

## News from the Head of Department



It has been a momentous, historic year politically with Brexit and the Trump presidency. As part of a busy calendar of events

we organized three events on these topics: a Brexit roundtable, a US Election 'All-Nighter', and a 'Trump in the White House' panel, all drawing very large audiences and animated discussions! We also ran our highly successful 'Crisis Games' around the theme of Brexit. At this time it is very important that the department affirms proactively its internationalism, its commitment to knowledge and its real-world activities. In other events the department's annual EH Carr lecture was given by Professor Margret MacMillan and the annual Kenneth Waltz lecture by Professor Jeremy Black, we finalized our partnership with American University in Washington DC, and ratified our new strategic plan - "Global Challenges: Delivering Ideas for Change". Finally, work on the department's Centenary in 2019 is well underway: developing our centenary webpages and encouraging as many of our students, past and present to become involved, as there is only one International Relations/Politics department centenary in the world, and it is ours!

*Professor Richard Beardsworth*

## Interpol Students Head to Brussels

In December, 33 second and third year undergraduate students went on a study trip to Brussels, as part of their European Politics and NATO modules. They visited the Council of the EU, NATO Supreme Allied Headquarters Europe (SHAPE), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Students experienced a range of scheduled talks and briefings, roundtables, Q&As as well as a social event on the final evening with



Aber Alumni working in Brussels.

At the EEAS we had briefings on its role, the migration crisis, and EU-NATO security relations.

As well as formal briefings, while at SHAPE we got to see the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Scaparrotti, speak at their annual Christmas celebrations and had a bus tour to see how the military base operates as a home to hundreds of families.



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## Aberystwyth academic appointed UK UNESCO Vice-Chair

The Department's Professor Colin McInnes, a leading expert on global health and international relations has been appointed Vice-Chair of the United Kingdom National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO. Professor McInnes said: "It is a great honour and privilege to be appointed to this position. UNESCO does not simply set global standards across education, the sciences, culture and communication, promoting excellence and working to preserve what is best; its key mission is to promote peace in the minds of people everywhere. Professor McInnes has served as a Non-Executive Director of the UKNC with special responsibility for the social and human sciences since 2014. He led the UKNC policy advice summary to UK government: *An evaluation of the World Social Science Report: Challenges and potential*. He currently holds the UNESCO Chair in HIV/AIDS, Health Security and Education in Africa and is also Director of the Centre for Health and International Relations.



## Borders and the Politics of Mourning

In October Professor Jenny Edkins spoke about missing migrants and the politics of naming at the launch event in New York of "Borders and the Politics of Mourning" a special issue published by *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, with a keynote address by Judith Butler. This special issue, co-edited by Alexandra Délano (Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility Co-Director) and Benjamin Nienass, examines the landscape of border spaces in the United States, Mexico, and Europe and the way in which interventions through a "politics of loss" challenge existing visions of the border.



## Aberystwyth 10k Race Run In Memory of Professor Mike Foley



A team from the Department of International Politics ran the Aberystwyth 10K race on Sunday 11 December 2016 in memory of former head of Department Professor Mike Foley who died in August 2016. Former colleagues, a student, an alumna and two of Professor Foley's children were part of the nine-strong team who raised £2,234.44, for leading blood cancer charity Bloodwise, exceeded their initial fundraising target of £1,500 by almost 150%. Professor Foley joined Aberystwyth University in 1974 as a lecturer in American Government and Politics, and

served the University for over 40 years in a variety of capacities. Dr Patrick Finney, a Reader in the Department, said: "Mike's death was a great shock to the Interpol community and we wanted to ensure we did something to remember him. It seemed natural to raise money for Bloodwise, the charity which the family specified for donations at his funeral." Colleagues and students will remember Mike as a committed teacher, a dedicated researcher and a very kind and thoughtful man.



## Professor Rawnsley at the Taipei Representative Office



In December 2016, Professor Gary Rawnsley was invited by the Taipei Representative Office in the UK to present his research on Taiwan's digital diplomacy. This was an advisory session, as the Office wishes to expand its public diplomacy via social media.

## Professor Margaret MacMillan delivers EH Carr Memorial Lecture

On 27 October Professor Margaret MacMillan of Oxford University and a leading expert on history and international relations, delivered the annual EH Carr Memorial Lecture, entitled 'Sometimes it matters who is in power'. The lecture, drawing on her latest book, *History's People: Personalities and the Past*, was an engrossing blend of the big picture and accounts of single individuals. It eloquently demonstrated how individuals do matter in history and can shape events in a very particular way, and perhaps in a way that no one else would have done.



