

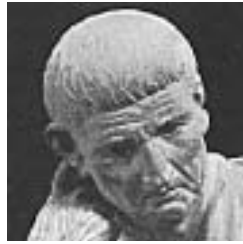


# **Political Studies** Association

# **Political Studies UK**

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**Studying, Teaching and Researching Politics  
in the United Kingdom**



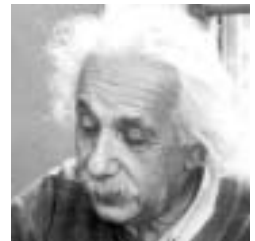
*The good of man must be the end of the  
science of politics*  
**Aristotle**

*Politics is not an exact science*  
**Otto von Bismarck**



*I must study politics and war that my  
sons may have the liberty to study  
mathematics and philosophy*  
**John Adams**  
*2nd US President*

*Politics is more difficult than physics*  
**Albert Einstein**



*The activity of politics is human life at a  
stretch, full of heroism and duplicity.  
To understand it is to know how varied it  
can be, at this time and that place*  
**Kenneth Minogue**  
*Political scientist*

*I have come to the conclusion that politics  
are too serious a matter to be left to the  
politicians*  
**Charles de Gaulle**



# Political Studies UK



**S**witch on the news and politics is frequently the main focus. But politics is not just about politicians and governments. It's also about big issues like the environment, world trade, human rights and military action. And it's about issues such as public services, health care, and local councils. Politics affects everyone's lives. That is why the study of politics is so important.

There are around 2,000 academics in the United Kingdom studying and teaching different aspects of politics. Some are working on political activity, or developing new ways of analysing politics, while others are exploring debates about political concepts, such as freedom, equality and democracy.

Research underpins the courses that are taught in our universities, but it can also have an important impact on the practice of politics. A lot of politics research does just that: improving decision-making processes by understanding them better; identifying routes for resolving conflicts at home and abroad; analysing why citizens vote in certain ways, or why some of them fail to vote at all; monitoring the outcomes of particular policies and suggesting how to improve them.

This booklet is designed to provide an introduction to political studies in the UK: how politics is taught and learnt; and what political studies research sets out to do. It also provides some information about the Political Studies Association, the leading voice of political studies in the United Kingdom.

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**P**olitics remains at the centre of our lives even if many citizens find the lives of celebrities or the exploits of footballers more fascinating. Media coverage of politics often reminds us about declining trust in politicians or the loss of faith in conventional political institutions. But whatever changes occur in the way that we practise politics, it is not going to go away.

The search for better ways of resolving conflicts will always be with us. At the core of the study of politics is how power is exercised and in whose interest. Who gains and who loses? Answering these questions leads us into debates over competing ideas about how society should be organised.

#### Wide range of themes

As the problems facing us as citizens become more complex and more intractable, the need for the systematic study of political processes and problems becomes greater. The focus of political attention changes quickly, but new experts cannot be created overnight. When a hitherto obscure area of the world like Afghanistan becomes the centre of concern, the media and decision-makers suddenly need to find experts who understand its politics. When world talks collapse, experts are needed not just on the politics of trade, but on developing countries and complex topics such as agriculture and intellectual property.

Research into politics and international relations covers a very wide range of themes and topics, both empirical and normative. For example 'globalisation' is studied not only in terms of what it means, whether it exists and what its political consequences are, but also whether it is desirable. Electoral studies are a traditional strength and the question of why fewer people are voting is a major theme of current work. Other work has been looking at the range of many different ways in which people participate in politics, including the growth of direct action and protest. Public policies from climate change to the euro are also a major area of strength and this necessarily leads into the debate about whether British politics is being 'Europeanised'.

#### Stronger than ever

The Political Studies Association exists to foster excellence in research and teaching in politics. Its growing membership includes university academics, but also others interested in the study of politics such as journalists. It publishes four journals with Blackwells, holds an annual conference and awards ceremony, and supports an array of specialist groups. Despite an uncertain climate in universities, the study of politics in Britain has never been stronger.



**Professor Wyn Grant**

*Chair of the Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom*



**P**olitical studies is about thinking through answers to questions like those shown in the box. Nearly 18,000 students have enrolled on politics degrees in British universities to do just that. Studying politics is both fascinating and fun. By its very nature there are always new issues and problems which emerge and challenge existing ideas. It requires critical reflection, balanced analysis, informed debate. And studying in that way brings with it important skills in research, analysis and communication. That is why politics graduates are in strong demand in today's competitive labour market.

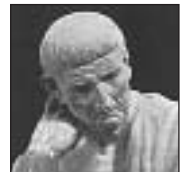
## Key Questions

- *Who has political power and why?*
- *What is globalisation?*
- *Why does political conflict occur, and how is it resolved?*
- *How should public services be provided?*
- *Why is European integration such a fiercely contested issue?*
- *Why do people vote as they do?*
- *What are the causes of war?*
- *Is violent protest legitimate?*
- *How are political decisions made?*



Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

**Abraham Lincoln**



Man is by nature a political animal.

**Aristotle**



Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed.

**Mao Zedong**



Politics are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war you can only be killed once, but in politics many times.

**Winston Churchill**





**U**ntil recently politics in British schools was a subject taught mainly at AS/A2 Level. But the recent addition of citizenship education to the English national curriculum has changed this, as have similar requirements in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. As part of the citizenship curriculum, all British secondary schools now provide some introductory teaching of political studies, covering (amongst other things) central and local government, the main features of parliamentary and other forms of government, the electoral system, the world as a global community, and the role of the European Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

### Studying Politics at A-Level

**Professor Philip Norton**, *Lord Norton of Louth, President, Politics Association*



The study of politics is not confined to universities. A-level Government and Politics is offered by all three examination boards (AQA, Edexcel, and OCR). The study of politics at A-level has been transformed in recent decades, moving from a highly formalistic study of structures to a more diverse study of behaviour, theory and relationships.

A grounding in A-level politics helps give students an excellent base for undergraduate studies and helps develop skills such as understanding, analysis and communication. Each exam board offers three units at AS level – focusing on politics in the UK – and a combination of units at A2 level. The study of British politics includes voting behaviour as well as political institutions. The A2 modules include political ideas and the politics and government of the USA. Edexcel also offers international relations and AQA the politics of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

For the keen student, reading is often complemented by study visits – typically to the Houses of Parliament but, in some cases, to Brussels or the elected assemblies in the United Kingdom. The subject also lends itself to internet research, with political organisations now having valuable data on their websites. Recent international, as well as national, events have given an impetus to study.

The Politics Association and the Association for Citizenship Teaching both provide support and materials. There are also some good magazines, including *Politics Review*, *Talking Politics*, *Teaching Citizenship*, and *Citizenship*.

We aim at no less than a change in the political culture of this country both nationally and locally: for people to think of themselves as active citizens, willing, able and equipped to have an influence in public life.

**Report on Education for Democracy and Citizenship in Schools, 1998**

# Studying Politics



## Citizenship Education

**Professor Sir Bernard Crick**, *Consultant at the Department for Education and Skills*



The United Kingdom long lagged behind the rest of Europe in not having citizenship as a compulsory subject in schools. But in 1997 David Blunkett, then Secretary of State for Education, set up an advisory group, which I chaired. They reported in 1998 as *Education for Democracy and Citizenship in Schools*. In 2000 citizenship was added to the national curriculum for secondary schools although schools were given time to prepare so teaching only began in October 2002. It is a surprisingly radical curriculum based on discussion of issues, problem solving and participation in both school and local community. Institutions should be studied on need, if relevant to a problem or issue, not taught by rote like old civics. Citizenship is not a mini-political studies for it is aimed at the needs of all pupils and includes knowledge of voluntary bodies and the social services.



Politics is the art of the possible.

**R. A. Butler**  
*British Conservative politician*



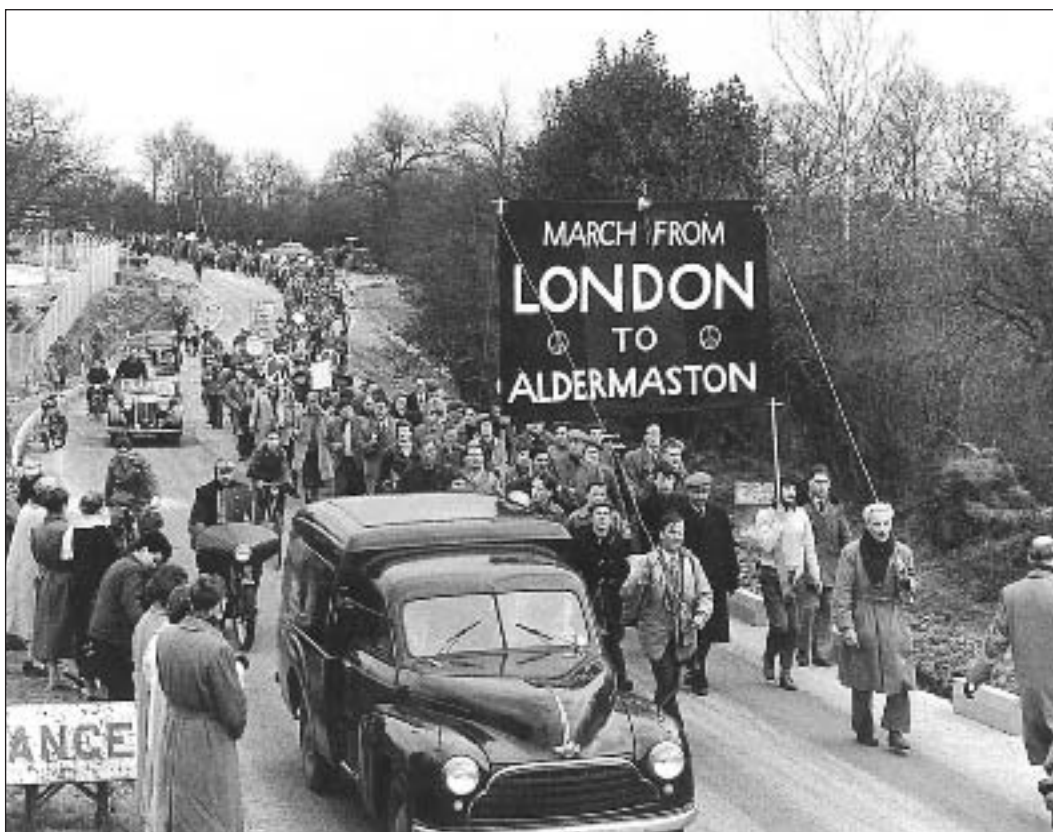
Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable.

**John Kenneth Galbraith**  
*Economist*



The art of politics consists in knowing precisely when it is necessary to hit an opponent slightly below the belt.

**Konrad Adenauer**  
*German Chancellor 1949-63*





## Studying Politics at University

A degree in politics prepares students for many forms of employment as well as further study. They will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication and IT, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market.

### More exciting than ever

Politics is offered by many universities and each has its own areas of specialism. No two politics degrees are identical, though the following are some of the main areas of study:

- Studying Britain now is probably more exciting than it's ever been. Widespread constitutional reforms have changed the political map. The establishment of the Parliament in Scotland and the Assemblies in Wales, Northern Ireland and London mean that power is shifting. Not only that, Britain's membership of the EU, and maybe later the Euro, mean that debates over sovereignty and co-operation rage long and hard.
- As the European Union grows both in size and power, people need to be able to understand and analyse developments. The study of European politics also involves other European nations, comparing them with British and other political systems. Many universities offer courses focusing on the politics of countries in various parts of the world, such as the USA, Latin America, Asia, Africa or Australasia.
- Political theory is vital to the study of politics because without theory we would not know what to investigate. In theory courses, students consider key questions like the nature of freedom and the strengths and limitations of democracy. Other topics include the relationship between government and society, the right of dissent and the limits of toleration, and questions of social justice and equality.

