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Welcome to a new academic year at the School of Public Policy. As at every time this year, we are looking forward to welcoming our new students from around the world and beginning our eight Masters courses, MPA and of course, the second year of our new PPE Programme.

Last academic year, we had some really exciting events, such as the Policy and Practice Series that will continue to run every Thursday (this time at 6.30pm), our RAPT, LPT and Research Seminars, as well as the Global Governance Institute events on human rights, climate change and security issues and the Constitution Unit events, having as a main highlight the special EU Referendum Seminar Series and briefing papers. We are looking forward to seeing more of you at our various topical events this year.

We also have two great IPAS and IPPR student committees, organising lots of social events and editing the yearly IPPR journal, available online.

I am always pleased to announce the success of a number of colleagues in the last senior promotion round at UCL; Kristin Bakke was promoted to Professor, Christine Reh was promoted to Reader, while we had five more successes for the senior lecturer positions for Marc Esteve, Avia Pasternak, Tom Pegram, Lauge Poulsen and Julian Wucherpfennig. Julian has since sadly left the Department to join the Hertie School in Berlin and I wish him all the luck for his move to Germany and another loss to the Department is the departure of Lucas Leemann, to the University of Essex in January.

Another big success but also sad news for our Department is that Cecile Laborde has accepted a prestigious Research Professorship at Nuffield College Oxford and will be leaving the Department in January. Cecile has been an important member of staff and one of the early founders of the Department of Political Science and she has given academic and strategic leadership in every step of our growth. She will be much missed by all of us.

Looking forward, I would like to welcome a new member of academic staff to the Department this September. Dr Thomas Gift will be joining us from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and will be teaching PPEA. The appointment of Thomas is especially nice as he is returning home to the Department after studying at SPP as an affiliate student, a number of years ago. As our school grows and develops its undergraduate programmes over the next few years I suspect that we will be announcing a number of new posts in future editions of the Tavistock Times.

Congratulations to our teaching prize winners for this year: to Jeff Howard for Permanent Staff, to Melanie Garson for Teaching Fellows and to Orlanda Ward for PGTAs. We will honour their success at a future term one “Policy in Practice” event. I am also pleased to announce that we passed the University’s Internal Quality Teaching Review and this is great reflection on the whole Department’s commitment to teaching and student experience.

Finally, I am delighted that our Department has been awarded a Gold Green Impact Award and would especially like to congratulate Dimitrios Kraniotis for managing this success. It is fantastic news that our efforts to be greener and more sustainable have been recognised and I encourage everyone to continue the good work supporting this aim.

Welcome again to all of the students and staff and best wishes for another productive academic year.

Professor David Coen
The Head of the Department of Political Science and Director of the School of Public Policy
In this sixty second interview we quiz Dr Jeff Howard, Lecturer in Political Theory

What is your name?
Jeff Howard

When did you join UCL?
September 2015

What are your responsibilities in the Department?
I teach the graduate modules Public Ethics—which explores moral dilemmas in public policymaking—and The Ethics of Counter-Terrorism, a new module I’ve designed that will start this coming spring. I also teach a new module for undergraduates on our PPE degree, Normative Methods. I sit on both the PhD and MA Steering Committees.

What do you particularly like and dislike about your job?
I really like my colleagues, students and the subject I study. I dislike the fact that it is very difficult for an academic to “clock out”—even on vacations, I find myself tinkering with ideas for my next research project.

What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?
My one-year-old daughter, Stella. I’m also particularly proud of an article I’ve written that’s forthcoming in Law and Philosophy, which defends a novel theory of criminal punishment.

Favourite location in UCL?
Tavistock Square on a sunny spring day.

What would your ideal afternoon/evening in London include?
A late lunch at Broadway Market in east London, a walk along Regent’s canal chatting politics with friends and then a pint and a curry at Tayyabs off Brick Lane for dinner with my wife.

What is your favourite book?
Impossible to decide but one of my favourites is Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose.

What are your hobbies?
Running, cycling, kayaking, singing.

If you had not gone into academic administration, what would you be doing now?
Astronaut.

If you could implement one policy in the world today, what would it be?
State recognition of gay marriage. Everywhere.
Dr Nils Metternich, writes:

Is it possible to predict where refugees will flee? Are there different factors influencing who becomes an internally displaced person (IDP) instead of a refugee? Five MSc Security Studies graduate students and their lecturer asked these questions, inspired by the unexpected mass refugee migration to Europe this year, with their research supported and funded by UCL’s Changemakers Programme.

Throughout the 2015–2016 academic year, Yvoni Efstathiou, Sandra Hain, Carolyn Maurer, Lucas Pokrywa and Simon Woell and Dr. Nils Metternich in the Department of Political Science worked to understand what factors influence a person to flee during conflict. They also researched if there were different factors associated with fleeing within a country (becoming an IDP) versus crossing a border (becoming a refugee). The team was invited to present their findings to world-renowned experts at the Network of European Peace Scientists Conference in Milan, Italy this past June. This is one of the first student research groups within the Department of Political Science that has been accepted to an academic conference and will submit their findings to a peer reviewed journal alongside their coursework.

The team found support for their argument that people initially flee based on the actual or perceived threat to their lives. The project tested different types of conflict intensity on migration patterns, including: the number of violent incidents, the area conflict spreads across and the number of casualties. They observed that contrary to previous research, the number of casualties from one-sided violence matters more to migration numbers than the area affected by violence.

The most innovative finding of this research is that IDP and refugee migrations have different push factors; the combination of who perpetrates one-sided violence (state or non-state actors) and who the violence targets (politically included or excluded groups) creates different types of migrations. If a group of people is targeted by their preferred group, meaning the actor they support (such as an included group targeted by the government or an excluded group targeted by non-state actors), this creates large refugee migrations. This shows that when groups target populations who support them, they flee further, suggesting those institutions lost legitimacy and trust from the people and discouraging incentives to return.

