The new academic year started with the arrival of 380 masters students, 11 PhDs and as reported in the last newsletter 5 new lecturers and professors. Building on this success, in the coming year, we have plans to recruit an additional 5 new lecturers in a variety of fields of International Relations, Political Science, Public Policy, and Political Theory.

This growth and new hires should allow us to offer students an ever more varied programme of courses and related events and make us even more competitive with our rival departments in the UK and abroad.

In developing our international alliances and profile, I am happy to report that UCL has entered into a strategic alliance with Yale University and I have now met with our Political Sciences colleagues across the pond to discuss how we may develop more collaboration.
in the long run. In the immediate future, the School of Public Policy is planning to launch an executive MPA with New York University. This will be the first degree of its type aimed and mid-career civil servants in international institutions such as the World Bank, United Nations, OCED and European Commission. MPAs will be expected to study a term in NYU and a term in UCL before embarking on a team project in an international organisation. The program will be launched in 2012/13 with a series of events on Global Governance and the first students will enter the program in 2013/14. It is hoped that with these alliances and the growth of new university institutes such as; the European Institute (led by Richard Bellamy from SPP), Human Rights Institute (led by Saladin Meckled-Garcia from SPP) and a potentially new Institute of Global Governance, UCL and SPP will be at the forefront of international political debates.

In terms of public policy debates at UCL we have already arranged a number of high level talks with policy-makers and leading university academics. A few highlights in the winter term were talks by Diana Wallis – Vice President of the European Parliament – on lobbying the European Union, Jack Straw MP talk on Britain and Europe and Yvonne Rydin’s (UCL) event on “Going Low-Carbon: The governance of climate change”. Looking to the future Michael Jacobs a visiting professor at SPP will talk on 24 January 2012 on “The Green Movement? The Crisis of Capitalism and the Response of Politics”.

In addition to these enjoyable policy talks we have also had a very successful term of departmental seminars with a number of leading academics from around the world as well as an enlightening presentation by our own Professor Robert Hazell talking on the current Coalition Government.

In addition to the above open event we have also attempted to put on a number of additional policy events and trips specifically for SPP students. In November 2011, Alexander Katsaitis led a group of 20 SPP students to participate in an EU Simulation Game organised by Europe House (EP Information Office in London). The total number of participants was 40-45, from UCL, Surrey and Westminster. The participants were randomly allocated to different EP Political groups, pretending to be MEPs from specific countries. The subject of the simulation game/ debate was the Financial Transaction Tax. The participants acting as MEPs of the JURI and ECON committees had to make proposals, amendments, vote, strike deals with other Political Groups and finally come up with an actual legal document “legislation”. The previous week they had attended a meeting with presentations from officials from an advocacy coalition in favour of the FTT and the British Banking Association to gather information on the Robin Hood Tax. I am pleased to report that our students were given a most honourable mention and in all likelihood will be invited to take part in a larger simulation in Brussels at the end of February.

Other student events included Professor Peter John taking a group of Public Policy students to visit the newly created Supreme Court and it is hoped in the spring term that trips to EU institutions in Brussels can be organised. For those considering an academic career the department organised a roundtable of faculty to discuss “how to apply and prepare for a PhD” and for those that missed the event the video can be watched at: www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/news

However, it is not just the faculty that have been organising events I am also pleased to announce that two of our PhD - Susan Fuchs and Alexander Katsaitis - have also taken the initiative thanks to support from the European Institute to organise a series of events looking at EMU governance under three themes: finance, monetary and democratic deficit. They have organised 2 multidisciplinary meetings with students from universities across London (total number of participants 30-35). In November 2011 they invited Professor Featherstone (LSE) Dr. James Scott (KCL) and Dr. Colin Provost (UCL) to talk on the Euro crisis to over 100 students.

Continuing on the success story of our PhDs I am also happy to report that in the 2010/11 the department saw the successful completion of 7 PhD. They were Dr Chiara Cordelli, Dr Coromoto Power-Febres, Dr Julio Montero, Dr Raluca Soreanu, Dr Andrew Tarrant, Dr Andreea Udrea and Dr Harald Heubaum. Our congratulations go out to all of them.
**SPP 60 SECOND INTERVIEW**

In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Slava Mikhaylov, Lecturer in Research Methods and Director of Research Degrees

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### Dr Slava Mikhaylov  
*Lecturer in Research Methods and Director of Research Degrees*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your name?</td>
<td>Slava Mikhaylov.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When did you join UCL?</td>
<td>September 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your responsibilities in the Department?</td>
<td>Teaching methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?</td>
<td>I love prime numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?</td>
<td>Walking 100km in 23 hours 36 minutes and 10 seconds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow trailwalkers: David Hudson, Alex Braithwaite and Niheer Dasandi.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourite location around UCL?</td>
<td>Bentham’s Auto-icon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would your ideal afternoon/evening in London include?</td>
<td>No delays on the Tube.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your favourite book?</td>
<td>Laws of the Game by IRB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your hobbies?</td>
<td>Archaeology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?</td>
<td>Beekeeping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?</td>
<td>We should all get to vote for the president of the United States.</td>
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ON RAMADHAN AND
ON BEING ‘A WALKING
AMBASSADOR OF ISLAM’

Dyah Widiastuti, 2010-11 Chevening Scholar and MSc
International Public Policy former student writes:

“Every Muslim is a walking ambassador of Islam.”

