



Research Statement

Department of International Politics

City, University of London

May 23, 2023

- Revised draft, agreed upon after consultation process from October 2022 to February 2023 by departmental research committee and full department meeting on February 7, 2023,
- The purpose of the research statement is to communicate what kind of research we do, how we do research, how the department supports research, and how we would like to be supported in our research by other layers and bodies of the university administration.

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1. Research in the Department of International Politics

The Department of International Politics at City is a research-intensive centre for the study of global politics with strong links to scholars in universities around the world, the policy-making community, and the media. Our research focuses on four thematic clusters, including:

- comparative study of domestic politics
- political economy
- international relations
- political history.

This combination under one departmental roof is virtually unmatched in Political Studies. It enables our faculty and students to research, understand, and explain the making of the modern world, how it is shaped by international and domestic economic, political, social, financial, military, and diplomatic forces, and how these forces influence global, national, and multi-level politics.

We use and teach a wide range of methods and tools to do research, including elite interviews, quantitative and qualitative text analysis, concept formation, interpretation, computational social science, historical source analysis, discourse analysis, surveys, and experiments.

The members of our department do research because they are curious and excited to find out new things about how politics works and how it could work differently. Our most important goal is to do excellent and rigorous research. We believe that the best research as well as the best contributions to the world of political practice come from a research environment that gives scholars the freedom and resources to pursue their own ideas. We often do this collaboratively, together with our colleagues in the department, our students, the School of Policy and Global Affairs (SGPA) at City, the University, as well as scholars and institutions all over the world.

Our research is tightly connected to our teaching. Bringing our research into the classroom and the classroom to our research benefits and enriches both our research and our teaching. We collaborate with our students in doing research, and we believe that contributing to research is the best training-on-the-job for our students to learn the practice and craft of research.

We strongly believe that excellent research can come from a wide variety of motives and circumstances and be conducted with a wide range of methods and approaches. Some of our colleagues seek to explain the fundamental patterns of political behaviour; some are working on better ways to organize government institutions; some are cooperating with pressure groups to improve the system of taxation; some try to explain how global cooperation has emerged historically; and some are concerned with the philosophical foundations of politics. As a department, we foster an environment, where people can pursue research on their own terms as long as they are striving for excellence, and we contribute to building an environment in our school and university that recognizes and supports this ambition.

We see our research as a bottom-up process that starts with the insights and ideas of an individual or a group of scholars and collaborators, and that branches out on that foundation. We often communicate our research widely, and we engage with the world of practical politics – governments, NGOs, experts, the media, and many others – whenever we can. In developing new research questions, the members of our department rely on their understanding of their academic fields and the world around them so that we are responsive to developments in the real world and our discipline. Our research is cutting-edge with respect to the academic fields to which it contributes and the real world.

The department organizes research themes to achieve the best possible combination of comprehensiveness and concentration. We have four thematic clusters:

- International Political Economy (IPE)

IPE focuses on the study of political economy from international and comparative perspectives.

- Modern History (HIS).

Our Modern History cluster concentrates on the connections between global and domestic developments during the 19th and 20th centuries.

- Comparative Politics (CP)

Our colleagues in Comparative Politics study political competition in democratic countries and authoritarian politics from comparative, individual, and transnational perspectives.

- International Politics (IP)

The IP cluster is concerned with the study of international relations, foreign and security policy, and global governance.

The study of political theory and the instruction of methods are integral elements of all four clusters. Clusters sometimes establish dedicated research areas, which invite interdisciplinary perspectives and build networks of scholars and policymakers from our department, school, university, as well as national, European, and international partners.

In each of our four clusters, colleagues concentrate on focused and cutting-edge research questions. At the same time, the clusters cover the entire range of topics in the study of politics, and each cluster is tightly integrated with the broader world outside the university that is relevant for the topics under investigation. Each cluster is a biotope of interesting research. However, students and partners in practical politics can rely on our clusters not only for the experience of innovative and focused research, but also for guidance through an overview of its topic and a connection to the world outside, both scholarly and practical. We think of each cluster as a funnel with a short end that gives orientation and a wider end that opens up to a broader world.

History of the department

Since its inception, the Department's approach to research in international politics has stressed inter-disciplinarity and close interaction with media and the policy-making community, building on the diverse backgrounds and areas of specialization of our faculty and PhD students.

Established only 12 years ago, the Department has grown rapidly from 12 faculty members (technically, 12 full-time-equivalent, FTE, positions) in 2014 to the current figure of around 35.

Comparative Politics and Modern History are the most recent additions to our thematic portfolio. They complement our traditional strengths in global political economy, foreign policy, diplomacy, and transnational political justice. Several colleagues traverse those boundaries and contribute to at least two of our research clusters.

The University, together with the department, has taken a strategic decision to develop endogenously, combining robust recruitment procedures with a strong mentoring scheme to create a vibrant research culture. We had 26 faculty members in 2021 when we submitted an assessment of our research to the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF). Out of those 26 faculty

members, 20 were recruited after 2015, and 12 of them were early career scholars. The majority of our early career scholars joined after successful post-doctoral assignments at prestigious universities such as Harvard (Hager), LSE (Swenson), and Cambridge (Rosenboim).

Considering that almost 50% of our members joined the department recently, and so many are early career scholars, we have a great opportunity to build a more extensive external funding portfolio and PhD programme. The department is taking a longer-term perspective, seeking to encourage fresh thinking, combined with robust research methodologies that yield output of significance in academia and beyond.

2. Our research activities

Publications

Members of the department publish their research as monographs and articles in the most highly valued outlets of our discipline. We are regularly publishing research-intensive books with the most globally recognized publishers, including:

- Cambridge University Press
- Oxford University Press
- Princeton University Press
- University of California Press
- Penguin Books
- Stanford University Press
- Manchester University Press
- Columbia University Press.

