

<b>Institution: University of Birmingham</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: UOA19 Politics and International Studies</b>
<p><b>Section 1: Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b>1.1. Context</b></p> <p>The Politics and International Studies Unit of Assessment (UoA) at Birmingham is located within the University's School of Government, and covers the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) and the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV). POLSIS and INLOGOV benefit from cross-university collaborations as well as their common location within the School (where the inter-disciplinary theme of governance from the local to the global is emphasised) and the wider College of Social Sciences (CoSS). We have a reputation for world-leading research on all levels of government and society. Our work has theoretical and methodological depth, engages with government and non-governmental stakeholders at the local, national and international levels and is disseminated widely across academic and public spheres. It is facilitated by a diverse portfolio of external funding and an inclusive and empowering research culture.</p> <p><b>1.2. Research and impact strategies</b></p> <p>In 2014, we identified strengths in four research areas that would orientate the UoA's future evolution: security and conflict studies, governance and the state, state-building and development, and political theory. The strategic aims of the UoA have been to pursue excellence in these four areas, achieve higher levels of impact, and to consolidate our work where this is beneficial. In the period 2014 – 2020, our research and impact strategy has been premised on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivering research that is academically rigorous and publicly relevant. That marriage of aims has been achieved by diversifying our sources of research funding, focusing on impact and engagement tailored to contemporary policy challenges, and cultivating relationships with local, national and international partners, and research users;</li> <li>• fostering a research environment that nurtures talent through targeted support to Early Career Researchers (ECRs), significant investment in new permanent staff and a commitment to an inclusive research culture (evident, for instance, in the School's achievement of the Bronze Athena Swan Award in 2019);</li> <li>• shaping and sustaining the discipline of Political Science and International Studies through positions of academic leadership as part of journals, book series and professional associations.</li> </ul> <p>Our research and impact strategy is aimed at influencing public policy and shaping public debate. As part of a civic university, we have developed important and impactful local and regional relationships, while at the same time strengthening our global profile and reach. We work with policy practitioners in local authorities, the UK government and Parliament; with community activists from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow to Chicago, Melbourne, Delhi and Tunis; with think tanks and advocacy groups; and with international civil servants and officials notably in the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We have registered major strides in these regards. Our work on Development has progressed to the point that it has allowed the International Development Department (IDD) to submit separately to REF2021 under UoA22 (in 2014 it was</p>

returned jointly with INLOGOV and POLSIS to sub-panel 21). Remaining strengths shape the priority themes of our research strategy (see Section 1.4) and are the basis of a focused reorganisation that has occurred within the assessment period (with the disciplines of Sociology and European Studies being relocated to other parts of the University).

The School of Government is thus home to three departments (IDD, INLOGOV and POLSIS) and two REF21 submissions (to UoAs 19 and 22). As a School in which staff collaborate closely across research, doctoral supervision, professional development and teaching, we have developed a common approach to impact. This is reflected in our choice of Impact Case Studies. Two case study leads – Cheeseman and Lemay-Hébert are referred to in REF1, REF2 and REF5b as within UoA22, but both have developed case studies appropriate thematically to UoA19. The overlap of work between the two UoAs is evident also in joint publications (see, for instance, Fontana et al), PhD supervision and regional collaboration (Haughton in POLSIS and Cheeseman in IDD are both convenors of the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy – a joint initiative of the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham).

We elaborate further upon the outcomes of our strategy below. In summary, the excellence of our work can be seen in how it has been received by our peers and how it has shaped academic and public debate. Wheeler's book *Trusting Enemies: Interpersonal Relationships in International Relations* was the subject of a special forum in *International Affairs* 94(6), 2018; Albertazzi's co-authored book *Populists in Power* was described in *Political Studies Review* as 'a pioneering [...] contribution to our understanding of populism.' Finlay's *Terrorism and the Right to Resist* was described in the journal *Ethics* as 'a much needed and outstanding contribution to the ethics of war.' Siniver's biography of Abba Eban was reviewed in *The Guardian* and *The New York Times* and was described in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* as a 'vitaly important contribution to the literature on US-Israel relations and Israeli history in general.' Reviewed in the Chief of the Air Staff's Reading List (2019-202), Patrick Porter's *Blunder: Britain's War in Iraq* was described as 'both breathtaking and groundbreaking.' Floyd's *Morality of Security* was referred to in *Perspectives on Politics* as 'an important and valuable contribution' on which political scientists should be 'thinking and arguing with [...] for a long time to come.'

REF 2 indicates the academic depth and the quality of our work. There we record a total of 113 outputs produced by 49 Category A staff. 70 per cent of our outputs returned are drawn from peer-reviewed refereed journals and a further 28 per cent are monographs.

The impact of our research is exemplified by the range of external collaborations and beneficiaries highlighted in sections 4.1 and 4.2. We have extended and deepened our engagement with stakeholders in UK government, with international organisations, and with NGOs and advocacy groups. We have also been active in shaping public opinion through our extensive engagement with print, visual and social media on issues of topical concern.

### 1.3. Research structures

The vitality and sustainability of our research derives from supportive structures of professional development that foster creativity, offer rapid and constructive criticism, and establish shared

expectations. These structures also help to 'incubate' research in a way that promotes excellence, nurtures talent and enhances impact.

A School Research Committee is responsible for planning and reviewing research and its impact and for overseeing staff mentoring. That body also disburses an annual research budget – supplemented, in turn, by funds held at the College level and by University initiatives such as the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account, and the University's Institute for Global Innovation and Institute of Advanced Studies (see REF5a 2.3). In addition, departments hold their own funds to facilitate conference attendance, workshop hosting and travel for fieldwork.

Impact specifically is supported through the leadership and mentoring of a School Impact Lead, through recognition of impact activity in departmental workload allocation models and through workshops at both School and College level. Dedicated internal income streams exist to promote impact activities (see Section 3.1) and Professional Services colleagues also provide essential support (see Section 3.2).

POLSI is home to nine specialist research groups. It also hosts the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) and the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS). The former, founded in 1963, is made up of affiliated staff across the University and supports, through seminars and an annual conference, an international network of scholars and practitioners with an interest in the politics, economics and international relations of the former communist countries. The ICCS, led by Wheeler (2012 – 2019) and Capelos (2019 – present) is an interdisciplinary endeavour that involves scholars from the UoA as well as from the Departments and Schools of International Development (UoA22), Theology and Religion (UoA31), Philosophy (UoA30), Psychology (UoA4), Business (UoA17), and Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences (UoA7). ICCS hosts four research groups – on Trust, International Political Psychology, Political Settlements and Drones. It has developed a network of practitioners drawn from the European Leadership Network, the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drones – as well as active and retired officials from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and NATO. Its Honorary Professors include General David Petraeus (former Director of the US Central Intelligence Agency) and Paul Schulte (former Head of the UK Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit).

