Institution: University of Westminster

Unit of Assessment: 34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

1.1 Context

The Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) is situated in the School of Media and Communication and is a world-leading centre in the study of media and communication, renowned for its underlined critical and international research. It builds on a long tradition of critical research in media and communication at Westminster that spans five decades. The University launched the first media studies degree in Britain in 1975. Until autumn 2018, CAMRI was led by Co-Directors **Fuchs** and **Kavada**. Since Kavada became co-leader of the University's new cross-disciplinary Arts, Communication and Culture Research Community in 2019, Fuchs has acted as Director and **Michalis** as Deputy Director. CAMRI also hosts a large PhD programme led by **McNicholas**, with **D'Arma** serving as Deputy Director. In academic year 2019/2020, the programme had 53 fully enrolled PhD students. In the 2020 QS World University Rankings, we were ranked at position 31 out of a total of 200 worldwide institutions in the field of media/communication studies (#9 in Europe).

CAMRI's overall objective is to be a platform for critical media and communication studies that builds on and develops, what James Curran has termed, the 'Westminster School'. It conducts critical analyses of communication power in light of the transformations that society and the communications landscape are undergoing. In the periods covered by RAE2008 and REF2014, one of the major strategies and aims was to advance critical media and communication research by helping to de-Westernise media/communication studies through the activities of regional media centres (the Africa/Arab/China/India Media Centres). In REF2014, our stated future aims were to 'develop as a global centre for critical research' and to 'meet transformations in a media environment shaped by rapid developments'. During the REF2021 period, we have realised these goals by developing and transforming our organisational structure in the form of five new research networks (see 1.2) and the creation of the CAMRI Policy Observatory (see 1.4), which has considerably advanced CAMRI research impact, as well as through our significant contribution to advancing open access (see 1.5).

In the REF 2021 period, our research income was £1,538,089 (REF4b) and the number of our doctoral completions was 64.

CAMRI's objective during the next five years is to develop further the Westminster School tradition of critical and international communication research in light of ongoing transformations in the social and communications environment. This will be achieved through the strategic expansion of the activities of our five thematic networks in global media, political economy and communication policy, digital media, cultural identities and social change, as well as communication theory, history and philosophy (see 1.2 for more details).

1.2 Structure

Since REF2014, CAMRI has shifted from a structure consisting of research centres focusing on the study of media in specific regions (Africa, Arab world, China, India) towards a structure centred around five research networks, each focusing on one key research theme. Each network is facilitated by two co-ordinators who are members of CAMRI. The five networks have overlapping membership and focus on the following themes:

(i) Cultural Identities and Social Change Research Network:
Co-ordinators: **Specht** & **Tsagarousianou**
This Research Network examines and deconstructs notions of culture, identity and social change. Work extends across areas including gender and post-colonial studies, development

studies, social movement studies, migration studies, nation and nationalism, social activism, education and literacy, audiences and users, studies of representation and power.
Members: **Fuchs**, **Iqbal**, **Kavada**, **Linfoot**, **Mano**, **Meikle**, **Sabry, Seaton**, **Specht**, **Tsagarousianou**

(ii) Digital Media Research Network:
Co-ordinators: **Meikle** & **Verdegem**
This Network conducts research into social, cultural, political, economic and technological aspects of digital media and communication. Its emphasis is on the characteristics of the digital in mediated communication, and on their social implications. Recent developments include research on big data, digital authoritarianism, geographic information data, the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence.
Members: **Aouragh**, **Boucas**, **D'Arma**, **Barbrook**, **Denisova**, **Fuchs**, **Herzogenrath-Amelung**, **Kavada**, **Meikle**, **Michalis**, **Specht**, **Verdegem**

(iii) Global Media Research Network:
Co-ordinators: **Aouragh** & **Sabry**
This Network studies media, culture and society in different regions of the world, including, but not limited to: Africa, China, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia. It conducts critical research on global media that is positioned in an international, comparative and historical context.
Members: **Aouragh**, **Bracho**, **de Burgh**, **Fuchs**, **Goodwin**, **Iqbal, Lodhi**, **Mano**, **Michalis**, **Sabry**, **Sakr**, **Specht**, **Tsagarousianou**, **Xin**

(iv) Media History and Philosophy Research Network:
Co-ordinators: **Herzogenrath-Amelung** & **Seaton**
This Network represents CAMRI's ongoing project to critically theorise the historical, ontological, epistemological and ethical aspects of communication and the role of media in society. This has involved a reconstruction of the history of media organisations such as the BBC and a re-thinking of media theory around culture and digital media.
Members: **Herzogenrath-Amelung**, **Fuchs**, **Iqbal**, **Kavada**, **Linfoot**, **Lodhi**, **McNicholas**, **Sabry, Seaton**, **Specht**, **Tsagarousianou**

(v) Political Economy of Communication and Communication Policy Research Network:
Co-ordinators: **Fuchs** & **Michalis**
This Network continues the long-standing tradition of the 'Westminster School' political economy, which was started by Nicholas Garnham and included contributions by the likes of James Curran and Colin Sparks. The network's focus is on the production, distribution and consumption of media. It studies power structures and policies that shape these processes. Another focus is on work in the media and digital industry.
Members: **D'Arma**, **Barnett**, **Boucas**, **Brown**, **Dwyer**, **Fuchs**, **Goodwin**, **Gross**, **Michalis**, **Musgrave**, **Sakr**, **Verdegem**, **Xin**

1.3 Research Strategy

CAMRI is a world-leading centre of media and communication research. It is renowned for critical and international research that investigates the role of media, culture and communication(s) in society. Political economy, media history, communication policy and communication theory have been key areas of focus since the foundation of CAMRI *and remain* central to our research. CAMRI's development through the years has seen an intensified focus on international and global media and communication studies, with the founding of regional research hubs such as the Arab Media Centre, Africa Media Centre, and India Media Centre. As detailed above, during the REF2021 period, these regional centres have been consolidated as the Global Media Research Network and digital media has emerged as a major new area of focus, while work has further consolidated in the area of media, identity and social change.

CAMRI's research is based on a broader purpose and vision for society. Our work examines how the media and society interact and aims to contribute to progressive social change, equality, freedom, justice and democracy globally. CAMRI takes a public interest approach that seeks to promote participation, facilitate informed debate, and strengthen capabilities for critical thinking and complex problem solving. Our work privileges sociological inquiry and qualitative methods. Our research is grounded in theory and is rich in empirical detail, thereby informing both a critical understanding of contemporary media, as well as new approaches to policy-making and practice.