Our research articles are published by some of the highest-ranking peer-reviewed journals in our discipline, including:

- International Security
- British Journal of Political Science
- American Journal of Political Science
- Review of International Political Economy
- Socio-Economic Review
- Political Studies
- Political Psychology
- European Political Science Review
- International Studies Quarterly
- International Theory
- European Union Politics
- World Development
- International Affairs.

Our contributions to collaborative edited volumes show the vast network of connections we have with scholars all over the world. Professor Inderjeet Parmar has contributed to chapters in several Routledge Handbooks (on The US in Indo-Pacific, and on Transatlantic Relations), while Dr Kseniya Oksamytna has co-edited a collection on UN peacekeeping and International Relations theories. Tom Davies edited a Routledge Handbook on NGOs and IR with contributions from 56 scholars around the world.

We also publish our research in formats such as policy briefs, policy reports and data reports that are dedicated to offer efficient input for practitioners. For instance, Dr Sara Silvestri has published

numerous reports and policy briefs on religion and politics, counterterrorism and social cohesion, and Dr Konstantin Voessing has published reports, briefs, and handbooks on policy communication and the inclusion of value-based considerations into the discourse of political parties.

Communicating our research

In addition to publishing in academic outlets and for the policy community of politicians, activists, and experts, we also communicate our research to the broader world outside of academic and expert circles. For instance, we have our own podcast, the [City Politics Podcast](#), a roundtable discussion of politics and global affairs that regularly covers important and fascinating issues such as conspiracy theories, nuclear deterrence, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, social democracy, the crisis of the West, and political oratory. Our blog, the [City Politics Blog](#) showcases both our research and contributions of our students.

Members of the department regularly offer expert opinion, advice, and contributions to current debates through the media. We comment on issues such as foreign and economic policy, international relations, conflict, tax avoidance, illicit finance, equality, social democracy, party politics, the crisis of the liberal international order, and the global role of the United States.

Our colleagues appear in many news outlets around the world, such as BBC (with appearances on Newsnight and Channel 4 news), CNN, Al Jazeera, TRT, CNBC, the Guardian, the Financial Times, the federal German TV broadcaster ARD, the Washington Post, Bloomberg, Newsweek, Fortune, and The Wire.

In a typical month, colleagues will have more than 40 media appearances. In some months (for instance, during the publication of the Panama papers) the figure rose to over 100.

Major research grants

The department has made great advances in developing external funding. We raised our research income from £17,500 in 2014 to £2,562,000 in 2021. The grants we received include an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council (ERC), the most coveted grant in the world of social science research, as well as a range of highly valued grants from the most respected funders, such as one Horizon 2020 grant, and four ESRC grants.

The department has also intensified its internationalization efforts by establishing **collaborative research projects** with:

- Copenhagen Business School
- University of Amsterdam
- Warwick Business School
- Department of Economics, Utrecht University
- Department of Political Science at University of Erfurt
- Global Arena Research Institute in Prague
- Istituto Affari Internazionali in Rome
- the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence
- Metropolitan University Tokyo.

Other **research collaborations** have been developed by Professor Parmar on the Trump Presidency (University College Dublin's Clinton Institute) and the Research Network on the Trump Presidency (Edge Hill, Canterbury Christ Church, Roosevelt Institute for American Studies,

Middelburg), based on the work of the AHRC-funded Research Network about the Presidency of Barack Obama.

The **ERC Advanced Grant** we received is on the topic of Corporate Arbitrage (1.728,000 €, December 2016 to November 2020, Palan PI), an interdisciplinary project that combines expertise in IPE (Palan, Nesvetailova, Gandrud), accounting (Murphy), Law (corporate lawyer) and data science (Phillips).

We also participated in a €5 million Horizon 2020 grant on tax evasion and avoidance (November 2016-October 2019), in which members of our department (Palan as Principal Investigator with Nesvetailova and Murphy) collaborate with Warwick Business School and Leicester School of Management to study the evolving European fiscal regime.

Our four ESRC grants include projects by:

- Kovras (PI, £521,277, Co-PI £199,443)
- McDowell (PI £105,880.020)
- Farrell (PI, £53,190).

In addition, the department obtained:

- two GCRF QR (McDowell 12,000 and Kutlay 10,000),
- a UNHCR on Syrian refugee resettlement (McDowell, £30,000, 2016-2017),
- a Newton Fund Official Development Assistance (McDowell, PI, £5,300, 2017),
- HEFCE/HEIF (McDowell, PI, £3,470, 2016) on refugee employment,
- BA seed funds (£1500 Rasaratnam),
- a pump priming grant (£5,000, Pagliari),
- and a grant of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation (Vössing, €312,000).

The department is also involved in a range of consultancy projects, with a group from the CORPLINK project obtaining an OECD consultancy (Nesvetailova, PI, 52,000 €, 2019) and a consultancy for an Inspection Panel Commission TSDP, Uganda; (McDowell, US\$31,000; July 2015-August 2016.)

Engagement and Recognition

The department is playing an ever-increasing role in academia in the UK and beyond. Our colleagues currently serve as co-editors of academic journals (REPE, and Finance and Society), and many of our early career scholars are already serving on boards of journals or commissioning editors.

- Dr Samman is a founding co-editor of the journal Finance and Society.
- Professor Nesvetailova is the co-editor of the Review of Evolutionary Political Economy, the flagship journal of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy.
- Dr Aran is Co-Editor of the Routledge FPA series, served for 5 years on the steering committee of the European Association of Israel Studies and is on the advisory board of I.B.Tauris.
- Professor Parmar co-edits the Routledge book series on US Foreign Policy, and coordinates several international research networks.
- Dr Davies is Associate Editor of Voluntaristics Review.

