

Head of Department's Introduction



A large welcome to new undergraduate and graduate students in the department of International Politics and to returning students; a welcome also to our new and returning staff! We are a very proud

department and community, and it is a pleasure to have you exploring international politics with us. The academic year 2016-7 began very well with the most recent National Student Survey Scores, placing the department in the top ten of UK Politics and International Studies departments and the first in Wales. You will have seen enough coverage of this news for me not to belabour it. As the new head of the department, I am, however, honoured to be representing and steering a department that stands tall in the top ten of UK politics departments for both teaching and research. The results provide straightforward confirmation of a faculty and administrative team that work to achieve excellence both in their research and their teaching as well as in the effective management of the department for our student body. The combination of these commitments makes it a very particular place to study the international environment; I do hope you will take every opportunity to make this period of study with us rewarding for yourselves.

The international environment is rapidly changing under ever more complicated processes of globalization and structures of power and legitimacy, as the human outrage in Syria, the Brexit 'debacle', the European migration crisis, and the challenging nature of this season's American presidential elections amply attest. This complex environment requires extensive knowledge and disciplinary flexibility to be understood and analyzed. The

department offers a wide range of methodologies, approaches to international politics (and this must include today sub-national politics) and learning experiences to capture this complexity and analyse it. With modules, public lectures, roundtables, research seminars, extra-curricular activities, etc., as well as your own reading and writing, we hope that you will not only come to understand better international realities during your time with us, but also, through understanding them, wish all the more to change them. Founded in 1919 in response to the First World War, the department believes strongly in studying with such moral and political purpose. So we look forward to hearing from you not only now, but also when you are active Alumni of this prestigious department. Our Centenary (2019) comes up in just over two years – we hope you will help us in making it an excellent year for the large network of Interpol students that we all are. Finally, a welcome again to our entering Centenary Class (graduating in 2019), and my sincere thanks to Dr Jenny Mathers, outgoing Head of Department, for her own years of leadership and for making the transition between us so careful.

A last word on a different theme and note: It is with great sadness that the Interpol community has recently learnt of the deaths of Professor Mike Foley (1948-2016) and former PhD and faculty member Dr Chikara Hashimoto (1975-2016). Our thoughts are with their respective families and friends: their light humor and gentle smiles will, among much else, be very sorely missed. The department will be helping to organize events this academic year around Mike's path-breaking work on political leadership with Oxford University Press and Chikara's 2016 publication *British Intelligence and Counter-Subversion in the Middle East, 1948-63* (with Edinburgh University Press). May they remain with us.

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Leading Historian of War Delivers Prestigious Public lecture

The Kenneth N. Waltz Annual Lecture brings distinguished scholars to Aberystwyth to talk about those international issues – notably war - that were central to the concerns of the late Ken Waltz, the leading theorist of international politics over many decades. This year's lecture was delivered by one of the outstanding historians in the UK today, Professor Jeremy Black. The title of his talk was: 'War and International Relations 1400-2100'.

Professor Ken Booth of the Department of International Politics says that Jeremy Black, based at the University of Exeter, is a well-known commentator on war on the radio, as well as a prolific lecturer internationally. He has without doubt been the most prolific historian writing in Britain over the past twenty years, with his most recent book being *The Power of Knowledge: How Information and Technology Made the Modern World*. His talk will bring together his immense knowledge of both international relations and the history of war. Ken Booth says: 'If you are interested in international conflict, this lecture is a rare opportunity to listen to a scholar who is one of the very few, anywhere, with the authority, knowledge, and nerve to give a sweeping panorama of the phenomenon of war over seven centuries.'

The lecture was held in the Main Hall of the International Politics Building on the campus on Thursday 13 October 2016.



Brexit Roundtable

On 29th September the Department of International Politics organised a roundtable exploring the implications of Brexit entitled, 'Britain, Europe and the World: What Next?'. The discussion featured two external speakers - Prof Richard Youngs and Dr Angaharad Closs Stephens - and the department's own Prof Andrew Linklater, Dr Jenny Mathers, Dr. Alistair Shepherd, and Prof Richard Beardsworth. The event attracted a big audience of students, staff, and Aberystwyth citizens. The event will be followed up by other similar public events allowing for conversation, information-sharing and reflection on Brexit and its implications locally, nationally and globally.



Knowledge Centre Launch

On 5 October 2016 a new Centre on International Politics of Knowledge (KNOWLEDGE Centre) was launched in the Department. The event was celebrated with an informal meeting of like minds in the Main Hall of the Department. Excellent new contacts were made within and across departments in the University and many new lines of inquiry were already opened for further exploration. The Centre, directed by Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, will feature its first speaker on 19th October with Prof Arlene Tickner (Universidad del Rosario, Colombia) discussing her work on possibilities of non-western knowledge production with the members of the Centre.



