



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY NEWSLETTER
TAVISTOCK
TIMES ISSUE 04

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Professor Richard Bellamy
Head of the Department of Political Science and
Director of the School of Public Policy

Head of the Department of Political Science and Director of the School of Public Policy welcomes you to the first edition of Tavistock Times for 09–10.

This issue marks the start of my last academic year as Director of the School. UCL plans well in advance and my successor has already been chosen following consultation with all academic and administrative staff. So I am pleased to announce that **Professor David Coen** will be taking over from me in September 2010. With two more issues of the **Tavistock Times** to go before I step down, there will be ample opportunity to ruminate on the past five years and give thanks to all who have helped me through my term of office. However, it is reassuring to know that I will be handing on the reins to such capable hands. ►

Professor Bellamy, Head of the Department of Political Science and Director of the School of Public Policy welcomes you to the first edition of
TAVISTOCKTIMES** for 2009–2010**

Meanwhile, the department continues to go from strength to strength. Last year saw not only a very successful Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) result but also an excellent report on our teaching from the Internal Quality Review (IQR) in May 2009.

This review takes place every 5 years and involves four academics – three from other departments at UCL and one from outside the University – spending a day talking with staff and students in the department and looking over our documentation and procedures relating to all parts of the teaching process – from the recruitment and induction of students, to their final results and future careers. Clearly this exercise takes a lot of preparation and I am particularly grateful to **Nicky Henson** and **Jennifer van Heerde** for their help in this respect, as well as to the review team and their administrative support.

I am happy to report that the reviewers were extremely positive about the department. They particularly praised: the department's 'strategic vision and plans for gradual, well-managed growth', the ways we had 'adapted well to its recent growth in student numbers', the 'effective management and thorough organisation of the affiliate student programme, including its emphasis on employing appropriate mechanisms to support and maintain the quality of this programme', the 'approach to the recruitment and induction of masters students' – including the role of the Tavistock Times in keeping prospective and current students informed about what was happening in the department,

'the delivery – including through non-traditional routes – of our Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods module' and the departments success in 'maintaining and balancing both a sense of collegiality and an emphasis on individual research excellence.'

As they were keen to emphasise, we need to ensure that future growth remains well-managed, not least by matching increased student numbers with the recruitment of new staff and to stay innovative and dynamic in the development of our courses. They also noted that we had to 'maintain the stability of our staff structure over the coming years by fostering and developing - including through well considered promotion processes – our large number of high-calibre early career staff'.

It is gratifying that the coming year brings evidence of our addressing all three of these points. The new academic year sees the arrival of two new permanent members of academic staff: **Dr Rodwan Abouharb** and **Dr Kristin Bakke**. **Dr Abouharb** replaces **Dr Markus Kornprobst** as Director of the MSc in Global Governance and Ethics, while **Dr Bakke** is a joint appointment with the European Social and Political Studies programme and will be teaching on the new Politics Pathway within that degree, including a core course on International Relations Theories, as well as contributing to our MSc programmes, particularly the new MSc in Security Studies. Both continue to develop not just our International Relations programmes but also research and teaching

in other areas – Rod to work on human rights through his studies of how economic integration into the international economic system affects the onset of civil war and human rights abuses within countries and Kristin to comparative politics and democratisation through her studies of decentralisation and intrastate conflict.

We will also be joined by **Dr Avia Pasternak** as the holder of a prestigious three year British Academy post-doctoral Fellowship. Avia will be researching the global responsibilities of liberal democracies and contributing a new Masters course on Global Citizenship and Democracy.

Finally, I am delighted to report that at the last promotions round **Dr Cecile Laborde** was promoted to a personal chair in Political Theory. So as of September 2009 we shall have four Professors, two of whom (Coen and Laborde) have risen through the ranks since their appointment as Lecturers here in the early, pre-history of the department. We are also in the process of appointing a new member of the administrative team, although he or she will have to be introduced in the next newsletter. As we are predicting a record intake of students – over 300, getting on for double the numbers on my arrival in 2005 – the coming year is bound to be once again an eventful one for the department. I look forward to meeting both new and old faces come the start of term.

SPP 60 SECOND INTERVIEW



In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr David Hudson, Lecturer in International Relations/International Political Economy and MSc International Public Policy Programme Director.

Dr David Hudson

Lecturer in International Relations/International Political Economy and MSc International Public Policy Programme Director

What is your name?

David Hudson

When did you join UCL?

June 2005

What are your responsibilities in the Department?

Researching and publishing (on finance, development and public attitudes towards global poverty), teaching and supervising (mainly IR, IO, political economy and development) and directing the MSc in International Public Policy.

What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?

The things that make this such a great place to work are my colleagues and the students. I love my research; being able to work on the things that you enjoy is a privilege, especially when they matter so much. But for me, research would be awfully lonely and less enjoyable without the day-to-day interactions with colleagues and students. Seeing people who graduated 2–3 years ago return with new brilliant careers is just the most rewarding thing.

