

<b>Institution: City, University of London</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>Established just 12 years ago, the Department of International Politics (part of City, University of London's School of Arts &amp; Social Sciences) has continued its rapid growth from 12 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in the previous REF to the current figure of 27.2 FTEs. As in the previous REF, our young Department is still composed largely of early career researchers (ECRs). Of our 28 (headcount) members of staff, 20 joined in this REF period and 16 of those joined in the past three years. The Department has made remarkable advances during this REF period in developing its external funding strategy, having increased its income from £17,500 in REF 2014 to £2 million in this exercise. We awarded 15 doctoral degrees during this cycle compared to just 5 during the previous period. From our modest beginnings, we are now a vibrant research unit with a well-established reputation as a major force in the discipline, delivering timely, prescient insights across various areas of enquiry while effecting positive change within societies as they grapple with the ever-changing and tumultuous arena of politics both in the UK and around the world.</p> <p>The Department's growth follows a strategic plan for enhancing our research, community engagement and education. Our hallmark is rigour and openness towards new approaches to the subject while at the same time maintaining its traditional strengths. This is achieved by pursuing an orientation towards research in innovative subfields, such as Comparative Politics, Political Economy and International History coupled with concentrated engagement with policymakers and other stakeholders supplemented by extensive press and media engagement. During this REF period, as well as doubling its annual internal research support budget (to around £34,000 per annum), the Department intensified its institutional support for grant capture and media engagement to raise the profiles of academic staff, ensure stakeholder outreach (through interactions with politicians and regulators) and undertake dissemination (including outputs designed to engage practitioners). The success of this strategy is evidenced in the sharp increase in our grant income, a very high media presence in top-tier UK and international media outlets, and our three impact case studies: <b>McDowell's</b> 'Changing International Policy to Improve Legal Protections and Resettlement Outcomes for Refugees and Other Displaced Persons'; <b>Murphy's</b> 'Tax Spillovers in Global Civil Society: Building Understanding and Changing Policy'; and <b>Palan's</b> 'A New Equity-apping Forensic Technique to Prevent Illicit Financial Flows, Improve Corporate Regulation, and Aid Investigative Journalism'. These efforts underscore the capacity of our intellectual efforts to effect positive change in society.</p> <p>Our researchers authored an impressive 23 single and co-authored book manuscripts during the REF period, of which 14 were published by university presses (including Cambridge, Oxford, Princeton, Cornell, Stanford and Johns Hopkins). Others were published by prestigious multinational outlets such as Penguin, Hurst and Routledge. Members of the Department authored nearly 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, including several in some of the highest-ranking outlets in our field, such as the <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, <i>International Security</i>, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i>, the <i>Journal of International Business Policy</i>, the <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, the <i>Journal of Peace Research</i>, <i>Political Geography</i>, <i>Political Psychology</i>, <i>Review of International Political Economy</i> and <i>Socio-Economic Review</i>.</p> <p><b>Structure of the Unit</b></p> <p>The Department produces excellent scholarship in three core areas: International Political Economy, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, and International Social Justice. The strength in International Political Economy was bolstered during this REF period by the recruitment of five additional members (<b>Benton, Hager, Lysandrou, Madani</b> and <b>Sgambati</b>); the Foreign Policy and Diplomacy group was enhanced by the hiring of <b>Innes</b> and <b>Swenson</b>; and four new hires have a focus on International Social Justice (<b>Blunt, Fleischman, Schouenborg</b> and</p>

**Slootmaeckers**). We have also made strategic investments to build research capacity in new areas – in the emerging field of Comparative Politics (**Kovras, Kutlay, Rasaratnam** and **Vossing**) and in Modern History (**Barnes, Butler, Fainberg, Mulich** and **Rosenboim**). We have also cultivated expertise in the important new subdiscipline of Quantitative Political Economy, encompassing research into recently digitised historical data sets as well as the 'big data' that has become available, as evidenced in publications of **Benton, Hager, Lysandrou, Pagliari, Palan, Slootmaeckers** and **Vossing**.

The intellectual life of our Department is greatly enhanced through our three main research centres: City Political Economy Research Centre (CITYPERC), the Centre for International Policy (CIPS) and the Centre for Modern History (CMH). We also participate in two interdisciplinary centres: the Q-Step Centre (**Slootmaeckers**) and the Violence and Society Research Centre (**Innes**). The three main centres reflect the current research agendas of our faculty and are the major fulcrum for raising external research funding. They are directed and managed by a faculty member and supported by a departmental administrator. The directors have responsibility for shaping the research agenda of their centre, managing its funding and linking its work to the wider mission of the School. The centres have lively seminar and events series that bring together members of faculty and students, and they provide important links between theoretical research and the practical needs of non-academic audiences, including policymakers, journalists and those working in the third sector. Workshops organised by the research centres and funded by the Department are designed to bring groups of academics together for the purpose of making funding applications.

