I am always struck by how much seems to go on in and around the Department. There has been a vibrant ‘Policy in Practice’ seminar series, alumni and career events, department open days, academic roundtables, visits to international organisations and national government bodies, leading academic speakers, in addition to all the classes and IPAS led events. There really is something on every day.

This just goes to show why SPP is such an exciting place to be. Some of the highlights have been the inaugural lectures of our distinguished professors, such as Neil Mitchell. His lecture on ‘Delegation, Accountability and Democracy: The case of human rights violations’ (www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/spp-news/090513) was a wonderful example of how an interesting
research puzzle and complex
theoretical analysis can be presented
in a clear and fun format (I urge those
of you who have yet to watch the video
to do so). The Department was also
happy to host the inaugural lectures of
its two new visiting Professors Sir
ucl.ac.uk/spp/spp-news/010513). Both
of these talks drew on their immense
real world policy-making experiences
as respectively the Deputy Governor
of the Bank of England and the Head
of Cabinet office (again visit the
department web site) (www.ucl.ac.uk/
spp) to hear how we can co-ordinate
and manage global financial regulations
and how small nudges can make great
policy changes.

Whilst I am plugging SPP’s websites,
I am pleased to announce the launch of
the UCL and NYU Wagner’s new
joint Executive Master of Public
Administration in Global Public Policy
and Management. (www.ucl.ac.uk/
spp/teaching/masters/empa)

The joint degree programme
marks a partnership of two leading
schools of public service in the UK
and US, giving students access to
organisations, leaders and experts
in Europe, America and beyond. The
integrated degree programme is
unique in that it focuses on both policy
development and implementation
and includes a global comparative
perspective. The Global EMPA
program will equip experienced
analysts, decision makers and
managers in the public, non-profit
and private sectors. It will give these
public service leaders the analytical
and managerial knowledge and skills
they need to design and implement
effective, sustainable, cross-sector
solutions to global challenges.

Students will spend the first semester
at NYU Wagner in New York City and
the spring term at UCL. During the
summer, students will work on client-
based projects, known as Capstone,
in locations around the world. The
programme is jointly headed by
Albert Weale, Professor of Political
Theory and Public Policy at UCL
and Paul Smoke, Professor of Public
Finance and Planning and Director of
International Programs at NYU Wagner.

As many of you are aware we try to
involve current students and alumni
in organising events and giving guest
lectures. I was therefore very pleased
to say that this term we were lucky
enough to have Martina Vojtkova,
who was awarded an MSc in Public
Policy at the Department in 2010, as a
speaker from the International Initiative

for Impact Evaluation, better known
as 3ie, to come and give a talk to the
students about the role of impact
evaluations in development. I also
want to thank Ivan Besserer Rayas, a
current MSc student and a prestigious
Chevening Scholar, who organised an
event on Democratisation in Mexico
with the Mexican Ambassador. It is
the success of our students that is
the best gauge of the Department’s
health and as this Tavistock Times
demonstrates our alumni having been
going onto interesting and diverse
policy roles.

Also in this issue we welcome three
new faculty to the Department but it is
with great sadness that we also have
to say goodbye to three very popular
faculty members. Alex Braitwaite, the
Director of the MSc Security Studies
programme will be returning to the
USA with his new bride. Jeff Kucik,
Director of the MSc IPP programme
will be returning to his native California
and Laura Valantini, lecturer in Political
Theory will be crossing the road to
join our rivals at the LSE. I would like
to thank all of them very much for their
hard work and effort in building their
respective programmes and making
UCL the best place in the UK to study
politics. I am sure that everyone in SPP
will wish them luck in their new roles.
In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Basak Cali, Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and MA Human Rights Programme Director.

What is your name?
Basak Cali

When did you join UCL?
I first joined UCL as a Rubin Fellow in Human Rights in 2002 when I was still a PhD student in International Law at the University of Essex. It was UCL or a university in the far-east of Turkey. UCL won.

What are your responsibilities in the Department?
I direct the MA in Human Rights and I am a Senior Lecturer in Human Rights.

What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?
I really like teaching international law to students of politics and bringing my research and experience into the classroom. I dislike reading illegible exam papers on a sunny London day in the third term.

What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?
Professionally, combining the research, teaching, practice and activism of international human rights law. I am happiest when a domestic judge or a prosecutor tells me that they have taken into account my debates with them and applied international human rights law principles in a particular case. Personally, I am a very proud mother of Ara, my three year old son.

Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?
Bernard Crick. I had the pleasure of meeting him at Richard Bellamy’s inaugural lecture just as I was jumping through the hoops of applying for British citizenship – including the then recently introduced British citizenship test. Professor Crick had been heavily involved in the process and an interesting discussion ensued where I expanded – probably at length – on my criticisms about how the test favours the best and the brightest migrant workers and excludes those workers with no or little education (which, thankfully, for the most part he shared).

Favourite location in UCL?
I am one of those Gordon Square lovers.

What is your favourite book?
My favourite book is Tante Rosa by Turkish writer Sevgi Soysal. It is the story of the many dilemmas of womanhood. It is not yet available in English, only in Turkish and German. I have enjoyed reading and re-reading the Turkish version at many different stages of my life.

What are your hobbies?
I cannot seem to hold on to a hobby for a long time. I always like to think I have hobbies but if anything, the only true hobby I have is cooking food in the style of my grandmother.

If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?
I would have been a diplomat trying to figure out how to be a judge.

If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?
The establishment of a World Court for Human Rights that has compulsory jurisdiction. This would stop the big accountability gaps we currently have in the international protection of human rights and offer a last resort mechanism for all individuals whose human rights have not been respected by their own governments and courts.
LIFE AFTER SPP

IMAD MESDOUA
MSc International Public Policy, 2009–10 writes:

“I graduated in 2010 and have since worked as a political analyst, covering the Arab Spring and recent events in Mali. In the past two years I’ve also worked as a journalist and a political consultant. I’ve picked up new skills and have had to adapt to new demands in every position. Here’s my account of life after SPP.”

When I graduated from UCL in 2010, I began working as a freelance journalist in the Gulf. I wrote articles and feature pieces on the Middle East and North Africa region in several local and international media outlets, including Think Africa Press and the Huffington Post. I truly felt like a privileged observer, analysing the important upheavals that were underway in the Arab world. For budding Arab journalists like me, who were able to cover the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt from Europe, the Arab Spring represented far more than a simple news story. Instead, it became the materialisation of some of the hopes and aspirations we had always placed in our societies’ political future.

Between 2011 and 2012, I worked as a political consultant, advising clients, including the United Nations, on policy and communication strategies. I wrote speeches, reviewed policy strategy documents and assisted in the conduct of negotiations. This position required a great of flexibility and patience. Understanding each client’s “institutional identity” was essential to helping them streamline policy implementation.

In 2012, I moved back to London to work as a political analyst at a global risk advisory firm, which assists businesses, governments and NGOs operating in emerging markets. I manage political monitoring and risk advisory projects in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) but a lot of my work over the past few months has centred on the ongoing crisis in the Sahel.

Mali is one of Africa’s leading gold producers and the conflict will damage the country’s economic activity, not least in the mining sector. It and other countries in the region, with weak institutions, have little hope of policing their own vast desert provinces. In Niger, French special forces have already been positioned to protect key uranium mines. UK and US companies are also concerned their interests may be at risk. The ongoing crisis in the Sahel has shown that local and international troops should prepare for increased resistance and a protracted campaign. Ongoing battles in Gao and Kidal with MUJAO and AQIM are a stark reminder that the intervention is far from over.

I have focused my efforts on providing in-depth analysis and advice for corporate and governmental clients to help them deal with these complex developments. This usually involves unpacking, analysing and transforming a great deal of in-country source information into reports, briefs and recommendations for international clients. My writing and way of assessing political issues has evolved considerably since graduating from UCL.

Unlike most of the academic essays I was asked to write at the School of Public Policy, the articles and reports I now prepare require more incisive language and provide very precise policy recommendations. I have also had to adapt my style of writing to communicate more effectively with clients, who are far less interested in context or theoretical debates and more concerned with concrete solutions, capable of helping them take direct action on the ground.

My current position also requires me to provide commentary and analysis, from time to time, in the international news media on current events in the MENA region. In the early days of the French intervention in Mali and throughout the In Amenas hostage crisis in Algeria, I was invited to discuss the latest developments on various international news channels including, France 24, Al Jazeera English and on several of the BBC’s flagship programmes. I have also been asked to speak at various university events and at think tanks on the latest developments in North Africa. I hope to do the same with UCL very soon!

Imad Mesdoua
HUMAN RIGHTS
FILM SERIES

Janey Stephenson,
Co-ordinator and current MA Human Rights student writes:

The human rights film series has been a great success throughout the spring term. Once a week, the Human Rights MA students have gathered together to watch documentaries and hear guest speakers from NGOs lead discussions on the issues raised in the respective films.

From acid violence against women in Pakistan, paramilitary justice in Colombia, children's experiences in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and women’s peace-building in Liberia, the films have been diverse and harrowing but motivational for all of us. The series was organised as both an excuse for everyone to get together and for us to apply our learning to current and recent human rights issues, drawing our attention to the strategies of those who are fighting to prevent violations and promote peace.