That was a sentence I heard from a Canadian religious teacher in my 13th day of the holy month, my first Ramadhan here in London, the UK.

His words reminded me of my reason to come to the UK. I wrote in my scholarship application over a year ago that I wanted to communicate with the world about the benevolent face of Islam and to learn about multiculturalism from the UK (of course, besides becoming a full-time student!). The intention was getting stronger as one of the scholarship interviewers said (responding to my question): “Being British is about being proud of the British multiculturalism.”

So there I was, listening to an inspiring advice about Ramadhan. The teacher talked about the importance of good characters of a Muslim and he mentioned three important good characters: tolerance and forgiveness; indiscriminate generosity; and self-reflection. He said that the point of Ramadhan was to transform ourselves to have good characters.

On tolerance and forgiveness, the cleric gave the example when Prophet Muhammad conquered Mecca. As he arrived in the city gate, the people of Mecca were terrified with what would happen. To everyones relief, the Prophet said: “No blame upon you and may Allah forgive you as He is the most merciful.” No bloodshed happened.

That was not the first time I had heard the story but I felt happy to listen to it again. Having studied international relations for the last ten years, I am always interested in the emphasis on tolerance in religious teaching and thankfully, this is often the main theme of religious speech here.

The advice was special because I listened to it in my university, known as the first secular-based university in England, the first to treat people from different religious background equally, which is also mocked by some rivals as the home of “the Godless scums of Gower Street”. And it was a “National Ramadhan Conference” that I attended; now you can see the paradox with the “Godless-ness”. My university has been a place where I learned about British multiculturalism, in the class as well as in its social life. It held events that I had never even heard of before, such as public debate between a Muslim and an Atheist on the concept of God; Islam Awareness Week where everyone can ask anything about Islam and a lecture about cultivating multiculturalism.

I start recounting every blessing I have received as a Muslim in the UK, not only during this Ramadhan but since my very first day. Unlike what I thought before I came to the UK, I feel that living a Muslim life is not difficult here. Five-time prayers (shalat) are easy, as the university provides a contemplation room.
Also, I will never forget the shalat that I did in two historic churches in the city of Oxford, when I could not find anywhere else to pray (thanks to the generosity of their people!). I also find no problem for wearing hijab (Islamic headscarf), as surprisingly there are so many hijabi in London! I have never experienced any negative treatment about it. I am also thankful to the thoughtfulness of my classmates, both British and international students. My dissertation submission deadline arrived together with the end of Ramadhan so the pressure was unimaginable. Some of my classmates were amazed with the eighteen hour length fasting and they kindly showered me with various suggestions on how to deal with it. Some of them suggested to “pay it back” another time, some suggested to work at nights and sleep during the day. They also asked me “How’s Ramadhan?” by emails and texts, as I started isolating myself for the dissertation deadline. I simply feel blessed.

These experiences are real example of tolerance and generosity, two important ingredients of healthy multiculturalism. They make me realise how this place has made easier to see how we can embrace these two good characters.

Every Ramadhan is always special for me but this Ramadhan in London was unforgettable. It reminded me about the transformative aim of Ramadhan and inspires me to accomplish the mission of being a good “walking ambassador of Islam”.

This article originally appeared at http://ukinindonesia.fco.gov.uk/en/

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LEVERHULME EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIP

Dr Robert Jubb, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, writes:

In October 2011, I began a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship in the Department, having taught here for the past two years.

The fellowship is jointly funded by the Leverhulme Trust and UCL and was granted to complete a project entitled ‘Tragic Choices: Responding to Injustice’.

The project takes as its starting point work which I developed from my doctoral thesis. That work engages with and tries to reframe an increasingly important debate in contemporary political theory, that over the nature and significance of what in the jargon gets called ideal and non-ideal theory. The debate is over the assumptions political theorists should use when trying to explain the content of political values like democracy and liberty.

Like many other disciplines do when conducting their investigations, when thinking about how political institutions ought to be arranged, political theorists often simplify and even ignore some of the messy realities of our complex world. Which of these awkward details are swept under the carpet matters though, since they may be crucial for understanding what we owe to each other as citizens. It seems unlikely to matter that citizens are of different heights but it may be very important that they have different interests and inclinations. Indeed, some of those involved in the debate argued that making assumptions which departed too much from the world as we know it falsified the descriptions political theories gave of political values.

