The new 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 2010–11.

It is with great pleasure that I begin my term as Director of the School of Public Policy. SPP has gone through many changes in the nine years I have been at UCL and I have taken great pride in watching the School evolve from its humble beginnings into one of the UK’s leading departments of political science and the top graduate school of public policy in Europe.

On my first day at UCL, I was excited by the opportunities presented by the formation of a new school of public policy that aimed to train the next generation of policy makers and engage in debate with the policy-makers.
I had left the London Business School believing that it was rare in life to be able to be involved in the start of something so new and exciting but also knowing that with the backing of UCL’s senior management and leading Departments of Economics and Laws this could only be a great success.

I was to be proved right. When I joined the School of Public Policy in 2001 there was only 1 Masters programme with 30 students, we had no PhD training programme and no research assessment exercise (RAE) ranking. How times have changed? In September 2010, we are expecting 400 masters students on eight different programmes, have a successful PhD programme and in the recent RAE we ranked 6th. This may sound like a tough act to follow but I believe that this is only the start. There is no reason why we cannot look to develop new international programmes and alliances and I genuinely believe that we should be pushing for a top three placing in the next round of research assessment exercises (the REF, as it is to be called) with such a young and talented faculty.

In terms of our mission statement to engage with the policy community, SPP punches above its weight of twenty full time faculty. The Constitution Unit, under Professor Robert Hazell, continues to impact the way we are governed in the UK – no more so than in recent months as we try to make sense of the coalition government, reforms of the House of Lords, boundary changes and AV. Others have also had significant successes in policy debates in venues as diverse as the House of Lords, Ministries of Health and Development, European Commission, European Parliament, International Court of Human Rights and the UN.

All of this success can be attributed to the wonderful colleagues that have joined me over the years. All have worked incredibly hard to provide the highest quality teaching, designing new courses and options to ever increasing numbers, while at the same time maintaining the quality and international profile of their work. We have also been lucky in our leadership with both Professors Bellamy and Margetts making important strategic decisions at critical junctures in our development. I hope that I can now build on this solid foundation to take the School forward.

In the next few years, it will be critical that we consolidate the above successes while withstanding the huge potential public sector spending cuts. In many ways SPP is well positioned to weather the university spending crisis with high levels of masters students but conversely it is also important that we continue to expand the faculty to maintain the quality of teaching and student experience. It is with this in mind that I am happy to announce that we have made two new appointments in International Political Economy and Research Methods for 2010 and in 2010/11 will appoint a Professor of International Relations and a Lecturer in Public Economics.

As we look forward, it is important that we continue to grow our highly successful masters programmes but it is also important that we are seen to be innovative in delivery of teaching and development of new programs. I am therefore very excited about the potentially new joint executive MPA degree with the Wagner School of Public Policy at New York University. This new course will provide opportunities for mid-career international civil servants to study for a term in London and a term in New York and is part of SPP’s continuing mission to train the high level decision makers of today and tomorrow.

As the above shows SPP is a dynamic and ever changing department and I am privileged to work here and to be part of its continued development. I look forward to the next 5 years and I hope to catch up again with some of our past students at alumni events.
In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Lecturer in Human Rights and Legal Theory and Programme Director, MA Human Rights.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is your name?</td>
<td>Saladin Meckled-Garcia</td>
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<tr>
<td>When did you join UCL?</td>
<td>As a lecturer in 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your responsibilities in the Department?</td>
<td>I am the Director for the MA in Human Rights, which I founded in 2003 and Director of the Institute for Human Rights, which I co-founded with George Letsas in 2009/10. I lecture on the theoretical foundations of human rights and international justice theory. I also have a cohort of PhD students and I run an advanced political and legal philosophy seminar for them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?</td>
<td>I enjoy the creative discussions that emerge when you have a very motivated group of research students and I enjoy intellectual exchange and collaboration with colleagues. I dislike taking time away from developing ideas and research projects to do endless and soul-destroying paperwork. I enjoy the creative discussions that emerge when you have a very motivated group of research students and I enjoy intellectual exchange and collaboration with colleagues. I dislike taking time away from developing ideas and research projects to do endless and soul-destroying paperwork.</td>
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<td>What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?</td>
<td>The foundation of the UCL Institute for Human Rights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?</td>
<td>Ronald Dworkin. In spite of my disagreements with him, I can honestly say that conversations with this great philosopher have been one of the greatest influences on my intellectual development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Favourite location around UCL?</td>
<td>The Print Room Cafe, when I need to jot down some ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What would your ideal afternoon/evening in London include?</td>
<td>A wonderful meal with friends, fine wine, followed by some serious dancing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your favourite book?</td>
<td>Los Pasos Perdidos (The Lost Steps), by Alejo Carpentier.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What are your hobbies?</td>
<td>Running, scuba, sailing, skiing, classical middle-eastern music and Tango.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?</td>
<td>Activist lawyer.</td>
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<td>If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?</td>
<td>I would introduce an international treaty on extra-territorial criminal jurisdiction (ITECJ), requiring all signatory states to prosecute their own citizens for a core list of serious crimes committed abroad. That way the perpetrators of rape, murder, destruction and theft would not remain un-accountable just because of the country in which the crime was perpetrated.</td>
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The report drew heavily on experience of minority and coalition government in other Westminster parliaments, thanks to the expertise of co-authors Mark Chalmers (from Canada), Ben Yong (from New Zealand) and Akash Paun (expert on Scotland).

