



# **International Benchmarking Review of UK Politics and International Studies**

## **An International Assessment of UK Politics and International Studies Research**

Commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council in partnership with the British International Studies Association and the Political Studies Association.



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## Foreword

The UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Political Studies Association (PSA) and the British International Studies Association (BISA) agreed in 2006 to work in partnership to benchmark the quality and impact of research in the UK against international standards. This is the second in a series of ESRC sponsored assessments that will cover major social science disciplines in the UK.

The Council and Learned Societies were joined by prominent UK academics, research users and funders on a Steering Group to initiate and oversee the review. The Group appointed a distinguished international panel, chaired by Professor Robert E. Goodin (Australian National University) to make an independent qualitative assessment of the UK's performance in this discipline and to report on its findings. The Steering Group and International Panel Members are listed on page 4.

On behalf of the Steering Group we warmly welcome this thorough and rigorous assessment of the state of Politics and International Studies in the UK, and believe that the review will be highly beneficial, and productive. The report identifies the UK as having an enviable record of research quality across almost all the principal sub-disciplines of Politics and International Studies. As well as noting the diversity of research conducted in the UK, we also endorse the report's attempt to emphasise the considerable impact Politics and International Studies has on policy and practice, both in the UK and abroad. This is testimony to the expertise and enthusiasm of scholars at all levels of the discipline, as well as to the enormous amount of work UK academics put into knowledge transfer activities and engagement with end users.

The Steering Group gives an undertaking to consider all of the report's recommendations fully. Where weaknesses and other issues of concern have been identified by the International Panel, those represented on the Group will work together as appropriate, in order to develop suitable remedial actions in response. We also hope that the report will be debated by all those with an interest in the development of Politics and International Studies in the UK, and that it will provide a focus for extending the enormous contribution described by the International Panel.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Professor Goodin and all of the Panel Members for their hard work in producing such an illuminating and insightful report. The Steering

Group would also like to thank all those who discussed their work with the Panel or contributed in any way to the review.

**Professor Ian Diamond**, Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council

**Professor Jonathan Tonge**, Chair, Political Studies Association

**Professor Colin McInnes**, Chair, British International Studies Association

August 2007

# 1. Introduction and Terms of Reference

This review was established by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in partnership with the two professional bodies for Politics and International Studies in the UK, the Political Studies Association (PSA) and the British International Studies Association (BISA). The objective was to benchmark the current position of UK Politics and International Studies (IS) research against the best world-wide, highlighting strengths and weaknesses as appropriate. It was important to emphasize that the discipline as a whole was being assessed, not individual departments or just ESRC investments. The review was the second (Social Anthropology being the first) in a series of benchmarking studies that will cover the main social science disciplines in the UK.

Its terms of reference focused the review on four areas:

## **Research Quality**

- How does research in Politics and IS in the UK compare globally?
- Does the UK lead in particular areas of research?
- What are the UK's research strengths and is there evidence of a vibrant and ambitious agenda?
- Are there areas of weakness (either coverage or quality)? Why is this and how can they be addressed?
- What is the nature of the research environment (e.g. concentration in centres of excellence, or normal grant funding) and should this change in the future?

## **Research Capacity**

- Is there a good undergraduate and postgraduate base in UK Politics and IS?
- Is there an appropriate level of support for new postdoctoral researchers?
- Does the UK retain sufficient numbers of senior staff?
- Do the demographics indicate a healthy and sustainable discipline?
- Do suitably qualified researchers and students from overseas apply to UK departments?
- Are there any steps the UK should take to improve or consolidate capacity?

## Impact on Policy and Practice

- Is there evidence of a strong engagement with UK and international policy-makers?
- Is there an appropriate engagement with business and non-governmental bodies?
- Is there an appropriate dissemination to the general public?
- Is there evidence that UK Politics and IS have contributed to specific impacts on policy and practice?

## The Future

- What are the main challenges facing UK Politics and IS over the next ten years?
- What are the opportunities for Politics and IS scholars to improve understanding of social and economic problems, and provide the potential for innovative solutions?

A Steering Group was established to commission the review, oversee progress and receive the final report. The Steering Group was chaired jointly by the Chair of the Political Studies Association, Professor Jonathan Tonge, and successive Chairs of the British International Studies Association, Professors Caroline Kennedy-Pipe and Colin McInnes. It was made up of a selection of researchers, non-academic users, funding body representatives and Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) Panel members, as follows:

Professor Jonathan Tonge	Chair, PSA, University of Liverpool
Professor Colin McInnes	Chair, BISA, University of Wales Aberystwyth
Professor Caroline Kennedy-Pipe	Chair, BISA, University of Sheffield
Professor Christine Bellamy	Research Evaluation Committee Observer
Professor Richard Bellamy	ECPR, University College London
Professor Ray Bush	DSA, University of Leeds
Professor Ian Diamond	Chief Executive, ESRC
Dr Catherine Fieschi	Demos
Professor Justin Fisher	EPOP, Brunel University
Professor Andrew Gamble	University of Cambridge
Professor Vincent Geoghegan	PSA, Queen's University Belfast
Professor Wyn Grant	University of Warwick
Professor Charlie Jeffery	University of Edinburgh
Dr Declan McHugh	Hansard Society
Professor Anthony Payne	RAE, University of Sheffield
Mr Peter Riddell	<i>The Times</i>



Mr Mark Ross	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust
Professor Trevor Salmon	University of Aberdeen
Professor Antje Wiener	ISA, SGIR, University of Bath

The Steering Group commissioned Professor Bob Goodin to chair the International Benchmarking Panel and, working closely with him, determined the membership of the Panel. The Panel consisted of ten leading international academics drawn from various sub-fields within Politics and International Studies:

Professor Robert E. Goodin (Chair)	Australian National University (Australia)
Professor James Der Derian	Brown University (USA)
Professor Kris Deschouer	Free University, Brussels (Belgium)
Professor Friedrich Kratochwil	European University Institute (Italy)
Professor Audie Klotz	Syracuse University (USA)
Professor Brigid Laffan	University College, Dublin (Ireland)
Professor Pippa Norris	Harvard University/ UN Development Programme (USA)
Professor B. Guy Peters	University of Pittsburgh (USA)
Professor Joel Rosenthal	Carnegie Council (USA)
Professor Virginia Sapiro	University of Wisconsin (USA)

The Panel's work was supported by an ESRC secretariat consisting of Luke Moody and Pui-Yee Chan, who are to be particularly commended for their truly outstanding contributions.

The International Benchmarking Panel convened in the UK for the week of 14-19 January 2007. During that week, it met with 59 senior academics and as many PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from 12 major departments in four regional gatherings (in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh). Prior to those meetings, the Panel received written submissions from all those departments, and from another 21 they were unable to meet in person (Appendix 1 and 2). The Panel had also commissioned a bibliometric report from Evidence Ltd. (2006) and a survey of 28 'Non-academic Users of Politics and International Studies Research' from People Science and Policy (2006), the findings of which were circulated to Panel members before their meeting. The Panel was also supplied with background papers on the history of the discipline in the UK (Chester 1975; Barry 1999), on UK funding model for higher education (Mills 2006) and on research funding, staffing, students and careers (Wakeling

2006). The Panel Chair also had formal interviews with Baroness O'Neill (President of the British Academy), Paul Hubbard (Head of Research Policy, Higher Education Funding Council of England) and Tony McEnery (Director of Research, Arts and Humanities Research Council); in addition to informal consultations with various colleagues who are particularly involved in assessing and publishing UK work in Politics and IS.

We were one particular group of ten international visitors, who came one particular week for discussions with a hundred or so particular UK scholars. We wholeheartedly endorse the words of a meta-review of previous International Benchmarking exercises:

*"the status of these kinds of reviews is special and should be understood. In any evaluation of a complex situation, the evaluator is unlikely to observe, understand or analyse everything. Such evaluations should therefore be seen not as Truth but as systematic and well-informed contributions to a debate – a debate to which others also contribute (Arnold et al. 2005, p. 22)."*

## 2. Executive Summary

The International Benchmarking Panel assessed UK Politics and International Studies in relation to (1) research quality, (2) research capacity and (3) impact on policy and practice, leading to an overall assessment of (4) its future.

Benchmarking looks to best practice internationally. In academic disciplines, that has us looking for diversity and originality. That is what we see in the US, the profession's primary (but certainly not only) international benchmark; up close, US political science is far less monolithic than it might seem from a distance. We are glad to report that the UK discipline is just as diverse, and sometimes in interestingly different ways from the US.

We found considerable evidence of research quality across almost all the principal sub-disciplines. We did note weaknesses in some language-based area studies and in advanced methods, and we suggest ways of remedying those weaknesses. But the much larger story is one of considerable strengths: in political theory; in electoral studies; in the 'English School' of international relations; in European Union studies; in 'critical' security studies; in political economy, domestic and especially international; and in certain areas of public policy and administration and of comparative and area studies. Although there is truly outstanding research in the UK profession, a little more of it could be a little more ambitious and innovative; and funders could assist greatly in promoting that by emphasizing that they are anxious to fund risky, innovative research in addition to safe research with immediate policy applications.

We found considerable evidence of strong and improving research capacity. It could be even stronger were it not for the 'missing' women and ethnic minorities; urgent attention needs to be given to the serious under-representation of both, particularly at senior levels. There is the further worry that some promising scholars (perhaps especially women and ethnic minorities) might be lost to the profession early in their careers. Beyond that, however, the discipline is in robust good health. Student demand, both undergraduate and postgraduate, is strong. The discipline is demographically balanced, with no looming 'retirement crisis'. Very promising young scholars are being recruited into the junior ranks and are progressing well through the ranks.

We found considerable evidence of engagement with end-users in the policy community, narrowly construed. We found even more evidence of knowledge transfer more broadly

construed. If academic research is thought of as a kind of capital formation, Politics and International Studies contributes greatly to social, cultural and intellectual capital throughout the wider UK community.

The future of any discipline rests with the young. We were enormously pleased with what we found there - particularly the internationalization (especially Europeanization) of the junior ranks through some stunning recent hires. The quality of these outstanding young scholars, as much as anything else we observed, convinces us that Politics and International Studies has a very bright future indeed in the UK.

### **Recommendations**

- We endorse the dual-funding structure.
- We endorse quotas in allocation of ESRC studentships. We recommend that all ESRC-funded students have supervisory panels consisting of not less than two members.
- We recommend expansion of ESRC bursaries for people to undertake advanced methods training short courses at a variety of places, as appropriate to their needs. We recommend that these be available to staff as well as students, and to foreign as well as all domestic students whether or not they hold ESRC studentships. We urgently recommend better dissemination of information about existing bursaries and training options, and expansion of the number of bursaries available so anyone who would benefit could be offered one.
- We recommend vigorous proactive strategies to remedy the under-representation of women, particularly in senior ranks, and ethnic minorities across all ranks.
- We recommend that research fellowships be funded at levels sufficient to make them truly useful. We recommend Post-doctoral Fellowships of two-year or three-years' duration. We recommend Professorial Fellowships with up to 80-100 per cent buyouts. Most especially, we recommend Early-mid-career Research Fellowships for people five years post-PhD to establish their own research programme, perhaps lasting as long as three to five years.

