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Welcome to a new year at the School of Public Policy. As regular readers of the Tavistock Times know, change and growth have been a recurring theme and 2013-14 does not look like it will disappoint.

As the year begins, we hope to welcome over 400 masters students from around the world onto our existing masters programmes. We intend to launch a new Institute of Global Governance with a number of high profile events on global institutions, Sustainability, Economics and Equality and Justice throughout the year. The new joint executive MPA degree with NYU launched in New York with a keynote lecture from Gordon Brown on the 23rd of September 2013. The event was streamed to a lecture Theatre at UCL and Alumni in New York and London attended the event.

In addition to expanding our teaching programmes and events, we are also expanding the faculty with the recruitment of five young scholars from leading academic institutions from around the world. They are Dr Emily McTernan, who joins as a Lecturer in Political Theory from Cambridge University. Dr Marc Esteve who joins UCL as a Lecturer in Public Management from the Institute for Public Governance and Management, ESADE Business School in Barcelona. Dr Michael Plouffe who joins us as a Lecturer in International Political Economy from the University of California, San Diego. Dr Tom Pegram joining as a lecturer in Global Governance and Deputy Director of the Institute of Global Governance from Trinity College Dublin and Dr Julian Wucherpfennig who moves to UCL as a Lecturer in International Security in January 2014, from Zurich Switzerland. These new additions will strengthen an already outstanding faculty.

The success of our existing faculty has also been brought into positive relief by the fact that three well known names in the Department have been awarded major prizes and recognition. Professor Albert Weale (FBA) was awarded the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the recent Queen’s birthday list for life services to Political Science. Professor Cecile Laborde was elected to the British Academy. As many of you are aware, being elected an FBA is evidence of the esteem in which someone’s work is held and it is worth noting that Cecile is amongst the youngest fellows ever elected since the Academy received its Royal Charter in 1902. The full list of fellows can be found here: http://www.britac.ac.uk/news/news.cfm/newsid/955.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr Jennifer Hudson has recently won a major grant from the Nuffield Foundation for the creation of a Quantitative Methods Institute in the Department, working closely with the Departments of Geography, Anthropology and the Institute of Education. Look at the next issue of Tavistock Times for more details of this exciting initiative. Finally, while we are talking about successful grants, I am also pleased to announce that Dr Lisa Vanhala has won a very prestigious ESRC future leaders grant to build on her already successful British academy project.

There will be many more exciting events with the Department’s “Policy in Practice” seminar series on Thursdays open to both past and present students so I look forward to seeing old established faces at the Thursday talks and welcoming new faces in September.
In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Rod Abouharb, Senior Lecturer in International Relations and MSc International Public Policy Programme Director.

What is your name?
M. Rodwan Abouharb

When did you join UCL?
September 2009

What are your responsibilities in the Department?
Direct the International Public Policy MSc Programme and teach modules on Globalisation, Rebellion, International Organisations (and from time to time Human Rights Repression).

What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?
I love the fact that I get paid to think, research and teach topics that interest me and are in my mind important. I love exploring new ideas and thinking about how different international and domestic processes link to each other.

The thing I most dislike about my job is the very bureaucratic nature of British academic institutions, pervading all areas of our professional lives.

What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?
Professionally, probably my first book co-authored with David Cingranelli and published by Cambridge University Press in late 2007. We won the 2009 Choice Outstanding Academic Title of the Year Award for the best academic book published in the United States in the previous year.

Most inspirational person that you have met whilst at UCL?
That is a tough one. I admire the intellect, professionalism and rigour of many of my colleagues in the Department.

Favourite location in UCL?
The Flaxman gallery, main quad and Housman Room (aka faculty lounge) where you can sink into big comfy couches and read the paper.

What is your favourite book?
At the moment, Love in a Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

What are your hobbies?
I like to work out and do some yoga. I enjoy going to photography and art exhibits, attending the theatre and visiting museums. I also really enjoy going out for dinner, with perhaps a few drinks thrown in.

If you had not gone into academia what would you be doing now?
Either an architect or owning a Tiki bar on the beach.

If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?
Enact policies to end global warming which is the most severe threat to our continued existence.
EXPLORING THE HEART OF EUROPE

2012–13 MSc EPP students, Sophie Macnair and Claudia Chwalisz, report on the recent SPP trip to Brussels:

06 June 2013 marked one of the highlights of the year for the MSc European Public Policy class – our annual study trip to Brussels. Having spent months studying EU institutions and theories, we were given the opportunity to see one of the EU institutions first hand, as well as hear from a number of fascinating speakers working at the heart of the EU policy process. For those who are considering a future career in Brussels, the trip was particularly enlightening, as we were able to have the opportunity to meet and exchange with ‘Eurocrats,’ lobbyists and former MSc EPP students. We were fortunate to be accompanied by Dr Christine Reh and Dr Nicola Chelotti, both EU experts who could answer any questions we might have. The trip was generously sponsored by the European Parliament under its ‘Opinion Multiplier Group Scheme’.