#### *City Political Economy Research Centre (CITYPERC)*

CITYPERC co-hosts the annual international conference of the Tax Justice Network (TJN), one of the most successful international networks of activists and researchers committed to social justice and fair taxation. It also hosted the inaugural annual conference of the Finance and Society Network in 2016 and further conferences in 2017 and 2019, each of which was attended by more than 150 delegates from across the world. CITYPERC has supported the Department's impact efforts by running several invite-only workshops with academics, policymakers and researchers from non-governmental organisations. Such meetings have included two events supporting **Nesvetailova's** participation in the advisory committee for the UK's Shadow Cabinet, with around 25 attendees. CITYPERC has also organised smaller workshops with KPMG, the TJN and the *Financial Times*. These efforts led to invitations to present at Chatham House (**Nesvetailova**) and the 2017 *Financial Times* Festival (**Palan**), an invitation to join the International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators (**Nesvetailova**), and various invitations to deliver keynotes at the annual conferences of specialist organisations, such as Tax Link (**Palan**) and the Financial Services Centres Annual Report, the body representing European tax-planning lawyers (**Palan**). CITYPERC is also home to collaborative research funding efforts, including a European Research Council advanced grant with the Copenhagen Business School and a Horizon 2020 grant with CBS, The University of Utrecht, Warwick Business School, Tax Justice Network, Charles University in Prague and Kemmy Business School, Limerick

#### *Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS)*

Between 2014 and 2017, the CIPS, which blends work on Area Studies, International Relations and Comparative Politics, hosted the Middle East Forum, bringing together academics and practitioners working on Middle East Studies. The CIPS also hosted events relating to the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Research Network on the Presidency of Barack Obama; the Global Knowledge and World Orders; the 1919–2019 Network; and the World Order Watch, an international network of leading scholars from a range of universities (including Aberystwyth, Amsterdam and American University in Washington, DC). In addition, the CIPS hosted several international conferences and workshops on topics including social movements and non-governmental organisations (**Davies**), US and Middle East foreign policy (**Aran** and **Parmar**), foreign policy analysis (**Aran**) and ethics in world politics (**Hirst, Kovras** and **Rasaratnam**). Such collaborations go hand in hand with the funded grants yielded by CIPS members (**Kovras** and **McDowell**). The CIPS further welcomed presentations by Israel's Deputy Prime Minister,

Dan Meridor, and received visiting research fellows from China and India to facilitate a joint project culminating in a successful Global Challenges Research Fund grant application and two collaborative journal articles. The CIPS's projects with scholars from the Free University Amsterdam have led to several publications that have combined historical, International Relations and International Political Economy approaches to American power and Sino-US relations. In 2017 CIPS hosted a delegation from the Henan Administration Institute in China.

#### *Centre for Modern History (CMH)*

The CMH was launched in 2018 to serve as a platform for public engagement by our Department's historians (**Barnes, Butler, Fainberg, Mulich and Rosenboim**) and has rapidly developed many intellectual and impact-oriented activities. It aims to serve as a vehicle for advancing interdisciplinary research, bringing together in its membership historians, political scientists, economists, voluntary sector studies experts and sociologists. Together with the CIPS, it also seeks to facilitate close collaborative approaches to foreign policy, diplomacy and international political justice, combining political science methods with historical archival work. The CMH's inaugural conference in 2019 ('Food and International Thought') brought together a transatlantic panel of academics with representatives from international journalism and cultural bodies such as London's Victoria and Albert Museum. Perspectives from CMH members have been sought on an array of contemporary issues by media organisations such as the BBC and ITV. CMH staff have also been engaged by policy institutes (such as The Young Foundation) in areas of their expertise with respect to social inequalities.

#### **Research and Impact Strategy**

Our research and impact strategy for 2014–2020 was designed to support individual research ambitions by first identifying areas of existing research strengths, then building on these by making appointments in areas close to the research interests of existing staff, thereby reinforcing these areas. The areas of existing strengths are in the fields of International Political Economy, Foreign Policy Studies and International Social Justice. We also wanted to inject new vigour into the Department and so we made strategic investments to build research capacity in new areas that address contemporary challenges and subsequently are more likely to attract funding. The new specialisms are in Comparative Politics (complementing our existing strength in International Political Economy) and Modern History (complementing our existing work in foreign policy studies). At the same time, we continually strove to raise the profiles of academic staff who publish world-leading research through press and media activity, and our decisions around hiring and rewards took into account existing and potential engagement with stakeholders.

The Department also sought to encourage cross-fertilisation between different research agendas, both within academia and beyond, by creating and supporting departmental research centres and informal research clusters, and by encouraging staff participation in University interdisciplinary centres. Generally, the Unit sought to consolidate expertise in theory, methodology and empirical approaches to produce both rigorous academic outputs and selected practitioner-oriented research outputs or theory-to-practice thought experiments. The goal was to engage wider and newer audiences who were energised by the recent exceptionally turbulent period in politics both domestically and internationally, especially in the US under the administration of President Trump and, in the UK, against the backdrop of three general elections in only four years and the fallout of the Brexit referendum.

Broadly consistent with the research budget of the previous REF period on a per capita basis, the Department's annual research budget allocates approximately £1,200 per FTE, totalling approximately £34,000. The Department further supports conferences and workshops taking place at City, with between £2,000 and £3,000 allocated for this purpose each year. We have sought to build a supportive culture and encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas through weekly departmental research seminars and the appointment of fellows from related disciplines and with real-world experience to our research centres. Some seminars serve as forums for our faculty and doctoral students to present their work internally; at these seminars, we aim to create a more informal atmosphere than our normal 'external' seminars allow. Work at all stages is

welcome, including projects at the early design stage and also 'revise and resubmits', where the presenter is looking for ideas on tackling specific referees' comments. The idea is to be constructive and to help the person presenting to progress.