### Fascinating areas of study

- Few events symbolise democracy better than elections. Elections can change the course of a country. Studying elections can be about predicting results, trying to work out why people vote as they do, or even why they don't vote at all. Party campaigns, what policies are put forward, how parties select candidates and related questions are all important and fascinating areas of study.
- International relations covers topics such as the role of international organisations (like the UN), the strategies of various actors on the international political stage, the role of international non-governmental actors (for example large corporations) and vital international policy areas like the environment. It addresses questions such as why wars occur, how peace is negotiated and maintained and what is international justice?

**Dr Justin Fisher**, Brunel University

The best part of studying politics is the debate – everyone likes a good argument and the experience can be quite eye-opening, especially when the subject is close to home. Politics is all about the conflict of ideas and this makes for a fascinating course. There is no such thing as a right answer – it all depends upon your point of view.

**Justin Crump**, BA Politics, Durham University



# Studying Politics



## Postgraduate Study

Studying politics at postgraduate level enables students to narrow the focus of their attention, while deepening their analysis. There are two levels of postgraduate study: Master's and PhD.

At MA or MSc level students take a number of modules. Often, they are able to specialise much more in a particular field than at undergraduate level, say European Integration, or International Political Economy. Students are expected to work at a more advanced level, thinking more critically



about theories and methods. In addition, many universities include courses on research skills. These help prepare for the Master's dissertation, usually up to 20,000 words on a specialist topic.

## Exhilarating experience

The biggest difference between a Master's degree and a PhD is that a doctorate requires students to produce new research or a new interpretation of existing research. Most PhD programmes begin with courses on research training, dealing with such subjects as 'The Philosophy of the Social Sciences' and 'Research Methodology'.

These courses help students build the foundations for rigorous research by rooting their work in existing research traditions, familiarising them with the often complex vocabulary used in research, and teaching them the limitations of particular research techniques. Students often spend some time – possibly a few months – 'in the field', gathering the data they need for the dissertation. As they write up they are likely to begin presenting papers at politics conferences and getting their first articles in journals in the field.

Undertaking a PhD can be an exhilarating experience. It is also usually seen as the basic prerequisite for joining the academic profession.

**Dr Jonathan Grix**, *University of Birmingham*

You won't solve all the world's problems by studying for a politics degree; but you will understand them better, and understanding is the first step to solution.

**Michael Moran**  
*Political scientist*

The study of politics is the study of influence and the influential.

**H. D. Laswell**  
*Political scientist*

A political system is a pattern of human relationships that involves control, influence, power, or authority.

**Robert Dahl**  
*Political scientist*

Political science may not be, despite what Aristotle said, the 'master science': but it is still the only means which we have at our disposal to make sense of the way in which man can be governed.

**Jean Blondel**  
*Political scientist*





**T**he Political Studies Association awards annual prizes – the Sir Bernard Crick Prizes – for outstanding teaching in political studies in UK universities. We asked four recent prizewinners to give their views on what they try to do when teaching politics, and what students get from learning about politics.

The teaching of politics should always excite and interest the tutor and student alike. Politics is a universal activity which shapes our daily lives. It determines who governs us, conditions our influence as citizens and forms the basis of how society is organised. A tutor of politics ought to show how our existence is shaped by politics and how many of our ordinary decisions have a political basis.

By studying politics, students develop greater understanding of the key issues in the world: why some countries are democratic, others not; why some areas experience persistent conflict, whilst others are tranquil; why the state runs most services in some countries, but few in others; why there are many political parties within certain territories, but only one in some.

Politics courses normally allow the student to specialise in particular areas of interest. I am a strong advocate of an in-depth dissertation as one of the best means of studying politics. Often the most exciting work arises when students question politicians, political structures or processes through supervised research. I recall a student telling me that she learned more on a four-day study tour to Northern Ireland than on the rest of the entire module. Whether this was a tribute to the tour or implicit condemnation of the module who knows? The teaching of politics should always seek to stimulate further student investigation.

**Professor Jonathan Tonge**, *Salford University*

A degree in politics provides you with a deeper understanding of both current affairs and historical processes. Skills of research and formulating and defending arguments are the key to studying politics and will be of great use in any career. For me, politics has paved the way for a career in law where I am sure my skills of argument will really be put to the test.

**Elaine Ibbotson**, *BA Political Science, University of Birmingham*



# Teaching and Learning



## Where does Power Really Lie?

Aristotle said that 'Politics is the Master Science'. If politics is so fundamental, it is important that we understand it, and one way to make sense of it is to study it systematically. We can do so by trying to answer the following questions:

- *How are political decisions made?* We need to study the processes of decision-making – from the top (UN Security Council) to the bottom (local parish council) – to discover how political agendas are created, shaped, blocked, implemented, renewed, and reneged on; how pressure is exerted or deals are cut to persuade individuals, groups, communities, regions, states, and nations to support or oppose particular decisions; and how public opinion is brought to bear on issues that are under discussion. A perfect illustration of these processes is the vexed question of the UN Security Council resolutions on the war in Iraq.

- *Who makes political decisions?* Ostensibly, political leaders make political decisions, but behind the scenes, many other figures lurk, pulling strings. For example, civil servants,

together with scientific and technical experts, play a major role in decision-making, perhaps even forming policy networks that effectively bypass the official channels. At an international level, there may be dominant states that effectively marginalise weaker countries. And global business leaders may wield great economic power over politicians, either by persuasion or by financial threats.

- *What are the reasons for political decisions?* Politicians are motivated by reasons to make particular policies. What are those reasons? Are they personal/psychological (eg to compensate for low self-esteem)? Or are they prudential reasons (eg to obtain party advantage)? Or are they ideological reasons (eg to promote a cause such as socialism)?

If we succeed in answering these questions, we will be in a good position to address the central concern of politics – where does power really lie?

**Professor Tim Gray**  
University of Newcastle

I loved my time at Kingston – the content of the course was brilliant. The modular system enabled me to adapt the course to suit my own particular interests, and the choice of courses available was diverse and thought-provoking.

**Angela Budd**  
BA Politics,  
Kingston University

My three years as a politics research student at Nottingham really exceeded my expectations. I was carefully supported by the school and enjoyed being part of a dynamic team. My research took me to Cambodia, working at the Khmer archives in Phnom Penh and conducting fascinating interviews.

**Mona Bitar**  
PhD in Politics,  
Nottingham University

My programme combines communication and politics which means it gives a broad overview of many different areas – from Hollywood Cinema to British Press and Foreign Politics.

**Sara Milstead**  
BA Politics and  
Communication Studies,  
Liverpool University





## Understanding Power

Learning about politics means learning about how to deal with power. As tutors of politics we try to get students to learn how to dissect institutions, ideas and interests. If we do this well we see that power relationships run through all of them. Every social situation has someone or something making things happen in certain ways. The trick is to know who or what is doing this and then either to work with that or try to change matters.

So, learning about politics is useful in helping to understand 'conventional' politics but also 'office politics' and power in everyday life. Whether we are in an office, a university or even in informal gatherings, we benefit from knowing how power runs through our environment. And we will always find that we hold some power and are having power used over us.

There is a dilemma for those of us who are politics tutors. Teaching is a classic power situation where the tutors hold nearly all the cards. We know we are being successful when students learn to deal effectively with power and start to turn the tables on us!

**Dr Paul Taggart** *Sussex University*

## Studying Politics at University

Having monitored university politics departments throughout the country, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education found that students of politics and international relations use the following learning methods:

- Critical reading of a wide range of texts, including documents, monographs, scholarly articles, statistics, newspapers, textbooks and sources on the Internet.
- Independent research using primary and secondary sources.
- Group discussion for communicating ideas and presenting work, including debates, case studies, role play and simulations.
- Contact with political actors through visits, speakers, websites and in some cases placements in the UK or abroad.



# Teaching and Learning

## Appraising Different Perspectives

Politics is a notoriously difficult subject to tie down. One common approach is to examine the British constitution and the political system – for example, the prime minister, political parties and the making of legislation. But the study of politics also includes political ideas and concepts, with the emphasis not so much on ‘what is’ – how the present political system works – but on ‘what could’ or indeed ‘should’ be: how the political system could operate in a more ideal world.

Whether it be the utopian visions of a communal society put forward by early socialist thinkers, the anarchist goal of a society without a state, or the liberal desire for a society that maximises individual freedom, this aspect of the study of politics introduces students to important questions. What is or should be the role of the modern state? What is the most favourable system of government (and why)? Who should have political power and on what basis? Why should we obey the state?



Of course, in reality these different approaches often merge into one another – exploring how the British system works, for example, leads to discussions on how it could or should be reformed. Politics students should be understand the workings of the present political system but it is equally vital that they should be able to ‘test’ out different perspectives – to examine how the state and society could be organised according to competing political theories. This ability to appraise different perspectives, to see the benefits and pitfalls of several different approaches, is one of many valuable skills that students of politics acquire.

**Dr Rose Gann** Nottingham Trent University



My degree provided me with invaluable skills for my job as International Manager with the HSBC Group, such as adaptability, questioning of assumptions and an understanding of the various political environments. During my time in the Philippines I have witnessed a popular uprising, an economic recovery from the Asian crisis, and an explosion in information technology, all of which makes much more sense thanks to my years studying politics.

**Johan Sekora**

*BA Politics and Parliamentary Studies at Leeds University*

Since graduating I have worked for a major charity and also as a researcher for an MP in the House of Commons in Westminster. I now enjoy an exciting job as an international policy officer for a political party based in London.

**Rosemary Nuamah**

*BA Politics at Nottingham University*





**A** degree in politics is an excellent qualification for the labour market. It is not vocational in the sense that it is geared to one particular form of employment (though many prominent political figures have studied politics). It is flexible as it builds the analytical and intellectual skills that employers in both the private and the public sectors look for in graduates.

### Careers

A degree in politics equips students for all sorts of careers. Some examples of these are:

- **Media and publishing:** Politics graduates work as journalists for television and radio, for national and regional newspapers, and in publishing.
- **Business:** Knowing how to analyse complex data and communicate the results are some of the key skills that private sector employers look for.
- **Pressure groups:** The knowledge and skills acquired from a politics degree enable graduates to become effective employees in a wide variety of pressure groups and trade unions.
- **Political consultants:** Many consultants are politics graduates working as parliamentary officers for leading firms and charities.
- **Education:** Graduates may go into lecturing and research posts at universities or become teachers in state and public schools.
- **Civil servants:** Politics graduates are found in all government departments in Whitehall and in the new devolved institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Others work in local government and the European Commission.
- **Politics:** Many elected politicians have studied politics and politics graduates also work for political parties or as researchers for MPs and Members of the European Parliament.

When I think of political studies in relation to work skills I think of interpretation, investigation and analysis, and an understanding of people and events: skills that are very much needed in what has become known as the 'knowledge economy'.

Add to this the generic skills that students gain from studying for a degree – time management, work planning, communications, teamwork and management of learning – and it is evident that politics graduates are very well prepared for the world of work. Of course, graduates need to be aware of the skills, knowledge and experience they have gained and be able to market what they have to offer to employers.

