

<b>Institution: Oxford Brookes University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 19 - Politics and International Studies</b>
<p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><i>1.1: Introduction and context</i></p> <p>Politics and International Studies at Oxford Brookes combines research excellence with engagement with international partners and key stakeholders. It features renowned expertise in international political theory alongside specialisms in culture and identities, critical security studies and state/society relations, with established capabilities in interpretive, qualitative modes of enquiry complemented with quantitative expertise. Through strategic investment and student recruitment, the unit has seen continual growth over successive research assessment periods; 5 FTE were returned in the 2001RAE, 10.5 in 2008, 14.6 in REF2014 and 26 are returned for REF2021. This expansion has been managed strategically to consolidate key areas of strength, particularly Political Theory, whilst developing a limited number of newer areas of specialism, such as Critical Security Studies. The majority of members of the unit are in the School of Social Sciences, but members are drawn from other disciplines across the University, including Philosophy, Law, and Modern Languages.</p> <p>With this growth has come a more than doubling of monographs and research income since REF2014, alongside recognition from external prize committees for the unit's research grants, monographs and articles. These indices all demonstrate the unit's vitality and future sustainability. These developments have occurred within a collegial and supportive environment where the contributions of all are valued and supported. Our impact strategy focuses particularly on generating policy relevant research, which shapes policy debates and practices at international, national and local levels.</p> <p><i>1.2 Research Centres and Groups</i></p> <p>The Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society was established in 2012 and is the focal point for research in Politics and International Studies at Oxford Brookes. Its activities enable dialogue and exchanges of cutting-edge work from colleagues within the university and the wider profession. Following a review in early 2017, four new research groups were formed within the Centre in response to a changing staff profile - International Political Theory; Critical Security Studies; Culture, Identities and Divisions; and State and Society. Led by a convenor from within the unit, these groups provide a rich, interdisciplinary, environment for research to flourish. All staff and research students are expected to join at least one of the Centre's research groups. Resources are made available to the groups, from QR funding, to support research activities such as workshops and conferences. Membership of these groups is fluid and events run by the research groups are open and advertised across the University, to develop connections and collaborations. ICS and wider impact activities are spread across the research groups, with a focus on influencing policy debates and outcomes at international and national levels, although some impact work, such as within Culture, Identities and Divisions has also focused on engaging more local users of research (e.g. <b>Barber's</b> engagement with diaspora communities).</p> <p>International Political Theory is a core area of strength. This group puts classical and contemporary political theory into dialogue with key theoretical debates in International Relations and International Political Economy. The group coheres around a critical and interdisciplinary focus. Members of this group have produced 11 major monographs in this REF cycle; <b>Browning's</b> <i>A History of Modern Political Thought</i> (Oxford University Press, 2016) and <i>Why Iris Murdoch Matters</i> (Bloomsbury, 2018), <b>Browne's</b> <i>Feminism, Time, and Nonlinear History</i> (Palgrave, 2014), <b>Clack's</b> <i>How to be a Failure and Still Live Well: A Philosophy</i> (Bloomsbury, 2020), <b>De Medeiros'</b> <i>Conspiracy Theory in Turkey: Politics and Protest in the Age of 'Post-Truth'</i> (Bloomsbury 2018), <b>Hesketh's</b> <i>Spaces of Capital/Spaces of Resistance</i> (Georgia University Press, 2017), <b>Mills'</b></p>

*Dance and Politics: Moving Beyond Boundaries* (Manchester University Press 2016), **Pal's** *Jurisdictional Accumulation* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), **Rosenow's** *Un-making environmental activism: Beyond Modern/Colonial Binaries in the GMO Controversy* (Routledge, 2018), **Sutton's** *The Political Economy of Imperial Relations* (Palgrave, 2015) and **Wellburn's** *Rawls and the Environmental Crisis* (Routledge, 2017). Other work has included **Bardin's** research on Hobbes, science and his pioneering work on the philosophy of Simondon, **Cochran's** analysis of ethics in international relations, **Hurt's** exploration of social and economic justice and **Ford's** research on global political ecology and growth/degrowth. In addition, members of the group (**Browne & Rosenow**) secured British Academy funding to organise the interdisciplinary *Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Cross-Disciplinary Dialogues* conference in February 2017. This brought together a range of world leading scholars such as Judith Butler, from North America, Europe and the Middle East across the academic disciplines of Anthropology, International Relations, Life Sciences, Medicine, Philosophy and Politics. A key outcome resulting from this collaboration is an edited collection published by Oxford University Press (2020). **Hurt's** ICS is one example of the ways in which impact has been achieved by this group (see sections 1.4 and 4.2).

The Cultures, Identities and Divisions research group brings together colleagues who focus on the intersections of identities, structural factors (including gender) and societal and political interactions. The ways in which political contexts – and policies – shape practices of agency is a particular focus shared in the group. **Miller's** *Making Sense of Parenthood: Caring, Gender and Family Lives* (2017), her third book on parenting with Cambridge University Press, sits alongside **Karademir Hazir's** work on class and culture, **Barber's** *Oriental Identities in Super-Diverse Britain* (Palgrave, 2015) and **Galam's** *Women Who Stay: Seafaring and Subjectification in an Ilocos Town* (Ateneo De Manila University Press, 2018). The group has developed linkages with scholars across the University, such as for the *Migration and Hospitality: Space, Precarity and Belonging* (2018) conference which brought together colleagues from the Business School and the University of Sussex. **Miller's** ICS and **Barber's** engagement with artists, playwrights and community groups is emblematic of the group's approach to impact.