A central recommendation of the report was the need for clearer guidance about the constitutional conventions on how a new government is formed in the event of a hung parliament. The Cabinet Secretary accepted the suggestion that Britain needs a Cabinet Manual like that in New Zealand and in February the Cabinet Office published the crucial chapter on ‘Elections and Government Formation’ in the run up to the election. This made clear that the Queen has no discretion in deciding whom to appoint as Prime Minister. It is up to the parties first to work out who can command confidence in the new House of Commons and the Queen then invites that person to form a government.

Robert Hazell briefed the broadcasters and the foreign press corps in London on what to expect if the election produced no overall winner. He was attached to both the ITV and BBC election coverage teams and gave 25 media interviews, as well as writing for the newspapers. This generated fees of £6k: useful income for the Unit’s research fund. His main role was to explain the constitutional rules as events unfolded and to try to calm down the media and the markets: although unknown in the UK’s recent history, hung parliaments are normal elsewhere and perfectly manageable.

As proposed in the Unit’s report, the Cabinet Office guidelines explained that Gordon Brown would continue to hold office in the interim period but would only lead a ‘caretaker’ government, which could not take decisions which would tie the hands of a future government. The report also encouraged the civil service to do scenario planning to prepare for all possible outcomes, including minority or coalition government. In another first, the civil service provided support to the negotiations between the political parties after the election, drawing on recently established practice in Scotland and New Zealand.

In tribute to the Unit’s contribution to facilitating a smooth handover, the Cabinet Secretary Sir Gus O’Donnell and the new Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg both attended the Unit’s summer party on 25 May, the evening of the Queen’s Speech announcing the new government’s legislative programme.
The new government’s constitutional reform programme

Robert Hazell has continued to be busy since the election, giving talks to Westminster and Whitehall audiences on how coalition government works. He wrote a quick report on The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Agenda for Constitutional and Political Reform, published in June 2010 [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/files/publications/unit-publications/149.pdf](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/files/publications/unit-publications/149.pdf)

He has held follow-up meetings with Sir Gus O’Donnell on the new Cabinet Manual and given evidence to the Lords Constitution Committee on the government’s political reform plans.

Some elements of the constitutional reform programme have sparked early controversies: notably the proposal for fixed term parliaments on which both Robert Hazell and Unit Deputy Director Dr Meg Russell have commented in the media. There are also dangers that the referendum on changing the House of Commons voting system (to the Alternative Vote, AV) could be lost. Questions remain about its link with the proposal to reduce the size of the House of Commons; and with the government’s proposals for an elected House of Lords. These have been the topic of further media articles and interviews from the Unit.

While the Liberal Democrats wanted proportional representation for both Houses, Dr Russell has argued that bicameralism works most effectively when the two chambers are complementary, with different composition from different electoral systems. AV for the Commons, complemented by PR for the Lords could therefore build on the existing strengths of both chambers.

Wright Committee on reform of the House of Commons

Dr Meg Russell was equally busy before and after the election in proposing and then facilitating significant changes in the way the House of Commons manages its business. This followed her 2007 report, The House Rules? International Lessons for enhancing the Autonomy of the House of Commons [www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/publications/unit-publications/142.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/publications/unit-publications/142.htm)

That research led to her appointment as Special Adviser to the Committee on Reform of the House of Commons chaired by Dr Tony Wright MP. The Committee’s report published in November adopted many of Dr Russell’s recommendations.

