

Institution: **University of Edinburgh**

Unit of Assessment: 19: Politics and International Studies

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

1.1 Overview: Unit Context and Structure

The UoA is centred in Politics and International Relations at Edinburgh (PIR), a vibrant group of 52 staff (50.65 FTE), committed to producing innovative scholarship and impact. Over the REF period, PIR has continued its long-term growth trajectory, investing in 16 new posts to strengthen our scholarship in territorial politics, political behaviour and public policy; while investing in three areas of growing strength: political theory, security studies, and international political economy. This strategic expansion, combined with strong grant performance and a major investment in support for impact, has enabled us to fully exploit our location in Edinburgh at the heart of political and constitutional upheaval, making a transformative contribution to understanding governance, political behaviour and constitutional change. At the same time, a range of new interdisciplinary and international partnerships have helped position us at the cutting edge of debates on global justice, security, gender and race, climate change, and democratic innovation.

Our flourishing research environment is evidenced by:

- A tripling of HESA **grant income** from £3.9m in REF 2014 to £12.16m.
- **17 prestigious research fellowships** including an ERC Starting Grant (€1.35m), three Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) fellowships, two UK in a Changing Europe Senior Fellowships, and a Turing Fellowship.
- Training the next generation of researchers through a **three-fold increase in research fellows** funded through competitive external awards, major investments in PhD scholarships and a **62% increase in PhD completions**.
- **20 prestigious awards** to our staff for their contributions to research and impact, including the European Consortium for Political Research Politics and Gender Career Prize (Mackay); the International Studies Association Distinguished Scholar in Foreign Policy Analysis award (Kaarbo); the ESRC Impact Champion prize (Jeffery); the PSA Communications Prize (McEwen); and the PSA prize for Best Book in Political Science (Boswell).
- A step change in our **impact and public engagement**, evidenced by prominent advisory roles in Scottish, UK and Local Government, the Scottish Parliament, public appointments, as well as a prestigious AHRC-ESRC Fellowship to the FCO.

1.2 Research Strategy

Our strategy over this REF period has focused on supporting high quality research and impact across five broad themes, each of which addresses key challenges for governance, justice and representation. The themes (described in more detail in S1.3) intentionally cut across the traditional sub-fields of political science and international relations, enabling us to adopt creative approaches to addressing urgent issues in contemporary politics. The themes are:

- **Future of the State**, building on our long-standing strengths in comparative territorial politics and multi-level governance, including through the new ESRC-funded Centre on Constitutional Change.

- **Knowledge & Governance**, exploring the role of evidence and expertise in policy, including through the ESRC-funded What Works Scotland and our new Centre for Science, Knowledge and Policy.
- **Democracy & Representation**, where we have prioritised innovative methodological approaches to understanding political behaviour, representation and democratic institutions, with a strong focus on gender.
- **Trade, Markets & International Cooperation**, including a significant expansion of our international political economy group to build expertise on EU trade, finance and international treaties.
- **Conflict, Security & Justice**, where our expanded group of IR, political and critical theorists address issues of global ethics and justice, including through a new Centre on Security Research.

This strategy was forged through **extensive consultation** across all staff, research groups and centres led by Henderson as Head of Subject from 2014 onwards. Through a series of meetings and away days, the UoA identified research areas where we felt we should build on our comparative advantage, develop further around a small critical mass of scholars or move in entirely new directions to address emerging challenges. Ongoing consultation also identified hiring priorities for each planning cycle, including our focus on building expertise across our five themes, while developing capacity around methods and skills, and expanding the geographical scope of our expertise.

Through this consultation, staff also identified two central priorities that cut across all of the themes. The first of these was a commitment to engaging with a **broad array of disciplines**, which we see as crucial for answering many of the 'wicked problems' facing states. Our research and area studies centres have increasingly become engines of interdisciplinary research and impact, fostering close collaborations with colleagues in law, sociology, anthropology, economics, geoscience, business, informatics, psychology, theology, philosophy, and the arts. Secondly, PIR staff were keen to build on our **strongly international and comparative** approach. To pursue this goal, we have expanded the geographical scope of our expertise through recruitment, and strengthened our international networks through a series of collaborative grants with international scholars and partner institutions – including the EU Smart Urban Intermediaries programme co-led by Escobar which has reshaped urban governance in deprived neighbourhoods across Europe, and Duncanson's work on rebuilding after war, which developed an innovative Feminist Roadmap for Sustainable Peace (see S4).

We have devoted considerable time and resources to accelerating our **impact and public engagement** across our five research themes by building strategic relations with key government/policy actors through staff mobility (in Scottish Government, FCO), consultancy and advisory roles while also pursuing extensive public and media engagement, including over 150 public events such as lectures and workshops, film series, music performances and Edinburgh festival events.

Crucially, as our department has grown, we have been committed to ensuring we sustain a **cohesive, inclusive and enabling environment**, in which staff at all career stages are supported in setting and achieving ambitious goals (see S2). Through strong leadership from an unusually female dominated professoriate (7/12 chairs), we have managed expansion in a way that preserves a strong ethos of collegiality, intellectual openness and flexible working, evidenced in our multiple awards for community building, leadership and mentorship (see S2).

1.3 Research Themes

Our five research themes bring together staff from across a range of theoretical and methodological approaches, to address key challenges in politics and governance. Below we present examples of research achievements under each theme.

The Future of the State

Edinburgh has a global reputation for its research expertise in comparative territorial politics and multi-level governance (Basta, Convery, Cram, Henderson, Jeffery, Kenny, Kumarasingham, McEwen, Mackay, Mitchell, Swenden). We sought to cement this reputation by attracting large external grants, further developing impact and hiring new colleagues that expanded the range of cases and methods we use.

We were awarded in 2014, together with the University of Aberdeen, a £1.1m ESRC-funded **Centre on Constitutional Change (CCC)**. Based in Edinburgh's Old Town and adjacent to the Scottish Parliament, the CCC (co-directed by McEwen and incorporating Basta, Convery, Cram, Henderson, Kenny, Mitchell and Swenden) has played a crucial role in providing rigorous, policy-oriented research to lead and inform debates on the UK's constitutional future, including through Jeffery's leadership of the ESRC Future of the UK and Scotland Programme. This includes three large ESRC grants: Between Two Unions (£679k), Brexit and the Repatriation of Competences (£295k) and A Family of Nations (£571k). The Centre is also home to two high profile Edinburgh/Cardiff-run surveys coordinated by Henderson: the Future of England and the State of the Union surveys, which gather annual data on constitutional preferences across the UK. Our investment in this area is seen in recent work by new colleagues. For example, Basta's *Publius* article, which won the APSA prize for best article on federalism and international relations, shows how the symbolic recognition of secessionist claims can fuel political contestation far more than the actual content of new institutional arrangements.

Beyond the UK and EU, our research explores challenges for the nation-state across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (Alahmad, Allinson, Hammond, Kim, Kumarasingham, Stein, Swenden and Volpi), with a particular focus on understanding the state within its international context. Allinson's monograph on the *Struggle for the State in Jordan* traces the instability of states in the Arab world to the historical legacy of state formation in the twentieth century, winning the Jadaaliyya 2016 Political Economy Book Prize. As leader of a Leverhulme International Network on Indian federalism (£113k), Swenden enhanced understanding of centre-state relations in the world's largest federation, chronicling the weak administrative capacity at India's centre. Our new colleague Kumarasingham's concept of 'Eastminster', which tracks the adaptation of the Westminster model in Asia, generated worldwide attention, including invitations by the Federal Court of Malaysia, and prominent international keynotes including the Smuts Memorial Lecture in Cambridge.