INLOGOV, founded in 1964, is a leading academic centre for teaching and research on local governance and strategic public management. Its work addresses issues of democracy, leadership, participation, policymaking and service delivery. INLOGOV's mission is to connect research and policy practice. It has a core of permanent academics complemented by a large number of Associates, Honorary and Visiting Staff, many of whom have a long track record of service in local government and consultancy. INLOGOV is led by Jason Lowther, formerly Head of Policy and Programmes in the West Midlands Combined Authority and Assistant Director (Strategy) in Birmingham City Council. INLOGOV has played a central role in the CoSS Public Service Academy (PSA). Mangan, the former Director of INLOGOV, was the PSA Director from January 2017 to October 2019.

Departmental and School structures are supplemented by support at both College and University levels (see Section 3.2).

#### 1.4. Thematic priorities during the assessment period

With Development Studies returned separately and political (and international) theory underpinning much of our research – the UoA has attached greatest significance to two of the four thematic areas of research identified in 2014:

1. *Security and conflict studies.* Research submitted to REF 2014 and RAE2008 was indicative of a strong regional orientation that encompassed US and UK external relations, the European neighbourhood and the former Soviet space, the Middle East and North Africa, along with China, Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. These regional specialisms have continued, supplemented in turn by research centred on the EU, NATO, the OSCE and other institutions of security governance. A convergence of these regional and institutional strands characterises much of our work. For instance, Averre and Connolly's work on Russian national security and defence economics is framed by a concern with international law and transnational economic regulation; Wolczuk and Wolff have published several refereed articles and project reports (sponsored by the EU and OSCE) on conflict-mediation efforts in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Wolczuk is also the lead of one our Impact Case Studies.

We have added to these regional and institutional dimensions work that is more explicitly theoretical and conceptual (Bloom on statelessness; Darwich on threat perceptions in the Middle East; Floyd, Topgyal and Webber on securitization; Gaskarth on international society and ethics; Morefield on imperialism; Porter on the power of habit; Siniver on tacit security regimes; Vieira on ontological security; Wheeler and Capelos on trust) and which utilizes novel methods of quantitative and comparative analysis (Neudorfer, Wolff and Yakinthou on power-sharing and conflict resolution; Tsourapas on migration interdependence).

The ICCS has helped bring together our work on security. It has seen the affiliation of three Birmingham Fellows (see REF5a, 3.4.1. for more details of this scheme); strong recruitment to its PhD programme (with 15 current registered students); successful grant capture; the development of an international research network; and the provision of expert advice on conflict mediation, nuclear proliferation and the nefarious use of drones.

More widely, staff recruited during the assessment period have strengthened the security theme. As well as Bloom, Darwich, Neudorfer and Porter (already noted), other appointments include Chacha (conflict management in Africa) and Kyris (contested sovereignty).

2. *Governance and democracy.* Our work under this theme has a comparative focus and considers governance challenges at the global, national, regional and local levels. Global governance intersects with the security theme above. Here, in addition, the unit has worked with the IGI, founded in 2018 to inspire, support and deliver multi- and inter-disciplinary

research on pressing global challenges (see REF5a, 2.3.3.). INLOGOV's Lowndes leads IGI's cross-University research stream on resilient cities, bringing together staff from the UoA with those in Psychology, Education, Economics, Civil Engineering, Environmental Sciences and Chemical Engineering. The UoA has also undertaken innovative work on international political economy (Bailey on austerity and neo-liberalism; Macartney on banking crises; Smith on sexuality and global capitalism). At the national level, we have strengthened our work on British and comparative political behaviour and institutions through the appointment of Cutts and Lindstädt. The work of Cutts on comparative populism and Euro-scepticism is complemented by that of Capelos and of Albertazzi, the latter being Principal Investigator of a three-year ESRC project on mass party politics. At the local and regional levels, INLOGOV has seen three new permanent appointments (Bartels, Lowndes and Reardon). It has extended its historical focus on local participation and accountability to embrace greater comparative analysis. This includes Durose's work on urban co-production and Reardon's project on Indian smart cities (both funded by the ESRC's Urban Transformations Programme), Lowndes' British Academy project on local government responses to Syrian refugees in Turkey; and Durose's involvement in the Smart Urban Intermediaries Project funded by JPI Urban Europe.

### 1.5. Interdisciplinary research

Interdisciplinarity informs investment, recruitment, doctoral supervision, research collaboration and grant applications within the UoA. At an individual-research level, we promote interdisciplinarity through methodological and theoretical innovation. This includes peer-reviewed work on causality in the Social Sciences (Durose), Q methodology (Jeffares), queer theory (Smith), action research (Bartels) and comparative and historical political thought (Morefield, Shorten).

Our contribution to the wider University is also evident in the recent appointment of a Professor of Practice in INLOGOV, Christopher Pietroni, to lead the Birmingham Leadership Institute – a body which connects the Developmental Leadership Programme in IDD, the Educational Leadership Academy in the School of Education, and the NHS Leadership Academy in the School of Social Policy. The Leadership Institute has worked with the West Midlands Combined Authority over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Impact Case Study on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant has been developed through a close collaboration between INLOGOV and the Health Services Management Centre in the School of Social Policy.

Reflecting its disciplinary reach, our work has been published in outlets across the Social Sciences and beyond: in *African Studies Quarterly* (Chacha) *British Journal of Sociology* (Smith), *Cold War History* (Shorten), *Critical Social Policy* (Lowndes), *Evaluation* (Jeffares), *Humanity and Society* (Capelos), *Journal of Happiness Studies* (Reardon), *Nature* (Durose), *Qualitative Research* (Bartels), *Political Psychology* (Capelos), *Religion, State and Society* (Kaneff), and *Urban Studies* (Bartels).

To promote interdisciplinarity in the next generation of scholars, we are committed to collaborative arrangements for doctoral training. Doctoral co-supervision with staff outside the unit accounts for

almost one fifth of the cohort of doctoral students (20 of 108, as of 2019). The UoA is a member of the ESRC Midlands Doctoral Training Partnership and leads on two of Birmingham's DTP pathways: Politics and International Studies, and (European) Area Studies.

### 1.6. Open research

To expand our international reputation and work at the intersection of research and policy, we have accessed University and College resources to ensure that as many research outputs and underpinning datasets as possible are publicly available. Author-accepted manuscript versions of all journal articles are uploaded to the University's CRIS system (Pure), within three months of publication and made publicly available on the University Research Portal. To support Open Access publications linked to UKRI-funded research, colleagues have benefitted from central University support. In addition, the College has underwritten its own parallel scheme to fund Gold Open Access publications, with the aim that all staff and PhD students can access Open Access funding, regardless of whether they have UKRI support. To date, twenty-three staff members have taken up this opportunity.