“Gender, Security and the Crisis in Ukraine”

On 3 October 2016 Dr Jenny Mathers gave a talk at the Department of War Studies and King's College London on “Gender, Security and the Crisis in Ukraine”, which is the subject of her current research project. In the talk she discussed the various roles played by women during the Maidan protests in Kiev (including making Molotov cocktails and breaking up paving stones to use as missiles against the security forces as well as praying for peace), the new style of the Russian soldier and of military masculinity in the form of the ‘little green men’ or ‘polite people’ who occupied Crimea, and the most famous soldier from the conflict in eastern Ukraine, Nadiya Savchenko, a woman pilot who was captured and imprisoned in Russia and is now a member of the Ukrainian parliament.

Publications

In September, Dr James Vaughan published a piece in the Jewish Chronicle's special tribute to Shimon Peres entitled 'Peres the Anglophile: A friend of Britain'. See <http://www.thejc.com/lifestyle/lifestyle-features/164033/peres-anglophile-a-friend-britain>

In September, Dr Kris Stoddard published a major article entitled 'UK cyber security and critical national infrastructure protection' in *International Affairs* <https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/ia/uk-cyber-security-and-critical-national-infrastructure-protection>

-Jittipat Poonkham, “Détente Studies in the Cold War International History: Questions (Un)Marked?”, *Interstate: Journal of International Affairs*, Issue 3 (2016). <<http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/1439/detente-studies-in-the-cold-war-international-history-questions-unmarked>>

-Jittipat Poonkham, “Russia’s Pivot to Asia: Visionary or Reactionary?” in *ASEAN Political Outlook 2015*, eds. Michelle Tan, Pongkwan Sawasdiapadi, and Jittipat Poonkham (Bangkok: Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, 2016).



'Globetrotting'



At a time of great significance and turbulent debate for the country, Prof Kurki visited Colombia as a guest of Javeriana Universidad. She did so in order to contribute to a special workshop on Epistemology and International Relations organised by Dr German Prieto. Alongside Colin Wight of Sydney University and Arlene Tickner of Universidad de Rosario - a guest at the Department of International Politics in October 2016 - she led discussions on how we can and might 'know' in international politics. She presented thoughts arising from her book on Relational Cosmology and the challenges of knowledge construction in International Relations.

Dr. Inanna Hamati-Ataya contributed to the 2016 edition of the **Olympia Summer Academy** (OSA) in Politics and International Studies, held in Nafplio, Greece in July (www.olympiasummeracademy.org). With her co-editors of a forthcoming SAGE handbook on International Relations, Dr. Andreas Gofas (Panteion University) and Prof. Nick Onuf (Florida International University), Inanna co-taught the four-day cycle dedicated to the '**History, Philosophy, and Sociology of IR**', which attracted brilliant undergraduate and postgraduate students from across Europe as well as Asia and Africa.

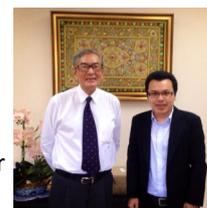
On 8th September Dr Jeff Bridoux presented a paper entitled 'Democracy Reception' at a conference at the Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt.

On 23 September, Dr Bridoux also presented at the United States Department of Defense (Pentagon), Middle East Directorate, Washington DC. The title of the presentation was 'Preparing for Statebuilding. Smart Knowledge Production'.

Professor Gary Rawnsley spent the summer in Taiwan where he discussed his research on Taiwan's public diplomacy and soft power with colleagues and students of National Taiwan University and National Chengchi University. He also met with students and staff of the Political Warfare College, Fuxingang, to talk about Taiwan's international communications (see photo). In addition to conducting research at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taipei, Professor Rawnsley also visited Taiwan's Representative Office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and met with members of the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation in Hualien, Taiwan, to discuss how their charity work contributes to Taiwan's soft power. He was invited to talk several times with colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and advise Taiwan's diplomats about their public, and especially digital diplomacy strategies. An interview (in Chinese) with the Voice of America on this subject was broadcast in early September.



PhD student Jittipat Poonkham has undertaken field work in the National Archive, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive in Bangkok, Thailand as well as interviewing some key informants such as Former Foreign Minister Dr. Tej Bunnag, and Mr. Warnwai Pathanothai, who was an adviser to the Thai government on rapprochement with China. Warnwai was sent by the Thai government to the People's Republic of China since 12 years old to be raised and studied in Peking under the guardianship of Premier Zhou Enlai.



Interpol Graduate Volunteer Award

Recent graduate of the department, Thomas Corbett, was awarded a Highly Commended prize in the Young People category at the WM Museum Volunteer Awards. The Young People category is for 'an individual who has brought New Ideas and energy' up to the age of 25. Thomas is following his interest in Military History, with his volunteer work in the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

Reframing European Security

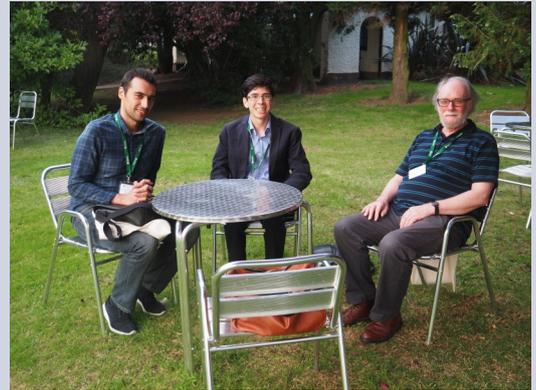
Dr Alistair Shepherd presented a paper at the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) Annual Conference at Queen Mary University London in September. The paper was on 'Reframing European Security: Transcending the Internal-external Divide'.