Knowledge & Governance

Our second research theme interrogates the **role of public engagement, knowledge and evidence in policy-making** and political debate (Alahmad, Bevan, Bomberg, Boswell, Cook, Escobar, Evensen, Kaczmarek, Mitchell). We teamed up with the University of Glasgow to host What Works Scotland (total funding £4.1m 2014-18, £1.02m to our UoA), an ESRC-funded multi-institutional partnership with government to identify and support best practice in public services through action research. Co-led by Mitchell, then Escobar from 2015, the centre advanced public service reform while improving outcomes for communities of place, interest and practice. It has also facilitated Escobar's work on democratic innovation, from deliberative

decision-making to new forms of community ownership and social economy (see Impact Case Study, ICS 2). This work is now being developed within the Edinburgh Futures Institute, a major new investment (£140m) in research, training and engagement to harness the potential of data and digital innovation for social good, as part of the Data Driven Innovation initiative within the Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Deal.

Capitalising on the University's **interdisciplinary strengths in knowledge, expertise and governance**, in 2014 Boswell launched and was inaugural Director of the Centre for Science, Knowledge and Policy, which Geddes now leads. SKAPE involves six others in this UoA, as well as 30 colleagues from across the social sciences, law and medicine. Boswell has played a key role in shaping this field, including through two ESRC projects (total £1.05m). Her 2009 book, *The Political Uses of Expert Knowledge*, was awarded the 2020 APSA prize for best book of the past decade on ideas, knowledge and policy. Geddes' *Dramas at Westminster* is the first book to systematically explore the role of evidence in parliamentary settings, described by RAW Rhodes as 'the best book on the UK Parliament by a political scientist' since 2005. Supported by an ESRC (£19k) Impact Accelerator Award he has been informing how select committees can engage more widely with experts. Bevan complements this work as lead methodologist for the international Comparative Agendas Project (CAP). CAP, which classifies all policy activity into a universal coding scheme, has become one of the most used datasets in the study of public policy. In her recent monograph *Making Global Knowledge in Local Contexts*, short-listed for the ISA International Political Sociology book award, Kaczmarek shows how social scientific knowledge in Russia is strongly shaped by the political system and public opinion. Alahmad's research, based on her MSF Individual Fellowship at Ghent, exposes the performativity of social scientific knowledge on the state, tracing how strongly normative expertise has contributed to the failure of state-building attempts in Iraq. Bomberg's research has shown how spiritual resources underpin collective action on environmental issues, funded through an AHRC project (£129k to UoA of £709k total) in collaboration with colleagues in theology, history and philosophy.

Democracy & Representation

Our research on elections, parties and political representation has produced big datasets, surveys, neuropolitical and computational analysis, offering fresh insights on decision-making, elections, parties and gender (Convery, Cram, Daoust, Henderson, Kenny, Liu, March, Mackay, Mitchell, Odmalm, Ozdemir). Cram has deployed behavioural, brain-imaging and eye-tracking experiments to understand the socio-psychological, physiological and **neurological processes shaping political behaviour**. Building on plans set out in REF2014, together with colleagues from Psychology, Informatics and Medicine, Cram set up the Neuropolitics Research Labs (NRLabs). Through a series of collaborative projects (£1.0m), NRLabs explores identity and decision-making through advances in cognitive neuroscience, including three ESRC grants (£829k) analysing how individuals respond to identity triggers in the context of independence and Brexit. This research fed into the EU's Joint Research Centre report 'Understanding our Political Nature: How to put knowledge and reason at the heart of political decision-making'. Cram collaborates closely with Llewellyn, a computer scientist in the UoA, to apply machine learning and quantitative methods to analyse social media data, building the world's largest corpus of tweets on Brexit for academic research to expose the extent of Russian interference in elections and referendums.

Over the REF period, PIR has become a major hub for analysis of **elections and voter behaviour**, supported through new appointments (Daoust and Ozdemir, joining Henderson and Mitchell), hosting both the 2014 Scottish Referendum Study (£283k) and the 2016 Scottish Election Study (£554k). Henderson's analysis of voting highlights the role played by risk in Scottish referendum (*Political Behavior*) and the importance of national identity as a source of

territorial variation in the Brexit vote (*Regional Studies*). Daoust's *The Motivation to Vote* explores voter turnout across 25 countries, to identify new predictors of engagement.

Research on individual-level attitudes and behaviour sits alongside a rich body of work on **political parties**. This includes an ESRC-funded party membership study (£115k) led by Mitchell, which offers in-depth analysis of the motivations of SNP members. Convery's research tracking how the Conservative party has adapted to devolution prompted one former leadership candidate to claim the book was 'crying out for a second edition' to analyse recent events. Colleagues Kaczmarek, March and Odmalm each explore different dimensions of populism: Kaczmarek is Co-I on a NOK200k Norwegian Research Council grant on populism in Russia; March co-edited a masterful overview of *Europe's Radical Left* tracking processes of de-radicalisation and Odmalm's co-edited *The European Mainstream and the Populist Radical Right* charts how political parties compete over issues such as migration.

Our **gender politics scholars** (Kenny and Liu joining Mackay and Duncanson) work across multiple scales addressing issues of political representation, gender inequalities, and political and institutional change. They have led methodological advances in their international field through foundational work on feminist institutionalism (FI), and drive the University's interdisciplinary work on gender and sexualities studies through leadership of genderED. Mackay's research on political representation, institutional change, and FI theory was recognised with a career achievement award by the European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPR). Kenny's research on political parties, recruitment and FI theory explores pathways to power (*EJPR*). Liu employs multi-level modelling to explore the impact of female politicians on women's political engagement (*PRQ*). (See S2 and 4 for how this expertise has shaped our research environment.)

Trade, Markets & International Cooperation

Our research on **trade and markets** has expanded through new appointments (Calvert, Hopewell (now UBC), Martill, Rommerskirchen, Singh (now George Mason) and Western, joining Damro, Hardie, and the late John Peterson) to create, with the addition of two colleagues post census, one of the largest clusters working on this area across the UK. One significant strand of research focuses on EU trade. The **Europa Institute**, a collaboration across PIR and Law, is the UK's longest-running research institute on Europe. Co-led by Damro, it was recently awarded a prestigious (€124k) Jean Monet Centre of Excellence Grant. Since 2014, Damro has further developed his award-winning analysis of 'market power Europe' through his Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship at the EUI (2014), and his work on this concept has been cited over 600 times, sparking a lively debate in the field (including, for example, commentaries in *JEPP* and *JCMS*). This is complemented by Martill's work (*JCMS*) on the cultural origins of the UK-EU divide that plagued Brexit negotiations.

A second strength is our world-leading collection of scholars working on **social studies of finance** with close links across Sociology and the Business School. Scholars at Edinburgh employ a sociology of finance approach to enable a broad analysis of financial markets. This has attracted a €2m ERC grant (hosted in UoA21) on Evaluation Practices in Financial Markets and a £514k ESRC grant on the sociology of high frequency trading, both involving Hardie and Rommerskirchen. Hardie's co-authored *Chains of Finance* offers a 'fundamental rethinking' of the knock-on consequences of investment chains. Rommerskirchen's PhD (supervised at Edinburgh) won the PSA prize for best dissertation in IR and is now a monograph *Free Riders in the Storm*. Both have also made significant contributions to work on monetary power; recent publications in *RIPE* were described by one editor as 'starting an academic mini industry'.