Staff have also produced a number of open-access databases and technical resources. These include:

(i) a cross-national measure of electoral competitiveness (Lindstädt) published in *Political Analysis* and available from Harvard Dataverse (downloaded over 3,000 times);

(ii) a report on nuclear responsibilities by Wheeler in preparation in July 2020 as part of the collaboration between the ICCS and BASIC (see Section 1.3) – the report includes the 'Nuclear Responsibilities Method', which was published on the BASIC website outside the assessment period in November 2020;

(iii) the Political Agreements in Internal Conflicts (PAIC) dataset comprised of 91 variables applied to 286 political agreements between 1989 and 2016; this was accepted for publication in June 2020 and was published as Open Access (in *Conflict Management and Peace Science*) just outside the assessment period, in late August 2020.

The UoA has also given support to the dissemination of work beyond the academy. An article by Wolff in *Post-Soviet Affairs*, co-authored with an academic and activist from Ukraine, received Gold-OA funding and was circulated to stakeholder communities with accompanying op-eds in the *Washington Post* 'Monkey Cage', the *Focus Ukraine* blog of the Kennan Institute, and *The Conversation*. As of January 2021, the article was the third most-read piece on the journal's website with 11,364 reads (a notable achievement given the article was published in 2018 in a journal that dates back to 1992). An article by Porter in *International Security* received Gold-OA funding and was publicised through open-source articles in *The Conversation*, *War on the Rocks* and an interview on YouTube sponsored by the Harvard Belfer Centre. It was the 'most read' article between May 2018 and February 2019, downloaded 9,438 times in that period.

### 1.7. Research integrity

Our research conforms to the highest professional standards. Staff and doctoral students receive training based on the UK Concordant to Support Research Integrity and peer review of proposals and projects. Procedures for dealing with cases of misconduct are detailed in the University's Code of Conduct for Research. All new research projects, including funded research, must go through a rigorous ethical review process facilitated by the University's Humanities and Social Sciences Ethics Review Committee, on which 14 members of the unit have served since 2014. The University is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which promotes fair and robust approaches to research assessment.

Unit staff have advanced debates on research integrity in the academy more broadly. An innovative example is Durose's work on co-production. Durose was Co-I on two ESRC funded projects (Jam and Justice: Co-Producing Urban Governance for Social Innovation) which brought together an Action Research Collective of academics, local political actors and citizens in Greater Manchester to generate and test ideas on effective governance while at the same time connecting with politically marginalized groups. A special issue of *Nature* (4 October 2018) dedicated to co-produced research contained an article with Durose as lead author that argued 'relevance, credibility and legitimacy' should be given greater prominence in the metrics of research output.

### **1.8. Future research strategy**

The key themes of security and conflict studies and governance and democracy are now well-embedded in the UoA. We will build on our existing strengths and successes by:

- broadening our areas of strength through a focus on accountability, representation and legitimacy. The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated these themes as governments across the world face multiple challenges of socio-economic repair, political stabilisation and international collaboration. Here, we are already well-placed to influence debates and practice given our work on populism, public service delivery, conflict management and political settlements;
- creating opportunity through investment in early career scholars, using the existing Birmingham Fellows' scheme to advance areas of University investment – for instance, on political leadership, linked to the University's new Leadership Institute directed by Christopher Pietroni in INLOGOV; and data science, linked to the University's membership of the Alan Turing Institute;
- further promoting equality and diversity. Recognising our advances in gender equality, the School (see Section 1.2) was awarded an Athena Swan Bronze Award in 2019. The School also has featured in the University's successful application for a Race Equality Charter Bronze Award in 2019. We will build on progress towards gender equality and will apply for an Athena Swan Silver Award. We will extend measures to other protected characteristics, in line with the University's 2019 Race Equality Charter Bronze Award. And we will build on the successful LGBTQ+ network, which members of the unit were active in developing (see Section 2.3);
- engaging with external partners at all levels of government as an integrated part of our research activity, working with local and regional authorities, government departments, the UK parliament and international organisations including the EU and NATO;

- deepening cross-sectoral research and impact collaboration by working with the University's Health Services Management Centre and Data Science Institute;
- going further on Open Research by embedding it into research practices and helping staff reach wider audiences through open-access publication and social media platforms;
- strengthening internationalisation by deepening links to universities in Amsterdam, Delhi Melbourne and others in the Universitas 21 consortium (REF5a, 2.1.8.).

The positive trajectory of our work is already clear. Research completed in the period will result in a series of major publications in 2021 (accepted and in print). This includes two pieces in the *European Journal of International Relations* (Tsourapas and Wheeler) as well as articles in *Contemporary Italian Politics* (Albertazzi), *International Studies Review* (Tsourapas), *Journal of International Relations and Development* (Vieira), *Mediterranean Politics* (Darwich), *Security Studies* (Porter) and *Social Movement Studies* (Galpin). A number of single-authored monographs are also due to be published in 2021 – by Albertazzi, Bloom, Jeffares, Morefield, Tsourapas and Webber.

## Section 2: People

### 2.1. Staffing strategy and staff development

POLSI and INLOGOV recruit and support staff in a way that fosters the capacity and capability necessary to deliver excellent research, impact and engagement. Success here is evident in our research staffing headcount: the number of Category A staff submitted to the unit in REF2021 is 49 (1.3 FTE higher than we submitted to REF2014, despite the separate submission of IDD to UoA22).

In the assessment period, we have made four appointments at professorial level (Cutts, Lindstädt, Lowndes, Porter), and thirteen at Reader/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer level (Bartels, Bloom, Capelos, Chacha, Darwich, Galpin, Kyris, Morefield, Reardon, Topgyal, Tsourapas, Wenman, Zartaloudis). We have also made three appointments to the Birmingham Fellows scheme (Floyd, Neudorfer, Yakinthou), and have won two Leverhulme postdoctoral fellowships (Kemoklidze, Kyris), and a Leverhulme early career fellowship (Feltrin). These appointments have strengthened our key research areas. Birmingham Fellows as well as Darwich, Porter and Topgyal have added to the Security theme; Cutts, Lindstädt and Lowndes have been instrumental in developing the Governance and Democracy theme (see pp.4-5).

