

Institution: University of Exeter
Unit of Assessment: <u>19: Politics and International Studies</u>
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research, and impact strategy</p> <p>(a) Overview</p> <p>We have grown to be one of the largest and most thematically diverse political science and international relations departments in the UK (one of the top six based on 2019 HESA data) covering all major subfields in the disciplines. Our mission is to lead in defining and shaping the key intellectual agenda in Politics and International Studies through a research environment that values collaboration, inclusivity, diversity, and co-production of knowledge with users and stakeholders. To achieve this, we have transformed our investment in staff and infrastructure into a world-leading research environment to the benefit of all researchers, regardless of background or career stage.</p> <p>The Department's strong performance in REF2014 (ranked 5th for world-leading and internationally excellent research), built on our RAE 2008 success (ranked 6th for world-leading research), has provided a firm foundation for delivering on our research strategy. The past seven years have seen a period of unprecedented growth in staff and research success that spans the local, the regional to the global and international.</p> <p>Key achievements in REF2021 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vibrant research centres, collaborative practices and robust support that has led to a significant and sustained increase in total research grant funding from £5.2 million in REF2014 period to £11.9 million in the REF2021 period from major national (<i>UKRI, British Academy (BA)</i>), international funders (<i>H2020, ERC, NORFACE</i>) and foundations (<i>Leverhulme and Volkswagen Foundation</i>). The boost in research income includes three <i>ERC</i> grants awarded for scientific excellence. ✓ Our inclusive research environment has led to success among early career researchers with c.70% winning grant funding including three prestigious early career fellowships (Thomson – <i>ESRC Future Leaders</i>; Owen – <i>British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship</i>, Bulmer – <i>Volkswagen Foundation Fellowship</i>). ✓ Our agility in applying for research funding has led to successful bids for <i>GCRF</i> funding (£150k) and the <i>UKRI</i> Rapid COVID-19 Response fund (£420k). ✓ Our researchers have published 586 peer-reviewed journal articles, 171 book chapters, 39 edited volumes and 16 research monographs. ✓ Our structures and processes that prioritise equality, diversity and inclusivity in recruitment and promotion mentoring activities have led to an increase in female professors from one to seven. ✓ We have worked to promote an inclusive and diverse culture through workshops aimed at decolonising our curriculum and we have attracted a diverse PhD research community (c.50% identify as ethnic minority). <p>Research integrity and transparency, adopted from the UK Universities concordant on Research Integrity (see 2.10 Institutional Level Environment Statement, hereafter ILES), are embedded in our internal monitoring and career mentoring (see Section 2 - People). This ensures we meet the highest professional standards of our research communities (see Section</p>

4 – Collaboration) and nurture continued awareness and practices of open research (see **Section 3 – Research Infrastructure**).

(b) Context and Structure

Politics is situated in the *College of Social Science and International Studies (ILES 1.3*, and hereafter College) and our research activity takes place across two campuses – Exeter and Penryn (**ILES 1.2**). Across the two locations, our research centres play a major role in delivering the research strategy of the department, with membership in centres coming from both locations, to ensure the diversity of experiences are represented in our shared vision for a collaborative, dynamic and respectful research culture. The two locations allow us to broaden our research themes (e.g., critical security and military studies, gender, and queer politics), promote more dynamic impact and engagement networks with local communities in Devon and Cornwall (see **Section 4c**) and engage with interdisciplinary centres at both campuses, leading to sustainable practices of collaboration.

Academic staff, post-doctoral researchers, teaching associates and PGR students are organised into four research centres: *Centre for Elections, Media and Parties*, *Centre for Political Thought*, *Centre for Advanced International Studies*, and the *Exeter Public Policy Group* [see Figure 1]. The boundaries of these centres are porous, and membership is fluid with most staff finding secondary intellectual homes in a centre outside their primary unit. This fluidity has encouraged the development of two cross-cutting themes that are core areas of research excellence for the department [see Figure 1]:

1) **Environment Politics and Policy** with key research contributions by members of *Public Policy (Benson, Russel, and Scott)*, *Political Thought (McKinnon)* and *Elections, Media and Participation (Coan, Saunders, and Willett)*;

2) **Critical Global Security and Military Studies** with members of *Advanced International Studies (Bulmer, Owen, Powel, Tedesco)*, *Security and Strategy (Blagden, Catignani, Thomson)* and *Political Thought (Prichard)*.

Uniting academics from both of our campuses, our research centres have been vital to integrating our new staff, allowing opportunities for informal networking, and mentoring of ECRs. There are three additional college centres where Politics is the leading discipline, *Centre for European Governance*, the *Security and Strategy Institute* and the *Exeter Q-Step Centre*, that attract members from across the University.

These centres provide fora for fostering new research ideas and collaborations through seminars workshops and feedback sessions. We are committed to ensuring research opportunities for staff on fixed-term teaching-only contracts and they are full and active members of research centres. The size of each research centre ensures cover for research leave and succession planning for sustainability of thematic research areas, as well as providing research development opportunities for postdoctoral researchers and specialist supervision for our PhD researchers. Our centres featured prominently in our REF2014 statement and continue to provide the key structure, anchoring our research activity across both of our locations.

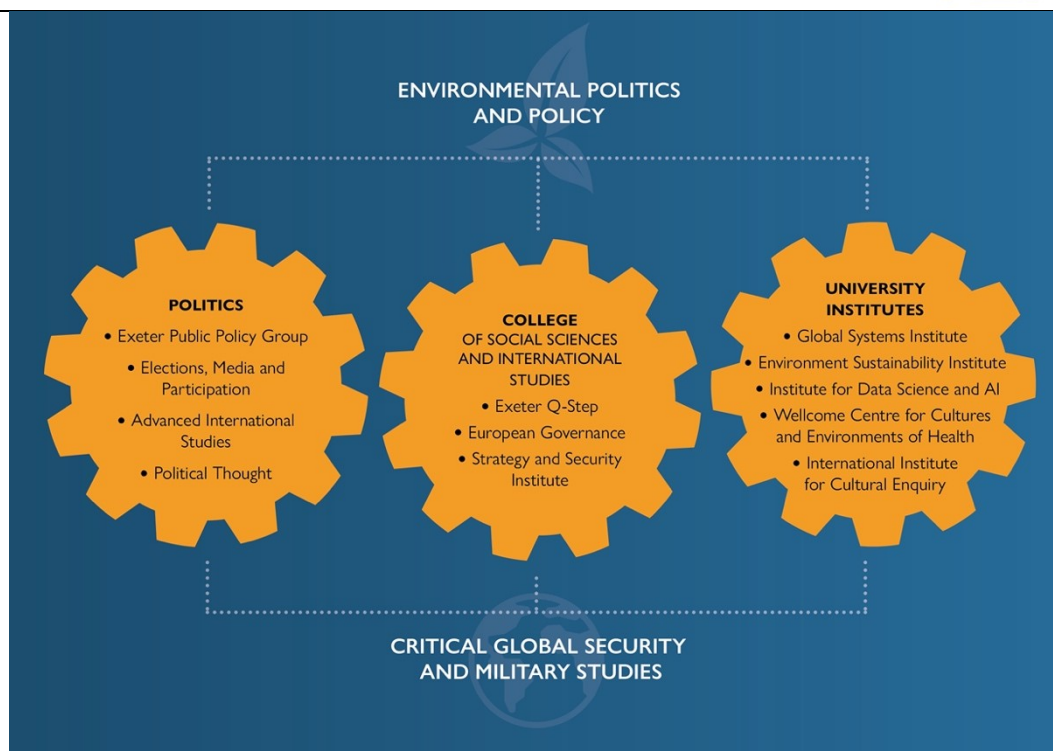


Figure 1. Politics Research Centres and Themes, College Centres & University Institutes

Politics academics work closely as members of leadership at University Institutes – these institutes represent a major investment in cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research by the university (ILES 1.5). **Banducci** is deputy director at the *Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence* – a hub for data-intensive science and artificial intelligence (AI) activity and lead Institute for Exeter’s membership in the UK’s Turing Institute. **Lamb** was the inaugural director [2019-2020] of the *International Institute Cultural Enquiry* bringing together arts, humanities, and social science researchers to address global challenges. Additional interdisciplinary leadership includes **Willett** as co-director of the *Cornish Studies Institute* and **Durie** as deputy director at the *Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health*. **Coan, Jasny, McKinnon, and Prichard** are members of the *Global Systems Institute* that tackles environmental problems from an Earth systems approach. **Benson, Saunders, Scott, and Willett** are researchers in the *Environment & Sustainability Institute* leading on research on the social implications of climate change. Researchers aligned with these Institutes benefit from access to pump-priming funds, substantive cross-disciplinary expertise, networks of external partners for knowledge exchange and impact and collaborations for large interdisciplinary bids. Our commitment to an interdisciplinary research culture also is evident in the interdisciplinary journals that our outputs appear in (e.g., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Nature Climate Change* and *Nature Human Behavior*).