Colleagues are encouraged to set their own research goals, confident that they will be fully supported in attempts to open up new ground for their specialist subfield. Their efforts are supported by the Department's Research Committee, which continually reviews the practices in the Unit (including having oversight of new entrants' career progression), monitors the PhD Programme and reinforces the culture of grant-seeking among staff. In this regard, the Committee set up a series of interviews with successful grant holders across the UK and Europe. In addition, the Committee organised a number of departmental seminars on the topic of grant capture, including presentations by successful grant holders to our early career researchers.

Since 2014, the Department has benefited from the support of an Impact Support Officer, who provides detailed strategic advice and practical support to individual researchers and clusters of researchers, helping them to identify, generate and capture research impact from funded and unfunded research projects. While this role was introduced for REF 2021, it leaves an enduring legacy of strengthened links with government, industry, the media and other stakeholders. Our media engagement has been outstanding, with upwards of 5,000 media mentions each year (see Section 4). We also operate the City Politics Podcast, introduced in 2020, which has already enjoyed much success in terms of attracting listeners and should play an important role in delivering future impact.

### **Open Scholarship**

The Department is committed to open scholarship and research integrity. In addition to placing our outputs on the institutional repository, City Research Online, our researchers publish their work on open access platforms including SSRN (the Social Science Research Network). Moreover, 95% of our Category A submitted staff have an ORCID registration, which facilitates the discovery of faculty research and ensures they receive due credit. Around 50% of the Unit's publications on Web of Science since 2016 have been open access; this number is high given that many hires are from overseas, where open access is not common practice.

### **Research Ethics and Integrity**

Staff in the Unit conduct their research to the highest standards. To ensure this is the case, we conduct research ethics and integrity workshops for our staff and PhD students, and specialist advice is available on the ethical implications of research proposals. Ethical reviews and approvals to ensure that research involving human participants or the use of personal data – whether undertaken by faculty, staff or student researchers – are undertaken in conformity with the law and in accordance with best practice. Low-risk projects are approved within the Department, mid-risk projects are approved by the School Ethics Committee (which has membership from across the School) and high-risk projects (e.g. research involving viewing terrorist material) goes to the Senate Research Ethics Committee. There is an online University tool (Haplo Ethics Monitor) that assists researchers through the process.

### **Future Plans**

Our future research and impact strategy consists of five main elements.

First, we believe in the importance of promoting a dual strategy of scholarly research and societal impact by fostering feedback loops between the two – for example, the involvement of partners tends to improve the quality of research questions. However, in order for this dual strategy to grow, scholarship needs to be translated through the process of engagement with users and policymakers, and embedded to make it useful and relevant. Staff are recognised for engaging with the wider community and are supported by a Knowledge Exchange Manager, an Impact Support Officer, and press, media and web content teams. In keeping with the growing

importance of research impact, we increasingly ask candidates interviewed for academic positions to describe their research impact strategy at job presentations.

Second, we will continue to foreground the role of the research centres in fostering grant capture and impact activities. Each of our centres is making plans to ensure that past successes can be extended into the future. CITYPERC has appointed **Hager** and **Samman** to Deputy Director positions and tasked them with a strategic review. The CIPS is developing a new range of student-centred initiatives that may serve as models for other centres with a view to stimulating new ideas and perspectives on our colleagues' research projects and potentially encouraging new doctoral students. The CMH has begun to strike up external partnerships with relevant bodies, including the Centre for Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Birmingham and the Institute of Historical Research in the School of Advanced Study at the University of London. In all cases, emphasis is being actively placed on planning for change, development and sustainability.

Third, we will continue with our targeted recruitment and retention strategy (see Section 2) while recognising that there is strength in diversity of subdisciplinary coverage. We plan to hire seven new posts in the next two years, comprising one chair (in Modern History) and six lecturers: one in Politics, two in International Political Economy, two in International Politics, and one in both International Politics and International Political Economy. Additionally, **Benton** and **Vossing** are developing ideas for formalising a new Quantitative Political Science and Economy research group. Equally important is staff retention. As our ECRs transition to mid-career, we expect them to take on greater responsibilities in their disciplinary networks and associations, but they can only meet these expectations if they have reasonable teaching workloads and academic support.

Fourth, whereas the Unit had successes during this REF period in obtaining a number of prestigious grants (see Section 3), we recognise the need for wider participation in grant capture. The Department's strategy is therefore oriented towards the development of teams of researchers within the Unit, the University and beyond to sustain a high level of grant applications.

Fifth, our strategy aims to develop a stronger postgraduate research community, both through recruitment and by continuing to host research students from other universities. We currently have 25 PhD students and are aiming to raise this number to around 30 in the coming years. Participation in an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) doctoral training centre is a key objective, as is developing training and research facilities more broadly in conjunction with City's Doctoral College. We also aim to undertake more collaborative supervision – and supervision across Units of Assessment – of our PhD students in the future.

## 2. People

### Staffing Strategy

The University has invested heavily in the Department of International Politics since 2014 under the pillar of its institutional Vision and Strategy 2026 related to growth. City targeted existing disciplines (including Politics and new related areas, such as Modern History, Comparative Politics and International Political Economy) for expansion in the first half of its ten-year plan. These were identified as the areas with the closest potential synergies with our existing research excellence. The growth was funded by the strategic investment fund and sustained by an increase in student numbers.

The Unit's policy is to recruit the best staff it can identify and then to provide them with the support and freedom to excel. Our approach to recruitment is three-fold: we exploit existing staff networks to make appointments in areas close to the research interests of existing staff, thereby reinforcing these areas; we make fast-track appointments in any area with the aim of promoting new vigour in the School; and we make strategic investments to build research capacity in new areas.