#### 2.1.1. Support for early career researchers (ECRs)

Given the competing demands on academics, protecting the time and space necessary to concentrate on research is critical. For ECRs we seek to provide a supportive environment of workload management, financial support and mentoring. A probation scheme covers the first three years of permanent appointments. This entails the elaboration of a probationary development plan and reduced teaching and administrative duties. Further, our system of support via the ECARS (Early Career and Research Staff) network (REF5a, 3.3.) utilises a number of measures to support staff: induction, representation, networking, training and development, project support and mentoring. Every new member of staff is assigned a research mentor. Representation takes place



via an ECR representative on the School Research Committee and an ECARS Committee that meets monthly. Networking proceeds via a monthly ECARS event each term. Training and development are organised through the Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Methods and Skills (PGCARMS), career development modules (e.g., 'Developing as an Academic Team Leader'), as well as mentoring by experienced staff. To celebrate academic achievement, the School introduced Research Prizes in 2018, which included a prize for Outstanding Early Career Achievement.

The University's competitive Birmingham Fellows scheme (REF5a 3.4.1), meanwhile, provides five years of protected time for research with an expectation that the recipients will obtain positions of research leadership at the end of this period. Floyd joined POLSIS under this scheme in 2014. She has since been promoted to Senior Lecturer. In 2019, her work on securitization theory was recognized with an Independent Social Research Foundation mid-career fellowship. Her single-authored monograph on *The Morality of Security* was published by Cambridge University Press the same year. Our Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellows have benefited from similar support. Kyris was mentored by a senior colleague (Wolff), undertook research methods training supported by the School Knowledge Transfer Fund and conducted fieldwork in Cyprus, Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo and Palestine, part-funded by the School Internationalisation Fund (resulting in an article in *Geopolitics*). In 2019 he achieved a permanent position in POLSIS.

Our mentoring and support of ECRs has yielded significant publication and research grant successes. Tsourapas has, since 2014, written a single-authored monograph (published by Cambridge University Press), published 14 refereed articles (including in *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Political Science Review* and *Third World Quarterly*) and obtained awards from the British Academy, the Council for British Research in the Levant and the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account. Reardon has published articles in *Policy Sciences* and *Policy & Politics* and, since August 2020, has been Principal Investigator on an Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) project looking at low-carbon mobility as well as being Co-Investigator on an SRC/ICSSR project 'Understanding Indian Urban Governance Reform: A Comparative Analysis of the Smart City Mission Reforms and their Impact on Sustainable Urban Mobility.' Galpin is single author of a monograph on the Euro crisis (published by Palgrave, 2017) and author or co-author of eight refereed articles (including in *The Political Quarterly*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* and *Comparative European Politics*). Zartaloudis's research has been published in the *Journal of Common Market Studies* (twice) and the *European Journal of Political Research*.

#### 2.1.2. Support for other research staff

All research-active staff take part in an annual Performance and Development Review (PDR), managed locally by the College and School. These reviews discuss research objectives including career development needs, matching them to relevant resources, support or training. Such planning is responsive to individual priorities, with variable emphasis year-by-year between publications, impact or training, depending on circumstances. PDRs are one of the main means of workload allocation; as a norm, at least 33 per cent of contracted time is set aside for research activities in our workload allocation model. Additional dedicated research time is allocated for journal editorships, large grant applications and impact-related activity.

While staff must satisfy a range of key performance indicators to attain promotion, there is no single template for success. Since 2014, from 37 applications, a total of 23 staff have been

promoted (11 to Senior Lecturer, nine to Reader, and three to Chair). The unit recognises that there are diverse career pathways, and so is sensitive to variation in individual commitments to publications, impact work and income generation. To promote wellbeing, since 2018-19 the PDR process has explicitly considered the connections between workload, work-life balance and mentoring.

A system of regular study leave provides staff with dedicated time to focus on fieldwork, writing and grant applications. Staff are entitled to apply after three years of teaching at the University, taking up to one semester of leave per seven. Since 2014, a one-term period of study leave has been taken up 60 times by 45 staff.

We also facilitate various forms of peer support. Our Academic Writing Group provides for weekly in-person meetings (moved to online format during the COVID-19 pandemic), and a hands-on space to obtain feedback on drafts and to discuss the practice of academic writing. These sessions have proven especially valuable as sources of advice on monographs (where authors need support over long periods) and have helped see to publication Haughton's *The New Party Challenge Changing Cycles of Party: Birth and Death in Central Europe and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2020) and Smith's *Capitalism's Sexual History* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Complementing the Writing Group's work, we maintain a programme of events on Research Essentials, including sessions on writing for journals, applying for grants and 'cafés' on methodology, led by colleagues or outside experts. For instance, there have been two week-long workshops on Qualitative Comparative Analysis, co-funded by POLSIS and the University's Institute for Advanced Studies. In 2019, the School created a School Research Methods (SRM) Lead role to organise, coordinate and communicate methods-oriented activities across the School's three departments.

## **2.2. Support for postgraduate researchers (PGRs)**

As of July 2020, 108 doctoral students were registered within the UoA, with staff also involved in supervising students registered in several other units. PGRs play an important part in research groups, centres and institutes. They are also provided with resources to organise their own events and activities through department, School and College budgets. Such events include work-in-progress presentations, workshops, and an annual one-day conference. For example, INLOGOV runs a monthly PhD Showcase, enabling doctoral students to discuss their work with academics, whilst the Annual School PGR conference combines presentation of thesis work with talks by staff on career development.

The unit has enhanced its doctoral training provision, set within the context of our membership of the ESRC-funded Midlands Doctoral Training Partnership – a consortium that also includes Aston, Leicester, Loughborough and Warwick universities (see Section 1.5). We have a successful track record of receiving funding from the DTP, winning six awards since it was inaugurated in 2016. We have also invested in specialist scholarships on specific research themes, for instance a doctoral bursary to work on the Chilcot Inquiry and Britain's War in Iraq, and another on diplomacy linked to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022.

All PGRs take part in an Annual Progress Review, which provides guidance on research plans and assesses training needs. All annual reviews require agreement by a non-supervising

academic to approve progression. PGRs completing their first-year review face a larger panel of non-supervising staff, based upon submission of a refined project plan.

Doctoral researchers also receive dedicated resources to support academic activities. The School Research Fund sets aside £14,500 annually for PGR conference attendance and fieldwork. To encourage development of budget-management and collective decision-making skills, these funds are allocated by a committee of PGRs themselves.

We also integrate PGR students into internationally oriented programmes. For example, Lowndes' partnership with the University of São Paulo (USP) to research municipal financial resilience (funded by IGI) has included two Brazilian PhD students on a sandwich year from USP. PGRs have also been involved in joint authorship with staff in refereed journals. This includes: *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (Capelos and Stocks), *Global Society* (Wolff and Kartsonaki), *International Affairs* (Averre and Davies), *Politics and Political Studies Review* (Bates with Amery and Miller), *Political Studies* (Lowndes and Lempriere) and *Security Studies* (Quinn and Banka).