We hired new colleagues who work on **international treaties** as a way to expand our geographic and substantive expertise. Calvert's research on investment treaties has found that Latin American countries are not passive recipients of international rules, but knowingly break them where domestic interests necessitate (*RIPE*). Western's rigorous quantitative analysis similarly finds that domestic interests play a strong role in how and why states ratify international agreements (*ISQ/BJPS*). The UoA supported Hopewell (now UBC) in securing an ESRC Future Research leaders Grant (£185k). Her resulting book clarifies the implications of the rise of the BRICs to the WTO and international trade agreements.

Conflict, Security & Justice

Our political theorists (Mihai joining Cook, Cripps, Hayward, Oberman, Thaler) explore **transitional justice, violence and ethics**. Mihai's ERC Starting Grant (€1.35m) on Illuminating the Grey Zone produced a ground-breaking book *Negative Emotions and Transitional Justice*, exploring how political institutions channel public emotions like disgust and indignation to enable democracy to flourish in post-conflict societies. Thaler's Naming Violence: A Critical Theory of Genocide, Torture and Terrorism, funded by a MSC Career Integration Grant (€100k), demonstrated how both individual and public imaginations lack the vocabulary to process acts of violence and calls for greater 'sober realism'. In a series of influential articles on the ethics of immigration, including in *APSR*, Oberman argued that open immigration would reduce global poverty. He is developing this through a two-year secondment to Madrid via a MSC Individual Fellowship (€173k). Cripps's research (*Global Justice*) argued that failure to address climate change leads agents to make tragic choices. Together with Hayward's *Human Rights and the Environment*, it offers a powerful complement to the policy-orientated environmental research of Bomberg and Evensen. The research of our political theorists is supported by our new Centre for Ethics and Critical Thought (CRITIQUE), launched in 2020 and led by Cook and Mihai. CRITIQUE serves as an interdisciplinary hub for ethical and critical reflection on key global challenges, including racial segregation, gender oppression, political violence, and climate change.

Intersecting with this work is a cluster of research on security, conflict and foreign policy (Abbott, Hom, Kaczmarek, Martill, Perugini and Turner joining Birdsall, Duncanson, Neal and Kaarbo). Perugini drew on his MSC Individual Fellowship (€196k) research to produce two books, *Human Shields* and *The Human Right to Dominate*, the latter making 'an important theoretical argument with global ramifications'. Both challenge assumptions about the ethics of violence and the politics of human rights. Birdsall's research on the use of drones in counterterrorism raises ethical questions about their use and consequences for international law. Neal's monograph *Security as Politics* charts the normalisation of security in UK parliamentary politics while Hom's monograph *International Relations and the Problem of Time* challenges us to rethink the theory and practice of international politics by reimagining time itself. Interdisciplinary work in this area includes a £6.4m ESRC-DfID Political Settlements project led by Law for which Co-Is Thaler and Mackay contributed political theory and feminist institutionalist perspectives on negotiating peace and engendering post-conflict institutions.

This strand of work is supported through the Centre for Security Research (CeSeR). Established in 2014 by Kaarbo and Neal, CeSeR brings together 55 members from across the University to forge a distinctively Edinburgh agenda, capturing the political, sociological, legal and psychological facets of security. The psychological aspects build on Kaarbo's research on political psychology and foreign policy analysis. Her work developing tools to measure and evaluate the impact of leadership styles and national role conceptions on foreign policy was recently recognised with an ISA career achievement award.

1.4 Supporting Impact

Over the REF period, we have transformed our support for impact, through a series of strategic investments across three main areas. First, we invested in **expert professional support** (from 0.6FTE to 6.95 FTE) to provide specialist support in media engagement, events organisation, digital communications, graphic design, policy and industry engagement. Support includes training, such as ‘Learning Lunches’ to hone impact skills, event management to enhance public dissemination and bespoke digital platforms including websites, infographics and videos to increase the visibility of research.

Second, we **maximised opportunities to secure impact-focused internal and external funding**. Internal seed-funding across three schemes offering £10-15k each – the Knowledge Exchange and Impact grant, a Strategic Impact Grant, and the Edinburgh ESRC Impact Accelerator – provided scholars in our UoA with over £90k during the REF period. These investments, alongside professional services support, gave us a competitive edge in responding to external funding opportunities in response to policy and political challenges, including major ESRC investments in WWS and CCC. The UoA also won six competitive fellowships with research excellence and impact at their core, including two Senior Fellowships within the ESRC Future of the UK and Scotland programme and two fellowships in the ESRC’s UK in a Changing Europe initiative. Edinburgh was the only UK institution to win two Brexit Priority grants under this initiative, both led within this UoA.

Third, we designed our **research centres as hubs of knowledge exchange**, where academics and dedicated communications professionals create, identify and maximise impact opportunities. WWS supported co-production and collaboration with public service providers, enabling 40 knowledge exchange events with practitioners and policymakers from across public, third and community sectors (see ICS 3). The CCC has nurtured partnerships with the devolved, UK and Irish governments and international consulates, as well as parliaments, parliamentary committees, the wider policy community and media to inform the development, understanding and scrutiny of constitutional reforms (see ICS 1 and 4). As the impact agenda grew in significance, SKAPE harnessed academic expertise from political science and cognate disciplines to understand the relationship between research and policy, underpinning its work with the Scottish Government to establish an Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population (ICS 2).

Fourth, we created space within academic workloads to facilitate **secondments, advisory positions and public appointments**. Staff have undertaken four secondments, six public appointments, 16 advisory positions within government and other public bodies, two parliamentary advisory roles and participated in, or chaired, five expert panels. For example, Henderson’s public appointments to the Local Government Boundary Review for Scotland and the Boundary Commission for Scotland contributed to the development of ICS 5. Dorman’s £201k AHRC-ESRC-FCO-funded knowledge exchange fellowship facilitated a secondment to the Africa Directorate within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, enabling the London Team and the Embassy in Harare ‘to better appreciate the wider risks and dynamics at play and gain a more nuanced understanding of how certain messages/narratives land in the Zimbabwean context’. Bevan’s CAP expertise led to an academic fellowship with the Scottish Parliament on Improving Parliamentary Scrutiny Using Data Science Techniques resulting in two reports and an analysis of public engagement data for committees.

The UoA’s excellence in knowledge exchange has been recognised in a series of **prestigious prizes**, including the PSA Communications Prize (McEwen), Runner-Up ESRC Impact (Policy) Prize (CCC team), College Impact Prize (CCC team), and College Recognition Award for

Community Impact (Escobar). Before departing to become Vice Chancellor in York, Jeffery won the ESRC Impact Champion prize for his leadership in impact, including his work with the wider territorial politics team as Director of the Future of the UK and Scotland programme. S4 outlines the range of impact activities undertaken by a wide selection of UoA staff.

1.5 Research Ethics and Open Research

We are committed to the highest standards of research ethics and integrity, and have drawn on our expertise to lead on good practice. Raab leads the Turing Institute's Data Ethics Group, applying his extensive expertise on data and privacy; Neal drew on his expertise on UK security policy to advise the School on implementation of 2015 Prevent legislation; and genderED (Mackay) has developed specialised materials for ODA-related research projects to evaluate the gender impact of research. We continually adapt our ethical procedures to address challenges of research with big data, experimental data, as well as web-based and social media research. Our research on voting behaviour and citizen participation requires robust safeguards given the lowering of the voting age in Scotland to 16, as do the neurological processes studied by NRLabs. Our three-level online ethics review is supplemented by specialised review for higher risk research. All staff have access to guidance from Ethics Leaders in the UoA, School and College, and online research ethics training.

