

## Departmental Newsletter Summer 2017

### News from the Head of Department



This has been a year to remember in the study of politics and international politics. The EU referendum, the election of Donald Trump, the snap elections in Britain this summer, and continuing global challenges involving

climate politics, terrorism, migration patterns and persistent threat of nuclear conflict, among many other concerns, have kept the students and staff very busy this year.

And despite the difficult global environment, the year is also memorable for the excellent performance by the Department and the University in the 2016 National Student Survey. Recently, we also received the fantastic news that 95% of our students are now in employment or further education within 6 months of graduation.

In order to give students and staff ample opportunity to discuss the momentous political events of this year and in order to try and shape the agenda in the UK and globally, the Department has organized a series of timely events. We've hosted expert talks and roundtable discussions on Brexit and have continued to comment on Brexit and UK elections in public venues and through the media. The students have also led some of the Brexit discussions: at the popular Crisis Game simulation event held each year in Gregynog, for example, students led in 'simulating' Brexit and its consequences.

We've also followed the developments in the United States closely. The Department held a US election all-night extravaganza in the Department in November. We have also held two 'Trump in the White House' events where we have evaluated the prospects of Trump presidency and its performance after its first 100 days.

Besides discussing Brexit and Trump the Department has, as always, featured some

world-leading figures in the analysis of international politics this year. Professor Margaret McMillan gave this year's EH Carr lecture on the highly relevant theme 'Sometimes it matters who is in power', while Professor Jeremy Black boldly discussed the history of warfare since 1400. Dozens of other speakers have provoked the students and staff - many thanks to the weekly International Politics Research Seminar and the active research groups in the Department. One highlight for those studying intelligence at Aber was the visit of a former CIA agent Marti Peterson in May on the invitation of the Centre for Intelligence and International Security Studies.

I am also pleased to have given my own inaugural lecture to a full hall of students, friends and colleagues, including the new Vice Chancellor Prof Elizabeth Treasure, in April of this year. This lecture was entitled 'The Political Moment: Political Responsibility in a Globalised Fragmented Age' and sought to redefine for us the responsibilities of states in the context of global challenges.

The year has also seen some excellent news with regard to our research. Not only has this year seen the publication of important books by staff, by Professor Linklater and Dr Johnston-White for example, but also, in December, we received the fantastic news that Inanna Hamati-Ataya had been awarded a major 1.3 million Euro grant from the European Research Council for a project on history of agriculture and global politics. Huw Lewis and Elin Royles also succeeded in obtaining prestigious Arts and Humanities Research Council funding for their project on language policy and social transformation.

We now also have two new research Centres associated with the Department: the interdisciplinary WISERD Centre for Welsh Politics and Society, which replaces the Institute of Welsh Politics, and the Knowledge Centre, investigating knowledge production in international politics, led by

### Contents

- ◆ Round up of the year from Head of Department
- ◆ Knowing About Violent Conflict in Myanmar Part 1: Fieldwork impressions
- ◆ The Quipu Project comes to Aber
- ◆ Diplomacy and Soft Power
- ◆ Security and the Environment
- ◆ Visit by Korea Wales Christian School (KWCS)
- ◆ Changing the world
- ◆ Crossing the country visiting Schools & colleges
- ◆ Globetrotting
- ◆ Footprints of Memory: Exhibition
- ◆ *Stitched Voices*: Studying Political Violence and injustices Differently
- ◆ Bookshelf
- ◆ 100 Days of Trump
- ◆ Achievements and Awards!
- ◆ BISA Workshop
- ◆ Future Events

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@InterpolAber

Berit Bliesemann de Guevarra.

These Centres have been very active in organizing public events and gatherings. One particularly notable example of innovative public engagement has been the 'Stitched Voices of Resistance' exhibition organised by Berit alongside PhD students Lydia Cole, Danielle House and Christine Andra. This saw a month of activities in the Aberystwyth Arts Centre, from exhibition of conflict textiles to hands-on textile workshops.