Following an early start on Eurostar, our group arrived in Brussels to unexpected sunshine. After a quick coffee stop, we headed to the European Parliament to hear our first speaker of the day. George Stylianou works for the European Parliament Visitors’ Service and gave us an insight into the day-to-day workings of the Parliament and how this had changed following the Treaty of Lisbon. We then heard from Felix Lutz, who told us about his work with the European Parliament’s International Trade Committee. Having studied trade theories in our Policy-Making class, it was fascinating to hear more about the practical aspects of the negotiations.

After the preliminary presentations, we enjoyed a nice lunch break in the European Parliament canteen and took advantage of the sunshine as we walked through Brussels to the European Commission’s ‘InfoPoint’ on Rond-Point Schuman. We were lucky to hear from three exceptional speakers, each contributing to a different aspect of EU policy making: Eric von Breska (European Commission, DG Regio), Anja Fiedler (European External Action Service) and Jesse Scott (Eurelectric).

The afternoon proved to be an enlightening experience, as the speakers offered us an in-depth perspective of what it looks like to work in the European Capital. As many of us are young Europhiles contemplating pursuing careers in Brussels, it was great to hear about three ongoing projects. After the talks, we headed over to Place du Lux to enjoy a well-deserved drink with our speakers and a number of former SPP students now working in Brussels. It gave us a chance to have an informal chat about having a career in the European Capital.

Needless to say, the trip left us even more excited about future prospects in the Belgian city. As we bid Brussels adieu at Gare du Midi, many of us talked about how we would be back again soon.

Eric gave an enlightening presentation on the Multiannual Financial Framework, with an overview of the changes happening in Cohesion Policy. Anja gave a more detailed view of what it is like to work for the European External Action Service, proving particularly insightful for those of us most interested in EU foreign policy. Finally, Jesse kept us captivated in the late afternoon heat with a very interesting presentation about lobbying in Brussels.
**ALBERT WEALE AWARDED CBE IN QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST**

Albert Weale, Professor of Political Theory and Public Policy at UCL since 2010, was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List for his service to Political Science.

Albert has served on a number of national bodies concerned with the social sciences, including panels for the Research Assessment Exercises in 1992, 1996 and 2001. He has also been a Vice-President of the British Academy with special responsibility for Public Policy and has chaired the Nuffield Council on Bioethics.

He joins Professor Robert Hazell who was awarded the CBE in 2007 for services to constitutional reform, as the second holder of a CBE in the Department.

Professor Weale said that he was thrilled to have received the award, which was a token of recognition of the contribution that Political Science could make to understanding politics and the improvement of society.

**CÉCILE LABORDE ELECTED FELLOW OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY**

Cécile Laborde has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. The British Academy is the national academy for the humanities and social sciences, equivalent to the Royal Society for the natural sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Science in the United States.

In electing her, the Academy sought to acknowledge the distinctive contribution Cécile has made to the study of political thought, most notably through her writings on republican political theory.

She was among the youngest of the 47 Fellows elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Academy in July 2013. It is unusual for fellows to be elected so early in their career. Indeed, many are not elected until after they have retired.

Asked for her reaction, Cécile said that she was surprised but honoured to have been nominated and selected for such a prestigious distinction and said that it reflected credit on the centre of excellence in Political Theory at UCL.
VISITING DE FACTO STATES TO LEARN ABOUT POST-WAR STATE-BUILDING

In the past year, Dr Kristin M. Bakke’s ESRC-funded research project on “After the War Ends” has taken her to some of the so-called de facto or unrecognized states in the former Soviet world.

*De facto* states in many ways look and function like states (with their own governments, ministries, flags, education systems, border guards and sometimes also their own passports and money) but they are not recognized as such by the vast majority of the 193 states in the international system. Most *de facto* states are born out of violent struggles with their ‘parent states’—the states they are officially part of but want to escape—and Dr Bakke’s research examines how former “war-makers” turn themselves into “state-makers.” This involves talking to people who were central in these entities’ armed struggle and early post-war state-building process. She is just back from a trip to Abkhazia. Abkhazia is recognized as a state by Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and a couple of small island states but all other states recognize the territory as part of Georgia.

*The photo is from the Inguri river, which forms the “Administrative Boundary Line” between Georgia and Abkhazia.*

POLICY AGENDAS IN BRITISH POLITICS
– NEW BOOK

Professor Peter John, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, UCL Department of Political Science, writes:

Peter John, Tony Bertelli, Will Jennings and Shaun Bevan’s book, *Policy Agendas in British Politics,* was published by Palgrave Macmillan on 03 July 2013. It traces the attention of British government to different policy topics since 1945, showing how issues such as the economy, international affairs, crime and immigration have risen and fallen on the agenda. The book throws new light on the key points of change in British politics, such as Thatcherism and New Labour. Building on existing approaches to agenda-setting (incrementalism, the issue attention cycle and the punctuated equilibrium model) it develops a new approach labelled focused adaptation whereby policy-makers respond to structural shifts in the underlying pattern of attention.
THE CONTEMPORARY HOUSE OF LORDS – NEW BOOK

Pathbreaking House of Lords study published

The latest book by the Unit’s Deputy Director Dr Meg Russell (who teaches British and comparative politics in the Department) was published by Oxford University Press in July 2013. It looks at a frequently misunderstood institution: the British House of Lords. The book is based on 15 years of research on the Lords and legislative bicameralism (or in plain English: two chamber parliaments) around the world. It reviews who sits in the Lords, what it does, how its political dynamics work and crucially what impact it has on both policy and culture in British politics. The book also includes chapters on the House of Lords’ history, bicameralism outside the UK and prospects for Lords reform.