We have adopted measures to enhance the transparency, accessibility and replicability of our research. In 2016, Bevan became the first School academic lead on Data, responsible for promoting Open Research and helping to draft the College Open Research Strategy. He has pioneered data-sharing in his own work, releasing the new UK Statutory Instruments and the Scottish Statutory Instruments datasets alongside other open access datasets as part of this leading role in the UK Comparative Agendas Project. He became PIR's inaugural Research Ethics Lead in 2018. As College Dean of Research, Boswell oversaw the development of the College Open Research Strategy, which sets out ambitious plans surpassing REF OA requirements for open access. UoA staff have 93% compliance with OA requirements.

1.6 Future Strategy

Over the next five years, we will continue to make strategic investments to position the UoA to lead national and global research and policy debates across our five themes. In addition, we will build capacity in three key areas:

- With the Edinburgh Futures Institute and its Digital Innovations Lab, we will harness the potential of digital and data-driven technologies to promote inclusive and participatory governance, strengthening collaborations with Informatics, Design and Data Studies.
- Work with the Data Driven Innovation programme to support the development and distribution of large data resources around our five research areas.
- Capitalise on investments in security and trade to generate and grow opportunities for knowledge exchange and impact in these areas, demonstrating sector-leading KEI across all substantive research areas.

We recognise the challenges of the Covid pandemic and the disruptions to research, especially for those at earlier career stages, with caring responsibilities, and health issues and we have enhanced our support for these groups (see S2). Four researchers in our UoA have already received external funding for Covid-related research, including on behavioural compliance (Daoust) and a green recovery from Covid (Evensen) (see also S2).

2. People

2.1 Staffing Strategy

Over the REF period our success in external funding and flourishing teaching programmes have enabled us to recruit 25 new staff, of which 16 are new posts. Our recruitment strategy was guided by two main goals. First, we emphasized hiring and supporting ECRs to ensure renewal of the discipline; of our 25 appointments, only one was a limited term Lectureship to cover a secondment. Second, we sought to foster interdisciplinarity by recruiting staff with PhDs in philosophy, media and communications, women's, gender and sexuality studies, computing science, East Asian Studies, and development studies. These appointments enabled us to deepen expertise in particular skills, substantive areas and geographic expertise. Specifically, we:

- grew ambitiously in quantitative methods thanks to our involvement in the highly successful Nuffield-funded Edinburgh QStep Centre, hiring Bevan, Ozdemir (who now leads QStep) and Western. They have been joined by additional quantitative methods experts Daoust, Evensen, Liu, Llewellyn, Rommerskirchen;
- hired those with established track records in domestic and international impact with governments, parliaments and NGOs (Geddes, Kenny, Kumarasingham, Perugini);
- hired to address new research opportunities around global challenges. This includes six security studies experts (Turner, Perugini, Hom, Martill, Kaczmarska, Abbott), five in ethics and justice (Mihai, Thaler, Cripps, Cook and Oberman) and four in political economy (Rommerskirchen, Calvert, Hopewell (now UBC), Margulis (now UBC));
- enhanced our depth and breadth for our geographic areas of expertise, including additional expertise in Middle East and North Africa (Abbott, Alahmad, Allinson, Perugini, Volpi), Russia and Southeast Asia (Kaczmarska, Kim, Hammond, Turner) and Latin America (Calvert) as well as renewed expertise in the UK (Geddes, Kumarasingham).

This major investment in the next generation has also enhanced our diversity: 76% of PIR staff originate from outside the UK, from 12 countries across three continents, and three of our new colleagues self-identify as visible minorities.

Twenty of our UoA staff were promoted during the REF period resulting in a UoA profile of 1 Career Development Fellow, 15 Lecturers, 24 Senior Lecturers and 12 Personal Chairs. Promotion applications benefitted from new enhanced support, including a series of training workshops and constructive feedback on application materials from senior colleagues, pioneered by McEwen in her capacity as School promotions representative.

We have had very low levels of staff departure. This includes six permanent staff leaving to accept positions outside the UK (in each case closer to their countries of origin). Jeffery left to become the Vice Chancellor of the University of York. Our esteemed colleague Professor John Peterson tragically died while in service.

2.2 Staff Support and Development

As part of our 2014 strategy Henderson coordinated a **benchmarking exercise** to identify world-leading research support from international exemplars of excellence. Staff identified and researched 30 leading UK and international universities, reporting back any best practice examples of research support. This exercise, and a concerted effort to help shape the research environment in our wider school, college and university through **key leadership positions**,

guided our approach to retaining and enhancing various support mechanisms around access to funding, mentoring and workspaces. We outline these below.

The UoA has robust processes in place to ensure staff are supported in realising ambitious research goals. Staff have 40% time allocated for research within the workload model, and are eligible to apply for one semester research **sabbatical** after five semesters. 32 staff benefited from research leave over the REF period. All staff have access to **School and College funds** to support research. This includes up to £2k per year to support new grant applications, pilot research or networking; and up to £5k to prepare grant applications of over £1m. As Research Director for PIR Hardie was instrumental in creating the Researcher Development Fund (£1.8k, with £2k for ECRs) to support training and career development activities as well as conference participation.

These opportunities complement university funding for impact (see S1) or for interdisciplinary projects, including a £15k Challenge Investment Fund, which Perugini used to establish an interdisciplinary network with lawyers at QMUL, journalists, Doctors without Borders, Human Rights Watch and the Red Cross on 'the erosion of the civilian'. Liu and Llewellyn were recently awarded a College KEI grant to study the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown in Edinburgh with an interdisciplinary team drawn from linguistics, psychosocial studies, language technology and big data analysis.

All staff receive **annual review meetings** with the Head of Subject or a senior delegate, to discuss research and career goals, and ensure appropriate training, resources and support are in place to realise these. All new staff benefit from an enhanced induction process, including early meetings with both the Head of Subject and Research Convenor to identify specific research needs and mentoring, coupled with follow up meetings six months later. A new handbook for incoming staff curates key resources for research. New staff are now allocated two academic 'buddies' to ease their transition into the University and city.

We have **enhanced our mentoring support**, which now covers staff at all career stages not just ECRs. Mentoring covers 'whole career' advice, including but not limited to research, and is demand-led. To supplement its mentoring scheme in 2015 PIR established a **Research Support Group (RSG)** to support colleagues to identify and realise key research goals. The RSG includes a mix of scholars across subfields and career stages with diverse skills in publications, grant application writing and mentoring. Offering mentor-led support, each RSG member is responsible for supporting approximately six members of staff and meets with them multiple times a year to identify how to achieve research goals. The RSG also identifies opportunities for PIR-wide research support and has initiated writing retreats, devolved funding for research groups, paired article authors or grant applicants and secured external reviews for R&Rs at high profile publication outlets. As evidence of how seriously we take our mentoring responsibilities, two UoA staff won the College award for mentoring (Hardie, Mackay) in recognition of outstanding support for colleagues (making us the only UoA to have won the award twice).

PIR has a vibrant **culture of peer review** of draft outputs and grant applications. All staff organise their own 'Master Classes' in which 2-3 colleagues with relevant expertise provide feedback and advice. We now curate data on staff experiences with publishers and journals, so that colleagues know who to ask for advice. We also make available, and retain, both in house and via the University's research support network, portfolios of successful grant applications. These forms of academic peer support have been crucial to our success in grants, expanding the proportion of those applying for and winning funding (see S3.1).