My intervention in that debate tries to show that separating two problems in political theory will help to understand which simplifying assumptions are helpful and which are not. One is the problem of what a perfect political system would look like and the other is that of what we should do now, given that we presumably don’t have one. These two problems are interdependent: just as it is dissatisfaction with the system we have that spurs us on to think about what a better and hopefully eventually perfect system would look like, it is only by seeing that our system does not live up to our ideals that we can justify our dissatisfaction with it.

Which assumptions political theorists should make will depend on which of the two problems they are trying to deal with. In particular, I argued that an assumption of full compliance with the theory’s recommendations is appropriate for understanding what a perfect political system would look like whereas an assumption of partial compliance, that someone somewhere is not doing what they ought to, is appropriate when
thinking about how to deal with the imperfect world we actually face. If someone was not doing something they ought not to, how could the world be imperfect?

What I hope to do over the course of the next three years is develop a more systematic account of how we ought to respond to other people’s wrongdoing. One of central features of any situation of wrongdoing is that someone is not going to get something they ought to have. Either the wrongdoer will deprive someone of something – some property or an opportunity, for example – or someone else will have to step in and give up something they were entitled to compensate the wrongdoer’s victim. In this sense, I think these situations are often tragic: someone must lose something they should not. Yet it seems likely that they are pervasive features of our political lives.

Many failures to regulate to prevent collective action problems like the depletion of natural resources are surely departures from the ideal political system and so may involve this kind of tragic moral loss. One of the problems associated with preventing and mitigating harmful climate change, for example, is that many states seem unlikely to either limit their emissions or compensate for the harms they contribute to through that failure. Given that, it seems there is a pressing need for political theorists to attempt to understand how we might navigate it.

By trying to answer questions about when we are responsible for others’ wrongdoing and which departures from a perfect political system are particularly bad, I hope to contribute to that attempt.

NUDGE, NUDGE, THINK, THINK:

EXPERIMENTING WITH WAYS TO CHANGE CIVIC BEHAVIOUR

In September 2011, Professor Peter John’s role as a member of ‘Academic Advisory Panel’ for the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team received some attention in the media.

He was quoted in The Sunday Times in an article by Marie Woolf, ‘No 10 Nudges taxpayers to be more honest’ discussing experiments that promote honesty by citizens when declaring taxes.

On 17 September 2011, he was interviewed for the Week in Westminster on the annual report of the insights team.

In both cases, Peter was very pleased the journalists helped him plug his new book, Nudge, Nudge, Think, Think.

www.bloomsburyacademic.com/view/NudgeNudgeThinkThink_9781849662284/book-ba-9781849662284.xml
THE ARAB AWAKENING: THE EUROPEAN UNION IN SHIFTING SANDS

Dr Sarah Wolff writes:

The events unfolding in the Arab world give me the occasion to introduce my research that I conducted during my PhD in International Relations (London School of Economics, 2009) and that will be available as a book next year. The gist of this research was to understand why and how over the past decade, the European Union had externalised its internal security policies to its Mediterranean partners. It rests within the field of Justice and Home Affairs and EU’s external relations. The revision of the manuscript, undertook when I was at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations, has been rhythmed by the revolts in the Arab world, leading me to draw some lessons for EU’s foreign policy.

At the moment this article goes to press (01 December 2011), events in the Arab world are unfolding at a frantic pace. Tunisians went to the polls massively to elect their new government and the Constituent Assembly hold its first meeting. Egyptians are contesting the power of the military government, with new demonstrations on Tahrir square and Libya had its first government formed. The road is not a clear-cut one even though democratisation is the most desired outcome. Democratisation as well as finding the terms of a new social contract will certainly take time. From a geopolitical perspective, implications are already numerous. Turkish foreign policy in the region is already highly scrutinised, while Syria remains a big test case for the international community.

My research interest lies in understanding the European Union policy towards the region and whether those events together with the post-Lisbon setting offer a new opportunity for Europeans. One of the fundamental dilemmas...
in EU’s policy towards the region has been to balance its normative commitments with its own security interests towards the region. It was a key characteristic of the various policy frames developed towards the region (the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Neighbourhood Union for the Mediterranean).

This is where my research over the past couple of years might help to draw some lessons for future policies towards the region. During my PhD research I focused on the phenomenon the externalisation of EU’s internal security policies (Justice and Home Affairs) to the Mediterranean region. I wanted to understand whether purely security reasons had pushed the EU and its member states to externalise border control or to co-opt countries like Morocco and Egypt in EU counter-terrorism. I also wanted to investigate whether the EU was able to pursue its normative commitments like the promotion of the rule of law, which is very much embedded in the European conception of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

What triggered my interest was that, over the years, that JHA had become a priority in Euro-Mediterranean association agreements or ENP action plan. Readmission agreements, cooperation with Frontex (the EU’s border agency) and counter-terrorism clauses became common instruments of European diplomat’s toolbox.