Key recommendations included the election of Select Committee chairs by the House as a whole, instead of being nominated by the whips; and establishing a Backbench Business Committee. This is responsible for scheduling non-government business such as select committee reports and general debates. In the run up to the election the Labour government failed to find time to debate the changes to Standing Orders to establish a Backbench Business Committee. In May 2010, Dr Russell won a small grant from the Nuffield Foundation to fund preparation of a briefing sent to all MPs in the new parliament to inform/remind them of the outstanding proposals for a Backbench Business Committee. Following this the new Leader of the House, Sir George Young, brought forward the reform and Natascha Engel MP was elected as the first chair of the committee.

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For the first time all the major select committees in the Commons also now have elected chairs and elected members, which should strengthen their independence from the executive and party whips.

Tony Wright retired from Parliament at the election, after eighteen years as an MP, and is joining the Department in September as Professor of Government and Public Policy. Further information about this appointment can be found later in the newsletter.
IPAS – INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOCIETY

The International and Public Affairs Society is the student-run society for Department of Political Science students. The society is entirely governed and steered by the elected student committee. It is traditional practice for the Department to help organise the initial election procedure. In line with UCL Union’s guidelines, every society must have two officers: a president and treasurer. This is the opportunity for students to do everything to make time spent at SPP more memorable and help develop a real sense of community.

Anne Reckitt, Outgoing 09–10 President of the student society, IPAS, writes:

IPAS, the International and Public Affairs Society, involving student run and student led activities for all SPP students took root this year from an outpouring of ideas and endeavors – an amalgamation of everything students came up with that they wished to get out of their year here at UCL.

We started from scratch, our first meeting turning into a brainstorming session filled with volunteers who stepped up to newly created posts. Based on the needs of the students, we established positions covering career prospects, film screenings, socials, alumni networking, debates, sports, a newsletter, a communications team and so many other things in between. Our goal became: “To promote broader interaction and understanding with international public affairs and to provide cohesion and links among our fellow students and with the outside practicing community”.

We did not, of course, meet all of our goals (we have to leave something for next year’s class to do, after all) but overall the year was a great success – the drive of my fellow committee members making it so. IPAS was ever-evolving over the course of our time here, rising up to meet new challenges – such as responding quickly to the disaster in Haiti by raising funds for the relief effort – and by creating new challenges for ourselves – such as deciding to sell SPP hooded sweatshirts in a range of forty colours which included six shades of red (ridiculous!).

Among our many projects, Amnesty International came to talk to us about careers with them, directors from various films screened their films with us and faculty took part in student-staff debates, culminating in an end of the year masquerade ball extravaganza.

We hope that we have set up a platform from which our successors may make IPAS even greater and more established than it is today and I challenge the Class of 2011 to take the reins and do so. For my part, I would like to thank those members of the SPP staff who took extra time and effort to support us this year, making many of our endeavors possible and I would also like to warmly thank the IPAS committee for their hard work and ingenuity, without which nothing would have been accomplished.

IPAS students enjoying the Masquerade Ball
The financial crisis of 2007-09 brought the global economic system to the brink of collapse and caused a worldwide recession, the effects of which are likely to continue for some time into the future. While it is natural to think that such calamitous events would cause policy makers to spring into action, enacting and implementing broad reforms that could reshape economic and political systems, such reforms have not been observed uniformly throughout the industrialised world. Moreover, where such reforms have been implemented, it is unclear whether they will have the intended effects. As more academics are debating the nature, scope and effects of such reforms, the School of Public Policy hosted a conference on 28 May 2010 organised by SPP’s Professor David Coen and by Professor Alasdair Roberts of Suffolk University Law School. Bringing together top scholars from universities in the US and UK, the primary purpose of the conference was to examine governance arrangements after the crisis and determine the extent to which they have changed.

A major theme running through the conference presentations was that post-crisis governance may remain more similar to pre-crisis governance than many people would have expected. In the wake of the crisis, many observers have claimed that the ‘self-regulation’ of financial institutions would soon become a thing of the past, having proven itself a miserable failure leading up to the crisis. However, as Tim Buthe (Duke University) and Jonathan Koppell (Yale University) both pointed out, self-regulation is actually a broad concept that also includes regulation of financial institutions by private regulatory bodies such as the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and ISO (International Organisation for Standards).

