In the last two Tavistock Times I have talked about the phenomenal growth in teaching and learning provision, but the success of the School of Public Policy should not just be measured in terms of the numbers of students wanting to study at UCL. Rather SPP has also been trying to develop UCL’s policy profile in government circles and impact the national and international political debates.

To this aim the School of Public Policy in collaboration with the Grand Challenges at UCL has launched a high level UCL Public Policy series that seeks to engage policy-makers with UCL’s cutting edge researchers. The first of these events was on “Evidence-based policy: from development to delivery” introduced Professor Kent Weaver, of the Brookings Institute and Georgetown University and Dr Miles Parker, Director of Science, DEFRA. The theme of the discussion was the dangers of policymakers ignoring the evidence and academics ignoring the politics and the public.
ignoring them both. Specifically, the debate recognised that developing and implementing policies that are based on robust evidence remains a significant challenge for government and policymakers, both in terms of accessing and analysing the evidence base and weighing up other factors (such as public opinion, cost and feasibility) in decision-making. Furthermore, the talk recognised that there was still much that is unknown about compliance within public policy – including individuals’ responses and behaviour – and ensuring that development feeds through to successful delivery and implementation.

Recognising that universities can play an important role in providing the expertise to inform evidence-based policymaking and the gulf between the world of academia and the world of policymakers. The event called upon an expert panel of leading UCL professors to discuss the above, including Professor Richard Blundell (UCL Economics), Professor Paul Ekins (UCL Energy Institute) and Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones (UCL Bartlett School of Planning) and Professor David Coen (UCL School of Public Policy).

The second event in this series was organised by Professor Robert Hazell (UCL School of Public Policy) and attempted to explore “Is the Alternative Vote worth voting for?” This debate recognized that the UK faces its first referendum for over 30 years and has an unprecedented opportunity to change the voting system and reshape the future political landscape. The referendum also raises profound questions about electoral reform in the UK. The debate provided an opportunity to discuss the arguments underpinning electoral reform and the AV system and to hear speakers from both sides of the argument, as well as insights from an expert panel. The panel included Billy Bragg, singer and political campaigner, Katie Ghose, Chair, Yes to Fairer Votes, Jane Kennedy, National Organiser, Labour No to AV, Charlotte Vere, National Organiser and Finance Director, No to AV, Professor Justin Fisher, Magna Carta Institute, Brunel University, Peter Kellner, YouGov, Dr Alan Renwick, University of Reading and our own Professor Tony Wright, UCL School of Public Policy.

In the coming months UCL Public Policy series will host events on The Future of Public Health in Europe, Transparency and Lobbying and UK Tax Reviews. It is hoped that these debates will create a bridge between the university and the wider policy-community.

However, it is not just the faculty who are attempting to build bridges to the policy world. I am also glad to announce that our students have taken the initiative and organised a number of world class events. First, the International Public Affairs Society has plans to organise a series of policy discussions called Tea with the Ambassador and held their first event in February with the Mexican Ambassador to the UK, Eduardo Medina Mora, who talked on the topic of “Security, Migration and the Justice System in Mexico.”

The second student policy event funded by the European Institute explores the Crisis in the Eurozone and was organised by two PhD students in SPP, Susan Fuch and Alexander Katsaitis. The planned series of multidisciplinary discussions seeks to explore EMU, the growth and stability pack and new EU Economic Governance models. In addition to student led debates it is hoped that they will arrange guest speakers from EU Think Tanks and the European Commission officials.

Finally, in line with building the public policy profile of the School we have also made two new academic professorial hires and two high profile visiting professorships. Professor Peter John will join us in September from Manchester University and is one of the UKs leading scholars of public policy with an international reputation in the field of political agenda-setting and policy implementation. Professor Neil Mitchell will join us from the University of Aberdeen and he comes with great expertise in the fields of Human Rights and business and government relations. Both come with much experience of advising government and impacting policy debates.

Our two visiting professors, who will join us after Easter, bring much real world experience and will help to bridge the gaps between academic and real world political debates. Professor Jack Straw will join us with a huge wealth of experience after many years in government as Foreign and Home Secretary, I am sure that his guest lectures will be of great interest to our students of International Public Policy and he will bring much to our UCL profile in security studies. Professor Michael Jacobs joins with experience of working as a policy advisor in the Number 10 Policy Unit and has great expertise in Environmental Policy. In addition to occasional lectures on the environment he will also be working on a larger book project on Social Democracy.