The Critical Security Studies group engages with the agenda to broaden the scope of security studies, both empirically (in terms of analysing non-traditional security politics) and conceptually. **Lister's** *Anti-Terrorism, Citizenship and Security* (Manchester University Press, 2015) and **Steenkamp's** *Violent Societies: Networks of Violence in Civil War and Peace* (Palgrave, 2014) both represent this tendency as does **Bulley's** *Migration, Ethics and Power: Spaces of Hospitality in International Politics* (Sage, 2017) and **Managhan's** *Un-knowing the War on Terror: The Pleasures of Risk* (Routledge, 2020). The group's broader activities are seen in its hosting of the BISA Critical Studies on Terrorism Annual Conference (co-convened by **Lister**), at Oxford Brookes in September 2019. **Lister's** contributions to government and police on counter terrorism issues exemplify its approach to impact.

State and Society orientates around a concern with the ways in which state structures shape the experiences of citizens and non-citizens. Work here has included **Wheatley's** *The changing shape of politics: Rethinking left and right in a new Britain* (Palgrave, 2019), as well as **Bee's** *Active Citizenship in Europe: Practices and Demands in the EU, Italy, Turkey and the UK* (Palgrave, 2017). **Whitmore's** research on the dynamics of protest within the Ukrainian Parliament, along with Isaac's (member of the unit until 2019) explorations of nation building and identity in post-Soviet states establishes, with **Wheatley**, a distinct post-Soviet expertise within this group, which has led to the establishment of an EU-funded training network (see section 2.2 below). In addition, the group has worked with colleagues in History, and stakeholders from the Electoral Reform Society, IPSOS-Mori and Open Democracy, staging two events on populism and digital democracy. **Edge's** ICS on Manx constitutional frameworks, as well as **Wheatley's** work on voting preferences attest to the impact of research in this area.

### 1.3 Research and Impact Strategy

The expansion in Politics and International Studies at Oxford Brookes has enabled the development of “critical mass” in certain research areas (notably International Political Theory) as well as the creation of new areas of excellence. It has been conducted in line with the University Research & Knowledge Exchange Strategy (see IES section 2) to deliver high quality research and impact. Due to the strategy and support structures identified above, the five objectives which were identified REF2014, have been fully delivered:

- staff retention and development,
- enhanced impact of research groupings,
- development of career opportunities for early career staff,
- enhanced research linkages and research funding and
- development of high quality research outputs, such as monographs.

Firstly, overall staff levels for the UoA have increased; 11 of the 15 staff submitted in REF2014 are returned in REF2021 and colleagues who have retired during this REF cycle, such as *Axford*, continue in Emeritus positions. This core has been supplemented with additional staff in areas identified as strategically important, such as Political Theory. Secondly, the reorganization of research groups has produced a vibrant series of research activities, as noted in section 1.2. These have also provided opportunities for early career staff (Lecturer or Senior Lecturer) to take on research leadership roles, as convenors of the groups, supported through the allocation of workload hours. As noted, the impacts of these groups have extended across disciplinary, institutional and geographical boundaries. A particular emphasis has been placed on focusing impact activities on effecting public policy change. The unit's ICS (as well as broader impact activities) attest to the reach and significance of the unit's research, engaging with a range of governmental and public bodies such as World Health Organisation policies on childbirth, UK government parental leave policies, UK government trade policies, and Manx constitutional and policy reforms. As evidenced in section 3, total grant income has more than doubled between REF2014 and REF2021. Finally, supported by the introduction of a sabbatical scheme, the UoA has more than doubled its total number of monographs submitted: from 8 in REF2014 (19% of the outputs) to 21 in REF2021 (32-50% of the outputs, depending on double weighting).

### 1.4 Enabling Impact

The unit's approach to impact is directed primarily towards shaping public policy at the international, national and sub-national levels. A secondary focus has been to inform and shape the practices and behaviours of stakeholders and communities. To achieve this, colleagues across the unit have fostered and developed engagements with multiple stakeholders, from international organisations, to governments and other public bodies, and community groups. This approach to impact has had a twin track approach, informed by Gauntlett's Stairway to Impact model. Here, a necessary precondition to research effecting changes on policy or practice is widespread communication and dissemination of research. Therefore, one element of the strategy has been to broaden and deepen the unit's approach to engagement beyond the academy. This has led to a diversification of impact activities, with around half the UoA engaging in impact-related activities during the current REF cycle (see section 4.2 for further details). The second element of the strategy has been to develop and support “Impact Champions” whose work forms the basis of the ICS returned by the unit.

Investment and support from University, Faculty and School sources has promoted and encouraged the development of impact at all levels. For example, **Wheatley's** work on voter engagement and **Karademir Hazir's** *Think Human* event on ‘Feeding Families’ were supported by the Faculty Impact Fund. Similarly, **Hurt's** Central Research Fund (CRF) Research Excellence and Impact Award led to the organisation of a parliamentary symposium on ‘UK-Africa Trade and Brexit’ with UK government ministers and officials, held in January 2020 (see section 4.2 below).

Impact activities are coordinated with the Faculty Impact Lead (Goody) and supported by the university's Research Impact Steering Group and Research Impact Officers. Working together, the impact team provide training and support for planning, delivering and recording impact activity. Those identified as "Impact Champions" have also been instrumental in communicating their experience and advice to a broader range of colleagues. This feeds into faculty and school events, which emphasise that there are a range of pathways into impact, open to all career stages and areas of research. Staff at all levels are encouraged to develop engagement strategies for their research and are required to detail their public engagement and impact activities in their annual personal research plan. Furthermore, impact is taken into consideration in workload allocations and applications for promotion.

The Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society has also been an important point for engaging wider audiences and has undertaken a range of initiatives to broaden its audience and engagement with stakeholders. The Centre has a Director, **Bulley** and a management board, comprising the research group convenors. In 2019, George Monbiot gave the Centre's inaugural annual lecture. This attracted researchers across the University, but also academics beyond the university and members of the public (the 2020 lecture with Kate Raworth had to be cancelled due to the pandemic). The Centre also uses social media to publicise, and where possible, live stream activities such as its seminar series.