PIR holds well-attended **weekly seminars** for staff to present their research to the whole subject area. In addition, our centres and research groups (for example British politics, IPE) hold events to provide in-depth specialist advice on research outputs. Our political theorists, for example, meet weekly during term time to provide line-by-line feedback on draft publications for staff and PGRs.

PIR staff have created resources to facilitate **peer skill development** in a fast-changing research environment. Dorman led a series of Twitter workshops, helping expand the proportion of staff maintaining research Twitter accounts to 85%. We have also provided time for staff to pursue specialised interdisciplinary skills training. Examples include FTE release for Cram to pursue an MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience and for Cook to pursue a postgraduate certification in digital education.

2.3 Post-doctoral and Early Career Researchers

We host a thriving community of Early Career Researchers (ECRs), including our expanded cohort of **Lecturers**, of whom 19 joined us as their first permanent academic post. Our workload model provides additional support for those preparing new teaching, allocating 50% additional time for preparation. We offer dedicated workshops for ECRs on new investigator funding, and provide comprehensive support and peer review for applications. ECRs are also represented in the RSG, to provide skill development around mentoring, as well as succession planning for research leadership. As Dean of Research, Boswell led the University's action plan to support Early Career Researchers, which included prioritising early career colleagues for access to sabbatical and seed funding for research. The various funding and support mechanisms in PIR and across the University have supported two thirds of current ECRs in winning grants or publishing monographs. Thirteen of our Lecturers were promoted to Senior Lecturer over the REF period.

We also hosted a substantial number of **postdoctoral researchers**. This includes four colleagues employed as Chrystal Macmillan (1 year) or Career Development (3 year) Fellows, the latter a postdoctoral scheme initiated by Mackay as Head of School. The Fellowships provide rounded training for postdoctoral fellows, allowing ECRs to gain valuable experience convening courses and supervising students, with generous research time built in to develop their research track record. We have also hosted seven ECRs on externally funded postdoctoral fellowships; and created 33 research fellowship positions through collaborative external projects, notably through ESRC and ERC-funded grants.

We offer additional support to those on **fixed-term research fellow or postdoctoral fellowships**. The University fully implements the principles of the UK's Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (2019), and runs a series of courses/programmes to support research careers. The School Committee for Research Staff runs tailored research and career development workshops for fixed-term research staff, on publication strategies or responding to reviewers' comments, as well as writing retreats. All research fellows receive annual reviews with a research mentor separate from the regular meetings they have with line managers. We encourage staff nearing the end of their contracts to make use of the University's Talent Register, which facilitates possible deployment to relevant research posts as they arise. We have been active in addressing the issue of precarity for ECRs, reducing the proportion of fixed term R&T contracts to one (covering a staff secondment).

2.4 Research Students

Our expanding cohort of postgraduate researchers (PGRs) are a crucial part of our research environment, and over the REF period we made substantial investments to ensure they received enhanced support and training.

We significantly expanded **funding for PhD studentships**, through two major initiatives. First, the UoA worked with the School to create 10 fully funded studentships for PIR in 2016, allowing us to support both new and on-course students. This was in addition to the nine studentships funded through other School and University schemes over the REF period. Second, to widen participation, in 2017 the School invested £1m in a new scheme to support students with non-traditional career paths. Named after Professor Alice Brown (our first female politics professor and first Ombudsperson of the Scottish Parliament), these fellowships funded three PIR students, building in professional development with an emphasis on training in knowledge exchange and public engagement. Postgraduate researchers have also won competitive studentships from ESRC (16) and comparable grant agencies in Spain, Mexico, and Canada (10). In memory of John Peterson, we have raised funds for Peterson PhD awards to recognise his career-long commitment to postdoctoral training. These investments have underpinned a 37% expansion in the number of PGR completions compared to the REF2014 period.

We offer comprehensive **training and skills development** for MRes and PhD students, including a suite of research methods courses offered through the ESRC- and Scottish Funding Council-funded Scottish Graduate School of Social Science, and the School's own postgraduate training programme. First-year PhD researchers benefit from training in research skills and career development, as well as peer support and cohort-building, through our Theory and Practice (T&P) course. PGRs in subsequent years benefit from career development workshops on job or grant applications, and publishing through our Student Development Office PhD Skills Hub. Our methods skills training has been enhanced since 2018 by the new **Research Methods Training Centre**. Based in the School (with Bevan, Henderson, Liu, Ozdemir and Western as active members), the RTC offers online and in-person short courses in qualitative and quantitative methods, building on the expansion of courses made possible via the Q-Step grant. External funding also facilitated mobility opportunities for PGRs. Five of our EXACT EU Innovative Training Network fellows held placements in European think tanks before returning to Edinburgh.

All students benefit from a **supervisory team** of two or more staff, often pairing earlier career Lecturers with more senior colleagues. Reflecting our interdisciplinary orientation, staff also co-supervise 24 PGRs across the university, including the College of Medicine and Edinburgh College of Art. PGRs receive monthly (or more frequent) supervision meetings, and annual reviews on progress. Towards the end of the first year, all PGRs prepare a 10,000 word paper for review by a formal board, which includes the PG Convenor, supervisors and an additional colleague with expertise in the area. Both the annual review process and first year board review provide opportunities for students to raise confidentially any concerns about supervision or support.

The School offers a range of **resources to support PGRs**. PGRs can access financial support for fieldwork and conference attendance to the same levels as early career staff (with 131 successful claims made by PIR PGRs since 2018). Our PGR hardship fund was expanded after March 2020, in recognition of the challenges faced by students during the pandemic. All PGRs are encouraged to join the UoA's various research groups, many serving as co-convenors. As we encourage PGRs to mirror the vibrant PIR culture of peer support, our students have

established reading groups and run a well-attended annual day-long PIR PhD showcase, in which students present their dissertation research, with feedback from fellow students and staff.

Over the REF period, our **recently completed PGRs** have won three dissertation prizes from the PSA, BISA and IMISCOE. Two have won prestigious postdoctoral fellowships from the ESRC and Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities. Recently completed PGRs have gone on to range of positions, including as lecturers/assistant professors in the UK and US; and as analysts/researchers in local, Scottish and UK government and in a range of agencies, think tanks and NGOs such as the Independent National Electoral Commission in Nigeria, IPPR and Trust for London.

2.5 Equality and Diversity

PIR is strongly committed to promoting equality in recruitment and support for staff, and to fostering an inclusive and diverse research culture. Staff in our unit have **promoted equality and diversity across the institution** through a series of initiatives. Mackay created and Thompson (retired 2019) served as inaugural chair of the School's People+ Committee, to tackle issues around workplace culture and work-life balance, gender and race equality, physical accessibility, trans/non-binary issues, harassment, bullying and mental health. People+ identified challenges through surveys of work satisfaction and focus groups with PGRs. These resulted in several new initiatives, including: hosting events on women in academia and speed mentoring sessions; developing new guidance on preferred pronouns; introducing a policy of no alcohol at School events; ensuring a gender-neutral wheelchair-accessible toilet on each floor of our main building; and providing baby-changing facilities and a secure, single-occupancy breastfeeding and/or expressing room with a dedicated milk storage fridge (for which our School was awarded an NHS Lothian Breastfeeding Friendly certificate in 2016). Thompson and Mackay, as Head of School, led a successful application for an Athena Swan Bronze award.