One of the highlights was ‘Impunity’, a documentary about ‘peace and justice’ paramilitary trials in Colombia. In both the film and the discussion, hosted by Louise Winstanley from ABColombia, we became aware of the multiple actors (many of which are big businesses) in the Colombian conflict and the complex challenges to accessing truth and reparations after violations. Another highlight was ‘Taxi to the Dark Side’, about U.S. torture policy, which was followed by a discussion led by Fabien Goa of Amnesty International. He described their work against torture in The War on Terror, walking us through various cases to illustrate the complexity of the U.S. justice system in regard to torture.

Being able to learn about these issues in depth and to engage with practitioners and experts has been an excellent opportunity to get to grips with the challenges that Human Rights Defenders face worldwide.

It seems wrong to call the events ‘enjoyable’, largely due to their disturbing content and the many tears and sighs that have been shared each week. It’s often hard to start the discussion after the film, as we find ourselves stunned. However, they have provided an excellent opportunity to apply our learning and to understand specific areas of Human Rights and NGO activity. The films have never failed to remind us why we’re all going into this field.
Why is it so difficult for the European Union to speak with one voice in foreign affairs? Given its economic and political clout, why is the EU such a notoriously ineffective actor on the global stage and in international crisis management in particular? Why do the conclusions of its Foreign Affairs Council so rarely convey a clear and decisive message?

These questions are at the core of the Department’s module on EU External Relations. In class, participants have examined the ins and outs of different theoretical explanations—ranging from a focus on domestic preferences and national interests over institutional design to types of collective action problems and the international context; and they have applied these approaches to the breadth of the EU’s external action—reaching from trade and development over crisis management to international climate negotiations and migration.

Yet, what better way to explore the challenges faced by the EU and its member states than to negotiate an actual response to an ongoing international crisis? On 26 February 2013, the class therefore re-located to Europe House on Smith Square, the London home of the European Commission and Parliament. The afternoon’s purpose was to simulate an EU Foreign Affairs Council, composed of national foreign ministers and convened to respond to the crisis in Northern Mali. The ministers were chaired by the EU’s High Representative and assisted by an astute External Action Service; around the table, they were joined by the Commissioner for Development and the Chair of the EU’s Military Committee, advising them on the humanitarian and strategic dimensions of a potential military intervention in Mali, to be launched in support of the French troops and African-led international mission.

After the obligatory tour de table, discussions focused on three questions which had been tabled ahead of the meeting by the High Representative: should the EU extend its training mission in Mali and deploy an interim military task force? Should the EU resume its development cooperation with Mali and strengthen its civilian presence in the Sahel region? Should the EU be granted the resources to support Mali in restoring constitutional order in the long-term? The intense but diplomatic negotiations were close to reality in many ways. France pushed for an EU-led mission while Germany and the neutral countries strongly resisted giving the EU a combat role. Ireland—neutral but currently holding the rotating Presidency—sacrificed some long standing positions to enable compromise. The High Representative and DG Development advocated maximalist
solutions and continuously reminded the member states of their international obligations. Domestic politics concerns were the dominant arguments, including financial constraints (Spain), historical responsibility in Africa (France) and public opinion ahead of the 2013 federal elections (Germany).

As is often the case in Brussels, the breakthrough was reached in bilateral “confessionals” and negotiations over coffee, when Germany and the neutrals finally agreed to an extended EU mission; consensus on the EU’s long-term civilian and humanitarian role was reached much more quickly than on the EU’s short-term military presence; and the initially tabled document became longer, more complicated and more inclusive during the search for compromise. A victory for the European Commission passed almost unnoticed. When the time for discussion ran out and delegations wanted to strike a deal, foreign ministers signed off on an agreement that would grant the Union “all necessary financial and human resources” to “improve long-term economic, environmental and security prospects” in Mali—a rare feat in times of a tightening EU budget.

Many thanks are due to everyone who made the game a success, in particular to Nicola Chelotti (SPP) for bringing expertise on Mali and Council negotiations; to Gergely Polner (European Parliament) for hosting us in Europe House; and to all delegations and especially the High Representative (Renate Preukschat), the External Action Service (Nicolas Gierten) and the Irish Presidency (Nick O’Hara and Niamh Murphy) for building a compromise.

DEVELOPMENT TALKS AT SPP

Niheer Dasandi,
Teaching Fellow in International Development, writes:

As part of the Political Economy of Development (PED) module in the Department, we have continued to run the development seminar series this term. The seminar series, which was set up by David Hudson last year, includes a number of events and talks on the subject of international development and they have been very popular with students interested in international development.