Our supportive environment has borne fruit in career progression. Since 2014, there have been 99.85 PhD completions:

Table 1: Disaggregated doctoral degrees, by year:

UoA 19	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Foren.Clin.P sy.D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1
Ph.D.	18.5	17	14	18	13.5	9.05	8.8
PhD with Integ Study	0	0	0.4	0	0	0	0.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>9.05</b>	<b>9.4</b>

Numerous graduates of our doctoral programme now hold academic positions: including Lectureships/Senior Lectureships at Aston, Birmingham, Keele, Leicester, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and Sheffield; as well as Research Fellowships at the Australian National University, Greifswald (Germany) and Southampton. Since 2014, 47 per cent of our PhD alumni have obtained academic positions. Excellent performance is reflected also in the award of prizes. In 2019, Cherry Miller was the joint recipient of the ECPR Joni Lovenduski Prize for an outstanding thesis in the field of gender and politics. Melany Cruz was awarded the Ernest Barker PSA Prize for the best thesis in political theory in 2020.

### 2.3. Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion

Historically, there has been a gender imbalance in the UoA's constituent departments, and we recognise that there is still work to be done to achieve gender parity. Our return to REF 2014 (which also included IDD) indicated that only 33 per cent of permanent full-time Category A staff were female. For REF 2021, that figure is largely the same at 32 per cent. Some improvement has been registered at the professorial level, however. In July 2013, neither POLSIS nor INLOGOV had any female professors; each now has one Professor amongst its Category A staff (alongside six who are male). We have also improved the situation at Lecturer level. Here, female staff now constitute a majority among Category A (12 of 22 as opposed to seven of 19 in July 2013). We acknowledge a remaining imbalance at Senior Lecturer level.

Efforts to correct gender imbalance reflect the UoA's broader commitment to intersectional equality. Our Athena Swan Bronze Award was the product of significant self-examination. Following an unsuccessful application in 2017, the School appointed a Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Tsourapas), who, sitting on the School Management Team (SMT), adopted an Equality and Diversity Action Plan that involved an annual School Equality and Diversity Survey (EDS), supported by focus-group sessions with PGT and PGR students and female members of staff. In consequence, the Athena Swan awarding panel commended the School for 'positive cultural changes' and 'the embedding of equality, diversity and inclusion within the School.'

These efforts have been complemented by other initiatives. Lindstädt is the lead for equality and diversity initiatives across the four Schools that make up the College of Social Sciences. The UoA, meanwhile, hosts 'WIN:WIN', a cross-University network formed in 2013 which convenes regular events and action-learning sets for women, encouraging the development of female role models. For her role in this initiative, Durose was named a 'Woman of Action' as part of the 'Making Space' initiative celebrating women's leadership at the University of Birmingham. A School LGBTQ+ Network was established in 2018 for all academic staff and PGRs as a source of support beyond central University Welfare Services. It provides informal peer support and a confidential space to discuss sexual orientation or gender identity as well as promoting awareness of LGBTQ+ issues across the School. Two University-level programmes also provide support: the Aurora Leadership programme for female staff members that aims to develop skills and confidence to negotiate careers and build networks (five of our staff have participated), and the Aditi Leadership Programme for BAME academic and academic-related staff, which helps identify and address the barriers colleagues may face (see REF5a, 3.4.4.). We have organised women-only and LGBTQ+ writing retreats for academic staff and PGRs. These have been held at local venues to encourage participation of staff with caring responsibilities.

We have also taken action to improve recruitment in areas where numbers of women or BAME individuals are under-represented. To address the gender gap, we have pursued increased applications from female candidates, through considered design and marketing of vacancies. All advertisements include a declaration that signals receptiveness to such candidates. Since July 2018, the School has invited candidates to discuss job roles with senior female staff before and during the application process. We require gender-balanced search committees and selection panels for all posts and monitor outcomes. Every appointment panel is gender-inclusive and all its members must complete Equality and Diversity and Recruitment and Selection training. The School has revised its recruitment policy to ensure that there are no male-only shortlists. These efforts have had a positive effect. Eight of the 15 staff hired in security and conflict studies since 2014 are women – here, we have rejuvenated a traditionally male-dominated field by recruiting early and mid-career female scholars.

Similarly, we have taken action on staff development. We have supported events organised by female ECRs on career progression and female professional advancement. There has been a 10 per cent annual increase in female staff members' promotion applications. Unconscious bias and equality and diversity training is now mandatory for new staff. An annual promotion workshop and informal CV review session is held for female staff. To help staff with caring responsibilities and those with disabilities, we have taken measures to alleviate workload stress (so ensuring such staff continue to actively engage in research). Such initiatives include a Core Working Hours Policy, access to a new Equalities Conference Travel Support Fund, and workload remission for staff returning from parental leave after more than six months. Staff with disabilities and chronic

health conditions have benefitted from the University's Reasonable Adjustment policy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff have been afforded the opportunity of workload mitigation by reference to the Reasonable Endeavours initiative.

In preparing our REF submission, we paid particular regard to the provisions of the University's REF2021 Code of Practice. Half of the eight-person panel running our output selection was female. All panel members undertook mandatory equality and diversity training. To minimise bias in the grading process, all internal reviews worked as blind double-reading. Work by female colleagues was subject to a review involving at least one female reader. To identify and prevent any inadvertent discrimination against individuals with protected characteristics at the output selection stage, our unit-level output selection panel undertook two Equality Impact Assessments that analysed our outputs portfolio with reference to intersectional data on gender, ethnicity, age, career stage and disability. For staff whose ability to work productively was affected by personal circumstances such as career stage, caring responsibilities, periods of parental leave, mental and physical illness, part-time working, and/or contractual status, the University invited staff to disclose these circumstances in confidence, with follow-up support provided at School level with individuals' consent.

### Section 3: Income, infrastructure and facilities

External research funding (supplemented by departmental, School and College funds) along with technical support, infrastructure and facilities have successfully nurtured diverse and impactful research in the UoA.

#### 3.1. Income

The UoA has obtained external research income totalling £4,084,328 (as recorded by HESA research finance returns), which represents £80,000 per capita of submitted staff.

Staff have drawn upon a wide variety of funding sources, including the ESRC (Reardon), ESRC (Albertazzi, Bailey, Durose, Moore, Reardon, Steans, Wheeler, Wolff, Yakinthou), Leverhulme (Finlay, Shorten, Siniver), the UK Research Council-funded JPI Urban Europe (Durose), the Newton Fund (Lowndes), European Commission frameworks FP7 and H2020 (Wolczuk), Jean Monnet (Galpin), the Koch Foundation (Quinn), Gerda Henkel Stiftung (Dunn), the Open Society Institute (Dunn), and the Independent Social Research Foundation (Floyd).