On the flip side, I particularly dislike the fact that your work tends to follow you home; especially the emails!

What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?

Oh, this question has the mark of Cain on it. Ok, well... maybe being able to buy a house in London! Or getting this job. Or the marathon.

Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?

Jennifer van Heerde

Favourite location around UCL?

A solitary moment sat by the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Tavistock Square is always good for the soul. Walking past Keynes's house on Gordon Square makes me smile, since it reminds me of my first day here and probably the Quad and main Portico for capturing the essence of UCL.

What would your ideal afternoon/evening in London include?

An afternoon walking around the Tate Modern followed by a good pub that

serves good beer and that you can get a place to sit down with good company. Perfect.

What is your favourite book?

Anything by Jackie Collins. No, actually it's probably *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig and despite it being a set text back in school, I'm still quite fond of George Orwell's *1984*. Plus, last year I really enjoyed Cormac McCarthy's, *The Road* but that's three not one so Pirsig it is.

What are your hobbies?

Running, trivia/quizzes, motorcycle, watching a good documentary on something unusual and the pub.

If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?

Either a weatherman, diplomat, footballer, therapist, architect, journalist or investment banker.

If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?

A new global reserve currency.

MSC EPP STUDY TRIP TO BRUSSELS

Anna Whicher and Libby Vannet, MSc European Public Policy students write:

Having studied the EU institutions and politics in great depth throughout the year, there was an air of sleepy excitement as everybody arrived at St Pancras station early on the morning of Wednesday 10 June 2009. The results of the European elections were the hot topic of discussion aboard the Eurostar on our way to Brussels and our first glimpse into the practical workings of the EU.

In the morning, Dr Christine Reh had organised for the environmental NGO E3G to host a series of speakers, including Dr Sandra Bartelt from the European Commission's DG Development, Anja Fiedler, Press Officer for the External Relations Commissioner and Jesse Scott from E3G.

Sandra Bartelt spoke about the legal bases on which EU development policy operates and explained how the EU contributes to global development policy and aid. Anja Fiedler described her daily routine as Press Officer for Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner. We also discussed how the Lisbon Treaty would affect EU external relations. Jesse Scott explained how E3G operates in Brussels and the impact that NGOs can have on the EU policy-making process. She gave us a particular insight into how lobbying groups work on the ground. The talks were particularly interesting as we could apply our course knowledge to a practical context.

Over lunch, we had the opportunity to ask questions, before we headed to the European Parliament. Gergely Polner, a Hungarian lawyer who worked at the Parliament, spoke about how the Parliament worked and a lively discussion took place on the recent European election. We had the chance to have a brief look at the Parliament Chamber where we observed the Economic and Social Committee in session. Tim Beyer Helm, who works for the European People's Party, spoke about David Cameron's decision to leave the European People's Party which was fascinating. As a pro-European British Tory and Policy Advisor to the EPP, Mr Beyer Helm was well placed to explain the nuances of party influence at the European level.

After a day of captivating and thought-provoking talks we went to a bar on Place Luxembourg to meet a few of last year's students and share experiences. This was a great opportunity to discover the wide range of career options and hear about day to day life in Brussels. Later, those who were only staying for the day left for the Eurostar back to London, while the rest, who had decided to stay the night in order to make the most of our Euro-experience, went in search of fondue and chocolate!

The trip was a great success in its combination of intellectually-stimulating talks with informal chats about daily life in the EU. A huge thanks to Christine for arranging such an interesting and fun study trip!



REDESIGN OF THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE

Update on the redesign of the new departmental website:

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School of Public Policy

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
School of Public Policy at University College London

ABOUT US

Founded in 1957, the Department of Political Science / School of Public Policy is Britain's only department focused on Graduate teaching and research, it offers a uniquely stimulating environment for the study of all fields of politics, including international relations, political theory, human rights and public policy-making and administration. [Read more.](#)

THE CONSTITUTION UNIT

The Unit specialises in constitutional reform and comparative constitutional studies. It is independent and non-partisan, and the centre of a wide network of national and international experts. All our work has a sharply practical focus, is concise and clearly written, timely and relevant to policy makers and practitioners. [Read more.](#)

NEWS

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MASTERS PROGRAMMES

- MSc Democracy and Democratization
- MSc European Public Policy
- MSc Global Governance and Ethics
- MSc Human Rights
- MSc International Public Policy
- MSc Legal and Political Theory
- MSc in Public Policy
- MSc in Security Studies

OTHER PROGRAMMES

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INTRANETS

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At the time of writing, the Department of Political Science's new website was under construction. The first phase, which is scheduled to be completed by the start of term on 28 September 2009, will include the new departmental public website, the undergraduate intranet, the postgraduate intranet and PhD intranet. New enhancements will include a simplified site-structure and a database-driven news section.

The second phase of development will begin around October 2009 and will include additional features to the staff pages and publications section.

PhD PROGRAMME NEWS

Dr Jennifer van Heerde, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports that:

Many congratulations are in order!