As all the above shows SPP continues to attempting to live up to its mission statement to influence and educate the policy-makers of today and tomorrow.
In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Jeffrey Kucik, Lecturer in International Relations and MSc International Public Policy Programme Director.

Dr Jeffrey Kucik,
Lecturer in International Relations and MSc International Public Policy Programme Director.

What is your name?
Jeffrey Kucik

When did you join UCL?
Fall 2010

What are your responsibilities in the Department?
I am the Director of the MSc International Public Policy and a Lecturer in International Political Economy.

What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?
It's great to meet so many ambitious, determined students coming from such diverse backgrounds. I also like being able to spend my time thinking and talking about ideas in political science. Very few jobs provide the opportunity to do such intellectually stimulating, rewarding work.

On the other hand, there never seems to be enough time to slow down and enjoy it all.

What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?
Ending up where I wanted to be.

Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?
I'm just glad that everyone has been so welcoming and helpful.

Favourite location around UCL?
Anywhere there's a comfortable chair and a good book or good company.

What would your ideal afternoon/evening in London include?
A walk through a London neighbourhood I haven't yet seen; a trip to the Courtauld Gallery or Wallace Collection; dinner and drinks somewhere obscenely trendy.

What is your favourite book?
Steinbeck's *Winter of our Discontent* and Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*. Neither are their best works but both made me want to read more.

What are your hobbies?
I've always enjoyed watching movies (though my attention span has waned since grad school). I also like exploring the city, visiting museums and pretending that I am going to one day read the mountain of non-fiction I have piled up at home.

If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?
There are a lot of interesting possibilities out there. I would either be working at a friend's PR firm or as a trade analyst or maybe I'd just be taking some time to do more travelling.

If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?
True universal healthcare in the US; it's an unambiguous embarrassment that it's even considered an open question.
A SEMESTER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Eddie Haubrich – International Public Policy, MSc 2009/2010

It started with a somewhat spontaneous application over May term at UCL. Interning at the White House in the Fall semester seemed far off at the time, besides, I liked the idea of staying in London after graduation. That all changed when on my way out the door to Spain for a brief research trip, I was pleasantly surprised when contacted by White House staff to interview for the coming semester. In short – within a month I was handing in an MSc dissertation and boarding a flight to Washington, DC the very next week for the opportunity of a lifetime. The privilege to walk through the White House gates (and several security checkpoints) was a daily routine I tried not to take lightly. In my particular office I dealt with bringing people to the White House for large events – often by the thousands – from Halloween at the White House to facilitating Holiday tours and receptions.

The saying goes, an experience is what you make of it, and for this internship I knew I needed to take that to heart. Being fresh out of my MSc in International Public Policy, tying my SPP-polished skills to my duties at the White House was an inherent priority. Attending intern-staff discussions gave me the opportunity to bring substantive questions to policy makers in an engaging and candid atmosphere – not all that different from Friday morning FPA or IO seminars. Relating policy topics from the classroom to a meeting room was a rewarding practice. These events, coupled with the numerous outside policy seminars I took advantage of in the DC area, supplied me with an internship packed not just with “important people sightings” but real policy education too.

I hope to maintain my involvement with the Administration, either in the White House or serving in a Federal Agency this coming year before one day returning to Europe to continue where I left off.
FAREWELL WELFARE? – LEGAL AND POLITICAL THEORY FORUM 2011

David Abrahams. MA Legal and Political Theory writes that:

On Tuesday 22 March 2011, an audience of over 100 people gathered to listen to a distinguished panel of speakers discussing the future of the welfare state in a time of dramatic cuts in public spending. The questions put to the panel were:

- Does a fair society require a welfare state?
- If welfare cuts are needed, how can their fairness be ensured?
- Can it ever be fair for cuts to hit the poor hardest?

The event was organised by a group of MA students on the Legal and Political Theory programme and was chaired by Professor Albert Weale.

Dr David Green, the Director of the think-tank Civitas, opened the evening by arguing that the welfare state needed to be built on foundations of reciprocity rather than pure altruism. The welfare state should be seen as a means to enable all citizens to contribute to society. It was, therefore, fair to withdraw benefits from people who refused to take up opportunities to work. In a fair society, it was not necessarily the case that no-one should be poor. Rather, a fair society would be one where no-one who worked hard would be poor. David’s vision of fairness was not one of social equality but of a society where all had a fighting chance to succeed.

Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon, a Reader in Social Policy and Psychology at Birkbeck and a Liberal Democrat councillor in Cambridgeshire, argued that ‘fairness’ was a culturally determined concept. Whether or not a fair society required a welfare state, depended on the particular cultural context. She regarded it as the role of the law to ensure that welfare cuts were implemented fairly and to ensure that the poorest were protected. She highlighted the dangers that cuts to essential services would hit the poorest hardest, highlighting, in particular, proposed cuts to civil legal assistance in the family courts and rises in rents for social housing. Despite these concerns, Belinda defended the role of the Liberal Democrats in Government, arguing that they had fought successfully for progressive policies, for example in relation to raising the income tax threshold, the pupil premium for the most deprived children, the end of child detention and continued investment in overseas development.

Max Wind-Cowie, Head of the Progressive Conservatism Project at the think-tank Demos, highlighted
recent Demos research indicating that people did not regard the current welfare state as fair. People disliked the lack of reciprocity in current arrangements and the lack of any meaningful link between what you put in to the system and what you get out. People felt that the system did not support hard-working people who fell on hard times but was overly generous to those who were unwilling to work. Max argued that welfare provision must be based on the broad support of the citizens who pay for it. He labelled the current consensus about the need for welfare reform as ‘dull’, focusing on outputs rather than getting to the heart of the issue of ‘reciprocity’, the need for a clearer link between what people pay in to the system and what they get out of it.

Jo Wolff, Professor of Philosophy at UCL, argued that the welfare state was a mechanism for dealing with risk in our lives. In pre-industrial society people relied on family or social networks but industrialisation and urbanisation disrupted those traditional networks and created the need for an alternative model. In the US, responsibility shifted to employers but in Europe the state had taken on this role. Jo argued against calls for individuals to take greater responsibility for insuring themselves against adverse events. A universal welfare state led to greater peace of mind for all, regardless of whether they actually had to rely on welfare protection. Jo noted that the Beveridge Report, which laid the foundations for the modern welfare state, was written in the midst of the Second World War, a time when everyone had good reason to feel vulnerable. Jo concluded that, regardless of questions of fairness, a good society needed a welfare state because a good society should recognise the essential vulnerability of all its citizens.

Jon Cruddas, MP for Dagenham and Rainham, argued that it was impossible to discuss fairness without discussing the negative effects of capitalism and in particular, the commodification of labour. A coalition of resistance had built up in response to capitalism and one of its key achievements was the welfare state: a safety-net protecting the working class. That safety-net was now under attack. Jon deplored the fact that the Government’s new Welfare Reform Bill had received broad support from the Labour Party, with only 13 Labour MPs voting against what Jon described as an £18 billion attack on the poor. Jon feared that no-one in mainstream British politics now spoke for the poor. Instead the poor were demonised as a source of dysfunctional behaviour. The 19th Century distinction between the ‘deserving’ and the ‘undeserving’ poor was being revived. Jon saw this as part of a familiar pattern. When capitalism was in crisis the poor were both attacked and at the same time, blamed for their suffering.

In a lively question and answer session Max Wind-Cowie argued that the existing welfare state trapped the poor in dependency. Jo Wolff argued against conditional welfare systems. How could people be forced to work when there was no work available? Jon Cruddas argued for a neo-Aristotelian vision of the state as the promoter of civic virtue and the common good.

There was trenchant criticism of the vacuity of the language of fairness. Max Wind-Cowie was strongly dismissive of ‘fairness.’ Jo Wolff argued that fairness was an inherently weak concept. Something was fair if a recognisable moral argument could be made in favour of it but if that approach was adopted, then it was perfectly possible for a set of political arrangements to be both ‘fair’ and ‘unfair’. Moral arguments were often available on both sides. Jo felt that John Rawls probably had the best approach to fairness. Rawls asked us to consider whether we would regard a particular set of political arrangements as ‘fair’ if we didn’t know where in the system we would end up.

Running through the whole debate was an unresolved tension between a desire to incorporate the concept of ‘reciprocity’ within the welfare state and secondly, a belief that a humane society should provide a universal safety-net for all its citizens. It may not be possible to resolve this dilemma but there seems little doubt that it will continue to exercise politicians, policy-makers and political theorists. As our debate revealed, this dilemma lies at the heart of current debates about the relationship between citizens and the state.