Turnover is relatively low at about three members of staff per year. Many of the individuals who departed during the most recent REF period returned to their country of origin. Our ability to avoid staff losses close to the REF census date, while clearly helped by the REF 'rules', was facilitated by our supportive and inclusive research culture and a consciously proactive attitude to staff retention, backed by the institution and by a willingness to pay competitive salaries.

Since REF 2014, the Department has benefited from its growing national and international reputation and has been able to attract scholars of the highest calibre. The majority of our new recruits joined City after holding postdoctoral positions at prestigious universities such as Harvard (Hager and Vossing), Stanford (Barnes), Cambridge (Blunt, Butler, Mulich and Rosenboim) and the London School of Economics (Swenson). Four of our new recruits were promoted to senior lecturer during this REF period (Barnes, Rosenboim, Sloomaeckers and Swenson), joining three of our ECRs from the previous REF period (Davies, Pagliari and Samman).

The Department's strategy on expansion has been to focus on ECRs, with the objective of attracting talent early on and developing it internally through a strong mentoring scheme. Of the 28 FTEs in the current REF submission, 20 were recruited during this REF period, and for 12 of them this was their first permanent academic position. Each cluster develops through the leadership and direction of a senior academic. Palan and Parmar were recruited during the previous REF period to cultivate the clusters in International Political Economy and Foreign Policy Studies, while Kovras was recruited to develop Comparative Politics but departed in 2020 to join the University of Cyprus. His post will be replaced in 2021. The Modern History cluster will be headed by a chair, recruited in the next two years.

### Staff Development

All Category A submitted staff have permanent posts. The only fixed-term appointments to have passed through the Department since 2014 have been research assistants, postdoctoral fellows and teaching fellows. In addition, all academic staff – whether they have a 'research and education' or an 'education-only' role type – are treated in the same way when it comes to bidding for departmentally approved support. Among other things, this makes it possible for all staff to attend leading international conferences. Both postdoctoral fellows and education-only faculty tell us that they appreciate the access to departmental resources and the training opportunities we provide via the University's Learning Enhancement and Development team. The only aspect of our facilitative research culture that fixed-term staff members cannot access is sabbatical leave.

ECRs are supported through the provision of competitive pump-priming grants for larger research projects. Pump-priming grants in the region of £4,000 were awarded during this REF period to four early career researchers (**Butler, Hager, Rosenboim and Swenson**) and two mid-career scholars (**Aran and Pagliari**). The Department and the School also run seminars on how to craft a successful grant application and provide introductory seminars with representatives of funding bodies. A range of other types of training is available, covering topics such as effective writing for research grant applications, research integrity and publication ethics, UK research council mock panels and skills for doctoral researchers writing up theses. We also hold an ECR development day. Equally, if individuals have needs that are not being met through the current portfolio, they can raise this with the Research & Faculty Office, which will endeavour to source appropriate skills training.

The Department takes a hands-on approach to nurturing early career researchers. All new colleagues are appointed a mentor, who observes and provides feedback on draft articles, grants, and book proposals and manuscripts, while also offering guidance on other aspects of their mentee's career development. We maintain a fair and transparent work allocation model, including details of teaching, marking and administrative loads. Staff surveys reveal that the vast majority of colleagues feel supported by the Department and have a clear idea of their career progression via annual appraisals.

The School also maintains a depository of successful grant applications. Wherever possible, the Department aims to reduce the administrative burden on colleagues in the early stages of their career by linking them with a more experienced colleague who 'clears their path' through the University processes so they may focus more intensively on research projects and grant applications.

Mentoring and support of a broadly similar nature is provided to mid-career colleagues as well. A panel composed of senior academics considers, on an annual basis, the publications of all members of the Department. Each published item is ranked using the REF criteria, with additional commentary provided on the strengths and weaknesses of the publication. Panels are often followed by one-to-one 'debriefing' meetings with colleagues to help them improve the quality of their research outputs. In addition, there is a yearly appraisal process for all academic staff, with discussion focused on aims, goals and ways of supporting colleagues' career development.

As part of its staff development strategy, the Department seeks to provide colleagues with the time needed not only to conduct research but also to write, reflect on and develop new research projects. The Department ensures that colleagues are able to devote at least 40% of their time to research. Moreover, whenever possible, the Department accommodates colleagues' research preferences to alternate between teaching and research-heavy terms. The third-year undergraduate teaching curriculum, in particular, is closely aligned with individual staff members' current research projects.

The University supports the Department's efforts by allowing one term of sabbatical per seven terms of full-time teaching, research and administration. Staff took approximately 63 months of sabbatical leave during the most recent REF period. Sabbatical leave was central to many of our key research outputs. For example, sabbaticals were used to support the completion of **Aran's**, **Fleischman's** and **Samman's** monographs. **Parmar** used his sabbatical leave to be a visiting fellow at Princeton and the Rothermere American Institute (University of Oxford), and **Palan** was a visiting professor at Luiss (Rome) during his sabbatical. Sabbaticals also enabled our ECRs to develop their profile. Going forward we will seek, through annual appraisals and mentorship, to encourage more colleagues to take advantage of sabbatical leave.

In recognition of the challenges associated with running large research projects, the School has devised a Research Sustainability Fund, whereby a proportion of grant overheads, amounting to 8% of the grant plus one third of the income associated with the principal investigator's (PI) time, are returned to the lead researcher. These funds are accessible to the PI and can be used for research activities such as academic visits, the hiring of additional research assistance, bridging salaries for research assistants, equipment, workshops and (subject to approval) teaching buy-out.