Due to the deeply complex nature of financial regulation, governments choose to delegate authority to private regulatory bodies whose members are often representatives of the financial industry themselves. Moreover, many of these organisations, notably ISO, are international and it is beyond the ability of any one government to increase its own authority at the expense of non-governmental organisations. Thus, the idea that “the era of self-regulation is over” has not been borne out by the evidence thus far.

However, while self-regulation and private regulation may continue, a different theme running through the conference papers was that governments will have to do a better job of coordinating their behaviour in the future. As Sir John Gieve (formerly of the Bank of England and Home Office) indicated, conventional monetary policy wisdom of the past thirty years dictated that central banks devote their resources to controlling inflation while largely letting markets take care of themselves. One lesson from the crisis is that if markets can not take care of themselves, there...
must be greater efforts to identify and control risk in the financial system. Such risk management will involve coordination of organisations both within and between governments. For example, proposed legislation in the United States by Senator Chris Dodd and Representative Barney Frank calls for the creation of a risk council whose task is observe the behaviour of all American bank regulators to prevent major disparities in risk.

At the international level, a primary mechanism for minimising risk is the promotion of uniform bank capitalisation standards, most notably through the Basel Accords. Talks for Basel III are ongoing but if the lengthy negotiating period of the Basel II Accords is any indicator (nearly 10 years), it may be some time before the industrialised nations can fully agree on new standards for Basel III.

While Gieve’s focus was primarily on monetary policy, Paul Posner (George Mason University) discussed fiscal policy and particularly the difficulties of dealing with deficits in democracies. This topic has become highly salient as of late, as an almost complete reversal has taken place with respect to fiscal policy and deficits. In the immediate wake of the crisis, many nations, particularly the United States, accepted a perceived need to spend vast sums of taxpayer money in order to boost demand and minimise the impact of the recession. Yet recently, sovereign debt crises (a topic addressed by Matt Andrews of Harvard University), particularly in nations like Greece, have scared some nations into making deficit reduction the new priority. One strong example of this has been the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government in the UK, which has proposed deep cuts in public expenditures, despite howls of protest from critics that such spending reduction will lead to a double-dip recession.

The effects of the financial crisis will continue to reverberate throughout the world for some time to come. Several industrialised nations are attempting to reform their financial systems, while simultaneously balancing the competing demands of economic stimulus and deficit reduction. The implications of post-crisis governance will not be fully observable for some time, although the conference organised by Professors Coen and Roberts is an excellent first step towards understanding the governing consequences of the financial crisis.
EXPLORING THE HEART OF EUROPE

MSc EPP students Isla Johns, Zsofia Kopetka and Juliet Milgate, report on the recent SPP trip to Brussels:

Following the popular 2009 study trip to Brussels, students of the EU External Relations module set out once again to explore Belgium’s European Quarter, courtesy of funding from the European Commission. Accompanied by Dr Christine Reh and Selina Uddin from SPP, the trip gave students the opportunity to build on their course programme and to gain a first-hand insight into the functioning of the European Parliament.

After an early meeting at the Eurostar terminal, thirty students arrived in what one of our speakers described as ‘tropical’ Brussels, with enough time for a tour of the European Quarter before being welcomed by Mr Gergely Polner of the European Parliament Visitors’ Service.

Mr Polner offered us the trip’s introductory discussion, outlining the changes and challenges facing the EU in the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, which came into force in December 2009. Most notably, the creation of the position of High Representative and the European Parliament’s increasing influence over foreign policy took the limelight of Mr Polner’s presentation and set the tone for the rest of the day’s lively talks. Students were also fortunate enough to be joined at short notice by Mr Peter Bajtay of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, who expanded on his institution’s perspective on the Lisbon Treaty and particularly on the creation of the new External Action Service.

Following lunch at the European Parliament, students were welcomed by Ms Jesse Scott, programme leader at E3G, an environmental organisation situated in the city centre and just a short walk from the Parliament. Ms Scott gave an insightful talk on the complex task of influencing public policy development at European level. Drawing on her organisation’s work, she highlighted the ‘big picture’ perspective needed to make a difference to climate change, which has evolved from an environmental issue to a key security issue spanning sectors such as energy and technology.