On behalf of the Department I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to **Katarina Mantouvalou** on the successful completion of her PhD in Political Theory in May 2009.

In her thesis Katerina examined how to treat fairly members of minority groups that are part of competitive interstate relations and maintain stability in the region that they reside. Her thesis is a work of applied political theory in which various normative political theories about what constitutes the fair treatment of national or religious minorities are assessed in the context of a historically specific example of the minority of Western Thrace in Greece. Contextually examining liberal and democratic theories of justice in the case of Thrace, she identifies the limitations of a priori – individual and collective – rights approaches and argues that democratic justice can treat minority members fairly and contribute to stability. While doing her PhD Katerina gave presentations in conferences in the UK, US and Continental Europe.

A paper that she presented in a conference at Columbia University was recently accepted for publication at the journal *Ethnicities*.

Since 2006, she has been employed as a visiting lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London where she currently teaches Citizenship Theory and Qualitative Research Methods. In June 2009, she started working as a researcher at Fair Trials International, an NGO which specialises in the rights of non-national defendants and she is now preparing a joint proposal with **Dr George Letsas** (co-director of the UCL Human Rights Institute) on the rights of non-national defendants across Europe. Before joining FTI she did a research internship on human rights at the United Nations in New York and recently she was an invited participant in a Council of Europe expert meeting on the rights of Roma.

We also would like to congratulate **Dagi Dagiev** and **Yuichiro Kawana** on their recent submission of the thesis and we wish them the best of luck in their defence.

Successful Upgrade

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully transferred from MPhil to PhD status.

Chiara Cordelli

Harald Heubaum

Sara Kutchesfahani

Scholarship Award Winners

Clifton Mark
Overseas Research Student (ORS) Award

James Dawson
Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) Quota Award

Introducing James Dawson

I studied for my BA at Liverpool John Moores University, graduating with a first in Literature and History in 2000. My BA dissertation was an analysis of the 1936 Battle of Cable Street for which I interviewed a surviving activist and scoured the records for a list of those arrested to enable me to address the long-running dispute over who provided the bulk of the protestors who blocked the Blackshirts' march. There followed a year teaching English in Japan, another doing a PGCE and four subsequent years working in the teaching profession in Bulgaria and one in London before I won a CEELBAS scholarship to enrol on the MRes at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL.

My current research project focuses on identities and allegiances among the Turks of Bulgaria while my doctoral thesis that I will embark on at the School of Public Policy from September concerns ethnic Bulgarian attitudes to minorities. Generally, I favour an ethnographic approach that is faithful to Hobsbawm's call for a focus on nationalism from below. Specifically, I will be comparing the attitudes towards minorities of Bulgarians living in multiethnic areas with the attitudes of those living in Bulgarian ethnic heartlands. I have studied several languages of the region (Bulgarian, Russian, Serbo-Croat) and have pursued my interest in the post-socialist world with internships in Bosnia and Kazakhstan.

Conference Presentations

Theocharis, Ioannis.

Cultural Values Online: The Impact of Post-materialism on Offline and Online Political Participation.

Paper presented at the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops, Lisbon, Portugal, 14-19 April 2009.

Veiga, Ivo.

The role of coalitions in the Portuguese and Spanish Transition to Democracy: Puzzles and Methodological problems.

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, 3-6 September 2009.

Updates

Mike Innes, a civilian staff officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), NATO's strategic military headquarters, spent the months of April and May as liaison to ISAF Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. He will be leaving NATO in early September to focus full time on his research and writing.



James Dawson, Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) Quota Award

NEW LECTURER IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We are pleased to welcome the newly appointed Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Dr Kristin Bakke

Dr Kristin M Bakke will be joining UCL in September 2009 as a Lecturer in Politics and International Relations. She will be teaching courses in the Department of Political Science and the programme in European Social and Political Studies.

Originally from Norway, Dr Bakke has spent the last eleven years in the United States and most recently, in the Netherlands. She held a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Leiden University, the Netherlands (2008-2009). Prior to that, she was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University (2007–2008). She completed her PhD in Political Science at the University of Washington, Seattle (2007) and she graduated with a BA in Journalism and Political Science from Indiana University, Bloomington (2000). Since 2008, Dr Bakke has been a Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Civil War, at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO).

The questions and topics that motivate Dr Bakke's research include why some states are better able to avoid intrastate conflicts than others, how decentralisation can (or cannot) promote peace, the dynamics within self-determination movements and the societal effects of violent conflicts.

Dr Bakke is currently working on a book-length manuscript called *Preserving Peace? Decentralization and Intrastate Struggles*, which aims to

better understand decentralised states' diverse capacity to contain the often violent struggles between ethnic minority groups and the states in which they live. The manuscript combines a cross-national statistical study of intrastate conflicts with in-depth case studies of self-determination struggles in three federations: Chechnya's relationship to Moscow, Punjab's relationship to Delhi and Québec's relationship to Ottawa. Support by grants from the National Science Foundation (USA) and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (Norway), Dr Bakke spent ten months conducting fieldwork in Russia, India and Canada (2005-2006). She has published two articles related to this project, in *World Politics* (with Erik Wibbels) and in *Regional and Federal Studies*.