- We endorse the concentration of research funding. We recommend that research quality not be assessed by metrics alone, but rather by panels of scholars capable of reading and judging work for themselves when metrics might be misleading.
- We recommend that funders, especially but not only the ESRC, support more risky and innovative research that has no immediately foreseeable practical payoffs; and we recommend that they take vigorous measures to publicize their willingness to fund such research.
- We recommend that funders, especially the ESRC, take a broader view of engagement, embracing not only immediate impact on policy but also more diffuse impacts on public culture. Again, we recommend that ESRC take vigorous measures to publicize its willingness to fund research promising impacts of that broader sort.
- We recommend a stronger web presence for better dissemination of research, and that the already-strong engagement with non-academic users be further enhanced through 'knowledge brokers' being associated with research projects and centres.

### 3. State of the Discipline

There is some country-to-country variation in precisely how the discipline of Politics and International Studies is structured. The basic divisions are pretty standard, however. The main branches of the discipline are:

- Political Institutions
- Political Theory
- Comparative Politics
- Political Behaviour
- Political Economy
- Public Policy
- International Relations
- Political Methodology

One level down from those big gross categories, and often straddling several of them, are a plethora of more specific research foci: area studies, security studies, European Union studies, legal studies and so on. There is also a range of cross-disciplinary activities linking Politics and International Studies with neighbouring disciplines: political sociology, political psychology, political history, political anthropology, political geography and so on. In addition, Politics and International Studies scholars often set their work within genuinely interdisciplinary contexts such as women's studies, war studies or development studies.

Politics and International Studies is a discipline that has developed both according to its own inner logic and in response to events in the larger world. During the last half-century, Politics and International Studies worldwide has developed increasingly sophisticated and rigorous methodologies for investigating the political world. Some of those methodologies are quantitative, aimed at the analysis of data in ways akin to that in econometrics or psychometrics. Others involve formal modelling as might be found in mathematical economics or game theory. Yet others of the methodologies are qualitative, involving rigorous sets of protocols for understanding actors and events after the fashion of social anthropology.

Perfecting these methodologies is inevitably an inward-looking enterprise, focusing on developing the discipline's own toolkit. But the applications of those methodologies are

definitely outward-looking, aiming to provide better understanding of important developments in the real political world. Among the substantive topics preoccupying many Politics and International Studies scholars in recent years have been things like democratization, globalization and securitization.

Such is the general nature of the discipline of Politics and International Studies worldwide. In the UK as elsewhere, Politics and International Studies had its growth spurt post-World War II, when its main professional associations were founded and student and faculty numbers exploded (Chester 1975; Barry 1999). There are currently around 1,400 full-time equivalent staff in Politics and IS in the UK, making it the same size as Sociology and only a little smaller than Economics/Econometrics (Wakeling 2006, p. 11). UK Politics and IS staff research foci concentrate particularly in the areas of 'Political Theory and Political Philosophy', 'European Union and Countries of Europe', 'International Relations', 'British Politics' and 'Comparative Politics' (Wakeling 2006, p. 15).

The charge to our Panel was to benchmark UK Politics and International Studies to 'best practice' internationally. 'Best practice' here ought to be understood in the plural, however. Benchmarking involves standard-setting, and that can often lead to standardization, harmonization and imposed uniformity. That is precisely how benchmarking is designed to operate within the European Union's 'open method of coordination', for example (Atkinson et al. 2002).

The opposite is what is wanted in academe, however. Diversity gives rise to innovation, and innovation to diversity. The best academic disciplines are internally highly diverse. Fostering diversity and a variety of competing perspectives is itself a core element of the 'best practice' of academic disciplines.

When undertaking an International Benchmarking exercise for Politics and International Studies, we inevitably benchmark largely to US political science. That is inevitable, if only because most political scientists in the world live and work there. By dint of sheer numbers US practice represents the standard practice of our discipline.

While US political science may be the primary point of reference, some of the most distinctive and valuable contributions come from elsewhere. Those distinctive national contributions arise out of the differing experiences, histories, priorities and

preoccupations of Politics and IS communities outside the US; and they are facilitated by the fact that the discipline is organized and practiced differently in those other places.

UK Politics and IS has strong links with and affinities to the US discipline, of course. But it is not a mere clone of its sister discipline in the US. In the UK, Politics and IS has particularly strong links to European networks, as well. Much early impetus for the Europeanization of the UK profession came through the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), headquartered in the UK since its inception (Barry 1999, pp. 455-65). But the density of linkages at every level now clearly transcends any single organization.

That European connection is one of the most distinctive features of UK Politics and IS and it is an important source of its comparative advantage vis-à-vis its North American counterpart. Intellectually, it helps UK Politics and IS ask interestingly different questions and offer subtly different analyses. In terms of disciplinary renewal, young Europeans are increasingly recruited into the UK profession and constitute a disproportionate share of its stars of the future. When benchmarking, therefore, we ought to not only look at dominant US practice; we should also appreciate that real comparative advantages can arise from deviating, in interesting ways, from that dominant practice. Finding a big, distinctive niche is good practice, too.

Insofar as we are benchmarking to the US, it is important to recognize the true nature of that model. However, monolithic the US discipline may seem from a distance, those working within it know fully well that it is internally highly diverse. From a distance, the US discipline may seem to be dominated by some hegemonic practice 'behaviouralism' in the previous generation or 'rational choice' in the present one. But in fact, those supposedly 'hegemonic' practices are actually practiced to any high degree by only perhaps 5 per cent of the US discipline, even in many top departments. To mimic the US (were that the goal) would require only a couple dozen high-powered rational choice theorists in the UK, a target that is well within grasp.

In short: the best disciplines worldwide are highly diverse; and we are pleased to report we found similar diversity within UK Politics and International Studies.



## 4. Research Quality

Perceptions of research quality are inevitably influenced by the results of the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and anticipation of the next. In 2001, five units of assessment in Politics and International Studies were awarded a 5\*, and another 19 units a 5. Some 18 units received a 4. But fully 24 units received a 3a (and another three units received even less).

That suggests more dispersion of research quality in Politics and International Studies than in cognate social science disciplines. Such a tail of departments scoring below 4 is less in evidence in Economics, Anthropology or Sociology.

On the other hand, the quality-related research council income received by Politics and IS exceeds that for any of those disciplines (Wakeling 2006, pp. 4-5).

Perceptions of research quality are also influenced by how frequently we see publications of UK Politics and IS scholars being cited in the academic literature.

Formal counts of citation rates using the standard Thompson Scientific databases are a very imperfect guide to actual citations across the social sciences and humanities quite generally. The databases include only a fraction of all journals in which work in Politics and IS is published: fully 58 per cent of journal articles submitted by Politics and IS staff to the 2001 RAE were in journals not indexed in those databases, and low quality is not always the reason. Citation rate analyses as conventionally conducted further fail to capture many of the most important outputs in Politics and IS (books and book chapters). They also fail to distinguish positive citations and negative ones. And so on.

All that is true, and only some of it is correctable in ways we suggest below. Still, some such metrics are likely to inform future RAEs and resource allocations more generally. The UK discipline needs to know how it will look when viewed through that lens.

In terms of output, the UK accounts for around 15 per cent of journal articles indexed in these databases, and around 14 per cent of citations there are to articles from the UK. Coverage of foreign-language journals is particularly weak in these databases, so international comparisons are best confined to the Anglophone world. In those terms, the relative impact of publications by scholars of Politics and IS in the UK (at 0.92) is

better than some countries' (Australia with 0.60, Canada with 0.75), worse than others' (the US with 1.26) (Evidence 2006).

Still, the larger point is that UK Politics and IS is performing quite nearly as well as should be expected, internationally, in terms of overall citation rates. Its relative impact of 0.92 is only eight-hundredths off the expected 1.00. Furthermore, across the last decade the performance of UK Politics and IS seems if anything to be improving in this respect (Evidence 2006).

Looking across disciplines, Politics and IS in the UK seems to be performing on a par with some cognate disciplines (e.g. Sociology/Anthropology) but falls short of the much-higher-than-expected citation rates of others (e.g., History, Philosophy and Economics/Business) (CTWS 2004; Evidence 2006).

### **A sub-disciplinary orientation**

More than elsewhere perhaps, the primary attachments of scholars of Politics and IS in the UK are to sub-disciplines rather than some larger, overarching discipline.

Tellingly, remarkably few UK scholars would naturally describe themselves in the terms under which this Review commissioned, as students of 'Politics and International Studies'. The vast majority would choose one or the other. The Political Studies Association has over 1,600 members, the British International Studies Association over 900; but only 115 are members of both. Within 'Politics' likewise, most UK scholars seem to self-identify first and foremost in sub-disciplinary terms: as a 'political theorist' primarily, 'working in a Politics department' secondarily.

Metaphysicians tell us to 'carve nature at its joints'. We should judge UK Politics and IS as they want to be judged, which (judging from their primacy in those self-identifications) is on sub-disciplinary bases. We are pleased to report we found evidence of considerable strength across virtually all the main sub-disciplines.

Some sub-disciplines accomplish that by doing the same thing that others do internationally, and doing it very well indeed, without having any distinctive 'British School'. Normative political theory is a case in point. Other sub-disciplines do something distinctive that scholars elsewhere have to take into account. Examples of that include

the distinctive 'English School' of international relations; the UK's distinctively 'critical' approach to security studies; and the distinctive 'ideas in context' approach of the Cambridge School of historical political theory. Both are fine strategies: there is no need to worry there is no distinctive British School of normative political philosophy, any more than there is a need to worry there is a distinctive 'English School' of international relations.

### **Celebrating strengths**

We should preface any itemization of areas of strength and weakness with a reminder that there are of course some strong individual scholars in virtually every area. What we will be describing here are system-level strengths that are likely to be self-sustaining, in contrast to strengths that are sensitive to the activities a few particular individuals.

Asked to name the strengths and weaknesses of UK research in Politics and International Studies, there was a remarkable consensus in submissions from departments – and it is one that tracks the Panel's own perceptions as well. By common consensus, the great strengths of UK Politics and International Studies are:

- political theory: including historical, analytical, ideologies, and applied (especially to international affairs)
- electoral studies: including voting behaviour, parties, elections
- international studies: especially the distinctive 'English School' of international relations
- European Union studies, regionalization and multi-level governance
- security studies: in a distinctively 'critical' mode of both enquiry and practical application
- political economy, domestic and especially international: again in a distinctive mode, building on institutional economics, history and sociology (rather than mathematical economics, as more commonly in the US)

- public policy and administration: especially in certain areas (such as regulation, risk, new public management, governance)
- comparative and area studies: in certain areas (including Russia, China) but not others (curiously including US studies, foreign policy apart).