- Two of our colleagues, Nesvetailova and Parmar, were elected to the British Academy of Social Science, and Dr Rosenboim was elected to the British Royal Historical Society.
- Prof. Nesvetailova served as a member of the Shadow Chancellor's Economic Advisory Committee, and she was an economic advisor for the IPPR Commission for Economic Justice. She and Prof. Palan served as advisers to the OECD's anti-money laundering task force project on energy trading and illicit finance.
- Prof. Palan served on the Norwegian Research Council version of the REF assessing the research quality of Norwegian political science between the years 2014-2018, and he is Senior Advisor to the Tax Justice Network.
- Professor Parmar served on the UK REF2021 subpanel for Politics and International Studies.
- Konstantin Voessing is a member of the "Next Left high level advisory group" and the "Next Left focus group" assembled by the Federation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS) to advise policymakers. He also serves as a member of the Social Science Commission of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung that advises policymakers on cutting-edge research and its political implications.
- Prof. Parmar obtained prestigious fellowships (at Princeton, Oxford and the LSE)
- Prof. Palan was visiting professor at Luiss, Rome
- Dr Voessing was a research fellow at the European University Institute (EUI)
- Dr Rosenboim was a Jean Monnet Fellow at the EUI.

Our **PhD students** obtained fellowships and visiting positions at:

- Harvard (Petersen, Murau),
- Columbia (Murau),
- Berlin Social Science Center (Poullikka),
- NATO (Sabbagh).

The department hosted **visiting professors** from

- University of Lausanne (Graz)
- the University of Virginia (Schwartz)
- Boston College (Smith)
- Institute of Chinese Studies
- New Delhi (Bhardwaj)
- Shanxi, China (Huo)
- Western Ontario, Canada (Abelson)
- King's College London/UCD Clinton Institute (Lilli)
- Canterbury Christ Church (Ledwidge)
- FCO/Sussex (Berman).

Our **early career scholars** are active in academia and beyond.

- Dr Rosenboim serves on the executive committee of the Historical International Relations section of International Studies Association.

- Dr Butler is the commissioning editor for *Renewal: A Journal of Social Democracy*, and convener for the Institute for Historical Research seminar *Britain at Home and Abroad Since 1800*.
- Dr Hager is Research Fellow with the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity.
- Dr Swenson is a member of the US Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), and Just Security 2020 working group that promotes effective UN reform for the Stimson Center, Washington, DC. He is also external Affiliate of the Ostrom Workshop at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, and International Policy Fellow with the Bridging the Gap Initiative that strives to make academic research more accessible to policymakers.
- Dr Sloodmaeckers is the Co-Chair of the Council for European Studies: Gender and Sexuality Research Network (2018-2021) and on the advisory board member of the Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey, served as consulting expert for Stonewall's Access to Justice (in Southeast Europe) Programme (2016-2017) and expert witness in several asylum cases in the US and UK.
- Dr Oksamytna is Reviews Editor of *International Peacekeeping* and has served as a co-convenor of the section "21st Century International Organizations" at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference in 2023.
- On the recommendation of the editor of *International Security*, Dr Swenson was selected for the pilot working group of the Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI) initiative in 2017. ATI allows for the generation, sharing, and discovery of digital annotations across the web to bolster the impact and reach of qualitative and mixed method research.

We are currently exploring the possibility of hosting a journal at the Department. It would have to be a journal whose themes connect productively to the four clusters of the department.

The department is encouraging wider engagement with the public. For instance, the book *Sabotage: the Business of Finance* by Nesvetailova and Palan communicates academic findings to the public. It was published by Penguin imprint in the UK, Public Affairs in the US, and then translated into German and Chinese. Nesvetailova gave several public lectures including one with Yannis Varoufakis, the former Treasury minister of Greece at the City of London (chaired by McDonnell, the Shadow Treasury minister).

- Dr Rosenboim is the founder of The Migrants' Supper Club, an initiative aimed at sharing historical knowledge on migration routes and histories with the wider audience through food;
- Prof Aran provided briefing to the MoD, FCO and DfID on the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- Parmar was on a small panel of leading academics LSE, Chatham House's head of American programmes, the US editor of *The Economist*, who briefed the UK's ambassador to the US (Sir Kim Darroch) ahead of his taking up the position in 2016.
- Dr Oksamytna has presented her research to the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.
- Parmar launched a special issue of *International Affairs* dedicated to analysing the crisis of the liberal international order at Chatham House and subsequently addressed the question of the future of transatlantic relations at Chatham House.

- Palan presented evidence to the EU Panama papers commission and was invited by magazines such as The Bankers and International Financial centres.

Our engagement also benefits from the work of dedicated research areas within our four thematic clusters. Groups of scholars in these thematic areas communicate research not only to our networks of scholars but also to the media, practitioners, and policymakers. For instance, the thematic areas on “Global (Dis)order research” (convened by Dr Sundaram) “Peace and Disarmament” (convened by Dr Silvestri) and “Societal Insecurities” (convened by Dr Innes) hold seminars, closed workshops with policymakers, and conferences. The “Global (Dis)order thematic area” is working closely with its external networks and the International Order Research Unit at LSE Ideas (Parmar is on the latter’s advisory board).

Our colleagues won recognition in academia and beyond. For instance, Dr Rosenboim’s book “The emergence of Globalism” won the Guicciardini Book Prize 2019, and it was runner-up for the Gladstone Prize 2017 (RHS) and the TSA/CUP Prize 2019. Tom Davies’ Routledge Handbook on NGOs and IR was awarded the 2021 ARNOVA Outstanding Book Award in Nonprofit & Voluntary Action Research.

Professor Parmar’s book “Foundations of the American Century” was re-issued in paperback in 2015, in Chinese by Peking University Press in 2018 and in Farsi in 2021. It was runner-up for the Guiccardini Book Prize 2014. Dr Kovras’ book received an Honourable Mention for the Best Book Award by the International Law Section of the International Studies Association (ISA) in 2018. Dr Sloodmaeckers’ PhD has been awarded the UACES Prize for Best Thesis Runner up for ECPR’s Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender and Politics. Prof Nesvetailova’s pieces in the Conversation was reprinted in Newsweek magazine and the Independent.