In 2017, we established a departmental Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity [EDI] committee, with membership from all ranks, including teaching-only staff. This committee meets quarterly to foster EDI across the research life cycle, and ensures departmental strategy and activities are in line with and championing EDI principles.

(c) Research & Impact Strategy

The strategy set out in our REF2014 environment statement built on our RAE2008 achievements and had four key objectives:

- **Objective 1: Strategic staff growth** Our REF2014 strategy anticipated increasing staff size by, on average, two per year in the five-year period to 2020, ten in total. We have exceeded this, hiring an additional 19 staff, bringing our staff numbers to 59 (58.25FTE). This scale of investment has allowed us to sustain growth in the priority areas of quantitative methods and political psychology as envisioned in our strategy and widen expertise through recruiting staff in additional priority areas of politics of the Global South, regional and development studies, gender and queer politics, and global security and critical military studies.
- **Objective 2: Sustaining existing strengths in research centres** Investing in these centres as the main drivers for research collaboration, outreach and impact has delivered key successes in funded research projects, research outputs and integrating PhD and postdoctoral researchers into the department that are detailed below:

- ✓ **The Centre for Elections, Media and Participation [CEMaP] Stevens** leads a group working on media and elections that has been awarded *ESRC* funding to study the election media coverage in the British National Elections in 2015, 2017 and 2019 with **Banducci, Coan and Katz**. **Stevens** has also contributed a research monograph based on an *ESRC* grant on security threats, in addition to a monograph on political advertising. These projects supported career development for ECRs, **Kolpinskaya** (2019) began as a postdoctoral researcher on the *ESRC* funded Media in Context project and is now a lecturer in British Politics. **Bolleyer's** *ERC* grant (2013 – 2018) on civil society and voluntary associations has resulted in an Oxford University Press (OUP) book, and research from **Reifler's** *ERC DEBUNKER* project has been published in a leading interdisciplinary journal (*PNAS*). **Saunders** has contributed work on social movements (funded by *ERC* and *ESRC*) and **Willett** on the impact of Brexit on Cornwall (*ESRC* funded).

Six new hires have increased thematic and regional diversity, with five being women, and have further strengthened expertise in party politics (**Herman** 2018), European and EU political behaviour (**Stoeckel** 2017) and added regional expertise in African (**Gadjanova** 2018), British (**Kolpinskaya** 2019, **Willett** 2017) and Greek politics (**Rori** 2017).

- ✓ **The Exeter Public Policy Group [EPPG]** produced work on regulatory burdens, internet governance and representation in the EU with the publication of monographs by **Harcourt, Kröger and Thomann**. Harcourt's OUP monograph was the result of *ESRC*-funded research examining the representation of public interests in Internet standard developing organisations. The work on policy learning and expertise in the *ERC* project *PROTEGO* (2016-2021, **Dunlop** with **Radaelli** – Cat B) has led to an impact case study ("Shaping Policy Learning on Regulatory Reforms"). *ESRC*-funded work on public services (**James** and **Moseley**) has developed behavioural analysis of citizens' responses to performance information and the *BA*-funded **Greasley's** work on policy termination. EU-funded research on environmental policy (**Russel**) has led to a rethinking decentralised environmental governance and policy implementation of environmental strategies in the academic and policy communities.

The Exeter Public Policy Group strategically recruited **Engeli** (2019) at professorial level in comparative public policy to join **Thomann** (2016) and **Gouglas** (2018) who

work on regulation and governance from a European and comparative perspective. **Moseley** (2015) brings her expertise in behavioural public policy and **Cooper** (2016) brings expertise on women, public policy, and healthcare.

- ✓ **Centre for Advanced International Studies [CAIS]** engages in research at the intersection of the domestic and international politics has been supported by diverse funders including the *ESRC* (**Baele, Heathershaw, Lewis, Thomson**), *DFID* (**Heathershaw**), *British Academy* (**Owen**) and *NORFACE* (**Baele**). **Thomson's** *ESRC Future Leaders* project which was the first study to to conduct large-scale survey of security and defense experts in the UK. Other early career grant success includes **Owen's** *British Academy* Postdoctoral Fellowship on participatory authoritarianism (2017-2020), **Bulmer's** Volkswagen fellowships (2014-2019) and **Catignani's** *ESRC*-funded project on the armed forces.

There is a strong focus on regional politics with **Heathershaw's** work on Central Asia and **Lewis's** work on Russia leading to manuscript and **Dumper's** work on Palestinian refugees (*Leverhulme Trust* Fellowship) published by Columbia University Press. With the addition of **Allouche** (2019) who works on issues of gender and sexuality in the Middle East, **Mehran** (2019) on warlordism in Afghanistan, **Fernandez-Molina** (2017) who works on conflict and international security in North Africa and **Loke** (2017) who works on China as a great power – the regional expertise of *Advanced International Studies* has expanded considerably.

Bettiza (2017) adds further expertise in the role of religion in foreign policy to existing expertise in international security (**Stokes**) and political violence (**Mulaj**). **Bulmer** (2017) and **Thomas** (2018) add to existing expertise in critical security studies.

- ✓ **Centre for Political Thought (CPT)** is one of the UK's largest, and most ecumenical, clusters of political theorists. **Prichard**, working with Professor Ruth Kinna (Loughborough) on an *ESRC* 'Transformative Social Science' award, examined anarchy as a constitutional principle and shaped how specific organisations have incorporated anarchistic principles into their practices (see ICS – "Anarchist Constitutions"). Discrete projects of centre staff have continued to yield significant research monographs (**Lamb** on Thomas Paine with Cambridge University Press (CUP) and **Muldoon** on the German Council movement with OUP).

We have recruited three outstanding early-career researchers: the work of **Lucas** (2017) and **Muldoon** (2017) cuts across established sub-field boundaries, bringing new interests in feminism and democratic theory (complementing the work of **Schaap**), and that of **Carroll** (2015) consolidates existing expertise in eighteenth-century political thought (**Castiglione, Hampsher-Monk, Lamb**). **McKinnon** (2019) brings new senior leadership as well as expertise in the increasingly important sphere of climate ethics and environmental justice.

- **Objective 3: Invest in quantitative research methods expertise** Key to addressing this objective has been our leadership of the *Exeter Q-Step Centre* that has grown in scope, capacity, and expertise to become a centre of expertise in *computational social science methods* with strong links to the *Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence*. The *Centre* includes **Katz's** work on using machine learning methods to correct for survey

misreports (supported by a BA Skills Innovator award) and an ESRC award on new forms of data (**Banducci**).

- **Objective 4: Expand range of specialist PhD researcher supervision and training** Our aim of expanding the range of specialist supervision and training available to our PGRs has been achieved through growth in the range of staff research specialisms in our research centres (see above) and our inclusion in the *Southwest Doctoral Training Partnership's* [SWDTP] interdisciplinary pathways in Security, Conflict and Human Rights and Advanced Quantitative Methods with additional opportunities including a summer school in Qualitative Comparative Methods (2019) and a two-day training session for discourse analysis.