Based on an approach that combined rational-choice to historical institutionalism, the main findings of my research revealed that, beyond the securitisation argument, both member states’ and Mediterranean partners’ preferences mattered heavily, combined with historical legacies of Euro-Mediterranean relations. The way the EU externalised its JHA policies had been affected by time and the strategic preferences of the states’ involved. This research benefited from the funding of the Department of International Relations of the LSE as well as from the European Foreign and Security Programme from which I was a fellow. It has led me to conduct interviews in Morocco, Egypt and Jordan.

Today, given the unfolding of current events in the region, it seems that the findings of that research remain valid. First migration and counter-terrorism remain high on the agenda. The Sahel is today a grey area, which threatens directly European’s interests. It also sufficed that a couple of migrants ended up on Europe’s shores to re-activate the discussions on solidarity and ‘burden-sharing’ in the EU and questioning the fundamentals of the Schengen Convention. The externalisation of JHA policies to North Africa is therefore impacting on the construction of an AFSJ. Second, the EU is struggling on how to combine its strategic ambitions with its normative commitments to supporting democratisation and the rule of law in the region. There it is possible to draw lessons. JHA policies are a way to combine skilfully EU’s normative and strategic ambitions and can be helpful in future democratic transitions. Transitional justice, security sector reform as well as helping Libya, Tunisia and Egypt to deal with new migration fluxes, will be key areas where the EU can make a difference. The preferences of Mediterranean partners when it comes to framing their relationship with the EU remain the unknown variable. Looking back at the externalisation of EU’s internal security policies though, it is possible to refine EU’s external action strategy in order to evolve more confidently in the shifting sands of democratic transitions.
Cécile Laborde has been awarded an ERC (European Research Council) Starting Grant, worth over one million pounds, for a five-year-long project entitled ‘Is Religion Special? Reformulating Secularism and Religion in Contemporary Legal and Political Theory’ (RAPT).

ERC Grants
ERC grants aim to support and promote ‘frontier research’ in Europe and to give independent researchers the resources to design and complete large-scale projects of original research. By contrast to other European grants FP7 schemes, the ERC ‘Ideas’ scheme is designed to fund ‘individual teams’ with no obligation of transnational cooperation. In this case, the ‘European added value’ lies in raising the competition between scientists in fundamental ‘frontier’ research from the national to the European level. ERC grants enable academics to design their own research programmes, in any field or speciality, to set up their own teams and carry out cutting-edge projects. Applications are evaluated through an international peer review process with scientific excellence as the sole evaluation criterion. In particular, no thematic or policy-driven research priorities need to be covered.

The ERC Starting Grants are designed to support researchers from any nationality who have obtained their PhD between 2 and 12 years before the call for project proposals (extensions may apply in certain cases, such as periods of maternity leave). The ERC are not yet well-known and yet they are a major source of support for research across Europe and UCL has had a good record of success. The European Office provides support with the design of the application. The application process itself is time-consuming, as applicants must demonstrate the importance of their research to the field, through a fairly comprehensive and detailed research proposal, with clearly identified objectives, timescale, and methodology. Candidates who are successful at the first stage of the selection are invited for an interview by the relevant panel in Brussels. Relevant panels for Social/Political Sciences are SH1 (Individuals, institutions and markets), SH2 (Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour) and SH3 (Environment and society).

RAPT: Religion and Political Theory
Professor Cécile Laborde’s research programme is entitled RAPT (Religion And Political Theory), and its aim is to offer a comprehensive re-assessment of the conception of religion which underpins contemporary legal and political theory.

In western politics and law, religion has a special status. On the one hand, there is supposed to be a unique separation between the state and religion; on the other hand, the state gives special protection to religious beliefs and organisations qua religious. The religious neutrality of the state and respect for freedom of religion are the two salient features of the relationship between religion, law and politics.

What is rarely recognised by political and legal theorists is that these features rely on a distinctive understanding of religion, born out of the particular trajectory of western secularisation. One upshot of long-standing, protracted struggles between religious and political authorities is that, in Euro-Atlantic societies at least, religion is seen as importantly and relevantly distinct from other spheres of human and social life.
RAPT aims to re-assess the foundations of the special nature of religion in legal and political theory, by reference to the large and expanding body of multi-disciplinary ‘post-secular’ literature. This literature points both to the transformations and mutation of religion in contemporary societies and to fundamental ambiguities and contradictions within the secular project itself. While much existing literature tends to rely on a simple dichotomy (‘secular’ versus ‘religious’ or ‘post-secular’), RAPT sees religion itself as the contested term in the debate between secularism and its critics.

The central hypothesis of RAPT is that the ‘specialness’ of religion is defensible in light of important political and legal ideals but that it needs to be substantially modified and refined in response to philosophical, anthropological, historical, political and sociological post-secular critiques.