Here are some examples in substantiation of those summary judgments. British scholars have been leading contributors to some of the main debates of our time in Politics and International Studies worldwide. Some of the earliest work on what has come to be known as 'international political economy' was British, and many of the main writers on 'global justice' and 'global democracy' are UK based. UK feminists have done much to shape the way we think about politics, and UK constructivists have done much to shape the way we think about the state and supra-state institutions. Risk, regulation and securitization literatures all have a strong and distinctive British strand within them. Some of the earliest work on 'networked governance' and 'new public management' came from the UK, and some of the most interesting contributions to the 'new institutionalism' have come through UK scholars grappling with issues of 'multi-level governance' in connection with the European Union or devolution. The 'republican revival' was largely the work of UK political theorists. Issues of immigration and nationalism would look very different without the strong and distinctive contributions of UK scholars to those discussions. And so we could continue. None of these are exclusively British debates, of course, and many major contributions to them have come from abroad as well. The point of these examples is merely to highlight the rich range of key debates to which UK Politics and IS scholars have been contributing mightily in recent years.

### **Fixing weaknesses**

Just as there was an impressively broad consensus on the strengths of UK Politics and International Studies, so too was there equally widespread agreement on its comparative weaknesses. These come in two particular areas:

- language-based areas studies (in many if not all areas)

- methods (ranging across the gambit of formal, statistical, modelling and game-theoretic method; but there is also weakness in basic research design and in qualitative methods, which are not just absence of quantitative methods but rather distinctive methods and protocols all their own that need to be mastered).

As regards weaknesses in language-based area studies, we are pleased to note that there is already underway an ESRC-AHRC-HEFCE initiative to remedy the problem. That scheme for five-year Collaborative Centres seems to us well-conceived and likely to make a considerable difference, in the medium term, to UK research capacity in language-based area studies. We wish it well.

Important though language-learning is, however, we would also enter a firm reminder that theoretical sophistication and local knowledge is also important. One cannot substitute for the other; genuine understanding is not purely a matter of linguistic competence.

As regards weaknesses in methods, rather more needs to be said. The first thing that ought to be acknowledged is that there *has* been a very considerable improvement in methods skills, thanks to earlier ESRC research training initiatives. There remains room for improvement: for example, there is a need to even-up the training in research design, which is not always as strong as it should be; and a discipline-specific methods course, rather than one straddling all social sciences, would be hugely more useful (but it might be infeasible anywhere except the largest departments, or within regional consortia of Politics and IS departments).

While there is always room for improvement, baseline methodological literacy is now broadly adequate among ESRC studentship holders in Politics and IS. The 'weakness in methods' noted above refers more specifically to a relative scarcity of UK scholars at the top end, capable of competing with the best worldwide. If that is the issue, however, remember that crash-hot methodologists in the US account once again for perhaps only about 5 per cent of the discipline there (by body count, if not influence).

It would therefore be a mistake to think that the way to address the problem of 'weakness in methods' is to ramp up the requirements and make everyone do twice the current amount of research methods training. Most postgraduates do not want to learn methods at advanced levels, and most would not benefit if they did. Most departments, even very good ones, do not have (and cannot realistically afford) as many specialists as would be

required to teach courses across the whole wide range of advanced methods that need to be covered.

What is needed is instead *targeted* training in advanced methods. We therefore recommend ESRC bursaries – in numbers sufficient to fund all qualified applicants – for people to take advanced methods units at a variety of places, as appropriate to their needs. These might include: the ECPR Summer School at Essex; the ESRC Spring School run by ReMiSS in Oxford; or units in London School of Economics' MRes course or at regional centres that will hopefully grow up around the UK to service this need. For certain highly specialised training, these bursaries might be taken up overseas, at places like the Santa Fe Institute or Arizona State's Institute on Qualitative Research Methods. These bursaries should be available not only to ESRC studentship holders but to any PhD student (foreign or domestic) who has done well enough in first compulsory methods units to stand to benefit from advanced methods training. They should also be available to staff to upgrade their own methodological skills, both for research and for teaching purposes.

Again, we are pleased to note that there are ESRC schemes of just these sorts already in place. The need therefore, is principally to publicize the schemes better; to fund them sufficiently that everyone qualified can benefit; and to introduce flexibility in funding (a supplement to the current £750 may be needed where the training must be taken overseas); and, perhaps most especially, to make sure every supervisor of PhDs has a detailed (but non-exclusive, non-exhaustive) list of options for places to go and what advanced methods training is offered there.

### **Being more adventurous**

Politics and International Studies in the UK is less overtly ambitious and adventurous than in the US.

That may be due to the UK focus on sub-disciplinary contributions rather than discipline-wide ones. Or it may merely be a matter of national style. Politics and IS in Britain has been described by one of its most distinguished practitioners as 'a self-deprecating discipline' (Hayward 1999). The virtue of British academic methodology – pluralist, modest and collaborative – works against its replicating the US model, where a few 'big ideas' or 'academic celebrities' often seem to dominate intellectual and policy discourse.

Some would say that that is a misperception of the US model itself, once again mistaking the conspicuous few for the great bulk of distinguished practitioners of the discipline there. The editor of the premier journal of American political science recently remarked that 'genuinely canonical work' launching really big ideas 'is getting harder to find' over the last couple of decades (Sigelman 2006, p. 474).

Be all that as it may, the point remains that Politics and IS in the UK does seem singularly shy of 'big ideas'. It seems much more comfortable concentrating on high quality work that is more modest in scope. The ratio of 'normal science' to cutting-edge innovation seems a bit high in UK Political and International Studies.

That is the judgment we formed on the basis of our meetings with departments. It is confirmed by bibliometrics. We reiterate that such indicators must be used with caution. But assuming such metrics are likely to inform future funding decisions, the discipline needs to attend to them.

The table below focuses on 'high impact' journal articles in the Thomson Scientific databases, defined as ones that are among the 10 per cent, 5 per cent and 1 per cent most highly cited in the field of Politics and International Studies worldwide. The table identifies the percentage of UK articles that are highly cited at each level. The expectation would be that 10 per cent of UK Politics and IS articles are among the 10 per cent most cited worldwide, 5 per cent among the world's 5 per cent most highly cited, 1 per cent among the world's 1 per cent most highly cited.

*Percentage of UK papers in top, 1 per cent, 5 per cent and 10 per cent most-highly-cited publications worldwide*

	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Avg</b>
<b>1%</b>	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.2	<b>0.7</b>
<b>5%</b>	3.6	2.9	2.6	4.5	5.6	4.1	5.0	5.9	5.1	1.4	<b>4.1</b>
<b>10%</b>	9.8	6.6	8.2	8.6	11.4	8.3	11.3	9.8	11.0	9.8	<b>9.5</b>

Source: Thomson Scientific © Inc NCR 2005 and Evidence Ltd.

What we see in that table is, first of all, considerable variation across years. Averaging across the decade, though, it seems that at the 10 per cent threshold UK Politics and IS performs just about as should be expected. Some 9.5 per cent of UK articles are among the 10 per cent most cited worldwide.

UK Politics and IS produces less than its share of very high impact articles, however. Only 4.1 per cent of UK Politics and IS articles are among the world's 5 per cent most highly cited. Only 0.7 per cent are among the world's 1 per cent most highly cited.

UK Politics and IS articles are thus decreasingly among the world's most highly cited, the more restrictively that is defined. In some other UK disciplines (e.g. History, Philosophy) the opposite is the case (Evidence 2006).

If that is thought to be a problem, funders might be partly to blame. The ESRC in particular is generally perceived as being allergic to 'risky ventures'. That may well be a misperception, and they would fund more innovative, risky proposals if people would only submit them. But if it is a misperception, surely it is one the ESRC ought actively strive to correct, rather than merely sitting back and waiting for more innovative applications to come in.

Funders in general ought to think of research funding as a problem of constructing a portfolio. They ought to think explicitly about what proportion of their money ought to be put into the academic equivalent of 'venture capital' (risky projects, which may have really high intellectual returns but most of which will not actually come off) and what proportion ought to be put into the academic equivalent of 'mutual funds' (safe investments in solid but unexciting projects).

We also suggest that there be some small pots of money set aside by funders – ESRC, AHRC and others – to fund small high-powered groups of a dozen scholars on multidisciplinary borderlines to free-associate every couple of months over the course of a couple of years. These groups would inevitably need to apply for such funds on the basis of some premise or another: a working hypothesis or shared concern is required to kick them off. But funders ought to accept that, if the groups are really successful, they will end up doing something totally different as a result of interactions within the group. That is exactly what funders should be hoping for, when funding them.



## **Research quality assessment**

The upcoming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) loomed large in our meetings. Most people welcomed the overall effect of the RAE in improving research quality, whilst noting the concomitant costs and distortions it inevitably introduces (the focus on quick journal articles versus big books; academic publications versus dissemination in more popular or policy-oriented outlets; and so on).

We strongly endorse what has come to be called the model of a 'light-touch RAE' – not just for the 2013 RAE but for all subsequent assessments of research quality in Politics and International Studies. In our discipline, as in many others across the social sciences and humanities, there will always be a need for the human touch. Someone who knows the discipline must always be monitoring the metrics, and reading and assessing research outputs when an informed observer can clearly see that the metrics are misleading.

Bibliometrics are well worth using as a starting point in research assessment in Politics and IS. They tell us something about research quality. The best evidence seems to suggest that mean citation rates per staff member explain just over a quarter of the variance in 2001 RAE rankings of departments of Politics and IS (Butler and McAllister 2007). The human touch provided the other three-quarters.

It is essential to tailor any future bibliometrics to certain distinctive features of our discipline (features that are probably shared with others in social sciences and humanities) in two crucial respects:

- 1) Books and book chapters are crucial outputs for Politics and IS. There are ways of getting information on citations to them (if not citations within them) from the standard ISI database (Butler 2006). It is absolutely essential that future bibliometrically-informed assessments of research quality in Politics and IS do so.
- 2) In the natural sciences, the average article might get cited immediately and forgotten almost as quickly. Citations to publications in Politics and IS come more slowly and persist far longer. For our discipline, bibliometrics crucially need to capture citations to publications three to eight years old.