Cognizant of the challenges ahead, globally and nationally, but proud of our contributions to political debate and analysis, the Department moves towards its centenary in two years time in 2019 with great confidence in the unique, engaged, and friendly Interpol Aber community.

## Knowing About Violent Conflict in Myanmar Part 1: Fieldwork Impressions

How do the local people in war zones understand violent conflict? How can we access their knowledge and experiences? And how can this knowledge help international organizations to do effective civilian protection work in conflict areas? These are the questions the project Raising Silent Voices: Harnessing local knowledge for communities' protection from violence in Myanmar seeks to answer. The project is conducted by InterPol's Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, together with Dr Rachel Julian (Leeds Beckett) and Dr Ellen Furnari (US), in partnership with the transnational NGO Nonviolent Peaceforce.



Myanmar (or Burma, as it was formerly known) is the site of numerous armed conflicts, as well as ceasefire agreements and peace talks with some groups. Raising Silent Voices zeroes in on violent conflict in Kachin and Rakhine states. Kachin has witnessed an armed conflict between the state military and ethnic rebels since the 1960s, which after a 17-year ceasefire reached new intensity in 2011. Northern Rakhine is the setting of strife between Buddhist Arakanese and Muslim Rohingya groups, with the latter being feared to face genocide.

Recent peacebuilding literature has suggested that 'the local' needs to be at the heart of transformative conflict resolution. Yet, local cultural contexts and local conflict effects often remain invisible in western conflict analyses and intervention designs. The Raising Silent Voices project is therefore designed to test co-designed methodologies for understanding the importance of the lived experiences of civilians caught up in turmoil in understanding conflict knowledge.

Coming back from a first fieldtrip to Myanmar in January 2017, during which she conducted interviews with civil society groups and art workers and helped set up local research arrangements, Dr Bliesemann de Guevara commented: "Myanmar is a fascinating but also very challenging place to work. We have to address so many barriers, including logistics, language, politics, time, travel and a general lack of trust caused by decades of dictatorial rule. But we have also learned from the many people who have kindly shared their knowledge and experiences with us that Burmese civil society has enormous capacity, not least to contribute to protection work in conflict zones. With our project, we want to help explore the richness and diversity of different ethnic groups' experiences and cultures and harness people's practical knowledge for civilians' protection from violence."

The next project step consists in two art-based workshops in Kachin and Rakhine states, implemented by a local research associate and two young Yangon-based artists. The project uses metaphor-centred drawing workshops – a method previously tested successfully by Bliesemann de Guevara and colleagues at Cardiff University - as culturally sensitive method to research traumatic or tabooed topics. Raising Silent Voices is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research programme.

Photo: Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara Visiting the Human Drama group, an arts for social development programme, Yangon, January 2017.

## The Quipu Project comes to Aber

Quipu is a phone line for listening to and sharing stories about the sterilisation campaign that took place in the 1990s in Peru. Karen Tucker and Matthew Brown, academic consultants on the project from Bristol University, came to Aberystwyth for a PPI workshop on the project in March. The project makes unique use of mobile phones and radio to reach people in remote areas and enable their stories to be heard. The workshop investigated the aesthetics of the project, the funding which enabled it to happen and the collaborative working with interactive documentary makers. The workshop included clips from The Guardian documentary about the project, directed by Maria I. Court and Rosemarie Lerner.

## Diplomacy and Soft Power

After giving key note addresses to a conference on Chinese cultural diplomacy in Prague and on Chinese soft power at the Confucius Institute of Helsinki University, Professor Gary Rawnsley visited Taiwan and Japan in May and June. While in Kaohsiung (Taiwan) he delivered lectures to the students of Wenzao University and National Sun Yat-sen University on international communications in international politics and Taiwan's digital diplomacy. He then visited Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and talked with the students about Reassessing Soft Power, the subject of a Green Paper Professor Rawnsley has authored for the UK government and British Council and due for publication in July 2017. He was also pleased to make a return trip to Yosano, Aberystwyth's sister town in Japan and discuss with the Mayor and members the council the University's annual competition to send student Ambassadors on a cultural visit to Yosano.