Completing the ‘institutional triangle’, the day’s final two speakers, Dr Bruno Scholl and Anja Fielder, were from the Council of Ministers and the European Commission respectively.

Dr Scholl, as an assistant at DG External and Political-Military Affairs in the Council Secretariat, was able to give students a fascinating insight into the Secretariat’s actions during the creation the new External Action Service and particularly into the subsequent inter-institutional tensions. Finally, Ms Fielder, press officer for Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, used her work to present external relations from a public perspective. In her illuminating account of the press service’s duties, she emphasised the important role of this service in contributing to the accountability and transparency of Commissioners’ activities for European citizens.
Before returning home, students had the opportunity to join our speakers and some functionaries of the European Commission to sample some of Belgium’s famous beers; some students even stayed on for a chance to experience some of Brussels’ sights and landmarks.

The 2010 trip was a wonderful chance for students to deepen their knowledge of EU policy-making and of the foreign policy issues studied throughout the academic programme, to network with EU policy practitioners and to socialise with friends. Long may the tradition live on!

Photos: Jana Sobotkova, Isla Johns

INAGURAL LECTURE – PROFESSOR CÉCILE LABORDE

Professor Cecile Laborde gave her inaugural lecture to a packed lecture hall on 10 June 2010. Cecile joined UCL in 2003 as Director of the MA in Legal and Political Theory, after lectureships at the University of Exeter and King’s College, London. Her work explores the interplay between normative theory and the practical and intellectual contexts in which it develops and seeks to address – an approach that has yielded highly imaginative and original results in her work on the pluralist traditions in Britain and France at the turn of the last century and most especially in her recent study of the French republican tradition and the Hijab controversy.

Her lecture on ‘Secularism and its Discontents’ built on and broadened this last project and forms the subject of a research fellowship she takes up this year at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. The lecture was introduced by Richard Bellamy as Head of Department and the vote of thanks proposed by Professor Quentin Skinner, former Regius Professor of History at Cambridge and currently Barber Beaumont Professor of the Humanities at Queen Mary College, University of London. As Professor Skinner noted, the lecture was a model of how political theory can illuminate crucial questions of public policy.

The lecture was followed by a reception at which friends, students, colleagues and family toasted her achievements.
PhD PROGRAMME NEWS

Dr Jennifer Hudson, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports:

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr David Karp who has successfully defended his thesis and has been awarded the PhD. David has accepted a lectureship at the University of Glasgow and we wish him every success.

PUBLICATIONS


Theocharis, Yannis (forthcoming) ‘Young People, Political Participation and Online Postmaterialism in Greece’. New Media & Society.

Michael A. Innes. ‘COIN Confusion’. Foreign Policy (May 6, 2010)

URL: [http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/06/coin_confusion](http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/06/coin_confusion)

OTHER MEDIA

Mike Innes was quoted in Wired Magazine’s Danger Room column on the intelligence process and drone strikes in Pakistan. Noah Schachtman, “The Legal Case For Robot War Gets Complicated,” Wired (29 April 2010).


Yannis Theocharis, interviewed by the Greek newspaper ‘Ta Nea’, “|(Net)surfing” for happiness’, June 1st.


AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Raluca Soreanu was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, for one year of research at the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, New York, USA.

Mike Innes was recently added to the list of consultants to the Office of Chief Defence Council for the Guantanamo Bay trials.
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Elliot, Cathy. 2010.
‘Writing the Democratic Nation: representations of “Britishness”, civilisation and democracy and the constitution of foreign policy in the wake of the London bombings’.
Tenth Essex Conference in Critical Political Theory at the University of Essex.

Soreanu, R.
Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University (“Global Café” event series).
Details at: www.nyu.edu/ipk/events/117

PROFILE

Yannis Theocharis

I hold a degree in Sociology from the University of Crete, Greece and a MSc in New Media, Information and Society from the London School of Economics and Political Science and I am currently completing my PhD in Political Science with an emphasis on political communication.

My research examines the impact of cultural values on young people’s patterns of political participation, giving particular emphasis to protest rather than electoral politics. One of the core arguments of the thesis is that electoral and party politics do not anymore describe young peoples participation trends which are moving away from the formal political arena towards a type of protest, issue-oriented and extra-institutional type of participation. Having acknowledged the new opportunities for participation offered by the internet and the unexplored role of cultural values in the online space, Inglehart’s theory of value change, the heart of the thesis, is used to explore the impact of post-materialism on political participation in both the offline and online realms.