In the process, RAPT will address questions such as these: is freedom of religion a special freedom or can it be subsumed under more general freedoms (speech, thought, association)? Should exemptions from general laws be granted to religious believers qua religious? Does the law need a concept of religion and which? Can religious arguments have justificatory force in public debate? Are liberal ideals of democracy and human rights secular and in which sense? Should liberal democratic states adhere to a norm of ‘non-establishment’ of religion? Is secularism an exclusively Christian or post-Christian ideal? If the concept of ‘religion’ itself is a western concept, what implications does this have for the universal ambitions of western secularism?

Starting in January 2012, Laborde will assemble and lead a team of post-doctoral researchers – experts in political philosophy, law and intellectual history – who will collaborate in RAPT. She will work full-time on the project for the duration of the grant. The project will be based in UCL’s Department of Political Science and will offer the first systematic and comprehensive assessment, from the point of view of political theory, of the post-secular view of religion and politics.

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**FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK TIMES**

_TAVISTOCK TIMES_ is published three times a year with the next edition due to be published in April 2012.

Ideas for future articles should be sent to: Helen Holt, h.holt@ucl.ac.uk before the end of February 2012

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

UCL Department of Political Science, Professor Peter John and USC School of Policy, Planning and Development, Associate Professor Anthony Bertelli are the new co-editors of the Journal and Public Policy, published by Cambridge University Press. The journal will now be included in the ISI Social Science Citation Index.

The Journal of Public Policy applies social science theories and concepts to significant political, economic and social issues and to the ways in which public policies are made. Its articles deal with topics of concern to public policy scholars in America, Europe, Japan and other advanced industrial nations.

The editors are interested in reviewing any papers on public policy topics written by academics and graduate students.

Further information can be found at:

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=PUP
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.

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 (see below).

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

FOI and Local Government in the UK

In November 2011, the Constitution Unit’s Freedom of Information team completed their two-year, ESRC-funded project investigating the impact of the Freedom of Information Act upon English local government.

This is the first study to look comprehensively at how requesters, the media and FOI officers have changed the landscape of local government via the estimated 700,000 FOI requests made since 2005. A Unit report has been published (available on our website at www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/publications) which is based on interviews conducted with 15 different local authorities, media analysis and surveys of journalists and FOI officers.

The project found that while local government has always been open, FOI has pushed new areas into the limelight and changed accountability priorities. The context of local media relations and local leadership mean FOI’s impact is not uniform and some councils have embraced FOI more easily – and willingly – than others. Other findings were that financial information continues to be the most frequently requested, as has been the case since 2008. According to respondents, the general public generate most requests, contradicting Tony Blair’s publicised regret that FOI is used not by “the people” but predominantly by journalists.

‘The Sword and the Shield’: FOI’s Impact on Parliament and Parliamentarians

This Leverhulme-funded project was completed in September 2011 and a Unit report is online: www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/research/foi/foi-and-parliament

We assessed the use made of FOI by parliamentarians and the impact of FOI upon Parliament as an institution, undertaking 46 interviews and analysis of hundreds of media articles and FOI requests. Some parliamentarians have developed policy or successfully advocated for constituents through making FOI requests. However, many more do not, the combined product of sufficient existing scrutiny methods, a lack of time and resources and FOI’s supposed ‘grubby’ nature (the latter opinion more held by the Lords).

On the other side, FOI has been a conduit for Parliament to share more information about itself, especially regarding its corporate governance. Parliamentary process, however, has not been exposed by FOI. It is infrequently requested and protected by Parliamentary Privilege. The focus of requests to the Commons was always on its members, whose interests created inertia when confronting the juggernaut of the MPs’ expenses scandal.

Having strong corporate leadership, separated from political actors and getting buy-in from all in the organisation are the important lessons Parliament provides for other UK bodies subject to the FOI Act.
Other News:

The Constitution Unit has been busy contributing to a several parliamentary committees' work over the last few months.

Honorary Research Fellow Dr Bob Morris gave evidence to the Political and Constitution Reform Committee in November 2011. The Committee was holding a session to investigate the implications of changing the rules of succession to give girls the same rights as boys to the throne, as well as giving monarchs the right to marry Roman Catholics.

[Link to evidence](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/constitution-unit-news/101111)

Constitution Unit Deputy Director Dr Meg Russell gave evidence to the Joint Committee on the Draft House of Lords Reform Bill in October 2011. Dr Russell drew on her extensive research into the House of Lords and elected second chambers abroad to answer questions about the potential effects of the coalition's plans for Lords reform.