Our promotions strategy has been to back talent when we see its potential and we are not curtailed by financial considerations. Career development is assisted by the running of annual academic promotion seminars in order to demystify the criteria and process of making applications. There are also opportunities to hear the experiences of those who went through the process in previous years. Our current career pyramid of Category A submitted staff is approximately 7:1 non-professorial to professorial staff ratios, but this ratio is not fixed and we expect that over time it will fall as our less experienced colleagues gain promotions to higher-level positions.

During this REF period there were nine promotions: one to professor (**Nesvetailova**), one to reader (**Kovras**) and seven to senior lecturer (**Barnes, Davies, Hager, Pagliari, Rosenboim, Sloodmaeckers** and **Swenson**). Given that many staff only took up their first permanent academic post in the Unit during this REF period, promotions to senior lecturer are significant achievements for the individuals and signal that staff are finding a 'home' in the Unit.

Lastly, our Academic Visitor Programme hosted six scholars during this REF period, including Prof. Benjamin Cohen of the University of California, Santa Barbara; Prof. Jean-Christophe Graz of the University of Lausanne; and Prof. Donald Abelson of Western University, Canada.

### Equality and Diversity

The Department is a keen advocate of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research careers. We organise our own Unit-level EDI training sessions with invited speakers addressing issues relating to race, gender and sexuality. **Fleischman** and **Slotmaeckers** run a seminar on inclusive teaching, covering topics such as non-conforming genders and diversity planning.

The Unit is a multinational and multiculturally diverse group of scholars from 13 nations and diverse ethnic groups. In terms of gender balance, 39% members of our staff are female. They make up 25% of the professoriate, 36% of senior lecturers and readers, and 46% of lecturers. The recipient of our first internal promotion to professor in the history of the Department was a woman (**Nesvetailova**). There were two additional promotions of female colleagues, from lecturer to senior lecturer (**Barnes** and **Rosenboim**). Regarding senior leadership roles, a woman served as Head of Department in 2019–2020 (**Nesvetailova**) and another served as Deputy Head of Department in 2020–2021 (**Benton**). A non-white member of staff served as Head of Department from 2015–2019 (**Parmar**).

As outlined in our REF5a statement, the University provides a supportive environment in which EDI values are championed and maintained. For example, the Learning Enhancement and Development Unit strongly encourages the further professional development of women in leadership initiatives; the University has a family-friendly policy such that members of staff can opt for a teaching schedule that accommodates their commitments at home (such as no teaching after 4pm); and an optional sabbatical is available for those returning from maternity or adoption leave (three members of staff took up this option during this REF period). Childcare is a recognised expense item for conference attendance funding. Finally, the Athena SWAN initiative has full support at the Department, School and University levels.

Each year since 2011, the Department has conducted an exercise to monitor the quality of the research outputs of our academic staff in between the external reviews provided by REF. The output grading process is conducted by a departmental panel with external assessors. In line with the Athena SWAN award, senior management in Schools who decide on panel or subpanel membership must consider EDI matters within their panels. A maximum of four research outputs must be listed against each member of staff included in the submission. Members of staff may submit fewer than four outputs without penalty where their individual circumstances have significantly constrained their ability to produce four outputs or to work productively throughout the assessment period (e.g. disability, maternity leave or ECR status).

### Research Students

Our Department currently enrolls 25 doctoral students and awarded 15 PhDs during this assessment period, a three-fold increase over the previous REF period. New research students attend an induction programme split between School provision and the University's Doctoral College. This programme covers research methods training and provides inductions to familiarise students with the facilities available within the institution. The School runs an ongoing series of research methods training sessions, which continue throughout the student's programme of studies. These cover fundamental skills – for example, in qualitative and quantitative methods, research ethics, thesis writing and viva preparation. PhD training activities have been augmented recently through the introduction of sessions specifically oriented towards impact, including one-day events on media engagement and training (led by our Department of Journalism) and social engagement. PhD students are offered financial support for conference attendance (on a competitive basis). The School also works with the careers service to offer a range of career development sessions specifically catering to PhD students, including CV writing, career planning and publishing strategies.

The Department has a wide-ranging set of policies in place to support the training and career development of our PhD students. All PhD students are co-supervised and must give a presentation each year at our departmental colloquium. Our PhD cohort also run their own seminar series with financial support from the Department and are encouraged to present at the departmental research seminar as well. Our invited speaker series addresses topics related to career development (such as academic publishing and grant capture) on a biannual basis. In addition to these internal provisions, the Department offers generous research funds to support the participation of PhD students in academic conferences and cover costs associated with fieldwork, research visits to other institutions and consultation of archives. Extensive teacher training is also provided to PhD students, including the opportunity to undertake the University's MA in Academic Practice. All PhD students are given the opportunity to undertake paid teaching work at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Department has been successful in obtaining six prestigious University studentships since 2014. Other students have received studentships from their home countries; for example, **Sabbagh** obtained a \$30,000 grant for two years from the Israel Institute.

The Department has hosted PhD students from other universities for periods spanning one week to a full year, with visitors from the Max Planck Institute for the study of societies; the University of Bergen; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Erfurt; KU Leuven; and Sciences Po. During this REF period, students obtained fellowships at various other institutions: three at Harvard University (**Kuznetsova, Murau and Petersen**), one at Columbia University (**Murau**), one at the London School of Economics (**Guter-Sandu**) and one at the University of Cambridge (**Yishayahu**). Additionally, one undertook an internship at NATO (**Sabbagh**).