However, IDP migrations reveal a more complex pattern. Only when non-state actors target their own population (excluded groups) were large IDP migrations observed. This suggests that people (especially excluded groups) flee the immediate conflict but stay within their states, at least for the first year.

This new understanding differentiating IDP and refugee migrations could greatly affect policymaking and humanitarian preparedness and response to conflicts.

First, the findings show support that refugees and IDPs are not the cause of conflict but a consequence, as migrations are a result of high casualty rates from persecution through one-sided violence. Second, if a conflict is assessed by disentangling who perpetrates violence against who, then third parties can better determine if there will be mass IDP or refugee migrations and through the research’s predictive model, an estimate of how many will flee. This, in retrospect can explain the mass migration of refugees to Europe this year, meaning this research could in the future help external actors to understand migration patterns in advance. This then means third party actors could provide assistance faster and more effectively because they will know where and to what extent to provide services, either in-country, or to neighbouring states.

If you are a teacher or a student interested in applying for funding to create a similar project, please apply through UCL’s Changemaker programme, with information available at: www.ucl.ac.uk/news/staff/staff-news/1015/14102015-getinvolvedwithuclchangemakers
Dr Tim Hicks writes:

In the depths of August, it’s a nice time to reflect on how the PPE programme has progressed during its first year of operation. My last entry about the programme on these pages made clear what an exceptional cohort of students we’ve had with us for the past year. The end of year exam results attest to this, of course but even more satisfying, as a teacher, is to see first-hand the remarkable progression in seminar and essay performance over the year.

While we value academic performance, of course, we also value the happiness of our students. The first year at university can be a challenging time and if people don’t pull together, it can come to feel overwhelming. I’m glad to say that our first cohort of PPE students appears to have been greater than the sum of its parts in this regard. Despite me preaching Mancur Olson surprisingly frequently during the year, they have very often succeeded in collective action – a point which some of them were keen to make with this photo.

Our PPEists are a friendly, supportive and cohesive group – keen to challenge, help, laugh and socialise with each other. That’s important for them but it’s also made my jobs as lecturer and programme director dramatically easier. I thank them all for this past year and the Admissions team that helped us find them!

This happy first year of PPE at UCL was nicely rounded off by a group picnic in Regent’s Park, back in May. The sun shone and there was a good turnout amongst students and PPE-related staff who hadn’t already been pulled away to distant parts of the globe! A football was kicked. Cakes were consumed. Refreshing beverages were enjoyed. We took a photo to prove it.

Now, as I look forward to September, I’m excited to see both how this outstanding group continues to progress but also how our next cohort shapes up. We’re expecting 40 (or perhaps a few more) exceptional new students to help continue the fine traditions that have emerged this year and perhaps develop a few of their own!
DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING PRIZE 2016

Congratulations to Jeff Howard, Melanie Garson and Orlanda Ward on winning the Department’s Teaching Prize for the 2015/2016 academic year!

The Department awards a prize for outstanding teaching in three categories: permanent staff, teaching fellows and PGTAs. The prize committee used a combination of student nominations and module evaluations to identify candidates and selected the winners based on their teaching material, including course outlines and sample sessions.

The committee had the difficult but pleasant task of choosing the winners from an exceptionally strong pool of nominees in all three categories, including Avia Pasternak and Christian Schuster, Harry Bauer, Nick Martin and Nick Wright, as well as Donna Arrondelle and Altaf Ali.

Many thanks to students and staff for supporting the selection process, a big thank you to the winners and runner-ups for their great contribution to teaching in the Department and congratulations to Jeff, Melanie and Orlanda!

Cathy Elliott, Colin Provost & Christine Reh
Teaching Prize Committee

IPPR International Public Policy Review

The 2015/16 IPPR School of Public Policy journal is now available!

With the best academic pieces from our students and thought provoking contributions from faculty members this year’s journal provides an important look into topics such as the human rights challenge of climate change, the role of identity in political mobilisation in Palestine, the health implications of the TPP and the legal framework for drone killings.

You can read the full copy here: www.ucl.ac.uk/ippr
LONDON MAYORAL ASSEMBLY VISIT

Beth Dokal, 2015-16 MSc Democracy and Comparative Politics student writes:

On Wednesday 22nd June, the Democracy and Comparative Politics students attended the London Assembly to watch the Mayor’s Question Time, the second to be held by the new Mayor Sadiq Khan. The Assembly itself is located in City Hall, an impressive glass building designed by the architect Norman Foster.

We started our visit with an information session about the Assembly itself, which was to inform us of the role of the Mayor and the purpose of today’s session. In short, today’s questions were a form of accountability to make sure that the Mayor was spending the budget appropriately and in accordance with his manifesto pledges. The information session led on to the big event: the Mayor’s Questions. The format of the questions involves the 25 Assembly members asking questions to Mayor Khan with the time allotment for each party to ask questions being awarded on their number of Assembly members. This meant that the Liberal Democrats with only one member had only six minutes to ask questions, whilst the Labour party with 12 members had a significantly greater 72 minutes. This leaves the potential for the smaller parties to scrutinise the Mayor considerably constrained.

Unlike in the House of Commons, the Assembly members sit in a horseshoe shape facing the Mayor. Although the theory behind these questions is similar to Prime Minister’s questions the format and the tone of the session were starkly different. The Mayor’s questions were far more informal and relaxed and this allowed for more cooperative and informative exchanges. This is not to say that the chamber did not descend at times into party politics but its emergence was notably subdued. Of course, as we were only seven weeks into the new Mayor’s term there was less for him to be held accountable over and therefore such a tone may change. Moreover, as 12 of the members are Labour representatives perhaps Mayor Khan enjoyed a less critical offensive.