**Carl Gilleard** *Association of Graduate Recruiters*

# Skills and Careers



## Skills

- **Analysis:** learning how to analyse evidence and arguments. Students may focus mainly on texts or perhaps on quantitative data, but either way they learn vital skills in critical evaluation.
- **Research:** many politics degrees offer the chance to do research. Students learn how to locate, assess and analyse information – key skills for many of today's jobs.
- **Communication:** learning how to discuss and argue from an informed point of view. Students make presentations and develop skills in summarising arguments. They learn to communicate effectively through writing essays, reports and reviews.
- **IT:** learning how to use the internet to find information, using specialist software to analyse data. Whatever the politics degree, IT skills now play a vital role.
- **Work experience:** some degrees offer students placements as assistants to MPs and other elected representatives or with parliaments in the UK and abroad.

## People who have studied politics

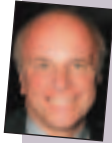


### **Rt Hon David Blunkett MP**

*Home Secretary, BA Political Theory and Institutions, Sheffield*

### **Professor Alice Brown**

*Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, BA Economics and Politics, Edinburgh*



### **Greg Dyke**

*Ex-Director-General of the BBC, BA Politics, York*

### **Professor Ivor Crewe**

*Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, PPE Oxford*



### **Harry Enfield**

*Comedian, BA Politics, York*

### **Professor Steve Smith**

*Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, BA Politics and International Studies, Southampton*



### **Krishnan Guru-Murthy**

*Anchor of Channel 4 lunchtime news, PPE, Oxford*

### **Jon Sopel**

*BBC Correspondent, BA Politics, Southampton*



### **Rt Hon Clare Short MP**

*Former Cabinet minister, BA Political Science, Leeds*



### **Will Young**

*Winner of Pop Idol 2003, BA Politics, Exeter*

After completing my degree I worked for two years as an account executive at a company selling business publications internationally. I am now a press officer for Discovery Channel, which allows me to put my communication skills and media knowledge into practice.

### **Claire Drinkwater**

*BA Politics and Communication Studies, at Liverpool University*

The practical experience gained from my months in Washington DC working for a Congressman and my time in Westminster was invaluable in broadening my interest and knowledge about the political process. At 27 I became the youngest MP in the 1997 election and am now a junior minister.

### **Christopher Leslie MP**

*BA Politics and Parliamentary Studies, at Leeds University*

I chose the international relations option in my second year and *Building Democracies in Latin America* and *Eastern Europe in Transition* as my two third-year special projects. They deepened my understanding of world politics and the difficulties facing newly emerging democracies and inspired me to investigate a career in international development and human rights. Since graduating from Sheffield I have been working in the research department for Amnesty International.

### **Sonya Maldar**

*BA Politics, at Sheffield University*





**P**olitics is one of the most widely taught disciplines in universities – it is established in the oldest universities, like Oxford, and the newest, like Northampton – and also one of the most varied in subject and style. This section provides information on how to find out more about politics courses at degree level around the UK. Michael Moran provides the introduction.

Politics is widely taught in universities because universities recognise that government is something with which all citizens have to engage. There is no opting out. In the modern world nobody escapes: even an order of Trappist monks will have to pay taxes to the state. But politics is not, and cannot be, simply a subject for action; it also has to be a subject of analysis, reflection and investigation – and this is what is taught in politics departments.

The range of politics courses is very wide: there is no ‘national curriculum’ at university level. Even within a single university, like Manchester, politics can be studied as a single specialist subject (‘Bachelor of Political Science’); as ‘Combined Honours’ with subjects as varied as history, philosophy or law; or as part of a wide-ranging degree in the social sciences, where it can be combined with economics, anthropology, sociology or accounting.

There are two good starting points for working out what kinds of politics degree are available at different UK universities. One is to use the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) search engine at [www.search.ucas.co.uk/cs2002/cs.html](http://www.search.ucas.co.uk/cs2002/cs.html). This allows readers to search the UCAS database by subject, by university/college, and by geographical region. It currently shows 1,655 political studies courses to choose from (many of them, of course, taken in combination with other subjects). This will give basic information about courses and web-links to the universities concerned.





# University Courses



The Political Studies Association of the UK provides more focused information on political studies at universities and colleges around the UK. Its website has a searchable database that can be accessed at [www.psa.ac.uk/psabisa/departments.asp](http://www.psa.ac.uk/psabisa/departments.asp) and the Association has also produced a booklet called *Study Politics* which contains the web addresses of all 94 political studies departments in the UK from Aberdeen to York. This can be viewed and downloaded at [www.psa.ac.uk/publications/StudyPolitics03.pdf](http://www.psa.ac.uk/publications/StudyPolitics03.pdf) or anyone can ring up the PSA Office on 0191 222 8021 and ask for a copy to be sent by post.

## Political Studies Resources on the Internet

Many internet sites provide useful information on politics, but the following are particularly worth visiting:

- The most comprehensive political studies site is that of the Political Studies Association at [www.psa.ac.uk](http://www.psa.ac.uk). This has a gateway to politics-related resources on the Internet, including links to politics departments, as mentioned above, but also journals, constitutions, election results, data archives, libraries, media and other resources. The site also presents information on the activities and publications of the Political Studies Association, one of the longest standing and biggest organisations of political studies academics and practitioners in the world.

- Richard Kimber's site at [www.psr.keele.ac.uk/](http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/) provides links in every conceivable area of politics from area studies to political thought.

- C-Sap's site at [www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/discipline.htm](http://www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/discipline.htm) provides a number of links to politics-related resources some of which focus on the internet as a tool for teaching politics.

- Other useful links are on the website of the Social Science Information Gateway at [www.sosig.ac.uk/politics/](http://www.sosig.ac.uk/politics/).

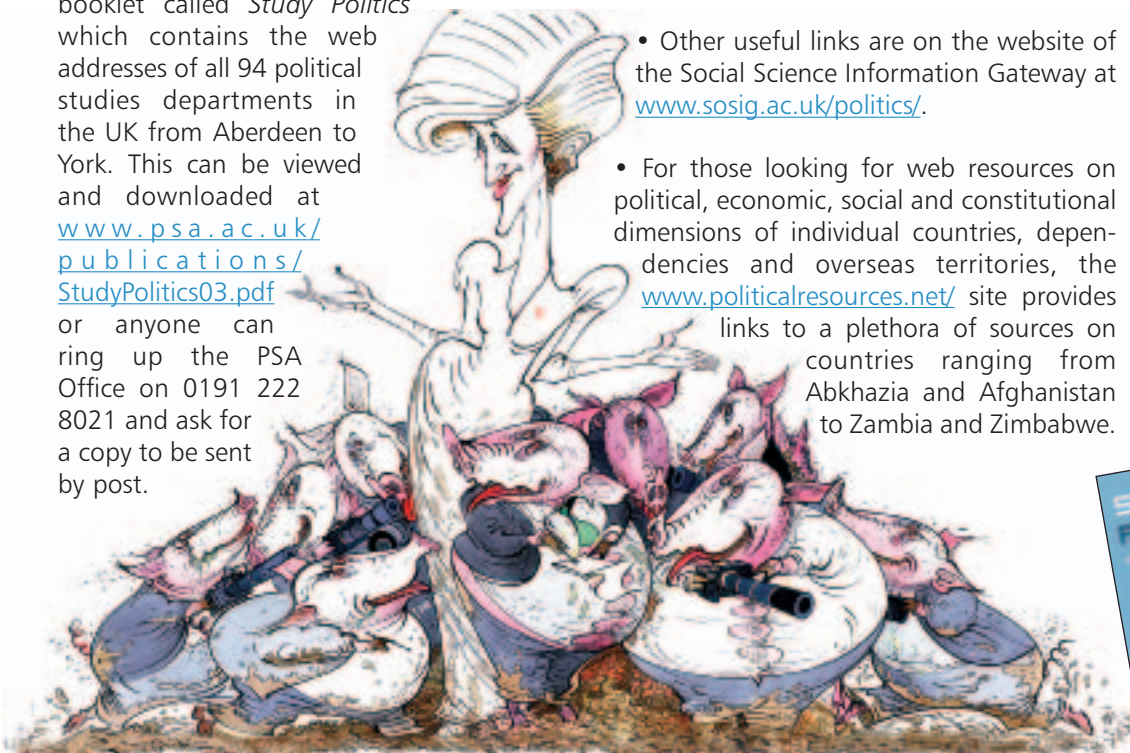
- For those looking for web resources on political, economic, social and constitutional dimensions of individual countries, dependencies and overseas territories, the [www.politicalresources.net/](http://www.politicalresources.net/) site provides links to a plethora of sources on countries ranging from Abkhazia and Afghanistan to Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For more than 70 per cent of graduate job vacancies, employers are more interested in your intellectual calibre and transferable skills than in the subject of your degree, and these are among the qualities for which politics graduates are highly valued in the careers market. In recent years our graduates have gone into a wide range of professions. They became administrators, recruitment consultants, campaign coordinators for charities, and analysts for accountancy firms, to name just a few.

*Department of Politics*  
**University of Warwick**

We believe that the learning of politics provides a solid basis for the development of intellectual and practical skills, equipping people with the sort of critical intelligence that today's complex organisations demand. Trained in the critical assessment of political ideas and practices, students are able to enter the world of work and help reshape the organisation they work for so that they are fit to face the many challenges of the twenty-first century.

*Department of Politics*  
**University of Wales at Swansea**





The study of politics is diverse, and involves different subject areas. Fashions and priorities may change, but all scholars in political studies – students and researchers alike – range across a number of these areas. Here, some leading scholars set out their specialist fields and the contribution they make to political studies.

**Political Theory** Professor Jeremy Jennings *University of Birmingham*

Politics cannot be divorced from the normative questions that inform the very goals that we, as citizens and political actors, seek to realise. To ask, for example, if a policy which seeks to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor is just, is to confront a philosophical question.

Political theorists ask questions which get to the fundamentals of political life and to explore concepts which form the core of our political language. Why, for example, should we obey the state? What is the nature of a just society? What do we understand by such words as liberty and equality? What are the proper functions of government?

These questions are at the heart of the inquiries of political theory and have lost none of their contemporary relevance. There are also new questions arising from current political agendas and concerns. Constitutional and welfare reform, national sovereignty and globalisation, gender and sexuality, the position of disadvantaged ethnic minorities, and mounting environmental damage: each of these topics raises issues which contemporary political theory seeks to address and places political theory at the heart of the discipline of political science.

**Elections, Public Opinion and Parties**

Professor David Denver *Lancaster University*

If people are asked what 'politics' is about the thoughts of many turn immediately to elections and parties. This is not surprising. General elections are major national events which arouse a great deal of interest and discussion, and involve millions of people (as do Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections and even local elections). It is the existence of fair and free elections along with competition between parties that makes a society democratic.

Not surprisingly, then, elections and parties loom large as specialised subjects in the broad field of politics. All general undergraduate courses in British politics include coverage of elections and parties but, in addition, many departments also offer more specialised options in electoral analysis and/or political parties at either undergraduate or graduate level or both.

The research that has been done on British elections has established the UK as a world leader. Psephologists have also become well-known through television and the press for explaining the meaning of elections and electoral trends. The changing nature of British parties and how they operate is intimately linked to their electoral prospects and performance. Here again the work of prominent scholars has attracted a wide audience – including, of course, the parties themselves.



## Women and Politics

**Dr Georgina Waylen** *University of Sheffield*

A new wave of feminism emerged to prominence in the 1960s. Since then great strides have been made to put the study of women and politics onto the political studies agenda. Attention focused on the lack of women academics within the profession, the lack of consideration of gender issues and women's political activities, and the failure to examine the nature of women's participation in conventional politics itself.