Among the 15 doctoral degrees awarded, the destinations of graduates included the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (**Biswas**); the University of Padova, Italy (**De Perini**); City, University of London (**Fleischman** and **Jafri**); the London School of Economics (**Guter-Sandu**) and the University of West London (**Nouri**).

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### Research Income

Since REF 2014, we have met our two primary research income objectives: first, attracting more research income and, second, by making successful applications to more funders than ever before. This was achieved within the context of significantly diversifying our resource base so as not to be overly reliant on a single research funder during times of increasingly difficult financial circumstances for all funding bodies.

In 2016, in recognition of our recent significant research-led expansion, the University initiated a strategic review of research and enterprise administrative functions. This resulted in an increased number of personnel supporting academic staff overall and the School expanded the number of its locally based support staff to 3.0 FTEs, up from 1.6 in 2014. The University maintains a strong research support service unit, which includes specialists in UK and EU funding, contracts, post-award activities and audits. Additionally, the School-based research development and support comprises a Research Support Manager, a Knowledge Exchange Manager and an Impact Officer. They integrate with the central office but support research activity in other ways, such as (i) maintaining the research information system, (ii) servicing the Faculty Research Committee and Research Ethics Committee, (iii) administering the pump-priming fund, (iv) organising training events and (v) offering enthusiasm and energy to those involved in individual scholarship. There is also a Communication and Media unit, with one Media Officer shared across all units in the School.

#### *Internal Funding*

The Department supports research directly in a number of ways, in addition to its promotion of research grant income. The Unit receives from the University an annual allocation of £34,000 (£1,200 per person) for individual research activities and conference attendance. The funds are

distributed to staff by the research committee on request. In addition, the Department provides financial support for organising conferences and workshops taking place at City. Typically, between £2,000 and £3,000 is allocated per year for these activities.

Staff have made use of other internal funding mechanisms at the School or University level, including City's Global Challenges Research Fund, for research that may benefit developing countries; the University's Pump Priming funding scheme, aimed at ECRs and those returning to research; the School's Pump-Priming Scheme for Mid-career Researchers; the School's Impact Development Fund; and the School's Enterprise and Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund.

#### *External Funding*

Faculty – mainly more senior faculty – who require significantly larger amounts of research funding are encouraged to work with the School's research support team. The team identifies funding sources, matches these to relevant individuals, and ensures the production of a well-written proposal that meets all funder and/or partner requirements. The team also makes sure the proposal is delivered to deadline and with a realistic price that is within the funder's guidelines, fully taking into account the true cost of the proposed research and institutional costs.

These efforts yielded astonishing results in terms of both raising the aggregate level of income (from £17,500 during the previous REF period to £2,028,109) and achieving success across a range of thematic areas. The current trajectory of success additionally reflects a more even distribution across our centres and research cluster structure, showing that our greater emphasis on research pluralism is paying dividends in this area of our activities. The growth in headline research income figures has benefited since 2014 from the receipt of six major research grants from four major funders.

The highlights, by magnitude of grant, are:

- (1) A four-year (extended to five) European Research Council advanced grant: 'Corporate Arbitrage and CPL Maps: Hidden Structures of Controls in the Global Economy' (CORPLINK) (€1,728,000, December 2016 to November 2021, **Palan** PI). This is an interdisciplinary project that combines expertise in International Political Economy (**Nesvetailova** and **Palan**), accounting (**Murphy**), data science (Gandrud and Phillips) and sociology (Seabrooke and Wigan from Copenhagen Business School). It presented the first systemic and comprehensive analysis of the technique of jurisdictional arbitrage, employed by multinational corporations. The project also developed a new comparative forensic technique for corporate organisations, generating the interest of the *Financial Times* after the team presented a seminar on the method to a group of investigative journalists from the publication in 2017. The team was subsequently invited to present their findings at Bank J. Safra Sarasin, London, in 2019, and at many other venues, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.
- (2) Participation in a €5 million Horizon 2020 project: 'Combating Fiscal Fraud and Empowering Regulators' (COFFERS). The project was headed by Prof. Brigitte Unger of the Department of Law, Economics and Governance at Utrecht University. City was placed in charge of Work Package 1 (€700,000). The PI of this work package was **Palan**, with participation by **Murphy** and **Nesvetailova** from City in collaboration with Prof. Yuval Millo, Head of the Department of Accounting at Warwick Business School, and Dr. Nikiforos Panougrias of the Leicester School of Business. City's contribution was the development of the theoretical framework for the entire project and included an assessment of the European tax gap, the effect of country-by-country reporting, and the use of sophisticated financial instruments such as swaps and derivatives in tax avoidance.
- (3) An ESRC-funded project titled 'The Politics of Accountability After Economic Crisis' (£521,277), with **Kovras** as PI and an interdisciplinary team including Prof. Neophytos Loizides (School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent), Prof. Kieran McEvoy (School of Law, Queen's University Belfast) and Prof. Sally Wheeler (School of Law,

Queen's University Belfast). The project provides an account of the variations in accountability mechanisms in various countries, including truth commissions (Cyprus and Iceland), trials (Greece and Ireland) and de facto impunity (Portugal and Spain).