I was pleased by the themes of the questions and found it encouraging that issues that have an impact on many people’s lives in London were on the political agenda. These included housing, travel, the emergency services, the NHS and security. The question that seemed to be the most contentious for the Mayor included whether he would be able to maintain his manifesto promise for a freeze on all travel fares including pay as you go fares and travel cards.

After the assembly the class went out for a pub lunch. We all really enjoyed our day out and are very grateful to Sherrill Strochein for organising the trip.
STROSCHEIN AWARDED YEAR-LONG ISRF RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Dr Sherrill Stroschein has been awarded a Mid-Career Fellowship from the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) for 2017–18. The one-year fellowship is to research a project on politics in ethnic enclaves in Eastern Europe.

In enclaves, local ethnic demographics are reversed, such that a group that is a minority at the statewide level is the largest group at the local level. This reversal of ethnic powers in democracies makes for fascinating local politics. Minority ethnic groups in Eastern Europe tend to have ethnic parties – and in enclaves, these parties compete with each other. The ethnic politics literature has not fully considered implications of this local competition, which can get heated and even shut down a city council temporarily in Odorheiu Secuiesc/Székelyudvarhely, Romania (96 percent Hungarian).

The project is inductive, with fieldwork conducted as a first stage to then be examined for potential patterns in these dynamics. She became interested in enclaves during local research for her previous book, Ethnic Struggle, Coexistence, and Democratization in Eastern Europe (Cambridge 2012) and now plans to write a book on enclave politics.

The research focuses on city council elections and composition, with a comparrision of cities across four countries: Hungarian enclave cities in Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia and Albanian enclave cities in Macedonia / Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Working from previous research in Romania, Stroschein made fieldwork trips to Serbia and to Romania following local elections there in May and July 2016.

As an inductive project, the research currently consists of gathering information from local newspapers on election results and council politics across time. Local newspaper articles can be collected using a digital camera in library archives, with the researcher then able to examine them more closely at home. She can read Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak (as well as limited Serbian) but will hire a translator for the Albanian and Macedonian language aspects of the project.

The fellowship is from April 2017 through March 2018, and will follow on from a term of department research leave beginning in January 2017.

In addition to the book, she also plans to produce an article on the pre-conflict local politics in Russian speaking enclaves in Ukraine. Stroschein was fascinated by the media’s difficulty in reporting the Ukraine events in 2014, as they seemed to have trouble with the idea that there were Russian-speaking majorities in some of the conflict areas of Ukraine. Similarly, many theories on ethnic or religious politics overlook the importance of variations in local demography throughout a state and the differences in local politics that result. A focus on local politics provides a corrective to some of these misunderstandings. Feel free to ask her more about the project, as it is a work in progress and she likes to discuss it!

Stroschein’s full ISRF application appears on their website here: http://isrf.org/about/fellows-and-projects/sherrill-stroschein/

Beautiful City Hall in Subotica/Szabadka, Serbia. The diverse town features many ethnic groups, with Hungarians comprising the largest ethnic group.

Traditional Hungarian (Szekely) gate in Miercurea Ciuc/Caikszereda, Romania. The inscription reads: “Peace to those who enter.”
Dr Tom Pegram, Senior Lecturer in Global Governance and Deputy Director of the UCL Global Governance Institute writes:

At a Global Governance Institute (GGI) public lecture in June with Mervyn King, former Head of the Bank of England, Lord King reflected on the troubled state of global economic governance against a backdrop of “radical uncertainty”, meaning the kind of uncertainty that statistical analysis cannot model.

Radical uncertainty may be the motif of our times.

This year has seen some extraordinary highs and lows in global politics. From the dispiriting retreat from European cooperation symbolised by Brexit, to the extraordinary breakthrough on climate change in Paris last December, these are deeply uncertain and contradictory times.

Whether the challenge is climate change mitigation, health pandemics, financial regulation or terrorism, we need more global governance, not less. Yet despite rapid globalisation and the proliferation of these cross-border threats, global governance is failing to find solutions and perhaps, is even in retreat.

It is imperative then that we make progress in understanding blockage and ways through. In 2015–16, in collaboration with partners within and outside UCL, the GGI has sought to make a major intellectual and policy contribution to this endeavour.

Highlights from our public lecture series this year have included interventions by policy-makers at the coalface of multilateral diplomacy, such as Catherine Ashton, former First Vice President of the European Commission and Elizabeth Dibble, the US Deputy Chief of Mission in London.

We were fortunate to be joined in 2015–16 by some of the world’s leading critical thinkers on global governance, including Jack Donnelly, David Kennedy and Saskia Sassen. Daniel Franklin, Executive Director of The Economist, led us through an entertaining (and prophetic) preview of the year to come in February and John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, closed our 2015-16 events programme on a cautiously optimistic note in the aftermath of the Paris Agreement.

This year, the GGI also made its mark in the world of global governance research, convening world-leading scholars for an international symposium in November. The event served as a launching pad for UCL’s call for a “third generation” of global governance research. This coming year, we will host the inaugural meeting of an International Global Governance Research Network, with partner universities from across Europe and beyond. Our workshops have also brought researchers and policy-makers together, with outcome policy briefs forthcoming on Global Drug Policy and Public Security and Understanding the Threat of Climate Change to Human Rights.

