regular seminars on grant applications, and the Research Office oversees the grant application and management process. The School Research Committee ensures best practice by bringing together research directors from six departments to discuss common problems and solutions affecting grant holders in areas such as employment of research assistants and other research support practices.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

Local research collaborations and networks are facilitated by the UoA's central London location and membership of the University of London, while collaborations further afield are supported by the sabbatical and conference funding entitlements outlined above. Wide-ranging collaborations are reflected in co-authorship in the submitted outputs, ranging from co-authorship within the UoA (Colas and Edwards), local ties within the University of London (Colas (QMUL), Mabbett (LSE), Worthy (KCL)) to networks further afield: Cambridge (Hodson), Universität Flensburg (Hodson), Hawaii-Manoa (Bousquet), Konstanz (Maydom), Ottawa (Bousquet), Scuola Normale Superior, Florence (Hodson), University College Dublin (Ashenden and Hodson) and Warwick (Tilley).

Collaborations have also been reflected in participation in applications for research grants which require the involvement of multiple institutions. The Representative Audit of Britain, based at Birkbeck, involved co-investigators from UCL and Strathclyde and collaboration with the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Members of the UoA have engaged extensively with research users in this REF period. Our members have contributed to policy evaluation and development by giving evidence to Inquiries and Parliamentary Select Committees. Examples of evidence given in this assessment period include Hodson's oral and written evidence to the House of Lords Financial Affairs Sub-Committee enquiry on EMU and invited written evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee's inquiry on the parliamentary scrutiny of treaties, Kaufmann's evidence to the Home Affairs select committee on immigration policy and Hodson and Styan's written evidence to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee on UK influence in EU foreign affairs. Hodson's submission drew on his outputs on eurozone governance and his book on EU treaty making and Kaufmann's on his outputs on native-born white responses to ethnic diversity.

As noted in s.2, Mabbett was a member of the Joint Expert Panel reviewing the operation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The 7-member panel produced two reports which may prove (time will tell) to have provided the basis for maintaining the scheme and bringing industrial action over pensions in universities to an end. She was the only member from outside the specialised fields of pension policy and actuarial science, and drew on her experience to produce a study of the financialisation of pensions (submitted to this REF: 'Reckless prudence') as well as publishing a critique of current trends in trusteeship and disseminating this critique at conferences. 'Reckless prudence' has been favourably cited in blog posts by pension specialists.

Kaufmann has continued the engagement which formed the basis of an impact case study in the 2014 REF through involvement with UK and EU policymakers on questions of immigration and integration. He has been affiliated with Demos and Policy Exchange during this REF period, and his briefings to the Casey review and the Integration Green Paper were cited by both.

Dimitrakopoulos's in-depth research on reforming tax administration in Greece culminated in the launch of his book (submitted to this REF: *The depoliticisation of Greece's public revenue administration*) in Athens at an event attended by officials from Greek and European institutions as

well as journalists and academics.

UoA members also give talks to practitioners and industry stakeholders.

Public events related to research programmes promoted by the Centre for British Political Life have included the work of Lovenduski, Campbell and Childs on the representation of women and Worthy's work on transparency, which was linked to events on parliamentary scrutiny, the opening-up of local government and the rise of fact-checking. Research on issues relating to Brexit by Dimitrakopoulos and Hodson was taken up in a series of events before and after the referendum, and has continued with workshops on aspects of the political situation in Northern Ireland. These events and workshops are attended by practitioners, colleagues in other academic institutions, and members of the wider public. The interdisciplinary research networks convened under the auspices of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research (see s.1) also promote engagement with practitioners. The Guilt Group attracts legal practitioners along with academics to its events, and its annual colloquia aim to promote knowledge exchange between practitioners and academics

Our members appear in many major national and international broadcast and print outlets, including the BBC, the Guardian, Bloomberg, Financial Times, Al Jazeera, New York Times, The Times, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and the Huffington Post. Examples include Dimitrakopoulos discussing the 2015 Greek crisis on Bloomberg, Voice of America and France24, Kaufmann on the politics of UKIP and immigration on ITV, Sky and the BBC, and Singh on US politics and foreign policy on TalkRadio and on the FBI's 'Most Wanted Woman' on Women's Hour on BBC Radio 4. Guven has been interviewed on BBC World TV on the Turkish currency crisis and by TRT World TV on the IMF and World Bank. Hodson published on the Conference on the Future of Europe in the Washington Post's Monkey Cage in December 2019 and on a comparison between EU and UK institutions in Brexit negotiations in The Guardian in 2018. Campbell is a long-standing contributor to Women's Hour, and has also presented several episodes of Analysis, including an overview of new divisions among British voters ('Tearing up the politics textbook' (2016)) and a two-part investigation of 'How the voters decide' (2017). Childs is also a regular contributor to Women's Hour.