Results of my comparative study between Greek and British young people have been presented at the 2009 and 2010 Political Studies Association conferences and at the 2009 ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops. Results from my research in Greece can be found at ‘Young people, political participation and online post-materialism in Greece’, a forthcoming publication by New Media & Society, while results from my research in Britain can be found in my working paper ‘Cybercultural values and extra-institutional political engagement in Britain’.

My aim is to remain in academia and carry out research on topics such as political behaviour, protest politics, social movements and the internet. I am therefore taking the next steps in starting my academic career. My projects for the near future involve the study of internet’s impact on social capital and political efficacy either through a postdoctoral research programme or a lectureship.
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.

The UK General Election 2010

As highlighted earlier in this edition of the Tavistock Times, The Unit has had a busy time over the election campaign and afterwards taking the lead in providing expert analysis and comment. Our website included guides on all the parties’ manifestos and international comparisons on particular issues such as votes at 16 and fixed term parliaments. Constitution Unit staff have been in demand and have appeared widely in the media. Robert Hazell had extended coverage on ITV, BBC and Channel 4 News advising on a hung parliament and coalition government. Our publication Making Minority Government Work has proved the must-have companion for journalists and practitioners. Its co-author, Mark Chalmers, has also been occupied doing media work especially with international broadcasters.

All of our media appearances, on radio and TV are available to view on our website at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/media/index.htm

We have also produced a number of articles for the written media, appearing in the national broadsheets and other publications, a selection of which are shown here:

• **Cameron should look to Australia for coalition tips**
  (Mark Bennister, The Guardian 15.05.10)

• **How to square the electoral reform circle**
  (Meg Russell, The Guardian 10.05.10)

• **Keep calm and carry on talking: Whitehall has been preparing for this for months**
  (Robert Hazell, Sunday Times 09.05.10)

• **Don’t get your hopes up for electoral reform within one parliament**
  (Robert Hazell, The Guardian 08.05.10)

• **Whichever way you look at it, Clegg calls the shots**
  (Robert Hazell, Mail on Sunday 02.05.10)

• **A memo to Nick Clegg**
  (Robert Hazell, The Guardian 26.04.10)

• **Nick Clegg: the power balancer**
  (Robert Hazell, The Guardian 19.04.10)

The Unit continues to be a vital point of contact for analysis and advice for government, academics and practitioners. Robert Hazell has already produced a publication giving his take on the proposed constitutional and political reforms of the new coalition. He also gave a lecture at the Institute for Government on the government’s plans.
Publication

www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/files/publications/unit-publications/149.pdf

Lecture


For in depth analysis of the election and our new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition, you can also see the latest issue of our regular newsletter, the Monitor.

www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/files/publications/monitor/monitor/Monitor_June_2010.pdf

Summer Party 2010

Every year the Constitution Unit holds a champagne reception to thank our friends and colleagues for their hard work and continued support. This year the event attracted a number of high-profile guests, including Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, Cabinet Secretary Sir Gus O’Donnell KCB, Parliamentary Secretary Mark Harper MP, Minister of State for Justice Lord McNally, not to mention our own Provost Malcolm Grant. This was a good opportunity to catch up after the election and everyone was in a good mood by the end of the night.

You can see the photos on the Constitution Unit flickr page:

www.flickr.com/photos/constitution-unit/sets/72157624148837646/
Seminars

We have also hosted a number of seminars over the last few months as part of our Public Seminar Series and Government Information Policy Seminar Series:

• Professor Robert Hazell, Director of the Constitution Unit, held a seminar to launch his report titled, The Conservative Agenda for Constitutional Reform.

• The Unit held a seminar at the Institute for Government examining how to ensure effective transitions of government. Peter Riddell, a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Government and Chief Political Commentator for The Times, discussed a recent report which he co-authored, Transitions: preparing for changes of government. The report examines the experience of transitions since the 1960s in order to draw lessons for the future.

• Peter Waller and Mark Chalmers, both of the Constitution Unit, presented the findings of their report into the effectiveness of pre-appointment scrutiny hearings.

• On 10 May, the Constitution Unit hosted a one-day international networking conference on access to information, organised by the World Bank as part of their Access to Information Program, in association with the Open Society Institute. The aim of the conference was to foster collaboration between transparency activists’ networks and academic centres to see how both groups can benefit from stronger collaboration.