There are now far more women academics (although nowhere near parity – particularly at the higher levels) in departments of politics, and there has been a huge expansion in both teaching and research about women and politics. This has 'put women back in', for example in studies of political behaviour and in political theory, and has highlighted the gendered nature of institutions such as bureaucracies and the state, and led to the development of an increasingly sophisticated body of feminist political theory.

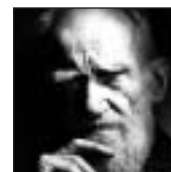
There is also now much information about the activities of women's movements locally, nationally and internationally. Considerable attention has been given to the different structures and measures that can affect the participation of women in conventional politics, such as different electoral systems like proportional representation and quotas. This research has influenced political parties that want to increase the numbers of women in legislative bodies and has influenced the design of institutions like the devolved assemblies recently established in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

## Comparative Politics

**Dr Ingrid van Biezen** *University of Birmingham*

Comparative politics is about identifying how, and explaining why, politics varies in different countries.

Studies range from analyses of a small number of countries to large-scale global comparisons. Comparative politics addresses topics as diverse as democratisation processes in eastern Europe and elsewhere, the growing disillusionment with conventional party politics, and issues of globalisation and governance in the twenty-first century. For the comparative political scientist, the real world of government is the laboratory to observe and discover how processes and institutions operate, to determine what works and what does not, and to understand and demonstrate theoretical and empirical relationships between political phenomena.



A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

**George Bernard Shaw**



If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

**John F. Kennedy**



The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.

**John Kenneth Galbraith**





### **European Integration** Dr Laura Cram *Strathclyde University*

Ten new member states joined the European Union (EU) on 1 May 2004. Together with the existing 15 member states they created an enlarged single market of more than 450 million people – larger than the United States and Japan combined.

There is now almost no aspect of domestic policy which is untouched by activities at the EU level. For the citizens of these countries, for employers and trade unions, for politicians, for bureaucrats, and for NGOs, the need to understand the functioning and dynamics of the European Union has never been greater. In trying to make sense of the multi-faceted work-in-progress that is the EU, political scientists – and lawyers, economists, geographers and sociologists – have established an impressive body of scholarship of EU studies.

We know much more about the operation of the EU and how best to influence it, the implications for individuals and organisations at the national level, and the lessons that can be learned from the experience of our counterparts within the EU. We also have growing numbers of well-trained analysts and researchers to work at home and abroad. The vibrant research and teaching community of EU studies is a vital part of today's political science community and a key resource for public and private bodies throughout the United Kingdom.



### **Public Administration** Dr Janice MacMillan *University of Northumbria*

Public administration is about the study of the organisation and management of the state. It is concerned with public services, political institutions and actors, decision-making and power.

Public administration is taught in a variety of academic settings and increasingly in university business schools where the emphasis moves from 'administration' to 'management'. Elements of public administration also appear in courses on politics, government, and social policy. Typically it includes public finance, policy analysis and evaluation, Europeanisation and globalisation, as well as research methods and information technology. Students gain both subject specific and generic transferable skills and graduates are highly sought after in many areas of the labour market.

Public administration research has focused on recent reforms in public service provision and findings are used to inform policy decisions and responses to those decisions. Researchers bridge the boundaries between theoretical and applied research and have worked effectively with practitioners on various ESRC research programmes on Whitehall, local governance, and devolution and constitutional change.

# Specialist Fields



## International Relations

**Professor Mick Cox** *London School of Economics*

No subject in the social sciences exists separately from the real world. So it is with the study of international relations in the UK. Born as a liberal project in the aftermath of World War One, its preoccupations changed dramatically with the onset of the Cold War. The search for peace after the carnage of the trenches gave way after 1947 to an almost rigid obsession with the East–West conflict. Ralph Miliband once observed that ‘IR’ was a conservative subject which provided little more than a gloss on the Cold War.



There was at the very least some truth to this. There were, though, many who challenged the Cold War logic of containment, and in the heady days of the 1980s played a vital part in the great debate about the role of nuclear weapons and the position Europe could, or should, occupy in a world still dominated by the superpowers. But even the critics got one thing wrong: the end of the Cold War in 1989 left many a self-confident analyst with egg on his or her face.

Nor did they anticipate the impact the end of the Cold War would have on the subject of international relations. One of the mantras of the 1990s was the need to think beyond the state and traditional views of international relations as a subject solely concerned with what happened between states. Old definitions of security were challenged and there was a surge of interest in those sources of insecurity – poverty, environmental degradation, migration and the like – that had very little to do with what states did in the international system.

As a result the subject has never been so open or vibrant. British IR is at least one field that has benefited from the collapse of old certainties, even if its practitioners back then were unaware that the old order was about to go under. Whether the new generation proves to be more prescient remains to be seen.



We must build a kind of United States of Europe. The process is simple. All that is needed is the resolve of hundreds of millions of men and women to do right instead of wrong and to gain as their reward blessing instead of cursing.

**Sir Winston Churchill**



No, no, no.

**Margaret Thatcher**



Yes, Prime Minister.

**Sir Humphrey Appleby**



New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any reason but because they are not already common.

**John Locke**





**T**he relationship between political studies research and the practice of politics in the UK has become close and positive. A new language of 'policy relevance', 'end-users' of research, and 'user engagement' has grown up to describe the interactions which now exist between politics research and the practitioners who 'use' it in government, business, the media, think tanks, and the voluntary sector – Charlie Jeffery looks below at how this relationship has developed during the 20th century.

### Policy Relevance

Interaction between researchers and practitioners has been one of the enduring themes in British political studies. The creation of Nuffield College at Oxford in the 1930s was for example an early attempt to establish a 'meeting of minds between social scientists and men of action – central and local government officials, politicians and businessmen' which 'could revolutionise the study of contemporary society by the effect it would have in making the theorist and practical man accustomed to helping and consulting one another'.

The experience of many university lecturers during World War II in Whitehall and other branches of public administration also laid strong foundations, by showing the importance the social sciences could have in public affairs.

However, only in a small number of fields did political scientists develop regular and fruitful working relationships with practitioners. Election studies was one, where a succession of key figures like Bob Mackenzie, David Butler and Anthony King made a genuine impact by bringing scholarship to general election nights. A close relationship also developed between centres for research on local government in Birmingham, Newcastle, Strathclyde and, later, De Montfort, and practitioners in local government. Some individual specialists in international relations and European politics – For example, Lawrence Freedman, Willie Paterson and Helen Wallace – made important contributions in foreign policy.

Otherwise, though, enduring interaction between scholarship and practice remained rare.



# Making a Difference



Do political studies and international relations matter? In a rapidly changing world it is easy to assume that the problems that we are facing are new and to act accordingly. Yet, this is rarely the case; time and again policy-makers find themselves tackling problems that their predecessors have done, never more so than with the war in Iraq. Clearly there are lessons to be learned if politicians are so-minded. The discipline of political science, which looks at empirical events in a systematic way, is important in helping us understand the likely outcomes of policy choices and for that reason is vitally useful in real life, not just in text books.

**Dr Julie Smith**

*Head, European Programme, Royal Institute of International Affairs*

## The 1980s: A Turning Point

The radical reforms in policy direction and public administration launched by the Thatcher governments opened up new political territory for practitioners to chart and negotiate. Demand for research grew but was not fully realised during a Thatcher era notable for government scepticism about social science. Since then, though, government has been more open to co-operation and consultation with social scientists.

One factor in this new relationship has been the funding policies of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The ESRC funds social science research to the value of over £100 million annually, and it has increasingly required applicants to relate their research to 'the needs of users and beneficiaries'.

This applied focus is now a central element of much politics research. Research projects, whether funded by ESRC or not, are routinely carried out in consultation with relevant bodies in the public and private sectors, and take care to present their findings in ways attuned to practitioners.

In part responding to ideas generated by politics academics, the ESRC launched a



range of research programmes centred on key areas of political studies. The ESRC's *Whitehall Programme* ran, for example, from 1994–1999 with the aim of describing, explaining and creating a better understanding of changes in British government. Like a number of similar initiatives, its aim was to bridge scholarship and practice by – as its Director, Rod Rhodes, put it – 'appreciating one another's problems and learning one another's languages'.

Government departments make a substantial contribution to political studies research in the United Kingdom. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has dedicated research units that reflect its main areas of policy responsibility. Research undertaken includes evaluations of major government policy areas (such as local government modernisation, neighbourhood renewal and regional devolution), the provision of good practice guidance and the identification of emerging needs. Government researchers within the ODPM work closely with external research and policy communities to maximise the links between research, policy makers and practitioners.

**Office of the Deputy Prime Minister**

*Local and Regional Government Research Unit*



The objectives remain the same and indeed that has been made clear by the prime minister in a speech yesterday that the objectives are clear and the one about the removal of the Taliban is not something we have as a clear objective to implement but it is possible a consequence that will flow from the Taliban clearly giving protection to Bin Laden and the UN resolution made it absolutely clear that anyone that finds them in that position declares themselves an enemy and that clearly is a matter for these objectives.

**Rt Hon John Prescott MP**

*Deputy Prime Minister*



In politics and in trade, bruisers and pirates are of better promise than talkers and clerks.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*US poet*



*'We've got a problem – it won't be fixed by talking about it. We've got to make war for it.'*



# The Political Studies Association

**T**he Political Studies Association was founded in 1950. The objects of the Association are 'to promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in other branches of the political sciences'.

It is the leading organisation in the UK linking academics in political science and current affairs, theorists and practitioners, policy-makers, journalists, researchers and students in higher education. The Association has a well-deserved reputation for scholarship. It is regularly consulted by higher education policy-makers and funding councils for its advice and expertise.



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

## **From the Prime Minister's Letter of Support on the PSA's 50th Anniversary in 2000**



The PSA is recognised throughout the world as being a leader in its field, and its members can take pride in its achievements.

The Government values highly the contribution of the academic community to serving the wider needs of society. British political scientists have contributed much in the last few years to key areas of policy such as citizenship education, and in carrying out research which feeds into evidence-based policy-making.

Devolution and constitutional reform, and policy challenges as diverse as social exclusion, sustainable development and the new economy, can all benefit from research by political scientists. The same is true in international politics – the future of the EU, globalisation, and new, collective challenges in securing peace and stability in Europe and beyond

The new global economy requires an increasingly skilled and educated society. Political studies at UK universities have a vitally important role in making sure we all have traditional critical skills in argument, evaluation and analysis with the power of new technologies. These are challenges I am confident the PSA and its members throughout the UK's universities can meet.

*Tony Blair*



## Journals

The Association provides a forum for scholarship through four quality journals, published in association with Blackwell Publishers.

- *Political Studies* is one of the leading journals in the field and attracts contributions from academics of international standing. Through articles, reviews, debates and research notes, it reflects the vigour and importance of the discipline of politics and contributes significantly to the development of political science internationally.
- *Political Studies Review* is a new resource for political scientists worldwide, including the unique book reviews service of *Political Studies* and major review articles. The journal builds on more than 50 years of book reviewing which have made *Political Studies* the largest source of book reviews in political studies in the world.
- *Politics* is a key teaching resource, identifying the topics that students really need to know about. It has a reputation for lively writing, and contains debates and analyses by both established and new members of the political science community.
- *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* aims to influence international debates in political science. It encourages contributions from scholars in all parts of the discipline and from all parts of the globe, and has a reputation for innovative interdisciplinary research.