My thanks go to Albert Weale for chairing the event and to the other members of the committee who worked with me to organise the 2011 Forum: Beth James, Florian Ostmann, Polly Mitchell, Sean Glas and Steve Suk.
NEWS FROM THE CONSTITUTION UNIT

The Constitution Unit is the largest research centre within the School of Public Policy. It is the UK’s leading centre for the study of constitutional reform. Professor Robert Hazell, Dr Meg Russell and Dr Ben Worthy all teach courses within SPP and act as supervisors for students’ dissertations. They are currently leading research projects on coalition government, parliament and freedom of information. The Unit recruits interns to assist in its research projects, including SPP graduates. SPP students are welcome to attend the Unit’s monthly seminars.

Full details of the Constitution Unit’s activities can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit

MAJOR NEW PROJECT ON POLICY IMPACT OF PARLIAMENT

Dr Meg Russell of the Constitution Unit has been awarded a grant of £225,000 to conduct research on the impact of the Westminster parliament on government legislation. This project forms part of a larger programme of research being run by Dr Russell under her ESRC-funded fellowship, supported by Dr Meghan Benton. The project is funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

The new research will look at the extent to which government legislation is changed during its passage through both Houses of Parliament (Commons and Lords) and where these changes come from. It is the first major project of its kind since publication of a classic text on Westminster – Parliamentary Scrutiny of Government Bills, by J. A. G. Griffith – in 1974. That study found that although on the surface government appears to dominate the legislative process, in fact things are more complex if you dig deeper. Government proposes bills and thereafter most changes to them in parliament are the result of government-sponsored amendments. But by looking at amendments moved earlier in the process and reading debates, it can be found that many of the ideas in government-sponsored amendments came from other actors in the process: i.e. opposition parties or government backbenchers. That is, government can be responsive in ways which are largely invisible.
Since Griffiths’ study, much in the Westminster parliament has changed. In the House of Commons, MPs have become more “rebellious” and less likely to reliably vote the party line. In the House of Lords, the removal of most hereditary peers in 1999 has created a more assertive and confident chamber. A pilot study of a single bill constructed by the UCL team (using the Identity Cards Bill 2005-06) found some interesting patterns of activity between the two chambers, such as particularly close working between the Liberal Democrat groups in the Commons and the Lords. These patterns were not noticed by Griffith. The methodology used for this case study will be built upon for the larger project. In particular, as well as conducting close analysis of legislative amendments and speeches, the team will carry out interviews with key protagonists on a representative sample of 10 government bills.

The British parliament is generally considered relatively non-influential, although that assumption is based on largely anecdotal evidence. This study will ask whether parliament is in fact more influential than people assume and so may change those perceptions. If there are influential actors it will also uncover where they are (in the Commons or the Lords? On the government backbenchers or opposition benches?) and how they work together. By studying bills in both the 2005 and 2010 parliaments, it will further investigate how these dynamics have changed under coalition government. Meg Russell will lead the research, with Meghan Benton as the Research Associate and two new Research Assistants – Daniel Gover and Kristina Wollter – starting at the end of May. The project runs for two years, until March 2013. Meg Russell and Meghan Benton are currently completing another major project, on the policy impact of House of Commons select committees.

FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK TIMES

TAVISTOCK TIMES is published three times a year with the next edition due to be published in September 2011.

Ideas for future articles should be sent to:
Helen Holt, h.holt@ucl.ac.uk
before the end of June 2011

Contributions from past students are especially welcome keeping the Department up to date on their progress since leaving UCL.
FOUR IDIOTS, TWO GOALS, 62.5 MILES IN 24HOURS

On the 16th of July 2011 Jennifer, Alex, Slava and David set out to cover 100km along the south coast of England, hopefully within 24 hours, to raise money for Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. David Hudson describes the challenge.

Oxfam bills the Trailwalker UK 2011 as “the original 100km team challenge, across the South Downs with the Gurkhas. Four people, one goal, 100 kilometres in 30 hours. It’s an incredible experience combining endurance, navigation, determination and teamwork.” Our thoughts are a little less grand: it’s clearly a long bloody way, our feet will hurt, and in the best British tradition it will be too hot / too cold / rain (*delete as appropriate). And yes, we decided to do it while in a pub of course. Marvelous. And, as of the end of March, we’re still in the ‘planning and discussion’ stages… training has yet to begin.