The UoA's engagement and participation with the Faculty-wide *Think Human* festival (held in 2018 and 2020) in Oxford is further evidence of this embedding of impact within the research culture. The festival seeks to engage with communities - local, regional, national or global, including our staff and students. **Miller** and a playwright explored her work and staged excerpts of a play relating to *Making Sense of Motherhood* in a community centre in East Oxford, **Browning** staged Murdoch's dialogue, *Art and Eros* and put on a panel discussion on art and politics in Murdoch. **Edge** (outputs returned to UoA18) organised an event which dealt with constitutions and poetry and **Mills** staged a performance on dance and human rights.

### 1.5 Interdisciplinary Research

Interdisciplinary collaborations both across the University and with external partners have been identified as a strategic priority. An interdisciplinary approach is built into the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society and its component research groups which span a range of social science disciplines. Results of our commitment to interdisciplinarity can be seen in the monographs of **Browning** (*Why Iris Murdoch Matters*, Philosophy, English Literature), **Pal** (*Jurisdictional Accumulation*, Law) and **Mills** (*Dance and Politics*, Dance). (The last of these has been marked for interdisciplinary review; for remaining outputs, the unit has confidence in the abilities of the panel for UoA 19 to assess appropriately). Members of the unit also hold key positions on the new University Research Networks which have been established to specifically promote interdisciplinary research across the University. **Barber** is network lead for Migration and Refugees and **Clack** is on the steering committee of Inclusion, Diversity and Gender.

A number of research events organised by the unit further demonstrate the commitment to engage across disciplinary boundaries, such as the above-mentioned British Academy funded *Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Cross-Disciplinary Dialogues*. In addition to this, a workshop on "The ethics and politics of non-Indigenous scholars engaging Indigenous thought" was jointly held in 2019 by the International Political Theory and Cultures, Identities and Divisions research groups, with colleagues from History, Geography, and the University of Hertfordshire. The collaboration continues with energy, feeding into further panels at EISA (2019), Millennium (2019) and ISA (2020). In May 2020, **Barber**, **Ford** and **Managhan** organised a symposium 'Mapping precarity in the contemporary global context' with colleagues from Anthropology, Geography and Film and Media Studies.

This commitment to interdisciplinarity extends beyond the University. **Browning's** work on Iris Murdoch has involved engagement with philosophers Sophie Grace Chappell, Sabina Lovibond and Niklas Forsberg and the literary scholar and Murdoch biographer Anne Rowe. **Bully** has



collaborated with Nadine El Nany, School of Law, Birkbeck on the book *After Grenfell Violence, Resistance and Response*. **Pal** has collaborated with legal scholars Daniel Margolies, Umut Özsu, and Ntina Tzouvalaon for her recently edited collection *The Extraterritoriality of Law*. Colleagues have also been successful in securing external funding to support interdisciplinary research. **Barber**'s collaboration with economist Phuc Nguyen from Trung Vuong University on Vietnamese migration was supported through a British Academy Newton Mobility Grant and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). **Steenkamp**'s collaboration with Mayyada Wazaify from the University of Jordan's Department of Pharmacy Practice, has led to a British Academy Tackling Global Challenges grant (commencing in January 2021).

#### 1.6: Open research environment and ethics

The unit shares the University's commitment to an open research environment (see IES section 2), exceeding the basic requirements of REF2021, to extend and expand the ways in which the unit makes its research available to as wide an audience as possible. Therefore in addition to satisfying the basic requirements of REF2021, the unit has made available as open access (through RADAR, the university's institutional research repository), in part or whole, 12 monographs and book chapters, thus significantly increasing the proportion of the unit's submitted outputs which are available open access. In addition, **Lister**'s analysis and coding of Hansard debates is an open data set on RADAR. **Browning** has also made accessible an annotated guide to Iris Murdoch's unpublished writings, including her manuscript on Heidegger, her letters, and her journals.

University's Research Ethics Committee, which comprises staff and students from across the University and members external to the University, has overall responsibility for the ethical conduct of research by the unit. All research projects, including PhD research, involving human participants must be considered and approved by the committee. **Whitmore**, as Faculty Research Ethics Officer, leads the unit's engagement with the committee, offering guidance and advice to colleagues on framing their research in accordance with ethical guidelines and maintaining good practice concerning data protection and privacy. In addition to this, questions of how to conduct ethical research are the subject of continuing debate and conversations within the unit and its constituent research groups. **Rosenow**'s above mentioned workshop on the ethics of engaging with indigenous thought and scholars is one such example.

#### 1.7 Future Strategy

The unit's fundamental priorities remain those which have informed strategic planning since 2014. The unit looks to continue to produce research of the highest quality, to further build on the increases in grant income in this cycle and to develop and maintain core staff. The Centre and the research groups remain central to the achievement of these goals. In addition, two further goals have been identified. The first is to maximise the interdisciplinary reach and engagement of our research. The University's recently announced interdisciplinary networks offer a particular opportunity to further develop our existing expertise, especially as members of the unit, such as **Barber** and **Clack**, occupy key roles within these networks (see 1.5 and 4.1). The second goal is to further develop and embed impact and engagement activities. Our strategy thus far has been to focus on policy impact, as seen in the ICS, whilst also encouraging and supporting other forms of impact. Moving forward, the unit seeks to consolidate our existing strengths in policy related impact but also to foster and develop impact in other areas where the unit produces excellent research, such as political theory. **Browne**, for instance, has been involved in a theatrical project supported by the National Theatre Studios on the life of Mary Wollstonecraft ('Hyenas in Petticoats'). She will be involved in later stages of the project as it develops towards a finished play (currently the project is on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic). **Miller**, through appointment to a University level role to embed impact, will provide leadership in this area.