In mid-February 2013, we were lucky enough to have a speaker from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, better known as 3ie, to come and give a talk to the students about the role of impact evaluations in development. The speaker also happened to be one of SPP’s own former students, Martina Vojtkova, who was awarded an MSc in Public Policy at the Department in 2010. Following the successful completion of the Masters course, Martina joined 3ie and she is now Research Officer at the Systematic Reviews office, as well as being the managing editor of the International Development Coordinating Group at the Campbell Collaboration. Martina’s talk on impact evaluations in international development was very interesting and given that 3ie is one of the leading organisations, globally, promoting evidence-based development work, Martina was able to inform the students about recent developments in this area.

As we had also looked at debates around impact evaluations in the PED class a couple of weeks prior to Martina’s talk (particularly on the subject of randomised control trials in development), the Q&A that followed Martina’s presentation was excellent. Martina also spoke more broadly about working in international development, highlighting both the positives and negatives, as well as advising on how the Masters students can improve their chances of finding work. One especially useful piece of information Martina provided was the importance of the research methods training that Masters students at SPP receive and how useful this has been for her in her work – in fact, she still listens to some of Jennifer Hudson’s lectures when she’s unsure of methodological issues!

Following the “formal” Q&A, Martina was kind enough to join students for a couple of drinks at the nearby Marlborough Arms to continue discussions about impact evaluations and working in development. We look forward to the development seminar series continuing in the coming years and having some of this year’s PED group – many of whom will no doubt have exciting jobs in international development – coming in to give similar talks to future SPP students.
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 and has a long track record of conducting high-quality research and influencing policy debates through publications and events. Unit Director Professor Robert Hazell, Deputy Director Dr Meg Russell and Dr James Melton teach courses within SPP and act as supervisors for students’ dissertations.

The Unit is currently researching the following areas:

- Parliament, including the changing role of the House of Lords and the impact of Parliament on the legislative process
- The Politics of Judicial Independence
- Special Advisers
- Comparative Constitutional Design

SPP students are welcome to attend the Unit’s monthly seminars and part-time students and alumni may also be interested in our internship programme (see below).

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

On 21 February 2013, the Constitution Unit hosted Professor Vernon Bogdanor of King’s College London who came to discuss the increasing role of the referendum in the UK. Current Unit intern, Gabriele Ruberto, provided this summary and analysis of the seminar.

Referendums are increasingly becoming part of British civic life. Whilst this constitutional instrument remained unused in Britain until forty years ago, eleven referendums have taken place in the United Kingdom since 1973 – with only two held nationwide. In the past fifteen years a substantial number of constitutional issues have been subjected to popular approval.

According to Professor Vernon Bogdanor, the recent experience of referendums in the UK suggests the emergence of a new constitutional convention. Before significant powers could be devolved away from Westminster, a referendum would be required. In Professor Bogdanor’s opinion, the precedents set by the Scottish devolution referendums (1979 and 1997), the Welsh devolution referendums (1979, 1997 and 2011), the Greater London Authority referendum (1998), the Northern Ireland Belfast Agreement referendum (1998) and the North East England devolution referendum (2004) have developed a convention that may in turn constrain governments. Under this doctrine, the Westminster government would have an obligation to hold a referendum in the case of a delegation of power to devolved institutions and would be bound by its result.

Professor Bogdanor also argues that a referendum would be required when other major constitutional reforms are considered by Parliament. The most obvious examples would be the referendum on the Alternative Vote electoral system in 2011 and the future referendum on EU membership proposed by the Prime Minister, David Cameron. With these referendums – so the argument goes – political actors have created a precedent. They have generated a public expectation that certain pivotal issues of constitutional relevance remain the preserve of popular sovereignty. For this reason, it may even be possible to pose the question of whether the People could be regarded as the third chamber of Parliament. Therefore, even though an elastic and uncodified constitution (such as that of the UK) would in principle imply an elastic role for referendums, the referendum has developed into a doctrine that might even constrain Parliament.

The difficulty with this doctrine is that other recent major constitutional changes – such as the introduction of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (which created the new Supreme Court) – have not been sanctioned by a referendum; nor was a referendum proposed before introducing elections to the House of Lords.

This suggests the doctrine is not yet particularly firm, even in relation to devolution. For example, a referendum was required before the Welsh Assembly could be granted primary legislative powers but not for the grant of greater fiscal powers to the Scottish Parliament under the Scotland Act 2012. If next year’s Scottish independence referendum fails and there are then proposals for Devo-Max, will a further referendum be required? Or will it depend on the actual result of the independence referendum? This uncertainty does not suggest the presence of a precise doctrine and appears to reinforce the argument that the use of referendums in the UK – in the absence of a codified constitution – is largely based on political considerations.