While *Preserving Peace? Decentralization and Intrastate Struggles* explores how conflicts can be avoided, Dr Bakke is also working on a collaborative, interdisciplinary project that examines the effects of violent conflicts (with **Michael D Ward, John O'Loughlin and Xun Cao**). Based on public opinion surveys carried out in Bosnia and Russia's North Caucasus region, the project investigates inter-ethnic attitudes in conflict-affected societies and the findings have been published or are forthcoming in *Nations and Nationalism* and the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.

Dr Bakke's most recent projects begin by questioning the often underlying assumption that ethnic groups act as

unitary actors. In *Shirts Today, Skins Tomorrow: The Effects of Fragmentation on Civil War Processes and Outcomes*, which is a collaborative project (with **Kathleen Cunningham and Lee Seymour**), she examines how divisions within self-determination movements affect conflict dynamics between these groups and the governments they are fighting. Along similar lines, Dr Bakke has recently begun to explore how violent conflicts affect the post-war peace (or lack thereof) in so-called unrecognised or de facto states in the former Soviet countries—so in her spare-time she is trying to keep up her Russian language skills.

Dr Bakke is very happy to be joining UCL in September 2009.



Dr Kristin Bakke, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

AN AMERICAN TALE

Distinguished Fulbright Fellowship - Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Professor David Coen writes:

2008/09 has been the best of years and worst of years. The academic year began with my professorship and the arrival of my baby daughter Alexandria and sadly ended with the passing away of my father. In between I was lucky enough to be invited to Harvard's prestigious School of Public Policy as a Distinguished Fulbright fellow. My fellow fellows at Harvard included the deputy Governor of the Bank of England, the head of the New York Stock Exchange and Securities Commission, the ex head of California's Energy Regulator and various other ex US and global government officials. This environment made for some interesting coffees and exciting seminars discussing the global financial and regulatory crisis. Whilst at Harvard, my fellowship required that I conducted original comparative research on business government relations, nurtured links between UK and US institutions, and integrated into American life. I think in different ways I achieved all of these objectives.

I arrived in Boston in February 2009 to be greeted with a huge blizzard and the fact that all the shops were closed. However, using the snow to my advantage I was able to register and collect library cards etc in record time. Having adjusted to the weather and new flat in Harvard Square, I quickly integrated into Boston life and was invited by the Fulbright foundation and British Consulate to a number of exciting cultural events such as the

premier of the new David Mamet play, the opening of the Titan exhibition at the Boston Museum of Fine Art and to a number of literary evenings. On an academic level, I hit the road running giving talks in February and March at a number of leading universities such as Harvard Centre for European Studies, Boston University, Brown, LA, NYU and Syracuse which were all well received. After this intense road show I spent a few days at NYU in an attempt to build up a university alliance for a new two year MPA based in London and New York – (watch this space in 2012).

In mid-March I returned to Europe to give some talks at EU institutions, lectures at Warwick University and to bring out my new family to the USA. This was a golden period in Boston as the snow melted and my baby daughter learned to laugh and sit up. We enjoyed some real Americana with invites to a friend's inauguration as a Massachusetts state judge, a cocktail reception at the State House with the new governor and tickets to Red Sox baseball and Celtic Basketball games. In between these social highlights I managed to complete and send to press the Oxford Handbook on Business and Government, have a paper accepted by the Journal of Business and Politics, complete a paper on EU Networks of Regulation and make good research headway on my OUP book on European Business Politics.

The Fellowship came to an end with my keynote lecture at the Harvard Kennedy

Seminar series on Public Policy, a Boston book launch/reception for my new OUP book on Lobbying the EU and finally a trip to Cape Cod to relax.

However, the Fulbright and US links did not end with my return to the UK in June. Thanks to the contacts I made in Harvard and funding from the Journal of Governance and the UCL Research Challenge Grant I will be hosting two workshops in Boston and London on Public Policy Post the Financial Crisis where leading US and UK scholars will be discussing institutional and economic reforms.



Professor David Coen
Professor of Public Policy

SPP WELCOMES NEW LECTURER

Dr Avia Pasternak joins the department this month with a prestigious three year British Academy post-doctoral fellowship to research the global responsibilities of liberal democracies.

Avia completed her BA and MA degrees at the Department of Political Science, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She then moved to Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis at Nuffield College, Oxford University. The title of the thesis is *Civic Responsibility in the Face of Injustice*.

The thesis analyzes the ways in which democratic citizens, as individuals and as members of a collective, are responsible for the injustices perpetrated by their governments. She was also a tutorial fellow, at Christ Church College, teaching political theory to undergraduates. Avia joins us from a post-doc position at Stanford, which was divided between the Program in Ethics in Society and the Program on Global Justice at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Here she also co-taught a course Introduction to Global Justice.