## 2. People

### 2.1: Staffing strategy, support and development

The University made a strategic decision in 2014 to invest in and support research in Politics and International Studies, partly as a result of success in student recruitment. This investment has taken two forms. The first is investing in new, growth appointments at both senior (**Bulley**, Reader, appointed 2017) and early career levels (**Pal**, Lecturer, 2014). This growth has been undertaken in a strategic fashion to support the development of the four research groups identified in section 1.2. **Bulley** was recruited to provide research leadership, especially in Critical Security Studies. Additional recruitment to permanent posts at more junior levels was designed to build in long term sustainability in these areas: **Bee**, appointed 2017 & **Wheatley**, 2016 (State and Society); **Bardin**, 2017 and **Pal**, 2014 (International Political Theory); **Karademir Hazir**, 2016 and **Galam**, 2018 (Culture, Identities and Divisions). Similarly, **de Medeiros** and **Mills** (both 2019), in fixed term positions, have been recruited to support and extend research in International Political Theory.

The second way the University has supported the unit is through rewarding the successes of existing staff with promotions. This has helped to retain the core of the REF2014 staff, providing continuity alongside the expansion of the unit. Twelve members have achieved promotion in this cycle. Two (**Cochran** and **Hurt**) were from Senior Lecturer (SL) to Reader and 10 were from Lecturer to SL (**Hesketh**, **Rosenow**, **Steenkamp**, **Karademir-Hazir**, **Pal**, **Wheatley**, **Bardin**, **Bee**, **Galam** and **Sutton**). **Browne**, who joined Brookes as an ECR in 2013, has since moved from Lecturer through to SL in this cycle. This, and the other promotions attest to the positive staff development within the unit. All Category A staff hold permanent contracts, with the exception of two maternity/research grant replacement posts (**Mills** and **De Medeiros**).

The UoA displays a numerical gender balance (13 of 26 FTE are women) and women hold key roles within the UoA – **Miller** is Research Lead (RL), for example. The unit also draws on talents and abilities from a diverse array of countries, with colleagues from Canada, Germany, Italy, Philippines, Turkey and USA.

Overall management of research within the unit takes place under the auspices of the School of Social Science's RL (**Miller**) and the School's Research Committee, which includes the Postgraduate Research Tutor (PGRT) in order to foster close connections and information sharing with the PhD community. This committee itself sits within the context of a Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee chaired by **Browning** (Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange in the Faculty) and a University Committee chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Global Partnerships. The RL has overall responsibility for the management of research within the unit and reports to monthly School Executive meetings. Specific support on impact related issues comes through the Faculty's Impact Co-ordinator and the Research Impact Officer, working within the University's Research and Business Development Office.

All research active staff benefit from ongoing personal development review, where each colleague is assigned to a senior member of staff who provides advice to support professional career development. In addition, research active staff produce annual research plans, which inform the allocation of research hours to that individuals' workload. Staff are encouraged to outline their immediate research goals, as well as their three-year rolling research plan, including planned research funding applications and impact activities. Research tariffs (which equate to SRR) are allocated in accordance with the university's well-established workload planning framework. At every stage, EDI issues are taken flexibly into account.

All research active staff who are within the first three years of their first academic position benefit from the University's Your First Three Years scheme. This supports ECRs through a combination of funding, mentoring and training activities and has positively impacted research within the unit. For example, **Hesketh** was able to fund language training, an overseas conference and fieldwork in Mexico. These supported successful application to the ISRF Political Economy fellowship

scheme. **Rosenow's** participation in the scheme supported teaching relief which enabled her to develop her monograph, *Un-making environmental activism* (Routledge, 2018) and to successfully apply to the British Academy for the 'Vulnerability and the Politics of Care' workshop (see section 1.2). **Wheatley** used the funds to support his participation in the WhoGetsMyVoteUK Voting Advice Application in the 2017 UK general election and 2019 European elections. The datasets generated are central to his impact work and were an essential source of data for his monograph *The Changing Shape of Politics* (Palgrave).

The establishment of a School level sabbatical scheme was identified as a strategic priority to support research in general, but particularly to increase the number of monographs. Introduced in 2015, the scheme is open to all staff with allocated research hours including those on fixed term and fractional appointments, demonstrating the unit's commitment to an inclusive research environment. £45,000 of QR funding has been committed to the sabbatical scheme, which has so far supported 10 colleagues. The scheme has been instrumental in allowing staff time away from teaching responsibilities to focus on specific research or knowledge exchange activities. **Hurt** and **Miller**, two of the unit's "impact champions" and authors of ICS, have been awarded sabbaticals which have been important for the development of their impact work. Sabbaticals have also been instrumental in aiding colleagues delivering substantial research outputs. **Managhan, Pal, Rosenow** were all able to submit monograph manuscripts following periods of sabbatical leave. It has also enabled the development of successful grant applications (**Hesketh**). Further, the scheme has benefited those who have had periods of maternity leave (**Steenkamp, Barber**) and illness (**Whitmore**) to support their research development.

At University level, staff can apply for CRF Research Excellence awards, to which **Miller** successfully applied in 2016. **Browning** was also awarded a Senior Staff award which facilitated the completion of his Murdoch monograph. The Staff Development and Research Fund is available to support travel, national and international conference attendance and other research related expenses. Funding is distributed through open calls twice per year, to which all research-active staff are invited to apply. Additional funds are available from the Faculty to assist those seeking timely support for one-off projects such as events and conferences (this supported **Rosenow's** workshop on indigenous thought). The RL provides tailored support and mentoring for staff bidding to all of these schemes.