A key argument in the book is that the House of Lords is much more modern than many people think, following reform implemented by the Labour government in 1999. It has the same gender mix as the House of Commons, and includes more minority ethnic members. Crucially, if somewhat ironically, its party mix also reflects the way that people vote in general elections more proportionally than does the Commons. It is thus a ‘no overall control’ chamber, where the balance of power is held by the Liberal Democrats and (particularly since that party went into coalition government in 2010) a large group of independents. This new, more balanced makeup (which contrasts with the chamber’s previous dominance by the Conservative party) has given the Lords both greater ability and greater confidence to challenge the government on policy. Since 1999, governments have been defeated over 500 times in the Lords and often choose to compromise rather than face long-drawnout battles over legislation. This all makes British politics far more plural than it used to be and than most people realise.

The book was launched in the House of Lords on 17 July 2013, at a reception hosted by the Lord Speaker and attended by many well-known names. The Constitution Unit website includes a page (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/research/parliament/house-of-lords/the-contemporary-house-of-lords) with summaries of the book and a short video interview with its author.

Report calls for reform of House of Commons bill committees

In June 2013, the Unit published a report funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, looking at options for reform of the committees in the House of Commons dealing with government legislation. It compared these committees, in particular, with their counterparts in other parliaments - showing how they are an ‘outlier’ by having a temporary, nonexpert membership rather than a permanent, expert membership as is now the norm. This weakens them significantly. The report, which was launched at an event in the House of Commons addressed by former Cabinet minister Jack Straw and chair of the Commons Procedure Committee Charles Walker, called for improvements to the way that committee members are chosen and experimentation with new models. Within weeks of publication, the report’s lead author Meg Russell had been invited to give evidence to a new inquiry into the matter by the Procedure Committee - whose report is awaited. In all, Meg Russell gave oral evidence to no less than three House of Commons committee inquiries in June and July 2013.
NEW PROJECTS

Constitutional excerpts

The Unit’s, James Melton received funding for the Constitutional Excerpts Project in March, which aims to address constitutional drafters’ need for systematic information on the contents of other countries’ constitutions. On average, thirty constitutions are amended and five are completely replaced each year. Despite this high level of constitutional change, there is no country that changes its constitution often enough for public officials to gain much experience as constitutional drafters. Instead, drafters of new constitutions and constitutional amendments are typically engaged in a task that they have never done before and will never do again. They lack systematic information on the contents of other countries’ constitutions (and perhaps even previous constitutions in their own country) that could help them decide what topics should be included in their constitution and how they should be addressed. Even external advisors, who are frequently asked to consult on constitutional drafting processes, are able to draw on only anecdotal evidence for the efficacy of particular approaches and tend to rely on a relatively small set of well-known models.

The project will draw on data collected by the Comparative Constitutions Project to provide free, online access to virtually every constitutional text within each country’s series of constitutional laws. Both the full texts of these constitutions as well as a tool that allows users to access excerpts from those texts on particular provisions (e.g. freedom of religion or executive decree authority) will be made available on ConstitutionMaking.org later this summer.

The project is run by James Melton in collaboration with Zachary Elkins and Tom Ginsburg and is supported by Google Ideas and the Indigo Trust.

Financial privilege

The Parliament team has recently started work on another Nuffield-funded project, examining parliamentary financial privilege. In Britain, the Commons has primacy over the Lords in all matters relating to taxation and public spending. Consequently, in the event that the Lords passes a legislative amendment with financial implications that the Commons subsequently disagrees with, the Commons can invoke ‘financial privilege’ and the Lords by convention does not then insist on its amendment.

Although not new to the coalition government, controversy about the use of financial privilege has grown in the current Parliament. Most notably, its use on the Welfare Reform Bill in 2012 provoked claims from some that the Lords was being inappropriately prevented from scrutinising government legislation. Such concerns may well re-emerge in the future, particularly if peers seek to limit government spending cuts.

This project will clarify the existing rules and conventions surrounding financial privilege, and assess how it has in practice been used in recent years. Based on this investigation, we hope to establish whether existing arrangements need to be reformed to strengthen Parliament’s scrutiny of government legislation.

The project runs from May until October 2013 and we intend to publish a report later this year.

For more information, please contact Daniel Gover at d.gover@ucl.ac.uk

INTERNSHIPS

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

Please find details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/aboutus/internships
NEW GLOBAL GOVERNANCE MODULE

UCL Department of Political Science

What is global governance? What is it good for? How might it pose an alternative to anarchy as an organising principle for global politics?

The complexity of global governance presents a challenge to both scholars and policy-makers. Reflecting the intellectual mission of the new Institute of Global Governance, this module will critically engage with both innovative scholarship and practice to identify possible governance arrangements capable of responding to pressing global challenges.