Having said that, we have set ourselves a target which we’re trying to keep quiet so that we don’t put any pressure on ourselves: to complete the distance in 24 hours. Our esteemed colleague, Jeffrey Kucik, has sagely warned us that “it can’t be done!” Having actually taken a look at the route and finding out that the “distance and elevation is equivalent to two and a half marathons and climbing Ben Nevis and Snowdon” Jeff may well turn out to be right. But we’re still going to have a crack at sneaking in under 24 hours; which means that all four of us, as a team, have to cover the entire distance together. No, to Slava’s dismay, it’s not a relay, so that’s 400km between us.

The second goal we have set ourselves is to raise as much money as possible. All the money at Trailwalker goes to help people in poverty build better lives; specifically through Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Although most people know all about the work Oxfam does for people living in poverty, fewer people are aware of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The GWT will use the funds raised at Trailwalker to provide clean, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in 80 Gurkhas villages. Which is appropriate as the Gurkhas play an active part in the Trailwalker; indeed the origin of
the distance is a training exercise
to test the soldiers’ stamina and
teamwork skills. Personally I’m
just in it for the promised Gurkha
curry.

So, dear current and former
students, friends and colleagues,
we are asking whether you will
donate money to this great cause
by sponsoring our team. Any
amount of money is gratefully
received—no donation is too small. You can sponsor us
online through Virgin Money
Giving which is a not for profit
organisation.

You can find our webpage at:
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/
SPP

Finally, for your edification or
amusement you can follow our
progress on twitter:
twitter.com/#!/spptrailwalker

Or if you go to the fundraising
website you can see our tweets by
clicking on the ‘Follow me’ link down
at the bottom of the left-hand column.
Tweets offering advice, support,
abuse or wisdom are very welcome!
Please tweet @spptrailwalker

100km from Petersfield to Brighton (Source: Oxfam GB)

NUDGE

It’s probably worth mentioning
that this year’s students have
fully embraced the notion
of incentivisation and have
‘persuaded’ us into agreeing to the
following fundraising milestones.

When total fundraising reaches
£2000 David, Alex, and Slava
will all shave their heads;
at £3000 David, Alex, and Slava
will teach revision sessions (in
early May, let’s hope this one
slides past too quickly!) in drag;
at £4000 David, Alex, and Slava
will do a cheer in the main UCL
Quad (in full cheerleading attire!);
and at £5000 David, Alex, Slava
and Jennifer will be auctioned/
raffled off for dinner dates.

Check out the running total at:
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/
team/SPP

and follow any news on haircuts,
dressing up, cheerleading,
and auctions at:
twitter.com/#!/spptrailwalker
SPP CAREERS NETWORKING SESSION

In March 2011, several former students returned to the Department to share their career experiences since leaving SPP.

Patrice Ware, UCL Careers Advisor and Dr Alex Braithwaite, from the Department, co-chaired the session. The following former students kindly volunteered their time to attend and the Department is most grateful for their help:

Maita Soukup
MSc International Public Policy, 2007–09
Senior Account Manager, Munro and Forster

Agnes De Mauroy
MSc European Public Policy, 2009–10
Communications Coordinator, Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs, Europe Middle East and Africa, IBM.

Nicola Bruch
MA Human Rights, 2004-06
Research Assistant, Department of Political Science

SPP graduates are to be found in many walks of life but of particular interest are those careers which, as you would expect, are associated with fields such as Government Service in the UK and EU, International Agencies, Aid Agencies, Think Tanks (policy, international development) and Consultancies (e.g. economic, social, strategic), NGO’s in development (social, environmental, health, legal, economic, fiscal etc) financial services, law, academic research, teaching, welfare and rights work – these have all been among popular destinations for SPP graduates over recent years, alongside other public corporate employers and the commercial sectors.

UCL Careers Service

The UCL Careers Service gives current students the opportunity to consider their career as part of their study experience. Students have the opportunity to attend career management workshops, skills sessions with employers, careers talks, events with links with former students and recruitment fairs and events.