CAMRI's research strategy focuses on enabling a dynamic research environment that supports intellectual rigour, collaboration and public engagement. Our activities follow the strategic research principles of:

(a) creating excellent, world-leading research outputs, by supporting researchers with dedicated hours for research, by running a mentorship scheme, by holding annual one-to-one appraisal meetings, by funding our members' attendance at academic conferences, and by advancing the next generation of media researchers through a large and active PhD programme;

(b) generating significant research income from a wide variety of sources, by offering focused and structured guidance for the development of grant proposals, by instituting a rigorous process of internal peer reviewing for draft applications, by organising grant writing workshops, and by dedicated support from a full-time Research Development Partner based in the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Office;

(c) achieving research impact on society across the globe, by sustaining an online presence on different platforms, including the CAMRI web platform (http://www.camri.ac.uk), the weekly CAMRI newsletter distributed via e-mail and our Twitter account, by founding the CAMRI Policy Observatory for facilitating the impact of CAMRI research on policy making processes, by establishing the CAMRI Policy Brief series with the open access University of Westminster Press, and by encouraging CAMRI members to engage with the media and appear in or write for a variety of news outlets.

CAMRI welcomes and fosters interdisciplinarity: Media and communication studies is in itself interdisciplinary, which is evident in CAMRI's research structure. All of the CAMRI research networks require CAMRI researchers to engage with fields such as geography, international relations, economics, sociology, political science, psychology, history and philosophy when conducting research. Beyond this, CAMRI also encourages collaboration of its media/communication researchers with researchers outside the field. Examples are CAMRI's collaboration with free software engineers, computer engineers, legal studies scholars, and economists in the netCommons project and CAMRI's co-operation with designers, policy researchers, philosophers, legal studies scholars, educational researchers, and software engineers in the DiDIY project.

The University has a defined Code of Practice Governing the Ethical Conduct of Research. Each of the University's three colleges operates a College Research Ethics Committee. CAMRI is part of the College of Design, Creative and Digital Industries (DCDI) where CAMRI researcher **McNicholas** serves as the Chair of the DCDI Research Ethics Committee and **D'Arma** as a member. **McNicholas** is also a member of the University Research Ethics Committee that oversees and formulates research ethics policies. Research that may have ethical implications undergoes a research ethics approval process by the College Research Ethics Committee. Applications are submitted electronically via the University's Virtual Research Environment platform (VRE), and decisions are taken by Ethics Committee in regular meetings.

1.4 Impact Strategy

Our impact strategy ensures that CAMRI researchers work together with a broad range of national and international stakeholders to maximise the impact of CAMRI's research on society,

policy-making processes, cultural life, and public understanding. CAMRI's impact strategy is facilitated through the following activities and infrastructure. CAMRI

- holds at least two annual research development workshops, where our progress on impact is discussed and impact activities are planned.
- researchers have an annual appraisal, as part of which they discuss their plans for impact with the CAMRI directors.
- has invested in a part-time research assistant to work specifically on the CAMRI website, the newsletter and the Twitter account (**Specht).**
- researchers are encouraged to respond to media requests in order to make their research publicly visible and engage with the public.
- organises public engagement events and events with policy and other stakeholders.
- operates the CAMRI Policy Observatory for fostering impact of research on society.
- publishes a series of open access policy briefs together with the University of Westminster Press.

The impact-focused CAMRI Policy Observatory was launched in 2017 with support from the University's Strategic Research Fund. It is led by **Michalis** and supported by a communication policy impact assistant (2016/2017: **Janciute**, 2017/18: Nora **Kroeger**, 2019: **Janciute**). The CAMRI Policy Observatory has three main activities and tasks:

- It supports and encourages CAMRI researchers to make submissions to public consultations;
- It builds and maintains stakeholder contacts by organising policy events;
- Together with the open access University of Westminster Press, the CAMRI Policy Observatory publishes the CAMRI research policy briefings series. These briefs are aimed at policy makers, whom it briefs about the policy relevance of CAMRI's research.

The CAMRI Policy Observatory supported the development of our three impact case studies. The three studies' overall topic is the advancement of public service media and communication policy, which is the Observatory's principal activity focus: **Barnett** and **Michalis**' impact advances the public interest in communication policy; **Fuchs**' impact advances the digital public sphere; **Sakr** and **Mano**'s impact is focused on advancing public service media in the Global South.

1.5 Advancing Open Access

CAMRI is a pioneer in open access publishing in the field of Media and Communication Studies. In 2004, CAMRI launched the open access journal *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (WPCC) which is currently edited by **McNicholas** and in 2019 published its fourteenth volume. **Fuchs** founded the open access journal *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique* in 2003. He is the journal's co-editor. During the current REF period, University of Westminster Press (UWP, https://www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk) was launched in 2015 as an open access press, which provides all its publications in freely-available digital form. CAMRI director **Fuchs** was involved in the founding of the Press, which is now managed by experienced industry personnel, and is a member of its advisory board. Both **Fuchs** and **Tsagarousianou** are members of the Press' board. Media and communication studies has been UWP's main publishing area, including the publication of *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture*, the book series *Critical, Digital and Social Media Studies* (edited by **Fuchs),** and the publication of the *CAMRI Policy Briefs*.

CAMRI's involvement in open access publishing (tripleC, Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture, University of Westminster Press) aims at making an impact via not-for-profit open access (also called diamond open access) on the field of media and communication studies. Unlike CAMRI's diamond open access practices, much open access is often for-profit and based on high, unaffordable article processing charges. UWP's books are not just open access but also available as affordable paperbacks. UWP follows strict peer review and research integrity

standards, which includes the stipulation that all book proposals and all full book manuscripts are blind peer reviewed as a quality assurance mechanism.

1.6 Future Research Strategy

Our future research aims are:

- to conduct critical research at the forefront of new developments in the realm of media, culture and society;
- to continue to increase our level of research funding and PhD completions, including through the AHRC Techne Doctoral Training Partnership (see section 2 below);
- to deepen and extend our impact in the realm of communication policy and the public sphere;
- to advance our leadership in open access publishing within the field.

We will achieve these aims by materially supporting CAMRI researchers through dedicated research time and supporting their attendance at and organisation of research events, and fostering a research environment that is conducive to critical research, attracting funding and PhD students, and achieving impact. Since the end of the REF2021 census period, we have hired two more researchers, one in the area of digital media research and one in global media research: Natasha Whiteman (Reader, Assistant Head of School) and Andrea Medrado (Lecturer).