All of these activities would not be possible without the inspiration, support and collaboration of our colleagues at SPP and from across UCL. We are particularly grateful to our first cohort of GGI Thematic Leaders, Jason Dittmer (global security), Ilan Kelman (global environment), Avia Pasternak (global justice) and Stephen Smith (global economy), all of whom have done so much to advance the GGI mission over the past two years. It has also been an immense pleasure to build on and advance our collaboration with a brilliant cohort of students on our MSc in Global Governance and Ethics programme, as well as their affiliate society.

In these unsettled times, a huge question mark hangs over the future trajectory of global governance as we move into 2016–17. On a positive note, uncertainty is also opening up new spaces for experimentation, even if believable coherent alternatives to old governance models are yet to emerge. The Institute will continue to be at the forefront of thinking on this perhaps most vital building block of our future civilisation and we hope you will join us.
FRAMING CLIMATE CHANGE 
LOSS AND DAMAGE AFTER PARIS

Harriet Bradley, Research Assistant (and former MSc International Public Policy Student) writes:

On the 16th June 2016 a lively gathering of academic and practitioner experts was held at the School of Public Policy for a workshop on climate change loss and damage. This policy area has been one of the most contested in recent climate change negotiations. Loss and damage policy concerns the adverse effects of climate change, including the increasing intensity and likelihood of extreme weather events, such as typhoons, droughts and hurricanes as well as slow-onset events such as sea-level rise and the melting of glaciers. The impacts of climate change are increasingly having devastating effects on people’s lives and livelihoods and there is a growing awareness that institutions and policies are needed to address these effects. At the most recent UN negotiations, last year in Paris, a compromise was reached whereby parties “recognise[d] the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage” but the possibility of getting compensation for such loss and damage under the UNFCCC was explicitly ruled out.

In light of the above Paris Agreement the UCL workshop, organised by Dr Lisa Vanhala, brought together academics and practitioners with the aim of enhancing a multidisciplinary understanding of the issue post-Paris. Those attending included: Dr Koko Warner of the UNFCCC Secretariat, previous Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) author Dr Saleemul Huq, climate scientist and previous IPCC author Professor Myles Allen, lawyer and previous legal adviser to the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) MJ Mace and political philosophers Professor Simon Caney and Professor Henry Shue. Representatives of other NGOs, law firms and organisations also attended, including: the UK Met Office, Oxfam, the Climate Justice Programme, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh, E3G and Friends of the Earth. SPP Director, David Coen introduced the workshop, with Professor Mark Maslin (UCL), Professor Joanne Scott (UCL) and Dr Koko Warner chairing the three panel sessions, which consisted of presentations followed by vigorous group discussions.

The workshop sessions covered the history and context of loss and damage, dimensions of loss and damage policy and legal and philosophical perspectives. These included: discussions on economic aspects of loss and damage policy and innovative finance proposals (given by Julie-Anne Richards of the Climate Justice Programme); ethical and justice perspectives (by Professor Simon Caney and Professor Henry Shue of Oxford University, and Linda Siegele of UCL Faculty of Laws); climate change migration (from Dr Helen Adams of King’s College London); loss and damage from a child rights perspective (Joni Pegram of UNICEF UK); attribution of weather events to manmade climate change (Professor Myles Allen of Oxford University and Hannah Parker of Reading University); competing definitions of loss and damage used in the international negotiations (Professor Emily Boyd of Reading University and Dr Lisa Vanhala);
and an example of a current court case on climate change impacts by environmental lawyer Roda Verheyen, who is representing the Peruvian farmer taking the case against a German utilities company.

The interdisciplinary nature of the workshop emphasised points of convergence and disagreement across disciplines. Lively discussions were had on: the distinction between adaptation to climate change and loss and damage policy; on interpretations of whether the Paris Agreement is binding or not; and on the ethical question of international versus national responsibilities for dealing with loss and damage. For example, those involved at the national level in developing countries emphasised the national resources that many developing countries are putting into addressing climate change impacts, whilst international perspectives focused on the importance of assigning international responsibility for loss and damage to those causing it. The question of scientific attribution for specific climatic events was also debated. From a legal standpoint some believe that specific attribution is crucial for any successful legal action, whereas others suggested that it may not be as important as once thought. Further, the Paris Agreement did not pledge any additional finance to loss and damage, leading one participant to question whether its separation in the Agreement from adaptation (which is allocated finance) would lead to less funding for loss and damage in practice.

The workshop therefore highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary perspectives in this complex policy area. A policy brief to be published by the Global Governance Institute in the autumn will summarise some of the key issues debated at the workshop in more detail. Such dialogues are especially pertinent as at the next round of UN negotiations in Marrakesh this November parties are set to debate and make a decision about the future of international policy in this area.
NEWS FROM THE UCL CONSTITUTION UNIT

Unit in the news: EU referendum, Brexit and the future of the Labour party

On EU referendum day the Unit’s Deputy Director Dr Alan Renwick set out what would happen in the event of a Leave victory in an article in the Telegraph. As the votes were being counted he appeared on ITV’s referendum night programme to offer instant reflections on the implications of the result. Following the referendum he subsequently discussed Brexit processes on BBC News, BBC World News, BBC Radio Four, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio London and a variety of other local and international news outfits.

Professor Robert Hazell made similar media appearances, including on BBC Radio Scotland and the Victoria Derbyshire programme on BBC Two.

Constitution Unit experts have also discussed issues relating to the future of the Labour Party in the media. Professor Meg Russell published a blog post on the practical implications of a split in the party, both inside and outside parliament, on 29 June. Dr Renwick discussed these issues on BBC Radio Four’s Westminster Hour on 3 July, whilst Professor Russell was interviewed on this subject on Today in Parliament and for a BBC Newsnight feature on the possibility of a split shown on 1 August. Professor Russell also wrote an opinion piece for the Observer on how changes to Labour’s leadership election rules contributed to the unprecedented situation that the party now finds itself in.