Photo: Professor Rawnsley with Professor Liao Da-chi of National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Dr Ming-Yeh Rawnsley, editor of the International Journal of Taiwan Studies (hosted by Interpol).

## Security and the Environment

On June 28th, the Department of International Politics hosted a successful postgraduate symposium on the evolution of scholarly debate around the nexus between security and the environment. A collaborative effort by the Security Research Group (SRG) and Environmental Politics Research Group (EPRG), the event attracted PhD and Masters students from Interpol and DGES eager to debate issues as diverse as carbon pricing, climate change refugees, and the relationship between beekeepers' knowledge production and food security. A lively discussion on the symposium's dominant themes followed the preliminary presentations. The participants enjoyed and benefited from the opportunity to discuss their ideas in a friendly, collegial environment. Overall, the day exemplified the fruitfulness of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental engagement.



## Visit by Korea Wales Christian School (KWCS)

The Department was delighted to host 17 students from the Korea Wales Christian School (KWCS) during their week-long visit to Aberystwyth University. The students participated in an interactive workshop on Brexit. We discussed what key issues the UK is facing, what the students' reactions to the decision were, and what the global implications might be. There was also a quiz on Brexit, in which the students performed really well and sparked some great conversations. Finally, they spent some time role-playing the position of members of the government's Department for leaving the EU, where they developed the 5 top priorities the UK needed to achieve in its negotiations. This was a fabulous session that demonstrated that interest and knowledge about the UK and its role in the world remains high wherever in the world students are.



## Changing the world

Colin McInnes spoke at the 34th Plenary of the InterAction Council, held in Dublin in May. The IAC is a group of former Presidents and Prime Ministers (including those of the US, UK, Australia, Nigeria and Mexico) who use their continuing influence for the benefit of mankind. At the meeting, Colin McInnes helped to shape the IAC's 'Dublin Declaration' on Planetary Health which will be considered by the UN as the Universal Declaration on Planetary Health.



## Crossing the country visiting Schools & colleges

This semester the Department's Schools Liaison Team has been very busy hosting and visiting schools and colleges across Wales and England. We have been from Dorset to North Yorkshire and many places in between, running interactive workshops on topics from Democracy to Global Inequalities and Brexit to US politics, and even taking part in a Sixth Form version of Question Time. One of the favourite activities for schools and colleges are our one day Crisis Games, which are a political simulation role playing exercise developing negotiation, communication and team work skills – essential for anyone interested in international affairs and important life skills. We have also hosted a number of schools from Wales as part of Aberystwyth University's Welsh Baccalaureate Experience Days, where we have helped think about developing their Individual Projects. We can't wait to visit and host more schools and colleges next year and challenge their students to think through some of the big questions facing the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Globetrotting

Andrew Linklater presented two papers at the British International Studies Association Conference which was held in Sussex in June: 'Process Sociology, the English School and Postcolonialism: Understanding "Civilization" in World Politics – A Reply to the Critics', and 'Process Sociology and Postcolonialism'.

The first paper was part of a roundtable which discussed his most recent book, *Violence and Civilization in the Western State-Systems*, which was published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year. The roundtable discussed papers that will be published in a Forum on that book which will appear in the *Review of International Studies* in December.



In February Quincy Cloet was awarded a grant by the UACES to undertake a first look at the UACES archives, held at the European University Institute in Florence. In October Quincy Cloet will present his findings at a conference about European Integration history taking place in Florence.