[Link to evidence](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/constitution-unit-news/311011)

Constitution Unit Monthly Seminars:

- **Wednesday 11 January 2012, 1pm**
  Parliamentary Boundaries Review
  Prof Ron Johnston (University of Bristol) with David Rossiter and Charles Pattie
  Venue: Council Room, School of Public Policy

- **Monday 20 February 2012, 1pm**
  Judicial Diversity
  Prof Dame Hazel Genn (UCL Laws)
  Venue: Council Room, School of Public Policy

- **Tuesday 22 May 2012, 6pm**
  Elected Mayors
  Lord Adonis and Jules Pipe (Mayor of Hackney)
  Venue: Council Room, School of Public Policy

There are other seminars still to be scheduled for 2012 so please visit our website, where you can also sign up and find videos and presentations from previous seminars, at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/events](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/events)

Also download Unit Seminars on iTunes U at: [http://itunes.ucl.ac.uk/](http://itunes.ucl.ac.uk/)
“MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS”

Dr David Hudson Senior Lecturer in Political Economy and Graduate Tutor writes:

Last July four of us—Alex Braithwaite, Niheer Dasandi, Slava Mikhaylov and David Hudson—took part in the Oxfam Trailwalker.

The Trailwalker started off as a training exercise in endurance and teamwork for the Gurkhas some 30 years ago and challenges teams of four people to cover 100km (62 miles) in less than 30 hours. In the meantime, teams raise money which goes to people in poverty in order to build better lives; specifically through Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

This, we thought, sounded like an excellent idea but that oh-so-potent cocktail of egos and beer dictated that we declared we would finish in 24 hours… and told everybody that we would.

The route was to take us point-to-point from Petersfield in Hampshire, due east along the South Downs Way, finishing in Brighton, Sussex. The route is manned by the Gurkhas with checkpoints at every 10km. Ok, so it wasn't literally mountains beyond mountains, just hills but the total elevation was equivalent to climbing Ben Nevis and Snowdon. Our plan was to walk straight through the day and night, just stopping for meals at strategic points where we were to be met by our amazing support team.

On the morning of the 16th we arrived at Petersfield in good spirits, slightly nervous and with enough Lucozade and Snickers to fuel the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus. We were welcomed by granite skies; the cloud was so low and heavy we stood in
the mist waiting the 10am start. The weather was to get worse before it got better.

Sure enough, we’d barely got more than a mile before the heavens opened. It rained and rained and rained. Shoes carried our personal puddles and the trail turned into quagmire. Despite the conditions we managed to get through our first two checkpoints to reach the 20km mark in just over 3 and half hours where we were met by our support team with towels, chairs, pasta, coffee, talcum powder and dry socks. The joy of being pampered and getting a bit of R&R meant that we dallied and only managed to get back on our way after an hour. It was an indulgence and a mistake we were to repeat.

Back on the trail the kilometres rolled by. Conversation veered somewhat amusingly and alarmingly from how our bodies were holding up through guilty crushes to instrumental variables. Really. Eventually we arrived at half way at 8.30pm in good shape for dinner which was 4 large pizzas. Genius. After another overly long pit stop, fed and watered, we headed on out into the gathering dusk with headlamps on.

Walking across the South Downs at 3am under the stars, slightly giddy from too much sugar and not enough sleep, was fun in and of itself. But turning around to see a line of fireflies, the bobbing headlamps of other teams stretching miles back, was very, very special. As was navigating along the stunning chalk escarpment of the Ditchling Beacon, after 80km and 19 hours of walking, with the sun coming up and the miniature villages of Sussex spread out below. With the night behind us and only 20km to go we were on track.

Oh how quickly things can change. What had been niggling injuries the previous day—a turned ankle and a pair of shot knees—started to take their toll. I don’t even want to think about how much ibuprofen was necked in order to keep the pain at bay, certainly several days’ worth. Then, to add insult to injury, a rainstorm hit at 6am, sideways, with force. The subsequent rainbow was little consolation at this point, we had slowed to such a pace that we were no longer on target for a sub-24 hour finish.

I think it’s fair to say we all went through a number of lows over the course of the event but we managed to dig ourselves or each other out when necessary. A mixture of encouragement, jokes or just quiet time with heads down usually did the trick. We did well as a team, really well. In the darkness, the cold and the fatigue you get to find things out about yourself and you find out what the brain can (and must) do when the body submits. In our otherwise comfortable lives it is quite a privilege. There is a majesty in the introspection it brings. It’s difficult to improve on T.S. Eliot’s “Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.”

At 90km we discussed our situation. It was a brief discussion. Over that last 10k we went from 3.8 to 6km per hour. It hurt, a lot but in the end we cantered in to finish in 23 hours 36 minutes 10 seconds. Of the 521 teams that started 276 finished in the 30 hour cut off. Perhaps most importantly we raised a £2,914.10 (including gift aid). Thank you to everyone who donated. The final and biggest thank you to John, Barbara, Jennifer, Anna, Pete and Jen for being an amazing support team.
IS HAPPINESS THE RIGHT MEASURE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS?

Dr Jan-Emmanuel De Neve writes:

On 18 October 2011, Professor Lord Richard Layard and Professor Lord Robert Skidelsky were scheduled to have their highly publicised debate on whether “Happiness is the right measure of social progress?”

Late afternoon on the day prior, I receive a call from Richard Layard asking if I would be willing to “chair” their debate. He kindly reassures me that the job would not involve too much pressure to perform and I happily agree.