Theoretical innovations and world developments have combined to ensure that global governance features prominently in the study of global politics. During this course, students will survey the different approaches to understanding what global governance means in theory and how it works in practice. A variety of global policy domains will be examined to assess how scholarship is adapting to, and making sense of, contemporary developments in this fast-moving arena, including health, justice, the internet and the environment, among others.

We also look at the locations of power and the actors engaged in management, monitoring and enforcement activities at the global level.

By applying different theoretical frameworks to a range of global public policy challenges, the course concludes by interrogating future potential scenarios for global governance.

This new module will be taught in term two starting in January 2014 and will be delivered by Dr Tom Pegram. The module will be open to MA/MSc students and the module code is PUBLG114.

IPPR MAGAZINE 2013

www.ucl.ac.uk/ippr/magazine/index

The International Public Policy Review is a student-run journal, funded by the School of Public Policy, with the aim of giving students at SPP a platform to express their ideas. This year, we have had the opportunity to publish our very first print magazine, bringing together the very best of an excellent range of submissions from 2012 and 2013. Our magazine is an attempt to showcase the diversity of thought within the UCL student community and to broaden the reach of our journal publication.

All articles are adapted from our full online journal, available at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/ippr/journal

Printed copies are available upon request from the UCL Department of Political Science Reception.

E-GAP

Peter John hosted the ninth meeting of the Experiments in Governments Politics research group, better known as EGAP (see http://e-gap.org).

EGAP is a research group for researchers who use randomized controlled trials and other robust forms of evaluation, with special reference to less developed countries. Not only do academics play a part but NGOs, Aid organisation and governments take great interest in its work. The group met at UCL on the 31 May and 1 June

(see programme: http://e-gap.org/events/egap-9-ucl).

As well as serious discussions, the members of the group relaxed on a boat trip they took which went up the Thames to Greenwich.
MA HUMAN RIGHTS
STUDY TRIP – GENEVA

Report on the recent SPP trip to Brussels:

The annual study trip to the United Nations in Geneva for the MA Human Rights cohort of 2012/13 took place in April, organised by Dr Başak Çalış. The group was able to follow the Universal Periodic Reviews of Turkmenistan of Cape Verde.

The review sessions were not the most ‘juicy’ of sessions with many states, rather than spending their time to make recommendations to improve the human rights situation in these countries, making diplomatic niceties. Others, mostly from the Western European and Latin American Group, however, had targeted and well-informed recommendations.

In the afternoon, we had lively and frank exchanges with the senior human rights advisors of the UK Mission in Geneva, the Director of the Universal Rights Group (URG), a Geneva-based human rights think tank and the children’s rights advocacy expert of the NGO SOS Children’s Villages. The students were able to benefit from the experts’ strong understanding of the UN-level human rights activity as a difficult mix of diplomatic bargaining and principled action.

Experts consistently emphasised the conditional effects of the UN system and the UPR on the improvement of domestic human rights protections. As Marc Limon, the Director of URG, put it ‘we would only expect the UN level work to matter when there is receptiveness amongst the domestic elites for the UN to matter.’ Alan Kikuchi-White, the SOS Children’s Villages advocacy expert also highlighted the importance of domestic level human rights advocacy and civil society’s ability and willingness to use the UN as leverage in domestic human rights activism.

We left the UN building with a sober understanding of how diplomatic niceties of the Universal Periodic Review are part of a much larger effort for human rights agenda setting, with many pitfalls but also opportunities. The Alpine sun – a rarity this year on the shores of Lac Leman, as our experts highlighted – also treated us well.
A couple of months ago our Director and Department Head, David Coen, asked if I would be willing to direct the Undergraduate Affiliate Programme in Political Science and International Relations from September 2013.

I have some prior understanding of the value of studying abroad, well teaching abroad at least. I joined the Department in 2011 after six years at the University of Aberdeen but before that I taught for many years at the University of New Mexico in the United States. I accepted David Coen's invitation and in the knowledge that thanks to my predecessor, Professor Robert Hazell, we had a very successful Undergraduate Affiliate Programme in place with a strong administrative and academic staff committed to the programme.

The programme is a popular choice and welcomes students from the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and Finland. The number of students enrolled on the programme is testimony to the high regard for UCL, its London location and the rich and varied choice of courses offered by the Department.

These courses reflect the discipline and fit well within the requirements of a student's home political science department but they also showcase the comparative advantage of the UCL department. In choosing from among these courses, it makes sense to think about what is on offer here that would not be as easy to find at your home institution and courses that make the most of your time abroad. What better place to study British politics or European Union politics (Brussels you might say but then we are a train ride away). It is an exciting time with issues of Scottish independence, coalitions and the stresses and strains on EU institutions. If you have an interest in things legal, theoretical, international or comparative, then you can explore such topics as the process of constitutional change, the role of the state in welfare provision or the spread of conflict across international borders. The spread of learning across borders, however, can only be a good thing.