The UoA has also sought to provide support beyond the College to young researchers, those in countries with less access to academic resources, and, through its fellowships, for creative artists with a political dimension to their work. Members of the UoA also get involved in politics in practice. As research fellow on the Warwick University-Universitas Indonesia Newton Links Project on 'The Gendered Everyday Political Economy of Kampung Eviction and Resettlement in Jakarta' (2016-18), Lisa Tilley developed a Women's Empowerment Toolkit (in both English and Bahasa Indonesian).

Our long and distinguished tradition of public engagement is built at least in part on our students, many of whom are by day policy practitioners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The students bring to the academic dialogue information about current practice in their sectors of work, while also providing a channel for academic influence. For instance Colas's co-authored article on Capitalism and the Sea benefitted from research advice and input from a Politics student with high-level business experience with the Dubai Port (DP) World logistics firm, while his work has been drawn on by another student working for the International Maritime Organization.

Interdisciplinary research

The UoA is heavily involved in interdisciplinary working groups under the auspices of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research. Since its inception in 2014, the Guilt Group has put on an average of 22 events per year, including regular cinema screenings and annual colloquia ranging over topics such as collective guilt and guilt and sexuality, in addition to its regular reading group meetings and workshops. The Group has 155 members. Regular attenders are drawn from the departments of History, Law, Psychosocial Studies, as well as the School of Arts at Birkbeck as well as other University of London colleges. The Food Group has involved historians, ethnographers and sociologists in more than 20 seminars and guest speaker events exploring practices of food production and consumption. A direct product of this Group is Colas and Edwards' book *Food, Politics, and Society* (submitted to this REF), co-authored with Sami Zubaida, Emeritus Professor of Politics and Sociology at Birkbeck, and Jane Levi, now in Cultural Studies at KCL. The development of the Food group has been enhanced by a number of PhDs completed or in progress, with projects on UK alcohol policy, the politics of sugar, the effects of food price spikes and 'food sovereignty' movements in Latin America.

Contributions and recognition

Members of the UoA are active as journal editors, members of editorial boards, and special issue editors. Mabbett is co-editor of the journal *The Political Quarterly*, Kaufmann an editor of *Nations and Nationalism*, and Childs co-founded the *European Journal of Politics and Gender* while at Birkbeck. Others on editorial boards or holding supporting editorial roles include Ashenden (*Economy and Society*, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*), Bousquet (*New Perspectives*) and Hodson (*Journal of European Public Policy*). Hodson is book series editor for the New European Union Series published by Oxford University Press.

Members of the UoA have also been active in bringing together special issues (SIs) of journals. Bousquet co-edited SIs on "Becoming Weapon" for *Critical Studies on Security* and "Becoming War" for *Security Dialogue*. Tilley co-edited 'Theory for a Global Age' for *Current Sociology*, 'Raced Markets' on race and political economy for *New Political Economy* as well as running a Race & Climate Change workshop for a special issue of *Politics*. She has also co-edited SIs for the journals *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* and *City*. Several members of the UoA have convened SIs for *Political Quarterly* which were accompanied by workshops and public events. Childs edited an SI on 'Commemorating Centenaries of Suffrage', Colas and Edwards an SI on 'Food and Brexit' and Worthy co-edited an SI on fact-checking and the crisis about facts in collaboration with Full Fact.

Members of the UoA have taken on leadership roles in the Political Studies Association (PSA), the Council for European Studies (CES), the British International Studies Association (BISA) and the International Studies Association (ISA). Specifically, Childs co-convened the PSA Study of Parliament Group, Richards-Gray is co-convenor of the PSA Women and Politics Group, Hodson is co-chair of European Integration and Global Political Economy Network of CES, Tilley is co-convenor of the CPD-BISA working group and is on the steering committee for the Global Development Section of ISA, and Worthy is co-chair of the PSA political leadership group.

Bousquet's *The Eye of War* was awarded the Science, Technology and Art in International Relations (STAIR) best book prize in 2018. Members of the UoA have been involved in judging or refereeing numerous grant applications, awards and prizes, including Colas (the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Prize), Dimitrakopoulos (APSA European Politics Best Paper Award), Guven (British Academy/DfID Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Programme), Hodson (UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships) and Tilley (ISRF Flexible Grants for Small Groups). Dimitrakopoulos was a member of

the ESRC Peer Review College until 2015, and is a member of the LSE Hellenic Observatory Research Board.