See the video transcript of Prof Bogdanor’s seminar online at http://vimeo.com/60819036
The Politics of Coalition shortlisted for prize

The Unit’s book The Politics of Coalition: How the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government Works (Hart Publishing, June 2012) was shortlisted for Political Book of the Year in The Paddy Power and Total Politics Political Book Awards. The awards ceremony took place on 6 February 2013. The book was mainly written by Unit Director Robert Hazell and Research Associate Ben Yong, with additional chapters by Eimear O’Casey, Brian Walker and Peter Waller. The book traces the first year and a half of the current coalition government, examining how it operated in Government and in Parliament, as well as looking at its portrayal in the media and at how coalitions function elsewhere. The coalition project was funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

See [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/publications/books/politics-of-coalition](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/publications/books/politics-of-coalition)

New project on the role of government lawyers

In determining the legal scope of executive action, lawyers and academics have mostly concerned themselves with what the courts say and do. However, there are a group of actors within the Executive who may also have a role: government lawyers.

The Unit has begun a short project examining the role of government lawyers. More specifically, we wish to know:

- What are the current institutional arrangements of the Government Legal Service in Whitehall and how has this changed over time? Are lawyers now more integral to policy making, with the growth of judicial review and the Human Rights Act?
- What is the hierarchy of legal advice in Whitehall? How are differences resolved?
- What are the pros and cons of departments having in-house lawyers? Should No 10 and the Cabinet Office have in-house lawyers?
- To what extent do lawyers in government see themselves as different from other civil servants or lawyers in private practice?

Nat Le Roux, Chairman of the Constitution Society, has agreed to provide funding for this scoping project. The project will run from December 2012 to May 2013 and is led by Dr Ben Yong. The key proposed outputs are a final report and a broader research proposal.

The project webpage is at [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/research/government-lawyers](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/research/government-lawyers)

Internships

Part-time current SPP students and SPP alumni may be interested in applying for the Constitution Unit internship scheme. An internship at the Constitution Unit is an ideal way for recent graduates to gain experience of work in a think tank which is also an academic research centre and to do research which is linked to policy. Interns are invited to assist in one of the Unit’s project streams, which currently include special advisers, parliament, comparative constitutions, judicial independence and constitutional and administrative law.

Please find details at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/aboutus/internships](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/aboutus/internships)
SPP OPEN DAY
MARCH 2013

Helen Elliot and Genavive Sarkis,
Department of Political Science write:

This year’s Departmental Open Day took place on Wednesday 13th of March and was a great opportunity for prospective students to learn more about our Masters programmes, meet our staff and visit the School.

This year the event took place at SPP in the Rubin Building. The afternoon began with a welcome from Professor David Coen, followed by an overview of programmes by Dr Jennifer Hudson. From outside the Department, we were lucky to have presentations from Julie Rolls, UCL’s International Liaison & Recruitment Manager and Patrice Ware from UCL’s Careers Service.

As well as visiting individual programme stalls where Programme Directors were on hand to provide information and guidance on courses, students could also attend a series of ‘Hot Topic’ lectures from some of our staff as follows:

Dr Colin Provost
‘Private Regulation of Transnational Business’

Dr Nils Metternich
‘Predicting the future: Political Science and Forecasting’

Dr Roland Kappe
‘Austerity and the Future of the Welfare State’

Feedback from the day was extremely positive with students commenting on the informative nature of the presentations and the overall friendliness and helpfulness of all involved. As in previous years, the ‘hot topics’ section was deemed a favourite by students and was a chance for them to interact with speakers and get involved in the debate.

We would very much like to thank Jennifer for chairing the panel and all the staff and student ambassadors who were involved in making the day such a success.
CONFERENCE: LIBERALISM AND REPUBLICANISM: PUBLIC POLICY IMPLICATIONS

John Wilesmith, MPhil/PhD Candidate, UCL Department of Political Science writes:

Do the labels of ‘liberalism’ and ‘republicanism’ designate distinct positions in political theory or on closer inspection does one position merely collapse into the other? Are they, perhaps, different strands of a common approach? If so how might we tell them apart? And if we can tell them apart, which theory is better?

These were the sorts of questions that divided the room at the one-day conference hosted by the School of Public Policy and organised by PhD students Sara Amighetti, Lior Erez, Volkan Gul and Nick Martin. The event brought together a number of speakers from European and American universities to present their latest research, as well as over 60 attendees. It was specifically designed to address the recurrent questions in this theoretical debate through the prism of public policy.