Dr Avia Pasternak

CONGRATULATIONS!

Everybody in the Department wishes to congratulate **Selina Uddin** on the successful award of her undergraduate degree.

As many of you will know, Selina is an important member of the Department's Administration team and whilst working full-time at UCL she has been studying in the evenings at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Selina has been successful in achieving a BA in Geography (2:1) after four long dedicated years of study.

Well done Selina!



Selina Uddin
Reception Administrator
Department of Political Science

GRANT SUCCESS!

Dr Alex Braithwaite, MSc Security Studies Programme Director, Awarded Apple Research & Technology Support (ARTS) Laureate

The award, made by an interdisciplinary panel at UCL, provides a substantial equipment donation, courtesy of Apple inc., to support an exciting programme of research in science and technology (broadly construed). The panel concluded that the proposed programme of research, "Escaping the Territorial Trap: mapping, modelling and simulating violent conflict processes", has substantial relevance to UCL's Grand Research Challenges and exemplifies the interdisciplinary nature of much of UCL's research agenda.

The project combines statistical, computational and geo-spatial methods to model, visualise and ultimately, predict the spread of violent political conflicts—including wars between countries, civil wars within them and non-state actor attacks against governments and the public. The first stage of the project revolves around the development of agent-based models and computer simulations in artificial representations of the international system. The project will next subject the implications (hypotheses) of these models to empirical testing. Large-N datasets provide the means by which to test the sensitivity of these simulated models. Ultimately, the project looks to integrate computational models within a GIS environment, whilst providing tests using real data.

Each of these stages of the project requires a fast, reliable and powerful computing solution that relies upon an intuitive, well-supported system.

Apple clearly provides a solution that combines processing power with an intuitive, user-friendly management environment. The flexibility of Apple's Grid-based system solution means that we can have multiple independent machines being used by a team of researchers that can be pooled for large tasks requiring additional processing or storage capacity. This Grid-based solution also allows for transnational collaborations with co-authors in the USA and Europe. Moreover, the UNX-based system makes it easy to take advantage of increasing numbers of open-source applications and provides a flexible and intuitive developer environment for custom scripts required to build computational models. Finally, Apple's products provide the best means by which to create and disseminate aesthetically appealing presentations—increasingly required to facilitate knowledge-sharing within the policymaking community.

The substantial award has been used to kit-out a new Apple lab-housed in the new SECReT Doctoral Training Centre, as well as to provide enhanced computing facilities for Dr Braithwaite and his research collaborators.

More details of the specifics of the award and previous recipients can be found at:

www.apple.com/uk/education/arts/

UK GOVERNMENT PLEDGES FUNDING TO UNIVERSITIES HELP US TO SECURE OUR SHARE

Last year the UK Government introduced the 'Matched Funding scheme for Higher Education' which means that UCL receives an extra £1 for every £3 donated to the university. Now UCL has put in place a scheme which allows alumni and friends to donate directly to their department, meaning the Department of Political Science can secure a share of the funding from the Government.

Under the scheme, running until August 2011, the UK Government will match donations from individuals to universities. The Government believes the scheme will encourage individuals who have benefited from a university education to give something back. The scheme applies to all UCL alumni and friends who choose to support the university, whether they are a UK taxpayer or not so wherever you live a gift from you will generate extra value for us.

Donations from alumni and friends can help the Department to respond to strategic needs and opportunities. 100% of gifts received, as well as the matching money from the Government, will be directed to areas of the greatest importance within the Department.

If you are interested in supporting the Department of Political Science, School of Public Policy and helping us to take advantage of the Matched Funding scheme, you can make a gift online using a credit or debit card or set up a regular donation using direct debit: www.ucl.ac.uk/online-giving

For any further information about donating to UCL please email uclfutures@ucl.ac.uk

CIVIL CONFLICT

Dr Rod Abouharb, MSc Global Governance and Ethics Programme Director, introduces a new master's level optional module in Civil Conflict for 2009–10:

This course will examine a variety of alternative theoretical explanations about civil conflict. The course begins with an overview of the disciplines knowledge about the determinants of civil conflict. The course then proceeds by introducing the student to the different theoretical explanations for civil conflict and the empirical research that has been undertaken to test these different theories. The course critically reviews the impact that politics plays on the advent, continuation and resolution of civil conflict. Students are invited to reflect upon the state of the discipline and areas of fruitful future research.

The course aims to provide an understanding of the different theoretical perspectives concerning why civil conflicts begin and how best to manage and resolve them. The course also aims to assist students in developing a conceptually and empirically informed understanding of the debates in the literature surrounding the civil conflict. Next the course seeks to qualify an international group of postgraduate students who may wish to proceed to further specialised study of civil conflict and/or employment in a related field.

Finally, the course aims to develop key skills associated with: reading about, understanding and discussing conceptual issues and theoretical debates; applying concepts and theories to the empirical study of civil conflict; writing essays and presenting them in seminars and to participate in group discussions.