We are also wary of the other components that might be among those 'metrics', particularly 'grant income'. If grants from non-academic users count in that, they might not really reflect 'academic quality' at all. They might reflect 'non-academic impact': but that is something different which ought to be measured separately; and some explicit judgment ought to be formed as to the relative weight to be attached to each, rather than conflating them in the instrument used to measure research quality. We are also concerned that much research of the highest quality is done without the benefit of any grant whatsoever: the 'grant income' component of the metrics would in that case fail to capture those instances of research quality (and in future people would be forced to apply for grants they do not need, just to make sure that their departments get properly funded under this metric-based scheme).

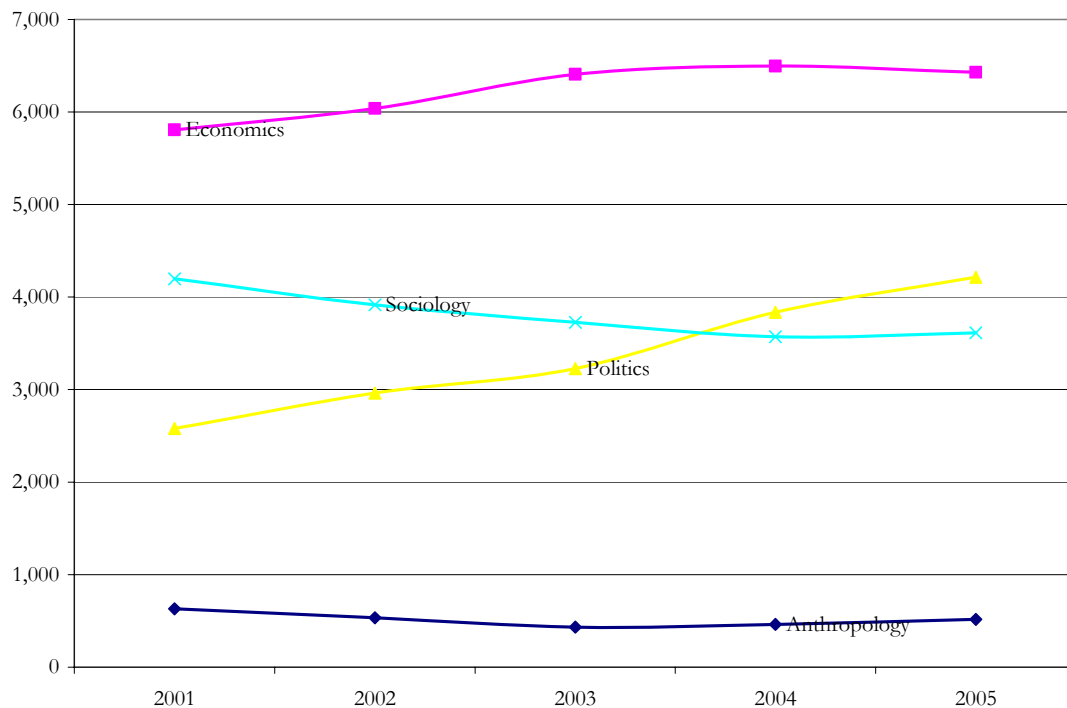
## 5. Research Capacity

When talking of 'research capacity', it is crucial to think of this as a system-level attribute, not a department-level one. We have commented on this already in relation to advanced research methods training: it is crucial that all the relevant methods are taught somewhere across the system (or accessible by the system); but it is crazy to think they can be well taught at advanced levels at each and every institution within the system. Regionalization, both of research training in methods and other specialized subjects, surely is the way of the future.

### Student numbers and teaching quality

Undergraduate interest in Politics and IS is strong and growing. There are around 1.3 applicants for every undergraduate place, and demand has been growing rapidly in recent years, as is evident in the figure below. Furthermore, applicants for politics courses are better qualified than the average across the social sciences in general (Wakeling 2006, p. 18). Interest from overseas students has grown even more strongly in recent years.

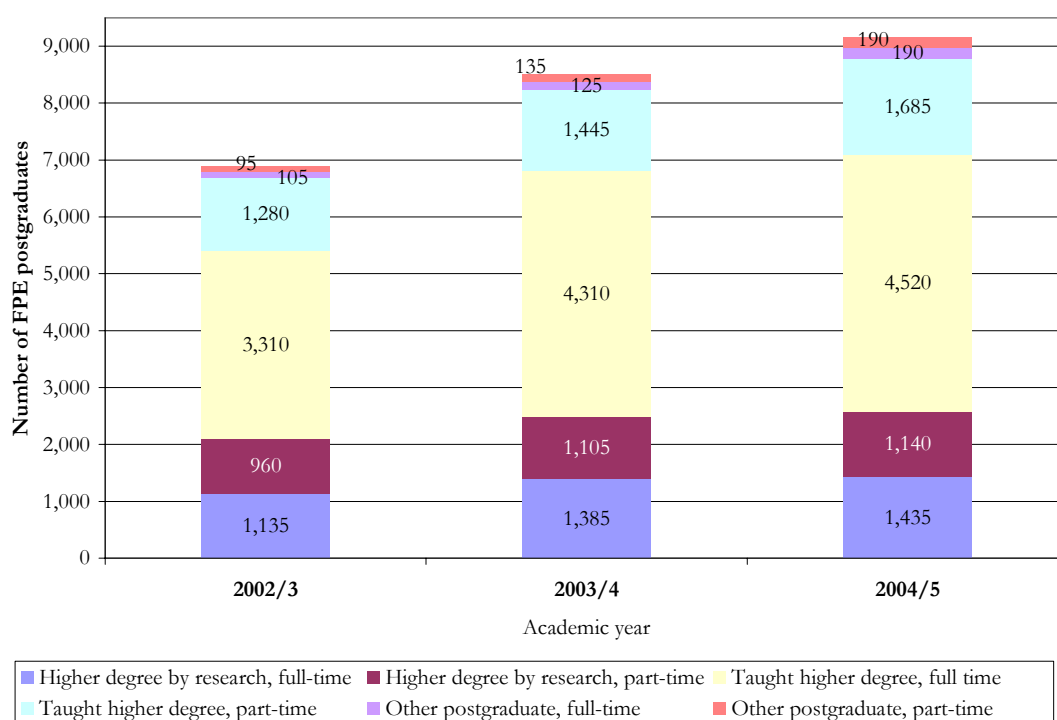
*Applications for UCAS for selected social science subjects 2001 - 2005*



Source: Wakeley 2006, p. 18.

Postgraduate numbers are also rapidly increasing. That is true across all types of higher degrees, as is seen in the figure below. Growth is particularly strong in taught higher degrees both full-time and part-time.

*Postgraduate students (full person equivalents) in Politics and International Studies by mode and level of study, 2002/3 - 2004/5*



Source: Wakeling 2006, p. 23.

The discipline is thus in conspicuously good health in terms of student numbers. It is also very healthy in terms of teaching quality, judging from Teaching Quality Assessments of UK Politics and IS departments conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Of the 51 departments on which information is available, 63 per cent of them scored either 23 or a top mark of 24.

Although PhD students in the UK generally seem to be well cared for, that is not invariably true in a few crucial centres. We recommend that it be a requirement of holding an ESRC studentship that all students be assigned a supervisory panel comprised of at least two members, as is absolutely standard worldwide and, indeed, across most UK Politics and IS departments.

There is also a role for the discipline's professional associations (PSA and BISA) in providing better post-PhD careers advice, both for students looking at academic careers and especially at non-academic careers (which some 40 per cent of PhDs pursue: Wakeling 2006, p. 26).

### **Staff age profile**

Many disciplines face the issue of a looming 'retirement crisis' as a demographic bulge works its way through the staff in the discipline.

Happily, that is not an issue for Politics and International Studies in the UK. As the ESRC's *Demographic Review of the Social Sciences* observes, Politics and International Studies 'has a young staff age profile, with more than half of all permanent staff under 45' (Mills et al. 2006, p. 66). Politics and IS 'has a greater proportion of staff under the age of 45 than most of the other research-focused social sciences, with over 20 per cent of staff aged 34 or under' (Wakeley 2006, p. 13; Mills et al. 2006, p. 77).

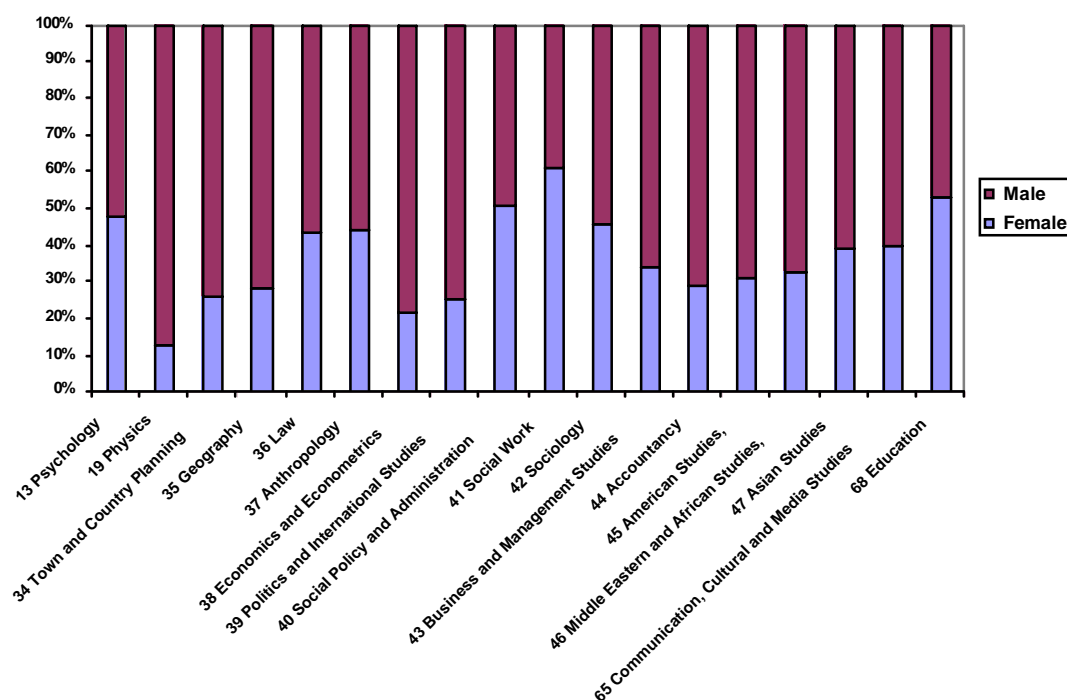
As long as recruitment and retention remain strong, as they have been in recent years, there is no cause for concern with the demographic profile of UK Politics and International Studies.

### **Diversity issues**

Research capacity in UK Politics and IS is most seriously diminished by the 'missing' women and ethnic minorities.