Advice is available on choosing career options, bespoke CV writing, the skills employers seek, how to make successful applications, how to present best at interview and other selection procedures and how to make the most of your contacts and networks, which at UCL will be many and varied. Membership to the ‘Gradclub’ system is available to all former students after graduation.

Further information on the UCL Careers Service can be found at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/
Dr Slava Mikhaylov, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports:

Awards and Recognition

Alex Katsaitis, Antti-Ville Suni and Susan Fuchs received a small grant from the European Institute of UCL, for a one-year project on EMU Governance.

Information about the project can be found via the following link:
www.ucl.ac.uk/european-institute/post_doc_forum/emu

Conference Presentations

Susan Fuchs will be presenting a paper entitled ‘Negotiating in International Organisations: How to Influence the Outcome’, at the Political Studies Association Graduate Conference in London on 18 April 2011.

Employment

Chiara Cordelli has been awarded a 1 to 2 years post-doc fellowship at Stanford University, Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society.

Successful defense

Sarah Clark was successfully vivaed at Essex by David Howarth (internal) and Julian Le Grand (external).

Andrea Udrea successfully defended her PhD thesis, “Culture, history and a kin-state’s obligations. A liberal evaluation of the Hungarian status law”.

On Saturday 12 February 2011, Nicky Henson, Executive Administrator and Helen Elliot, Postgraduate Administrator, travelled to Brussels to represent UCL’s School of Public Policy at the 2011 EU Studies Fair. The fair was the 11th of its kind organised by the Brussels-based newspaper European Voice and it brought together HE institutions from across the UK and Europe. Over 700 students from 88 different countries attended to talk to staff from UCL, King’s College London and the London School of Economics, amongst others attending, about their graduate courses in EU and international studies.

**EU STUDIES FAIR**

Maurice Wong
PhD, Political Science

Maurice Wong is a recent graduate from our PhD programme. Maurice’s PhD project—“The governance of financial derivatives in China: Policy convergence and explanations for change”—examined the extent to which there has been convergence of international and Chinese over-the-counter derivatives policies and what might explain this. While much financial regulation is becoming technical, functional and apolitical, China is a strong state in which the government retains a high degree of control and where derivatives have had a checkered past. Based on 12 months of fieldwork, interviews and archive research Maurice traced how the policy formulation process for China’s first derivatives regulation involved the extensive consultation of market participants and how the state oversaw the creation of a NAFMII, a self-regulatory organisation and initiated the first documentation for domestic derivatives transactions. The key findings establish that there is some convergence taking place over several dimensions, including principles such as their definition and uses and practices such as risk management and the use of master agreements. This can be explained by several factors, namely financial crises and regulatory learning, the influence of international organisations, lobbying from private actors and resolving legal uncertainty. The conclusions have important implications for how to understand Chinese policymaking, plus how over-the-counter derivatives are dealt with in China provides an alternative to the Anglo-Saxon model of financial governance. Maurice’s examiners were Dr Timothy Sinclair (Warwick) and Dr Jeffrey Chwieroth (LSE). Maurice’s supervisors were Dr David Hudson and Professor David Coen.
## NEW STAFF

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

### Jan-Emmanuel De Neve

Jan-Emmanuel De Neve will join the Department this summer as a Lecturer in Political Economy and Behavioural Science. At SPP, Jan will be teaching the Public Policy Economics and Analysis course. He is currently finishing his PhD at the London School of Economics and his research is applied cross-disciplinary work in political economy, behavioural economics and behavioural genetics.

Guided by a generalist curiosity, much enthusiasm and data availability (not unimportant!) Jan is most often found working on some paper project that may deal with the tiniest of genetic variations to the larger question of European integration.

Previously, Jan was a Fulbright scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School and worked as a Research Associate in Finance at Harvard Business School (2007–08) and at the United Nations (2006) and the European Commission (2002–05). Spare time is mostly enjoyed with family and friends, doing sports, or cruising around on his vintage BMW R75/5 motorcycle.

### Genavive Sarkis

I joined the Department as part-time Postgraduate Administrator at the end of February this year. Previously, I worked at City University as a Customer Service Co-ordinator and prior to that as an Administrator at the Ministry of Justice.

I graduated from the University of Westminster with a BSc in Psychology in 2008. I intend to continue my studies in the field and I am currently working towards doing an MSc in Counselling Psychology. My particular area of interest is eating behaviour and disorder.