Externally funded projects have resulted in a number of significant outputs. The findings of the International Drone Policy theme of the ICCS – involving Dunn, Wheeler and Wolff, backed by ESRC, Gerda Henkel and Open Society funding – have been published in the journals *Civil Wars* and *Ethnopolitics*. Wolczuk's FP7 and H2020 projects have supported a string of publications on Ukraine and Georgia – including a special issue (jointly edited by Wolczuk) of *Europe-Asia Studies*, two commissioned reports for the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), and a monograph in the Palgrave Pivot series. Yakinthou's ESRC Impact Accelerator Account awards have resulted in a co-edited volume on transitional justice published by Cambridge University Press and articles on the same subject in the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* and the *RUSI Journal*. Albertazzi's ESRC award has led to the appointment of two research fellows – one of whom (Zulianello) has had an article published in *Government and Opposition* on the project's core theme of populist

mass parties. Albertazzi has co-edited a volume on populism in western Europe that will appear in January 2021 (Routledge).

To support staff engagement with external stakeholders, the UoA has benefitted from some £227k of funding from the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account. Such support has underpinned Yakinthou's work with the Voices of Memory collective in Tunisia. That project has widened public access to, and participation in, political processes for activists and the victims of political repression. It has also helped facilitate Yakinthou's work with the New York-based International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

Internal funds are also significant. Since 2014, dedicated funds from the School and College have been assigned to impact and engagement activities. Funds from the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account, the College Impact Fund and the University Impact Fund allocated to staff in the UoA have totalled £178,420. These sources sit alongside other forms of departmental, School and College support.

Some specific examples illustrate the range and effectiveness of such support. First, all staff in POLSIS are provided with the equivalent of £1k per annum to assist with personal research costs (conference attendance, professional subscriptions, travel). Second, the College Quality Output Support Scheme (QOSS) has supported fieldwork, research assistance and translation costs; a parallel College scheme has been in operation to fund Gold Open Access publications (the UoA has drawn upon £50k of funding since 2017 from these two sources). Third, we have pump-primed interdisciplinary collaborations, so helping staff build networks across disciplines. ICCS received major University investment during this period, with annual School support of £7,500 plus some £1million from the University's Dynamic Investment Fund to support two academic posts and dedicated administrative support. Fourth, a Research Assistant scheme has allowed staff to employ postgraduate researchers to assist on major outputs. Such positions are filled through a formal interview and induction process, simultaneously creating opportunities for skills development, experience and paid work. Fifth, we have set aside dedicated funds to support manuscript development workshops that bring together external experts with our own staff. Books by Floyd (published by Cambridge University Press), Macartney (Oxford University Press), Tsourapas (Manchester University Press) and Wheeler (Oxford University Press) have all benefitted from this scheme. And sixth, staff are offered tailored support – Jeffares, for instance, received training in social media data analysis that informed his forthcoming book *The Virtual Public Servant*.

### **3.2. Infrastructure and facilities supporting research**

The UoA benefits from well-resourced, highly skilled professional services staff committed to research and impact support. Grant applications are supported at the pre-award stage by a College Research Support Office (CRSO) and a central University EU and International funding team. A designated post-award team exists within the College. Impact and engagement are, in turn, supported by College and School-based Impact Development Officers, a College-based Research Planning Partner, and the University Public Engagement team. Our physical infrastructure is supported by Data Management, IT and Library Services which provide secure research storage, a research management system for funding (Worktribe) and high-performance computing. In addition, University of Birmingham Enterprise, a subsidiary of the University, supports staff in engaging with the outside market, creating new businesses and social enterprises, and academic consultancy.

PGRs benefit from dedicated facilities: a newly renovated office suite is located in the Muirhead Tower which is also home to the UoA's academic staff. PGRs also have access to the Westmere Hub, a training and social space that encourages exchange between PGRs across the University. Our facilities also reflect a commitment to equality and diversity (see Section 2.3.). For example, in response to School Equality and Diversity survey findings, the School installed new EDI notice boards in mid-2018 that provide a public, visible space for publicising EDI events, initiatives on mental health and wellbeing, and the School's LGBTQ+ Network and its activities. Zoom research seminars have provided an opportunity for greater accessibility, and we are tracking this through the School Research Committee, with a view to offering a blend of in-person and online symposiums on an ongoing basis.

The UoA has a well-developed research communication strategy that integrates Open Access publications, workshops, our own blogs, and both traditional and social media, to help staff communicate their material. Publications are often accompanied by shorter pieces targeting specific audiences with summaries of the findings and policy implications of research, alerting them to the free availability of the full research. Supported by a team of College-based communications staff, the unit has made a conscious effort to raise the media profile of academic colleagues and their work, with greater focus on national and international outlets. 57 unit staff wrote 310 articles in *The Conversation* between 2014 and 2020. Two innovative platforms became hubs of activity. The in-house podcast Political Worldview (organized by Quinn) produced 60 episodes, interviewing staff and postgraduate researchers about their research and its policy implications. We have also worked with the news and commentary website *EA Worldview*, which attracts a readership of three million page views a year, with an audience spanning government, business, intelligence, academia and journalism.

Our Development and Alumni Relations Office helps promote the work of our graduate students and early career researchers via its newsletter *Old Joe*. In 2016, it created YouTube clips of work by doctoral students Amelia Morris on the link between the dieting industry, the beauty ideal and women's body dissatisfaction; and Lindsay Clark on 'Queer Warriors: The Lives and Identities of British Drone Crews.' Such support is also available for established staff – Wolff appeared in the University's Birmingham Heroes outreach campaigns in 2018/19, to highlight the University's work in 'preventing and resolving conflict worldwide.'

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

We are committed to widening our research base and influence, thereby strengthening the discipline. The unit's supportive environment helps colleagues develop national and international collaborations and strengthen partnerships with researchers, NGOs and policy practitioners.