The objectives of the course are by its end students recognise, outline the key elements of and differentiate between the main theoretical approaches to the study of civil conflict. Students will be able to critically review and apply the different approaches to the study of civil conflict. They will have gained the theoretical and empirical skills to systematically analyse key issues associated with civil conflict onset and management. Students will demonstrate systematic reading and clarity of expression in developing written and oral arguments for and against specific positions and to recognise the theoretical principles on which such arguments are based.

ESRC PROJECT ON LEGISLATIVE DECISION-MAKING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dr Christine Reh has been awarded an ESRC Research Grant to study recent developments in the EU's legislative procedure. The two-year project is conducted jointly with **Professor Adrienne Héritier** (European University Institute, Florence) and investigates why, how and with which consequences EU decision-making is increasingly shifted from public inclusive to informal secluded arenas.

Between 1999 and mid-2007 alone, 43% of EU legislation was pre-agreed informally between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers and adopted at first reading, with the legislative procedure ('co-decision') abridged or 'fast-tracked' accordingly. This development is puzzling: while co-decision was introduced to make EU decision-making more inclusive, accountable and transparent, the procedure has instead increased formalisation and seclusion from the electorate and from rank-and-file parliamentarians.

Against this backdrop, the project pursues three goals. First, to understand the extent and conduct of informal politics, it surveys and categorises all co-decision files from 1999 to mid-2009 and charts how the formal rules of co-decision are applied in the political praxis. Second, to explain why fast-track legislation occurs, it derives hypotheses from rational choice and sociological institutionalism and submits them to two tests: a multivariate regression analysis of all surveyed acts and comparative case studies, based on in-depth interviews and qualitative document analysis. Third, to assess the democratic consequences of fast-track legislation, it evaluates these empirical results against standards of legitimate decision-making.

Given the general trend towards informal and accelerated decision-making in domestic and global politics, the findings are relevant for scholars of Comparative Politics and International Relations;

they also address a question of key strategic and normative importance for the Brussels policy-community.



Dr Christine Reh
Lecturer in European Politics and
MSc European Public Policy Programme Director

CONSTITUTIONALIZING THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dr Christine Reh, Lecturer in European Politics and MSc European Public Policy Programme Director, introduces her new book, *Constitutionalizing the European Union*:

This new book by Thomas Christiansen and Christine Reh has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan in its European Union Series. The book offers an in-depth and systematic account of the formal and informal dynamics of constitution building in Europe from the 1950s to the present day. It analyses the nature of this process and looks in detail at the informal and incremental elements of constitutionalization, at the formal mechanism of treaty reform and at the more recent, explicit attempt to create a 'European Constitution'.

The authors introduce the various actors involved in this process, discuss the structural opportunities and constraints of constitutional choice and take the reader through the stages of EU treaty reform from agenda-setting to ratification. Having charted the trajectory of constitutionalization over time, the authors conclude with a discussion of recent developments and an outlook towards the EU's constitutional future.



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 selection of progress reports follows:

Irmak Tosun

MSc European Public Policy, 2005–06



After completing my undergraduate degree at Bilkent University in Ankara (Turkey), in International Relations, I joined the School of Public Policy in September 2005 to study European Public Policy. I've long had a strong interest in the EU and its policies so the courses at SPP were an excellent fit for my career objectives and on reflection I can say that it was a great choice. The EPP programme was very well designed and provided in-depth understanding of how political institutions, processes and public policies operate in the European Union.

After completing my masters degree, I worked at Amnesty International UK for a short time, enabling me to experience a very professional and value-oriented work environment. From Amnesty, I returned to Turkey in January 2007 and started work at DeLeeuw International. DeLeeuw, which is now part of the UK-based global company WYG, is one of the leading consultancy companies in Turkey, providing 'change management' needs through tools such as Professional Project Management and Institutional Capacity Building. Some of the most significant clients for DeLeeuw are Turkish Governmental institutions who require technical assistance in their reforms to meet the EU Accession criteria.

Currently, my main role at DeLeeuw is as the Project Coordinator of an EU funded Project - "Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between EU and Turkey". This project aims to strengthen contacts and mutual exchange of experience between civil society institutions in the EU and Turkey. Being mainly involved in the implementation of EU Projects gives me the opportunity to utilise theoretical and practical EU knowledge that I gained while studying EPP. I believe studying European Public Policy at [one of the] UK's leading university, coupled with my EU Project Management experience, has well prepared me to specialise in the Turkish - EU affairs and contribute more to the accession process.

Duff McLeod

MA Legal and Political Theory 2000–01



Duff McLeod is currently senior counsel with the Department of Justice Canada in the Transport Canada Regulations Section of the Legislative Services Branch. Duff joined the Section in 2002 after working briefly as an ad hoc Crown prosecutor for the Alberta Department of Justice. The Transport Canada Regulations Section is responsible for the drafting of secondary legislation related to transportation safety and security and has an important legal advisory and review function with respect to this legislation.