Recognising the particular challenges of parenthood for female academics, Henderson initiated, as Head of PIR, expanded support for staff during and after maternity leave, including: individual meetings pre- and post-leave, to ensure women are aware of their rights and to address any concerns; support for organising Keeping in Touch days during maternity leave, where desired by staff; and full accrual of sabbatical while on maternity leave. We encourage staff with caring responsibilities to make full use of flexible working. Ten staff have benefited from such arrangements since 2014, including partial FTE (four staff), or compressed weeks (six staff, including, for a time, the Head of PIR). We schedule work events within 9-5 and timetable staff meetings to accommodate known patterns of flexible working arrangements, thus ensuring the full participation of all staff.

Our expertise on gender, immigration and race has shaped practices on diversity beyond PIR. UoA staff direct (Mackay) and sit on the steering group (Boswell, Duncanson, Kenny) of genderED, a university-wide interdisciplinary hub showcasing excellence in teaching, research and knowledge exchange on gender and sexualities studies. Liu is a member of the University's Race Inequalities group, and on the steering committee of Race.ED, a university-wide initiative to showcase excellence in race and decolonial studies. Staff are also active in the UoE Staff Pride (LGBT+) Network, which won Stonewall Scotland Network of the Year in 2018.

We spearheaded various activities involving both PGRs and staff to foster an **inclusive atmosphere**, such as running groups, football teams, and day hikes. Convery created a School choir, which brings together students, academics and professional services staff to create a sense of belonging to our School-wide community. The choir performs at important events such as the graduation celebrations.

The UoE REF2021 **Code of Practice** promotes maximum inclusivity through a return of 100% of the institution's eligible academic staff on contract at census date. This builds on an inclusive practice in REF2014, where we returned 93% of staff. This inclusive approach reflects a commitment to a supportive and egalitarian research culture, in which staff across all career stages enjoy equal access to all forms of research support. This environment has contributed to a broad distribution of selected outputs across staff. 11 ECRs have generated 24 of our publications.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Research Income

Over the REF period our research income has tripled, from £3.9m to £12.16m. This growth reflects broad engagement across UoA staff, with 75% having held externally-funded grants in this REF period. Grant income has included considerable investments in new centres and large grants, greater engagement with international funding schemes as well as a number of prestigious fellowships.

We have won £2.1m in large investments to fund **Centres**: £1.1m from the ESRC to help establish the Centre on Constitutional Change (CCC) and £1.02m from ESRC/Scottish Government to fund What Works Scotland (WWS). These investments helped colleagues bid successfully for an additional £2m in large grants on constitutional change and citizen engagement.

We have pursued external funding to advance our **internationalisation strategy**, both by accelerating our grant capture from non-UK sources and building international research teams. This includes various European Commission grants (€327k to UoA of €3.9m total) for Boswell, Evensen, Mackay and Raab. Staff also secured UK funding to develop international partnerships, for example Swenden's Leverhulme Trust grant (£113k) to bring 20 Gurukul fellows from India to the UK.

We have dramatically expanded the number of prestigious **international fellowships and excellence awards**. This includes Damro's Jean Monet Centre of Excellence for the Europa Institute (€124k), and Mihai's (€1.35m) ERC award. Research support for our ECRs is reflected in three MSC awards to Oberman, Perugini and Thaler, and an ESRC Future Research Leaders grant for Hopewell.

This sits alongside a series of large ESRC grants totalling £1.65m won by Cram, Evensen, Henderson and Mitchell to generate new datasets on democracy and representation including referendum studies, election studies and party membership studies, as well as evaluations of the EU and attitudes to public policy.

We have pursued smaller awards for seminars and networking as a means to build impact audiences or help ECRs build research networks. This includes £29k (ESRC) for CeSeR to run seminars on security in an independent Scotland, and Kumarasingham's Royal Society of Edinburgh grant (£15k) with Law to establish the Keith Forum on Commonwealth Constitutionalism, harnessing knowledge from practitioners and academics across the commonwealth to explore current constitutional challenges.

All of these are based in Edinburgh but UoA staff are also **co-investigators** on 30 grants held elsewhere in the UK or internationally, including over £3m as Co-Is on grants based in 10 other

countries. In total, staff in our UoA have been named on over £24.6m in UK and international funding since 2014.

3.2 Support for Research Grants

Our success in grant capture reflects expanded financial and professional support for applications. Our **Research Office** has more than doubled in size over the REF period, from 6.8 FTE in REF2014 to 14.5 FTE in REF2021. New posts include a Portfolio Manager, Research Programme Manager, KEI Manager, Research Data and Information Officer, as well as pre and post-award senior support officers. Together, the team provides support for costings, reviews and ethics on applications as well as support with the considerable reporting requirements for some funders. This support is complemented by specialised University services, delivered by the **Edinburgh Research Office**, which offers horizon scanning and information sharing of upcoming funding opportunities; briefing events on grant schemes; a calendar of funding opportunities; and a dossier of successful applications. Thanks to the various supports in place, over 87% of UoA staff applied for funding in this REF period, and 75% of UoA staff won external funding.

Edinburgh Innovations provides a specialised **commercialisation** service, including support for consulting work. Fifteen UoA staff have delivered consulting to a range of national and international organisations, including OECD (Boswell, on immigration), UN Women (Mackay, on political leadership), Rand (Hardie, on fiscal rules) British Council (Damro, on UK soft power), Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (Perugini, on humanitarian assistance in the West Bank), and COSLA (Escobar, on community planning partnerships).

3.3 Infrastructure and Facilities

Two thirds of UoA staff are located in the **refurbished Chrystal Macmillan Building (CMB)** in George Square, with most others in adjacent buildings. CMB has electronically bookable meeting pods, a range of presentation and practice suites and a computer lab. Its public spaces, including a large atrium and Violet Laidlaw room, are suitable for conferences, receptions and research displays. Several large screens throughout the building advertise forthcoming research events. Since January 2019 the CMB atrium has included an exhibition, as part of the School's UncoverED project, highlighting the contributions of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic undergraduate and postgraduate research alumni from the 1780s to the 1980s. CMB has undergone additional refurbishment since opening in 2008, including the complete replacement of all lifts (at a cost of £500k) to enhance accessibility; and the addition in 2015 of a ground floor café and social/study space. Spearheaded by Mackay, it won the 2017 College award for Most Effective University Community Building Initiative.

The **Centre on Constitutional Change** is located in the 18th century St John's Land, within a few minutes' walk of the Scottish Parliament, BBC and St Andrew's House, where many government staff are located. It contains a suite of meeting rooms, including a 30-person boardroom. Its location has facilitated regular seminars and meetings involving politicians and civil servants, including five visits of UK Parliament Select Committees. **NRLabs** opened in January 2016 with four experimental workspaces (computers, software, headsets and eye-tracking equipment) allowing for in-house experiments, behavioural games, face-emotion coding, and eye-tracking. NRLabs staff also have shared access to University fMRI scanning and physical hormone testing.

During this REF period University Estates and SPS invested in infrastructure and facilities including £1.75m to renovate listed buildings in George Square (next to CMB) into a dedicated

centre for PhD students, co-designed with student users. The new space is named, as selected by PhD students, after Edinburgh alumna and anti-apartheid activist Dr Kesaveloo Goonam, and contains 137 desks in shared offices. Students are assigned dedicated working space, replacing the limited hotdesking facilities previously available.

These investments sit alongside two transformative developments in data connectivity and data-driven innovation. The £1.3b **Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal**, spearheaded by Jeffery as Senior Vice Principal, involves an investment of £375m for research and training opportunities to staff and students around DDI to tackle global challenges such as inequality, and to further inclusive economic growth in the city and region. As part of this investment, the University has established the **Edinburgh Futures Institute**, an interdisciplinary hub for world-leading research to be housed in the newly renovated Victorian city hospital next to campus. Cram and Escobar are playing a leading role in developing EFI research and impact on democratic innovation, receiving EFI funding to develop engagement with industry, government and local communities.