##### **4.1. Collaboration**

Collaboration has been fundamental to the framing of our research and to its outcomes. Of the 124 outputs submitted in REF2, 53 were the product of co-authorship with colleagues outside the University of Birmingham. These and other outputs have often resulted from funded projects with external partners. The involvement of Durose with the Jam and Justice project has already been noted (see Section 1.7). Further, Durose's work as Co-I on the Smart Urban Intermediaries project (led by Merlijn van Hulst at Tilburg University) led to a co-authored article in *Public Administration Review* and involvement in series of project reports. Lowndes collaborated with Francesca Gains

at Manchester through an ERC-funded Understanding Institutional Change project (resulting in co-authored publication in the journal *Governance*). In addition, Lowndes's British Academy/Newton Fund project on Syrian refugees in Turkey has been carried out with Rabia Krakaya Polat at Isik University, Istanbul (Lowndes and Polat co-authored a piece on the subject for *Local Government Studies* in 2020). Wolczuk was part of the University of Birmingham team (led by Rilka Dragneva at University of Birmingham Law School) working with the H2020-funded EU-STRAT consortium (2016-2019; giving rise to Working Papers published by both EU-STRAT and Chatham House). Ces Moore was the lead of the Actors and Narratives programme of the ESRC-funded Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) involving Birmingham as well as the Universities of Bath, Lancaster and Portsmouth. Moore was the author of four CREST reports in 2019 analysing Russian disinformation campaigns; he has also co-authored CREST reports with ESRC/CREST-funded doctoral student (Youngman).

Collaboration has been fostered through appointments as Research and Visiting Fellows. Connolly is Visiting Professor at the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration; Connolly, Cutts and Wolczuk are Associate Fellows of the Royal Institute of International Affairs; Kaneff is an Associate of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle, Germany); Porter is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London and, along with Morefield, is a Fellow of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft; Wolff is an Associate Fellow at RUSI and a Senior Advisor at the Global Centre for Pluralism, Ottawa. Indicative recent appointments include Durose (Visiting Fellow at the Great Cities Institute, UIC Illinois; the Tilburg Institute of Governance; and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, Carlton, Australia); Gaskarth (Visiting Professor at Sciences Po 2018); Haughton (Visiting Professor, Colorado College, 2016); Tsourapas (Fellow at the Centre for European Studies, Harvard University, 2019–20), and Webber (Visiting Research Professor at the College of Arts and Science, New York University, 2015).

#### **4.2. The beneficiaries of our research**

Strengthening relationships with research users has been a priority of the UoA. The ICCS is a good example. It is a member of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions. ICCS affiliate Wolff was lead editor in 2020 of a report on the Balkans and the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative commissioned by the Hamburg-based Centre for OSCE Research, involving a team of seventeen collaborators (including Webber). He was also lead author of a World Bank report published in 2020 on *Subnational Governance and Conflict*. The work of ICCS with BASIC is also noteworthy. Wheeler's ESRC award on Nuclear Ethics and Global Security was supported by an advisory group that involved BASIC's Director (alongside former FCDO and Ministry of Defence officials, the former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, and the former Head of the UN's Institute for Disarmament Research, Patricia Lewis). In 2018, the ICCS and BASIC awarded its first ESRC collaborative studentship award via the Midlands DTP. Between 2018 and 2020, the ICCS and BASIC co-hosted eight policy roundtables in London (twice), Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Geneva, the Hague, São Paulo and New Delhi with the support of the FCDO, the Joseph Roundtree Charitable Trust and the UK Conflict and Stability Fund. The ICCS (in partnership with BASIC, King's College London and NATO Watch) co-hosted the 2014 NATO Shadow Summit. In December 2019, to support the NATO Leaders' Meeting in London, ICCS affiliate Webber was the lead academic organiser (in partnership with the FCDO and the British International Studies Association (BISA)) of a Model NATO in London. He also presented at NATO's official public outreach event, NATO Engages. In January 2020, Model NATO was commended in the House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab.



ICCS has undertaken four separate projects on international drone policy which have been of direct relevance to policymakers. Staff working in this area have had a series of fruitful interactions in the policy domain. Dunn gave expert evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee and his work was cited on nine separate occasions in the ensuing committee report – ‘Commercial and Recreational Drone Use in the UK, Twenty-Second Report of Session 2017–19 HC 2021’ (published October 2019). His recommendations on drone registrations and geo-fencing of airports were subsequently taken into consideration by the UK government in the Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2019. Dunn has also advised the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, the National Police Chiefs’ Council, and the West Midlands Counter-Terrorism Unit. In October 2014, the ICCS published a University Policy Commission report on ‘The Security Impact of Drones.’ The Commission was chaired by Sir David Omand (former head of GCHQ) and held consultations with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drones, as well as senior figures in the United Nations, the Church of England and the defence industry. Its Report was cited in a Parliamentary Early Day Motion, in a House of Commons Briefing Paper, in a Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology Note and in a joint letter by MPs and experts to the Secretary of Defence.

INLOGOV, similarly, has sustained a number of significant partnerships. This includes Lowndes’s work with the new mayoral combined authorities’ network, supported by the IAA and undertaken in partnership with the University of Birmingham Business School. Research from the Jam and Justice project (Durose) has directly influenced public policy at a city-regional scale, as well as individual organisations in Greater Manchester. Impact included the adoption of the principle of co-production as a policy across the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, leading to policy changes in health, social care and procurement. Work led by Mangan in INLOGOV on the ‘21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant’ constitutes one of the UoA’s Impact Case Studies.

Expertise across the UoA, meanwhile, makes our staff attractive sources of advice to UK government and parliament. We have regularly provided briefings to the UK FCDO, Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office (Dunn, Gaskarth, Kyris, Porter, Quinn, Webber); made submissions to, or have been cited in, House of Commons Committee reports (Kyris, Porter, Wolff); and in the case of CREES-affiliated staff (Averre, Connolly, Haughton, Wolczuk) have briefed the Foreign Secretary, ambassadors and civil servants on UK policy toward Russia, Ukraine and east-central Europe. In 2015, Gaskarth served as a member of the Academic Advisory Panel for the UK National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence Review. Smith has participated in a Home Office symposium (September 2016) on prostitution to gather evidence and gain advice about appropriate methodologies for researching the subject. Her report (co-authored with Sarah Kingston, University of Central Lancashire), *Sex Work Statistics in the UK*, was commissioned by the Liberal Democrats.

Our expert advice has also been relayed internationally. Advice provided by Wolczuk to the European Commission and European Parliament has shaped the implementation of EU Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (that work is central to our Impact Case Study on Shaping EU Policy towards the Eastern Partnership Countries). Wolff’s engagement with the EU, the OSCE and the government of Moldova has been instrumental in the creation of a framework law aimed at settling the decades-long conflict in Transnistria. Wolff was also an expert advisor for a documentary on Moldova’s ‘frozen conflict’ distributed by Arsenal-Berlin and has advised the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the United Nations

Office of the Special Adviser on Yemen, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Webber has been involved in projects run by NATO's Allied Command Transformation in partnership with Bologna University. He has also been an invited participant to expert workshops on nuclear strategy and partnerships organised by the NATO Defence College (NDC) in Rome. Webber (along with Connolly) has produced commissioned Reports and Briefs for NDC.