## Other publications

- *Political Studies Association News* is a regular newsletter, including short articles and commentaries, news from departments, information on research grants and projects, plus details of conferences, specialist groups and other activities.
- *Annual Directory* lists all political scientists in the UK and Ireland by university and department. An online version of the directory is available to members at: [www.psa.ac.uk](http://www.psa.ac.uk).

- *Media Register of Experts* compiled from the latest research information, lists experts on politics and political science in the UK.
- *Studying Politics* is an accessible guide to the study of politics in higher education, distributed to all UK sixth forms and colleges.

## Activities

The Association offers a unique arena for the exchange of ideas and expertise.

- *Annual Conference* attracts leading politicians, civil servants and academics, and includes more than 100 specialist discussion panels across the whole range of the discipline: from government and institutions, through to policy studies, international relations, gender studies, political theory and much more.
- *Specialist Groups* cover all the major fields of research. Each provides a forum in which individuals with specialised research and teaching interests can develop their own seminars and conferences to supplement the Annual Conference.
- *Heads of Department Conferences* are held to assist UK politics departments with planning and training for research and teaching, and to promote best practice.

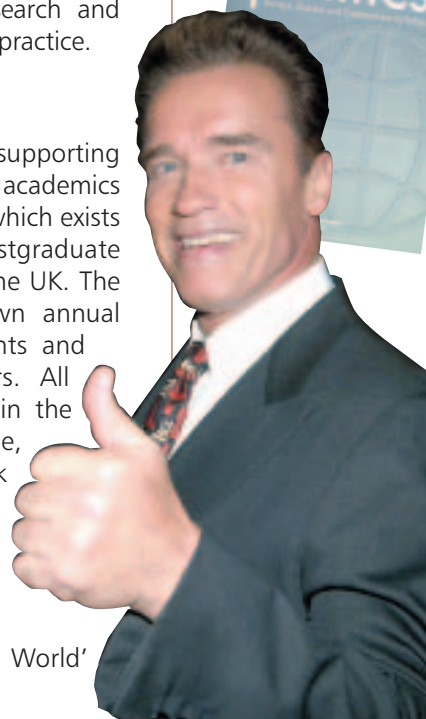
## Graduate Network

The Association is committed to supporting the next generation of political academics through the Graduate Network, which exists to promote links between postgraduate students in politics throughout the UK. The Graduate Network holds its own annual conference, regional group events and short conferences for members. All postgraduates are entitled to join the Association at a reduced rate, including free Graduate Network membership.

## The Association Online

[www.psa.ac.uk](http://www.psa.ac.uk)

'Best Political Science Site in the World'  
Lycos.





*Seven with one blow:  
Macmillan dropped  
Selwyn Lloyd, David  
Eccles, Charles Hill,  
John Maclay, Lord  
Kilmuir, Harold  
Wilkinson and Lord  
Mills, 13 July 1962*

**T**he Political Studies Association owes its creation to UNESCO. In a flush of post-war enthusiasm about the possibilities of social science, UNESCO initiated discussions on establishing international associations of scholars in economics, sociology, law and politics. The International Political Science Association was set up in September 1949 and was to be constituted on the basis of national bodies.

### **Founding the Political Studies Association**

The letter opposite was circulated in November 1949 and led to the Association's founding conference on 23 – 24 March 1950 in Oxford. This was organised by David Butler who later became the leading figure in UK election studies. The inaugural conference proceeded in difficult circumstances, with the country's highest profile politics professor, and the keynote speaker, Harold Laski, falling terminally ill on the eve of the conference. Fifty years later the Association honoured Laski's memory by naming its 50th anniversary awards for outstanding achievement in politics and political studies the 'Laskis'.

Around 50 lecturers from 12 universities attended the founding conference, passing a constitution and electing a committee (with Oxford's Norman Chester as the inaugural Chairman). The Association's conference became an annual event with, as Frank Bealey recalls, a series of memorable programmes including Ernest Barker's 1954 description of nazism, delivered in his uncompromising Lancashire accent, as a 'mixture of 'egelianism and 'ooliganism' and Edward Heath's speech in 1955 on 'The Art of Whipping'.

The Committee moved quickly to establish a journal, *Political Studies*, which was published for the first time in February 1953 by Oxford University Press. The annual subscription was 25 shillings. The founding Editor was Wilfrid Harrison from Oxford who took on the job – in his own words – 'in a fit of absence of mind'. None the less, he did an admirable job, laying the foundations from which *Political Studies* has developed into one of the world's leading politics journals.

### **The International Political Science Association**

Over the years, the British contribution to IPSA has been beneficial in many ways. The Political Studies Association of the UK became a member of the International Political Science Association in 1950. Two IPSA presidents have come from the UK: William A. Robson (1952–1955) and D.N. Chester (1961–1964). The IPSA committee on research and training has been chaired by three members of Political Studies Association: Kenneth Newton (1988–1991), Pippa Norris (1991–1994) and Ursula Vogel (1997–2000). Many British colleagues have participated in IPSA symposia, conferences and world congresses. It is important for all of us, in this era of internationalised politics, to try to strengthen our connections and for our UK colleagues to also benefit from closer contact with the international political science community.

# A Brief History

## Growth of a Discipline

The Political Studies Association was launched at the point when politics began to expand rapidly in universities. By the mid-1950s many universities had established at least a couple of lectureships in political studies, with these typically then building the core of new departments. The expansion of the university sector in the 1960s, and the growing presence of courses on politics in polytechnics, added further impetus. Following a halt in the later 1970s and 1980s, the trajectory of growth resumed with 90 institutions providing over 14,000 student places on politics courses at the turn of the 21st century.

The subject matter of political studies in the UK has also broadened immensely. Early, rather anxious, debates about what the intellectual 'core' of political studies was, or should be, dissipated rapidly into a pragmatic and open-minded exploration of the boundaries of political analysis. Teaching and research were often organised around the three fields of political theory, government, and international relations, but



new specialisms emerged through growing contacts with political scientists elsewhere, especially in the USA and across Europe, and as new theories and issues became prominent. Over time, election studies, comparative politics, area studies, gender studies, public policy research, environmentalism, European integration, development studies, political economy and public opinion research all became established fields of enquiry.

November 1949

Dear Sir

### Proposed formation of a Universities' Political Studies Association

It has been proposed that a Political Studies Association should be formed for University teachers in the United Kingdom.

Teachers in many other branches of academic studies already have an Association. In recent years a considerable development has taken place in political studies in the Universities. The time would now appear opportune for the formation of an Association covering teachers in this field. The formation in September of an International Political Science Association supported in the first instance by a grant from UNESCO adds point to the need for the establishment of an Association in this country.

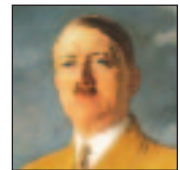
The precise scope of the Association would require full consideration. At the moment it is suggested that membership should be open to all University teachers in Political Theory and Institutions, Government and Public Administration, Constitutional and Administrative Law, International Relations, International Law and similar subjects.

It is not suggested that the Association should immediately embark on any ambitious functions or projects. An annual meeting for the discussion of papers and the exchange of ideas ought to be possible. The arranging of other meetings, the publication of some kind of research and information bulletin, perhaps even of a journal, would also come up for consideration.

If this letter meets with a favourable reception it is proposed to convene a first meeting early next year at which, in addition to the discussion of one or two papers, an Association could be formally constituted. We invite the cooperation of all University teachers in political studies.

Yours sincerely

*Ernest Barker, D.W. Brogan, G.D.H. Cole, D.N. Chester, Hector Hetherington, H.J. Laski, Lindsay of Birker, W.J.M. Mackenzie, M. Oakeshott, W.A. Robson, K.B. Smellie, E.C.S. Wade, K.C. Wheare, C.H. Wilson*



A mix of 'egelianism and 'ooliganism

**Adolf Hitler**



Expert in 'The Art of Whipping'

**Edward Heath**



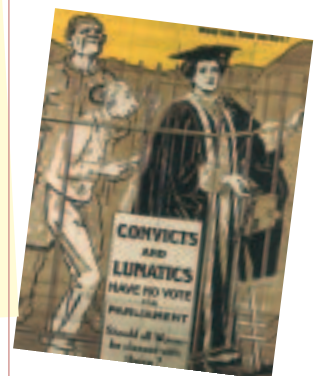
Co-founder of the Association and inspiration for the Golden Jubilee Awards.

**Professor Harold Laski**



Leading psephologist and organiser of the Association's inaugural conference.

**David Butler**





### **Growth of the Association**

The challenge for the Political Studies Association has been to keep pace with the growth of the politics discipline, its changing nature and growing diversity. It has certainly done so in terms of membership. One year after its foundation conference in 1950 it had 100 members, by 1960 it was 179 and by 1975 membership was 600. On its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2000, the number had reached 1,100, and by the end of 2003 the Association could report membership of well over 1,400, ranging from graduate students to those in retirement.

Naturally, the Annual Conference has much changed since the inaugural event in 1950. Long-time members like Frank Bealey, Nevil Johnson and Peter Pulzer all recall a cosy, club-like atmosphere in the early years, with everyone attending each presentation (just 7 or 8 in total) and knowing each other. As the Association has grown, so has the conference. At the Fiftieth Conference, held at the LSE in April 2000, there were some 154 panels, with at least 12 running in parallel at any one time, with well over 400 papers presented, and well over 600 UK political scientists in attendance.

### **The American Political Science Association**

Political science has a dual life – both as a resource for citizens in their civic life, and as a framework for scholars to help explain human experiences and resolve human difficulties. It reaches into both the humanities and the sciences to fuel these efforts – taking lessons from history, the law, social science, philosophy, and from ‘hard knocks’ practical experience in politics and community life. Few topics allow the marriage of reflection and action, and of science and humanities, applied to topics of critical importance to public and community life as political science. Simply put, political science matters, and responds with a rich palette. In the global world of today and the future, the American Political Science Association joins with the Political Studies Association (UK) in affirming our commitment to support of scholarship and civic education and engagement.



# A Brief History



## The European Consortium for Political Research

Founded in 1970, the European Consortium for Political Research supports and encourages the training, research and cross-national cooperation of approximately 8,000 political scientists in nearly 300 institutions throughout Europe and beyond. It is the third largest political science organisation in the world, after the International Political Science Association and the American Political Science Association. The ECPR runs the annual Joint Sessions, usually involving around 25 workshops and some 500 paper givers, and a biannual conference attracting over a 1,000 participants. These events take place across Europe, most recently in Uppsala and Edinburgh. It also sponsors 10 summer schools, again throughout Europe, and produces two of the profession's main journals – the *European Journal of Political Research* and *European Political Science*. British universities form one of the largest national contingents within the organisation, which also has associate members in the United States, Asia and other parts of the world.

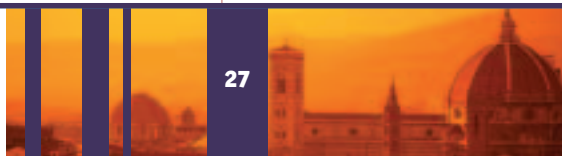
The wider portfolio of activities has also expanded radically, supported by the growing income from a successful publishing partnership with Blackwell Publishers. The Association now produces four journals with Blackwells: *Political Studies*, one of the leading politics journals worldwide; *Politics*, focused on surveys and debates for use in teaching politics at university; the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, a showcase for the work of the UK political studies community; and the new *Political Studies Review*, the most comprehensive politics book-reviewing operation in the world.

established intermediary for input and advice to agencies involved in teaching quality and research assessment, and in research funding. Politics research is also increasingly addressed at 'users', practitioners and opinion-formers in politics, the civil service, the media, local government and the private and voluntary sectors. Much of this is a result of greater openness of government to social science research, much with the input the Political Studies Association has made in reshaping understandings of politics research, in co-operation with key bodies like the Economic and Social Research Council.