Prof Palan discussed his work in several full-feature documentaries including The Price We Pay (InformAction Canada), The UK gold (Brassh Moustach, UK), and Spiders’ Web – Britain’s second empire, with over 1.7 million Youtube views.

Policy impact

Our research, our communication, and our engagement connect us to the realm of academia, to the public, and to the work of practitioners. In our broader activities that relate to the worlds outside of the academy, we pursue several goals when interacting with the public and practitioners. For instance, we seek to learn and we are making efforts to gain recognition for our work, but in addition to that, our work is also geared at achieving policy impact. Policy impact can come in a wide variety of ways, such as shaping public discourse; developing new policy proposals embraced by governments, political parties, and non-governmental organizations; offering learning opportunities for practitioners; as well as offering strategic counsel to policy-makers and ac.

We have already noted our vast array of different specific activities we have conducted to achieve policy impact (especially in the sections “communicating our research” and “engagement and recognition”). In the future, we will continue along this path and support all of our colleagues who have an interest in dedicating some of their time and resources into the achievement of impact.

In line with our **bottom-up approach**, we do not expect any colleague to commit to pursuing impact. We believe that success and recognition of our research, both within the university and beyond, will and should come from different approaches and types of activities. Some colleagues will focus on impact, others will decide to pursue other paths. As a department, we support all these different approaches, and we expect the school and university to do the same. Those who wish to focus on other areas are free to do so, and as a department we will support promotion and career goals in a way that respects different strengths and types of activities. Some of our

colleagues are doing fundamental research, others are engaged with policy makers, and our department wants to support all of these colleagues in the work they do.

To effectively support colleagues interested in generating policy impact, the department has embraced an **extensive support program** during the past year, spearheaded by Prof. Parmar. We have identified eight potential impact cases. For these and other potential cases, we created an extensive support structure and regular consultation to develop our impact cases further, in close coordination with the support of the School.

Four of our eight impact cases will be used for our next REF submission, and with the support received all of the eight cases will be in a better position to generate impact successfully and to become important indicators for the quality of our research environment.

In addition, the impact cases are an important foundation for our contribution to the establishment of a policy hub. Jointly with the development of our impact cases, we have developed ideas for a policy hub that concentrates the expertise of the department, school, and university to communicate research effectively to practitioners. We will make a detailed proposal for the approach and activities of such a policy hub.

3. A vibrant and supportive research environment

Supporting research

The department offers a great many activities to support the research of faculty, PhD researchers, and students. For instance, we have a weekly research seminar for colleagues to present draft versions of their work in progress. Each Wednesday (from 1 to 2 pm), colleagues have the opportunity to present their research.

Presentations include such diverse topics as:

- *Multilevel Blame and Credit Games: Examining the Communication of Economic Policies in the EU,*
- *Prevalence of Violence Against People in Insecure Migration Status,*
- *Mapping the International Financial Architecture through Natural Language Processing,*
- *HERA-Iding more integration in health? Exploring the EU's securitisation response to COVID-19.*

We also organize regular research forums, where we discuss our research-related activities and ideas for the future. We run workshops for colleagues on topics such as grant capture and impact generation, we maintain an extensive pool of information and materials related to grants, impact, and research evaluation, and we have recently established a research planning process, where colleagues are paired to exchange notes about their research plans.

Supporting impact

The department is committed to support the ability of interested colleagues to contribute to the world of practical politics through external engagement and contributions to politics, society, the profession, the media, the mass public, practitioners in NGOs and INGOs, think tanks at home and abroad, as well as international universities and intergovernmental organisations. For instance, the department is providing **training opportunities** in coordination with the School of Policy and Global Affairs for more expertly broadcasting our research through social media, mainstream media, and podcasting.

In addition, we provide training to improve policy brief writing, external grant-getting, and engaging with government. Colleagues from across our research clusters are working to develop Impact Case Studies for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) on a wide range of topics including

- international peacekeeping (Dr Oksamytna),
- Argentine healthcare (Dr Rikap),
- social democracy (Dr Voessing),
- Soviet emigrants' material culture and its effects in Israeli society (Dr Fainberg),
- the formation of a national energy company under state ownership (Dr Hager),
- forced migration and migration policy (Dr McDowell), among others.

The department and SPGA are also offering individual mentoring to REF Impact case study authors as well as external consultants with expertise and experience in the construction of Impact Case Studies.

Time for research

The department seeks to provide colleagues the time and space necessary not only to conduct research, but also to write, reflect and develop new research projects. In support of this goal, the department ensures that colleagues can devote at least **40% of their time to research**. Whenever possible, the department accommodates colleagues' research preferences to alternate between teaching and research-heavy terms. The third-year undergraduate teaching curriculum is closely aligned to ongoing research projects. The university supports our efforts by providing a one-term sabbatical for seven terms of full-time service.

Support for early career scholars

A central plank of the department's strategy since 2014 has been to attract and nurture early career scholars whose work is challenging and innovative. We attract researchers who are prepared to challenge conventional thinking, who ask 'big questions' and who entertain unconventional theories and cutting-edge methodologies.

The department takes a hand-on approach to **mentoring of early career scholars**. All new colleagues have a mentor, who offers feedback on teaching, comments on draft journal articles, book manuscripts, grant applications, and book proposals. Mentors also offer guidance on managing a demanding career, discussing topics such as balancing differing demands and work-life balance. The department also has a policy of reducing administration duties to colleagues in the early stages of their career.

A panel composed of senior members of the department evaluates all publications of all members of the department on an annual basis. Each item is ranked using the REF criteria, with additional commentary on strengths and weaknesses of the publication. Panels are often followed by one-on-one debriefing meetings to help colleagues improve the quality of their publications.