(d) Future Strategy

We are committed to creating a research environment that is inclusive and diverse, reflecting the world we study. Given our growth over the last REF period, both in terms of staff and research income, we will work to sustain the new shape and size of our unit (see **Section 2 - People**). We have four guiding aims to consolidate our growth in research staff and research income:

- 1) Ensure our **staff growth is sustainable and dynamic** by sustaining a research environment that allows all researchers to develop to their full potential. We will achieve this through the continued monitoring of processes, structures and outcomes by our EDI committee including developing and understanding of how to increase researchers of colour in our department and applying for Athena Swan accreditation. We will widen our successful track record on promoting of early career researchers by working to ensure mid-career researchers have access to mentoring and career development opportunities to achieve promotion.
- 2) **Further embed PhD advanced training, including research integrity training**, in research centres and **increase the pool of, and funding for, high quality PhD students** in the department. Building on our grant success, we will increase the number of project-funded studentships and actively seek out opportunities to lead and collaborate on bids for centres for doctoral training. To embed training, we will broaden Exeter Q-Step training and our partnership in the second stage of the *National Centre for Research Methods* which covers the diversity of methodological approaches including training in the principles of reproducibility, research transparency and data stewardship to develop a culture of research integrity. Politics is the lead for Exeter's partnership in the centre which was awarded £2.8m from the ESRC to extend its operation over another five years (2020-2024).
- 3) **Develop and extend the reach of our impact and engagement**, especially linking the international to the local, and deepening existing collaborations with impact partners and applying to our *ESRC Impact Accelerator Account* (IAA) to support these activities (**Dunlop PI**). **Dunlop** will take forward the activity of Policy@Exeter, which grew out of an initial investment from *Research England* (£335,000 of QR Strategic Priorities Fund, 2019-2020), to become a focal point for engagement with policymakers at all levels as a University-supported Research Network (**ILES 2.3**).
- 4) Thematically, we will invest in **targeted growth in key research areas** to reflect emerging areas of expertise in research centres. We will also draw on the strength of our research centres and invest in further developing our cross-disciplinary research themes by collaborating with university institutes.

- ✓ **Centre for Advanced International Studies** will invest in critical military and security studies to build on grants to **Bulmer** (AHRC) on Arts, Culture and Sport Supporting Returning Veterans (building on a *Volkswagen* grant in last REF period) and a *Leverhulme Trust* grant to **Thomas** on British Interventions in the Middle East. This work, across our two campuses, will add strength to the research on critical military studies begun by **Basham** (Cat B) and **Catignani**. The centre will continue its success in the co-production of knowledge with regional scholars that has already seen with scholars based in Central Asia (**Heathershaw**) and South Africa (**Bulmer**). **Stokes** will lead a project on project exploring how the West perceives China funded by a LimeTree Capital Fellowship and **Thomson** (with **Reifler**) will continue to study elite and public opinion on European common defence and shared security (*Volkswagen Foundation*).
- ✓ **Centre for Elections Media and Participation** will expand its expertise in comparative political communication research by building on the *ESRC* investment in elections and media funded grants (**Stevens, Katz and Kolpinskaya**) and the *ERC DEBUNKER* grant to **Reifler**. **Coan** will lead on connecting the centre's computational social science research to the *Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence*.
- ✓ **Centre for Political Thought** will further expand on contemporary social and global issues, while engaging in interdisciplinary collaborations. New areas of research include rhetoric and ridicule (**Carroll**) in political thinking; feminist agency and politics (**Lucas**); intergenerational and environmental ethics (**McKinnon**); democratising the digital economy (**Muldoon**); precarity and democratic politics (**Schaap**); and of healthcare in communities (**Durie**). **Durie** will lead on connecting work on health to the *Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health*. **McKinnon** (2019) will lead on connecting climate ethics and environmental justice to research in the *Global Systems Institute* and the *Environment and Sustainability Institute*.
- ✓ **Exeter Public Policy Group** will develop its strengths in both environmental policy and behavioural public policy and administration research and will build emerging expertise on the interplay between citizens, the state and technology. The group will develop work on elite policymaking processes including the work of **McKay** on interest groups, **Gouglas** and **Greasley** on executives. **James** will take forward new *ESRC*-funded research on fiscal citizenship and taxation. Regulation and governance in a post-Brexit UK and EU will be the central focus for **Dunlop** and **Harcourt** will focus on Internet and global governance. Further work will engage more broadly with environment and sustainability issues as **Russel**'s on the bottom-up climate change adaptation will lead our departmental strength on these issues, including the work of **Moseley, Benson, Saunders, Scott, and McKinnon**.

We will invest in gender and queer studies, an emerging cross-centre thematic area of expertise. Appointments over the last REF period bring expertise in feminist theory (**Lucas**), gender and public policy (**Cooper, Engeli**), queer politics (**Allouche**) to existing expertise in feminist activism (**Maiguashca**) and comparative gender and political behaviour (**Banducci**) to form a critical mass for taking forward a research agenda addressing contemporary challenges on gender and sexuality. This thematic area will also draw on expertise in comparative gender and

political behaviour and a new module on gender attitudes and sexism (**Banducci**) selected through an international competition, to be included in Round 11 of the *European Social Survey*.

2. People

(a) Overview

We have focused on increasing gender diversity across all ranks and put EDI considerations at the centre of our staff recruitment and development processes and structures. We have worked to embed equality and diversity at each stage of our staffing strategy. One significant payoff has been a dramatic improvement in the number of women to 30 (compared to 12 in REF2014) and their representation at all levels of seniority [see Table below]. The establishment since the last REF period of a departmental equality, diversity and inclusivity committee has helped to ensure these values are mainstreamed in our recruitment and mentoring processes. The EDI committee has also been fundamental in reviewing our overall discipline strategy and our research output monitoring processes. Our strong research centres have given us effective informal, research-focussed means of welcoming, inducting, and supporting new colleagues.

We have the support of a college EDI officer and initiatives include “speak out champions” to counteract harassment and discriminatory practices, and colleagues have been funded to qualify as Stonewall LGBTQ+ role models (**Dunlop**) and allies (**Lamb**). **Mishra** (teaching-only lecturer) has been leading departmental training events on building curriculum that is anti-racist through decolonising our syllabi and introducing new content that explores power asymmetries and discrimination. We are committed to further diversity in the department (see Future Strategy 1.d).

(b) Staffing Strategy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

Our ambitious plans to increase staffing numbers by 10 were exceeded allowing us to expand in the areas of political theory, regional studies and public policy. Our staffing strategy to embed equality and diversity in our recruitment has yielded positive results. We have made 27 hires over the last REF cycle of those 19 have been women and, of the three hires at professorial level, two have been women (**McKinnon** 2019, **Engeli** 2019). Of the new appointments, nine have been entirely new posts created through investment by the University including a Humanities and Social Science Fellowship (**Bormann** 2015 – Cat B) with an additional post created through Q-Step funding from *Nuffield*, *ESRC* and *HEFCE* (**Jasny** 2014).

Grade	Headcount 2019-2020	Gender (M/F)
Lecturer (including research only)	16	M:4; F:12
Senior Lecturer	19	M:10; F:9
Associate Professor	8	M:6; F:2
Professor	16	M:9; F:7
Total	59	M:29; F:30

(c) Workload, Promotion and Recognition

Researchers are recruited and their careers supported and developed in ways that recognise and value the diversity of their contributions across the range of academic activities. Clear criteria for promotion at the lecturer level, including publication, grant activity and impact requirements, have been set by the college in consultation with HR and agreed by departments. The head of the college (Pro-Vice Chancellor) along with the college HR advisor meet with lecturers to ensure progress toward these promotion criteria. During the last REF period, all eligible lecturers, have been promoted to senior lecturer within five years of start dates. Of these, seven have been women.