Since all Canadian federal legislation is co-drafted in both English and French and must be effective in both of Canada's legal systems, each file is a collaborative effort with a francophone drafter and a team of specialists in comparative law.

In addition to his drafting work, Duff has been involved for the last few years with the Department of Justice Canada's Legislative Information Management System and for those who may be interested, recommends a trip to <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/>.

Duff is a member of the Law Society of Alberta and the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel.

Ash Vithaldas

MSc Public Policy, 2002–03



Upon completing my MSc in Public Policy, I joined Essex County Council (ECC) working predominately in finance and subsequently social care. Despite going on to work for a number of organisations, my learning and development at ECC was incomparable. Working alongside frontline public sector workers, especially social care workers, was a significant learning experience.

I have since worked at HM Treasury, the Local Government Association Group (LGA) and presently at the Prime

Minister's Delivery Unit. I also did a stint at Hospital Orton, Helsinki, Finland. Despite suffering from a cold throughout my time in Finland, I really loved the country and the people. The Finns spend less, as proportion of their GDP, on their health system than the UK, yet achieves better outcomes (my UCL course in International Health Systems did come in handy).

Having now worked at every level of the public sector, I can truly appreciate some of the things I learnt on my MSc. While some of it is not quite how the academic theories and models would portray, completion of the MSc certainly enhanced my capability.

In my present role at the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit I have worked on local government, transport, housing and now education. The work varies depending on the priorities for No 10. It is demanding but more intellectually stimulating than anything I have done before.

If you would like to get in touch look me up on Facebook.

Said Ahmed

MSc International Public Policy, 2003–04

My time since leaving SPP has been anything but dull! After eighteen months of interning and working with human rights organisations in London, I took the plunge in April 2006 and moved to Kenya to work on human rights issues in East Africa. However, by accident, I ended up in development and with the UN Development Programme. An accident I have not regretted for a second since.

Although I work closely on a day to day basis with the UN Political Office for Somalia, my host agency is the UN Development Programme for Somalia. Over the last three years, I have been extremely lucky and privileged to work on three major and innovative projects on local governance, national reconciliation and constitution making in Somalia: the epitome of nation building.

In the first project, we embarked on the arduous task of establishing district and regional administrations in Somalia, a country that has had no central government let alone local administrations for the last fifteen years. With its very weak (or actually lack of) central government and the previous fourteen failed national reconciliations to establish a central government in mind, the purpose of the local governance project was to pursue instead a bottom up process to reconciliation, institutional development and social service delivery at the local level. While this A-Z UN joint programme (supporting local administrations from the point of inception to the point where they become functionally and financially independent to provide basic social services) will continue for many years to come, I am glad to have had the opportunity to be involved from the outset. Throughout my involvement in this project, I couldn't help notice some of the theories of my public policy formulation and public management theories courses come to light and finally make some real sense!

Thomas Colonna

MSc International Public Policy, 2007–08



One week after handing in my dissertation, I set out on a long journey and travelled overland from Venice to Hong Kong with Sam, a classmate from the International Public Policy programme. The trip was incredible. We travelled through the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia and then the whole of China taking buses and trains, crossing the Caspian on a cargo ship and even hitchhiking over the Himalayas from Kyrgyzstan to China.

After the journey, I flew back to Europe and joined ICLEI-Local Government for Sustainability in Bonn, Germany. ICLEI is a global association of local governments committed to sustainable development. I am currently working in the Business Relations Unit and my main responsibility is to research and write the 2008 Global Annual Report. The project involves gathering and analysing data from regional offices and reviewing programs on climate change, water, renewable energy and sustainable development.

Highlights of my time at ICLEI so far have been participating in the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks and supporting media relations at the 2009 ICLEI World Congress in Edmonton, Canada. Joining a global organisation like ICLEI has not been easy. I had to go through various selection processes including completing a two-page questionnaire on the value of public-private partnerships and the role of local governments. In this and other occasions, the knowledge acquired at UCL proved very useful.

At SPP, I improved my analytical skills and gained a global perspective on politics. What I enjoyed most was participating in seminar discussions with classmates from around the world and reading articles on Chinese investment in Africa for my dissertation.

Laura Valentini

*PhD, Political Philosophy 2005–08
MA Legal and Political Theory 2004-05*

Since completing her studies at the Department of Political Science (UCL) Laura Valentini has just completed her first year as a Junior Research Fellow at Queen's College, Oxford. She has now been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton University's Center for Human Values, for the academic year 2009/10. Her work has appeared in international journals such as *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, *Review of International Studies*, and *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 17 (3) (2009). She is also working to turn her PhD thesis into a book.

NEWS FROM THE CONSTITUTION UNIT

The Constitution Unit is an independent research institute situated within the School of Public Policy. The Constitution Unit is the UK's leading centre for the study of constitutional change and has a long track record of conducting high-quality research and influencing policy debates through publications and events.