In addition, all of us (junior and senior) go through **yearly appraisal meetings** as well as research planning meetings, where progress, plans, and research ideas are discussed. The Research Planning meetings are a particularly helpful tool for both younger and more senior colleagues. They allow us to focus attention on broad as well as specific goals of our research in terms of publications, engagement, and impact. The meetings facilitate realistic planning over the academic year as part of colleagues' long-term strategies and goals.

The University supports and nurtures early career scholars by providing a **competitive pump-priming grant** in support of large research projects. Four of our colleagues (Hager, Rosenboim, Butler and Swenson) have received such grants (circa £4000 and £5000). In support of grant

applications, the department and the school run seminars with representatives of funding bodies. The School as well as the department maintain a depository of successful applications, and the school established a college of reviewers to peer-review every potential grant application. When principal investigators receive large grants, the School adds financial support, and the university as well as the school encourages and supports teaching buyouts to allow our colleagues to focus on their research for a while.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion

The department supports equality and diversity in people's research careers. For instance, the department maintains a fair and transparent work allocation model, including details of teaching, marking and administrative loads.

The university has adopted a **family-friendly policy** which allows members of staff to opt for a teaching schedule that accommodates family commitments (such as no teaching after 4 pm). A new paternal fund has also been introduced to support staff members and the department during parental leave. Moreover, an optional sabbatical is available for colleagues returning from parental leaves, and the department has supported women colleagues to progress in research in various ways including additional sabbatical leave.

The ATHENA SWAN initiative has full department support, and staff development through the university's LeAD program strongly encourages professional development through **women in leadership initiatives**. Our first internal promotion to chair in the life of the department was a woman, Anastasia Nesvetailova, and the current Deputy Head of Department, Dr Kseniya Oksamytna, is a woman.

Our **mentoring scheme** in which all junior colleagues get a mentor places particular emphasis on issues of equality, diversity, and inclusion. For instance, through the mentoring scheme, colleagues receive guidance on managing a demanding career including the process of applying for assistance with childcare and the implications of other issues associated, for instance, with conference attendance.

Training such as **Dignity at Work** and awareness of bullying and harassment policies are offered at regular intervals. Staff survey reveals that the vast majority of colleagues feel supported by the department and that they have a clear idea about career progression.

PhD Program

The department offers a PhD Program, and is currently in the process of expanding the scope and offerings of the program. New PhD students coming to our program attend an induction programme split between the School and the university's Graduate School, which covers generic research methods training as well as inductions to familiarise students with the facilities available within the institution.

The School runs an ongoing series of **research methods training sessions**, which continue throughout the student's programme. These cover fundamental skills in qualitative and quantitative methods, research ethics, thesis writing, viva preparation, etc. These have been recently augmented by offering specific impact-oriented sessions, including one-day events on media engagement and training (led by our Department of Journalism) and social engagement (led by QMUL Centre for Public Engagement). During the next few years, we are planning to complement these activities by additional and more discipline-specific offerings from the department and our research clusters.

The university is now also part of the **Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network**, which facilitates access for all PhD students to research methods training sessions run by the various partners (including KCL, SOAS, LSE, etc.). This has substantially expanded the range of research methods training we are able to offer. Another benefit of our accession to the University of London is that £60k now flows back to the university to support PGR research training (attending conferences, etc.), awarded on a competitive basis, in addition to the financial support offered by departments. The School also works with the Careers service to offer a range of career development sessions specifically for PhD students, including CV writing, career planning, getting published, etc.

The Department, in addition, has a wide-ranging array of **policies to support the training and career development of PhD students**. All PhD students are co-supervised and present each year at an annual Departmental colloquium. Their work is reviewed by two staff members other than first and second supervisors before being upgraded from MPhil to PhD status. Our PhD cohort run their own seminar series and are encouraged, in addition, to present at the departmental research seminar.

A comprehensive programme of **career support** is provided by the careers service and departmentally invited speakers on topics such as **academic publishing and the securing of research grants**. The Department offers a generous research fund to support the participation of PhD students presenting at academic conferences, and to support other research costs such as travel for fieldwork and consultation of archives. In preparation for academic careers, extensive training is also provided for PhD students in teaching, including the opportunity to undertake the University's MA in Academic Practice. PhD students are provided with the opportunity to undertake paid teaching work at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. PhD students can also spend an academic semester in other institutions.

These efforts combined result in a **vibrant community** of PhD students.

- The department has been successful in obtaining six prestigious University Studentships since 2014.
- Fourteen students have completed and successfully defended their dissertations.
- There are currently 21 active PhD students in the programme at different stages of their research (2022-2023).
- Currently (following recent graduations), 11 different staff supervise as first supervisor and 12 staff supervise as second/third supervisor.

The research topics of PhD students reflect academic diversity in the department, covering a range of issues in IPE, Politics, and International Politics. The department hosted PhDs students from other universities for a period spanning from one week up to a year. We had visitors from the Max Planck Institute, the University of Bergen, Science Po, Berkeley, and Erfurt.

4. Research themes, centres, and clusters

The research of scholars in the International Politics Department is clustered around four thematic areas, including International Political Economy, International Politics, Comparative Politics, and Modern History. The four clusters host conferences, seminars, and workshops, and they provide the institutional framework for interaction with academics, students, and our partners.

International Political Economy

Our thematic cluster on International Political Economy (IPE) is organized in the "City Political Economy Research Centre (CITYPERC)." The centre connects colleagues working on IPE topics, it contributes to our teaching in the area, it establishes links between our IPE colleagues and the

broader scholar community, and it serves as the **principal vehicle for impact and engagement** with the policy-making community and the media.

Established in 2012, CITYPERC is a major **hub for research and policy advice in political economy**. The centre is co-hosting, for instance, with the Tax Justice Network -- one of most successful international networks of activists and researchers committed to social justice and fair taxation -- its annual international conference.