2. People

Staff

As a world-leading centre for Media and Communication Studies, CAMRI aims to attract and retain the very best researchers at all career stages. During the REF 2021 period, CAMRI has hired eight new permanent members of staff – four senior lecturers (**Aouragh**, **Musgrave**, **Specht**, **Verdegem**) and four lecturers (**Denisova**, **Boucas**, **Bracho, Iqbal**). It also hired two post-doctoral research fellows (**Boucas** [2016-2018], **Risner** [2015-2017]) funded by research projects.

We have further internationalised our research profile and consolidated our international media research by strategically hiring staff with expertise in Latin America (**Bracho**), the Middle East and North Africa (**Aouragh**), Russia (**Denisova**), and South Asia (**Iqbal**). The area of digital media studies has also been expanded with new staff appointments (**Aouragh**, **Boucas**, **Denisova**, **Specht**, **Verdegem**). We are submitting 29 (25.1 FTE) Category A staff with significant responsibility for research to REF2021, a significant increase from REF2014's 17.8 FTE.

CAMRI provides mentoring and support to all its researchers (including post-docs), whether full-time or part-time, on permanent or fixed-term contracts, in order to help them in their career development. CAMRI researchers are required to submit an annual research report, in which they outline their research goals and achievements. This report is then part of an annual individual appraisal and development meeting with the CAMRI research directors. Through this, all staff (including post-docs) are accorded appropriate financial and administrative support for independent research activity, grant application development, knowledge exchange activities, away days, workshops, conferences, and other activities that facilitate the research culture.

CAMRI supports its researchers, first, by providing dedicated hours for independent research, managed through the University Workload Allocation Model (WAM). WAM is also used to assign additional dedicated time for impact, bid-writing and research management activities. The use of WAM ensures fairness in the allocation of hours across staff members, and clearly specifies the expectations for different levels of research activity. The annual guaranteed research time allocation for Professors and Readers is 425 hours, while Senior Lecturers and Lecturers with a

significant responsibility for research receive a basic allowance of 350 or 250 hours (out of the 1504 hours that represent their total workload excluding holidays), depending on their research plans and activities. All academics at the University of Westminster further receive 174 scholarship hours per annum for staying up-to-date with their chosen academic field. When CAMRI researchers successfully obtain external research grants, additional research time and teaching buy-out is ensured. In order to support research management, CAMRI provides in total a further 400 hours to the CAMRI directors, 200 hours each to its PhD programme director and its PhD programme deputy-director, as well as 60 hours shared among the co-ordinators of each CAMRI Research Network. University Sabbatical Policy further enables academics to apply for a one-semester long sabbatical leave after every three full years of service, and places particular emphasis on supporting members of staff with individual staff circumstances who may have faced obstacles in finding time for their research.

CAMRI supports its researchers financially in attending and presenting papers at conferences with a conference attendance policy, as agreed annually by the CAMRI Directors. CAMRI funds attendance at conferences and events where CAMRI researchers are involved in the roles of either presenter or organiser/co-organiser/chair.

CAMRI devotes particular attention to fostering the development of early-stage career researchers. We encourage hiring post-doctoral researchers on funded research projects and their mentoring by senior researchers in order to enhance career development. Examples include: Daniel **Trottier** (EU FP7 projects *PACT* and *RESPECT*), Judith **Townend** (AHRC project *Plurality and Media Power*), Didem **Ozkul** (AHRC project *Digital Engagements: Online Exclusion and Social Capital*), Dimitris **Boucas** (EU Horizon2020 project *netCommons*), and Isabelle **Risner** (EU Horizon2020 project *Digital Do It Yourself*).

CAMRI operates a successful visiting scholar scheme that supports its international orientation and allows us to impact upon the development of our field around the world. In the period 2014–2018, CAMRI visiting researchers from the field of media and communication studies have, for example, included: Altug Akin (Izmir University of Economics, Turkey), Victoria García Prieto (University of Seville, Spain), Kavita Karan (University of Illinois, USA), Aurora Labio Bernal (University of Seville, Span), Yan Liang (Shandong University, China), Ann Mabel Sanyu (University of Bochum, Germany), Hannu Nieminen (University of Helsinki, Finland), Paschal Preston (DCU, Ireland), Kyon Woo Son (Korea Broadcasting Commission), Burcu Sumer (Ankara University, Turkey), Angelica Sventlander (Umeå University), Han Yu (Communication University of China), Jianmin Zhang (Jinan University, China), Bingqing Xia (East China Normal University, China), Wendan Zhao (Southwest University of Political Science and Law, China).

During the COVID-19 crisis, CAMRI and the School of Media and Communication supported and enacted the University policy that work and research could not be conducted at University premises but from a distance in order to minimise infection risks. Research ethics guidance for both PhD researchers and staff prohibited face-to-face research during the crisis. For UKRI-funded projects, we applied for extensions in order to have more time to conduct project-related activities.

Research Students and PhD Programme

We run a large PhD programme, from which 64 PhD students have graduated in the period from 2013/14 until 2019/20, an average of 9.1 per year. In the REF 2014 period (2008/09-2012/13), we had a total of 33 completions and an average of 6.6 per year. We have increased both the average and the absolute number of PhD completions.

The School has long provided its own full-time three-year scholarships, comprising a stipend and a fee waiver. Since academic year 2018/2019, we are also part of the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership Techne (http://www.techne.ac.uk). Techne advances the craft of research in arts and humanities with a particular focus on critical thinking and creativity. Westminster participates in three out of five of Techne's subject groups. CAMRI Director **Fuchs** has since academic year

2018/19 represented the University of Westminster in Techne's management committee. CAMRI-PhD directors **McNicholas** and **D'Arma** are members of Techne-subject group C's (Cultures and Heritage) evaluation panel. 15 members of CAMRI are part of Techne's Peer Review College. CAMRI researcher and former Faculty Research Director **Goodwin** has served as Chair of the evaluation panel of Techne's subject group Performing Arts.

The CAMRI PhD programme is run by a Director (**McNicholas**) and Deputy Director (**D'Arma**). It is structured around a system of Annual Progress Reviews (APR). PhD students attend the Doctoral Researcher Development Programme (DRDP), which has been designed in accordance with HEFCE guidelines for research degree programmes. Students are given opportunities to teach at Westminster and are enabled to obtain the University Certificate of Special Study to support their career development. Additional subject-specific research training is provided by CAMRI.

