New Research Centre for Social Sciences (CSS) based at PIR

The Centre for Social Sciences (CSS) was established in 2012. The CSS is funded by Royal Holloway as part of its strategy to improve the standards of research methods across the social science community and to promote and disseminate social science research findings with the wider public.

The CSS provides an institutional focus for the development of research and teaching throughout the social sciences. The Centre brings together staff and students working across different social science disciplines from all three faculties, including Management, Economics, Politics and IR, Geography, Social Psychology, Criminology and Sociology, Drama and Theatre, Music, Media Arts, and Social Work.

The Centre is intended to develop and promote training in empirical research methods and analysis techniques in the social sciences, particularly in the area of quantitative methods. In doing so it actively supports the Economic and Social Research Council’s (ESRC) strategy to improve the standards of research methods training across the social science community.

The Centre provides a focal point at Royal Holloway for research, training and capacity building activities. These activities are aimed at promoting a step change in the quality and range of methodological skills and techniques used by the social science community, and providing support for, and dissemination of, social science research here.

Please contact Oliver Heath for more details, or visit the CSS website to find out more:

www.rhul.ac.uk/centreforsocialsciences/home

Guest speaker invitations

Oliver Heath gave a presentation entitled ‘Trends in the Uttar Pradesh elections 2012’ at the seminar series ‘Behind the Headlines: Indian Politics Today’ organised by King’s India Institute, King’s College London & Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, May 2012

Jonathan Seglow gave a guest lecture on ‘Compatriot Duties and Global Justice’ at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim in March, and was also invited to present this paper at the workshop on ‘Domination, Migration and Non-Citizens’ at University College Dublin in April.

John Mattausch was invited on 2 May to give a talk entitled ‘The Unwelcome Stranger: Chance and Post-war British Migration’ to the Social Policy and Health Research Seminar Series at The University of Greenwich.

Andrew Chadwick was invited to speak at the Holberg International Prize Symposium in Bergen, Norway, on June 5, and to participate in a three-day series of cultural and educational events surrounding the prize. Awarded this year to Manuel Castells for his work on the network society, the Holberg International Memorial Prize is given annually for outstanding scholarly work in the fields of the arts and humanities, social sciences, law, and theology. The prize, which is formally awarded by the Norwegian government and the Crown Prince of Norway, is $800,000. Link: bit.ly/K3tWDm

Luis Lobo-Guerrero delivered a public lecture on 8 May at the Helmut Schmidt Universität (University of the German Armed Forces in Hamburg) entitled ‘Historical Dimensions to the Insurance of War. On 14 March he was also invited to the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy of Hamburg, IFSH, to speak about ‘Risks at Sea and the International Relations of Maritime Insurance’, 14 March 2012

Nathan Widder was invited to be plenary speaker at ‘Deleuze and Transdisciplinary’ conference, Goldsmiths College, 10-12 February; and at the fifth annual Deleuze Studies Conference, Tulane University (New Orleans), 25-27 June.
New books

Nathan Widder published *Political Theory after Deleuze* (Continuum, 2012). It is the second book length study published on Deleuze’s relation to political theory, and situates Deleuze’s thought within what has become known as the ‘ontological turn’ in political theory. The aim of the book is to show how Deleuze offers a re-reading of this turn, and the political theory field as a whole, through its focus on the ‘micropolitical’ domain of individual, social and political life.

Michael Bacon published *Pragmatism: An Introduction* (Polity, 2012). The book provides an account of the arguments of the central figures of the most important philosophical tradition in the American history of ideas, pragmatism. This wide-ranging and accessible study explores the work of the classical pragmatists Charles Sanders Peirce, William James and John Dewey, as well as more recent philosophers including Richard Rorty, Richard J. Bernstein, Cheryl Misak, and Robert B. Brandom.

Luis Lobo-Guerrero published *Insuring War: Sovereignty, Security and Risk* (Routledge, 2012). It is the second of a trilogy of books on a wider project on Insurance and Power. The book draws on the British experience of using maritime insurance as an instrument of war during the Napoleonic Wars, the two World Wars, and the early twenty-first century. It asks, what happens, when, under conditions of war, the sovereign adopts insurantial imaginaries and practices into its rationalities of government?

Book contracts

Michelle Bentley signed a book contract for an edited book on continuity in Obama’s foreign policy, to be edited with Dr Jack Holland at the University of Surrey. The book – *Obama’s Foreign Policy: Ending the War on Terror* – will be published in 2013 with Routledge.

Michelle also signed a contract with Routledge for her book *Contesting Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Strategic Use of a Concept*.