As a department internationally known for its post-graduate programmes we have a group of research active scholars who can bring their enthusiasm for the latest research to the classroom. The academic staff include, Chrysa Lamprinakou, Niheer Dasandi, Nils Metternich, Harry Bauer, Maki Kimura, Lisa Vanhala, Kristen Bakke, James Melton, John Filling, Roland Kappe, Steven Robinson and myself. Michael Plouffe joins us from the UC San Diego and will be teaching POLS6015A, International Political Economy. Current course offerings can be found on our website.

In the classroom, we mix affiliate students with UCL undergraduates from a variety of undergraduate degree programmes to foster lively interchange in seminars. While the lectures may be larger, the seminars have no more than twenty students. Courses follow a one hour lecture and one hour seminar format. Essays are the normal means of assessing student performance and developing essay-writing skills is a central part of the programme.

Outside the classroom the Department's location in central London, puts it in easy walking distance of the British Library and the British Museum and the Department is a regular port-of-call for a select and internationally-known group of speakers from the academic and policy world.

The Affiliate Programme has a lot to offer and I hope that you have the chance to participate.
NEW STAFF

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

Dr Tom Pegram
Lecturer in Global Governance and Deputy Director of The Institute of Global Governance

I am delighted to be joining the Department this September as a Lecturer in Global Governance and the Deputy Director of the new Institute of Global Governance.

My research lies at the interface between international relations, law and comparative politics, with a particular interest in when and why international instruments matter for effecting domestic human rights outcomes. I have particular expertise in the study of National Human Rights Institutions or ‘NHRIs’.

This focus reflects my experience working as an interdisciplinary research assistant to Professor Ryan Goodman at Harvard Law School’s Human Rights Program and subsequently NYU School of Law’s Center for Human Rights and Global Justice throughout my PhD. I graduated in 2011 with a DPhil in Politics from Oxford and received my undergraduate degree from Aberystwyth University.

I will be joining the Department directly from Trinity College Dublin, where I have held the position of Assistant Professor in International Relations and Director of the Policy Institute since 2011.

Dr Julian Wucherpfennig
Lecturer in International Security

I am looking forward to engaging with a diverse community of scholars here at the SPP and across UCL and launching the new Institute is particularly exciting!

It will also be a real pleasure to return to the UK after five years overseas.

Julian Wucherpfennig is Lecturer in International Security at the School of Public Policy and the Director of the MSc Security Studies programme. Prior to joining the Department in 2013, he was a postdoctoral research fellow at ETH Zurich from where he also holds a PhD (’11) and an MA (’08) in Political Science. His BA is from Jacobs University in Germany.

Julian’s research focuses on how interaction between political actors affects political violence and conflict processes. At the level of theory, his work explores when, why and how competing preferences lead to interdependent decision making and—as a result—to seemingly suboptimal (Pareto inefficient) outcomes, including war or military arms races. Substantively, he is interested in actor constellations involving ethnic groups. He applies a similar perspective to the problems of endogenous institutions, such as ethnic power sharing or democratisation. Troubled by the concern that nearly everything is endogenous, Julian also takes a strong interest in quantitative methods, including spatial statistics and event history models. His work has been published in International Organization, World Politics and The Journal of Politics, among others. His PhD on ethnic conflict was awarded the ECPR Jean Blondel Prize.

Julian is excited about joining a leading Political Science department, the prospects of collaborative research and making a positive contribution.

Dr Théo Boutruche
Teaching Fellow in Human Rights

I will be joining the Department in December 2013 as a Teaching Fellow in Human Rights.

I am currently the Post-Conflict Legal Adviser at REDRESS in London. After having taught international law at the University of Geneva for six years, I felt the need to be exposed to the practice of human rights. I worked for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and for several human rights NGO as a consultant or staff, such as Amnesty International, the International Center...
Dr Steven Robinson  
Teaching Fellow in EU Politics

Dr Steven Robinson joined the Department in September 2013 as Teaching fellow in EU politics and will teach the courses The Politics of the European Union (POLS6006A/B) and Policy-Making and Regulation in Europe (PUBLG016).

Prior to coming to UCL, Steven completed his PhD in Politics at Newcastle University, which assessed the Europeanisation of Portuguese foreign and security policy. He also holds an MA in Politics (Research) and a BA (Hons) in Government and European Union Studies from the same institution. In 2010, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon and received a research grant from the Camões Institute, the cultural arm of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to fund his PhD field research interviewing policy-makers in Lisbon.

Steven's research interests include: the EU as an international actor; Portuguese foreign policy; the politics of the Lusophone world; transnational security co-operation mechanisms; the CFSP and CSDP; Europeanisation; researching and theorising institutional continuity and change; and public policy-making in the European Union.

Lois Lee  
Research Associate

Lois joins UCL in September 2013 as a research associate working with Cécile Laborde on the ERC-funded project, Is Religion Special? Reformulating Secularism and Religion in Contemporary Legal and Political Theory (RAPT). RAPT interrogates the conception of religion which underpins contemporary legal and political theory, especially focusing on its status as special – in itself and in its relation to the state. Lois's previous research investigated religion’s 'others' (nonreligion, atheism, secularism, secularity) from a sociological perspective and her new work will consider how including these ‘others’ impacts upon legal and political theoretical treatments of religion and the secular state.