We have hosted a twice-yearly communications research symposium since 2000 which brings together research students from Westminster, Goldsmiths, LSE, City and SOAS, to present their research, receive feedback and network. We are a long-standing member of ECREA's (European Communication Research and Education Association) summer school consortium, and each year we fund the attendance of students and send staff to contribute lectures. PhD students can also apply for up to a total £1000 during their studies for help with fieldwork, dissemination, and support to deliver conference papers as part of their career development.

The success of our doctoral programme is evidenced by the number of researchers who graduated from CAMRI's PhD programme and have taken up professional positions, postdoc and research fellow positions at e.g. American University (Coretti), Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University (Hillman), Creativity Everything Lab at Ryerson University (Culpepper), Ipsos Mori (Stevenson), Ofcom and LSE (Dzakula), and the Media, Management and Transformation Centre at Jönköping International Business School (Tokbaeva).

Equality and Diversity

The University has implemented an Equality Policy (Single Equality Policy Statement) and Equality Action Plan as well as a Diversity and Dignity at Work Policy aimed at avoiding any form of discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, origin, ability, class or inequality in the hiring process and in the workplace. As part of their probation review, all new staff must complete a diversity module focusing on diversity and dignity at work, inclusive and non-discriminatory language, avoiding bias, advancing inclusion and respect for people. Westminster was the first university to be awarded the post May-2015 Athena SWAN Bronze award, reflecting our commitment to eliminating gender bias and developing an inclusive culture. In respect to supporting staff with protected characteristics (e.g. disabilities), CAMRI provides additional support where needed, which includes for instance, the coverage of additional costs for transport and conference attendance. All members of staff are required to complete a development module on Equality & Diversity Essentials. All members of the School of Media and Communication also need to complete a development module on Unconscious Bias. In the light of discussions about Black Lives Matter following the police killing of George Floyd, the University in 2020 enacted its Black Lives Matter Commitment Plan (see REF5a).

CAMRI and the University are committed to equal opportunities in the recruitment and support of both staff and research students, achieved through close coordination with the University Research Office and Human Resources to ensure that programme specifications appeal to a diverse cross-section of qualified applicants. In the Techne AHRC Doctoral Training Programme, University of Westminster is leading on equality and diversity in recruitment and CAMRI members contributed to and led on the design of a Diversity in Recruitment strategy. The policy adopted follows the same principle of fostering awareness of equality and diversity by inviting research on diversity, power and (in)equality.

CAMRI's research directors actively encourage and support individuals to apply for **external funding,** as well as to apply for internal funding and promotion. In taking decisions on whom to put forward for promotion, considerations of equality and diversity play an important role. During the REF 2014 period, **Aouragh**, **D'Arma**, **Kavada**, and **McNicholas** were promoted from Senior Lecturers to Readers, and **Denisova** and **Specht** from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. The share of women promoted in CAMRI was 50%. CAMRI also practises the principles of fostering diversity and equality through the sharing and co-operation in research leadership positions. CAMRI's internal management roles are operated this way (CAMRI director and deputy-director, ten CAMRI Research Network co-directors, two PhD directors, three REF UoA leaders, one leader of the Policy Observatory). Out of eighteen such leadership roles, 50% (9) are held by women. 12.77 percent of the total number of Category A staff working in Media and Communications have a BME background. Exceeding this School-wide share, 17.24 percent of those submitted to REF 2021-UoA 34 have such a background. While 27.66% of the Category A staff working in Media and Communications at the School-level are women, a total of 34.48% of colleagues submitted to REF UoA 34 are female.

The UoA 34 leads (**Fuchs**, **Kavada, Michalis**) have participated in the university-wide REF Equality and Diversity training as set out in Westminster's REF2021 Code of Practice (CoP)**.** In early 2019, members of the School were invited to the briefing meetings of the REF Director, where the basics of the CoP were discussed. After the full draft of CoP was made available, all School members were made aware of it and asked to provide feedback via a central email address. Members of staff of the School of Media and Communication were made aware of the possibility the CoP foresees to declare Individual Staff Circumstances and were encouraged to submit a Declaration when relevant circumstances applied. All School members were made locally aware of the CoP's appeals process and the University's independent REF2021 Appeals Panel that deals with such matters. Concerning the identification of staff with significant responsibility for research, the CoP and its criterion that the allocation of workload hours for research determine significant responsibility for research were consistently applied at the level of the School, which meant recording research hours in the Workload Allocation Model (WAM) and discussing research responsibility in annual appraisal meetings. The selection of outputs was based on the procedure described in the CoP, which meant appointing two external advisors who, together with internals, assessed outputs. For ensuring equality and diversity, the selection of outputs that achieved the same grade followed the criteria to maximise the representation of staff with protected characteristics and maximising the diversity of themes and fields within the UoA.

CAMRI contributes as a world-leading research centre to fostering awareness of diversity and equality by conducting critical research about diversity, power and (in)equality.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Over the REF2021 period, our total research project income was £1,538,089 (see REF4b). CAMRI has been awarded funding for a series of major projects that have advanced our work in digital media and infrastructure, in cultures and identities, in media policy and media production, in the commons and the public interest, as well as in the role of the media in the Arab world. These projects have, for example, included:

- Orientations in the Development of Pan-Arab Television for Children (2013-2016): funded by AHRC, PI **Sakr**, Co-Is Steemers and **Sabry**, postdoc research fellow Mansour: The project investigated changes in the creation, commercialisation and reception of pan-Arab television content for children. It created a holistic picture of the commercial and non-commercial factors that underlie the evolving ecology of pan-Arab children's television and children's reception of it. The project refers to CAMRI's dimensions of international media studies, political economy, media policy studies and media and identities. The project was followed up by an AHRC Follow-On Grant (2017-2018) for Collaborative Development of Children's Screen Content in an Era of Forced Migration Flows: Facilitating Arab-European Dialogue, for which **Sakr** was Co-I (reports).

- netCommons: Network Infrastructures as Commons (2016-2018): funded by EU Horizon 2020, CAMRI: PI **Fuchs**, Co-Is **Michalis** & **Boucas.** The project combined computer science, social science and legal studies in order to study, support and further promote an emerging trend, community-based networking and communication services that can offer a complement, or even a sustainable alternative, to the global Internet's current dominant model. CAMRI's task in the project was to provide political economy foundations, to study users' attitudes towards the contemporary Internet, and to conduct ethical impact assessment. The project combined CAMRI's research dimensions of digital media studies, political economy, media and democracy, and critical communication theory.