This approach was at the heart of the Professor Stuart White’s (Oxford) keynote speech, which began by asking ‘what does republicanism mean for us?’ White argued for a specific kind of liberal republicanism, which views liberal egalitarian theories of justice and republican theories as being compatible because they are essentially offering answers to different questions: the former gives us a convincing picture of the ideal society and the latter fills in the gaps of how we might go about realising it.

Focussing on rights and punishment, Christopher Hamel (Université Libre de Bruxelles) aimed to bolster the republican position by arguing that there are no good reasons to view rights as requiring a liberal, rather than republican, framework. However, Nicholas Kirby (Oxford) threw down a challenge to the republican concept of freedom by highlighting a possible internal inconsistency: the republican justification of criminal law is that as a probable deterrent it increases the freedom of would-be victims but the republican rejection of liberal freedom is exactly that it turns on such probabilities and therefore lacks resilience. Similarly, Andrei Paoma (Sciences Po/Yale) argued that when republicanism insists on equal legal treatment, it collapses into a liberal justification of punishment.

On the topic of neutrality and perfectionism, Gregory Whitfield presented a paper jointly written with Frank Lovett (both Washington University, St. Louis) defending republicanism against the charge that it is illiberal in the sense of justifying political institutions that
promote an objective view of the good life. Greg Walker (Open University) then staked out a position for the reconciliation camp as he argued that mainstream liberal and republican approaches are compatible and should both inform public policy; in support, he demonstrated how both approaches might justify same-sex civil marriage. Conversely, Tom Hannant (Queen Mary) argued that we should maintain a division between the two theories’ approaches to public policy, even if their recommendations are often similar, as changes in the factual situation might lead them to adopt opposing positions in the future.

The attendees filed back from the lunch break – and a brief introductory meeting with Jeremy Bentham – to hear Alan Coffee (King’s College, London) elucidate the distinctive policy implications of an older, richer notion of republican independence, as opposed to the concept of non-domination, which, ironically, dominates much of the contemporary literature. The speakers then turned their attention to issues of distributive justice and political economy with Adam Fusco (York) arguing that, in spite of their different theoretical justifications, a republican civic economy would share many features with John Rawls’ influential liberal account of a property-owning democracy. Maria Dimova-Cookson (Durham) followed this with a sustained attack on Philip Pettit’s concept of republican liberty, arguing that it internalises social justice in much the same way as L.T Hobhouse’s early twentieth century liberal account of freedom but unlike Hobhouse, Pettit fails to address the continuity between freedom and wellbeing.

Finally, Simon Cotton (Princeton) argued that the most systematic republican theory of distributive justice, which he identified in the work of Frank Lovett, cannot theoretically support the egalitarian policies that it proposes. Specifically, he maintained that the republican goal of minimising domination was indeterminate between a number of intuitive and counter-intuitive policy proposals and therefore tacitly relied on other values to prioritise the former over the latter. Needless to say, the debate continued after the closing statements.
Professor Albert Weale, Department of Political Science, writes:

Consider typical public policy problems around the world. How can we provide high quality integrated social and health care to ageing populations? How can affordable and sustainable housing be secured in cities in rapidly developing economies? How best can electricity and transport links connect rural agricultural producers with wider markets? What makes for good governance in financial regulation, product safety or environmental protection?

When you think of these problems, you soon realise their complexity. Policy makers need to understand how different organisations - in the public, private and non-profit sectors - all have a role in policy, whether it be linking hospitals, care homes and family members together in caring for the elderly or in ensuring that rapidly expanding cities provide clear water, good schools and sustainable transport to rapidly expanding populations. Policy makers need to understand data that provides only incomplete information and they need to put in place reliable methods for evaluating whether their policies are working or not. They need to manage their office teams in ways that are cost-effective and methodical whilst at the same time being flexible and responsive to new developments. They also need to be able accurately to read the political landscape in which they are working.

To provide training and development in these skills, UCL’s School of Public Policy has joined up with the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University to develop a unique Executive Masters in Public Administration. Aimed at those with seven to ten years experience in the public, private or non-profit sectors, it is targeted at individuals who wish to move to leadership positions. It hopes to attract students from around the world, underlining its view that good public policy-making involves being attentive at the same time to local context and comparative analysis. The Masters lasts a year and involves one term in the Wagner School in New York, one term at UCL’s School of Public Policy and then a period in a team project working for a client organisation producing a policy report. This last element – the capstone project – underlines the programme’s commitment to bring together analytical intelligence and practical application.