We ensure that mid-career staff are supported in similar ways to achieve progression through a process where role profiles are detailed and transparent. To redress the lack of women in senior positions, the HoD and College have actively encouraged and supported women to apply for promotion. In REF2021, seven AP were promoted to Professor, of these four were women; seven SL promoted to AP (two women) and another 17 members of staff progressed from L to SL (eight women). To build on the success of mentoring our early career staff through the promotion from L to SL and then to professorships, we are keen to embed this success at the next level and ensure our mid-career staff make the next step from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor and beyond. Lecturers are allocated additional research workload hours to allow them to integrate into research community, maintain emerging research agendas alongside teaching commitments, and increase activities around research funding opportunities ensuring they meet the targets for promotion.

University policies (**ILES 3.4**) ensure staff can undertake caring roles and manage work throughout the life-course – pregnancy and adoption, paternity, emergency leave to care for a dependant and bereavement. The university has designated breastfeeding rooms and offers mindfulness training to ease the symptoms of menopause. As a department we strive to implement these policies flexibly and with care. Over the last REF period we have supported five periods of maternity leave and six periods of paternity leave. Where requested, after periods of leave for caring or health, we have accommodated flexible return to work patterns through adjusted administrative and teaching loads in negotiation with the HoD with impact on the workload of other colleagues monitored. Staff have also been given equipment to set up working from home where it has been demonstrated to improve health.

(d) Mentoring and Professional Development

Professional and career development are integral to enabling researchers to develop their full potential, in line with the University's commitment to the Concordant on Researcher Career Development (**ILES 2.9**). Our mentoring system is led by Academic Leads (ALs), senior members of staff who regularly meet with assigned staff, both formally and informally, including undertaking an annual Performance Development Review, which is shared more widely with the Head of Department (HoD) and the Directors of Research and Education. ALs support staff with career progression and development through a programme of activities in the Exeter Academic programme (**ILES 3.3**). This programme of development (aligned to UK Professional Standards Framework) focuses on the skills necessary for academic and research leadership including all aspects of research integrity, mentoring and EDI in professional practice.

We have a large community of postdoctoral researchers linked to funded research projects. Over the REF period this has comprised 20 researchers who have had contracts of a year or longer. Our postdoctoral researchers can engage in professional development review meetings with an AL. They have access to all career development and training opportunities including accreditation for teaching in HE. This support allows them to develop their research identity as part of their career progression.

We know it is important to give academic staff periods of uninterrupted research leave to develop large and complex research ideas into publications and grant proposals. Research leave also allows our researchers to undertake work outside of the UK (fieldwork or international visits with leading scholars) and develop skills in key methods. All academic staff, regardless of seniority, are eligible to apply for leave every three years. These proposals are evaluated at the departmental and college level. Over the last REF cycle, we awarded 43 periods of research leave to 32 different members of staff. We facilitated this generous leave policy by each research-led teaching cluster (comparative politics, public policy, international studies, and political theory) being large enough (>10) to cover the full range of teaching. During the REF period, colleagues have used leave to develop successful research proposals (**Bulmer, James, Moseley**), make international visits to broaden collaborative projects (**Stevens** to Australia National University and **Loke** Nanyang Technological University), finish major monographs (**Stevens** completed his monograph *Truth in Political Advertising*). An Outward Mobility Fellowship funded **Betizza's** research leave that he spent at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Johns Hopkins University (2017) to undertake research for his OUP monograph.

(e) PhD Researcher Community

PhD researchers are vital to our research environment, bringing vitality to our thematic areas and pushing innovation in methods, and have been at the centre of our strategic objectives in terms enhancing our provision of specialist training. Since REF2014, we made the strategic decision to reduce our intake of PhD researchers and concentrate our efforts on improving our recruitment, mentoring and the quality of training we offer to our doctoral researchers which has meant smaller cohorts. The measures we have taken to improve the experience of our PhD researchers include tightening the admission process to ensure the best fit between supervisor and student (i.e. our departmental admissions officer assesses the applicant's potential and then the supervisor and admissions officer agree to the fit of supervision), increase in team supervision (i.e. meaningful supervision is allocated to a first and second supervisor), all students are assigned a mentor to address any issues of their broader academic development, and the EDI committee regularly reviews admissions figures to ensure alignment with EDI principles. Other measures we have undertaken to improve PhD researcher progression include an assessment of written work by an independent review panel in the first year before progression to PhD from MPhil status.

We have worked to increase access to funded studentships. We are successful in competing for PhD studentships as part of the *ESRC Southwest Doctoral Training Partnership [SWDTP]*, a collaboration between the Universities of Bristol, Bath, University of the West of England, Plymouth, and Exeter (**ILES 1.8**). Politics is awarded, on a competitive basis, one to two SWDTP studentships each year in Politics and another two to three in the interdisciplinary pathways in

which we participate – Security, Conflict and Development and Advanced Quantitative Methods. Because our College match funds each *SWDTP* studentships, we can double the number of students who are funded. We also have studentships awarded through the Global Excellence Fund (currently 1), the *EPSRC*-funded Environmental Intelligence Centre for Doctoral Training (currently two) coordinated by Computer Science and Maths, the *Wellcome Trust Centre Cultures of Health* (currently two) and the *AHRC South West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership* (currently one). These latter studentships, along with co-supervision of students with the *Environment and Sustainability Institute*, open-up interdisciplinary training opportunities for our PhD researchers. Three PhD researchers were funded through a European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (2014-2018) all with a year of industrial placement.

We are now seeing the payoff of increased funding and a more robust recruitment and mentoring programme – completion rates have improved (80% completing in 4 years for REF2021, up from 60% in REF2014). We are also able to expand the numbers of PhD researcher numbers in line with our growth in staff – 57 in 2020 up from 35 in 2016. The increased funding opportunities translates into increased diversity in the research environment through opening PhD training to students who would not be able to self-fund. We link this as well to an increase in diversity among our PhD researchers with c.40% of our current cohort identifying as ethnic minority. The increased representation of women among staff is also reflected among female PhD researchers making up nearly half (c.45%) of the current cohort.

PhD researchers **participate in both specialist research centre seminars and the departmental research seminars**. These include the *Centre for Elections Media and Participation's* ‘Cake for Comments’ an innovative bi-monthly meeting where participants can pitch research ideas, gain feedback on grant proposals and papers, and eat cake. Similarly, *the Centre for Political Thought* has an active monthly reading group attended by academic staff and PhD researchers. This type of open exchange between PhD researchers, supervisors and other academic staff has led to co-authored publications with PhD researchers (**Demirbilek** with **Benson** on water legislation in Turkey and **Kamkhaji** with **Dunlop** on training regulatory inspectors).

A postgraduate research conference organised through the *SWDTP* is held annually, run by the graduate students with support from their supervisors. Our PGRs are active in national and international conferences as well as participating in and leading our main professional associations. **Dickinson** (PhD 2019) was secretary of the Political Studies Association (PSA) Early Career Network (ECN) of over 500 politics PGRs and **Kirsop-Taylor** (PhD 2018) has now succeeded him.

To support PhD researcher development, a yearly Training Needs Analysis is conducted to identify necessary additional training. PhD researchers also access the Exeter Effective Researcher Development Programme, with a wide range of skills training in the practice and principles of research integrity, transferable skills, and practical issues of thesis completion. Our Doctoral College (**ILES 3.9**) provides additional opportunities for transferable skills training (e.g., academic writing, research integrity) with special online community building and training during COVID-19 (e.g., “writing together sessions”).

In the REF2021 period, we increased the advanced training opportunities for our PhD students. As part of the Research England funded Policy@Exeter, research methods training grants were offered to assist with policy-relevant research. Research centres have also invested their discretionary budgets in additional advanced training through supporting attendance at summer schools (ECPR) and Q-Step bursaries have also supported attendance for three PhD researchers at the Essex Summer School. The quality of training has been boosted through the Department's participation as a member of the *ESRC SWDTP*.

We have been fortunate to promote some of our excellent PhD researchers to Lecturers, sustaining our reputation for excellence in regional studies (**Owen**) and critical theory (**Thomas, Bulmer**), public policy (**Cooper, Moseley**) and British politics (**Willett**). After completing her British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, **Owen**, will become a lecturer in the department adding to expertise in Central Asia.