- DiDIY (Digital Do-It-Yourself) (2015-2017): funded by EU Horizon 2020; CAMRI-PI David **Gauntlett**, Co-I Isabelle **Risner.** The project studied how DiDIY-related technologies and social practices amplify the creativity and skills of individuals who develop digitally self-made objects. CAMRI's task was to lead the work on exploring the impact of DiDIY on creative society. The project combined CAMRI's research areas of digital media studies and cultural studies.

- "How Unsustainable Fashion is Advocated Through Media Content" (2019/2020): This project led by **Denisova** is an example of research project by a CAMRI early-career scholar. Funded by JJ Charitable Trust, the project analysed how journalists and social media influencers cover fashion.

CAMRI has received further funding for research projects, research consultancy, fellowships, and research networks from funding sources such as AHRC, British Academy, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, EU FP7 and Horizon 2020, JJ Charitable Trust, Leverhulme Trust, and the Open Society Foundation. We have received funding for research consultancy from sources such as Austrian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, British Council, Greater London Authority, Help Musicians UK, Imperial War Museum, and Propeller TV.

Together with the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Office (RKEO), CAMRI runs regular funding workshops for members of staff developing funding applications. Workshop attendees receive feedback on their application from the CAMRI directors, the University Research Development Officer and colleagues attending the workshop, particularly those who have had success with similar grants. CAMRI operates a rigorous process of internal peer review for grant applications. Each application is reviewed by at least two members of CAMRI with relevant expertise. An application may go through many rounds of review before it is deemed ready for submission. CAMRI provides extensive support for enabling research and impact excellence. **Specht** is a CAMRI member who also maintains the CAMRI website and newsletter. The RKEO provides support in the form of a Research Development Partner assigned to the School.

Since REF 2014, CAMRI has developed significantly its external visibility by pursuing a clear online and public engagement strategy. CAMRI developed a digital media presence in the form of the CAMRI website (http://www.camri.ac.uk) that features events, news and commentary pieces written by CAMRI members for a wider audience. Associated with the CAMRI website is a weekly newsletter. It pulls headlines, short texts and links from postings on the CAMRI website and assembles them into a weekly newsletter that is e-mailed each Thursday to all subscribers. CAMRI also runs a Twitter account @UoW_CAMRI. The CAMRI website newsletter and Twitter account did not exist at the time of REF2014 and have since helped to professionalise CAMRI's external relations and to increase its public visibility.

CAMRI's public engagement and impact strategy also features the CAMRI Policy Observatory. This was founded in 2017 with internal funding. The Policy Observatory runs an open access policy briefing series published by University of Westminster Press, organises policy events together with stakeholders, and supports CAMRI researchers in making submissions to public inquiries. The Policy Observatory's activities have within a short time resulted in multiple

submissions to public consultations run by the government, the House of Lords, the House of Commons, UNESCO and the EU, an invitation to give oral evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee for Artificial Intelligence, as well as **Barnett's** role as special adviser to the House of Lords Communications Committee inquiry on public service media.

CAMRI operates a well-attended regular research seminar series. Managed by **Verdegem,** CAMRI seminars are held on Thursday evenings at the University's main building in Regent Street and are open to the public. CAMRI seminars have taken place regularly during term-time.

There is a well-equipped discipline-specific library that is part of the Harrow Campus where the Westminster School of Media and Communication and CAMRI are physically based (£3,265,252 refurbishment since 2014). All staff have individual office space at Harrow, and the Head of School is responsible for making sure that staff are treated equitably as regards access to resources. Doctoral students have designated rooms with shared office space, computers and a social space.

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

CAMRI has contributed to the research base, economy and society through editorial positions, major publications, awards, collaborative research projects and research partnerships, activities in associations and the organisation of associations' conferences, stakeholder engagement and co-operation with stakeholders, hosting and organising conferences, invited keynote talks, and external PhD examinations.

4.1 Editorial Positions

CAMRI researchers are involved in the editorial and advisory boards of important journals. **Barnett** helped to found *British Journalism Review*, on whose editorial board he still serves. **D'Arma** is associate editor of *Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture*. **Fuchs** founded and co-edits *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique*. **Mano** edits the *Journal of African Media Studies*. **McNicholas** edits *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture*. **Sabry** co-founded and co-edits the *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication.* CAMRI researchers also serve on numerous journals' editorial and advisory boards, including those of *African Journalism Studies* (**Mano**), *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* (**Fuchs**), *Comunicação e Sociedade* (**Michalis**), *Critical Sociology* (**Fuchs**), *European Journal of Communication* (**Michalis**), *European Journal of Social Theory* (**Fuchs**), *Historical Materialism* (**Aouragh**), *Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture* (**Kavada**, **McNicholas**, **Sabry**, **Xin**), *International Journal of E-Politics* (**Kavada**), *International Journal of Press/Politics* (**Sakr**), *Journal of Digital Media & Policy* [previously published as *International Journal of Digital Television*] (**Michalis, Sakr**), *Journal of Digital Social Research* (**Fuchs**), *Journal of Information Policy* (**Michalis**), *Media and Communication* (**D'Arma**), *Media, Culture & Society* (**Kavada**, **Sabry**), *Media Industries Journal* (**Mano**), *Media History* (**McNicholas**, **Seaton**), *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* (**Sakr**), *Regards: Revue des arts du spectacle* (**Sakr**), *Social Media + Society* (**Kavada**, **Meikle**), *The Political Quarterly* (**Seaton**), *20th Century British History* (**Seaton**), *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique* (**Aouragh**, **Verdegem**), *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (**Denisova**, **Specht**, **Bracho**).

4.2 Major Publications

Since 2014, CAMRI researchers have published 25 major monographs and 18 collected volumes that have advanced research in the fields covered by our five thematic research networks:

On the theme of (i) Cultural Identities and Social Change, monographs have looked at the rise of Donald Trump (**Fuchs**: *Digital Demagogue: Authoritarian Capitalism in the Age of Trump and Twitter* & *Nationalism on the Internet*), the Occupy Movement (**Fuchs**: *OccupyMedia!*), the culture of political games (**Barbrook**: *Class Wargames*). CAMRI members have also edited key

handbooks and companions, including the *Handbook of Diasporas, Media and Culture* (co-edited by **Tsagarousianou**) and *The Routledge Companion to Media and Activism* (edited by **Meikle**).