Dr Catrin Wyn Edwards, a lecturer in the Department of International Politics, was awarded a grant from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to undertake research on immigration and models of integration in Quebec and Catalonia. Catrin spent three months (February - May) as a visiting scholar with GRITIM, an Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. She then undertook research as a visiting scholar in Montreal where she was based at a research group (CREQC) in UQAM, Montreal. Catrin's research interests include language policy and politics, immigration policy, linguistic diversity and multiculturalism, and sub-state governance.



In February Prof Ken Booth was part of the panel address with Mary Kaldor at the 'The Twenty Years' Crisis: Now and Then', hosted by LSE IDEAS: 'Looking Back: Looking Forward. Another 'Twenty Years' Crisis'? London School of Economics.

In March he featured on the panel for 'But what would you put in their place?', Address organised by the Henry Jackson Society, Portcullis House, UK Parliament.

Then in June Ken gave the Keynote address at 'Confronting the Great Reckoning in World Politics', The International Studies of the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Asia (BISA Working Group conference).

In June Alexandros Koutsoukis a PhD student at Aberystwyth was part of the 'War, Stasis and the Surrender of Acanthus in the Peloponnesian War: Thucydides and Processual Sociology', International Ancient Warfare Conference 2017, Aberystwyth University and University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Joanne Hopkins PhD student at Aberystwyth attended and presented the 'Bringing Conflict Home' conference, hosted at York University. Chloe Sydney also presented. The aim of the conference was to bring together scholars from a wide range of disciplines to examine how conflict permeates the domestic sphere. The term 'home' is commonly associated with familiarity and safety, 'conflict' evokes the opposite sense. Often enters the home as quotidian lived experience; critics such as Mary A. Favret address the concept of 'wartime' as a distinct and culturally-constructed temporality. Conflict enforces migration; it creates Diasporas and exiles, in turn reorienting our imaginative perception of home. 'Bringing Conflict Home' aims to bridge past and present by inviting paper proposals with a historical perspective as well as a contemporary one. Joanne presented the paper 'Coercive Control in the Syrian Conflict' at the conference.



Dr Jeff Bridoux contributed to a workshop in May from the 18-19th. The EDP Network hosted the authors workshop at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, the topic that was discussed was 'Democracy Promotion Negotiation'.

During the two days they discussed the papers of members and guest researchers who attended the event. This includes discussions of 'Democracy Promotion Negotiation' in Nepal, Ethiopia, Morocco, Tunisia and Latin America.



## Footprints of Memory: Exhibition

In April, Performance and Politics international (PPI) held a symposium entitled *Absence, Presence, Embodiment*, which focused on enforced disappearance. People who are disappeared leave traces behind: traces of presence, photographs and personal possessions. Though the demand is “We want them back alive!” in the end it is often only human remains—skeletal traces—that are recovered and identified. The relatives of the disappeared also make traces of their own: their shoes wear out as they walk from office to office demanding action, as they march in protest, and as they search for the bodies of their missing relatives. They trace the names of their sons or daughters in thread, embroidering handkerchiefs or headscarves in their honour, and keeping the possibility of their return alive.

We explored how these material traces made by relatives form an embodied challenge to absence, one that can be animated and set to work, and we looked at the spread of the search for and forensic identification of remains beyond ‘experts’. The symposium took place alongside two exhibitions: *Footprints of Memory: Searching for Mexico’s Disappeared*, by Mexican artist Alfredo Lopez Casanova, and *Stitched Voices*, an exhibition including textiles marking disappearance.

Photo credit: Whole Picture.



## Stitched Voices: Studying Political Violence and Injustices Differently

Sensitive topics like violent conflict, torture, forced disappearances and other human rights violations pose challenges to scholars in international politics when it comes to conveying these issues in class or at public engagement events. While addressing violence and injustices is of utmost importance, written documentation tends to gloss over individual experiences, while media visualisations have desensitized us in a way that solidarity is rare. A team of four InterPol researchers have now shown that political violence and injustices can be studied and experienced differently: through textile narratives and the act of crafting.