## Simply put, political science matters

The journals are supplemented by other publications and events which support the profession, including an award-winning website at [www.psa.ac.uk](http://www.psa.ac.uk), a regular newsletter, and conferences of Heads of Departments of Politics with sessions on developments in higher education policy. The Association is also in contact with 'sister' associations worldwide and has a strong presence at meetings of the American Political Science Association, the European Consortium for Political Research and, its once parental body, the International Political Science Association.

Increasingly important is the growing engagement of the Association and politics academics with policy-makers. It is an





**T**he following pages provide some information and views on the directions and findings of political studies research in the UK. Research in political studies has a number of purposes. It underpins the discipline of political studies, providing the material through which students learn and develop their own skills in argument, analysis and communication.

Some of that research is abstract and theoretical, focused, for example, on normative understandings of 'justice' or 'rights'. But, as in most other academic disciplines, political studies research can also have wider implications and uses. Just as economists or engineers transfer new knowledge won through research into practical applications, so do political scientists.

Political scientists research issues which impact directly and often heavily on society and their findings can be useful for policy-makers, the media, and pressure groups. The impact might be diffuse but it is no less powerful for that as the contributions in this booklet confirm.

Political studies research in the UK is remarkable for its diversity. The discipline had multiple roots: in university departments of history, economics, law and philosophy. It has never succumbed to the temptations of establishing an 'orthodoxy' on the methods of research.

The best politics research in the UK can be rooted in interviews with policy-makers, close critical examination of theoretical texts, or the collection and analysis of large statistical datasets and as the last national Research Assessment clearly showed UK public research is of very high quality.

### **Politics in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise**

Every few years research in each university discipline is evaluated by a national panel. The last exercise was in 2001, and the findings were:

- A general increase in assessment scores across departments.
- The way in which the panel applied its criteria meant that the main standards of quality – whether research was of national or international standard – were demanding.
- 24 out of 69 political studies departments that entered scored one of the top two grades, signifying a high proportion of research work that meets the toughest international quality standards.
- Work of high quality was being done across the full range of sub-fields of political studies.
- Scholars in the early stages of their careers were producing work of international quality.
- Departments attached importance to the creation of the next generation of scholars through PhD programmes.

# Research and Analysis



The governance of our communities and the delivery of public services have both undergone significant change since 1997, including devolution in Scotland and Wales, the development of regional structures in England, the 'modernisation' of local government, new policies on community involvement and neighbourhood renewal and new models of service delivery. Robust, timely and policy-relevant political studies research has been (and continues to be) essential in tracking these changes and in assessing their impact on individuals and communities across the UK, particularly those who are disadvantaged, disempowered and disengaged.

**Barbara Kneen** *Joseph Rowntree Foundation*



## Recent Findings from Politics Research

British environmental policy has been Europeanised indirectly, stealthily and often contrary to the expectations of British government.

**Andrew Jordan**  
*University of East Anglia*

The British are better citizens than the doomsters think, but they are increasingly cynical about politicians and the way democracy works.

**Charles Pattie and Patrick Seyd**  
*University of Sheffield*

There is a widening gap between the pro-Europe views of national elites in states in Eastern Europe wanting to join the EU and the increasingly Euro-ambivalent attitudes in public opinion. This could have a negative effect on implementing the agreed conditions of EU membership.

**Jim Hughes**  
*London School of Economics*

Strong local political party campaigns play an important role in influencing turnout and results in marginal seats. But there has been a move, particularly by Labour and the Conservatives, towards relying on national call centres and central telephone banks.

**David Denver**  
*Lancaster University*





## **Political Studies: One of the Main Pillars of the Social Sciences**

**Dr Chris Caswill**, *Former Director of Research at the Economic and Social Research Council*

Knowledge about the nature and processes of influence, power and governance is vital for a healthy democratic society. This seems to me to be the essential case for political research, and the reason for its presence as one of the main pillars of the social sciences, addressing vital aspects of human behaviour which are all too often sidestepped in other disciplines. For the future, I suggest that improved understanding of political structure, process and outcomes will depend on encouraging complementary contributions from political theory and empirical research, and on the facilitation of the interactions between the two. Both offer insights into policy options and both provide the basis for further research.

On a personal note, I would also make a plea for further exploration of the boundaries between political research and new developments in economics and psychology, and for the reinvigoration of political sociology. Last but not least, I repeat the plea for political research to play a larger role in the field of science policy, where the dimensions of power and delegation have been overlooked for far too long. Good luck to the political studies community in its promotion of research on such a crucial set of intellectual and policy issues.







## Politics Research and Devolution

**Barbara Doig**, *Chief Research Officer, Scottish Executive*

'There shall be a Scottish Parliament'. These six words, which opened the Scotland Act 1998, are engraved on the Parliament's mace, and are of profound importance to Scotland and its people. Political studies have been significant in the design of the arrangements for a devolved Scotland, in the analysis of policy developments, elections, polls, resource allocation, expenditure patterns, and in the assessments of the effectiveness of devolution, its institutions and its legislative impacts.

Political studies research has influenced the devolution framework, its implementation and the ongoing debates, consultations and decisions of all the players – politicians, civil servants, the media and the public. And this rich mix will continue to provide fertile ground for studies which will influence future political and policy agendas within Scotland, and provide material for comparison with other administrations in the United Kingdom, and with regions with legislative powers in Europe and beyond.

Political studies research unites theoretical insights with empirical work in a fruitful collaboration. Academic research on politics has rarely been so vibrant or so relevant as today. British universities are producing high-quality research which not only informs the political debate, but also makes current political developments comprehensible to our own and future generations.

**Dr Heather Grabbe**, *Director of Research, Centre for European Reform*



## Recent Findings from Politics Research

More than a decade after the end of the Cold War, former Soviet citizens still see NATO as the main threat to their security and have only the sketchiest notion of the aims and activities of the European Union.

**Stephen White**  
*University of Glasgow*

In spite of holding five free elections in the past decade, Russian democracy is only skin-deep. Most Russians are cynical about honest government and prefer the old ways of getting things done – bribery and contacts.

**Richard Rose**  
*Strathclyde University*

Devolution remains the most popular constitutional option in Northern Ireland, despite the problems with the Belfast Agreement and growing suspicions between Protestants and Catholics. But both communities want the Northern Ireland Assembly to be given more powers in the future.

**Roger MacGinty**  
*University of York*

Young people feel excluded from decision-making processes because of their age. They feel they are rarely consulted or listened to, even in connection with issues that directly affect them.

**David Marsh**  
*University of Birmingham*



**M**any politics academics do their research individually or in small groups. However in recent years research funders, in particular the Economic and Social Research Council, have built programmes of research or research centres which cluster together expertise on a particular subject.

### **New Security Challenges**

The Economic and Social Research Council's programme on New Security Challenges is commissioning over 30 projects to investigate the threat of war, terrorism and organised violence on global, regional and national societies. The recent war in Iraq, and the previous one in Afghanistan, show that traditional security issues of war and peace are still important. In addition, since the al Qaeda attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001 and subsequent atrocities in Bali, Mumbai, Istanbul, Madrid and elsewhere, the threat of terrorism is an ever present concern.

How is it that groups can plan to kill people, just for what they represent? Yet in this war-prone world, with ever present fears of terrorism, other acts of organised violence still continue between groups (in Africa, for example) in what are sometimes seen as traditional rivalries, while human trafficking – especially of women – continues. The programme will analyse all of these dimensions, as well as possibilities for bringing about improvements in the human condition, whether through greater international cooperation, or through the careful application of new technologies.

### **Nations and Regions: The Dynamics of Devolution**

Devolution is transforming the UK's system of government. To understand the changes, the Constitution Unit at University College London won funding from the Leverhulme Trust to bring together teams of experts from across the UK and overseas, all well placed to explore the new dynamics that emerge. The five-year research programme is built around three main themes, with 11 projects in total. A monitoring exercise producing quarterly reports on developments in each part of the UK underpins the whole programme. The three themes are: national and regional Identities and attitudes; the English question; intergovernmental relations. Further information is available at [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/leverh/index.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/leverh/index.htm).





## One Europe or Several?

This ESRC programme set out to explore the dynamics of political and social change across the European continent, inside the EU and beyond. Running from 1998–2003, it consisted of 26 projects with an overall budget in excess of £4m and alongside political scientists drew on economists, lawyers, international relations and security specialists, geographers and sociologists, and took a particular care to engage with practitioners.

The findings of the Programme suggest that there are indeed several 'Europes' in terms of patterns of governance, security organisation, and social and economic context. Importantly, however, these do not all map directly onto political boundaries. EU enlargement will create new cleavages as hard borders replace soft borders. The slow growth of EU 'hard power' attributes also raise challenges for countries that are not members but who are in NATO or, like Russia, unlikely ever to be in the EU. Further details are available at [www.one-europe.ac.uk](http://www.one-europe.ac.uk).

## Governance and Public Policy

The Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research was established in 2001 at Queen's University, Belfast, with an award in excess of £5 million from the Support Programme for University Research. Its creation recognises that the ways public



policies are conceived and delivered are changing rapidly in the face of social, economic and political developments, such as globalisation, devolution, privatisation and Europeanisation. All societies, including Northern Ireland, must face the challenge of adapting to these changing patterns of governance in order to guarantee the making of effective public policy. The Institute's aim is to make a significant contribution to the future of Northern Ireland through interdisciplinary work which impacts on issues of governance, public policy and social research at all levels from the local to the global. website: [www.governance.qub.ac.uk](http://www.governance.qub.ac.uk).



## Recent Findings from Politics Research

We looked at how citizens evaluate local services and what implications this has for their efficient delivery. Results show that Londoners would be more satisfied if more money was allocated to public transport, Manchester residents would be happier if more was spent on planning and economic development, and people in the West Midlands if more money was spent on street cleaning.

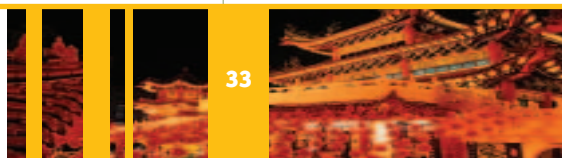
**Keith Dowding**  
*London School of Economics*

If there is cause for concern, it is with the failure of central government to appreciate and adapt to the consequences of devolution. It still doesn't understand what devolution has meant and it is often unclear in which role it is operating: as a government for England, a UK government or in a role overseeing the devolved governments.

**John Adams**  
*Institute for Public Policy Research*

As the political significance of law and order grew in the last decade, so the approaches of the main parties became more similar. In the 1997 and 2001 elections Labour showed a lead over the Conservatives, but there is evidence that the government is becoming increasingly vulnerable on this issue.

**John Benyon**  
*University of Leicester*





## Electoral and Social Trends

The Centre for Research on Electoral and Social Trends (CREST) is an ESRC research centre jointly based at the National Centre for Social Research in London and the University of Oxford. It was founded in 1994 and it conducts and interprets high quality social surveys of the general public, designed to document and explain changing patterns of voting behaviour, trends in social attitudes, and similarities and differences between Britain and other countries. Elections, the cornerstones of any democracy, are a primary focus of CREST's attention and analysis. CREST also develops and encourages improved methods of measuring attitudes and behaviour.