• On 23 June, the Lord Speaker Rt Hon Baroness Hayman, gave a public seminar on how recent political developments are likely to impact on the work of the House of Lords. In particular, she discussed how politics in the House of Lords is likely to change and how it may remain the same over the course of the next Parliament.

• On 23 July, Professor Ron Johnston of Bristol University discussed the coalition Government’s proposals for reducing the size of the House of Commons and equalising its constituencies.

Forthcoming Seminars

On 18 October, Professor Robert Blackburn of King’s College London examines the issue of fixed term parliaments. Professor Blackburn will discuss how the introduction of fixed term parliaments may work, as well as some of the associated advantages and dangers.

Information regarding all forthcoming events at the Constitution Unit as well as an online booking form can be found at:

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

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

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

Professor Tony Wright,
Professor of Government and Public Policy

Before entering Parliament Professor Wright was Reader in Politics at the University of Birmingham.

He is the author or editor of some 21 books and co-editor of the Political Quarterly. His main areas of expertise are the civil service, public service delivery, regulation, parliament and British political thought. He will be teaching a practitioner-based course on the MSc in Public Policy, with a series of guest speakers.

Sofia Vasilopoulou

Sofia Vasilopoulou is a doctoral candidate at the European Institute, London School of Economics. Her doctoral thesis, supervised by Professor Kevin Featherstone and Dr Jonathan Hopkin, explores radical right Euroscepticism from a party strategic perspective.

She holds an MSc in European Studies(Research) – European Politics and Governance Stream (LSE), an MA in European Studies (University of Westminster) and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (LSE).

Her work has appeared in the Journal of Contemporary European Research and is forthcoming in Government & Opposition. She is also co-editing a volume entitled ‘Nationalism and Globalisation: Conflicting or Complementary?’ forthcoming by Routledge. She has been awarded the 2008 ECPR Party Politics Prize for the Best Student Paper delivered at the annual ECPR Summer School on Parties and Party Systems.

Her research interests include party politics, Comparative European and EU politics, analysis of political text, qualitative and quantitative methodology, nationalism and national identity in Europe. Prior to joining UCL, she taught Politics and Institutions in Europe and Quantitative Analysis: Description and Inference at the LSE.

Sofia Vasilopoulou is joining the Department in September 2010 to teach Comparative Political Analysis.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Tony Wright to a part-time position as Professor of Government and Public Policy in the Department of Political Science.

Tony Wright retired from Parliament at the election, after eighteen years as an MP and is joining the Department in September 2010 as Professor of Government and Public Policy. He has longstanding links with the Constitution Unit, as a founder member of the Unit’s Advisory Committee in 1995 and regular speaker at their seminars. He was a distinguished chair of the Public Administration Select Committee (to which Robert Hazell has several times been Special Adviser) and was also chair of the All Party Group on Parliament and the Constitution.
Dr Robert Jubb

Having arrived at the School to teach on two of its courses in political theory only last October, I was very happy in March 2010 to be offered the chance to cover for Cecile Laborde’s research leave at the School of Advanced Study at Princeton.

The challenge of teaching masters students, which I’d not done before, was something I had enjoyed and I felt risen to, just as I’d found my new colleagues helpful and welcoming whilst allowing me the freedom to get on with it. It also meant that I could stay in London, which for me has the attraction not just of being one of the world’s most interesting and exciting cities but also where I grew up and so where many of my family and friends are. So I was very grateful to the School for placing its confidence in my ability to fill Cecile’s substantial boots.

Even now, after spending what has often seemed like too much of the summer getting to grips with exactly how I’m going to do that, I’m still looking forward to it. Not only will I be spending my time in places I enjoy both professionally and personally but I will have the opportunity to broaden the range of topics I can teach, to play a significant administrative role, to further disseminate the work I did this year and during my doctorate and perhaps even to begin on some new research projects. My doctorate, completed after three years in Oxford last July (2009), focused methodological questions in political philosophy raised partly by the work of the late, great G. A. Cohen who had held the Chichele Chair in Social and Political Theory during my time there. Having spent three years working on often rather abstract questions, I now want to turn my attention to some more practically-oriented questions.