At the moment, I am dividing my time between working at SPP and volunteering with Samaritans, a charity which provides confidential, non-judgemental emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair. I am also taking a number of Counselling Skills classes and pursuing some long-neglected creative interests.

I am really enjoying being part of the Department and I really like the variety that working part-time brings.

### Jenna Fisher

After a year and a half abroad, I returned to the UK to study BA (Hons) International Relations and Politics at the University of Portsmouth. On completing this I went on to gain a MSc in Project Management. During this period I worked in course administration at the University of Portsmouth Business School, most recently as the Senior Course Administrator for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes.

In addition to course administration this involved organising Master Class events, conferences and residential in the UK, Maastricht and Tianjin, creating and updating online resources and supervising a team. I joined the Department of Political Science as Undergraduate/Postgraduate Administrative Assistant in April 2011.
PAST STUDENTS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Since the launch of the first Tavistock Times in the summer of 2008, we have been kindly contacted by many past students informing us of their progress since leaving the Department. A progress report follows:

Natasha Schou

MSc International Public Policy, 2009–10

A few weeks after I handed in my dissertation, I started an internship at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) on Whitehall. It was exciting to work at such a prestigious defence think-tank at a time when David Petraeus came to give a speech at our office and the government was just about to announce its Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) plans.

In January 2011, after a brief stint working at an FMCG research company, three months and four interviews later, I started working for the Economist Intelligence Unit on the Asia team. So far it’s been incredibly challenging but also fascinating. Having worked at an Indonesian newspaper for a year and interning at the BBC and Reuters during my BA, I was somewhat prepared for a fast-paced editorial environment. But in recent weeks we’ve been challenged by the sudden and devastating earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, carrying practical and profound implications for our clients, who run the gamut from governments to multinational corporations and think-tanks.

Working for the EIU has so far been intellectually stimulating. The Economist Group adheres to a philosophy based on the magazine’s founding principles: to take part in a “severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress.” I’ll be forever grateful to SPP and my classmates for helping me to develop this crucial skill.

Yvonne Halsey

MSc International Public Policy, 2005–06

The adventure of London life has continued to excite me since completing my MSc in International Public Policy. The insights and rigour of the course prepared me well for working in corporate responsibility.

As Programme Manager at the International Business Leaders Forum, my work helps businesses be part of creating a more sustainable world, particularly by investing in human capital. We work to identify opportunities that will result in a return for business and shared value for all stakeholders. My work is connected back to my SPP dissertation that explored corporate motivation for CSR, asking if business objectives overlap with the Millennium Development Goals.

Prior to IBLF, I conducted bespoke research and corporate engagement for long-term institutional investors looking to incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into their investment decisions. I reached out to companies seeking ESG improvements in their practices, often discussing with board members the relevance to their business operations. I oversaw the production of Investing in a Changing Climate, a guide for investors to capture the opportunities and risks associated with climate change into their portfolio, published in 2010.

UCL brought me to London and gave me a fundamental understanding of the complex interrelations of various actors in a globalised world, which has helped fuel my career projection since.
**Freddy Fallon**

*MSc International Public Policy, 2008-09*

Having completed a degree in Politics at the University of Sussex and spending a year working in advertising, I joined UCL’s School of Public Policy in 2008 to study for an MSc in International Public Policy. I wrote my dissertation on the effect of the internet on political participation during elections and after leaving in 2009, I went to intern at the Hansard Society’s Digital Democracy Programme. A month later, I was brought on full-time as a Researcher.

At the Hansard Society, I conduct research into online political communication between elected representatives and the public, online citizen engagement and digital inclusion issues. I have authored and co-authored a number of reports, including Behind the Digital Campaign (with Dr Andy Williamson and Dr Laura Miller) looking at online campaigning in Britain and around the world.

At the moment, I am working on a piece of research looking at how new technologies can be used to transform internal processes in parliaments around the world and how legislatures can improve their relationships with the public.

**Dr Laura Valentini**

*Research Degree: Political Science, December 2008*

**Book**


**Articles**

Coercion and (Global) Justice¹, American Political Science Review, 105 (1) (2011).

In what Sense Are Human Rights Political?¹, Political Studies, forthcoming (prob. 2011).


**Fellowship**

I will be a visiting fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, Sweden from September until December 2011.

**Job**

From September 2011, I’ll be a lecturer in Political Theory, Government Department, University of Essex.