In addition, for some years now the centre hosts, together with the centre for Investigative Journalism, a weeklong **training course on financial crime and illicit finance**. CITYPERC has also been hosting the inaugural and since then most of the *Finance and Society* annual conferences. With the assistance of EU funding (COST program), CITYPERC organised and hosted a major international conference on Shadow banking, which brought central bankers, financial regulators, and academics from around the world to share view on the emerging problem. These efforts led to invitation to:

- presentations at Chatham house (Nesvetailova),
- present a talk at an FT festival (Palan),
- join the International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators (Nesvetailova);
- present keynotes in various specialist organisations annual conferences or publications, such as tax-link (Palan), the journal Squire (Palan), the Banker (Palan and Nesvtailova), FSC (the body representing European tax planning lawyers, Palan), leading to invitation from the OECD to serve as advisors on their new anti-money laundering task force (Nesvetailova and Palan).

Our research centres facilitate also intra-university research collaborations. CITPERC runs conferences with TJN and the Finance and Society network. The centre is also home to **collaborative research funding efforts**, including the ERC advanced grant in collaboration with the Copenhagen Business School and Horizon 2020 grant (with CBS, Utrecht, Warwick Business School, TJN, Charles University, Prague, and Limerick Business School).

CITYPERC members continue to collaborate with colleagues with current application to the Volkswagen foundations with the University of Erfurt, the Italian Centre for International Relations (Rome) and the Global Arena Research Institute, Prague. Dr Barnes at the centre of modern history is developing partnership with Tokyo Metropolitan University to set up a conference series in London and Tokyo for 2020 and 2021. Professor Parmar is central to several research networks including LSE, Free University Amsterdam, Princeton, Geneva, Aberystwyth, City University Macau, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, Shanxi University China, among others.

The IPE cluster at City is deeply **committed to interdisciplinarity**. It specialises in dimensions of political economy such as financial instruments, tax avoidance and evasion and inequality that benefit from close collaboration with lawyers, accountants, and economists. In support of its interdisciplinary efforts, the department appointed Richard Murphy, a chartered accountant and campaigner for tax justice as professor of practice.

CITYPERC fellows are active with the centre and include:

- Professor Steve Schifferes (Journalism),
- Professor Photis Lysandrou (Economics),
- Avinash Persaud (Economist and businessman),
- Ann Pettor (Economist),

- Grietje Baars (Law),
- Geoff Tily (Economist),
- Brunello Rosa (Rose-Roubini consultancy).

Through its CORPLINK project, CITYPERC engages in interdisciplinary efforts that require the expertise of data scientists to process large data and visualisation techniques, combined with expertise in law and accounting to interpret those visual maps. A new initiative with the department of economics at the University of Utrecht seeks to **adopt machine learning and economic simulations** in support of such mapping exercise.

The COFFERS project is an interdisciplinary effort with the departments of accounting at Warwick business school and Leicester school of management, with the aim of combining financial expertise with accounting expertise to analyse potentially abuse financial structures.

International Politics

The year 2012 also saw the establishment of the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) as an interdisciplinary research centre in our department. CIPS blends work on area studies and International Relations. CIPS and the cluster for International Politics are coordinated by Inderjeet Parmar.

In line with the new University policy on 'Research Centres', the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) in the Department of International Politics will become a Research Cluster known as "**City International Policy Studies**" (CIPS). This will enable CIPS to continue to be a broad forum or 'umbrella' under which the department's IR and foreign policy scholars organise disciplinary, multi-, and inter-disciplinary events, public lectures, workshops, and book launches, and continue to strengthen and project an external 'identity' within the discipline in the UK and internationally.

It will also serve as a platform for building our 'outreach' and 'inreach' activities with policymakers, practitioners, and the public sphere. Finally, CIPS will continue and strengthen support for research and scholarship of its members to enable and facilitate their own scholarly ambitions in an organic way, thereby fostering and harnessing their strengths. This approach has been successful over the past 8-10 years and CIPS is now much stronger and well-networked nationally and internationally, better connected with the public and policy spheres, and ready to develop even further in these respects.

This year, CIPS has embarked on a new phase of its development by nurturing specific and inter-related **multi- and inter-disciplinary research themes** within the centre, departmental and research 'away day' discussions, especially following collective reflection on the results of REF2021. While maintaining support for individual scholars to pursue their own projects and events to promote their work under the CIPS umbrella, we are supporting three newly-emergent Research Areas that reflect both disciplinary and real-world concerns:

- Global (Dis)order
- Societal Insecurities
- Peace and Disarmament.

Each is convened by a scholar with proven academic research expertise and relevant practitioner links and networks. The aim is to develop conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and empirical innovations as well as to translate academic research into potentially useful policy ideas in international politics and use policy challenges to inform academic research on international relations.

As such, we strive to bridge the gap by **building active networks between the academic and the policymaking worlds** to help each other to see the most difficult problems in international politics through global and local, scholarly, and practical, perspectives. At the same time, we aim to gather insights from policymakers to advance academic priorities. It is hoped that at least one of the Research Areas will develop into a full-fledged externally funded Research Centre.

There is strong potential for deeper and wider external engagement through the three new Research Areas under the CIPS umbrella, as well as for training events (media, influencing civil society and policymakers, impacting think tanks and other external bodies, and external grant raising). We aim to build our Research Areas to be outward facing and integrate practitioners and other UK and international scholars and groups into systematic networks incorporating a variety of institutions.

The CIPS online **Global Webinars series** that ran from 2020-2022 built scholarly collaborations and networks across several countries including India, Pakistan, Brazil, USA, Cuba, Lebanon, and Germany. Our research areas will aim to leverage these relationships in detailed ways on specific projects and events. We will hold a combination of closed 'Chatham House' rules-based events with policymakers as well as public events such as lectures by prominent leaders in the field, and intensive workshops to consider journal articles, academic journal special issues, and policy reports.