Its work addresses four main questions: why do people in Britain vote the way they do?; how are social attitudes changing?; how does Britain differ from other countries in its social attitudes and political behaviour?; how can we best measure people's social attitudes and political behaviour? CREST's website is at [www.crest.ox.ac.uk](http://www.crest.ox.ac.uk).

## Globalisation and Regionalisation

The Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR), inaugurated in 1997, at the University of Warwick, is the largest academic centre in Europe dealing with this subject area. Funded by the ESRC, CSGR's research agenda highlights issues of the definition, measurement, impacts, and policy implications of globalisation and regionalisation. Much of the Centre's research concentrates on questions such as international financial crises, multi-jurisdictional tax competition, the development of global and regional governance institutions, social policy issues in globalisation, social movement resistance, and other civil society activities regarding globalisation, and the implications of globalisation for international security. CSGR research spans all regions of the world, as well as relations between them. Further information is available at [www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/CSGR](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/CSGR).

## Democracy and Participation

The Economic and Social Research Council's Democracy and Participation programme commenced in 1999 and ran to 2003 and encompassed 21 projects from a range of disciplines, including politics, sociology, social policy, geography and education. The programme addressed a number of key concerns about the current state of British democracy and participation by citizens and groups. The five core questions were: is there a crisis of participation and democratic legitimacy in Britain?; why do some people participate when others do not?; what are the effects of a changing environment, particularly constitutional and political changes, on participation?; what are the links between participation, governance and democratic accountability?; what participation is taking place? The programme's website is at [www.essex.ac.uk/democracy](http://www.essex.ac.uk/democracy).



## Future Governance

The Future Governance programme supported 30 research projects concerned with public policy and policy transfer. These addressed questions about the circumstances under which cross-national policy lessons are sought, the conditions under which policies can be transferred, how the process of transfer works and the political, social, economic and cultural variables that affect how lessons drawn from experiences in one jurisdiction can be applied in another. It provided lessons for policy development across the range of government services and generates broader insights into how innovations developed in one country may be adapted to work successfully in another. The programme's website is at [www.hull.ac.uk/futgov](http://www.hull.ac.uk/futgov).



## Devolution and the Constitution

How do people in the different parts of the UK understand and participate in the devolved institutions set up since 1997? Does a common sense of Britishness still unite people from different parts of the UK, or have more exclusive national – English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish – identities become more important? How well do the devolved institutions work? How far is the UK 'centre' in Westminster and Whitehall having to change the way it works as a result of devolution? Does devolution result in the provision of different standards of public service, say in health or education, or in growing differentials in economic performance from one part of the UK to another? If so, does it matter? These are some of the questions asked in 35 research projects in the ESRC research programme on Devolution and Constitutional Change, which runs from 2000–2005. Further details can be found at [www.devolution.ac.uk](http://www.devolution.ac.uk).



There are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know. And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tend to be the difficult ones.

**Donald Rumsfeld**

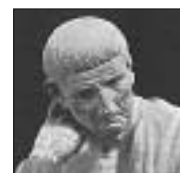
*US Defence Secretary*



We offer the party as a big tent. How we do that, with the platform, the preamble to the platform or whatnot, that remains to be seen. But that message will have to be articulated with great clarity.

**Dan Quayle**

*Former Vice-President of the United States*



Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

**Aristotle**

*Philosopher*



In November 2000, to mark its Golden Jubilee, the Political Studies Association held a special awards ceremony. The 22 awards, named the 'Laskis', after the Twentieth Century politics academic and politician Harold Laski, were presented to political scientists, politicians, and opinion formers, including pressure groups, the media and political satirists.

### Golden Jubilee Awards Ceremony

Margaret Beckett MP Leader of the House of Commons, made a powerful speech in which she underlined the importance of political studies for a modern healthy democracy. The Master of Ceremonies was Jim Naughtie, of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. Awards for *lifetime achievement in politics* were made to Lord Healey, Sir Edward Heath and Lord Jenkins, while a special award for *breaking the mould* was made to Baroness Thatcher and received on her behalf by John Redwood, MP.

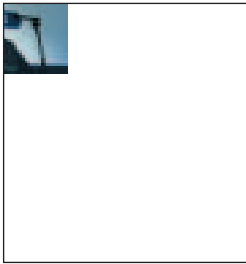
Tony Benn MP received the award for *outstanding parliamentarian*, Neal Ascherson was chosen for the award of *outstanding political journalist* and Mary Robinson was given an award for *outstanding contribution to international politics and civil society*. A special posthumous award for *outstanding political interviewer* was made to Sir Robin Day.

Awards for *outstanding political satire* were made to 'Yes Minister', 'Spitting Image' and 'Beyond the Fringe'. Radio 4's 'Analysis' programme and ITV's 'World in Action' each received an award for *outstanding broadcast journalism*, while awards for *setting the political agenda* were made to the Fawcett Society, Greenpeace, and Charter 88.

Six eminent political scientists received awards for *lifetime achievement in political studies* to mark their enormous contribution to the development of the discipline. These were Professors Brian Barry, Jean Blondel, David Butler, Sir Bernard Crick, Stanley Hoffman, and Richard Rose. They received their awards from Professor Samuel Beer, who had flown from the United States to be present at the ceremony.



# Annual Awards



## PSA Awards for Lifetime Achievement in Political Studies 2003



**Professor Lord Smith**



**Professor Lord Plant**



**Professor Jack Hayward**

## Political Studies Association Awards 2003

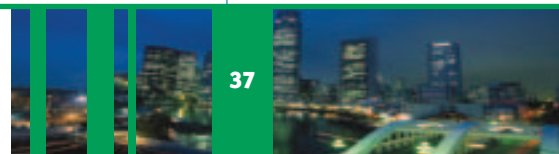
As a result of the great success of the Golden Jubilee Awards Ceremony, the Association decided to hold an annual awards ceremony with the purpose of celebrating the achievements of individuals and organisations that enhance the quality of the nation's political life and increase understanding of politics.

The award winners in 2003 were chosen by a jury of eminent academics, with members of the Association invited to put forward names for various categories. The Master of Ceremonies was again the *Today* programme's James Naughtie.

Baroness Williams and Dr Garret Fitzgerald received awards for *lifetime achievement in politics* and Ken Livingstone received the *politician of the year* award. Theresa May MP was voted *opposition politician of the year*, and Robin Cook MP received the award for *parliamentarian of the year*. The *Spectator* was voted *best political publication* and Polly Toynbee of the *Guardian* was

chosen as *political journalist of the year*. Awards for *lifetime achievement in political studies* went to Professor Jack Hayward, Professor Lord Plant of Highfield and Professor Lord Smith of Clifton. Professor Paul Whiteley received the *political science communication* award, and the *political science 'making a difference'* award went to Professors Patrick Dunleavy and Helen Margetts. The Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize, for *lifetime contribution to political studies*, was awarded to Professor Lord Parekh.

Professor Richard English received *book of the year* award for *Armed Struggle: A History of the IRA*. *Political satire* awards were made to Bremner, Bird and Fortune (*television*) and *Private Eye* (*print*). The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds received the *setting the agenda* award and BBC2's *Newsnight* won the *broadcast of the year* award for its special programme 'Blair on Iraq'. The new Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood in Edinburgh was voted *political turkey of the year*.





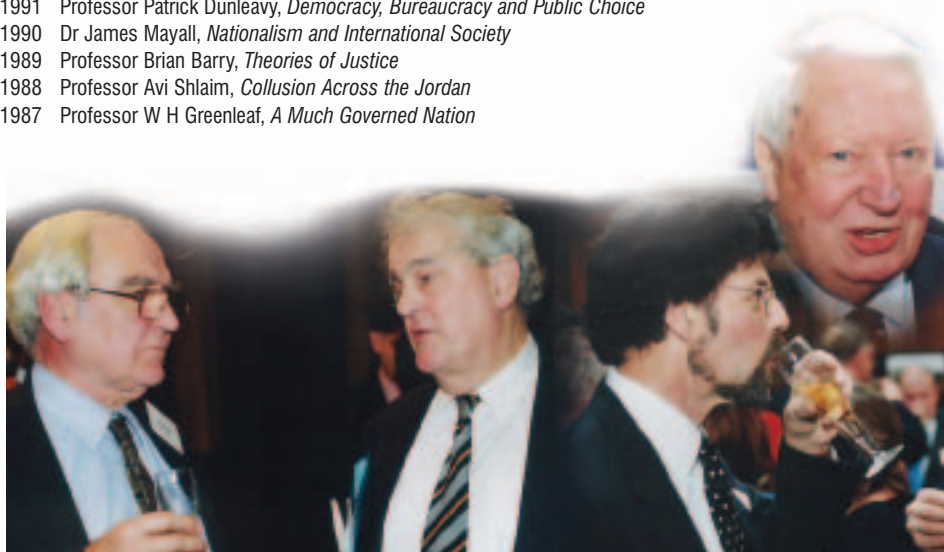
Each year the Political Studies Association presents a number of prizes for important work in various fields of political studies. The results are decided by judges who are eminent political scientists and experts in their respective fields. The judges set high standards and occasionally no award may be made for a particular prize, if the jury considers no entry is of sufficient merit.

The Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for lifetime contribution to political studies was instituted in 2000 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Association. The WJM MacKenzie Prize has been awarded on an annual basis since 1987 to the best book in political studies. The Wilfrid Harrison Prize is presented for the best article in each volume of *Political Studies*. Prizes are presented each year for the best PhD dissertations in four categories and the Sir Bernard Crick prizes are awarded for outstanding teaching.

In 2004 a new annual prize is being introduced. The winner of the Richard Rose Prize will be a younger scholar who has made a distinctive contribution through published work to the study of politics in the United Kingdom.