In terms of the number of women on staff, Politics and International Studies compares unfavourably to other social science disciplines in the UK. As is seen from the figure below, Sociology, Social Work, Social Policy/Administration and Anthropology have a larger proportion of women on staff than Politics and IS. Even Business/Management Studies and Accountancy have more. Among the core social science disciplines, only Economics has less – and then by only two percentage points – than Politics and IS.

## HESA UK staff record by gender



Source: Mills et al. 2006, p. 33.

While there are increasing numbers of women in the lower ranks, there are still way too few women in senior ranks. 'Among those aged 35-45, women make up 27 per cent of the total FTE staff, but only 10 per cent of the professors' (Wakeling 2006, p. 14). By way of comparison, in the US in 2001 US women comprised 37 per cent of assistant professors, 26 per cent of associate professors and 18 per cent of full professors (APSA 2005, pp. 1-2) – and even those much higher percentages are rightly regarded as unacceptably low.

Although we were not supplied with statistics on the numbers of ethnic minorities on staff of UK departments of Politics and IS, our perception is that there are far too few. This perception is bolstered by the comment of the ESRC's *Demographic Profile of the Social Sciences* that, while UK Politics and IS had a relatively young age profile, 'it does have a high proportion of male staff (75 per cent), who are predominantly white' (Mills et al. 2006, p. 66).

We know perfectly well why that happens, at least as regards women. Women take a series of temporary positions initially, which require more teaching than research. Since

there are fewer women, on average they have to serve on more committees than their male counter-parts in order to provide representation. Women who choose to have children will likely do so at a time in their lives that corresponds to the early stage of their careers. These factors are not specific to women – indeed many also disproportionately affect minorities, who are even less well-represented in the academic ranks. Criteria for assisting women should therefore be phrased in gender-neutral terms (such as 'administrative load', 'those working outside major research centres', 'family considerations'), while recognizing that most often women would make the strongest cases (or merit the highest scores, if a point system were implemented).

We know perfectly well what to do to remedy the under-representation of women in senior ranks. Yet we heard only tired old excuses for complacency on this score. One would like to think the situation is remedying itself, however slowly. But it does not look like it is going to happen, certainly not any time soon. Proactive strategies are clearly indicated at this point.

There are plenty of familiar strategies, tried and proven elsewhere. Affirmative action policies in the US have been credited with increasing numbers of women (more effectively than minorities) in academic professions – the current representation of women is greater at all ranks in the US than in UK universities. Both the American Political Science Association (Ackelsberg et al. 2004; APSA 2005) and International Studies Association have reports on the status of women; the American Association of University Professors (2007) also collects data on salary distributions and gender inequalities nationally and at individual universities. Such reports are all publicly available. Furthermore, the National Science Foundation established fellowship opportunities targeted explicitly at women, to increase their representation in the 'hard' sciences (NSF 2007). We strongly encourage PSA, BISA, HEFCE and ESRC to assist by collecting available information on strategies from other bodies that have already been active.

### **Career progression**

In most respects, career progression now proceeds smoothly in Politics and International Studies in the UK.

One obvious problem, however, is that some promising scholars get lost at early career transitions. Talented undergraduates fail to go on for a PhD (this may be especially true

of ethnic minorities); or good PhDs fail to get a first job or drop out of the profession, discouraged by lots of one-year jobs (this may be a particular problem for women, especially with young children). The loss of talent is always a source of concern, doubly so if it involves a loss of diversity as well.

Equally, we worry about young scholars who 'get off on the wrong foot'. It makes perfect sense for the ESRC to concentrate most of its resources at large research universities, as we have said; and for those who do get good first jobs, many resources (from the ESRC and elsewhere) are available to further already successful careers, including a critical mass of other researchers for intellectual community, collaborative research centres, and a 5\* ranking that garners PhD students. Academia thus generally provides rewards for those who are initially successful. But some talented young scholars, for no good reason, do not manage to secure a good first job. (We worry especially about promising female scholars in this regard, insofar as their mobility is more constrained.) There is a genuine need for 'rescue fellowships' for promising research scholars who got 'trapped' by accidents of personal history. One strategy might be to design a new type of 'postdoctoral teaching fellowship', perhaps linked to funding for research centres. These would be either jointly funded by the ESRC and the university or perhaps funded as a part of the bigger research centre grants. The core idea would be to have these fellows affiliated with research centres, where their responsibilities would be split between teaching and research. Their teaching could cover release time for permanent staff affiliated with the centre and their research time would be spent pursuing their own agenda in the context of an intellectual community that would provide mentoring and networking support.

Once they are in a continuing post, there is little evidence of people getting 'stuck' the way they used to. Progression through the ranks is good, thanks in no small part to the RAE and the transfer market it induces. Under the influence of the RAE, early career scholars are given protected research time. But will that be sustained after this RAE has passed, and the next is far off? It should be, for the sake of the development of the profession, but from the point of view of departments the temptation might to do otherwise, at least for a few years.



## **Support for scholars across all career stages**

Post-doctoral fellowships smooth the passage into a research career wonderfully – for those who get them. But it is often hard to pick stars quite that early. Many excellent young scholars miss out, and some who win that lottery fail to live up to their early promise. We must beware of the risks of premature credentializing, permanently fast-tracking careers on the basis of too-little evidence at the very first stage. That said, we are strongly of the view that you ought to pick winners as best you can, and back them properly, with enough resources to do some good. Two-year or better yet three-year post-doctoral fellowships are much to be preferred; one-year ones basically just give recipients time to find their next job.

We also strongly endorse Professorial Fellowships. Senior staff truly are overburdened by grotesque amounts of administrative work in contemporary UK system. Professorial Fellowships are highly valuable for buying most creative established scholars time to think, to write, and to innovate. Again, our advice is to pick winners and back them properly, with enough resources to make a difference. That is to say, funders must be prepared to offer (although departments may or may not allow) 80-100 per cent buyouts rather than just 60 per cent buyouts, which while doubtless better than nothing are much less helpful in relieving the real pressures on senior scholars' time.

Most essential of all, in our view, are Early-mid-career Research Fellowships for people five years post-PhD to establish their own research programme, once it's clear who the genuine stars of the next generation really are. Again, to be useable chunks of time the offer ought to ideally be three to five year fellowships, rather than one-year ones (even if that means picking fewer 'winners' and backing them more firmly). Individual scholars might not want to take quite that much time out of teaching so early in their career; and departments might not want to allow them to do so. Many of the best US departments only allow people to be on unpaid leave for two years at a time, for those sorts of reasons. But one-year fellowships barely allow mid-career people to clear the obligations they came in with, and are basically useless for building up a research programme for the next ten years. At least that is the experience of the Research School of Social Sciences at Australian National University, which is one of the few institutions in the world with experience of a great many research fellowships of varying duration; three to five year research fellowships there seem to set people on a different career trajectory, in a way that one to two year research fellowships do not.

There also may be need for a little support for 'retooling' later in people's careers, as interests change or skills erode. Again, the criterion should be purely prospective. If (but only if) there is clear reason to believe that the retooled scholar's contribution will be considerable a 'rescue package' of this sort ought to be considered.

The panel notes with regret the threat of a 'two-track profession' arising out of recent pay awards and negotiations, creating a (semi)permanent class of 'teaching only' academics wholly separate from 'teaching-and-research' ones. The worry would be mitigated were those categories porous; but the conditions of employment of 'teaching only' academics seem to suggest that it will be very difficult for even very talented researchers to escape from that status. We further worry that this development may well exacerbate gender imbalances in the discipline, if women (especially women with children) are disproportionately among those who accept 'teaching only' positions.

### **Networking: international, interdisciplinary, national**

Within UK Politics and International Studies, international networks are strong. Naturally, many are to North America. But what is distinctive about Politics and IS in the UK is the strength of its ties to Europe. For UK scholars of comparative and European politics, particularly, their reference groups typically are on the European continent; and their 'natural' collaborators are the Europeans working on similar topics and themes. The role of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) is very important in this. The ECPR Joint Sessions and General Conferences (and for PhD students now also the Graduate Conference) are the places to meet, to discuss, to plan future research and to build networks for collaboration. At one point UK scholars might have been said to be 'leading' or 'dominating' the ECPR. Whether that is still the case is unclear, and unimportant. UK Politics and IS scholars, senior and junior, are deeply integrated into European networks, through ECPR and otherwise.

Interdisciplinary networks are more patchy. In the UK, Politics and IS has traditionally strong roots in other disciplines from which it sprang – particularly History, Philosophy and Law. Those links, and ones with Sociology, remain strong. But links with the more formal branches of economics have not been built to the extent that they have in some other countries (although in fairness, much of the problem appears to be disinterest among economists). Funders might signal their particular interest in cross-disciplinary research linking Politics and IS to the more formal and mathematical branches of economics by identifying high-profile leaders within each discipline who might be brought

together in a series of highly-select workshops of the sort suggested below to explore areas of potential future collaboration. The same might be done to foster increased activity at other underdeveloped cross-disciplinary interfaces as might be identified from time to time.

Furthermore, the level of interdisciplinary activity appears to vary across sub-disciplines. International Studies has substantial involvement of disciplines other than political science, as do public policy scholars; and political theorists have much to do with philosophers. Other sub-disciplines often have fewer connections to other disciplines.

The RAE can be a barrier to collaboration, interdisciplinary and otherwise. That is recognized within the RAE, but it is only imperfectly addressed by the promise to refer an interdisciplinary item to some other panel.

Administrative restructuring, amalgamating departments into larger Schools of Social Science and such like, has occurred at many universities, primarily for management purposes. Conceivably these structures might also promote interdisciplinary research. But there is the danger that those schools may only weaken disciplines, without promoting effective interdisciplinary research. On balance, the Panel bemoans these managerial innovations that undermine disciplinary integrity.

We commented above on how UK scholars in Politics and IS identify primarily with their sub-disciplines, rather than the discipline as a whole. To nurture the UK discipline, we need to think how to build on and nurture the sub-disciplines, one-by-one.

Working through discipline-wide associations and catch-all conferences may not be the best way to do that. More useful are the great specialist conferences already on the annual calendar (Elections, Public Opinion Participation, EPOP; Oxford Political Theory Conference; standing groups within ECPR).

Those ought to be supplemented by specially-convened, highly-select workshops of the dozen leaders in a sub-discipline. Those should be funded by ESRC and charged specifically to reflect on the future of the sub-discipline. These investments ought to be regarded as 'seed money' used to develop broad-scale new sub-disciplinary agendas, which participants would individually and collectively take back and work up into proposals for funding from the ESRC and elsewhere in the ordinary ways. Even where

there are good sub-disciplinary conferences, conversations at the bar are no substitute for systematic reflection of this sort.

We welcome the strong co-operative relations between Research Councils and the discipline's professional associations, manifested not least in their co-sponsorship of the present review. But there needs to be mutual recognition that their differing responsibilities inevitably pull them in rather different directions.