Can we improve the conduct of referendum campaigns?

Widespread concern was expressed during the referendum campaign over the quality of the debate and the degree to which both sides were feeding voters various forms of misinformation. Reflecting these concerns, the Constitution Unit coordinated a letter to the Telegraph, signed by over 250 political scientists and legal scholars, that set out the dangers. ‘Propagating falsehoods’, it said, ‘distorts the public communication upon which democracy depends. When the dust from this referendum settles, we must review ways to strengthen campaign truthfulness without curtailing legitimate free speech.’

Similar worries have been expressed by many people since the referendum. Inevitably, they have come mostly from those on the losing side but anyone, whatever their position in this particular vote, should want all referendums to be conducted in the fairest and most thoughtful way. We have continued to investigate these issues since the referendum (for example, in a review of the campaign and in a blog post on fact-checking). We are now exploring ways to fund a larger-scale research project that will examine in detail various ideas on how the conduct of referendums could be improved.

New Constitution Unit reports

Two Constitution Unit reports have been published in recent months. The first, by Petra Schleiter, Valerie Belu and Robert Hazell, discusses government formation in hung parliaments. The report recommends that the Prime Minister should be elected by parliament, as in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, rather than appointed by the Queen before parliament meets as is currently the case. It has been summarised on the Constitution Unit blog.

The second report, published in June to coincide with the Queen’s official 90th birthday celebrations, discusses the formal powers of the monarchy, and its wider role and functions. It concludes by looking ahead to what further changes can be expected in the coming decades. Again, a summary can be read on the Constitution Unit blog.
The UK has voted to leave the European Union. So what happens next? The Unit’s Deputy Director, Alan Renwick, gives a point-by-point overview of what the road to Brexit will look like. This is a shortened and updated version of a post published on the Constitution Unit blog.

The effect of the referendum

1. The UK remains a member of the EU for the time being. The vote was advisory, so, in principle, the government could have chosen to ignore it. In political terms, however, ministers could never have countenanced that. Theresa May has been clear that ‘Brexit means Brexit’.

2. The terms of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU and the nature of our future relationship with the EU will be worked out through negotiations with the remaining 27 member states, as set out in Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. When Article 50 has been triggered a two-year window for negotiating withdrawal terms will open. We will leave once a deal – which requires the support of the UK and a ‘qualified majority’ of the remaining 27 member states (specifically, at least 20 of them, comprising at least 65 per cent of their population) – is struck.

3. Article 50 skews the balance of power in the negotiations in favour of the continuing member states. That is because of the two-year rule and the fact that unanimity is required for extensions to that period. If we find ourselves outside the EU with no deal, we will automatically revert to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules on trade. That would require tariffs to be imposed on trade between the UK and the EU, which would be bad for everyone but especially for the UK.

4. The process of withdrawal will involve at least four sets of negotiations: the negotiation of the withdrawal terms themselves, of a trade deal with the EU, of the terms of the UK’s WTO membership and of trade deals with non-EU members that currently have trade deals with the EU. As the Centre for European Reform has set out, further negotiations may also be required.

5. Both sides in the campaign have agreed that this whole process will take several years. The Remain side always argued that the negotiations would be lengthy; the Leave side indicated late in the campaign that it would like to complete the process by 2020. Until the negotiation process is complete, the UK will remain fully subject to its obligations under EU law.

Will parliament influence the process?

6. Whether a parliamentary vote is legally required for the triggering of Article 50 is disputed. However, it is probable that, regardless of the legal position, the political realities will require some form of parliamentary consent.

7. Parliament will certainly be able to vote on the withdrawal deal, as that will be a treaty. The large majority of MPs favoured staying in the EU. If they want a post-Brexit deal involving substantial ongoing integration with the EU – perhaps akin to Norway’s arrangements – they could reject any deal that does not provide that. Whether they will do so will depend heavily on the political situation and the state of public opinion at the time, both of which are highly unpredictable.

What about Scotland and Northern Ireland?

8. Scotland’s position within the UK will become even more contested. As the polls predicted, the Remain side won a clear victory in Scotland. There was widespread speculation during the campaign that such an outcome would lead to a second independence referendum. Nicola Sturgeon has indeed confirmed that the option of such a referendum is ‘on the table’. Nevertheless, there is no guarantee that another independence referendum will actually happen. Sturgeon has previously said that she will call a second referendum only if polls consistently show substantial majority support for independence.

9. There are concerns in Northern Ireland that Brexit will undermine the peace process. Experts in both the North and the Republic question whether it will be possible to maintain the existing Common Travel Area between the UK and Ireland following Brexit, which would require imposition of a ‘hard border’. The great achievement of the last 20 years has been to remove the border as an issue in Northern Irish politics; its reintroduction could fuel insecurities and threaten the stability and cohesion of the power sharing arrangements.

Could there be a second referendum?

10. There has been much speculation around whether a second referendum should be held once the negotiations have been completed. This has been supported by some politicians, including Labour leadership candidate Owen Smith. It is certainly possible but there are complications around legal procedures and what the options in the referendum would actually be. A referendum giving voters the option to reverse the decision that was reached in June would become plausible only if public opinion shifted substantially against Brexit.

These issues were explored in detail at a special series of seminars hosted by the Constitution Unit and UCL European Institute prior to the referendum. Briefing papers and videos of the seminars are available on the Constitution Unit website.
The beginning of the 5th and final year of the RAPT Centre has been very successful with the organisation of several well-attended events in the spring.