#### **W J M Mackenzie Prize** for the best book in political science

- 2002 Dr Philip Cowley, *Revolts and Rebellions: Parliamentary Voting under Blair*
- 2001 Professor David McKay, *Designing Europe: Lessons from the Federal Experience*
- 2000 Professor Brian Barry, *Culture and Equality: An Egalitarian Critique of Multiculturalism*
- 1999 Dr John Barry, *Rethinking Green Politics: Nature, Virtue and Progress*
- 1998 Professor Christopher Hood, *The Art of the State: Culture, Rhetoric, and Public Management*
- 1997 Professor S E Finer, *The History of Government from Earliest Times*
- 1996 Professor Archie Brown, *The Gorbachev Factor*
- 1995 Professor Brian Barry, *Justice as Impartiality*
- 1995 Professors Ivor Crewe and Anthony King, *The Birth, Life and Death of the British SDP*
- 1994 Professor Hillel Steiner, *An Essay on Rights*
- 1993 Dr Colin Crouch, *Industrial Relations and European State Traditions*
- 1992 Dr Ian Hampsher-Monk, *A History of Political Thought: Major Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx*
- 1991 Professor Patrick Dunleavy, *Democracy, Bureaucracy and Public Choice*
- 1990 Dr James Mayall, *Nationalism and International Society*
- 1989 Professor Brian Barry, *Theories of Justice*
- 1988 Professor Avi Shlaim, *Collusion Across the Jordan*
- 1987 Professor W H Greenleaf, *A Much Governed Nation*





# Prizes



## Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize

for lifetime contribution to political studies

- 2004 Professor Ivor Crewe *University of Essex*
- 2003 Professor Lord Parekh *University of Hull*
- 2002 Professor Anthony Birch *University of Victoria*
- 2001 Professor David Marquand *University of Oxford*
- 2000 Professor Samuel Beer *Harvard University*

## Sir Bernard Crick Prizes

for outstanding teaching

### Main Prize

- 2003 Dr Georgina Blakeley *University of Huddersfield*
- 2002 No prize awarded
- 2001 Dr Rose Gann *University of Central Lancashire*
- 2000 Professor Tim Gray *University of Newcastle*
- 1999 Dr Donna Lee *University of Birmingham*
- 1998 Dr Paul Taggart *University of Sussex*
- 1997 Dr Jon Tonge *University of Salford*
- 1996 Dr Elizabeth Bomberg *University of Stirling*

### New Entrant Prize

- 2003 Dr Dominic Kelly *University of Warwick*
- 2002 No prize awarded
- 2001 Dr Elisa Roller *University of Manchester*
- 1999 Dr Simon Hix *London School of Economics*
- 1998 Dr Rohit Lekhi *University of Warwick*
- 1997 Dr Anthony Forster *University of Nottingham*
- 1996 Dr Laura Cleary *University of Stirling*



## Wilfrid Harrison Prize for the best paper in Political Studies

- 2003 Professors Charles Pattie, Patrick Seyd and Paul Whiteley, *Citizenship and Civic Engagement: Attitudes and Behaviour in Britain*
- 2002 Dr Matthew Flinders, *Shifting the Balance? Parliament, Executive and the British Constitution*
- 2001 Dr Thomas König, *Bicameralism and Party Politics in Germany*
- 2000 Professor Jeremy Richardson, *Government, Interest Groups and Policy Change*
- 1999 Dr Todd Landman, *Economic Development and Democracy: the View from Latin America*
- 1997 Dr Linda Chelan Li, *Towards a Non-Zero-Sum Interactive Framework of Spatial Politics*
- 1996 Dr Barbara Arneil, *The Wild Indian's Venison: Locke's Theory of Property and English Colonialism in America*



## Winners of the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize

2004



Professor Ivor Crewe

2003



Professor Lord Parekh

2002



Professor Anthony Birch

2001



Professor David Marquand

2000



Professor Samuel Beer



**Arthur McDougall Prize for best dissertation in elections or representation**

- 2003 Alistair McMillan, *Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Party Competition in India*
- 2002 James Tilley, *Social and Political Generations in Britain*
- 2001 Anthony Billingham, *Leadership Performance and Electoral Support in Britain since 1979*
- 1999 Stephen Fisher, *Tactical Voting in England, 1987 to 1997*
- 1998 John Bartle, *Models of the 1992 British General Election*
- 1996 Fiona Mackay, *Gendered Discourses of Access and Action in Local Politics*
- 1995 Paul Flather, *Co-option and Exclusion – A Study of Indian MPs*

**Walter Bagehot Prize for best dissertation in government and public administration**

- 2003 Gita Subrahmanyam, *Bringing the Empire back in: Growth in the British Imperial State*
- 2002 Stephen Green, *Development of Stock Market Policy in China*
- 2001 Rajiv Prabhakar, *Stakeholder Capitalism: Foundations and Institutional Reform*
- 2000 Graeme Hayes, *Political Opportunity Structures and Environmental Protest in France*
- 1999 Maura Adshead, *Developing European Regions*
- 1998 Lawrence Pratchett, *The Politics of New Technologies in Local Government*
- 1997 Quentin Reed, *Political Corruption, Privatisation and Control in the Czech Republic*
- 1996 Helen Margetts, *Computerisation in American and British Central Government 1975-1995*
- 1995 Charles King, *The Politics of Language in Moldova*
- 1994 Andrew McLaughlin, *Governing the Motor Industry*
- 1992 Michael Temple, *Coalitions in English Local Government*
- 1993 Andrew Denham, *Think Tanks of the New Right*
- 1991 Peter Barberis, *Permanent Secretaries in the British Higher Civil Service*
- 1990 Martin Smith, *The Changing Agricultural Agenda*

**Lord Bryce Prize for best dissertation in comparative and international politics**

- 2003 Henrike Muller, *The Regulation of Insurance Services and the European Single Market*
- 2002 Thitinan Pongsudhirak, *Politics of Macroeconomic Management in Thailand 1947-1997*
- 2001 Razmik Panossian, *Armenia and its Diaspora*
- 2000 Alasdair Young, *Expanding Adaptation in European Foreign Economic Policy*
- 1999 Gavin Kelly, *Regional Finance: History, Theory, Policy*
- 1998 Sarah Birch, *The Social Determinants of Electoral Behaviour in Ukraine*
- 1998 Emmanuela Poli, *Forza Italia: Organisation, Power and Leadership*
- 1997 Deiniol Lloyd Jones, *The Role of Mediators in International Conflict*
- 1996 David Dolowitz, *An Examination of the British and American Welfare-to-Work Systems*
- 1995 Edward Pallesen, *United States Policy Towards Decolonisation in Asia 1945-1950*
- 1994 Dimitris Zeignis, *Nationalism, Greece and Turkey and the EU*
- 1990 Scott Thomas, *International Relations and the ANC in South Africa 1960-1985*
- 1989 Lisa Hooper, *International Co-operation: the Role for Institutional Mechanisms*

**Sir Ernest Barker Prize for best dissertation in political theory**

- 2003 Lynn Dobson, *Citizenship of the EU and the Philosophy of Alan Gewirth*
- 2003 Andrew Schaap, *Political Reconciliation*
- 2002 Graham Long, *Relativism and the Foundations of Liberalism*
- 2001 Sorin Baiasu, *Persons and Politics in Kant and Sartre*
- 1999 Derek Bell, *The Metaethical and Ethical Basis of Political Theory*
- 1998 Steven P Wall, *Liberalism, Perfectionism and Restraint*
- 1997 Matthew Clayton, *Educating Liberals: An Argument about Political Neutrality*
- 1997 Gareth Williams, *An Essay on Action and Knowledge in 'Kant's' Critical Philosophy*
- 1996 Ricardo Blaug, *Discourse Ethics and Democratic Practice*
- 1995 Lilian Zac, *Narratives of Order: Discourse of the Argentinean Military Regime 1976-1983*
- 1994 Norberto de Sousa, *Societas Civilis: Classical Roman Republican Theory on Justice*
- 1993 Davina Cooper, *Sexing the City – Lesbian and Gay Municipal Politics 1979-1987*
- 1991 Mary Cox, *The Political Roles of Women – Shakespeare and the Modern World*
- 1990 Karen Hunt, *The Social Democratic Federation and the Woman Question, 1884-1911*
- 1989 Jeremy Shearmur, *The Political Thought of von Hayek*
- 1989 Rachel Walker, *Soviet Marxism-Leninism and the Question of Ideology*

# Looking Forward



**T**he study of politics is flourishing in British universities. Applications for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are rising each year and the high standard of politics teaching in the UK was confirmed by the recent teaching quality audit carried out across the country. The relevance and impact of research by politics academics continue to grow and the excellence of UK politics research is widely recognised abroad.

## Resolving conflict

Politics is about how people live together and make decisions. It concerns the exercise of power and the allocation of resources – ‘who does what to whom’, according to Lenin, or ‘who gets what, when, how’, as Harold Lasswell put it.

Politics involves conflict and disagreement over ideas and interests and their resolution through co-operation, compromise or coercion, and it requires institutions, rules and procedures. It is about the relations between people, groups and the state and how government is – or should be – practised. It is also about the relations between sovereign nation states and how their different interests and views can be resolved.

Interest in politics has probably existed as long as humans have lived together in organised societies. But, alongside the enduring questions about how people can and should live together, and the rights and duties of citizens and the state, new issues for study have emerged.

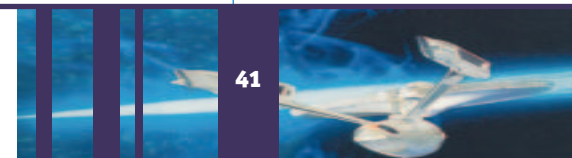
## Significant challenges

Today the topics of study include institutions and actors, ideas and theories, constitutions and processes, political behaviour, and the relations between different states, as well as public policy in fields such as education, health, law and order, and the environment.

Recent social changes with significant political effects include changing patterns of family life, growing secularisation, and the decline in deference and homogeneity. Comparative politics and international relations have also grown in importance.

Across the world, there are significant challenges to the traditional nation state and its jurisdiction, such as the growth and impact of global economic and cultural forces, the effects of migration, and the rise of international terrorism.

These factors help to explain the vitality and importance of political studies in British universities. They also suggest that interest in political studies is set to grow yet further in the coming period.



Global upheavals have made politics popular and the UK is now a world leader

# It's all about events,



Young people are flocking to politics... The rise in applications for politics degrees... This is the effect of September 11, or is there something more profound at work? LUCY HODGES reports



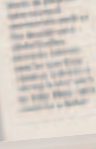
Higher education

## Politics on the march again

Academics are amazed by the sudden rise in applications for politics degrees. Is this the effect of September 11, or is there something more profound at work? LUCY HODGES reports



STUDYING POLITICAL IDEAS HAS MADE ME THINK



Studying political ideas has made me think... I am a student at a university... I have been studying politics for a long time... I have found it very interesting and challenging... I have learned a lot about the world and myself...

in research. Alan Thomson reports

# dear boy

Young people are flocking to politics... The rise in applications for politics degrees... This is the effect of September 11, or is there something more profound at work? LUCY HODGES reports

The real bottleneck is with young people starting their academic careers... People are being prepared to positions whereas CVs are not as good as people wanting to get their first job

Wyn Grant hopes to build PSA membership

## Politics buoyed by student vote

Young people really are interested in politics, they have a fancy way of showing it... The latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service show applications to read politics at university in 2003 are up by 94 per cent on last year, against an average of 4.2 per cent across all subjects and well ahead of other social sciences such as sociology (31 per cent) and sociology (10 per cent)

Wyn Grant, the new chairman of the Political Studies Association... Grant says that political studies is "a broadly good health"

Like a newspaper's circulation or a television show's ratings, applications matter to its schools or discipline... They're not the holy grail, but they are the key

Grant says a discipline that was successfully removed in the 1960s and experienced "a great deal of organic growth"...

He also wants to see more work on promoting the study of politics in schools... while AS levels offer a nice opportunity and greater awareness of the PSA's work...

## 22 Higher

25.11.03

# A generation awakes

The issues that brought thousands of protesters to London last week have contributed to a startling increase in the number of applications to study politics. By Donald MacLeod

Today the mass of the Westminster village will witness their anger from the academics who study them... The annual awards of the Political Studies Association will attract a small but well-constructed gathering...

"The guru is so sure he can cure diabetes with yoga, he is on a quest to prove it to the NHS" Show me the money Page 24

# Let's think...

**T**he best public policy is grounded in an understanding of people and their social and economic behaviour. As the UK's premier funder of leading edge, independent research, we aim to make a strong contribution to economic competitiveness, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and quality of life.

Our extensive research portfolio ranges from the impacts of devolution and the challenges presented by the productivity gap, to street crime, teaching and learning, the future of work and the

impact of information technology on people's lives. We fund a first class programme of research training for new academics – more than two thousand in any one year. And we support world-leading resources, such as the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) the National Child Development Study (NCDS), and the British Birth Cohort Study.

For more information contact Lesley Lilley, Senior PR and Parliamentary Officer at the ESRC.  
Telephone 01793 413119 email [lesley.lilley@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.lilley@esrc.ac.uk)

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