Disciplinary professional associations are membership organizations. As such they are driven by the concerns of *all* their members, and rightly so. But Research Councils and funding agencies more generally are supposed to be concentrating resources on the *best*.

Because of that inevitable tension between their basic missions, and because of the sub-disciplinary orientation of the discipline in the UK on which we have already commented, it might therefore be more effective for funders to work more with innovative leaders of sub-disciplines in developing research agendas, whilst consulting with professional associations on developments of more general sorts.

## 6. Research Impact

Academic research impacts, first and foremost, on academics in the same discipline. Peer-reviewed journal articles and books are generally considered the best means of disseminating research results to that community – and the best means of validating the reliability of that research for other users.

There are, however, other target audiences beyond fellow scholars: policy-makers, knowledge-users and the general public (both local and global). There are also issues of 'critical pedagogy', of and how 'scholarship of engagement' feeds through undergraduate studies into a more informed public more generally.

In the parlance of UK research funding, 'impact' perversely refers almost exclusively to impact on non-academic users, and we here follow that usage. On that score, we observed very considerable uptake of UK research in Politics and IS by non-academic users, both in departments' reports of what they do and in the special survey of end-users we commissioned. In that survey, well over half of potential end-users report they do use UK Politics and IS research, and use it heavily and appreciatively.

A great many sub-fields seem to be having considerable impact. Within International Studies, the hot spots include: European Union politics; critical security and critical terrorism studies; comparative ethnic conflict and human rights; constructivist 'English School' approaches to world politics; globalization studies; ethics in international politics; and new regional studies programmes. Within Politics, they include: electoral reform; public sector management; policies relating to education, energy, food, gender, health and youth; devolution, federalism and multi-level governance.

UK Politics and IS scholars have a truly distinguished record of providing research-based advice to public policymakers. They have served as advisors to Parliamentary committees at home and abroad; to the UK Cabinet Office, the Scottish Executive, the Wales Office and the Northern Ireland Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister; and to various departments of state at home and abroad. At home, the discipline has provided members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Scottish Constitutional Convention; it has provided directors of the Home Office Research Programme and the Scottish Public Sector Ombudsman, as well as members of the Competition Commission and the Defence Advisory Board. Overseas, UK Politics and IS

scholars have testified to the Lebanese National Assembly, to the International Energy Agency, to the US Defense Intelligence Agency and NATO Defence College. UK Politics and IS scholars assist a wide range of international organizations, including the European Central Bank, European Commission and the Council of Europe, the International Monetary Fund, NATO, the UN Development Programme, the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN World Food Programme. They advise foreign governments on electoral reform in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, China, Lebanon and the Netherlands. They advise NGOs like Oxfam and businesses like Siemens and Shell. Politics and IS scholars are interviewed frequently on radio and television and they write regularly for newspapers and magazines, both at home and abroad. This is merely a sample of the great many outreach activities in which UK Politics and IS scholars have been engaged.

Literally every department we met with, and virtually all we did not, have a uniformly impressive story to tell along these lines. The policy community is getting quite extraordinarily good value out of UK Politics and International Studies. We would be hard-pressed to name any other country in which a larger proportion of the Politics and IS profession was directly engaged with high-level policymakers in this way.

Some departments enjoy a greater locational advantage than others, and expectations of engagement with non-academic users ought to be calibrated accordingly. Some people work in closer proximity than others to national policy-makers, Bush House, Chatham House, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, the Institute for Public Policy Research, Demos and so on. Those who do have easier opportunities for making those sorts of impacts than those working at a greater distance, whose impacts are more naturally at the local or regional rather than national level.

### **Dissemination strategies**

We found a variety of methods being used to disseminate Politics and IS research finding. Most departments reach out to policy practitioners with websites, media outlets and policy papers.

Executive programmes and engagement with middle management were also cited as a way of increasing impact. Some of the stronger International Studies centres have

strong links of this sort to the military, at home and abroad; some of the stronger Politics departments are linked in this way to business and government.

The web is increasingly central to dissemination. Departmental websites are a primary means of dissemination for comparable programmes in the United States. In the UK, they failed to measure up. They are primarily used to advertise the departments, and with a few exceptions, they were out of date and lacked capability for chat rooms, blogs, RSS feeds, podcasts or even timely dissemination of working papers. In two cases, departmental websites were down, and one was undergoing redesign and not up to date. No departments appeared to have a dedicated webmaster, relying instead on informal (student) or limited university support. Few if any scholars had their own websites. Modest expenditures on a stronger web presence could facilitate dissemination greatly.

Dissemination to non-academic users might also be facilitated via the 'Rowntree model' of adding 10 per cent to the value of every grant, earmarked for dissemination. Dedicated 'knowledge brokers' should be (and typically are) embedded in every ESRC Research Programme/Centre.

It is harder to disseminate the findings of response-mode Projects in that way. But it might be possible to use centralized ESRC 'media fellows' to help with that. These could be either journalists writing press releases or, perhaps better, 'knowledge brokers' putting academic researchers in touch with users who might be interested in their work.

Again, there are schemes of this sort underway at ESRC. The need therefore is not so much to invent some new schemes, but merely to expand and publicize ones already in place.

### **Varying modes of engagement**

If 'engagement' is understood narrowly as insinuating immediately relevant advice feeding directly into the policy process, then you usually simply have to face the fact of a serious trade-off between doing work that is easily disseminated in that way and doing work that wins academic accolades.

As our interlocutors put it, not much of that sort of work is likely to appear on anyone's RAE returns. That observation was echoed (with a different valence) by non-academic users in our survey as well.

The specialized languages of the academic disciplines simply do not lend themselves to publication in more policy-oriented journals like *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *International Affairs*, *Parliamentary Affairs* or *Political Quarterly*. UK scholars of Politics and IS do indeed publish in those sorts of journals, and they do so with some regularity. In terms of outreach, it is a good thing that they do. All that we want to emphasize here is that what they publish there is importantly different from their more highly academic RAE-style outputs.

We would argue, however, that 'engagement' should be understood more generally than that. Deep background 'public values' influences are as important, in terms of 'end use' and 'engagement', as narrow comments on specific policy concerns of the day.

We are pleased to note that the Research Councils UK (2006) – an umbrella organization which includes the ESRC and AHRC – collectively committed themselves to precisely this broader understanding in reply to the Warry (2006) report. There they wrote:

*"an increase in the economic impact of Research Councils will come from a multiplicity of sources – from investments in basic and collaborative research and training, from stronger partnerships and engagement with users, and from flexible and diverse approaches to knowledge transfer.*

*The economic benefits too will be diverse, extending beyond productivity gains, to conceptions such as values created through better healthcare, better public services at national and local level, through law and policy making and cultural benefits.*

*In addressing this challenge, the Councils will continue to tailor their funding and support to needs of their diverse academic and user communities. Different opportunities and challenges for increasing economic impact exist in different sectors and a diversity of solutions will be required (Research Councils 2006, p. 1)."*

The AHRC has done a much better job in publicizing its intention of defining 'engagement' broadly to include influencing the public culture, and informing broader public perceptions and debates. Although the ESRC has officially signed up to the same definition of 'engagement' in that joint Research Councils UK response, that fact has not been generally promulgated across the UK Politics and IS community.



Note how the AHRC's Strategic Plan describes its Strategic Aim relating to 'engagement': "To encourage researchers in engaging with the creative, cultural, heritage, and other sectors of society and the economy" (AHRB 2004, p.33). Contrast that with how the ESRC's Strategic Plan phrases its Key Priority on the same point: "Knowledge transfer and research engagement...depends upon dialogue between social scientists and potential users of their research in industry, Government, the professions, the voluntary sector and elsewhere" (ESRC 2005, p. 7).

Virtually every department we interviewed contrasted the AHRC's broader understanding of impact and engagement to the ESRC's perceived narrower focus on immediate policy impact. Again, if it is a misperception of ESRC's actual position, it is one that requires vigorous, urgent action to correct it – for that is a misperception that seems to be endemic across the UK Politics and IS community.

### **Differing timescales**

In terms of direct policy advice, remember the very differing time scales on which academics (including scholars in Politics and IS) are working, compared to policy-makers. They often need input in 48 hours flat. We typically need 48 months to research a complicated issue, and inevitably so if academic research is going to have the attributes that policymakers value in it (rigorous, peer-reviewed, standing the test of critical comment once published, and so on).

Policy practitioners know that, and they say in our survey of non-academic users that that is why they cannot successfully commission academic research for their purposes. We would simply point out that, for the same reason, they cannot direct academic research, either. Policy practitioners simply do not know what they will need 48 months from now. In our survey of non-academic users they expressed a desire to help set the academic research agenda. We think that offer ought, for the reason just given, be respectfully declined.

What academics ought to be seen as providing non-academic users, including policy practitioners, is a 'knowledge base'. Non-academic users report searching the web for evidence (making it imperative for academics need to get their work onto the web more promptly and systematically).

More use could and should be made of knowledge brokers who put academics in touch with policy-users, so they know whom to ring when they need to know 'what we know about X' quick smart. But given the urgencies of policy, it really is a question of 'what do we know (already)?' rather than 'do some research for us to find out' (policy practitioners simply do not have the time for that).

## 7. Future Development

Politics and International Studies is rapidly changing and evolving, worldwide. There is much splitting, branching and recombining among research clusters that are themselves not very old. Scholars, departments and funders all need to be intellectually and organizationally nimble to take full advantage of such rapid developments. At the same time, they ought to be suitably wary about chasing what might well turn out to be a rapidly passing academic fads and fashions.

The UK discipline is well situated to meet those conflicting demands. Thanks to its sub-disciplinary orientation and long tradition of work at the borders of multiple disciplines, it is minimally locked-in to any particular overarching research programme. The diversity of the discipline allows it to respond quickly and creatively to the diversity of emerging new research foci. That same diversity also ensures that there is no real risk that any disproportionate number of UK scholars will jump prematurely onto any given academic bandwagon.

### **Policy choices**

We endorse the dual-funding structure. As already discussed, we have little faith in alternative funding models (using research grants as indicators of quality, for example).

We also endorse quotas in allocation of ESRC studentships. It is good to concentrate research training in the biggest departments – which also tend to be the best in research quality, on the evidence before us (Wakeling 2006, p. 11; Butler and McAllister 2007).

The RAE inevitably has incentive effects, many good, some bad. Among the latter are a focus on short- rather than long-term (writing 'big books' or compiling big datasets) projects, and a wariness toward co-authorship with other UK-based academics. But as we have said above, on balance the benefits well outweigh the costs. We endorse the RAE for Politics and IS, provided it is done in a way that is sensitive to the peculiarities of the discipline outlined above, and as long as it involves some 'light touch' monitoring by academic experts capable of reading and assessing research outputs rather than on mechanical metrics alone.