The team – consisting of Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and PhD researchers Christine Andrä, Lydia Cole and Danielle House – organised *Stitched Voices*, an exhibition of textiles made by victims, relatives and activists as visually and materially engaging ways to convey knowledge about violence and injustice. It consisted of a selection of arpilleras (three-dimensional wall hangings), quilts and an installation from the international Conflict Textiles collection of

renowned curator Roberta Bacic, Mexican handkerchiefs produced by the Embroidering for Peace/Bordamos por la Paz movement, as well as banners and textile artwork either made or collected by artists and activists in Wales. The exhibition was displayed from March to May 2017 at Aberystwyth Arts Centre and accompanied by a programme of activities and events, including textile workshops, embroidery sessions, film screenings, song and poetry events, roundtable discussions and an academic workshop.



The success of *Stitched Voices* is reflected in the feedback the team received from visitors, many of whom experienced a change in perspective. They commented that the exhibition had made them more “humble and fortunate of my own situation”, “that there might be ways to unify community care and expressing outrage/hurt”, and that they felt “reassured [...] to hear young people studying international politics and promoting democratic participation.” Many visitors were also inspired to raise their own voices, “to learn more about this movement and maybe take part in it” and to “research into these conflicts”, also commenting that “it did open my eyes to show me that [there] are many forms of fighting for what you deserve/want.”

Photo: Roberta Bacic (curator), Christine Andrä, Lydia Cole, Danielle House, Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara (InterPol commissioning team)

## Bookshelf

### Remembering The Second World War– Edited by Dr Patrick Finney

Remembering the Second World War brings together an international and interdisciplinary cast of leading scholars to explore the remembrance of this conflict on a global scale. Conceptually, it is premised on the need to challenge nationcentric approaches in memory studies, drawing strength from recent transcultural, affective and multidirectional turns.

Divided into four thematic parts, this book largely focuses on the post Cold War period, which has seen a notable upsurge in commemorative activity relating to the Second World War and significant qualitative changes in its character. The first part explores the enduring utility and the limitations of the national frame in France, Germany and China. The second explores transnational transactions in remembrance, looking at memories of the British Empire at war, contested memories in East Central Europe and the transnational campaign on behalf of Japan's former 'comfort women'. A third section considers local and sectional memories of the war and the fourth analyses innovative practices of memory, including re- enactment, video gaming and Holocaust tourism.

Offering insightful contributions on intriguing topics and illuminating the current state of the art in this growing field, this book will be essential reading for all students and scholars of the history and memory of the Second World War. Patrick Finney teaches in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University. He has published widely on collective memory, especially in relation to the Second World War, and on the international history of the twentieth century, especially in relation to the interwar period. He is currently writing a book entitled How the Second World War Still Shapes Our Lives.

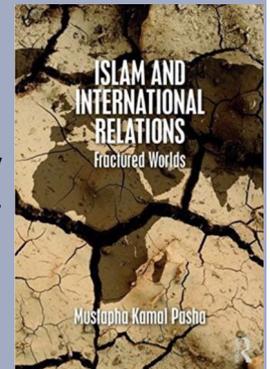


### Islam and International Relations: Fractured worlds

Islam and International Relations: Fractured Worlds reframes and radically disrupts perceived understanding of the nature and location of Islamic impulses in international relations. This collection of innovative essays written by Mustapha Kamal Pasha presents an alternative reading of contestation and entanglement between Islam and modernity.

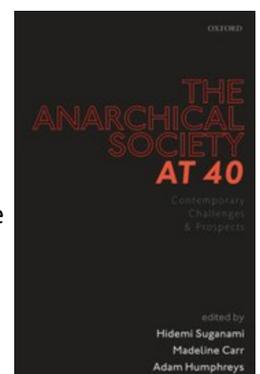
Wide-ranging in scope, the volume illustrates the limits of Western political imagination, especially its liberal construction of presumed divergence between Islam and the West. Split into three parts, Pasha's articles cover Islamic exceptionalism, challenges and responses, and also look beyond Western international relations.