As resources permit, we plan to record podcasts, develop a proactive social media presence, a blog, and to publish working papers. Each Research Area will integrate a variety of stakeholders in advisory boards to institutionalise their roles, inputs, and collaborations, building habits of cooperation and exchange, and trust. This should provide fertile conditions for continuous and institutionalised **external engagement** as well as collaborations and pathways to impact, including potential REF Impact Case Studies.

Given the activities of the department's other research clusters (CITYPERC, Modern History, and Comparative Politics) and our outward engagement approach, we envisage making a strong contribution to the policy-oriented and outward facing Finsbury Institute's stated aims for our School of Policy and Global Affairs. We consider our role to be both outward-facing and as attracting practitioners and activists, blending the advantages of the world of action and policy with our academic scholarship's longer-term thinking, and rigorous empirical, conceptual, and theoretical work. The plan is to project such a face via our website to the outside world both to publicise our work and to attract excellent scholars, students, and practitioners.

Global (dis)order research

One of our three thematic areas is "**Global (dis)order research**." It is convened by Dr Sundaram, and it seeks to advance our understanding of global order and disorder, in what is increasingly seen as an 'age of disorder'. It examines the complex and challenging world faced with wars, challenges to established domestic and international institutions, discord and power shifts between the Global North and Global South, the changing role of the United States in world politics, climate change crises, rise of powerful transnational corporations, artificial intelligence driving grand strategies, and threats to democracy, governance, and free speech. With expertise in key regions, CIPS provides sophisticated analyses of global (dis)order from different vantage points to inform policymakers and other stakeholders of prudential policies to conceptualise, interrogate, and comprehend our age of global disorder.

The Global (Dis)order Research Cluster (GDRC) has already held a closed academic discussion with LSE IDEAS on the concepts of order and disorder, hosted an expert speaker from the FCDO on international peacekeeping and order and disorder in Africa, has plans for events involving the

UK Cabinet Office on cyber-security, Christian faith groups and world conflict and peace, and is hosting (with the department's Centre for Modern History) an international conference in May 2023 on the Crises of Liberal Internationalism, 1920 to the present.

The latter conference is being organised in collaboration with LSE IDEAS' International Order Research Unit, of which the CIPS director is an international advisory board member. GD Research Cluster members have held preliminary discussions with the Chatham House journal, *International Affairs*, editorial team to publish a special issue based on the conference papers.

In addition, we are considering an option to establish a **Working Group on Global (Dis)order of the British International Studies Association**. This would give us an international platform to lead the work in this area through the UK's premier IR professional association. BISA's affiliations with the much larger European International Studies Association, and the even larger (American) International Studies Association, would be leveraged to our benefit.

Finally, we are also considering applying for an AHRC Research Networking grant on Global (Dis)order.

Peace, Disarmament, and Development Research

The purpose of the thematic area on "**Peace, Disarmament, and Development Research**" (convened by Dr Silvestri) is to advance our understanding of peace, disarmament, and arms control to take on the difficult problems of global governance. It examines the network of relations across states and borders such as the role of NGOs, social movements, disarmament diplomacy, church and religion on peaceful change, European Union and integration, UN peacekeeping operations, international bureaucracies, and burden sharing.

The convenor of this research cluster is organising a joint conference with the Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament (CCADD) on world peace, conflict, and war in March 2023. The convenor is a trustee of CCADD which provides potential for deep engagement and a potential pathway to impact.

There are clear overlaps between the GDRC and this Research Cluster which is leading to a collaborative approach to organising events. The Convenor of this Research Cluster is on the four-person Steering Group of the GD Research Cluster.

Societal Insecurities research

The purpose of the thematic area on "**societal (in)securities**" (convened by Dr Innes) is to offer a fine-grained analysis of the local context of (in)securities to take on individual and societal centric perspectives. It examines the political forces and relations on the ground such as global health, poverty, civil disobedience, immigration and refugee problems, xenophobia, LGBTQ Politics in Europe, Pride parades, and traumas and emotions in everyday politics. An initial meeting to launch the research cluster was held in October.

Other recent **CIPS activities during the year 2022** included a webinar on the political significance of the US Midterm elections, November 2022, a CIPS Book Launch series inaugurated in October 2022 with 5 planned book talks by CIPS members over the academic year, and a public lecture on the origins of global economic governance in December.

Between 2014 and 2017 CIPS hosted the Middle East forum, under the leadership of the late Professor Rosemary Hollis, which brought together academics practitioners working on the Middle East.

Professor Parmar hosted the AHRC Research Network on the Presidency of Barack Obama, co-ordinated the Global Knowledge and World Orders, 1919-2019 Network, and is co-coordinator of the Global Webinar on Global Knowledge/Global Issues, hosting a series of ca 40 online webinars from 2020-22, and building an international network of leading scholars (UK, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Germany, USA, Cuba). Hence, CIPS at City is central to a network of global networks across the United States, Europe, and Asia.

In addition, CIPS hosted several **international conferences and workshops** on a variety of topics, leading to publications. These academic collaborations, which reflect the interdisciplinary approach of CIPS, include international conferences and workshops on social movements and NGOs (Davies) US, and Middle East foreign policy (Parmar, Aran), foreign policy analysis (Aran), ethics and world politics (Hirst, Kovras, Rasaratnam).

These stimulating intellectual collaborations go hand in hand with the funded grants yielded by CIPS members (Kovras, McDowell). Concurrently, CIPS members engage regularly with the broader IR academic community. Professor Parmar has organised several workshops in conjunction with LSE Ideas, and Chatham House, and joined panel discussions at Chatham House and RUSI, in addition to briefings to financial institutions and asset managers on the prospects of the liberal order and the potential for political violence and civil war in the United States under the Trump and Biden presidencies.

CIPS practices interdisciplinarity. The centre work of Visiting Research Fellow Dr Atul Bhardwaj, an historian facilitates joint research on Indo-US relations with Parmar, while projects with Free University Amsterdam scholars (DeGraaff, Apeldoorn) have led to several publications that combine historical, IR and IPE approaches to American power and Sino-US relations.