Development of the Masters has itself been an exercise in policy innovation, as the two people who originally conceived it – David Coen at UCL and Paul Smoke at NYU – wrote course specifications for two different institutions, thought
about a curriculum that provided training in the key analytic skills, identified or appointed staff to teach on the Masters and collaborated on the details of application and enrolment administration. The administrative teams in both schools have been a model of how people in different institutions can work together and illustrate the old saying that if you want a job done well, find a busy person to do it.

The Masters was formally announced at the end of April, and will start recruiting in autumn 2013 for enrolment in New York in September 2014. A major launch event is planned in New York for later in 2013. Initial recruitment is intended to be highly selective, aiming for 15 to 25 people who will form the advanced guard of what we hope to be a unique programme that brings together two different institutions, two great world cities and two sets of skills, analytical rigour and practical application.

Albert Weale is the UCL Director of the NYU/UCL Executive Masters in Public Administration and he can be contacted at: a.weale@ucl.ac.uk

The web-site for the Masters can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/teaching/masters/empa

NEW STAFF

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

Dr Marc Esteve
Lecturer in International Public Management

Dr Marc Esteve joins UCL in September 2013 as a Lecturer in International Public Management at the School of Public Policy. Prior to coming to UCL, Marc received his PhD and MSc in Management Sciences from ESADE Business School, in Barcelona, working on the management of inter-organisational collaborations involving public organisations. Marc also holds a MA in Health Sciences from the University of Barcelona, a BA in Psychology from the Open University of Catalonia and a BA in Sports Sciences from the University of Barcelona.

Marc Esteve’s ongoing studies focus on various aspects of cross-sector inter-organisational collaborations. The overall goal of his work is to contribute to the literature on cross-sector alliances by exploring how the role of the chief executive influences inter-organisational collaborations. More specifically, his research assesses the influence of managers’ personal characteristics on the development and success of collaborations. In addition, a line of research somewhat parallel to this first one is to apply core public management concepts to private management settings. These concepts primarily include public service motivation, red tape and bureaucratic personality.

His research has been published in a variety of journal outlets, such as the Journal of Public Administration and Theory, Public Money and Management, European Sport Management Quarterly and Emerald Research in Public Policy Analysis and Management Series, among others.

Dr Michael Plouffe
Lecturer in International Political Economy

Michael Plouffe joins UCL in September 2013 as Lecturer in International Political Economy. He received his PhD from University of California, San Diego and much of his research focuses on the political-economy implications of producer heterogeneity. Some of his other ongoing research projects examine diplomatic and economic networks and environmental policy.
Emily McTernan joins the Department in September 2013 as a Lecturer in Political Theory.

Previously, Emily was a Fellow in the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is also completing her PhD at the University of Cambridge, in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. Her thesis addresses how best to combine equality and responsibility within a theory of justice.

Emily's research interests lie within contemporary political philosophy. Her work focuses on three debates in particular: the scope of justice and whether and how it extends to choices made by individuals; the role of responsibility within an egalitarian theory of justice; and the relevance of empirical research to political philosophy. She is currently investigating the relevance of some of these debates to policy issues surrounding both immigration and conditional welfare benefits.

Emily is very much looking forward to joining the Department.

Ben Webb
Constitution Unit Administrator

I joined the Department in November 2012 as the Constitution Unit Administrator. Previously I worked in the joint administrative team for the Cancer Institute and Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Science at UCL, where I worked as an Administrator in HR and pre-award administration.

I graduated from Brunel University in 2009 with a BA Hons in History, my specific area of interest was the Holocaust and Nazi Germany.

In my spare time, I enjoy keeping fit and trying out different exercise classes but in 2011, I started running. I’m yet to be crazy enough to sign up to the London marathon but one day that will be my goal. I also love to travel, after my whirlwind six month trip around the world in 2010 I now have the bug, I am always looking for a new place to explore, whether that’s in the UK or further afield.

I look forward to being part of the SPP team and I hope to make a positive contribution to the Unit and the Department.

Beth Carley
Research Associate

Beth joined UCL in January 2013 as a research associate working with Peter John on an ESRC-funded study of citizen contributions to local public services. The study will use field experiments to test interventions to stimulate volunteering with social information. Prior to joining UCL, Beth was a postgraduate researcher in the Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) at the University of Manchester where she gained a PhD in Social Statistics and an MSc in Social Research Methods and Statistics.

Beth’s previous employment includes work in public relations and in social housing, facilitating tenant involvement in governance.