LSE’s Old Theatre is at full capacity when both wise men take the stage. Layard is the first to present his arguments and he makes a strong utilitarian case for why happiness should be the measure of social progress, much in line with his best-seller “Happiness: lessons from a new science.” The focus on gross domestic product, he states, has not led to happier societies nor the eradication of misery. When asked in surveys worldwide, people will consistently rank happiness as their most important goal in life, why then not focus on General Well-Being as the outcome of policy?

Robert Skidelsky has many reservations: What is happiness? Can it be measured? What for example would the two extremes in a happiness survey really stand for, Skidelsky asks. Is 0 being boiled alive in oil and 10 a state of perfect bliss, or “God having an orgasm in your brain?” - with which Skidelsky draws much laughter. Skidelsky takes issue with the simple utilitarian approach and fears a brave new world as described by Aldous Huxley with civil servants becoming “engineers of bliss.”

Both senior scholars agree that the recent focus on well-being by policy-makers, notably David Cameron and Nicolas Sarkozy, is an important first step in the right direction. Layard adds that an equally important, yet underreported, development is that the UN General Assembly has unanimously put forward a motion that all countries should put a higher priority on promoting the happiness of their citizens and a UN summit is being organized on the subject next year.

The debate between these two giants of economics is available on YouTube and I would invite you to watch it at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZ2lfJUoalU
PhD PROGRAMME NEWS

Dr Slava Mikhaylov, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports:

Accepted or forthcoming publications


Conference Presentations

Cathy Elliot presented in Keele on 7 November 2011 at a conference on “Epistemologies of the Political, the Global and the International: A workshop to reflect collectively on the ways we know the ‘factual’ world we research”. The title of her paper is: “A Pakistani Spring? The Lawyers’ Movement and the Articulation of Democracy”.

Niheer Dasandi presented a paper “Mapping International Inequalities and the Poverty-Conflict Nexus” (with David Hudson and Alex Braithwaite) at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, September 1-4, 2011.
Employment

Harold Heubaum has been appointed a Lecturer in Global Energy and Climate Policy at the Center for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Successful defense

Mehmet Muderrisoglu
Between Kemalism and Islam: a Comparative Study of Republican, Liberal and Political Liberal Models of Secularism in Turkey

Supervisors
Professor Richard Bellamy (UCL)
Professor Cecile Laborde (UCL)

Examiners
Peter Jones (Newcastle)
Basak Cali (UCL).

Andreea Monica Udrea
Culture, history and a kin-state’s obligations. A liberal evaluation of the Hungarian status law

Supervisors
Professor Richard Bellamy (UCL)
Dr Sherrill Stroschein (UCL)

Examiners
Simon Thompson (UWE)
Richard Mole (UCL)

Coromoto Power Febres
Liberalism, Feminism and Republicanism on Freedom of Speech: The Cases of Pornography and Racist Hate Speech

Supervisors
Professor Richard Bellamy (UCL)
Professor Cecile Laborde (UCL),

Examiners
Elizabeth Frazer (New College, Oxford)
Albert Weale (UCL).
NEW STAFF

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

**Harry Bauer**  
Teaching Fellow in Global Environmental Politics

Harry Bauer completed his research for a PhD in International Relations at the LSE and holds an MA in Politics, Sociology and German Literature from the University of Trier, Germany. Harry was previously Editor of Millennium: Journal of International Studies and worked as International Associate Editor for openDemocracy. He taught and supervised extensively at the Universities of Trier, Mannheim and the LSE. In 2009/10, Harry was a SIAS Fellow for ‘Action Theory in Philosophy and the Social Sciences’.

Harry’s research interests include the intersection of International Relations theory and social as well as political theory, environmental governance and non-state actors in international relations. He previously published on the complex relationships between environmental NGOs and business and on the potential of American pragmatism for theory and practice of IR (Pragmatism and International Relations, Routledge 2009).

**Dr Sarah Wolff**  
Teaching Fellow in EU Politics

Dr Sarah Wolff is Teaching Fellow in EU Politics and acting Programme Director for the MSc in European Public Policy this year. Sarah holds a PhD in International Relations from the LSE (The Mediterranean dimension of EU’s internal Security), an MSc in European Politics and Governance from the LSE and a BA from Science Po Grenoble in public administration.

Dr Wolff is also Senior Research Associate Fellow within the European Programme of the Netherlands Institute for International Relations and Visiting Lecturer in the MSc in Migration management of the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

Prior to joining UCL, Dr Wolff worked as a Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations (Clingendael 2009-2011). She was an international aid officer in the Directorate for Latin America of EuropeAid (European Commission 2007-2009). Sarah also worked as an assistant for a Member of the European Parliament (2005-2006).

Dr Wolff was a fellow of the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies Program. During her PhD she was a visiting fellow at the Observatory of European Foreign Policy (UAB-Barcelona), the CEDEJ (Cairo) and the IFOP (Amman).