## 2.2 Research Students

The number of PhD completions has increased to 11 (from 9 in REF2014) with two additional students having completed a PhD by published work. This UoA does not have a Professional Doctorate programme. There are also 6 continuing students, which points to the continuing health and vitality of the programme. The graduated PhD cohort exhibits a gender balance of 7 female students and 4 male students. Recruitment of doctoral students for the UoA is handled through the School of Social Science's PGRT. A supervisory team, comprising a Director of Studies and one, or sometimes two, other supervisor(s), is assembled and will interview the candidate. All supervisors are required to undertake the University's training course before they start supervising research students. The PGRT remains in regular contact with both the student and the supervisors and oversees, along with the supervisory team, the key transitions; registration and transfer. The student formally *registers* their project 3-6 months after enrolling. For most students, they are registered onto the MPhil programme and later *transfer* to the PhD programme once they have satisfied the supervisory team, an external reviewer and the University Research Degrees Committee, that substantial progress has been made on the project. PhD students have been supported through a range of different sources, including the *EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie* and *Global Challenges* funds.

PhD students are fully integrated into the research life of the unit. They are encouraged to attend the Centre's research seminar series which, during semester time, hosts a weekly programme of external visiting speakers. They are also expected to join at least one of the Centre's research groups which supports their academic development by providing them with contacts and inputs from beyond their supervisory team. They also attend and present work in progress papers, and

in some instances, help to shape the activities of the groups. For example, Jasmin Dall'Agnola, a current PhD student, worked with **Whitmore**, under the auspices of the State and Society research group, to host the first Eurasian, East and Central European Studies Women's Academics Forum (EECES Women's Academics Forum), at Oxford Brookes in September 2018. A centrepiece for the postgraduate research community within the School of Social Sciences is the annual Postgraduate Research Day, which includes a guest lecture by a prominent external speaker (recent speakers include Cynthia Weber, Andreas Bieler and Lee Jarvis), followed by presentations from current research students.

As well as these activities, PhD students are automatically members of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Doctoral Training Programme (DTP). Established in 2018, the DTP brings together 80 PGR students across the Faculty. It organises two types or levels of event: Faculty-wide events and workshops, pitched at all PGR students and events which are more discipline specific, but which are advertised to and open to all students. These events cover issues such as planning a research project, viva preparation as well as training on specific research methods and techniques. The training events are led by a combination of existing members of staff and external experts. Recent events have included training on "scraping" Twitter (Robert Chestnut, Dublin City University), Discourse Analysis (**Rosenow**) and interviewing (**Hurt**).

The unit has also contributed specific capacity enhancing training for the wider discipline. Two members of the unit, **Whitmore** and Isaacs (who left in 2019), were key members of the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie project *Around the Caspian: a Doctoral Training for Future Experts in Development and Cooperation with Focus on the Caspian Region*, with colleagues from Dublin City University, Ghent University, Tallin University of Technology, University of Bremen, University of Coimbra and University of St Andrews. The project trains the next generation of experts on the Caspian region. As well as directly funding the training of PhD students (Du Boulay) within Brookes, members of the unit contributed to the wider programme of training and development activities. A key part of this was a summer school, organised by the unit and hosted in Tbilisi in May 2018, where staff (**Browning**, **Wheatley** and **Whitmore**) provided training sessions to PhD students from institutions across the programme.

The unit delivers a PhD programme which produces excellent researchers who have contributed to the discipline and sectors beyond academia. The work of the unit's PhD students has been internationally recognised, with Hughes the 2014 recipient of the International Studies Association's Robert W. and Jesse Cox Award for the best graduate student paper of critical inquiry into international relations. Students on the programme have also been successful in publishing single authored articles in respected journals (e.g. Hughes' article in *International Studies Review*; Donoghue's in *British Politics* and Cousen's in *Studies in Social and Political Thought*). A number of the PhD students who graduated in this period have gone on to academic jobs at institutions such as University College Dublin (Donoghue), University of Lincoln (Hughes) and Sheffield Hallam University (Hurley), whilst others have moved to research positions within government (Pitt). A number of those who have not continued in research careers make broader contributions through careers such as psychotherapy (Shallan).

### 2.3 Equality and diversity

The unit is committed to advancing equality of opportunity for all in its research activity and a concern for equality and diversity is embedded in our structures. These are mindful towards the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, pregnancy, parenthood, religion and belief, and sexual orientation. As section 2.1 states, all staff – permanent or fixed term, full time or fractional – are eligible for the School's sabbatical scheme. This scheme has been used to support the research careers of female colleagues returning from maternity leave and colleagues who have been renewing their research careers after long term illness. Eight of the ten sabbaticals awarded have been to women. Flexible working options are also available to staff with caring responsibilities. For example, the university teaching constraints scheme enables staff to organise their teaching week to fit around caring responsibilities. Five of the staff returned to REF2021 have



had some form of maternity, paternity or caring leave during the present REF cycle, as well as a staff member who has had two periods of leave linked to illness.

During the process of developing the UoA's submission, the unit has been fully compliant with Oxford Brookes Code of Practice for REF2021. Of the 28 staff eligible for REF2021, 93% have significant responsibility for research (SRR) with no bias for any of protected characteristics including gender or ethnicity. During preparatory audits, equality impact assessments have been undertaken, and action taken to monitor the distribution of research outputs submitted. For example, in deciding which outputs to submit, the unit has undertaken a review to ensure a spread of work from early career and more established researchers and to ensure a spread across gender. Moreover, the research committee which advised on the choice of outputs for submission contained a gender balance. Average outputs for BAME staff are lower than for white staff. An initial assessment indicates that this relates to the small number of BAME staff within the unit combined with selection of outputs being determined by fit with the UoA. It is, though, an area that will be monitored moving forwards.

Further evidence of the unit's commitment to EDI can be found in other activities of staff. **Miller** was invited to present the University's International Women's Day and Athena Swan lecture on Work/Family Balance (March 2020) and several members of the unit have been part of the successful application to Athena Swan, which resulted in a Bronze award in May 2020.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### 3.1 Income

Increasing external grant income was identified as a strategic priority. This was to be achieved by placing greater emphasis on grant applications through the annual research planning process and by engaging with the mentoring and training activities provided by the Faculty Grants team. The success of this strategy can be seen in that during the assessment period for REF2021, external grant income has more than doubled, rising from £199,886 in REF2014 to £420,132 in REF2021. This increase is not solely down to the increase in the size of the unit, as grant income per FTE has also increased by almost 20%. The success rate of applications in this cycle was 1 in 4.