On the topic of (ii) Digital Media, monographs have focused on digitalisation and knowledge (**Bunz**: *The Silent Revolution: How Digitalization Transforms Knowledge, Work, Journalism and Politics without Making Too Much Noise*), psychoanalysis (**Johannsen**: *Psychoanalysis and Digital Culture: Audiences, Social Media, and Big Data)*, *Internet memes and Society* (**Denisova**), and *The Internet of Things* (**Bunz** and **Meikle**). They have also encompassed more general introductions to social media (**Fuchs**: *Social Media: A Critical Introduction*), and social media sharing and visibility (**Meikle**: *Social Media: Communication, Sharing and Visibility*), while edited volumes focused on *Social Media, Politics and the State* (co-ed. **Fuchs/Trottier**) and critical theory of social media (*Critique, Social Media and the Information Society*, co-ed. **Fuchs**). This theme has crossovers with the Political Economy network, with a set of monographs and edited collections on the political economy of digital media (**Fuchs**: *Communication and Capitalism: A Critical Theory*; *Critical Theory of Communication; Culture and Economy in the Age of Social Media; Digital Labour and Karl Marx; Reading Marx in the Information Age; Rereading Marx in the Age of Digital Capitalism; The Online Advertising Tax as the Foundation of a Public Service Internet; Marx in the Age of Digital Capitalism*, ed. **Fuchs/Mosco**; *Digital Objects, Digital Subjects: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Capitalism, Labour and Politics in the Age of Big Data,* co-ed. **Fuchs**; *Reconsidering Value in the Digital Age*, co-ed. Fuchs).

CAMRI researchers have also published research on (iii) Global Media, covering a range of geographical areas including China, the Arab world, sub-Saharan Africa, and India. Monographs have looked at children's media in the Arab world (**Sabry** & **Mansour**: *Children and Screen Media in Changing Arab Contexts*, **Sakr** & **Steemers**: *Screen Media for Arab and European Children*) and Chinese media (**de Burgh:** *China's Media in the Emerging World Order*). Edited volumes have analysed African everyday media cultures (*Everyday Media Culture in Africa*, co-ed. **Mano**), African film cultures (*African Film Cultures*, co-ed. **Mano**), *Racism, Ethnicity and the Media in Africa* (ed. **Mano**), *Social Media and Elections in Africa* (co-ed. **Mano**), *Arab Subcultures* (co-ed. **Sabry** and Ftouni), *Children's TV and Digital Media in the Arab World* (ed. **Sakr** and **Steemers**), Chinese media (*China's Media Go Global*, including **de Burgh** and **Thussu** as co-editors), and BRICS media (*Mapping BRICS Media*, co-ed. **Thussu**).

On the theme of (iv) Media History and Philosophy, monographs have examined the history of the BBC and British media (**Seaton**: *Pinkoes and Traitors: The BBC and the Nation 1974-1987;* Curran & **Seaton**: *Power Without Responsibility* [8th edition]), and an edited volume looked at radio modernism (*Radio Modernisms*, ed. **Lodhi** and **Wrigley**).

Monographs published on the (v) Political Economy of Communication and Communication Policy theme have examined politics and the media in Italy (**D'Arma**: *Media and Politics in Contemporary Italy*), media production (**Dwyer**: *Understanding Media Production: Theory and Practice*), critical political economy (**Fuchs**: *Marxism: Karl Marx's Fifteen Key Concepts for Cultural and Communication Studies*) and labour in the gig economy (*Can Music Make You Sick?*, **Gross** and **Musgrave**). Edited volumes have focused on critical political economy (*Marx and the Political Economy of the Media*, ed. **Fuchs/Mosco**;), media management (*Managing Media Firms and Industries*, co-ed. **Brown**), and media plurality (*Media Power and Plurality*, ed. **Barnett** and **Townend**).

CAMRI has further shaped research in our five cross-cutting research themes through editorial activities in some of the field's leading academic journals. Our members have co-edited five special issues and sections for *Media, Culture & Society*: **Aouragh** on Infrastructures of Empire (2016) and **Kavada** on IP, Copyright and Cultural Production (2015), Political Mobilization and the Internet (2014), Debating Big Data (2015), and Media and the 'Populist Moment' (2018). **Fuchs** has together with Jack L. Qiu (City University of Hong Kong) co-edited the *Journal of*

Communication's special issue 'Ferments in the Field: The Past, Present and Futures of Communication Studies' (2018).

4.3 Recognition of Contributions to the Field

In 2016, **Barnett** was the first academic from the University of Westminster to be made a **Fellow** of the Academy of Social Sciences. **De Burgh** was awarded a Gresham College Lectureship. Jisc named **Denisova** as one of the top 10 higher education social media superstars for 2017. In 2014, **Fuchs** became the youngest elected member of the Leibniz Society of Sciences. **Gauntlett and Seaton** have been named as two of the twenty key thinkers to be included in the UK Government's core content for A and AS Level Media Studies assessment. **Johanssen** was appointed as the first scholar to the British Psychoanalytic Council, the professional body of UK's psychoanalytical practitioners. In 2018, **Michalis** became a member of the Voice of the Listener and the Viewer's Board of Trustees. **Seaton** won the 2019 ICA Fellows Book Award together with Curran for their book *Power Without Responsibility*. **Seaton** was appointed as a fellow of the IWM Institute for the Public Understanding of War and Conflict. **Specht** was appointed as a Chartered Geographer by the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of his past and continuing contribution to the field of geography from an interdisciplinary perspective that links media/communication studies and geography.

4.4 Collaborative Research Projects and Research Partnerships in Funded Projects

Since 2014, we have developed our research networks through funded projects and collaborations in the UK, Europe, the USA and the Arab World. In the *netCommons* project (EU Horizon 2020), **Fuchs**, **Michalis** and **Boucas** collaborated with University of Trento (IT), CNRS (FR), Nethood (CH), the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (ES), and Athens University of Economics and Business (GR). In the *DiDIY* project (EU Horizon 2020), **Gauntlett** and **Risner** collaborated with University Carlo Cattaneo (IT), AB.ACUS SRL (IT), Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), Stitching Free Knowledge Institute (NL), Amerikano Kollegio Anatalia (GR) and Polytechnic University of Milan (IT). In the *Digital Communications Technologies and Protest Movements* project (British Academy), **Kavada** was a visiting researcher at the University of Washington, New York University, and MIT. *Collaborative Development of Children's Screen Content in an Era of Forced Migration Flows* (AHRC) was a collaboration of **Sakr** with King's College London. The *BBC Monitoring Service* project (AHRC) was a co-operation between **Seaton**, the Imperial War Museum and the BBC.