Dr Wolff is an expert on the EU’s external relations, in particular with the Arab world and Justice and Home Affairs (internal and external dimensions). Her research focuses on the insertion of Justice and Home Affairs considerations in the EU’s security practices with its Mediterranean neighbours. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. She follows closely EU migration and border practices with North African countries. Rule of law promotion, border management (Frontex), the external relations of EU agencies, the Arab revolts and transatlantic homeland security are some of the recent and current projects she is working on.

Sarah recently co-edited a book on Freedom, Security and Justice after Lisbon and Stockholm

www.asser.nl/publications.aspx?site_id=28&level1=14485&id=4409
Sydonnie Hyman
Finance and Staffing Administrator

I have been at UCL since 2006 in various administrative roles which led to my interest in the administration behind academia, opened my eyes to the wonderful world of research and sparked a genuine interest in staffing and financial matters. This steered me to pursue studies in business and management.

I enjoy the arts and have a particular love for music and food. I enjoy spending time with the youth at the local youth club and occasionally provide vocal lessons for them when needed. I have come to the conclusion that life is short therefore, we ought to live it to the best of our ability, appreciate everyone we come in contact with and give our best at all times.

I count it a wonderful privilege to be apart of this budding department at UCL. I hope to contribute to its continuous growth and development.

Kayt Newman
School Receptionist/Administration Assistant

I joined the Department in August this year as Receptionist/Administration Assistant. Before joining SPP I worked as Assistant to the Director at a charity which was dedicated to helping other charities raise money in innovative and practical ways. Prior to this I graduated from Kingston University with a BSc in Geography and during my time at Kingston I also worked at the Students’ Union.

In my spare time, I am currently attempting to learn French (so far very badly) and trying to get through a huge collection of novels that I have piled up at home. I’m also spending lots of time running as I will be running the London Marathon in April 2012 in aid of the Mental Health Foundation – if you would like to find out more about why I’m running or sponsor me you can do so at the following webpage http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KaytNewman, any donations would be hugely appreciated!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at UCL so far and look forward to meeting you all at some point throughout the year!

Seema Patel
Administrative Assistant

I graduated from Kings College London with a BA in English Literature and then went on to teach in South Korea and Japan. I continue to teach English at the weekends for a local community project which focuses on disadvantaged youth and I love interacting with young people from different backgrounds and ethnicities.

Following my time abroad, I completed a MA in Journalism and pursued many different goals in a host of different career fields. My passion for life comes from being able to travel the world and write about issues concerning South-Asian women. If life was easy I’d choose to spend every minute of every day doing these two things.

I’ve come to UCL through a natural progression of events and hope my past experiences in a range of job roles will enable me to flourish and deliver to the best of my capability. I am very happy and excited to be working for a professional and reputable institution and I hope my time here will be worthwhile.
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:

John Considine

I finished at SPP in 2008 just as the crisis hit and the full impact was still unknown. However, one of the more productive things I did during my summer at SPP was to apply for a traineeship at the European Commission. Thinking that my lack of language abilities would hold me back, I was surprised to be offered a traineeship in the Cabinet for the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services.

I had the opportunity to work at a very interesting time in Commission, as the current mandate for the College was coming to an end and as a result, I was privy to many important changes occurring inside the Commission. Working at such a political level really allowed to apply what I had learnt during the Masters and to fully grasp how the European machine works in reality.

Post traineeship, I stayed in Brussels as I got a position as a Policy and Advocacy Officer at a European Organisation working in the field of Public Health. My work is very varied but my core responsibility is to influence the EU policy making process. This is dependent on my ability to understand the policy processes and work with policy makers, MEP’s and NGO’s to build support for stronger measure to promote health at across Europe.

I think I’ve taken a somewhat organic pathway since leaving SPP and I’m intrigued to see what the future holds but I can say that I probably wouldn’t be where I am without my Masters from SPP. Advice to current SPP students: enjoy your time at SPP, especially the summer as you’ll never have this time again but more importantly, consider opportunities abroad!

Isla Johns

Upon leaving SPP in 2010, I went to Brussels for the traineeship at the European Commission, where I worked in Schools Policy and Partnerships. My main projects, including assisting the launch of new international working groups and conducting programme reviews with national representatives, gave me an insight into many of the educational issues and opportunities that exist outside of a given national curriculum.

When my traineeship ended, I returned to London to start work with Future Leaders, an education charity, which aims to tackle educational disadvantage by developing outstanding leadership for challenging schools.

My role is in the research and design of new programmes and strategies, with the aim of expanding the ways that the organisation promotes its mission and making us more sustainable.

The lessons I learnt at SPP equipped me to go through what has been a steep learning curve over the last 15 months and they will not be forgotten moving forward. In the future I hope to develop expertise in education policy and gain further experience of initiatives at international level.