This volume will be of great interest to graduates and scholars of international relations, Islam, religion and politics, and political ideologies, globalization and democracy.



### Hidemi Suganami, Madeline Carr, and Adam Humphreys (eds.), The Anarchical Society at 40: Contemporary Problems and Prospects

Hidemi Suganami, Madeline Carr, and Adam Humphreys (eds.), *The Anarchical Society at 40: Contemporary Problems and Prospects* (Oxford University Press, 2017) was published in June. This celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Hedley Bull's classic text, *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics* and considers its limitations and continued relevance in the much altered intellectual and world political environment. The 18 contributors include a wide range of experts from North America, Australia, and Europe and, from among those who are or have been affiliated with the Aberystwyth Department of International Politics, Andrew Linklater, Mustapha Kamal Pasha, Jan Ruzicka, Will Bain, Madeline Carr, Harmonie Torros, Katarzyna Kaczmarska, and Hidemi Suganami.



## Taiwan Cinema: International Reception and Social Change

Edited by Ming-Yeh Rawnsley, Kuei-fen Chiu and Gary Rawnsley,

Taiwan Cinema: International Reception and Social Change examines recent developments in Taiwan cinema, with particular focus on a leading contemporary Taiwan filmmaker, Wei Te-Sheng, who is responsible for such Asian blockbusters as Cape No.7, Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale and Kano. The book discuss key issues, including: why Taiwan Cinema underwent a decline, and how cinema is portraying current social changes in Taiwan Including changing youth culture and how it represents indigenous people in the historical narrative of Taiwan. The book also explores the reasons why current Taiwan cinema is receiving a much less enthusiastic response globally compared to its reception in previous decades.

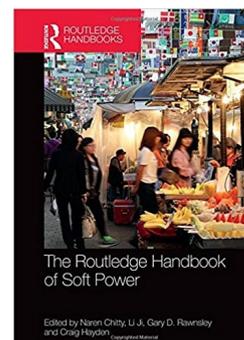


## Routledge Handbook of Soft Power

Edited by Naren Chitty, Li Ji, Craig Hayden and Gary Rawnsley

The Routledge Handbook of Soft Power is the first volume to offer a comprehensive and detailed picture of Soft Power associated forms of public diplomacy. The terms Soft Power and public diplomacy have enormous currency in the media and policy discourse, yet despite all the attention the terms remain conceptually ambiguous for analysts of international influence. The consequence is that the terms have survived as powerful, yet criticized, frames for influence.

Divided into two main parts, Part 1 outlines theoretical problems methodological questions, the cultural imperative and the technological turn within the study of soft power and Part 2 focuses on bringing the theory into practice through detailed discussion of key case studies from across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.



This innovative handbook provides a definitive resource for the students and scholars seeking to familiarize themselves with cutting-edge debates and future research on Soft Power and will be of interest to those studying and researching in areas such as international relations, public diplomacy and International communication.

## 100 Days of Trump

In May the Department hosted a round table debate on Trump's first 100 days in office with a panel made up of staff from the Department which included Dr Jeff Bridoux, Dr Warren Dockter, Dr Jenny Mathers, Dr Gillian McFadyen and Dr Jan Ruzicka. The event was well attended by students and staff alike who asked interesting and difficult questions for the panel to answer.

Dr Warren had this to say in conclusion about Trumps first 100 days in Office. The various interpretations from the Round Table surrounding the administration's success thus far teach important lessons about US politics at this



moment. Perhaps the most important lesson here is one on the strength of the legal and structural checks and balances. The judicial branch has been able to constrain the Executive's legal excesses in serious ways. This speaks to the strength of the American system and certainly indicates that it can weather the storm of populism currently raging in the West. Beyond this we can take away lessons about the political environment in the US. Trump's administration is a lot like his campaign: chaotic and ruthless, with conflicting and at times, contradictory goals. While the Trump administration fights with itself and the Republican Party in Congress, the eyes of the nation will be on them and the US Right will continue to dominate the news cycle. The space and publicity required to nurture new leadership on the left and fill the vacuum left by Hillary Clinton will remain woefully elusive. Consequently, if the Democrats do

not get their house in order by the midterm elections in 2018 and offer a credible opposition with a singular voice, the next 100 days may feel much longer.