As well as this increase in income, four other factors point to the increased sustainability and vitality of research grant culture within the UoA. Firstly, the increase in total grant income has gone alongside a near doubling in the number of people securing external grant funding, from 6 in REF2014 to 11 in REF2021. Secondly, there is greater diversity in the funding bodies from which funding has been secured – from four in REF2014 to six in this cycle. Thirdly, this increased grant income has been spread across all the research clusters noted above – Critical Security Studies (**Lister**); International Political Theory (**Hurt, Browne, Hesketh**); State and Society (**Bee, Whitmore**) and Cultures, Identities and Divisions (**Barber, Karademir Hazir, Miller, Galam**). This means that the research specialisms that the unit is developing have sustainable roots through a track record of attracting external funding to support them. Finally, that a number of these grants have been secured by staff at more junior stages of their careers (e.g. **Barber, Browne, Karademir Hazir**), and that some grants (**Whitmore, Steenkamp, Bee**) are ongoing into 2021, further emphasise the future vitality and sustainability of the research grant culture.

This success in grant applications has been fostered by the Faculty Research Grants Panel. Chaired by Edge, the panel pairs applicants with experienced and successful grant writers as mentors. Mentors read and provide advice on early drafts of bids, and final versions are reviewed by an additional member of the grants panel. ECRs are provided with intensive mentoring. In addition to this process, the Grants Panel Chair and research grants officers arrange training opportunities, such as research grant writing training for PhD students and early career researchers, workshops on seeking external fellowships led by those with experience of successful applications, and workshops on planning proposals and managing resubmissions.

### 3.2 Infrastructure and facilities

The University invested c.£100,000,000 in the new John Henry Brookes building which has created a significantly enhanced physical environment for research events. The building hosts the Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society's research seminar series and other events organised by the unit, such as the Eurasian, East and Central European Studies Women's Academics Forum in 2018, the BISA Critical Studies on Terrorism Working Group Annual Conference in 2019 and the Faculty's *Think Human* festivals in 2018 and 2020. The new library has substantial holdings, and electronic subscriptions, to primary and secondary sources relevant to research in politics and cognate areas. Research staff, including PhD students and academic visitors, further benefit from access to the Bodleian Libraries, which provide world-class library resources as well as unique holdings.

The University has invested in the development of six areas of cross university interdisciplinary strength, which are aligned to key funding streams, such as Inclusion, Diversity and Gender; Migration and Refugees; and Healthy Ageing and Care. As noted above (section 1.5) members of the unit hold key positions within these networks. All academic staff have individual offices, with hot desk arrangements for visiting researchers and PhD students. All staff members can apply to the Staff Development and Research fund. A mixture of University funding and QR, the fund not only facilitates the dissemination of research through the funding of national and international conference attendance, but it also supports the research process more broadly. For example, **Steenkamp** funded language training to facilitate her partnership with colleagues in Jordan (see section 1.5) which resulted in a successful BA grant application. **Wheatley** also received funds for the Preference Matcher Consortium's voting advice applications, which have supported his research and impact activities around elections and voting. The Faculty Events fund supports colleagues wishing to host research events at Brookes; the scheme is supporting **Miller's** application for an international PhD workshop for researchers working on families and fatherhood.

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

### 4.1 Collaborations, networks and partnerships

Fostering collaborations and partnerships across the institution and with external partners nationally and internationally, in order to maximise the reach and scope of our research culture, has been a key priority. Success in this goal is evidenced by collaborations which have a truly global reach and scope, with partners in 13 different countries on six different continents. These have been facilitated through a combination of encouraging colleagues to secure external funding and through internal support.

**Whitmore** and Isaac's EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie project *Around the Caspian* and **Rosenow**, **Managhan** and **Browne's** British Academy event *Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Cross-Disciplinary Dialogues* (see section 1.5) are two important examples of externally supported research collaborations. Other examples include **Miller's** British Academy funded project *Being a father and a refugee*. The project, nominated for the Research Project of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards 2019, has been conducted in conjunction with Therése Wissö (Gothenburg University) and Esther Dermott (University of Bristol). **Hurt** was a co-convenor of the ESRC-sponsored seminar series "British Africa Policy after Labour", with Danielle Beswick and Jonathan Fisher (both University of Birmingham), which included colleagues from a range of UK Universities and think tanks based in the UK and Nairobi, Kenya. **Hurt** also organised with William Brown (Open University) the BISA funded seminar 'African National Development Plans'. **Bee** retains connections with Ayhan Kaya (Istanbul Bilgi University) from his prior Marie Curie funded project on *The Europeanisation of Organised Civil Society in Turkey*. **Karademir Hazir** is currently working as an overseas researcher on a Scientific and Technological Council of Turkey project 'The Transformation of the Fields of Art in Turkey'. **Barber's** research network around Vietnamese migration, with Phuc Nguyen from Trung Vuong University was supported with a BA Newton Mobility Grant and her British Academy grant 'Becoming East and Southeast Asian: Youth Politics of Belonging' has been conducted with Diana Yeh (London City University). **Whitmore** is currently

working on a British Academy Small Grant with Bettina Renz (University of Nottingham) on Ukrainian military reforms.

Collaborative research at national and international levels has also been supported by internal funds. **Wheatley**'s work as a founder member of the Preference Matcher consortium has received support to work with colleagues from the University of Zurich, University of Twente and Cyprus University of Technology to develop voter advice applications. **Steenkamp**'s collaboration with Professor Mayyada Wazaify (University of Jordan) was supported by the sabbatical scheme. **Barber** and **Miller** have received support from the University's International Collaborative Research and Travel Awards.