Since completing her PhD at the University of Cambridge, Lois has held a Blackham postdoctoral fellowship (undertaken as a visiting fellow at the Centre for Urban and Community Research at Goldsmiths College, London) and was associate lecturer in religious studies at the University of Kent. She is co-director of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN), co-editor of Secularism and Nonreligion and NSRN Online and features editor of Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism. She also co-edits the new book series, Religion and Its Others: Studies in Religion, Nonreligion and Secularity (RIO), published by De Gruyter.

Aurélia Bardon  
Research Associate

Aurélia Bardon joins UCL in September 2013 as a research associate working with Cécile Laborde on the ERC-funded project on ‘Is Religion Special? Secularism and Religion in Contemporary Legal and Political Theory.’

Aurélia is currently completing a dual PhD programme in Political Theory at Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris. Her dissertation focuses on public justification and the question of the place of religious arguments in political discussion.

Her research project addresses the concept of secularism and its relations with liberal democracy. Aurélia’s research interests also include epistemology, relativism, pragmatism, political liberalism, moral philosophy and bioethics.

Aurélia is looking forward to joining the Department.
I recently joined the Department in July 2013 as a research assistant within the Constitution Unit. My role is primarily to work with Dr James Melton on the Comparative Constitutions Project.

Previously, I worked in branding and communications research for global market research company Ipsos MORI, having joined their graduate scheme in 2011. After gaining quantitative research experience in this role, I am now delighted to have joined the Department and to have made the move back into the political realm. I hold a MA in Politics and International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, which also included a year on exchange at the University of Calgary. During my time as a student I completed an internship with SPICe, the Scottish Parliament’s research department, where the focus of my research was comparative decentralised governance in Europe.

Out of work I am a keen netball player, the obvious sporting choice for someone of 5ft tall. Much to the dismay of my housemates I have also recently started learning to play the drums.

Christine Stuart
Research Assistant

I have recently joined the Department of Political Science as an Administrative Assistant. Prior to joining, I worked at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the Faculty of General Dental Practice where I administered dental courses. I graduated from Plymouth University in 2008 with a degree in Geography. During my studies my interests centred on social and cultural geography and I wrote my dissertation on the Polish Diaspora in West London and as I am of Polish descent I had a personal interest in this topic too. I am a keen walker and have walked the South West Coastal Path and have also completed a half-marathon, although I hope to one day complete the Marathon. In my spare time I attend Spanish classes and hope to enjoy many holidays in Spain in the future! I look forward to learning more about the Department and welcoming all the new students and staff at the beginning of the 2013-14 term.

Nicola Brodowska
Administrative Assistant

Dimitrios was born in Athens, Greece, where he graduated from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens with a BA in Political Science and Public Administration. His first stop in the United Kingdom was Brighton, where he graduated from the University of Sussex with a Masters in International Relations. In 2010, he moved to London for further studies at City University London. There, he was awarded with a distinction for his second Masters in International Communications and Development.

Whilst undertaking his postgraduate studies on a part-time basis, he has acquired strong professional experience in the events management, marketing and student administration sectors. After officially graduating from City University London, he became a full-time staff member, working firstly as a Customer Service Coordinator and then as the Student Administrator for the School of Arts and Social Sciences.

His professional experience is diverse, as he has worked for the last eight years in both Higher Education and other sectors, in the fields of Marketing, Student Administration and Events and Conferences management. He has also been involved in the Arts sector, as he has been managing an internationally-acclaimed theatre group, based in London.

Dimitrios Kraniotis
Administrative Office and PA
RESEARCH GRANT UPDATE

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

**Centre for Humanities Interdisciplinary Research Projects at UCL Small Grant**

*Legal Mobilisation in the UK: A Comparative Perspective*

Dr Lisa Vanhala and Dr Jeff King (Law)

The small grant will fund a one-day workshop on Legal Mobilisation in the UK: A Comparative Perspective. The workshop will take stock of existing research, debate theoretical approaches to the study of legal mobilisation and engage with practitioners from a number of different policy areas. The workshop will consist of four panels representing a broad variety of policy issues such as terrorism, privacy, children’s rights, climate change and disability rights. Each panel will be composed of legal academics and political scientists, practicing barristers and solicitors and representatives of campaigning organisations engaged in strategic litigation activity.

**ESRC Future Research Leaders**

*The Judicialization of Climate Change Politics: A Comparative Analysis of the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada*

Dr Lisa Vanhala

Climate change is the most pressing issue on the policy agenda today. In the face of frustration at the slow pace of progress under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, non-state actors have increasingly looked beyond the international realm for other possible sources of effective climate change governance. Legal literature on climate change litigation looks at the increasing role courts play in determining how greenhouse gas emissions and their impacts should be regulated. In comparative politics the literature on the judicialization of policy – the expansion of the role of courts and judges in determining public policy outcomes – has flourished over the last twenty years. However, both these fields of study have tended to ignore the bottom-up influence litigants can possess. In the domain of climate change policy there is a dearth of comprehensive, comparative research about who is mobilising the law in the name of climate change and the degree to which this policy area is being judicialized.

This three-year project focuses on the dynamics between non-state actors and judiciaries.

The project will address two related questions:

1) What explains variation, across countries and over time, in the judicialization of climate change policy?