In April, the RAPT Centre co-organised with the University of Exeter a workshop on Alan Patten’s latest book, Equal Recognition (Princeton University, 2014). The discussants included Alan Patten (Princeton University), Dario Castiglione (University of Exeter), Chiara Cordelli (University of Chicago), Will Kymlicka (Queen’s University), Cécile Laborde (UCL), Anne Phillips (LSE) and Jonathan Seglow (Royal Holloway). The comments of the discussants, as well as a response by Alan Patten, will be published soon as a special issue of Political Theory.

The RAPT Lecture Series continued in May with the lecture of Professor Julian Rivers, from the University of Bristol, on “Combatting Religious Extremism: exploring the limits of state action.”

On June 8, the RAPT Centre organised a book launch for Religion, Secularism and Constitutional Democracy (Columbia University Press, 2016). The two editors of the book, Jean L. Cohen (Columbia University) and Cécile Laborde (UCL), as well as three of the contributors, Anne Phillips (LSE), Maleiha Malik (King’s College) and Aurélia Bardon (UCL), responded to the comments of RAPT members Cristobal Bellolio, Nick Martin and Lois Lee.

The last RAPT event before the summer break was a workshop on Cécile Laborde’s manuscript, Liberalism’s Religion (forthcoming, Harvard University Press). Paul Bou-Habib (University of Essex), Jean L. Cohen (Columbia University), Peter Jones (Newcastle University), Sune Laegaard (Roskilde University), Daniel Sabbagh (Sciences Po), Jeffrey Howard (UCL) and Aurélia Bardon (UCL) discussed the manuscript.

Forthcoming RAPT events

September 8, 12pm–2pm, RAPT Lecture by Professor Andrew Koppelman (Northwestern University).

November 24, launch of the Institute for Law, Politics and Philosophy (ILPP) with a lecture by Professor Lawrence Sager (Texas).

Other speakers in term one include Paul Billingham from Oxford University and Andrew Shorten from Limerick.

Announcements

The RAPT Director and Research Associates have all been recently appointed to other positions. In January, Cécile Laborde, will take up the Research Professorship at Nuffield College, Oxford. Starting in January as well, Lois Lee will be a Research Fellow at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Kent, where she will be the principal investigator on the Understanding Unbelief project (£2.3m, John Templeton Foundation, www.understanding-unbelief.net).

Since September, Aurélia Bardon is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Liverpool. The RAPT Centre will therefore come to an end in December 2016.

If you want to be updated with news concerning RAPT events and publications, please email Aurélia (a.bardon@ucl.ac.uk) to be added to the RAPT mailing list.
HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS VISIT

Sarah O’Neil, 2015–16 MSc Public Policy student writes:

On the 11th of March, a group of enthusiastic MSc in Public Policy students had the pleasure of meeting with the Deputy Head of Behaviour Change in HM Revenue & Customs, Anish Mehta and a member of his team, Joseph Scarlett-Smith.

All students are taking part in a module called ‘Making Policy Work’, which focuses on the tools of public policy and how government leaders and public sector workers can effectively bring about their desired policy outcomes. One of the key topics of the module deals with the usefulness of behavioural interventions in influencing citizen behavior. This meeting was a fantastic opportunity for us to see how the literature we discuss in class, can be applied to solve real-life policy problems.

We arrived at the HMRC offices on Parliament Street and were warmly greeted by Anish, who showed us to a brightly lit meeting room. After introductions, we were given a fascinating presentation on the work of the Behavioural Change team, including some very interesting examples of previous interventions and the ongoing trials the team are currently working on. Anish and Joseph were keen for our input and it wasn’t long before the presentation turned into an open discussion. This was a terrific opportunity for us to ask questions around how the topics we had discussed in class actually worked in real-life. What was most striking for me, was how the ideas which I have read about and discussed in an abstract sense, were being put into practice to achieve real empirical results and cost-savings.

The meeting ended with Anish and Joseph asking us about our future career plans. They gave us some really useful advice on the skills needed to work in a behavioral change team in a government department and how to go about looking for jobs in the area. It was really helpful to hear about their backgrounds as well and how they had got into their current position. All in all, a fantastic opportunity and a very interesting and helpful afternoon!

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOCIETY 2015/2016

Throughout the year 2015/2016, the IPAS Committee organised several social and fundraising events.

Our focus was to facilitate a space where we could socialise and raise money for Save the Children International with other students at the School of Public Policy. We hosted events such as a picnic in Russell Square Park and weekly kick-abouts on a nearby football turf.

One of the most popular events was ‘Policy in the Pub’, which we organised together with IPPR. We invited guest speakers to the ‘local pub’ to come and share from their expertise in areas such as research and human security, followed by discussions.

The fundraising side of IPAS raised money through events, such as pub nights and quizzes, cook-off events and bake sales. Looking back, we have had a fantastic year at SPP and in IPAS with exciting discussions and many new friends.
NEW STAFF

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

Dr Thomas Gift
Lecturer of Political Economy

I am delighted to be joining UCL as a lecturer of political economy in the fall of 2016. Having studied abroad at UCL ten years ago, I feel like I am coming full circle and am immensely excited about working with such a dynamic group of faculty and students at the School of Public Policy.

Currently, I am finishing a post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School. I received my Ph.D. in political science at Duke University, where I was an NSF Graduate Research Fellow.

At UCL, I will primarily be contributing to the Programme on Public Policy Economics and Analysis. During the 2016-17 academic year, I will teach (with Roland Kappe) the core MSc course on public policy, as well as a course on globalisation.

My research and teaching span a range of topics in comparative politics, international relations and political economy. I am particularly interested in the role of political interests and institutions in shaping public goods provisions, in the origins and consequences of democracy and in the politics of policymaking in an interconnected world.

My book project explores how the drivers of globalisation—including trade and FDI—shape the distribution of demands for education across the world. It leverages empirical evidence from Zambia, Costa Rica, Ireland and Vietnam and is funded by an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.