Members of the unit have extensive networks. **Bardin** is a founder member of CIDES (Centre International des études Simondoniennes), based in Paris and is a member of a Latin American network devoted to the study of Simondon, with Pablo Rodriguez (University of Buenos Aires); Mario Spezzapria (University of Sao Paulo); Fernanda Bruno (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro); Lina Marcela Gil (University of Medellin). **Ford** has an ongoing collaboration with Gabriela Kuetting, Rutgers University. **Pal**'s recent volume *The Extraterritoriality of Law* (Routledge, 2019) was co-edited with Daniel S. Margolies (Virginia Wesleyan University), Umut Özsu (Carleton University) and Ntina Tzouvala (Melbourne Law School). **Galam** was a visiting scholar at Freie Universität Berlin in 2019 and continues to collaborate with colleagues at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. **Harris** is part of an international network on critical theory, which includes Michael J Thompson (William Paterson, NJ) and Gerard Delanty (Sussex, UK).

As well as these international partnerships, members of the unit work extensively with colleagues in the UK. **Rosenow** has established collaborations with Lara Coleman (University of Sussex) and Elissa Randazzo (University of Hertfordshire). **Lister**'s collaboration with Lee Jarvis (University of East Anglia), underpinned by an earlier ESRC grant, led to the publication of two books and six journal articles, as well as a range of impact activities. **Sutton** has worked with Pinar Donmez (University of West England), James Brassett (Warwick University) and Kate Law (University of Nottingham). **Bulley**'s book project on the Grenfell Tower disaster was in conjunction with Jenny Edkins (University of Manchester) and Nadine El-Enany (Birkbeck University). **Bardin**, **Browne**, **Browning** and **Rosenow** have collaborated with Brunel University's political theorists in a Political Thought Cluster, run a workshop 'Interventions in Political Thought' at Oxford Brookes in 2018 and have staged workshops, developed ideas and gained funding support from the Political Thought group of the PSA.

#### *4.2 Contribution to the economy and society*

Research from the unit has informed and changed policy, institutions and behaviours in a wide range of contexts with stakeholders at local, national and international levels. The breadth and range of these attest to the reach and significance of the unit's research and impact at this point in time, but also point to the sustainability of this into the next REF cycle.

**Miller**'s research has helped to shape national and international equality policies and service-delivery guidelines on gender equality and parental leave and well-being with the UK government, EU and the World Health Organisation (ICS#1). **Miller**'s research was cited to support a key recommendation in the Parliamentary Women and Equalities Committee's 2018 report 'Fathers in the workplace' and an EU report on paternal involvement in caring. Her ongoing relationship with the Government Equalities Office and the dissemination of her research around parental leave is described by the GEO as having "substantial impact" on their work. Through her appointments to the WHO Guideline Development Group (2014) and Advisory committee on Midwifery Education (2018), **Miller**'s research findings on care, family transitions and gender equality have contributed to WHO recommendations and guidelines on maternity practices in relation to service provision at time of birth and the use of traditional birth attendants.

**Hurt's** research expertise on the EU's trade and development relationship with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states has directly impacted contemporary debates on ensuring post-Brexit UK-Africa trade policy is mutually beneficial (ICS#2). As the UK prepares to negotiate new trade agreements, **Hurt** has been a key expert and contributor at national and international levels with policymakers and important civil society organisations. His research shaped the terms of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Africa's enquiry into Economic Partnership Agreements in 2017. The subsequent report, to which **Hurt** contributed, has been widely discussed in Parliament, shaping the terms of the debate around post-Brexit trade with ACP states. In 2017, **Hurt** responded to the UK government's white paper 'Preparing for our future UK trade policy', and was subsequently invited to give evidence to the Department of International Trade. These interventions, around trade and poverty reduction, led the Department to attest that **Hurt's** research "will inform our future policy". Early in 2020, **Hurt** organised a parliamentary symposium together with the APPG for Africa and the APPG for Trade Justice on trade with Africa. In late 2020, he produced a policy briefing for the APPG for Africa outlining the challenges and opportunities that Brexit affords UK trade policy with respect to Africa.

**Edge's** unique knowledge of the Isle of Man's legal system has been decisive in shaping fundamental elements of two issues (ICS#3). The first relates to the functioning of the Manx Parliament (the Tynwald) and the second, the state of Emergency under which the Isle of Man was governed during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, between March and June 2020. His work led to identifiable changes in primary and secondary legislation. The contemporary legislative and public debate over the future of the Legislative Council of Tynwald, and in particular the role of the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man in that Council, has been fundamentally structured by **Edge's** work as evidenced through explicit citation of his research by legislators during key debates on constitutional change. Through a real-time critique of the Emergency Powers Regulations (EPRs), **Edge's** expertise was also a unique asset to members of Tynwald and the Council of Ministers, as well as the Manx community as it responded to the global crisis – improving legislation governing every facet of the day to day lives of Manx residents during the 2020 pandemic.

Beyond the ICS, research across the unit produces impact and sustains relationships with key audiences and users of research. **Wheatley's** work as part of the Preference Matcher Consortium, in creating Voting Advice Applications (VAA) has generated significant engagement with voters across Europe, with the 2014 version used for the European Parliamentary Elections being accessed by a million voters in 28 different EU countries. A UK version, WhoGetsMyVoteUK, created for the 2017 General Election, was accessed 100,000 times. Moreover, evidence gathered by **Wheatley** and fellow researchers suggests that VAA use has had an impact on the voting preferences of users. Having completed the VAA, voters were found to be more likely to vote in a way that reflected their policy preferences. Other scholars find that VAA use has a positive effect on turnout. **Lister's** research on the impact of counter terrorism policies on communities in the UK has shaped the thinking of the Home Office (as an invited keynote to a seminar on the review of the CONTEST strategy in April 2016 and another as part of a September 2020 CREST workshop on Public Experiences of the UK Counter Terrorism System) and police officers (at an event in 2014, one third of the officers who attended said it would lead to changes in their practice).