- (4) An ESRC-funded project titled 'Missing Migrants in the Mediterranean' (Strategic Urgency Grants, £161,874), with **Kovras** as PI. This collaborative project explores the novel humanitarian problem of migrants/refugees who die or go missing in their effort to cross the EU's border in the Mediterranean Sea.
- (5) An ESRC-funded project titled 'From the Diasporisation to the Transnationalisation of Exile Politics: Understanding When Extremism Gives Way to Moderate Politics – The Case of Sri Lanka, 1983–2016' (£111,320), with **McDowell** as PI. This project is examining the response of Sri Lanka's diaspora, specifically the Tamil diaspora, to the end of fighting and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

In addition to these major grants, the Unit obtained two important contract commissions:

- (1) Work Stream 2 of an OECD programme on illicit finance and energy trading (€52,000), with **Nesvetailova** as PI and with the participation of **Palan** and the CORPLINK team. The project mapped and analysed the organisation of 20 energy-trading firms to assess weaknesses in corporate governance that may be used for illicit financial activities.
- (2) Monitoring and evaluation of the UK Government's resettlement programme, including the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (£25,135), funded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with **McDowell** as PI. The project is evaluating the successful resettlement of Syrian refugees in the UK.

Overall, grant capture during this REF period amounted to slightly more than £19,000 per FTE per year.

### Infrastructure

Colleagues at the Department of International Politics benefit from extensive office space in a new state-of-the-art £23 million building, which opened in 2004. This building has enabled an increase in capacity, improved the research environment for collaboration and facilitated world-class research. We continue to leverage our unique location as a bridge between the City of London (the UK's centre of international trade and finance) and the City of Westminster (the legislative and executive seat of government in the UK).

Staff and PhD students alike continue to benefit from the hugely significant research-oriented resources held in the University Library. As outlined in our REF5a statement, researchers at City have access to an extensive portfolio of specialist databases including Scopus, Web of Science and Academic Search Complete, which provide vital sources of information and research content. There are over 300 University-wide databases available to support education and research across the University. In addition, Library Services subscribes to thousands of online journals, which provide researchers with access to a broad range of current and archived titles.

Library resources are enhanced through engagement with corporate sponsors. This enables access to a number of high-quality and high-cost resources, such as the Orbis database, the largest comparable data resource on private companies, which is used by our CORPLINK impact case study. In addition to our online resources, researchers have access to the Financial Resources Suite at our Northampton Square Library and the dedicated Financial Resources Zone and two simulated trading rooms at our Bunhill Row site. The School has a dedicated Subject Librarian (who organises tailored research skills training to assist in the identification and analysis of relevant research materials and is a member of the University Library Services Research Service Group) and two Subject Librarians.

Looking to the future, the Department is seeking funding for a new Political Science Research Lab in which to conduct experimental research and policy evaluation. It would serve both qualitative and quantitative researchers, as well as community-oriented researchers and those using focus groups to gauge responses to different policy options.

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

Our faculty is international in make-up; many individuals started their careers by collaborating with UK scholars (among others) before moving to the UK. While this reflects well on the UK's research excellence and its attractiveness as a collaborator, it also means new hires bring their global networks with them to City. The end result is that more than half of all our journal papers since 2014 have had international collaborations. The Web of Science database of scholarly outputs shows the extent of our collaborations: 180 outputs in political science since 2014 produced from over 100 collaborations with other higher education institutions, half of these with a co-author based overseas. The outputs acknowledge over 20 funding agencies and were published in journals from 20 disciplines ranging from Demography to Public Administration, Women's Studies, Communications and Economics.

##### Research Organisations and Learned Societies

Our colleagues are regularly recognised for their academic and professional contributions through appointments to prestigious research organisations and learned societies. During this REF period, two colleagues were elected to the Academy of Social Sciences (**Nesvetailova** and **Parmar**) and another two to the Royal Historical Society (**Barnes** and **Rosenboim**). **Parmar** obtained fellowships at the London School of Economics, Princeton University and the University of Oxford. **Palan** was a visiting professor at Luiss (Rome). **Hager** is a research fellow with the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity. **Swenson** is a member of the US Council on Foreign Relations and the Stimson Center's Just Security 2020 Working Group for UN Reform. He is also an external affiliate of the Ostrom Workshop at Indiana University Bloomington and International Policy Fellow with the Bridging the Gap Initiative, which strives to make academic research more accessible to policymakers. Additionally, on the recommendation of the editor of *International Security*, **Swenson** was selected for the pilot working group of the Annotation for Transparent Inquiry initiative in 2017. **Slootmaeckers** is Co-chair of the Council for European Studies' Gender and Sexuality Research Network for 2018–2021 and is on the advisory board of the Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey.

##### Keynote Lectures

Our researchers regularly deliver keynote lectures, notably **Rosenboim** at the conference 'States, Empires and Global Spaces' (Manchester, 2019) and **Nesvetailova** at an event of the Association for Heterodox Economics (Edinburgh, 2016).

##### Editorial Boards

Members of the Unit serve on the editorial boards of numerous world-leading publications. **Samman** is Founding Co-editor of *Finance and Society* and **Nesvetailova** Founding Co-editor of the *Review of Evolutionary Political Economy*. **Aran** is Co-editor of the Routledge Foreign Policy Analysis series, has served for five years on the steering committee of the European Association of Israel Studies and is on the advisory board of I. B. Tauris. **Parmar** co-edits a Routledge book series on US foreign policy, **Davies** is Associate Editor of *Voluntaristics Review* and **Barnes** is Reviews Editor for *H-Diplo* for Humanities and Social Sciences Online. **Butler** is the Commissioning Editor for *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*. **Rosenboim** serves on the executive committee of the Historical International Relations section of the International Studies Association. **Parmar** serves on the UK's REF committee and **Palan** served on the Research Council of Norway panel evaluating political science and was a consultant to a similar exercise conducted by the Swedish Research Council.