Policy papers and interviews


Luis Lobo-Guerrero was interviewed on the topic of ‘The Biopolitics of Security’ for the podcast series ‘The Evolving Character of Power Today’ of the International Security Network at ETH Zurich. The podcast was part of the section: ‘Power and the Westphalian System: Goodbye to All That?’

www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/Current-Affairs/Podcasts/Detail/?lng=en&id=140032

Book reviews:

Niklas Rolf reviewed Chiara Bottici’s book ‘Men and States: Rethinking the Domestic Analogy in a Global Age’ in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (Volume 40, Number 3)
Articles and book chapters


Luis Lobo-Guerrero: ‘Lloyd’s and the moral economy of insuring against piracy: towards a politicisation of marine war risks insurance, Journal of Cultural Economy, 5:1 67-83; also,


News from PIR-edited book series

Oxford Studies in Digital Politics book series, edited by Andrew Chadwick

Two new books have been published:

David Karpf’s The MoveOn Effect: The Unexpected Transformation of American Political Advocacy amzn.to/IY2bLr

Daniel Kreiss’s Taking Our Country Back: The Crafting of Networked Politics from Howard Dean to Barack Obama amzn.to/QkUh14

For more information about the series, visit this link: www.oup.com/us/brochure/digitalpolitics

Routledge Studies in Global and Transnational Politics

A new series co-edited by Sandra Halperin, Chris Rumford and Luis Lobo-Guerrero will be launched in the autumn.

Routledge Studies in Global and Transnational Politics is concerned with the implications and outcomes of global and transnational processes in history and in the contemporary world. Its aim is to promote greater theoretical innovation and inter-disciplinarity in the academic study of global transformations. The understanding of globalization that it employs accords centrality to forms and processes of political, social, cultural and economic connectivity (and disconnectivity) and relations between the global and the local. The series’ editors see the multidisciplinary exploration of global and transnational connectivities as contributing, not only to an understanding of the nature and direction of current global transformations, but also to recasting the intellectual agenda of the social sciences. The broader aim of the series, therefore, is to promote empirical, conceptual, and methodological contributions from across disciplines that enrich and extend the scope and theorization of a broad range of traditionally defined areas of study throughout the social sciences.
In July Tom Dyson co-organised (with Professor Sir Mike Aaronson of the University of Surrey) a two-day workshop ‘Hitting the Target: How New Capabilities are Shaping Contemporary International Intervention’ that took place at the University of Surrey’s Centre for International Intervention. Funded by the Institute for Advanced Studies, the workshop brought together over 50 academics and practitioners to discuss the strategic, ethical, legal and psychological implications of new precision-strike capabilities.

Sandra Halperin organised two workshops. The first, entitled ‘Legacies of Empire 1’, was funded by an International Studies Association Venture Research Workshop Grant, and held on 31 March at the ISA Convention in San Diego. The second, ‘Legacies of Empire 2’, was funded by the British Academy and was held on 18 June, 2012 at Royal Holloway’s Bedford Square facility.

Mark Pope, Niklas Rolf, Nora Siklodi and Robert Yates convened a one-day conference entitled ‘Olympics and the ‘Isms’ at Bedford Square, on 25 July, under the leadership of Ben O’Loughlin. Over 25 international delegates attended the event to consider the relationship between the Olympics and ideologies. Speakers from Hong Kong, the USA, Germany, BBC World News, Hackney Council and PIR (Mark Pope) presented on panels discussing cosmopolitanism, nationalism, commercialism and Olympism. Participants contributed to three recorded focus group sessions for use in a forthcoming discourse analysis paper by the conference convenors. The organisers and James Dennis acted as chairs, discussants and focus group facilitators.

Luis Lobo-Guerrero convened the ‘11th Aberystwyth Graduate Colloquium on critical political thought’, hosted by the Emerging Securities Research Unit, Keele University, 14-15 June 2012. – Professors Mark Duffield and Michael Shapiro were keynote speakers.

Giacomo Benedetti organised a Workshop on ‘The UK and the EU Budget, 2014-2020’, on 16 March 2012. The event was co-financed by the European Commission and held at 2 Gower Street. Speakers included Stefan Lehner from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Budgets and Brendan Donnelly from the Federal Trust think-tank. Papers were given on the EU budget and the Lisbon Treaty, the British negotiating position on the EU budget, and the futures of the British rebate and of agricultural and cohesion spending in the UK.
Conference papers


Tom Dyson: presented findings of his forthcoming book ‘EU Defence Cooperation in Law and IR Theory’ at the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) Annual Conference in Passau, Germany.


Mark Pope: ‘The Olympic Games and cosmopolitanism: consequences for public diplomacy’ at a SOAS symposium on Sport and Diplomacy on 18 June; ‘Cosmopolitanism as an analytical tool: UK news media coverage of human rights issues in counter terrorism’ at the ISA conference in San Diego on 18 March, and at BISA in Edinburgh on 22 June and the GSA in Manchester on 5 July.


Michael Bacon: ‘Peircean Deliberative Democracy Revisited’ at the Association for Legal and Social Philosophy annual conference in Belfast.


John Mattausch: ‘Unsettled Citizens?: British South Asians’, 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies, 26 July, Lisbon University


Michael Bacon: ‘Peircean Deliberative Democracy Revisited’ at the Association for Legal and Social Philosophy annual conference in Belfast.


Michael Bacon: ‘Peircean Deliberative Democracy Revisited’ at the Association for Legal and Social Philosophy annual conference in Belfast.

Nathan Widder was invited to take part in a workshop on ‘Deleuze and Time’, Manchester Metropolitan University, on 25 March, and also presented a paper at the Society for European Philosophy – Forum for European Philosophy annual conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 5-7 September.

Next issue

The PIR Research Newsletter is a space to share the research activities of members of the department. The editorial deadline for the following issue is Friday 23 November 2012. Please send your entries by email to: Luis.Lobo-Guerrero@rhul.ac.uk. When possible, include pictures.