Our PhD researchers have been successful in securing several prestigious awards, internships and fellowship while conducting their research. **Popp** (PhD 2018) was awarded a prestigious Turing summer internship to work with Dr Omar Guerero (Turing Fellow) on voting models in the Supreme Court in 2017; **Zucca** (PhD 2019) was selected as a UK Data Service Fellow; **Wavre** (PhD 2017) was awarded a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of St.Gallen; **Lemon** (PhD 2016) was DMGS-Kennan Institute Fellow at the Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security, Washington DC.

Notable placements of PhD researchers in academic posts outside Exeter include: **Popp** (Kent), **Wang** (Chinese Foreign Affairs University), **Millican** (Durham), **Dickinson** (Bingham Early Career Fellow in Constitutional Studies, Oxford), **Anghelescu** (Sydney University), **Zucca** (Tillburg), **Violakis** (South Wales University/IST College), **Soremi** (Seneca College, Canada), **Lemon** (Texas A&M), **Mnatsakanyan** (Loughborough), **Doolotkeldieva** (American University of Central Asia), **Toktomushev** (University of Central Asia), **Biao Zhang** (China University of Political Science and Law), **Mnastakanyan** (Loughborough University, London), **Kerimov** (University of Central Asia), **Kamkhaji** (Politecnico Milan). Exeter PhD researchers have also secured posts as governmental advisors: **Sharan** (Deputy Minister in Afghan government) and **Mavin** (HM Inspector of Prisons).

3. Income, infrastructure, and facilities

(a) Overview

Our research income doubled from £5.2million in REF2014 to £11.9million in REF2021. This unprecedented growth in research income has outstripped staff growth and has been driven by greater income per FTE, increasing from £134k per FTE in REF2014 to £205k per FTE in REF2021. These increases in funding place us in the top two for external funding in the UK Politics departments. We have also increased the diversity of funders to include grants from national funders outside the UK (US National Science Foundation, Swiss, Norwegian, Danish, and Finnish national research councils) and international (e.g., *European Research Council (ERC) & H2020*) research councils. Our phenomenal growth in research income coincides with University and College investments in research infrastructure, including a restructuring of professional research support, and investment in new facilities, including a new build and a dedicated computing server for use by researchers. The success also reflects our robust internal

processes of mentoring, internal peer review and successful collaborations within and across our research centres.

(b) Research Income

The research strategy is reflected in the approach to grants with the research centres as the main foci for large grant applications, enabling teams of researchers to work together and facilitating inter-disciplinary bids. Collaboration within and across research centres on funding applications and across has contributed to our increase in grant income with c.50% of grants awarded in 2020 including at least two members of staff.

We also have in place formal processes for encouraging and improving the quality of grant applications. First, grant activity is recognised in the progression process with all research members of staff expected to engage actively in turning research ideas into proposals. Second, academics, with their mentors, outline grant activities as part of professional development reviews. Third, in terms of our internal processes, a dedicated seminar series for presenting grant proposals in progress, a mandatory internal peer review feedback process and Director of Research sign-off for all grant applications, combine to ensure bids are the highest quality possible prior to submission. There is significant grant activity with 443 applications submitted in REF2021 and c.90% of staff applying for funding with 50 out of 59 staff contributing to our overall award success.

Our investments in supporting early career researchers in applying for research resulted in an *ESRC Future Leaders award (Thomson)*, *Volkswagen Foundation Senior European Fellowship (Bulmer)* and a *British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (Owen)*. There are formal and informal processes in place to support early career researchers. Our Director of Research, with support of our research services, identifies and disseminates opportunities for early career researchers and there are internal selection and review processes for major early career grants and fellowships (*ESRC New Investigator, ERC Starter and BA/Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellowship*). These structures and processes have been particularly successful in supporting early career researchers with nine out of 15 staff at lecturer level being PIs or Co-Is on grants.

Our emphasis on impactful research combined with research excellence has led to two successful knowledge exchange fellowships. **Harcourt** was an *ESRC-funded UK in a Changing Europe (UKICE) Fellow* (working on post-Brexit communications policy and the digital single market and contributed to key findings to White Papers and Cabinet reports (see **Section 4c**). **Lewis** has been on secondment (2019-2021) as an *ESRC-AHRC UK Fellow* at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [FCDO] advising on post-Soviet politics with specialist knowledge in the following regions: Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus (see **Section 4c**).

New staff have been integrated into the department and research centres through collaboration on funding applications. This model of collaboration sustains our thematic areas by allowing ECRs to develop grant writing and project management skills and brings the vitality of ECRs to large projects. **Gadjanova** (ECR) and **Reifler** received an award from Exeter's *Global Challenges Research Fund* to examine the role of social media in the recent elections in Ghana; **Coan** (ECR) and **Kolpinskaya** (ECR) have been co-investigators on *ESRC election media grants* (PI **Stevens**) and **Jasny** (ECR) and **Coan** were co-investigators on an *ESRC/NCRM Methodological Innovation grant* (PI **Banducci**). These collaborations have also meant ECRs have had award success contributing to their case for promotion.

(c) Research and Impact Support Infrastructure

The Department has a comprehensive research support system. Peer review is applied to all research applications and is provided for grants to other bodies for less experienced faculty (and any other colleagues who request it). This is supplemented by external peer review for major bids (in excess of £500k), and external review for amounts below this level where researchers or the Director of Research identify that such review would provide necessary expertise or independent perspective. This system improves the quality of bids. The University's Funder Advisory Networks (FAN) (**ILES 4.5**) includes networks facing each major source of social science funding that oversee the development of large collaborative bids, provide internal review and selection process for competitive schemes such as large research centre bids. The FAN for *ESRC* also provides an initial step and bid development support, including feedback, for planned submission to the *ESRC*'s New Investigator award. Bid development for other ECR research schemes, e.g., *UKRI Future Leaders Fellows*, are supported by the *Major Funders' Strategy Group* with an internal selection process and preparation for interviews. Politics staff have been embedded in these networks and have shaped university strategy (**Banducci, Dunlop, James**).

In addition to our advisory networks, which operate at a strategic level, we have an extensive network of research support at the University, college and departmental level for research bid development and project management support. This includes identifying funding opportunities and providing funder-focused expertise, co-ordinating bid development, and bringing people together around opportunities. In 2017, our research support underwent a transformation which has meant we have more specialised support and access to a specialised Research Toolkit (**ILES 4.7**) to manage our funding applications from bid preparation to post-award.

In Politics, we are supported by three teams: 1) a team supporting social science bids to *UKRI* and other UK based funder; 2) the International team supporting bids to international funding schemes including H2020; and 3) staff based in Penryn are supported in bid development by a dedicated team based at our Penryn campus. These teams of research development officers manage the bid submission process including budget development, letters of support and ensure that all elements of a bid are completed to the highest standard prior to submission.

The departmental Director of Research has discretionary funds (c. £4,000) to support faculty members in several ways, including the organisation of events and travel that have enabled international collaboration on both outputs and grant bids. The college-level funding presided over by the College's Associate Dean of Research supports departmental activities that are potentially generative of impact case studies. Added to this, during the REF2021 period research centres have been given sizable budgets and researchers have access to additional discretionary funds (c.£7,500) each year to promote international travel, workshops, and data collection.

(d) Research Monitoring and REF selection

Our departmental research committee, responsible for research monitoring, disbanded in 2018 and reformed as our REF committee responsible for output and ICS selection. All members of staff, regardless of seniority, are involved in reviewing our research outputs for REF2021 selection. Scoring processes and criteria are discussed in departmental meetings with all staff receiving feedback on submitted outputs. The internal scoring is monitored, including by our EDI

committee, for any potential bias and adjusted accordingly. Of our selected outputs, close to half are attributed to women. Of our five ICS, one is led by a woman. We are working to identify the barriers to diversity in our ICS leadership and how to support women with emerging impact (e.g., **Owen, Rori, Thomson**, see **Section 4c**) to develop them into ICS in the next REF period.