Within a five-minute walk of CMB are two world-class **research libraries**: the University Main Library on George Square, one of ten libraries on campus, with 2m books, 1.4m e-books and 185k e-journals, and the National Library of Scotland's main George IV building, one of six legal deposit libraries in the UK. The NLS contains 15m books, 7m manuscript items, almost 2m maps and 100,000 journal, magazine and newspaper titles as well as collections of private papers. Its reading rooms provide dedicated writing space to researchers.

The School's **Infrastructure, Information and Learning Technology Services Team** has increased from 11.3 FTE in REF2014 to 14.91 FTE in REF2021. The team helps to coordinate costings for infrastructure and technology requirements for grant applications, and provides laptops to research students as required, along with access to necessary software. Our *Apps Anywhere* facility means that computing and IT facilities are available remotely from home or indeed anywhere in the world for those engaged in research across the globe. This enabled us to pivot smoothly to digital working from home after March 2020.

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

4.1 Collaboration and Networks

We have pursued our interdisciplinary and international strategies by encouraging staff through mentoring to take active leadership roles. This includes **interdisciplinary collaborations** beyond the Unit. Within the University, Volpi leads the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, bringing together 13 researchers from across the arts, humanities and social sciences to promote understanding of contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world. March is Deputy Director of the Dashkova Centre, a hub for University research and knowledge exchange on Russia, and for academic engagement between Russia and Scotland. Raab co-directs the Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy (CRISP) an interdisciplinary research centre bringing together leading scholars from four universities.

Staff across all career stages have played active roles in initiating and leading **international research networks**. Two of our gender specialists (Mackay and Kenny) lead the Feminism and Institutionalism International Network, which brings together scholars across Europe, North American and Australia to explore how the study of formal institutions and informal practices can better accommodate issues of gender, power and change. In 2018 Kaczmarek used ISA funding to establish a network on local and global limits on academic freedom (Academic Freedom, IR Knowledge and Policy Advice). Working with scholars in or on Brazil, Peru, Turkey,

Hungary, Russia, India, US, UK, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan the network identifies ways to build expertise in foreign and security policy. Boswell created the ECPR's Standing Group on Knowledge and Governance. Neal was a founding member of the ISA's Theory section. Basta co-convenes the new UACES research network (RE)Imagining Territorial Politics in the Time of Crisis which has since March 2020 been producing a series of short reports on the reaction to COVID in multi-level states.

Staff in the Unit collaborate in a range of **international projects**. We hold grants or have published outputs with colleagues in 43 UK universities and 32 international universities. This includes grants on federalism, democracy, consociationalism and secession with colleagues in India (Swenden), Korea (Kim), Sri Lanka (Kumarasingham) and Indonesia (Hammond). In addition, we have held 20 international visiting positions in 15 countries.

Through a range of support measures, we have also played a key role in creating more than 40 **databases or datasets for international scholars** to analyse in their work. These include election studies, a decade of survey research through the Future of England Surveys, surveys of referendum preferences and constitutional attitudes, databases of candidate characteristics to evaluate recruitment and selection practices, databases of political apologies, and successive years of data from the comparative agendas project (CAP). Many of these have been possible thanks to external funding initially supported by internal seed funding.

4.2 User Engagement

The period 2014-2020 was one of political uncertainty in the UK and around the world, and UoA members have sought to apply their knowledge and expertise to inform these developments. We have cultivated relationships with and across a range of user groups, as outlined below.

Governments: As well as secondments with the UK and Scottish Governments, staff provided training, 'master classes' and expert advice to the UK Government (FCO, UKREP, DEFRA, DfID, Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, Home Office, the MoD, the Scotland Office, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport), the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and local governments across Scotland. This generated impact beyond that detailed in case studies. Raab's work on data ethics, and his critique of the UK government's draft data science ethical framework, led to his appointment as adviser supporting the government's revised Data Ethics Framework in 2018. Duncanson worked closely with the MoD on its defence strategy on women, peace and security, including organising three academic-practitioner workshops and providing comments on a draft that led to corrections and improvements in the published strategy. Recognition of our expertise was evident in invitations to address foreign governments, including the Canadian federal government and the government of Quebec, the Basque and Catalan governments; ministerial, official and parliamentary delegations from across the globe, and addresses to international bodies including the United Nations, the European Commission, the OECD and the Council of Europe.

Parliaments: We invested in building relationships with parliamentary committee clerks and research units and encouraged our scholars to respond to parliamentary enquiries. This enhanced our contribution to parliamentary scrutiny. Since 2014, eight staff from across the UoA made 24 appearances as expert witnesses before 12 different Westminster parliamentary committees, and nine staff made 36 appearances before 13 different committees in the devolved legislatures. In total, 21 staff members from the UoA have generated 522 citations across the UK's legislatures. Geddes was invited by the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, the ESRC and Research England to explore how legislatures can better engage with academic research (£19k).

Public bodies: We developed strong and sustained collaborations with over 40 public bodies. For example, Mitchell supported Police Scotland in developing new approaches to leadership training by assisting in the development, delivery and evaluation of a Leadership for Outcomes course, in which senior policy officers address ‘wicked problems’. The resulting proposals fed into deliberations of the Justice Board, which is charged with monitoring progress on the government’s Justice Vision and Priorities. Calvert joined an Expert Group on International Investment Facilitation, hosted by the International Trade Centre (a joint agency of the UN and WTO), set up to inform multi-lateral negotiations on the WTO’s investment facilitation framework.

Third sector organisations, campaign groups and charities: We supported third sector organisations in responding to policy change, and have developed partnerships to extend the reach of academic research. Perugini, for example, carried out a constructive critique of Amnesty International’s work in the 2014 Gaza War, in cooperation with Newstone Global (NG), a specialised provider of expertise in international development research, monitoring, evaluation and training, which led AI to change its practices to ensure that context analysis is incorporated into its outputs on Israel/Palestine. Kim conducted extensive engagement with civil society organizations, artists, NGOs, advocacy groups, and peace-building organizations in Myanmar, focussing on the role of the arts in conflict transformation, and minority inclusion. In 2019 she used Global Challenge funding to lead a healing festival in cooperation with the Pansodan, Myanmar’s leading art gallery, to engage audiences in reflections on Myanmar’s cultural diversity and its impact on public life.

Media: In multiple languages and across each research stream we applied our research to contextualise and inform understandings of elections, party politics, populism, immigration, energy policy, security, human rights as well as political developments in a range of countries. Our expertise provided rigorous and impartial analysis at critical moments, exemplified by the media profile of UoA experts during the Scottish independence referendum campaign, during which the team gave at least 219 interviews to the domestic and international media, reaching 38 countries. This included broadcast interviews on all main UK network news channels in the UK, and major international networks such as CNN, Al Jazeera and Xinhua, features on TV and radio documentaries, advisory roles on broadcasts, and ‘on the spot analysis’ throughout results’ broadcasts: (Mitchell (STV); McEwen (BBC Radio 4/5Live); Henderson (BBC World Service); Jeffery (BBC 1 Scotland); and Convery (CNN). Collectively, UoA academics produced almost a thousand citations in print media, from local newspapers (e.g. *Edinburgh Evening News*, *Stornoway Gazette*); to national tabloids (*Sun*, *Daily Record*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Mail*, etc.) and broadsheets (*Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Times*, *Observer*, etc.) and international outlets (including *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Le Figaro*, *El Pais*, and *Japan Times*, among others).