Our staff have also contributed to the work of think tanks, NGOs and charities. Connolly, Cutts and Wolzcuk have all written reports for Chatham House. Gaskarth's book on *Secrets and Spies: UK Intelligence Accountability after Iraq and Snowden* was jointly published by Chatham House and the Washington-based Brookings Institution. Bloom was co-author of written evidence submitted to the British Future independent enquiry into British citizenship. Bloom and Galpin have both contributed blogs to the Discover Society.

Colleagues have been members of institutes ranging from the Global Refugee Compact (Bloom), the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, Citizens UK: Birmingham's Leadership Group and the UK National Council (Durose); Under the Radar (Smith); and Neighbourhood Practice Teams in Amsterdam-West (Bartels). Until 2019, Smith was a co-convenor of the Sex Work Research Hub.

Our broader societal impact is evident in a number of ways. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we produced timely and accessible public commentary. This included online outward facing lectures on the social and political implications of the pandemic (Bailey, Morefield, Porter), and articles co-ordinated by Albertazzi on the impact of the pandemic on European politics via the populism project's website. We have also participated in the annual ESRC Festival of Social Science in order to build public engagement, including for example well-attended online events in 2020 on Black celebrity activism and the rise of Fascism (66 attendees). The videos from this event received 36,000 views. Throughout the assessment period, Dunn has been Chair of the West Midlands Military Education Committee (WMMEC), a consortium of universities and Armed Service Units in the region. Lectures organised by Dunn under WMMEC auspices have been delivered by, among others, the Director of the UK Defence Academy, the former Chief of the UK Defence Staff, and the First Sea Lord of the Royal Navy.

Our staff have also published in influential news and commentary outlets. Porter is a regular contributor to *War on the Rocks* and *The Critic* (authoring the magazine's cover article in December 2019). In this assessment period, he has also written for *Politico*, *History Today*, *Policy Exchange* (with Gaskarth) and the *New Statesman* (with Morefield). Haughton is an authoritative commentator on the politics of east-central Europe – with fifteen articles published in 'The Monkey Cage' forum of *The Washington Post* in the assessment period. Quinn has written on US foreign policy for *The Wire* and *Middle East Eye* and has appeared on Talk Radio, BBC West Midlands, and ITV Central. Lindstädt has regularly commented on U.S. politics, including on BBC Radio and BBC News.

#### **4.3. Contributions to the sustainability of the discipline**

Our staff have played a crucial role in supporting Political Science and International Studies both as an academic profession and as a research field.

On the latter, our staff have co-edited numerous book series, including Cambridge Studies in International Relations, Cambridge University Press (Wheeler); Political Psychology, Palgrave (Capelos); Identities and Politics in the Middle East, Manchester University Press (Darwich); Global Political Economies of Gender and Sexuality, Rowman and Littlefield International (Smith). In 2020, editorship of one of the discipline's mostly highly regarded generalist journals, *British Journal of Political Science* (Lindstädt), and one leading subfield journal, the *Journal of Global Security Studies* (Siniver and Gaskarth), came to the unit. We have been involved as lead editors in a further seven journals: *British Politics* (Kerr), *Ethnopolitics* (Wolff), *Local Government Studies* (Reardon), *Political Studies Review* (Cutts), *Post-Communist Economies* (Connolly), *Science and Society* (Capelos), and the Annual Review supplement of the *Journal of Common Market Studies* (Haughton). Our staff have served on numerous editorial and advisory boards: *Administrative Theory and Practice* (Bartels), *East European Politics*, *East European Quarterly* and *Slavonic and East European Review* (Haughton), *European Journal of International Security* (Webber), *European Security* (Averre and Webber), *Foreign Policy Analysis* (Gaskarth), *International Politics* (Webber), *Journal of Trust Research* (Wheeler), *Local Government Studies* (Lowndes as chair); *Political Science Research and Methods* (Lindstädt).

In addition, staff have guest edited a number of journal special issues, forums, handbooks and edited volumes. This includes:

- Albertazzi (co-editor of *Modern Italy* 20(1) 2015 on 'Berlusconi's Impact and Legacy');
- Averre and Wolczuk (co-editors of *Europe-Asia Studies* 68(4), 2016 on 'The Ukrainian Crisis and Post-Post-Cold War Europe');
- Bailey (forum editor of 'Class Struggle after Brexit', *Capital and Class*, 41(2), 2017);
- Bates (co-editor of *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 25(3), 2019 on 'Committees in Comparative Perspective');
- Capelos (co-editor of the *Palgrave Handbook of Global Political Psychology*, 2014);
- Gaskarth (co-editor of special section of *International Affairs* 90(3), 2014 on 'British Foreign Policy and the National Interest');
- Haughton (co-editor of the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 'Annual Review', 2008 – 2017);
- Lowndes (co-editor of *Theory and Methods in Political Science* – 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018);
- Vieira (co-editor, *Global Society* 29(3), 2015 on 'Challenges to Emerging and Established Powers');
- Webber (co-editor, *West European Politics* 42(2), 2019 on 'The European Union, Security Governance and Collective Securitisation');
- Wolff (editor of *Ethnic Conflict: Critical Concepts in Political Science* – Routledge, 2018).

Support for the profession, meanwhile, is evident from the leading external positions held by our staff. This includes Lowndes who oversaw the criteria-setting phase as Chair of the UoA19 REF sub-panel. Further professional service includes: Bailey (Chair of the Critical Political Economy Research Network of the European Sociological Association); Capelos (President of the International Society of Political Psychology); Darwich (Director of the Arab Political Science Network and Trustee of the Council for British Research in the Levant); Gaskarth (Convenor of the English School Section of the International Studies Association); Reardon (co-Chair of the Governance and Decision-Making Processes Special Interest Group of the World Conference on Transport Research Society); and Webber (Vice Chair and Chair of BISA).

The valuable contribution to the discipline made by our staff has been reflected in the conferring of a number of awards. Durose won the [2020 Political Studies Association Joni Lovenduski Prize for Outstanding Professional Achievement by a Mid-career Scholar](#). Lowndes won the Harrison Prize for best article in *Political Studies* (2019). Tsourapas's book, *The Politics of Migration in Modern Egypt – Strategies for Regime Survival in Autocracies* (CUP, 2019), won the 2020 ENMISA Distinguished Book Award.

Three members of the UoA are Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences (Lowndes, Wolff, Wheeler). Durose and Wolff are both Fellows of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Houghton and White serve on the ESRC Peer Review College. Durose is Assessor for the Research Council of Norway, and Reardon is an Assessor for the Australian Research Council.