(e) Research Integrity and Open Access

Our commitment to UKRI's Concordant on Research Integrity is embedded in the grant development and submission process. To ensure integration of open research principles in our research and grant development, Open Research at Exeter provides support on open access of publications, data management plans and raising awareness of open research issues. Each member of staff undertakes a compulsory training module on research integrity including processes for ethics approval, open access and information management. Research ethics approval is managed by a college committee and supported by a departmental ethics officer and research integrity is included in the assessment of all *ESRC* IAA applications. Beyond implementing policies, Politics faculty are shaping University policy on research integrity; notably, **Heathershaw** contributed to a university-wide review of ethics procedures for defence, security, and conflict research in 2018 that highlighted researcher safety as a key element.

Heathershaw is a founding member of the Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group (AFIWG) – a new initiative that brings together academics from UK Higher Education institutions, relevant civil society representatives and the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG), to strengthen protection for academic freedom and the academic community within the context of the internationalisation of UK Higher Education. They have issued a model Code of Conduct to protect academic freedom and increase transparency and accountability across the UK Higher Education sector. To advance the code of conduct, the AFIWG has formed a network of initiators across UK campuses and maintains a dialogue with UUK and the Department for Education.

This awareness and training ensure staff members adopt openness throughout the research cycle, through collaborative working practices and sharing and making research methodology, software, code, and data freely available online, along with instructions for using it. Where appropriate, members of staff register pre-analysis plans; Exeter Q-Step maintains a GitHub repository for code sharing; and 18 data sets were deposited with the UK Data Service in the REF2021 period. Open Research Exeter (ORE) supports open access and open research. All members of staff are required to submit accepted publications in ORE as a first step in Open Access (OA) compliance. Of our submitted research outputs to ORE, there has been over 10,000 downloads demonstrating the reach of our research achieved through OA. We have used University funds to make 45 (c.10%) of our published articles Gold Open Access. To promote sharing of our research globally, all Cat A staff are ORCID registered. We integrate the principles of open research into our staff development training (new staff induction and mandatory training on information governance), online resources through our ORE repository, and researcher training through our doctoral training partnership with regional universities (*SWDTP*) and our doctoral college.

(f) Research Impact and Innovation

We have developed a 'whole of department' approach to impact which nurtures a wide range of impact and engagement activities and colleagues over the long-term enabling us to adapt to changing circumstances and maximise flexibility. This "whole of department" vision is underpinned by three endeavours: ensuring impact (broadly construed) is generated across all Politics' research themes; supporting colleagues at all career stages; and, filling the pipeline for impact beyond audit cycles. To deliver this vision, we have developed a systematic approach that includes impact planners for each member of staff, a departmental Director of Impact (a role established in 2015) who acts as a point of advice and information for planning impact, and a professional development review that includes discussion of impact in the mentoring process. We use our workload allocation system strategically to allocate time to staff for developing impact case studies or to explore potential partners for impact. In total, 12 members of staff have been given a workload allocation over the last REF cycle to support impact work.

Advice and training on impact for staff has supplemented our informal sharing of experience. Each year the department runs an impact and engagement event - e.g., in 2017 we hosted a panel discussion on the impact possibilities across our research centres motivated by keynote speaker Professor Philippe Van Parijs who spoke on the role and possibilities of action of intellectuals in politics. In formal terms, our research outputs records systems also allow for capturing impact in planners available. We also have supported staff with research leave, pump priming funds and peer workshops to support the development of impact.

Politics receive targeted support from the University Innovation, Impact and Business [IIB] directorate supports collaborations with external organisations to foster impact and generate income (**ILES 4.8**). Impact and partnership development managers with specialist expertise in security and conflict; government policy; environment sector, and data science have supported the development of partnerships that have contributed to successful projects with the Institute of Coding, IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Benelux; DSTL and the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (MoD).

Major support for our impact work comes from IAAs (**ILES 4.10**). The first *ESRC* IAA award (2014-2018) was extended in 2019 with a block grant of £1.15M to 2023 (PI **Dunlop**). Researchers can apply to fund impact work under four schemes: rapid response, impact cultivation, social policy network, knowledge exchange fellowship, plus the larger project co-creation and business collaboration grants. Politics has completed 15 IAA projects over the last REF period. Funds to support impact work have also come from Research England's Strategic Priority Fund for Policy@Exeter. With this funding **Dunlop** has led the development of a research and training partnership with Sense about Science (SaS).

(g) Facilities

There has been major capital investment to provide bespoke facilities for academic staff in Politics. The University and College invested £870,000 to completely refurbish and extend a campus building to include a new **Computational Social Science Lab [CSSL]** with 30 new high-performance computers for the Q-Step Centre. We use the CSSL for advance training workshops, the centre speaker series and additional space for PhD researchers who are linked to the Q-Step centre. Q-Step make use of their own powerful Linux server, which is managed by Research IT. An additional investment of £11,000 was made to install the server, providing QStep staff with dedicated resources to meet their high-performance computing and remote processing needs. The server supports a range of funded projects at the Centre and hosts

everything from real-time election forecasting models to bespoke software for harvesting and analysing media data.



Figure 2. New Facilities – SafePod and Computational Social Science Lab (Exeter Q-Step Centre)

To facilitate access to and the use of administrative and sensitive data, the College and the Exeter Q-Step Centre were successful in competitively bidding for an *ESRC* SafePod (worth £25,000), a secure way to access sensitive and confidential research datasets. The College invested an additional c.£100,000 to create additional desk and storage space.

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

(a) Overview

Collaboration is fundamental to the research we undertake in Politics. Our “whole of department” approach to collaboration is characterised by co-production of knowledge with international and non-academic partners as well as a departmental ethos of partnership with and contributions to the wider academic community. We serve as editors on eight journals and hold leadership positions within the discipline’s main professional associations. Our “whole of department” approach ensures all staff can widen alliances across diverse geographies and stakeholders and this was supported through 16 outward mobility grants to four continents. Our collaboration partners include the public sector (e.g. NHS), industry (e.g. IBM), and NGOs (e.g. Humans Rights Watch).

(b) Research Networks and Collaboration

Key regional and national networks. Our co-location in Exeter and Cornwall has allowed us to expand our regional collaborations. IAA funding has supported regional collaboration in Devon and Cornwall. **Willett’s** project “Brexit and the Regions: The Case of Cornwall” supported collaborations with Cornwall Council, the National Association for Local Councils, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the European Association for Local Democracy. This work explored the impact of Brexit in the region. **Moseley**, collaborating with colleagues in Geography, led a large-scale citizen’s assembly in Devon as a response to the climate, drawing on her research on citizen engagement in local politics.

Durie’s collaboration with the *C2 National Network of Connected Communities*, supported by grants from the NHS Modernisation Agency, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit and Government Office South West, has contributed to a better understanding of complex health interventions.

The work has been recognised as a framework for addressing health inequalities, and for improving health and well-being, by the NHS Alliance/Clinical Commissioning Groups.

International collaborations: Our international collaborations extend to formal arrangements with universities in China (Fudan), France (Sciences Po) and the QUEX collaboration with University of Queensland (**McKinnon** leads on global environmental futures) to individual collaborations that are research centre and project based. The MoU with Fudan led to **Owen's** invitation to serve as "Ambassador in Europe" at the Fudan Development Institute to support her work on Central Asia. **McKinnon** leads on global environmental futures pathway for the QUEX partnership that will strengthen the co-production of research on 'Global Sustainability and Wellbeing'.

Colleagues are active partners in international collaborative research projects. **Kröger's** work on European democracy and differentiated European integration and **Russel's** work on the environment have been supported through large European consortium funded by the EU. **McKay's** collaboration with scholars from Rutgers University (USA), Stuttgart University and the University of Amsterdam to work on agendas and interest groups was funded by an Open Research Area grant. Research on misinformation and corrections funded by ERC (**Reifler** with Brendan Nyhan, Dartmouth, and Andy Guess at Princeton), political advertising (**Stevens** with Barbara Allen at Carlton College) and on computational social science (David Lazer, Northeastern University) funded by an *NCRM Methodological Innovation* grant. Collaboration with Prof. Stephen Gardiner at Washington University, Seattle, is central to **McKinnon's** new work on geoengineering. In the last two years, **Schaap** and **Muldoon** have established an international network on Precarity and Democratic Politics with scholars from the Universities of Copenhagen, Lund, and McMaster. The *Centre for Political Thought* has established a research network comprising Chinese Universities (Fudan, Tsinghua, Peking) and universities in France (Paris 1, Paris 8) and Italy (Turin) for the study of political thought and ideas from a transcultural perspective.