Clearly, the existing funding structures will in the long run have the effect of creating a two-tier university system. The desirability of that is a political question, involving trade-offs between equity and excellence. Such a trade-off need not necessarily be unfair, so long as the tiers are not hermetically sealed and there are reasonable opportunities for transfer and access across them. All we can do here is point to the policy choices involved.

As a Panel, we were acutely aware that we met only people from 'top' universities. Although inevitable when 'benchmarking to the best', that equally inevitably meant that our sample was skewed toward scholars in relatively privileged positions. While they were largely satisfied with levels of support and the dual-track system of funding, written submissions from other departments point to difficulties in meeting programmatic needs within the constraints of existing resource allocations, not only in terms of staffing but also things like the exploding costs of maintaining good library support and viable access to electronic resources.

The obvious European reference for much collaborative research is crucial to Politics and IS in the UK. Many European research programs – especially the Framework Programmes – require the formation of networks. There is a general perception that funding by the ESRC requires one to limit the participating partners to UK-based institutions. Since this European 'integration' of the research in the UK is clearly a strength, the funding mechanisms should maintain and encourage it. Again, ESRC does have agreements in place with other European research councils to facilitate transnational working. These arrangements need to be regularly reviewed to ensure they are adapted to the evolving requirements of European funders, and the arrangements need to be much better publicized among UK scholars.

Availability for funds for doing fieldwork also seems to be rather limited, as students from a variety of universities pointed out. This problem is even more serious for foreign students (even for those from the EU). The ESRC might ease this problem by examining more closely funding opportunities through European sources. Even then, non-European students would still be left relying on their universities' (or their own) funds.

### **Toward a 'light-touch ESRC'**

UK Research Councils (including ESRC) have been criticized for their overly 'directive' mode of funding. They have now moved toward more 'responsive' mode instead. In

ESRC case, primarily takes the form of shifting from research programmes to projects and centres proposed by academics themselves, on topics of their own choosing.

There is however still a perception (maybe no more than a perception) that ESRC primarily wants to fund research with pretty narrowly defined 'policy' payoffs, in preference to genuinely 'innovative' research. We accept that this is not the ESRC's intention. But if it is not, we implore ESRC to say explicitly, loudly and often that they want to do *both*. As part (if only a small part) of that, ESRC should emphasize that they are just as willing as AHRC to fund political theory, as their joint statement makes clear (AHRC-ESRC 2006): AHRC have funded some 19 political theory responsive-mode proposals in the past triennium, compared to the ESRC's three.

Maybe it is as simple as changing the forms, merely a matter of introducing an 'innovative/other' tick-box on the form for applying for grants to categorize your research. Maybe it is merely a matter, when asking applicants to comment on policy relevance of their proposal of making it clear that it is not a precondition for award of a grant that the project have immediate policy payoffs (saying on the form, for example, 'Your response to this question can only help, but never harm, the proposal's ranking').

There is also a perception that ESRC is hesitant to fund 'risky' research whose findings and outputs are not immediately obvious at the time of application.

Having specific deliverables that were clearly promised helps accountability, no doubt. ESRC is spending public money, so accountability clearly matters. But beware of letting the 'accountancy interest' drive out the 'academic interest' in academic research funding.

A better way of accounting for ESRC grants would look not at reports three-months after the end of the grant (however useful that is to accountants wanting to know whether to pay last instalment of the grant) but rather what got published out of the project three years down the track.

Here is one interesting indicator for the ESRC to examine: what proportion of RAE items from units winning top marks in the 2008 RAE contain an acknowledgment to any grant? From whom? The key indicator for the ESRC should be: 'does the ESRC get acknowledged in proportion to its share of grants awarded nationwide?' Some of us have been helping UK departments prepare their RAE returns, and such evidence as we have seen in that connection suggests that a surprisingly large percentage of the best

departments' self-assessed 'best work' might not be ESRC funded. If systematic examination confirms that to be a general pattern, our best guess is that that the two problems just discussed – relating to the (maybe mis-) perceptions of a 'directive' culture within the ESRC directing scholars to safe projects with immediate policy implications – are quite probably largely to blame.

If this and other evidence that the ESRC Research Evaluation Committee is currently collecting suggest that the ESRC does not get applications from people wanting to do the most innovative research, that is the problem that ESRC most needs to remedy.

We gather that this issue has persistently been raised in confidential advice to ESRC and by the ESRC's own Research Evaluation Committee. The ESRC has been far too complacent in its reaction: basically, we hear the same sorts of excuses as we hear in relation to recruiting and retaining women in profession. Certainly it is true that ESRC cannot fund proposals that are not submitted: but if they are not being submitted, ESRC needs to ask itself why. If the ESRC is willing to fund innovative and not merely applied policy-oriented research, they have to say so very clearly and loudly. Absent that, having a box on the form where you have to specify 'end-users in view' will imply that it is not worth applying unless you can say something persuasive under that heading.

Similarly, if funders in general (and ESRC most particularly) are willing to fund risky research, then they have to say so very clearly and loudly. Absent that, asking for a detailed itemization of deliverables at each stage of the project implies that it is not worth applying unless the applicant can say with confidence what will be discovered at each stage of the research (as one typically can with normal science but not truly innovative work).

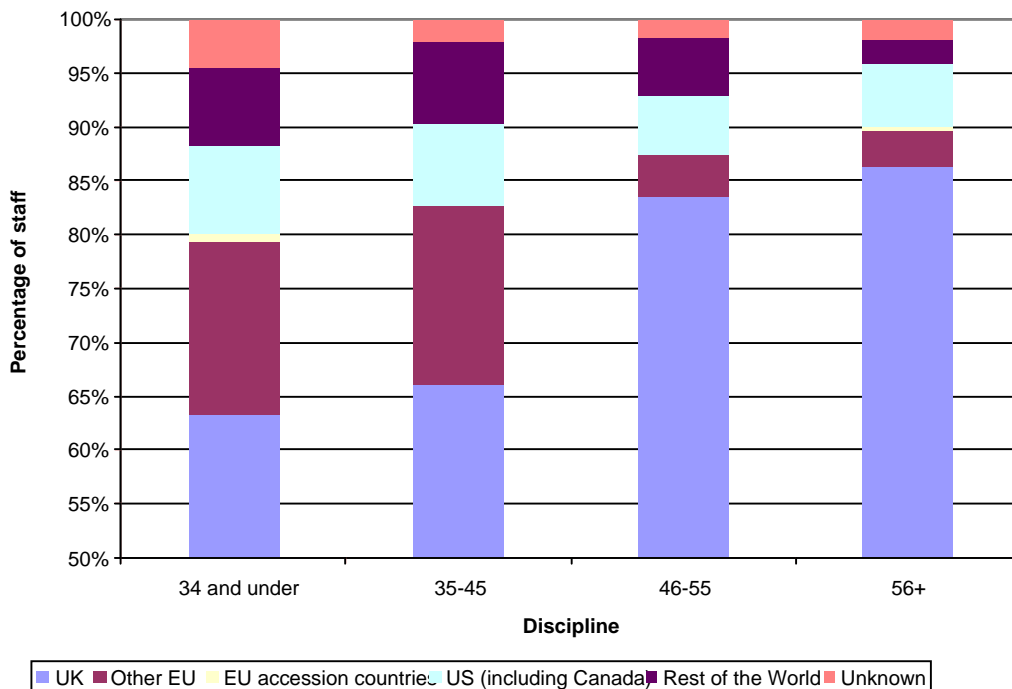
If ESRC wants to attract more applications from the best researchers, and to help people produce more of the very high impact publications that are too-largely missing, it is essential that ESRC now act decisively to communicate its willingness to fund risky research that has no immediate policy applications.

### **The best news: internationalization of the junior ranks**

We saved the very best news for last.

When it comes to academic appointments, the UK benefits hugely from its open labour market and from English being the working language of the profession worldwide. A very large proportion of junior members of the UK profession now are non-nationals. As we see from the figure below, among Politics and IS staff over 55, some 8 per cent are UK nationals; among those under 35 that proportion shrinks to 63 per cent. That is nothing short of a sea-change in the UK profession.

*Nationality of Politics and International Studies full time equivalent staff 2004/5 by age group*



Source: Wakeley 2006, p. 14.

That 'internationalization' of the junior ranks is largely, but not at all exclusively, a 'Europeanization'. About half of the non-UK nationals in that youngest cohort are from other EU countries, and a quarter from North America. A quarter of them are from elsewhere in the world, however.

Some people seem to think this is a problem (quoted in Mills et al. 2006, pp. 66-7 and Wakeling 2006, pp. 13-14). We, on the contrary, think that is the best news we've heard in a very long time.

That is in part because these new international hires seem to be unusually promising young scholars, judging from the sample we met. In saying that, we are echoing the

view of the ESRC's Demographic Review of the UK Social Sciences: "Non-UK nationals with UK PhDs [and other PhDs too, we would add] represent an important source of high quality recruitment to UK social science" was one of their 'key findings', too (Mills et al. 2006, p. 87).

There are other more discipline-specific reasons to be particularly pleased with recruitment of non-nationals into UK Politics and International Studies. When hiring someone from abroad, you get a 'comparativist for free'. You get someone – whatever that person's substantive specialty – who also by reason of personal history happens to know some other country well. That knowledge informs a person's research, teaching and general way of conducting him- or herself in the profession.

Typically, you also get someone who has been trained – in whole or in large part – abroad. They therefore bring an interestingly different skill set to bear on common problems of the discipline.

UK Politics and International Studies is now, quite possibly, the most cosmopolitan in the world. For those working within it, it must be like what it was to be in the US in 1938, when all the big brains started arriving in droves as refugee scholars from Europe. It is an exciting time, indeed, to be in the UK working in Politics and International Studies.

### **In summary**

We were, then, pleased with what we found when examining Politics and International Studies in the UK. The discipline is in good shape and it is getting even better with the influx of excellent new recruits from abroad.

While we did note some weaknesses in UK Politics and International Studies, plans are already afoot to remedy them. Those efforts need to be funded at levels required to make the needed difference; this might be particularly an issue with methods training. Beyond that, there is a crying need for better dissemination of information about these schemes, so all those in need of such advanced methods and language training can know that they can get it, where, how and at whose expense.

Overall the story is one of strength. Across all the major sub-disciplines, UK Politics and International Studies makes major contributions. There are particular strengths in



political theory; electoral studies; the 'English School' of international relations; in European Union studies; in 'critical' security studies; in political economy, domestic and especially international; and in certain areas of public policy and administration and of comparative and area studies. Many of the major contemporary debates in all those sub-disciplines have been heavily inflected by UK contributions. At its best UK Politics and IS is very good indeed. The discipline overall, however, might strive to be a bit more ambitious and innovative; there is much that funders can and should do to assist in that.