Research collaboration was also developed through networking and mobility grants. *Advancing Social Media Studies* was a research network collaboration between CAMRI and Umeå University (Sweden) funded by STINT: The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education. *Regulating Screen Content for Children Audiences* was a British Academy-funded co-operation between **Sabry** and Hicham Ait Mansour from Mohamed V University (Morocco). *Foundational Analysis of Measures for Creating Competition Neutrality in Taxing Online Advertising* was a collaboration between **Fuchs** and partners from the University of Vienna and University of Salzburg that was funded by the Austrian public service broadcaster ORF. The *Newton Mobility Grant Scheme* enabled Altug Akin from Izmir University of Economics (Turkey) to be a visiting researcher, who worked under **McNicholas'** guidance at CAMRI.

4.5 Activities in Associations and Organisation of Association's Conferences

CAMRI members are active in a variety of professional associations. **Sakr** (2018-2019) and **Meikle** (2020-2022) have been MeCCSA committee members. **Michalis** was IAMCR General Secretary between 2014-2016. **Michalis** has since 2016 been Co-Vice Chair of ECREA's Media Industries and Cultural Production Section and since 2020 Co-Vice Chair of MeCCSA's Policy Network. **Kavada** was the Co-Convenor of the European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on 'Internet and Politics' (2013-2016) and sits on the ECREA Ethics Committee (since 2018). **D'Arma** has been Co-Chair of the IAMCR Public Service Media Policies Working Group since 2015 and in 2018 he organized the IAMCR post-conference Public Service Media in

a Time of Global Reordering. **Fuchs** was an executive committee member of the European Sociological Association committee member (2015-2017) and conference chair of the 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association.

Funded by STINT, CAMRI together with Umeå University's Centre for Digital Social Research organised the PhD and early career researcher conference Critical Digital and Social Media Research.

4.6 Collaborations and Public Engagement with Stakeholders from Economy and Society

In the REF2021 period, **Barnett** provided evidence to multiple parliamentary select committees including oral evidence to the House of Commons-Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry 'The Future of the BBC' in 2014. In 2018, **Barnett** was appointed as **specialist adviser to the House of Lords** Communications Committee inquiry into public service broadcasting in the age of video-on-demand. In March 2020, Barnett's research was cited in a House of Lords debate on the future of the BBC. **Barnett** also organises together with the *British Journalism Review* the annual Charles Wheeler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcast Journalism and the Charles Wheeler Lecture at the University of Westminster. Recent winners awarded at the University of Westminster include Hugh Pym (BBC), Katya Adler (BBC), Michael Crick (Channel 4), Lyse Doucet (BBC), George Alagiah (BBC), Alex Crawford (Sky News), and Jon Snow (Channel 4). Recent Wheeler lectures were given by Peter Bazalgette (ITV), Robert Peston (ITV), Alan Yentob (BBC), Tom Stoppard, and Kate Adie (BBC).

Seaton (CAMRI) together with Rosie Thomas (School of Arts) runs the FCO-funded Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship Programme (SAJP) at the University of Westminster. It brings 20 journalists from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh together, for an eight-week intensive course. Alexander Evans, Chargé d'Affaires at the British High Commission in India, in a corroborating letter (available on request) writes that Seaton's work has 'helped improve the bilateral relationship between the UK and India'. In 2019, CAMRI secured the FCO contract for the Chevening Africa Media Freedom Fellowship Programme, based closely on the SAJP and run by **Mano** in collaboration with Africa Check, the leading fact-checking organisation on Africa.

Seaton is Director of the Orwell Prize, Britain's most prestigious annual prize for political writing. It awards the Political Writing Book Prize, the Political Fiction Book Prize, the Journalism Prize, and the Exposing Britain's Social Evils Prize. The Orwell Prize is sponsored by Richard Blair and A M Heath and partners with The Political Quarterly, University College London, and The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Seaton, based on sponsorship and support by, among others, A M Heath, Oxford University Press, Penguin Books, Pembroke College Oxford, Webb Memorial Trust, established the Orwell Youth Prize that was for the first time awarded in 2019. Through its prize, workshops and events, the Youth Prize aims to inspire the next generation of politically engaged young writers across the UK.

In 2019, **D'Arma** was awarded a AHRC network grant as PI in collaboration with Minna Horowitz (University of Helsinki) as Co-I. Focusing on 'Innovations in Public Service Media Policies', the project organised four workshops bringing together public service media stakeholders and researchers. PSM stakeholders in the network's steering committee include Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF), BBC, European Broadcasting Union, OfCom, Public Media Alliance, and the Finnish public service broadcaster YLE.

CAMRI researchers have as part of their impact work written or contributed to reports for external stakeholders: The focus of these reports has predominantly been on public service media and political economy, which reflects two particular strengths of CAMRI's work. **D'Arma** wrote a chapter on public service media in Europe for ORF's Public Value Report 2014. **Barbrook** advised the Labour Party in the formulation of its Digital Democracy Manifesto. **Fuchs** contributed a chapter focusing on Digital Democracy and Public Service Media (published in German) to the Austrian Broadcasting Corporations (ORF) annual public value study. He also

co-authored an internal study for ORF that analyses how a tax on online advertising can be introduced. **Fuchs**' contribution to that study was published in English translation by the University of Westminster Press (The Online Advertising Tax as the Foundation of a Public Service Internet). **Gross** and **Musgrave** conducted the industry-funded project "Music and Depression: Can Music Make You Sick?" together with Help Musicians UK (Report Part 1, Report Part 2) that had impact on the introduction of the Music Minds Matter helpline for musicians resulted in a wide public debate on health in the gig economy, including for example features in the *New York Times* and the *Financial Times*. **Linfoot** wrote the report Sounding Out: A Rapid Analysis of Young People & Radio in the UK for the British Council. **Mano** wrote a media policy framework for Zimbabwe for the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA). **Sabry** co-authored the policy report "Regulating Children's Media Content in Morocco" that was published by Economia, HEM Resarch Center. **Sakr** was commissioned by UNESCO to write a comparative report on public service media. **Xin** contributed a chapter on China's soft power to the European National Institutes for Culture's 2018 Culture Report Yearbook.