Figure 3. Non-academic Research and Impact Partners

Bulmer's collaboration with Godfrey Maringira at Sol Paatje University, Kimberly, South Africa on soldier's perspectives of their geographies of deployment has developed over two Volkswagen fellowships and lead to a special issue of the *Journal of War and Culture Studies*. This successful collaboration was also the basis for **Bulmer's** successful AHRC grant "Stories in Transition: Examining the role of arts, culture and sport in supporting veteran transition to civilian life".

Jasny's collaboration with Dana Fisher (Maryland) on climate activism, protests, and policy networks has been supported with funding from the US National Science Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation. With colleagues at the US Forest Service, they examined how civic groups work together to steward their local communities (funded by the National Science Foundation). A current project documents the ideological and policy networks operating at the state and federal levels on climate/clean energy issues.

Results of this international collaboration have appeared in *Nature Climate Change* and *Environmental Research Communication*.

International collaborations have also been supported through our internally managed *GCRF* funding. Exeter is one of 16 higher education hubs delivering *GCRF*, the aim of which is to conduct cutting-edge research that will assist strengthening global peace, security and governance, promoting global prosperity, and tackling extreme poverty. *GCRF* funds have supported collaboration with partners in India on effluent treatment solutions (**Benson**), on social media in Ghana (**Gadjanova**) and on civic technology in Turkey with Koç University (**Banducci**). To help build international partnerships, in the last REF period, the University's Global Partnership Fund (**ILES 4.11**) has sponsored 14 Outward Mobility Academic Fellowship fellowships and supported five Visiting Academic International Fellowships.

Industry Collaborations have addressed informed innovation, the politics of fashion, civic technology, and workplace democracy. **Saunders**, **Tedesco**, and **Willett** have worked with the fashion industry on sustainable clothing and the decolonial politics of fashion. **Saunders**, through industry stakeholder workshops, contributed to the House of Commons [HoC] Environmental Audit Committee's (2019) report 'Fixing Fashion'. **Banducci** has collaborated with the IBM Centre for Advanced Research to develop a first version of a web browser extension used to evaluate the ideological content of stories read online and recommend alternate news stories to counter-act potential bias. **Muldoon**, supported by funding from Not-Equal (an *EPSRC/UKRI* NetworkPlus) and *ESRC* IAA, is collaborating with Autonomy Digital to examine digital work platforms. Since 2019, our graduate students' engagement with industry has been nurtured through the *ESRC* National Productivity Investment Fund (**Dunlop as PI**).

Fellowships: Members of staff have bolstered collaborative research through fellowships associated with leading policy institute and international programmes: Senior Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute (**Stokes** from 2013), Jean Monnet Fellow, European University Institute and Early Career Fellow of the British School at Athens 2019 (**Rori** 2019), Jean Monnet Fellowship at EUI (**Rori** 2020-2021); Marie Curie Knowledge Exchange and Expertise Europe Lincoln & Canterbury Universities, New Zealand (**Scott** 2014-2015). **Loke** held a visiting fellowship at Nanyang Technology University (2019); **Stevens** was a funded visiting fellow at Australia National University (2014) and GESIS in Cologne (postponed due to COVID-19). **Harcourt** held a visiting fellowship at the LSE's Centre for Risk and Regulation (2019-2020); **Dunlop** held a visiting Professorship at Universite Catholique de Louvain (2020). **Banducci** is a Turing Fellow at the Turing Institute (from 2018) – the UK's national institute for data science and Artificial Intelligence (**ILES 1.6**).

(c) Wider contributions to economy and society

Over the last REF period, Politics secured 15 IAA grants (worth £123,596) to translate research into impact, exchange knowledge and build partnerships with 30 stakeholder organisations and has supported the impact work of 4 early career academic at a crucial stage of their development as impact leaders. For example, **Muldoon**'s KE fellowship with Autonomy was supported by IAA funds and **Tedesco**'s work on Curating Fashions in Decolonial Politics with the fashion industry on sustainable clothing was supported by a "Cultivating Impact Award" from the IAA.

Advising international, national, and local governments: Researchers from *Advanced International Studies* have given oral and written evidence to the HoC Foreign Affairs Committee

on Autocracies and UK Foreign Policy (**Heathershaw**) and the HoC Select Committee on Natural Security (**Blagden**). **Heathershaw** was Principal Academic Advisor to Parliamentary Human Rights Group and the Academic Freedom Working Group (2019-2020). **Gadjanova** delivered briefing on the role of social media in politics in Africa at the FCDO, February 2020 drawing on her *GCRF* funded project on social media use in elections in North Ghana. **Heathershaw** contributed to the Transnational Repression and Accountability Protection Act in the United States Congress. **Banducci** and **Stevens** have given written and oral evidence to HoC Select Committees on Fake News and Voter Engagement and oral evidence to the House of Lords [HoL] Committee on Polling. **Thomson**, based on research funded by an *ESRC Future Leaders* grant, has given evidence to the HoC Select Committee on Defence about public perceptions of foreign policy. Peter Ladegaard, Global Lead in Regulatory Policy and Management (RPM) in the World Bank Group, co-produced with **Dunlop** and **Radaelli** (cat C) the Global Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Awards (see **Dunlop** ICS).

Our success in supporting all staff has meant that early career researchers engage with advisory roles as well as contribute written and oral evidence to parliamentary committees. ECRs have been active in developing close collaboration with the UK and other national governments.

Catignani has advised the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on reserve forces. **Mehran** has been selected as a Specialist Advisor on an Inquiry of the International Relations and Security Committee on Afghanistan [HoL] and **Fernandez-Molina** has contributed to the FCDO internal papers on Western Sahara conflicts. **Catignani**'s work with the APG on reserve forces and cadets and his involvement with a formal working group on training has been referenced in policy documents. **Baele** and **Coan** are building an analytical and computational model on extremist discourse for the Home Office (based on *ESRC/CREST*-funded research). **Rori** has consulted with the Greek government on violence in politics and based on her research on political violence trained 820 Greek police officers to recognise extremist propaganda. She also contributed to the design of a new International Institute for the Research of Extremism and Terrorism embedded in the Greek Centre for Security Studies.

The practice-based *Security Strategy Institute* is a member of a Global Strategic Partnership that provides academic and analytical support to *Ministry of Defence's Development, Concepts, and Doctrine Centre*. **Blagden**, the academic lead for this partnership, has published three RAND papers that have advised this partnership.

The department was also home to two major knowledge exchange fellowships through UK in a Changing Europe (**Harcourt** 2016-2018) and an *ESRC Knowledge Exchange fellowship* at the FCDO (**Lewis** 2019-2021). **Harcourt** informed policymakers on the impact of Brexit on communications sector and cybersecurity for the Cabinet policy briefing in March 2020, on Fintech and Brexit. **Lewis**'s two-year secondment with the FCDO will build a more robust and better-informed foreign policy with a specific focus on Russia.

During the REF period, **Dunlop** worked with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on an *ESRC* IAA funded project on health and safety myths, and advised the World Bank, OECD, and European Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) on quality in international regulatory governance. **James**, a member of *HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Academic Reference Group*, in 2018 produced a research note on the Inspectorate as a trusted source of information. **Russel** worked with Scottish Natural Heritage on helping to engage stakeholders on ways in which to implement the Scotland Natural Environment White Paper, and UK parliament on scrutinising the UK Government's cross-cutting environmental strategies. **Kröger** consulted on the European Social Pillar and the targets of EU 2020.

Advising NGOs: Heathershaw co-authored the Everyday Transnational Repression report with Freedom House (July 2020) and advised the National Endowment for Democracy (October 2020), co-authoring a report on Central Asian government's exploitation of natural resources.