Research capacity is compromised by the 'missing' women and ethnic minorities, and urgent steps ought to proactively be taken to address that problem. That apart, research capacity is good. Student demand is strong, among both undergraduates and postgraduates and among both foreign and domestic students. The staffing profile is demographically balanced, with no looming 'retirement crisis'. Promising young scholars are recruited into the discipline and progress well through the ranks. The internationalization of the profession is particularly to be celebrated.

In addition to helping to shape academic debates worldwide, UK Politics and International Studies engages well with end-users beyond the academy. Virtually every department has strong links to the policy community, national, international or local (and in many cases all three at once). There is even more evidence of knowledge transfer more broadly construed, impacting on the public at large and the public culture more generally.

We offer the following recommendations to further strengthen an already strong discipline of Politics and International Studies in the UK:

- We endorse the dual-funding structure.
- We endorse quotas in allocation of ESRC studentships. We recommend that all ESRC-funded students have supervisory panels consisting of not less than two members.
- We recommend expansion of ESRC bursaries for people to undertake advanced methods training short courses at a variety of places, as appropriate to their needs. We recommend that these be available to staff as well as students, and to foreign as well as all domestic students whether or not they hold ESRC studentships. We urgently recommend better dissemination of information about existing bursaries and

training options, and expansion of the number of bursaries available so anyone who would benefit could be offered one.

- We recommend vigorous proactive strategies to remedy the under-representation of women, particularly in senior ranks, and ethnic minorities across all ranks.
- We recommend that research fellowships be funded at levels sufficient to make them truly useful. We recommend Post-doctoral Fellowships of two-year or three-years' duration. We recommend Professorial Fellowships with up to 80-100 per cent buyouts. Most especially, we recommend Early-mid-career Research Fellowships for people five years post-PhD to establish their own research programme, perhaps lasting as long as three to five years.
- We endorse the concentration of research funding. We recommend that research quality not be assessed by metrics alone, but rather by panels of scholars capable of reading and judging work for themselves when metrics might be misleading.
- We recommend that funders, especially but not only the ESRC, support more risky and innovative research that has no immediately foreseeable practical payoffs; and we recommend that they take vigorous measures to publicize their willingness to fund such research.
- We recommend that funders, especially the ESRC, take a broader view of engagement, embracing not only immediate impact on policy but also more diffuse impacts on public culture. Again, we recommend that ESRC take vigorous measures to publicize its willingness to fund research promising impacts of that broader sort.
- We recommend a stronger web presence for better dissemination of research, and that the already-strong engagement with non-academic users be further enhanced through 'knowledge brokers' being associated with research projects and centres.

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## Steering Group's Response to the International Panel's Report

The Review Steering Group accepts the International Panel's report as a robust qualitative assessment of UK Politics and International studies research, and thanks the Panel for its hard work. The Steering Group agreed the following response to the International Panel's assessment of the UK Politics and International Studies.

- (i) *UK Politics and International Studies research is of high quality.* The Steering Group welcomed the Panel's finding of considerable evidence of research quality across almost all the principal sub-disciplines.
- (ii) *The UK is a world leader in many areas of the discipline.* The Steering Group were pleased to accept the Panel's judgement that significant strengths can be identified in political theory; in electoral studies; in the 'English School' of international relations; in European Union studies; in 'critical' security studies; in political economy, domestic and especially international; and in certain areas of public policy and administration and of comparative and area studies.
- (iii) *UK Politics and International Studies make an enormous contribution to social, cultural and intellectual capital throughout the wider UK community.* The Steering Group were delighted that the Panel was able to identify considerable evidence of engagement with end-users in the policy community and even more examples of knowledge transfer. The Steering Group believed that policymakers, especially the funding councils needed to ensure that academics were recognised for this work and rewarded appropriately.
- (iv) *UK Politics and International studies are in robust good health.* The Steering Group accepts the Panel's view that the discipline is demographically balanced, with no looming 'retirement crisis', and the Group also shared the Panel's excitement over the likely contribution of overseas appointments being recruited into the junior ranks. Although it acknowledges the Panel's point below about the relative under-representation of women and ethnic minorities holding senior positions in the discipline, it notes that the position is improving significantly.
- (v) *UK Politics and International Studies are highly diverse methodologically.* The Steering Group agreed that the UK discipline is distinctively pluralist in its methodology, enabling it to respond quickly and creatively to the diversity of emerging new research foci.
- (vi) *UK Politics and International Studies is significantly strengthened by its range of international networks.* The Steering Group endorses the Panel's view that the discipline has strong international networks, and its Europe connection is one of the most distinctive features of UK Politics and International Studies, making it an important source of its comparative advantage vis-à-vis its North American counterpart.

The Steering Group has discussed the principal recommendations contained in the International Panel's report, and has agreed the following responses:

- (i) *Tailor resources to facilitate the targeted training of advanced research methods.* The Steering Group supports the Panel's idea of regional centres of excellence in providing specialist research methods training to those students who require it. The Group also would welcome the opportunity for the Politics and IS community to work with the ESRC's Training and Development Board on establishing a UK-

wide base of short courses, with credits linked to the first year of PhD, and bursary support for additional training activities, potentially through the ESRC's Researcher Development Initiative.

- (ii) *Endorsement for the concentration of training resources.* Following the Panel's recommendation that studentships continue to be concentrated in specialist departments, the Steering Group nonetheless flags the need for flexibility in the provision of such resources. The Politics and IS community look forward to engaging with the ESRC's Training and Development Board to explore how any quota system can be used in conjunction with regional training provision to maximise postgraduate (and longer-term) resources for all research-active Politics and International Studies Departments .
- (iii) *Develop strategies to ensure that more women and ethnic minorities are able to reach senior positions in the discipline.* The Steering Group acknowledges that there are too few women and individuals from ethnic minorities occupying senior positions in the discipline. Although much of this policy is determined at a University level, more data is required to see how quickly the situation is changing. In the case of ethnic minorities, little is known as to the reasons why representation is so limited, so the PSA will further investigate the extent of the problem and potential remedies. The RCUK's Research Career and Diversity Unit could be approached if the PSA and BISA wish to pursue this.
- (iv) *Fund research fellowships at levels sufficient to make them more useful in facilitating career development.* The Steering Group agrees that re-tooling academics in mid-career is an important issue and support should be provided to those wanting a change in research direction. One possibility is to encourage academics to work in under-researched areas. The Group endorses the Panel's suggestion of longer Post-doctoral Fellowships, more Professorial Fellowships with a higher buyout, and Early/mid-career Fellowships. However, the Group did not support the idea of 100 per cent buyout for fellowships, as senior academics have a responsibility to train and develop the next generation of researchers in supervising PhD students.
- (v) *Endorsement of the dual-support structure and the concentration of research funding based on academic quality.* The Steering Group agrees that peer-review should always play a central role in the assessment of research quality. Although a fully metrics approach is not desirable, such indicators do nevertheless have a role to play as part of a range of other measures.
- (vi) *Ensure more visible support to foster innovative and 'high-risk' research.* The Steering Group agrees that the facility to enable the funding of innovative and 'out of the box' research must exist. It welcomes the ESRC's agreement to better communicate its intentions in this respect, hoping that this will diffuse any misperception of the ESRC's funding requirements that exist. The ESRC is also currently reviewing its responsive mode schemes, and is working on ways of ensuring that more genuinely innovative and cutting edge research is funded. However, the Group were not fully convinced of the notion that innovative or radically different approaches were being deterred solely by the research funders' policies.

(vii) *Take a broader view of research impact so as to not to dissuade primarily theoretical research applications.* The Steering Group believes that a wider understanding of social wellbeing should be recognised as a valid research impact. It was agreed that the ESRC should communicate this further to avoid any potential misunderstanding. However, the Group also notes that HEIs need to value this in their promotion procedures and urges ESRC to advocate this to HEIs

(viii) *Develop of more innovative research dissemination techniques.* The Steering Group concurs with the Panel's point that a stronger web presence is vital in disseminating research. The Group welcomes the ESRC's decision to revise their End of Award reporting process which will allow researchers 12 months after the award end date to submit End of Award Reports. This will ensure greater recognition of dissemination activities undertaken by researchers.

## Appendix 1:

### Questionnaire to departments participating in regional meetings with the Panel

We would be very grateful if departments could provide the following information. Submissions will form part of an information pack that will be given to the International Review Panel to inform discussions during their visit to the UK in January.

1. An overview of the department, outlining principal research areas, departmental organisation, research culture and history. (c. 500 words)
2. A list of key publications over the past five years
3. Some examples of key research impacts – *these should be divided into two groups*
  - a. Academic impacts
  - b. Non-academic impacts *i.e. where ideas have been taken up by policy-makers or other non-academic users.*
4. Describe areas of strength in UK Politics and IS research, as well as any notable weaknesses that you feel currently exists. (c.150 words)
5. How does UK Politics and IS research compare with that in the rest of the world – a rating of its international standing (c.150 words)
6. Please list any suggestions or comments that you would like the Panel to be aware of.

*Departments participating in regional meetings with the Panel:*

University of Birmingham  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Essex  
University of Glasgow  
London School of Economics (both Departments of Government and of International Relations)  
University of Manchester  
University of Oxford  
Queen's University Belfast  
University of Sheffield  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Wales, Aberystwyth  
University of Warwick



## Appendix 2:

### Questionnaire to departments not participating in regional meetings with the Panel

#### 1. General Information

Name of Department	Number of Politics and IS Staff (FTE)
Name of Institution	2001 RAE Rating
Name of HoD	Teaching Quality Assessment Score

2. Describe the research that is carried out in you own department (e.g. principal research areas, key projects etc.) (200 words)
3. Please list 20 key publications that have resulted from your department over the past five years.
4. Please list five non-academic impacts that have stemmed from research carried out by members of your department over the past five years. *For the purpose of this exercise, impact refers to a situation where you have evidence that a research outcome has been considered by a third party.*
5. List five academic impacts generated by research carried out by members of your department over the past five years.
6. Describe the strengths of UK Politics and IS research, as well as any weaknesses that you feel currently exist. (150 words)
7. How does UK Politics and IS research compare with that in the rest of the world – a rating of its international standing (150 words)
8. Please list any suggestions or comments that you would like the Panel to be aware of.

#### *Responses received from:*

University of Aberdeen  
University of Bristol  
Brunel University  
University College London  
Dundee University  
University of Durham  
University of Huddersfield  
University of Hull  
Keele University  
King's College London  
Lancaster University  
Middlesex University  
University of Nottingham  
Oxford Brookes University  
University of Plymouth  
University of Southampton  
Staffordshire University  
University of Strathclyde

University of Sussex  
University of Wales Swansea  
University of Wolverhampton