### Advisory Roles

Departmental researchers have undertaken advisory roles for a number of organisations.

**Nesvetailova** served as a member of the UK Labour Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell's Economic Advisory Committee, which included Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz and other renowned economists, such as Thomas Piketty. She also participated in a number of high-profile outreach events, including one with Yanis Varoufakis, the ex-Treasury Minister of Greece, chaired by John McDonnell. She served as an economic advisor to the Institute for Public Policy Research Commission on Economic Justice and was invited by the New Economics Foundation and Open Democracy to contribute to their series of public briefings by leading female economists and influencers upon Andrew Bailey's appointment as Governor of the Bank of England. She was also invited to present at an inter-governmental meeting on the future of the world's development organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). **Nesvetailova** and **Lysandrou** wrote *The Corporate Debt Bubble: Another Global Financial Crisis in the Making? UNCTAD's 2020 World Trade and Development Report*.

**Nesvetailova** and **Palan** served as advisors on an OECD project on energy trading and illicit finance, and **Palan** was engaged by the OECD in its reach-out programme to the African Union. He also advised the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on new guidelines for the global energy sector. **Palan** is a senior advisor to the Tax Justice Network. He presented evidence at Brussels to the EU's Panama Papers committee and is an advisor to research on corporate tax avoidance commissioned by the EU's Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD) Commissioner.

**McDowell** is advising the UK Home Office on refugee resettlement, the Northern Ireland Government on Syrian refugee resettlement, and the UK Counter Terrorism Police Headquarters on security and refugee movements. He also served as a member of an inspection panel of the World Bank in 2017. **Aran** has been providing briefings on the Arab-Israeli conflict to UK ministers, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, the European Parliament, and ambassadors assigned to the Middle East. **Slootmaeckers** has served as an expert witness in the asylum cases of LGBT claimants from Serbia in both the UK and the US and as an independent expert for Stonewall's Access to Justice programme in Southeast Europe, which was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### Prizes

Our researchers have won or been nominated for several prestigious prizes for their work during this REF period. **Rosenboim's** monograph *The Emergence of Globalism* (Princeton University Press, 2017) won the Francesco Guicciardini Book Prize in 2019. **Parmar's** *Foundations of the American Century* (Columbia University Press, 2012) was runner up for the Francesco Guicciardini Book Prize in 2014 and was translated into Chinese by Peking University Press in 2018. **Kovras's** *Grassroots Activism* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) received an honourable mention in the 2017 International Law Book Award of the International Law Section of the International Studies Association. **Nesvetailova** and **Palan's** *Sabotage: The Business of Finance* (Penguin/Public Affairs, 2019) was selected by the *Financial Times* for its 'Horizons 2020' list and was book of the week for both the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*. The book was reviewed in many national and international outlets, including British Airways' *High Life Magazine* (February 2020). **Kutlay's** co-authored article won the Elizabeth Meehan Prize for the best article published in *Government & Opposition* in 2019. **Samman's** book *History in Financial Times* (Stanford University Press, 2019) was reviewed in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and **Palan's** co-authored article in the *Journal of International Business Policy* was the subject of two-page articles in the French magazine *Alternatives économiques* and the Belgian daily *La Libre*. **Slootmaeckers's** PhD was awarded the University Association for Contemporary European Studies' Prize for Best Thesis.

### Outreach Projects

Our colleagues have also launched their own outreach projects focused on the dissemination of their research. For example, **Rosenboim** is the founder of the Migrants' Supper Club, an initiative aimed at sharing historical knowledge on migration routes and histories with a wider

audience through food. At Chatham House, **Parmar** launched a special issue of *International Affairs* dedicated to analysing the crisis of the liberal international order, and subsequently addressed the future of transatlantic relations on another occasion at Chatham House. **Samman** is Founder and Co-chair of the Finance and Society Network, the premier association for the study of finance in the social sciences and humanities, which also runs major international conferences each year at City.

### Media Presence

The Unit's media presence is exceptionally strong. We enjoyed a monthly average of 84 media mentions over the past three years (2017–2020), accounting for more than 80% of the media mentions across City's entire School of Arts & Social Sciences. **Parmar** is a regular contributor to CNN, Al Jazeera and CNBC, and is a columnist at *The Wire* magazine. He usually makes between five and eight media appearances per month and has dozens of published commentaries and op-eds, including in *The Conversation*, *Fortune* and *Newsweek*.

**Nesvetailova** regularly appears on the BBC's *Newsnight*, *Channel 4 News*, CNN and other international news outlets, and her op-eds in *The Conversation* have been reprinted in *Newsweek* and *The Independent*. **Palan** has featured in a number of full-length documentaries, including *The Price We Pay* (InformAction, Canada, 2017), *The UK Gold* (Brass Moustach, UK, 2014) and *The Spider's Web: Britain's Second Empire* (Independent, 2017), the last of which has had over 4.2 million views on YouTube. He was also an academic consultant on a BBC documentary on the Cayman Islands: *Britain's Trillion Pound Paradise* (2016). **Aran**, **Barnes**, **Blunt**, **Butler**, **Hager**, **Kovras** and **Silvestri** have each made many media contributions to outlets such as the BBC, Bloomberg, the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*. Finally, the Department has maintained a Twitter account (@CityIntPolitics) since January 2014 that has over 1,400 followers.