Social Media During the Ebola Outbreak

The initial conclusions of Prof. Colin McInnes' project with the RESCUE programme on the use of social media in emergencies were presented at a major international media conference over the summer. The paper examined how authorities used - or failed to use - social media during the 2014-15 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. See <https://blogg.hioa.no/rescue/2016/08/02/rescue-major-international-media-conference/>

Ecology, Symbols and Established Outsider Relations: Report from the 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology

On a warm September morning in Leicester, three researchers from the Department of International Politics gave oral presentations to the Researching Social Processes section, at the 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, held at the University of Leicester. The Aberystwyth contingent consisted of Woodrow Wilson Professor Andrew Linklater, Dr Andre Saramago and PhD Candidate Alexander Mack. A late change to the program meant that all three presented on the same panel. Dr Saramago spoke first, noting how increasing global interdependence places more pressure on the planet's biosphere, arguing that a more ecological approach is needed to understanding humankind's global development, one which focuses on long-term processes of change. Prof Linklater spoke second, contending that the emergence of a global civilising process has been accompanied by the spread of international and cosmopolitan symbols from Munich as a symbol of appeasement, to humanitarian symbols of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. PhD Candidate Mack completed the panel, arguing that Europe's migration crisis is an instance of a long-term process that brings newer outsider groups into relations of interdependence with older more established groups, demonstrating the dynamic between localised and the globalised identities and insecurities.



Many thanks to Prof Stephen Mennell from University College Dublin for chairing the panel, and Prof Jason Hughes from the University of Leicester for his probing questions and organisation of the section. Prof Mennell also delivered a plenary address, arguing for greater historical awareness in sociology. The presentations of the Aberystwyth contingent along with Prof Mennell's address, demonstrate the potential for a fruitful dialogue between International Relations and Sociology.

Balloon Pop Event

Over 1,000 unaccompanied refugee children are currently living in Calais. However, evictions are reportedly scheduled to commence on Monday 17th October, raising severe child protection concerns as an estimated 129 refugee children are reported to have gone missing during evictions earlier this year.

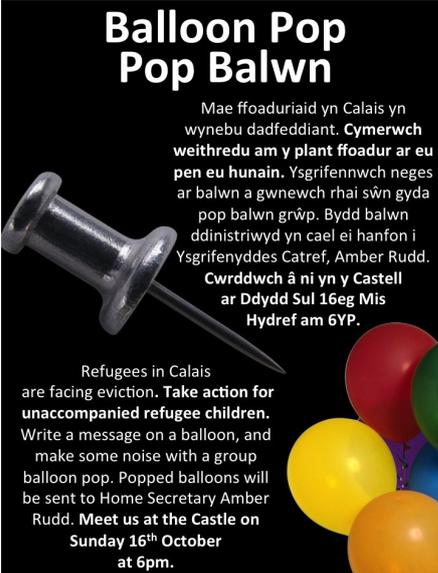
Action is needed to protect the lives and wellbeing of all unaccompanied refugee children in Calais. Under the Dublin Agreement and Dubs Amendment, the United Kingdom has formerly committed to welcoming unaccompanied refugee children: the former agreement provides reunification rights to unaccompanied children with family ties in the UK; the latter calculated that a further 3,000 vulnerable unaccompanied children without family ties could also be resettled.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd has reaffirmed her commitment to welcoming refugee children, including the unaccompanied children of Calais, 387 children of whom are believed to have family ties in the UK. However, little action has been taken, and it is unclear how many (if any) children will be relocated prior to the evictions.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which both France and the United Kingdom are parties, states that "a child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment [...] shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State." Where is this special protection and assistance for the unaccompanied refugee children of Calais?

We are calling upon the people of Aberystwyth to express their support for unaccompanied refugee children: join us to write a message on a balloon, and make some noise with a group balloon pop! Popped balloons will be sent to Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

Join us for our Balloon Pop, and make some noise. Meet us at the Castle on Sunday 16th October at 6pm.



**Balloon Pop
Pop Balwn**

Mae ffoaduriaid yn Calais yn wynebu dadfeddiant. **Cymerwch weithredu am y plant ffoadur ar eu pen eu hunain.** Ysgrifennwch neges ar balwn a gwnewch rhai sŵn gyda pop balwn grŵp. Bydd balwn ddiinstriwyd yn cael ei hanfon i Ysgrifenyddes Catref, Amber Rudd.

Cwrddwch â ni yn y Castell ar Ddydd Sul 16eg Mis Hydref am 6YP.

Refugees in Calais are facing eviction. **Take action for unaccompanied refugee children.** Write a message on a balloon, and make some noise with a group balloon pop. Popped balloons will be sent to Home Secretary Amber Rudd. **Meet us at the Castle on Sunday 16th October at 6pm.**