**Steenkamp**, in 2018 was invited by NATO Allied Command Transformation to participate in a workshop on counterterrorism policies in the Middle East. It was attended by high level military commanders, including generals from the US army, as well as representatives from EU. The discussions at the workshop were used to directly inform policymaking in NATO. Following the 2014 revolution in Ukraine, **Whitmore** was invited to lead a series of briefings to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including in May 2014 as an expert participant in a High Level Seminar on Future Relations with Russia, chaired by the Minister for Europe Rt. Hon. David Lidington MP. **Bee** was invited to participate as a key expert at the 'Third Civil Society Seminar on 'Strengthening the Involvement of Civil Society in the European Semester' in October 2019, in Brussels. The event was organized by the European Centre of Expertise in the field of labour law, employment and labour market policies and was sponsored by the European Commission, DG Employment,



Social Affairs and Inclusion. **Bee's** Jean Monet Module *Challenges to European Integration: multidisciplinary perspectives* has a series of engagement activities with civil society and policy makers, running into 2022.

Beyond these impact and knowledge exchange activities at the policy level, the unit has also engaged at the community level. **Barber's** research on the Vietnamese diaspora in the UK has been used by artists to inform and modify artistic representations of this community. This has included an event at the British Academy Summer Showcase event in June 2018, which featured performances by the poet/comedienne Anna Chen and the performance artist Will Pham (Royal Academy of Arts). Barber has also consulted for the playwright Rebecca Cruickshank, providing insights into the experience of undocumented migrants to the UK, Vietnamese culture and the established community in the UK. **Mills**, as part of the University's *Think Human* festival, organised a performance on dance and human rights. **Bulley's** work on the Grenfell Tower tragedy has fed into community engagement and debates, with collaborations with poets and artists.

#### 4.3 Contribution to the research base

The unit make significant contributions to the wider discipline. A number of the unit's membership perform editorial roles for journals. **Pal** is chair and coordinating editor of *Historical Materialism*, **Rosenow** is associate editor for *Security Dialogue*, **Clack** is a member of the Executive Editorial Board of *Feminist Theology*, **Browne** is a member of the editorial collective for *Radical Philosophy* and **Miller** is an editor for *Families, Relationships and Societies*. In addition to these, members of the unit are on the editorial boards for journals including *Critical Studies on Terrorism* (**Lister**) and *Sociological Review*, and *Sociology* (**Karademir Hazir**) *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Studies in Marxism*, *the Hegel Bulletin*, *Studies in Marxism* and *Australian Political Studies* (all **Browning**).

Staff have served as members of grants committees for the Research Council of Norway (**Whitmore**), the Icelandic Centre for Research, the Medical Research Council (both **Miller**), Killam Prize, Canada Council for the Arts (**Clack**), the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) Argentina (**Bardin**), the Oxford ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (both **Hurt**). **Browning** (AHRC) and **Lister** (ESRC) have served on the peer review colleges for RCUK funders.

Members of the unit also serve executive roles for learned societies and associations. **Browning** is a member of the panel for sub-panel 19: Politics and International Studies for REF2021, on the executive board for the Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought, co-convenor of the annual Conference for Political Thought of the Britain and Ireland APT, a member of the Council of the Hegel Society of Great Britain, part of the Advisory Group of IAA of the ESRC and the editor of the *International Political Theory* book series with Palgrave Macmillan. **Rosenow** is the Chair of the International Political Sociology section for the International Studies Association. **Lister** served as co-convenor of the British International Studies Association's Critical Studies on Terrorism Working Group and **Karademir Hazir** is a board member of the European Sociological Association and the International Sociological Association. **Harris** is a committee member of the Marx and Philosophy Society.

The research of the unit has also been recognised in a number of ways by national and international audiences. **Clack** is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. **Browning's** *Why Iris Murdoch Matters* was non-fiction book of the year in The Lonely Crowd magazine (2019). **Galam's** work has been nominated for the SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence (2020) and **Managhan's** monograph *Unknowing the War on Terror* has been nominated for the International Studies Association - International Political Sociology Section 2021 book award. Miller's 'Being a Refugee and a Dad' research project was shortlisted for the THE Social Sciences Project of the Year (2019). The contributions of the PhD community have been recognised, with Hughes' the recipient of the 2014 International Studies Association's Robert W. and Jesse Cox Award.

The contributions to and engagement with the wider discipline are also evidenced in the broad range of keynotes and invited lectures which members of the unit have delivered. A number of

these have been international invitations, such as the keynotes given by **Barber** (Ghana and Vietnam), **Bardin** (Argentina, Canada and Brazil), **Bee** (Belgium), **Browning** (Hungary and Portugal), **Clack** (Australia and USA), **Harris** (India), **Hesketh** (Mexico), **Miller** (Chile, Germany and Australia) and **Whitmore** (Ukraine and Finland). A wide range of invited talks have also been delivered at institutions across the United Kingdom. Links with international and UK institutions are further entrenched in a number of visiting fellowships, such as those held by **Clack** (Visiting Professor at University of San Diego), **Pal** (member of Centre for Advanced International Theory, University of Sussex), **Sutton** (Research Fellow, International Studies Group, University of the Free State and **Whitmore** (Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Russian and Eurasian and European Studies (CREES), University of Birmingham). **Whitmore** has also served on the advisory board for the AHRB project 'Ukraine's Hidden Tragedy' with colleagues at the University of Birmingham, Oxford and L'viv universities. In addition to this, members of the unit have acted as external examiners for PhDs in the UK and internationally. Peer review for both publishers and scholarly journals is an activity which is routinely undertaken by members of the unit, with colleagues conducting reviews for 54 different journals and 10 publishers.