Prior to graduate school, I worked at a think-tank in Washington, D.C. I earned my B.A. in economics and politics from Washington and Lee University and I am originally from Chambersburg, Pa.

In my free time, I am an avid runner and I have completed 10 JFK 50-Mile Ultra-Marathons.

James Pallister
Administrative Assistant

My name is James Pallister and I am the new administrative assistant in the Department of Political Science.

I am excited about working at UCL as it is a dynamic and interesting place and everybody has been so friendly and welcoming and my first few weeks have been great. I am from Newcastle Upon Tyne and I am a big music fan. I play guitar in several bands and I have performed all over the country. I really enjoy playing gigs, going to gigs and generally everything music related.

I am also interested in languages and I did my undergraduate degree in Spanish at UCL which I thoroughly enjoyed so I feel I’ve come full circle and it feels great to be back at UCL! I did my year abroad in Cordoba, Andalucia where I taught in a high school. It was a great experience and I got to travel extensively around Spain and Portugal.

I really enjoy travelling and I have spent a lot of time in Mexico and Texas, which was a great experience. My favourite places I have been to are Cancun (the beaches are so good!), Austin, Texas and Granada in Spain.

I love living in London as there is just so much to do. I have worked in many jobs ranging from the service industry, UCL halls of residence, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs and more recently as a translator. Even though I am still learning a lot on the job I am having a great time and I am very happy to be working here!
Dr Elisa Randazzo
Teaching Fellow in International Security

I am thrilled to be joining UCL in September as a Teaching Fellow in International Security.

My research interests concern primarily post-conflict peace-building and in particular the framing of changes and shifts in the manner in which theory on peace-building has been formulated since the 1990s. My research has a regional focus on the Balkans and Kosovo specifically, where I have carried out the fieldwork for my Ph.D. thesis and forthcoming book manuscript. I am also interested in peace settlements and in post-conflict state-building and particularly on the intersection of the two elements within the notions of democratisation and humanitarian interventions.

Currently, I am working on exploring themes of local ownership and agency in the post-conflict milieu. In that vein, I am working on a co-authored project exploring the conceptualisation of hybridity in post-liberal approaches to peace-building and on second project concerning specifically ‘everyday’ agency, resistance and resilience in post-independence Kosovo. Furthermore, I am working to finalise a manuscript based on my Ph.D. thesis, which will be published with Routledge in 2017.

I obtained my Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Westminster in 2015, working with Professor David Chandler and Dr Aidan Hehir on the evolution of the conceptualisation of peace-building and the emergence of a ‘local turn’. Since then, I have worked as a Fellow in Conflict Studies within the Conflict Research Group at the London School of Economics, where I have also taught modules on conflict analysis and the study of civil wars and on post-conflict and post-communist transitions to democracy. As a lecturer, I am enthusiastic about alternative methods of engaging students and I look forward to bringing some of these methods – including simulations and interactive repositories, to UCL’s Postgraduate and Undergraduate students.

Bernadette Ross
Constitution Unit Administrator

I joined the Constitution Unit in July 2016 as administrator, a role encompassing finance, HR, events, social media and marketing. My background is predominantly in administration and events management. Over the past twelve years, I have enjoyed organising events and conferences with the Royal Opera House, Earls Court Exhibition Centre and several small membership associations. I was lucky enough to see artists such as Coldplay, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Rod Stewart each night they performed at the Exhibition Centre. My international experience has also included organising the challenging task of logistics and promotion of large conferences in Barcelona and San Francisco.

Most recently, I worked for the Foundation for Science and Technology, based at Westminster, organising debates, dinner discussions and workshops on relevant issues when parliament is sitting. In this role, I worked closely with speakers and guests from both Houses of Parliament, Whitehall officials, Vice-Chancellors of universities and senior executives from industry. This has given me a good background for working in the Constitution Unit and I look forward to contributing to the work and success of the Unit.

Originally from Sydney, Australia, I have lived in the UK for the past fourteen years, following my marriage to a London man. I can honestly say I am blessed to get to live in my two favourite cities in the world.
Chaka Laguerre  
**MA Legal and Political Theory, 2014–15**

Prior to completing the M.A. in Legal and Political Theory (LPT), with distinction, at UCL, I earned a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, with distinction in international and comparative law, passed the July 2014 New York Bar Exam and earned a B.A., cum laude, in English from Amherst College. During law school, I became interested in philosophy and wanted to explore questions about dignity, justice, equality, liberty and authority more deeply. I appreciated that philosophy allowed me to explore fundamental questions about our existence and society and challenge myself in new ways. I now ask theoretical questions such as “what are the conditions of knowledge?” or “what is the nature of law?” and “are certain epistemic practices more virtuous than others?” which differed from legal questions.

Throughout my M.A., I realised that I was not only fascinated by philosophy but that it was one of the most crucial disciplines that a socially and politically-conscious black woman could study in order to understand and contribute to improving the conditions of black people, specifically and to understand race and racism, more broadly. It forced me to think critically about the world and taught me how to rationally present my ideas on how we ought to change it. It helped me to understand how I could bridge my passion for intellectual thought and commitment to social justice.

During LPT, I was accepted into the M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine at the University of Cambridge. My LPT dissertation, which received the dissertation prize, was on epistemic injustice and I became so passionate about this subject that I wanted to explore the relationship between epistemology and power more rigorously by doing a research degree. My M.Phil. was intellectually challenging and rewarding: I explored new questions about race through different disciplinary lenses and developed a stronger sense of how I could use my research to effect change.