A highlight of our extensive reach was NRLabs’ uncovering of the activity patterns and impact of Russian-related trolls in the Brexit referendum. Coverage included features on the front page of the *Guardian* (and shared over 20,000 times on social media), almost all UK papers, the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Economist*, *Times*, *Independent*, *Huffington Post*, *VICE*, *Buzzfeed*, as well as CNN, ITV, BBC and Channel 4. This extensive coverage subsequently attracted the attention of the Russian and French embassies as well as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, generated briefing requests from the FCO, the Home Office and individual MPs, and led to the research being cited in a report by the Committee on Foreign Relations in the United States Senate.

Digital media has become increasingly important over the course of the REF cycle. UoA staff have produced over 400 research blogs since 2014. Their reach is extended by staff Twitter accounts with almost 90,000 followers cumulatively, as well as departmental, school and press office social media accounts within the university. For example, the Centre on Constitutional

Change, which acts as a hub for engagement with constitutional research as well as a vehicle for disseminating UoA work in this area, has over 6,000 followers, including senior politicians, such as the Scottish First Minister, senior officials, including permanent secretaries, journalists, and members of the public. Over the course of the REF cycle, it has generated 1,267 blog posts, 389,862 website users and 1,037,041 page views.

Public Engagement: We encourage academic staff to pursue dissemination strategies that ensure research findings engage the public directly and have hosted 150 public events, working with local parliamentarians, schools, community and church groups to address public audiences. This includes taking advantage of Edinburgh's status as a festival city. Staff have participated in the Edinburgh Book Festival (Kaarbo, March, McEwen, Jeffery), Edinburgh International Science Festival (Bomberg) and the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics (where Escobar, Henderson and McEwen have appeared multiple times). A particular highlight is Cook's two live shows, 'Bring Back Child Labour!' and 'Abolish Childhood!', at the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas, part of Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and which also featured in BBC TV 'Edinburgh Night's Edinburgh Fringe review programme. In these performances, he brought political philosophy to a public audience, discussing how commitments to equality and social justice have radical implications for our approaches to childhood.

We made use of digital platforms to engage public audiences. Scholars in our UoA (Convery, Henderson, Mitchell, McEwen, Damro) led the world's first 'real-time' Massive Open Online Courses spanning key democratic events using a template developed by Convery, including the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, 2015 UK General Election, 2016 devolved elections in Scotland and Wales (in collaboration with Cardiff University) and the 2016 Brexit referendum. The courses, which included interactive live seminars online, mini lectures, involvement from referendum campaigns and political parties, reached over 15,000 registered users across the world.

4.3 Contribution to the Sustainability of the Discipline

Alongside our commitment to interdisciplinary research, we have pursued an agenda of **engaging extensively with our various professional bodies that support work in our disciplines**. Staff have been elected to executive positions of their professional associations: PSA (Kenny, Mackay); ISA (Hom, Kaarbo); APSA and MPSA (Liu); Association of Social and Political Philosophy (Cook, Cripps); British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (Perugini, Stein, Volpi); British Association for Islamic Studies (Volpi); Council for British Research in the Levant (Allinson); and the British Association for Chinese Studies (Hammond). As Equality and Diversity lead for the PSA, Kenny drafted the association's E&D strategy, implemented a new prize and awards framework to improve transparency and authored the PSA's anti-harassment and discrimination policy. In addition, staff have convened or currently lead ten specialist groups of their professional bodies, in four instances creating and then serving as inaugural convenors. In the six years since the PSA launched its 'specialist group of the year' award it has been won four times by groups led by staff in our UoA (Bomberg, Convery, Geddes, Kenny).

UoA staff have organised no fewer than 56 **workshops or conferences** in the UK and 15 internationally with an accumulated audience of 2700 academics. Several of these were in Edinburgh, including BISA (2016). We have already begun preparations to host the ECPR Joint Sessions in 2022. In 2020 we were to host the 70th anniversary conference of the PSA, ten years after hosting its 60th anniversary conference. The event was cancelled in April because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since March 2020 we have adapted to circumstances and held 46 workshops or seminars online, reaching a total audience of 2,300 for events such as book

launches, and workshops for ECRs. The largest was a 1,000-person workshop for academics, activists and practitioners on gender, security and climate change.

UoA staff serve the discipline in a variety of ways, including as **editors of ten journals** since 2014 across the themes of governance (e.g. *Government and Opposition*), security and ethics (e.g. *Res Publica*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*), as well as representation and democracy (e.g. *Politics and Gender*, *Political Behavior*). Reflecting its international reputation for scholarship in territorial politics PIR served as home to *Regional and Federal Studies* (edited by Jeffery, then McEwen, then Swenden) until 2018. In line with our ambitions to engage more with the discipline, Edinburgh PIR now hosts the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*. Ten staff have been involved in the running of *BJPIR* as co-editors (Peterson and Convery, joined later by Kaarbo, Kenny and Turner) or consultant editors (Cripps, Hardie, Henderson, Kaarbo, Mackay and Mitchell).

A third of our staff sit on the advisory boards of an additional 20 journals covering a range of expertise across our subfields (e.g. *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Policy and Politics*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Security Dialogue*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Political Studies Review*) as well as journals with geographic areas of expertise (*African Politics*, *East European Politics*, *Russian politics*, *Korea Observer*). Staff serve as books series editors for various publishers. Kaarbo is co-editor of Role Theory and IR (Routledge), Raab is general editor of Studies in Surveillance (Routledge), March edits Russian politics and society (ibidem), Damro edits Contemporary European Studies (EUACES/Routledge) while Kaczmarek is on the board of Global Epistemics (Rowman). In addition, UoA colleagues have also reviewed book manuscripts and draft articles for well over a hundred academic presses and journals.

UoA members are heavily involved in arrangements for **research training beyond Edinburgh**, including the Scottish ESRC Doctoral Training partnership, which is hosted at UoE through the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS). The DTP is the UK's largest facilitator of funding, training and support for doctoral students in social science. In addition, UoA staff have organised or taught on various international courses, including prestigious summer schools associated with ECPR, EURAC and the International Federation for Information Processing.

Our collective impact on the discipline is reflected in a number of **esteem indicators**. Staff were invited to serve on juries to award publication and dissertation prizes, both for the PSA (Henderson, Mackay and Thaler) and internationally, APSA (Mackay), ISA (Hom) and Canadian PSA (Henderson). Cram twice chaired the jury to select the best article in the *Journal of Common Market Studies* while the *BJPIR* editorial team selects its annual article winner. The award is now named after John Peterson. Seven PIR staff served on commissioning and review panels for the ESRC, British Academy, Leverhulme (Boswell, Cook, Cram, Henderson, Hopewell, Mihai and Swenden); EU Horizon programmes and ERC (Boswell, Mihai); and other national and international research funding agencies (Boswell, Henderson).

In addition to the prizes and awards listed in S1, colleagues were elected to fellowships in the Royal Society of Edinburgh (Boswell, Henderson, and Mackay) joining Mitchell and Raab; the Academy of Social Sciences (Boswell), joining Mackay and Raab; and the British Academy (Boswell). UoA staff take a leading role in these organisations, serving on key committees (Boswell, Henderson, Mackay) and leading working groups (Boswell, Raab). Boswell has been elected to serve as Vice President (Public Policy) of the British Academy, from July 2021.