## Trump Inauguration Event

On 20 January 2017, International Politics students and staff gathered in the Main Hall to watch Donald Trump being sworn in as President of the United States and to join in a discussion, led by two American members of academic staff Dr Warren Dockter and Dr Jenny Mathers, about the new administration. Presidential inaugurations hold a special place in American political culture. In his opening remarks Warren Dockter explored the history behind traditions that have become part of the event, such as the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue (which dates from Jefferson's inauguration in 1801) the inaugural address itself (pioneered by William McKinley in 1897). Warren also considered the importance of the peaceful transitions between outgoing and incoming administrations and noted that this had sometimes broken down, such as in 1869 when Andrew Johnson insisted on holding a Cabinet meeting even as his successor Ulysses S Grant was being sworn in, and when Franklin D Roosevelt refused to even meet with his successor Herbert Hoover. The discussion that followed ranged widely, including the significance of Trump's cabinet nominations, how his campaign rhetoric might be translated into policy and his turbulent relationship with the media. Trump's likely foreign policy was the focus of considerable attention, and Jenny Mathers commented on the future of the US relationship with Russia, which has generated a great deal of attention, and is likely to be driven less by specific policy issues than by Trump's more generalised desire to improve relations with Moscow.



Immediately after the live broadcast, staff and students discussed their responses to Trump's inaugural speech, commenting on the dark, dystopian picture he painted of life in America. Rather than marking a break between the election campaign that was past and the administration that was just beginning, our instant analysis suggested that Trump continues to be in campaign mode and may need this method of communication to maintain his position as an outsider who must fight against the political system that he now is expected to lead.

## Kenneth Waltz Annual Lecture delivered by Professor Jeremy Black

Professor Jeremy Black of Exeter University delivered an enthralling talk on 'War and International Relations 1400-2100' to a packed Hall in the Department of International Politics. Professor Black's lecture brought together his immense knowledge of both international relations and the history of war with authority, knowledge, verve providing a sweeping panorama of the phenomenon of war over seven centuries.



## Student representatives in Yosano, Japan

Interpol student Susy Williams will be joining seven other student Ambassadors from across the University in an eleven day visit to Aberystwyth's partner town in Japan, Yosano. While there, the group will stay with local families and meet the Mayor and the town council, as well as visit local schools, and participate in many cultural activities. Susy says she feels 'privileged to be an Interpol and Aberystwyth student', and looks forward to representing the University.

Professor Gary Rawnsley who has organised the trip, says, 'This is a fantastic opportunity for all our students and demonstrates the University's continued commitment to internationalisation. Giving students the chance to experience family life in Japan will enrich their understanding of the world as well as make lots of new friends.'



## Dr Katarzyna Kaczmarek In St Petersburg

In September 2016 Dr Katarzyna Kaczmarek started her secondment from Aberystwyth to St Petersburg. As Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow Katarzyna works with the Faculty of International Relations at the St Petersburg State University on her project 'Knowledge on International Relations in Russia.' The research, financed by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, looks into the relation between academic knowledge and foreign policy, with specific interest in Russia-EU relations. In December, she delivered a lecture at the Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg Campus on contemporary relations between the European Union and Russia titled 'A Gulf in Mutual Understanding' and focused on contemporary representations of one another in EU and Russia.



## Welcome, Dr Yu Ming!



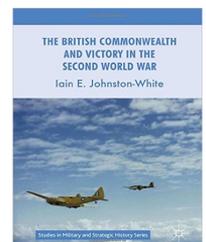
On 20 January, Interpol welcomed Dr Yu Ming as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Dr Yu teaches at the School of Art and Communication, Beijing Normal University, China and is a renowned documentary film-maker. Her latest film, produced for China's English language channel CCTV9, is Post-00s, in which she documents the lives of two children as they grow up in a fast-changing China. Dr Yu will be in Aberystwyth for two years and will work with Professor Rawnsley on documentary film as a vehicle of Chinese cultural diplomacy.

## Major Research Grant Awarded

Dr. Inanna Hamati-Ataya was recently awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant of €1.43 million to pursue a 5-year project starting in September 2017, and entitled The Global as Artefact: Understanding the Patterns of Global Political History Through an Anthropology of Knowledge-The Case of Agriculture in Four Global Systems from the Neolithic to the Present. Dr. Hamati-Ataya will recruit and lead a team of doctoral students and researchers, and establish long-term structures and networks of international cross-disciplinary collaborations through the creation of an Institute of Global Knowledge Studies (GloKnoS) at Aberystwyth University.

## Bookshelf

The British Commonwealth and Victory in the Second World War:  
Dr Iain Johnston-White



Violence and Civilization in the Western States-Systems - Professor Andrew Linklater