With this came my decision to return to the law. One of my interests includes the epistemic authority of the law in creating knowledge and its relation to justice and peace. Working at the International Court of Justice at the Peace Palace in The Hague would allow me to gain this valuable insight. I had wanted to apply to the ICJ traineeship programme for the past five years and in January, I decided that I was ready to apply.

I was recently selected as a university trainee (judicial law clerk) at the ICJ. I will begin my 10-month clerkship at the Court in September during which my duties will include conducting legal research, preparing case files and drafting various types of documents. It is a tremendous honour and opportunity to serve the World Court. The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its docket shapes the counters of modern international law and some of the world’s most significant international disputes. My ICJ traineeship will allow me to gain invaluable insight into the work and procedures of the Court, learn first-hand how international dispute resolution happens and significantly develop my knowledge of international law. The mere thought that I will be able to witness and contribute to this incredibly complex and important process of international dispute resolution, let alone at such a prestigious Court, is exhilarating. I look forward to learning from judges who are some of the most highly-esteemed international law experts in the world and working on a variety of cases that raise intriguing and challenging questions of international law. The value of this extraordinary experience cannot be measured.

I look forward to using what I have learned and the skills that I have acquired at the ICJ to pursue a successful legal career. I hope that I can use my positionality as an advocate and intellectual to assist and empower people of colour across the diaspora. My experiences have allowed me to understand how different legal systems function; different cultural practices and perspectives; the varied and complex ways in which power operates in society; to historicise the problems that I care about in order to gain a richer understanding of how to approach them; and most importantly, the value of education to effect change.

The knowledge and skills that I acquired during my year at SPP, along with the unparalleled support that I received from Emily Mcternan, John Filling, and Nick Martin, not only allowed me to achieve two of my biggest academic and career goals but gave me confidence to pursue a meaningful career as an advocate-cum-intellectual and affirmation of why it is important for me to do so.
**ALUMNI BLOG**

Dr Melanie Garson writes:

**The Job Interview – Be A STAR?**

With dissertations now done and dusted many of you will be turning your attentions to your job search or some have you may have reached a point of moving to the next stage in your career. Whatever the stage, the chief hurdle between you and your next job is a successful interview.

One of the remarkable traits I notice in students who come to consult with me about careers is a remarkable lack of confidence and self-belief both when approaching the job search as a whole and especially the interview. In some cases, the brighter the student the lower the levels of confidence. There is no doubt that the job market is competitive but once you’ve reached the interview stage, you’re already part of the way there. They’ve already swiped right, it’s now the time to find if you actually connect!

So what is the key to a good interview?

It does not matter whether you are interviewing in the public or private sector, the core elements to a good interview are the same. Many employers, such as the UN, conduct “competency based interviews” also known as “behavioural interviews” or “criterion based interviews.” These are designed to predict your likelihood of success in your position based on your life history and experience.

These types of interviews use questions such as:

- Tell us about a situation when you went above and beyond your manager’s expectations.
- Give an example of a time when you used your problem-solving abilities to resolve an issue?
- Tell us about a time where you had a number of demands being made on you at the same time? Did you handle it?

Now, do not worry if you do not have years of work placements in banks, clerking for judges or volunteering in conflict zones. Time as a youth group leader, amateur theatre director, journal editor or barista will have also exposed you to situations when you had to use your initiative, encountered problems that required creative solutions and had to prioritise multiple tasks.

So how do you answer these types of questions?

The STAR model is recognised as one of the strongest approaches to formulating an effective response. You should structure your answer to reflect the following:

1. **Situation**
   - Describe the situation or context.

2. **Task**
   - What was required of you?
   - Identify the problem?

3. **Activity**
   - What did you do?

4. **Result**
   - What happened? Also consider if there were ways it could have turned out better or differently.

Try to be as specific, concise and positive as possible and highlight skills that are relevant to the post and the organisation. It can also help to practice answering these types of questions out loud so they sound natural and unrehearsed.

So what are my other top tips for your interviews?

1. **Research:** Do your research on the organisation, the position, and (if known) the interviewers. Match your answers to the requirements of the position and the organisation.

2. **Honesty:** If asked a substantive question that you cannot answer, do not try to wing your way through the answer, rather provide the interviewer with the process by which you would find the answer.

3. **Questions:** Ask specific questions relevant to the position and not generic questions.

4. **Believe:** Be enthusiastic and confident. Remember, everyone’s time is precious. You would not have been invited to the interview if they did not think that there was a good chance that you would do well working with them.

5. **Be true to yourself:** I was once asked in an interview for a position that involved very long working hours how I relaxed as I appeared to be such a high energy person. In my answer I let it slip that my relaxation routine involved reading magazines such as Cosmopolitan. Later one of the interviewers told me that one of the reasons that I was hired was that I clearly understood how to manage my own stress levels.

Overall, remember, everyone’s career path is different. Some may find a job and stay in the same organisation till they retire and for others it is a more winding path. Unsuccessful interviews can be demoralising, we’ve all been there and most of us have had far more rejections than jobs. (Think about all those times you swipe right again!) but in each there is a learning experience. Brush yourself off, hold your head high, shine and in time you will find the position that is the one meant for you.

PS. When you do, please come back to speak to one of our careers panels or become a mentor so you can help guide those who will soon be in your position. [www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/alumni/alumni-staying-connected](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/alumni/alumni-staying-connected)

(Prior to joining SPP, Melanie worked across a number of sectors including for the UN, NGOs, private companies, and law firms.)
CLASS OF 2015–16

The Department would like to take this opportunity to wish our entire 2015–16 PG 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 2017.

Ideas for future articles should be sent to: Helen Holt (h.holt@ucl.ac.uk) before the end of October 2016.

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

Articles in the newsletter express views and opinions of individuals and not necessarily those of the Department of Political Science.