The Unit is led by its director, Professor Robert Hazell, who conducts research on a wide variety of constitutional topics and comprises another two teams responsible for conducting research on parliament and freedom of information. The Unit also frequently recruits interns to assist in its research projects, including many SPP graduates. Robert Hazell, Meg Russell and Ben Worthy all teach courses within SPP and act as supervisors for students'

dissertations in relevant areas. SPP students can get involved in the Unit's research through their public seminars and conferences which are attended by practitioners and policy makers. The Unit has extensive networks for all aspects of constitutional research.

Full details of the Constitution Unit's activities can be found at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit

A few recent highlights are discussed below:

Events

The Constitution Unit had a busy month in June 2009 hosting a number of events which were well attended by SPP staff and students:

- On 11 June 2009, the Unit hosted FOI Live 2009, the seventh annual conference on informational rights. We had a good audience and programme, with the keynote speech delivered by the Minister of State for the Ministry of Justice, the Rt Hon Michael Wills MP.
- On 15 June 2009, the Unit launched a new book by Bob Morris, *Church and State in 21st Century Britain: The Future of Church Establishment*. Bob presented his analysis of the current position of the church and state to which William Fittall, Secretary-General of the Archbishops' Council and Synod of the Church of England responded.
- On 16 June 2009, the Unit held its annual summer party on the UCL Portico. The event is an opportunity for us to thank all of our friends and colleagues for their support over the year. Sir Gus O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, attended along with Lord Butler of Brockwell and Ben Bradshaw MP.
- On 24 June 2009, the Unit hosted the PSA Parliaments and Legislatures Specialist Group. This is a one-day annual conference consisting of five panels of papers presented by leading UK and international academics.
- On 30 June 2009, Jenny Watson, the Chair of the Electoral Commission, spoke on the challenge of building public confidence in our democracy after the MPs' expenses scandal and called on everyone involved in elections to work to support democracy and ensure the needs of voters come first.
- On 7 July 2009, Richard Thomas, former Information Commissioner, reflected on his time as Commissioner and discussed the many challenges he faced and the changes which took place during his tenure.

We are in the process of putting together an exciting programme of seminars for the autumn which will be advertised shortly.

Information regarding all forthcoming events at the Constitution Unit can be found at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/events

New Staff at the Constitution Unit

This summer the Constitution Unit welcomed two new staff members. Mark Chalmers joined the Unit in June as a part-time research assistant to Robert Hazell after completing an LLB at the London School of Economics. He also holds degrees in political science from the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada.

In August, Gabrielle Bourke joined the Unit as a full-time research assistant. Prior to joining the Unit Gabrielle worked as an Executive Assistant to the Honourable Michael Cullen, MP and former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand. She holds a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Auckland and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Otago.

An Intern's Story

Ben Yong gives an account of his experience as an intern at the Constitution Unit.

"My time at the Constitution Unit has been so interesting. Working under Robert Hazell, I quickly finished a short literature review on judicial legitimacy and the new UK Supreme Court. Robert then asked me to look at the experience of minority government in New Zealand and what, if any, lessons Westminster could learn. Robert gave me a general outline and then allowed me the freedom to explore and analyse the topic as I wished. I was encouraged to do a set of phone interviews with various NZ

journalists, academics, politicians and political advisors on their experience of coalition and minority government—this was something I particularly enjoyed as early on I'd expressed an interest in doing qualitative work.

You are treated as someone who can make a real contribution; the work is intellectually challenging; you are always learning something new about how government 'really' works. I think what's best about the Constitution Unit is that the work and events are varied so there is always something interesting going on."

Constitution Unit Updates

Dr Meg Russell was appointed as a Special Advisor to the Select Committee on Reform of the House of Commons in July 2009. The role of the Committee is to consider and make recommendations regarding the appointment of members and chairmen of select committees and allowing the public to initiate debates and proceedings in the House of Commons.

Jessica Levy, a former intern at the Constitution Unit currently employed as a researcher for Tony Wright MP, released her report titled Strengthening parliament's powers of scrutiny? An assessment of the introduction of the Public Bills Committee. We are especially pleased with Jessica's report since she was also a student at SPP and started the project as her Masters dissertation. She presented her findings to 40 key officials in the House of Commons on 20 July 2009. If her recommendations are accepted, these committees will be able to make a real contribution to the scrutiny of legislation.

Graduation Ceremonies

This year's graduation ceremony for the 2007–08 cohort was held on 3 September 2009 at the Logan Hall, Institute of Education. The ceremony was attended by over 30 former students representing all of the MA and MSc programmes. The Department was represented by **Professor Richard Bellamy**, **Professor Cecile Laborde**, **Professor David Coen**, **Dr Christine Reh** and **Dr Jennifer van Heerde**.



Congratulations to all our graduates; we wish you continued success!

FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK**TIMES**

TAVISTOCKTIMES is published three times a year with the next edition due to be published in January 2010.

Ideas for future articles should be sent to:

Helen Holt,

h.holt@ucl.ac.uk

before the end of October 2009.

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