The CAMRI Policy Observatory has also organised CAMRI members' submissions of evidence to parliamentary inquiries, including for example written and oral evidence given to the House of Lords' Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence (**Bunz**), evidence to the House of Lords' (HoL) Communications' Committee's Inquiry 'The Internet: to Regulate or Not to Regulate' (**Fuchs**), and evidence to the House of Commons' Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee-inquiry on fake news (**Fuchs**). **Michalis** gave evidence to HoL Inquiry 'Public Service Broadcasting and Video on Demand'. Fuchs and Michalis submitted evidence to the House of Commons' inquiry on Rural Broadband. **Tsagarousianou** provided evidence to the Casey Review into Opportunity and Integration.

The CAMRI Policy Observatory has supported the organisation of policy-oriented events at the University of Westminster that have featured stakeholders such as public authorities and agencies (British Standards Institution IST/36, Competition and Markets Authority, Coal Authority, DEFRA, Environment Agency, HM Land Registry, MetOffice, Ofcom, Office of Tax Simplification, Ordnance Survey, Social Security Advisory Committee, UK Hydrographic Office, Valuation Office Agency, NGOs/civil society (e.g. ARTICLE 19, 350.org, Association for Progressive Communications, Avaaz, Commons Network, Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, Information Society S.A., The Media Society, Open GeoSpatial Consortium, Open Rights Group) and digital and creative industries companies and organisations (e.g. Balancing Act, BBC Media Action, BBC R&D, B4RN, Community Broadband Networks, Creative Industries Federation, European Broadcasting Union, Free2Air, Guifi.net, Independent Networks Cooperative Association (INCA), Sarantaporo.gr, Senza Fili Senza Confini, Wansdyke).

Aouragh's research on media, politics and social change has informed public debates on racism and anti-racism and social protests (report 1, report 2). Other important engagements of CAMRI and CAMRI members with stakeholders have included events co-organised together with Africa Check, the BBC Trust, Changing Faces, Centre for International Media Assistance (CIMA), or Open Media.

4.7 Hosting and Organisation of Academic Conferences

Making use of the University of Westminster's strategic central London location (Regent Street Campus, Marylebone Campus), CAMRI members have organised major conferences and symposia that have helped media and communication researchers to disseminate their research and to meet and network in the heart of London.

Key conferences organised and hosted by CAMRI during the REF2021 period have included the following: Arab media conferences (2018: Re-Imagining Cultural Histories of the Middle East and North Africa, 2017: Mapping Cultural Policy in the Arab Region, 2016: Towards a Sociology of Popular Music in the Arab Region; 2014: Arab Documentaries - Recording Whose 'Reality'?, African media conferences and symposia (2017: Elections in Africa, Virality in Media and

Democratic Participation, 2015: African Film and Social Change, 2014: Media and Elections in Africa), 6th ICTs and Society Conference: Digital Objects, Digital Subjects: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Activism, Research and Critique in the Age of Big Data Capitalism (2017), BBC Local Radio 50th Anniversary Symposium (2017), VIRAL/GLOBAL Popular Cultures and Social Media: An International Perspective, Rights and Might: Cultural Counter-Narratives of the Migrant and Refugee Experiences (2017), Different Bodies: (Self-)Representation, Disability and the Media (2017), IAMCR 2016 Pre-Conference Media Systems in Flux: The Challenge of the BRICS Countries, Times are a Changin': Temporality, Memory and Social Movements in the Digital Age (2016), Louis MacNeice, Radio Writer and Producer: A Series of Listening Events at the British Library (2016, together with the British Library), Radio Modernisms: Features, Cultures and the BBC (2016, together with the British Library), Media Engagement: Connecting Production, Texts and Audiences International Symposium (2016), China and the Changing Geopolitics of Global Communication (2016), Comparing Children's Media Around the World: Policies, Texts and Audiences (2015), Reframing Media/Cultural Studies in the Age of Global Crisis (2015), Media, Power and Plurality: Old Problems, New Policies (2015). As part of the STINT-funded research collaboration of CAMRI with Umeå University, the 2019 conference Critical Digital and Social Research was also co-organised by CAMRI in Umeå (Sweden). Dwyer co-organised the Trans TV conference.

4.8 Invited Talks

CAMRI researchers have been invited by various international academic organisations to give major talks presenting their research. Examples include invited keynote talks at events such as Holberg Symposium 2017 (**Barnett**), Sydney Democracy Network (**Barnett**), 2017 Conference of the European Sociological Association (**Denisova**, semi-plenary talk), 2014 Conference of the European Communication Research and Education Association (**Fuchs**), 2016 Challenging Media Landscapes Conference (**Fuchs**), 2019 Conference of the European Sociological Association (**Fuchs,** semi-plenary talk), 2015 ECREA Communication and Democracy Section Conference 'Political Agency in the Digital Age: Media, Participation and Democracy' (**Kavada**), 2018 World Media Economics and Management Conference (**Mano**), 2017 International Conference on Media and Fear (**Kavada**, **Sabry**, **Tsagarousianou**), 2014 conference The Media and the Arab Spring: The Road Ahead (**Sakr**), 2015 conference Media Policies and Freedom of Expression (**Sakr**), Future of Journalism Conference 2015 (**Seaton**), 2018 International Communication Association preconference Conceptualizing the New Silk Roads as Communication (**Xin**).

CAMRI researchers are regularly present in the news media and have been invited by stakeholders to give talks and participate in many public debates, both nationally and internationally. At such events, communication policy questions are discussed and CAMRI researchers draw policy conclusions from their research to shape public debates. Examples include invitations to speak at events such as DM@X: Digital Media at the Crossroads 2019 (**Barnett**), 2014 Turkish Radio and Television Corporation 50th Anniversary Event (**Barnett**), Westminster Media Forum 'The Future for Local Media' (2015, **Barnett**), Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) Dialogue Forum (2019, **Fuchs**), 2018 European Parliament event on 'Economic Landscape under the New Telecommunications Code' (**Michalis**), 2018 UNESCO event 'Network Infrastructure as Commons' (**Michalis**), events by the European Audiovisual Observatory (2015, 2016 & 2017, **Michalis**), 2018 Cinekid Industry Forum (**Sakr**), UNESCO: World Press Freedom Day 2016 (**Sakr**), Global Kids Media Congress 2017 (**Sakr**), 2017 Conference of the International Council of Archives' Section on Business Archives (**Seaton**), Leicester Mercury Media Lecture (2019, **Seaton**), 2016 Oxford Media Convention (**Seaton**), 2017 International Journalism Festival (**Xin**), 2019 Battle of Ideas Festival 2019 (**Xin**).