2) Why do some climate change activists and climate sceptics choose to be active participants before courts while others completely eschew the use of legal strategies in pursuit of their policy goals?

**New Post-Doctoral Research Fellow for Department of Political Science**

Together with the Centre for Philosophy Justice and Health, the Department of Political Science has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship funded by UCL’s Centre for Humanities Interdisciplinary Research Projects for a project on The Human Right to Health and Priority Setting in Health Care. The award will be held by Dr Benedict Rumbold, currently Fellow in Health Policy at the Nuffield Trust.

The project investigates a growing conflict, arising independently in a number of countries, between a legal recognition of the right of each citizen to health and healthcare and efforts to prioritise certain patient groups over others in the allocation of scarce healthcare resources (commonly referred to as ‘priority setting’ or ‘rationing’).

Speaking of the project, Professor Albert Weale, who together with Dr James Wilson of the Centre for Philosophy Justice and Health applied for the award, said: ‘This is an area of public policy where important and contested conceptual issues are at the centre of the decisions that public officials have to take. It is therefore fitting that UCL’s innovative scheme, intended to foster work across humanities and social sciences, has been able to fund this work.’ He added, ‘We have been lucky to have the perfect candidate for the Fellowship in Benedict Rumbold. He has a PhD in Philosophy but has worked for a number of years in one the UK’s leading think-tanks on health policy. He comes uniquely equipped to take on the challenge that this programme of work represents.’

Benedict Rumbold will join the Department on 1 October 2013 and his project will last eighteen months.
PhD PROGRAMME NEWS

Dr Slava Mikhaylov, MPhil/PhD Programme Director reports:

Accepted or forthcoming publications

Political Theory and the Question of Motivation
Lior Erez, PhD Candidate in Political Theory, writes:

A good political theory aims at a balance between two competing requirements. On the one hand, we want what we write to be somehow relevant to the real world of politics and not just a quixotic intellectual exercise. On the other hand, we want to be able to maintain a critical distance from the current practices of existing politics - arguably, the reason we are interested in political theory to begin with is because we think something in the way we do politics is wrong or misguided and want to be able to explain, in precise terms, what is wrong and how to think about changing it. While most political theorists agree that the extremes of overly abstract idealism and needlessly cynical realism must be avoided, the middle ground is still broad enough to accommodate a hotly contested debate, as was demonstrated in the ‘Ideal Principles and Real Politics’ conference held at UCL on June 2012.

It is to this debate that I hope to contribute in my doctoral research, where I focus on the ideal of cosmopolitanism and the problem of the motivational gap – i.e., the fact most people tend to give higher priority to the interests of their compatriots, even when the needs of outsiders are greater. Cosmopolitans tend to see this as merely a problem of practical implementation which has little or no effect on the desirability of the ideal itself. Critics of cosmopolitanism, on the other hand, argue that the motivational gap demonstrates the utopianism of the cosmopolitan ideal.

In my research, I discuss the challenges presented by this problem and try to assess whether the motivational critique of cosmopolitanism is plausible. Some of these challenges are specific to cosmopolitanism but some are more generally relevant to questions about the place of motivational facts and normative theory: Should political theory be sensitive to facts at all? Are facts about motivation different from other facts? These questions are becoming more central in recent years and for good reason: I believe the answers we give to them is highly significant to the way we do and think about political theory.
Dignity in Adversity – A Workshop with Seyla Benhabib

Sara Amighetti and Lior Erez, PhD Candidates in Political Theory report on a recent workshop:

Academics are used to organised book symposiums and to meet for a whole day discussing about it; it is less usual that the author of the book responds to her commentators for the entire day. The audience of the workshop “Dignity in Adversity – A Workshop with Seyla Benhabib”, organised by the European Institute as part of the UCL-Yale partnership programme, was then lucky to have such an exceptional author in Seyla Benhabib (Yale).

The theme for the day was her most recent book, Dignity in Adversity: Human Rights in Troubled Times (Polity Press, 2011), where Benhabib develops a conception of human rights based on the idea of a universal capacity for communicative freedom (discourse-theoretic account of human rights). The theoretical framework she advances moves away from the “liberal timidity” of Rawlsian-minimalist understandings of human rights to argue in favour of a more substantive justificatory strategy.

Benhabib thinks that this theoretical shift is not only possible but it is required by the transformations of the political context we live in such as the emergence of a global civil society and of new forms of non-state powers and the reconstitution of national citizenship into citizenship as residency. In our troubled times, the nature and content of human rights cannot be fixed but ought to be constantly re-considered and re-negotiated (what Benhabib calls ‘democtatic interations’).

Without doubt Benhabib’s book offers ambitious and thought-provoking arguments that try to integrate normative considerations along with empirical ones. The workshop considered of the arguments made in Benhabib’s book chapter by chapter, starting with a methodological discussion about her discourse-theoretic account of human rights by Laura Valentini. Saladin Meckled-Garcia examined Benhabib’s critique of minimalist approaches to human rights (such as those put forward by Rawls, Cohen and Beitz) and her concomitant defence of the idea of legitimate variation according to which minimalism about human rights should be rejected because it cannot account for the key relation between human rights and democratic interations.