Prichard's leading work on anarchism (see ICS "Constitutions for Anarchists") has been translated into key organising principles for the Regional Administration of the Industrial Workers of the World and Radical Routes. **Katz** has provided statistical consulting to fhi360 (Washington, D.C.) and Justice & Care (London) to better understand human trafficking.

Public engagement and education: Reifler worked with the New America Foundation and the Democracy Fund to examine the effectiveness of factchecking and assisted the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) with the rollout of the FactCheckEU which published 90 fact-checks in 13 countries during the 2019 European Parliament elections. **Kolpinskaya** shared research evidence that was used by the producers of BBC Points West "Have We Got News for You" programme on bots and the spread of misinformation. **Saunders** presented her work on sustainable clothing at a S4S StitchUp! event (AHRC funded) – S4S is a collaboration of community participants, academics, designers, filmmakers, consultants, and stakeholders who work together to encourage people to think, feel and act more sustainably. As part of the *ESRC Festival of Social Science* **Cooper** and **Thomas** hosted successive public engagements event (2018, 2019) to explore the construction of consent in the courtroom. The event incorporated two workshop sessions engaging Year 11, 12 and 13 students in cutting-edge social science problems on 'Constructing Consent' encouraging the teenagers to consider the role of the courtroom in society, and specifically how the institution tackles the contemporary observation of a pervading 'rape culture'.

(d) Contributions to the Discipline and Research Base

Our impressive range and level of professional activity comes from an ethos of collegiality. We have made significant and sustained contributions to the discipline nationally and internationally through our leadership of professional associations, journal editorships and contributions to research networks.

Contributions to professional associations: We add to the sustainability of our professional association through our service on executive boards of our professional associations. **Dunlop** was appointed Vice Chair of Political Studies Association (PSA) from April 2020-2023 and had earlier served as an elected PSA trustee (2018-2020). **Willett** also served as an elected trustee (2016-2019). **Engeli** was elected to board of International Public Policy Association (since 2019). **James** is a member of the Evidence in Politics and Governance (international group coordinated from Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley). **Prichard** is Co-convenor of the PSA Anarchist Studies Specialist Group, **Cooper** (2015-2017) **Moseley** (2018-2019) and now **Greasley** (since 2020) co-convene the PSA's Public Policy and Administration Specialist Group, **Lamb** is Chair of the Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought and **Cooper** is Co-Chair Council for European Studies Gender and Sexuality Research Network. We also contribute to the major European association – European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) with **Kröger** initiating and chairing the ECPR Research Network on Differentiated Integration in the EU; **Russel** co-convenes the ECPR Environmental Politics Standing Group. We also undertake original research that contributes to understanding the profession. **Engeli** co-authored "Patterns of Gender Inequality in European Political Science";

Blagden has published on impact in international studies and **Dunlop** has published on the impact agenda and how public policy can address the challenges of COVID-19.

UK research council and funding body roles: Our success and growth in research income is matched by our contributions to major national and international funding bodies. We serve as members of the *ESRC's* Grant Assessment Panel (**Banducci** 2016-2020, **James** - present); *UKRI* Future Leaders Fellowship college (**Banducci**), as well as many programmes run through research councils including the *ESRC's* UK in a Changing Europe (**Harcourt**) and Methodological Innovation panels (**Coan**). Eight members of staff have served or are serving on the *ESRC's* peer review college. Eleven members of staff have served on review panels for national funding bodies outside the UK including the *Research Council of Norway*, *Independent Research Fund Denmark*, *Dutch Research Council*, *National Science Foundation (USA)*, *Finnish Research Council for Culture and Society, H2020* and the *ERC*.

Journal and Book Series Editorships: Members of staff contribute to sustaining the disciplinary community nationally and internationally through editing high-profile journals in the discipline. The *European Journal of Political Research* has been edited in the department since 2013 and **Engeli** has been a co-editor since 2018. **Engeli** was also one of the founding editors of the *European Journal of Politics & Gender*, and co-edited *Political Studies Review* (2016-2019). Our female early career academics have been engaged as associate and assistant editors (**Bulmer**, *Critical Military Studies* since 2015; **Cooper** *Public Money and Management* 2015-2019; **Gadjanova** *New Diversities* since 2019). In total, 20 members of the department, including 10 early career academics, serve and have served as editors and co-editors: *History of Political Thought* (**Hampsher-Monk** founding editor since 1980); *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (**Banducci**, **Stevens**, since 2016); *Regulation and Governance* (**Thomann** since 2020); *ECPR Book Series* (**Castiglione**, until 2015); *Environment and Planning C* (**Benson** 2015-2016); *Public Policy and Administration* (**Dunlop**, 2014-2020); *Contemporary Political Theory* (**Schaap**, since 2019); *Social Movement Studies* (**Saunders**, since 2015). We have also edited 10 special journal issues. In total 23 members of staff serve currently or have served on the editorial boards of 34 journals.

Keynotes: Our high-quality research has been recognised by invitations to give keynotes both national and internationally. As examples of the over 30 high-profile invited talks given: **Prichard** gave a series of three prize lectures on anarchism and IR theory at the Universities of Lund, Uppsala and a joint lecture at the University of Stockholm and the Swedish National Defence College; **Carroll** delivered an honorary address at The College of William & Mary (2014) and at the Institute for Historical Research (2017), **Harcourt** addressed Harvard Kennedy School's workshop "Future Paths: Public interest advocacy in Internet governance and infrastructure design" (2019), and **Banducci** gave a keynote address to Institute for Public Policy Research (2018).

(e) Awards and Recognition

There has been international and national recognition of the quality of our research by our peers in professional organisations. Three of our REF2021 monographs won awards: International Public Policy Association best book award (**Thomann** 2019), the PSA American Politics Richard E. Neustadt Book Prize (**Stevens** 2019) and a Special Mention of Excellence, Alberigo Book Award, European Academy of Religion (**Bettiza** 2019). In addition to these awards for outstanding research monographs, 10 research articles have been awarded prizes in recognition

of their contributions to major debates in the discipline. For example, Best Article Prize of the *Journal of European Public Policy* (**Stoeckel** 2015), Haldane Prize for Best Published Article in *Public Administration* (**James** and **Moseley** 2014), Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award, APSA Political Communication section (**Reifler** 2017); Best Paper, International Studies Association, International Political Sociology section, (**Heathershaw** 2014). Award for Outstanding Research (journal article) on Parliamentary Democracy in Europe from PADEMIA (Erasmus network on Parliamentary Democracy in Europe, **Kröger** 2016), "Innovative Approaches to the Study of Greek Society and Politics" Prize (PSA subgroup on Greek Politics, **Coan** 2015). Of these awards, four have gone to junior scholars (**Coan, Moseley, Stoeckel, Thomann**). Additional recognition has come for outstanding contributions to the profession: 2019 PSA Award Specialist Group of the Year to the Greek Political Studies Group (**Rori**).

We had three female professors elected as Fellows to the Academy of Social Sciences [AcSS] (**Banducci, Dunlop, and Harcourt**) in recognition of their research and academic leadership bringing to four the number of AcSS Fellows in the Department.

REF2021 SUMMARY: Our record of achievement demonstrates an upward trajectory for REF2021, building on our REF2014 success. The evidence for this upward trajectory is our success at funded research, the demand for our researchers as advisers to international and national organizations, our outstanding contributions to the discipline and a track-record of high-quality research outputs. We have built a culture of inclusivity of researchers regardless of rank, diversity of methods and impactful research, and our future is bright. We have had some of our strongest years of UK research council and EU grant capture which bodes well for the future. We have mentored a cohort of outstanding early career researchers; we play a leading role in the University's investment in cross-disciplinary collaboration paving the way for future funding, and our agility to respond to opportunities is evidenced in our research activity around the major political challenges of Brexit and COVID-19 where our researchers have secured funding. We end REF2021 in a strong position to carry forward a vibrant, collaborative, and inclusive research culture.