Beth’s research interests are civic engagement, coproduction and volunteering and the ways in which these can be mapped and measured to inform the design of public policy. Beth’s research to date has used quantitative analysis of survey data, social network analysis and qualitative methods. Her PhD employed a mixed-method comparative case study approach to examine the impact of the New Deal for Communities area-based regeneration initiative on community social networks in East Manchester.

She is delighted to join UCL and to have the opportunity to apply experimental methods to research on volunteering.

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RESEARCH GRANT UPDATE

Congratulations to the following members of staff who have successfully secured the following grants:

Dr Lisa Vanhala
Dr Lisa Vanhala has been successful in obtaining funding from the Socio-Legal Studies Association for her project entitled ‘Legal Mobilization and the Diffusion of Disability Rights in France’. This is due to run from May to September 2013.

“France’s legal tradition has tended to be hostile to conceptualisations of equality that acknowledge differences between individuals or groups. Despite this, French disability rights activists have successfully mobilised the law to introduce new interpretations of disability equality based on recognition of difference. This new understanding of equality, as embedded in a 2005 Disability Equality Law, even includes positive action to ameliorate disadvantage and acknowledge the concept of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, schools and the built environment. The aim of this research is to explore why this new interpretation of equality emerged in a context where we might least expect it and how it has both shaped and been shaped by, the mobilisation of law by disability activists.”

PhD PROGRAMME NEWS

Dr Slava Mikhaylov, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports:

Forthcoming publications
Niheer Dasandi has an article ‘International Inequality and World Poverty: A Quantitative Structural Analysis’ forthcoming at New Political Economy journal.

Conference presentations
Noha Aboueldahab presented a paper at the Harvard Law School’s Institute for Global Law and Policy ten-day workshop in January 2013 in Doha, Qatar. Here’s the link to the workshop: http://www.harvardiglp.org/iglp-the-workshop

The paper was a dissertation prospectus that was presented and discussed in a writing workshop session. Title of the paper: ‘The Prosecution of Political Leaders in the Arab Region: A comparative case study of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen.’
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:

Christina Kaili

After leaving the School of Public Policy in 2008, I have been employed by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), an NGO active in the field of gender equality and women’s rights. As a researcher and project coordinator, I am involved in a combination of research, lobbying, advocacy and implementation of educational activities for a variety of target groups on gender equality and women’s rights. I also engage in monitoring gender equality policies and in the development of policy recommendations throughout my work so to influence the socio-political agenda regarding gender equality at a national, regional, European and international level.

Among other, as an active member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, I have worked in promoting women’s rights in political transitions and reforms.

I have recently taken part in a group of experts to draft a study for the European Parliament entitled “Enhancing EU Action to Support Universal Standards for Women’s Rights during Democratic Transitions”.

Since 2005, I have been an active volunteer member of the Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) and currently participating as a Board Member working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The specialised knowledge I gained from the MA in Human Rights enhanced my professional expertise. My passion for social research and human rights activism led to my decision to pursue a PhD programme in Sociology at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Cyprus.

Tavistock Square will always bring memories of valuable life experiences and I hope to collaborate with SPP colleagues in the future.
Meghan Benton

I was at the School of Public Policy in several capacities from 2004 to 2010. I did the MA in Legal and Political Theory (2004–5) followed by a PhD in Political Theory (2006–10). I was also a researcher in the Constitution Unit from 2008 to 2011.

Since January 2012, I’ve been working in Washington, DC, for an immigration think tank called the Migration Policy Institute (MPI). MPI’s mission is to think through the challenges associated with the movement of people and propose pragmatic solutions without advocating for ‘more’ or ‘less’ immigration – unlike others in the field. It’s an exciting time to be here since MPI is heavily involved in the conversation about comprehensive immigration reform. Some of my professional highlights have included an assessment of free movement in the EU and a paper that applied some of the themes of my PhD (how immigration status can make migrants vulnerable to exploitation) to transatlantic policy debates.

Moving here has also been personally rewarding. Many SPP students know how thrilling yet challenging it is to start afresh in a new country. I’ve learnt a lot about myself – my values and priorities, coping mechanisms and deficiencies – through having to create a new life but after a year here I’m settled and enamoured with the city. Although it has a reputation for being full of policy wonks, it also has more than its fair share of museums, theatre, music, bars; and its neighbourhoody feel is relaxing after hectic London. The policy wonks aren’t so bad either.

FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK TIMES

TAVISTOCK TIMES is published three times a year with the next edition due to be published in September 2013.

Ideas for future articles should be sent to:
Helen Holt,
h.holt@ucl.ac.uk
before the end of June 2013

Contributions from past students are especially welcome keeping the Department up to date on their progress since leaving UCL.