One issue of particular interest is of what we owe each other when not everyone does as they ought to. Imagine there is some collective resource we all draw upon and I find that you have not been paying your fair share towards its maintenance. Should I just take up all the slack or can I let the situation slide? Must I sucker myself by allowing you to benefit from my efforts? What if vulnerable others will be left very badly off if I do not?

Given how pervasive non-compliance with the rules of institutions is, these questions have received comparatively little attention in contemporary political theory, especially given some of the challenges we face that require concerted action they may well not get, of which climate change is merely the most obvious. From what I have seen so far, both the School and UCL more generally will be excellent places to pursue them.

Dr Jeff Kucik

I received my BA in political science from NC State University in the fall of 2003. As part of my degree I completed an undergraduate research project, which focused on multinational firm behaviour. I theorised that a principal-agent problem between different levels of firm management influenced the location and volume of foreign direct investments. I then studied for an MA in international political economy at the University of Manchester from 2004–2005.
While in Manchester my research interests shifted away from the politics of foreign investment and I became more interested in global economic governance and the politics of international trade institutions.

Most recently, I completed my PhD in IPE at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. My dissertation offers an explanation of variation in the design of trade institutions. I undertook a unique data collection effort in which I recorded detailed information on the specific legal provisions included in 330 preferential trade agreements since 1960. I find that there is wide variation in trade agreement rules and account for this variation by arguing that design preferences divide the domestic market. Specifically, I theorise that a political tension exists between industry groups with competing preferences over the design of trade institutions.

My current research seeks to expand on my dissertation by investigating how diverging preferences are translated into policy, including how domestic political institutions shape the lobbying efforts of industry. I also continue to have an interest in the politics of financial market regulation, foreign investment, and the intersection of political economy and armed conflict. I look forward to starting at UCL this fall.

Anne Koch
Research Assistant

Having previously completed an MA in Human Rights (2005–2006) at UCL’s School of Public Policy, Anne Koch returned to the Department in May 2010 as part-time research assistant in the ESRC project on the legitimacy and authority of supranational human rights courts.

At the same time, she is pursuing a part-time PhD at the Free University of Berlin. Her PhD research focuses on the discursive justifications underlying migrant return policies in a number of European countries.

Before starting her PhD, Anne was a Carlo-Schmid Fellow at the Peace building, Livelihoods and Partnerships Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. She also worked as a research assistant at the Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies and as a project assistant at Capacity Building International, Germany.

Dr Slava Mikhaylov

Slava Mikhaylov joined the Department in September 2010 as a Lecturer in Research Methods. He received his doctorate in Political Science from Trinity College, University of Dublin. He has taught graduate courses at Trinity College and London School of Economics.

His research interests include political methodology, comparative and international political economy and comparative politics.
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:

Natalie Tomlinson  
MA Human Rights, 2008-09

After finishing my BA in International Relations and Japanese I went straight into my MA programme at UCL. During my course I had the opportunity to work on a voluntary basis with various human rights NGOs and also do an internship for the UCL Institute for Human Rights which was officially launched just after I finished my programme.

As soon as I left UCL, I started an internship with the Globalisation desk at the International Federation for Human Rights in Paris. My main responsibility was to work on a guidebook on ‘Judicial and non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of human rights violations committed by transnational corporations’. Although I was already interested in human rights and business during my MA, it became clear to me at this point that I would like to continue to work on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and accountability issues. Currently, I have a short term position working for the Deputy Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva doing research on the impact civil society has on business regulation. At the same time I am doing a distance learning Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration, as I would like to go on to work on the implementation and integration of CSR norms into a company’s strategy.

END OF AN ERA!

The end of this academic year coincides with the end of Professor Richard Bellamy’s five year ‘marathon’ as Head of SPP. In mid-June 2010, the Department raised a glass to its outgoing Head in the fittingly named ‘Perseverance’ on Lamb’s Conduit – to thank Richard and to wish him all the best for his future role as Director of UCL’s European Institute and of course, for his continuing work as Professor of Political Science in the Department.

The T-Shirt says it all: as of September, the baton will pass on to Professor David Coen.

Thank you, Richard and welcome, David!
CLASS OF 09–10

The Department would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our 09–10 student cohort every success in their future careers and encourage students to keep in touch with the Department.

FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK TIMES

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

Ideas for future articles should be sent to:
Helen Holt,
h.holt@ucl.ac.uk
before the end of October 2010

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