In 2017 it hosted a delegation from China from the Henan Administration Institute. This was a collection of policy-makers and bureaucrats from the Henan province. The programme of the event held is attached in case it is relevant for the CIPS section and environment section more broadly. CIPS and members of the department are also actively involved in the interdisciplinary “Social Movements and Civil Society Research Group.”

Comparative Politics

The thematic cluster on Comparative Politics is the most recent addition to our portfolio of four research clusters. The cluster is coordinated by Madura Rasaratnam. We are a dynamic and expanding group of researchers that cover a variety of themes in the study of politics.

For instance, we are interested in:

- political development
- the effects of global events on domestic political stability
- democratization
- populism
- political psychology
- public opinion
- regional integration.

What we have in common is a comparative perspective, an eye on the connection between individual and systemic factors, and an interest in how politics changes (and sometimes stays the same). We focus on interesting and relevant research questions, while also covering various sub-fields of Comparative Politics, and different regions of the world, including Europe, North America, East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East.

Our cluster cooperates to offer an **integrated teaching program** to our students. One of the members of our cluster, Konstantin Voessing, is the co-host of the City Politics Podcast. Konstantin has also organized a lecture series on Comparative Politics with regular presentations since 2019. In the series, we have had lectures on

- “The Rhetoric of Inaction: Failing to Fail Forward in the EU’s Rule of Law Crisis” (by Cassandra Emmons, Harvard University, and Tommaso Pavone, University of Arizona),
- “Explaining Institutional Change (Johannes Gerschewski, Social Science Center Berlin),
- “Motivated Reasoning and Belief in Poll Results” (Rosario Aguilar, Newcastle University),
- “Corporate contentious politics and land conflicts: How palm oil companies deal with community protests in Indonesia” (Ward Berenschot, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies),
- “Walking a Mile in Their Shoes: Local Politicians’ Perceptions of Hard Decisions” (Jenny de Fine Licht and Peter Esaiasson, University of Gothenburg), and
- “Populism, crisis management dissatisfaction, and COVID related conspiracy beliefs across Europe (Ioana-Elena Oana and Abel Bojar, European University Institute).

Modern History

The Centre for Modern History (CMH) was launched in 2018 to serve as a medium for engagement of the Department’s historians with the wider political, cultural, and journalism sectors. Our cluster for Modern History is coordinated by Or Rosenboim.

Although these are early days, the centre is rapidly developing intellectual and impact-oriented activities. Its members produce high-quality research focusing on the international and intellectual history of Soviet Russia, the United States, Britain, the Caribbeans, Europe, India, the Middle East, and international organizations.

The inaugural international interdisciplinary **conference on Food and International Thought** brought together a transatlantic panel of academics with representatives from international journalism and cultural bodies such as the V&A.

Perspectives from Centre members have been sought on an array of contemporary issues such as Brexit from media organizations such as the BBC and ITV. Centre staff have also been engaged by policy institutes in areas of their expertise such as the Young Foundation with respect to social inequalities.

The CMH has been an important hub to showcase innovative research by City colleagues, including a series of **book launches and talks**, as well as a platform for hosting world-leading distinguished historians who shared their new research with scholars and students of history at City. The CMH has strong ties with other centres in the UK and beyond, including the Centre for Modern and Contemporary History at Birmingham, the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies in the Netherlands, the ‘Orientale’ University in Naples Italy, and Tokyo Metropolitan University, generating a series of co-sponsored seminars and joint publications (such as a journal special issue).

Interdisciplinarity: The Centre for Modern History aims to serve as a vehicle for advancing interdisciplinary research, bringing together in its membership historians, political scientists, economists, voluntary sector studies experts, and sociologists, among others. Together with CIPS

it aims to facilitate close collaborative and dual-method approaches to foreign policy, diplomacy and international political justice combining political science methods with historical archival work.

The Q-Step centre funded by the Nuffield foundations brings colleagues from Mathematics, Sociology, IP and Methodology together. Several of our PhD students are co-supervised with the Cass business school and the department of sociology.

For its future development, the CMH has identified the following three main areas of collaboration:

- Internationalism and empire
- Forecasting, future, planning and technocracy
- The European left.

5. Outlook

The department has a vibrant research culture, an excellent output of high-quality research, a track record of generating external research income, a long tradition of effective social impact and external engagement, and a supportive research environment. The most fundamental concern of our approach to research is to produce excellent and rigorous work. Some of our colleagues conduct basic research, while others do applied research and emphasize the impact of their work on practical politics. Some do both. The department is committed to a research environment that allows different approaches to flourish as long as they are committed to rigorous and high-quality outputs.

There is always room for improvement, of course. We think that there are four areas where we are currently making efforts to improve.

- First, we believe strongly in the integration of research into teaching. In the next few years, we will establish, test, and re-test various initiatives to advance this agenda. For instance, one of these initiatives is a research assistant programme that pays undergraduate and postgraduate students to work on research projects of our faculty, and to complete their theses and dissertations as part of these projects.
- Second, we will expand our PhD programme in various ways. For instance, we will offer dedicated training in addition to the offerings by the school and the doctoral college to further improve the discipline-specific skills of our PhD researchers.
- Third, we are actively developing new teaching programs with innovative approaches at both the MA and BA levels, and we are looking for new colleagues to support our mission.
- Fourth, we will continuously expand and improve the ways in which we support the quality of the research output produced by our colleagues. We will also offer additional opportunities for skill development to colleagues whose research is geared at generating impact.
- Fifth, based on our strong and established strength in cross-cluster cooperation, we plan to engage in more extensive and concerted efforts at interdisciplinary work within the School. Possible topics for this kind of work that we have explored already, for instance during our February Research Forum, are conflict, change, data, and inequality.