After having clarified some of the book’s normative and theoretical commitments, the second part of the workshop focused on the concrete issues Benhabib considers to illustrate her philosophical arguments. Richard Bellamy’s comments on the notion of disaggregated citizenship and its relationship to popular sovereignty questioned the empirical claims Benhabib advances to sustain her normative project (republican federalism) by reference to the evolution of the European Union. Cécile Laborde considered Benhabib’s discussion about the hijab controversy as signalling a return to political theology and developed some considerations aimed at clarifying what political theology is and whether it is compatible with the liberal state. Andrew Sabl (UCLA, Princeton) concluded the day with some thoughts about democratic sovereignty and the possibilities to claim human rights across national borders.

A podcast of the workshop is available at: http://vimeo.com/63320028
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:

Dr Chiara Cordelli
Research Degree: Political Science, 2007–2011

I left the School of Public Policy in June 2011, right after the end of my doctorate in Political Theory.

Since then many things have happened. Right after finishing my doctorate, I left for California to begin a postdoctoral programme at Stanford University. There I spent two wonderful years. I participated in a collaborative, interdisciplinary project at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. The project addresses a variety of political and ethical concerns surrounding the practice of charitable giving and the institutionalization of philanthropy.

As part of this project, I am currently editing a book entitled “Philanthropy and Democracy: History, Values and Institutions” with Rob Reich and Lucy Bernholz.

My own research activity at Stanford was predominantly based at the Center for Ethics in Society, directed by Professor Debra Satz and at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, where I was a visiting scholar. Here I conducted independent research, benefiting from the help and support of a fantastic group of scholars and administrative staff. My most recent pieces of work focus on distributive justice and interpersonal relations. I argue that governments should try and grant a more equal distribution not only of economic resources but also of resources that are distinctively produced and provided by interpersonal relationships – resources such as trust, emotional support, care and social influence.

In September 2013, I am coming back to the UK to join the University of Exeter as a Lecturer in Political Theory. I am very excited to start my new academic position.

Antoni Rybaczyk
MSc International Public Policy, 2009–10

After leaving SPP, I have continued my studies at the College of Europe. The only reason for this was that I planned on joining the European Commission.

After finishing my studies, I did a three month long internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland after which I received a “recommendation” to join the diplomatic service. This is a reference letter that one can use to increase their chance of entering the diplomatic and consular application and not everyone gets it after the internship.

I continued my internships spree with three months at the European Council on Foreign Relations here in Warsaw but the best was yet to come, as I got accepted for an internship at Chatham House and spent eight months there (my internship has been prolonged twice) with the unforgettable Africa Programme. From there, I received a job offer from the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Polish Institute of Diplomacy. The Institute was established by the Foreign Ministry to organise ‘in service’ training and workshops for the Polish Diplomatic Service (www.pid.gov.pl). Now I am in the process of changing my job and moving to the private sector.

For me, the most important thing was that anywhere I went, having UCL SPP/Department of Political Science on my CV was a great advantage. It always helped to start the conversation and gave me more confidence. My year at UCL helped me develop my thinking about policy and politics. I feel greatly enriched by the whole experience - study wise but also thanks to my friends whom I have met at the university. Today my UCL SPP diploma is like a passport to me, it really does open the door (of course within the limits of reason…).
ALEX SKINNER – TEMP OF THE QUARTER AWARD

Our Temporary Administrator, Alex Skinner, was awarded the ‘Temp of the Quarter Winner’ prize for July by Dawn Letchford from Gray & Associates Recruitment Services.

She was nominated by staff from the Department of Political Science for her invaluable contribution to the smooth running of the School’s administration.

Alex’s award included a £50 amazon voucher, bunch of flowers, winner’s certificate and a Gray & Associates clock.

CLASS OF 2012-13

The Department would like to take this opportunity to wish our entire 2012-13 student cohort every success in their future careers and encourage students to keep in touch with the Department.
FAREWELL TO LAURA AND ROBERT

Sara Amighetti, current Research Degree student writes on behalf of the Department’s PhD cohort:

It is always difficult to say goodbye to someone leaving SPP and it is especially difficult this time. Both Laura Valentini, who will be joining the Department of Government at the LSE as Assistant Professor and Robert Jubb, who is taking on a permanent lectureship at the University of Leicester, will be greatly missed.

While we wish them all the best in their new jobs, we would like to thank them both for their work in the Department and their interest and commitment to the activities of the PhD students in political theory, in particular. They have organised and convened our PhD workshop over the past two years providing us with insightful comments and helpful suggestions. We now have a methods course that runs throughout the year with sessions taught by UCL members of staff and invited speakers. This is an initiative that Laura and Robert promoted and helped organise, together with the creation of an inter-departmental reading group, the Political Philosophy Working Group, which they encouraged and supported.

There are of course a number of memories we have from our after-workshop teas and coffees at the Friends House and from pub nights following seminars and conferences, which we will remember with pleasure and we will miss!

FUTURE EDITIONS OF TAVISTOCK TIMES

TAVISTOCK TIMES is published three times a year with the next edition due to be published in January 2014.

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

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