## Achievements and Awards!

### Impressive Employability statistics for Interpol Graduates.

95% of UK/EU full time first degree International Politics graduates were either in work or further study six months after graduating in July 2016. This impressive achievement is shown in the latest Higher Education Statistics Agency's annual Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey, which also shows that Aberystwyth University as a whole was 1% ahead of the sector average, with a score of 95.4%. Our graduates go onto work in wide a variety of professions from local and national government, journalism, politics, non-governmental organisations, security services and armed forces, international organisations, education, legal services and many more. One recent graduate works as a Prevent Officer with a regional council in England while another is a Communications Officer for an MP at Westminster.

### Student-led teaching awards

The Department of International Politics has achieved success in the student-led teaching awards with two members of staff winning an award. Lucy Taylor won the award for supervisor of the year and Alexandors Koutsoukis won Postgrad teacher of the year. The awards are hosted every year by the Student Union with the support of the university.



### Learned Society of Wales

Prof Howard Williams was elected Fellow of the Learned Society Wales. The Learned Society of Wales is an independent, all Wales, self-governing, pan-discipline educational charity.

The Society aims to develop itself as a sustainable organisation that is fit for purpose and acknowledged both as a recognised representative of the world of Welsh learning internationally and as a source of authoritative, scholarly and critical comment and advice on policy issues affecting Wales.



## BISA Workshop

Dr Ayla Gol is the co-convenor of the British International Studies Association (BISA) Working Group on the International Studies on the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia (ISMMEA), which is an interdisciplinary forum for engaging scholars, practitioners and policymakers. The working group's last two workshops were held at the Westminster Forum in London on 'Bodies, Borders and (un)Belonging', and 'Identity, Space and the Questions of State'. Following these themes, Dr Gol and her co-convenor Dr Ipshita Basu organised this year's workshop on 'Populism and Global Geopolitics: Critical Reflections on Sovereignty, Borders and (un)Belonging'. The workshop took place at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University on 22 and 23 June 2017. Prof Ken Booth was the keynote speaker and Prof Marie Breen-Smyth gave the closing plenary. Dr Gol hosted speakers from the Universities of Aberystwyth, Leicester, London King's College, Middlesex, Oxford, Plymouth, York, and Westminster.

## Future Events

### Dialoguing 'between the posts'

Katarina Kusic is on the organizing committee for a two day workshop "Dialoguing 'between the posts': Post-socialist and post-/decolonial perspectives on domination, hierarchy and resistance in South-Eastern Europe. The organizing committee consists of the British International Studies Association (Colonial/Postcolonial/Decolonial Working Group and South East Europe Working Group), the Max Planck Research Group 'Empires of Memory: The Cultural Politics of Historicity in Former Habsburg and Ottoman Cities', and the event is co-organized by New Left Perspectives and the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade. The event will take place on September 22-23, in Belgrade, Serbia.

### Being Objective

Yvonne Rinkart, who completed her interdisciplinary PhD between the Department of International Politics and the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences in June 2017, has been invited to lead a workshop on fieldwork during the Greygnog Ideas Lab VI in July 2017. Under the title 'Being Objective?', the workshop examines the embodied and material dimensions of fieldwork in International Politics. Dr. Rinkart has a wide range of fieldwork experience through her research on the political geography of international aviation, and she hopes to draw out similarities and differences with the experiences of workshop participants. During her time at the Ideas Lab, Dr. Rinkart will also share advice on doctoral research with participants during research surgeries, and participate in a roundtable discussion of the state of critical IR.