

LSE

IR Spotlight

The LSE International Relations
Department Newsletter



Michaelmas Term/Lent Term 2015-16

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Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of *IR Spotlight*.

IR Spotlight is an initiative to develop our relationship and engage with International Relations alumni. We want to share the Department's ever-growing success, strong research and other activities within the School, and highlight just some of the Department's impressive achievements.

We hope that this new, bi-annual newsletter will do its part in both informing you and strengthening the ties between members of this great and vibrant community.

For future editions of *IR Spotlight*, we would very much like to hear from you. As an IR alumnus, if you have any news, memories or experiences you would like to share with us and the IR community, please get in touch and email s.wise3@lse.ac.uk.

Please read on and we hope you enjoy it!

Professor Chris Hughes, Head of Department

January 2016

Department spotlight

New developments in teaching and learning

Visual International Politics

Visual International Politics (IR318) examines how visual sources - maps, photographs, film, television, new media - influence international political phenomena, our perception of them, and public responses to them. Yet in the course students don't just watch movies – they make their own films.

Throughout the month of January, the IR Department, Learning, Technology and Innovation (LTI), and LSE Arts hosted '**Visualising International Politics**' – an exhibition showcasing six of the students' films.

In the Atrium Gallery (Old Building) this exhibition displayed the students' work on a variety of topical issues, ranging from the battle for public space in the post-9/11 era, to enduring themes such as what does it mean to be British Asian. In June 2016, the Department will also host a two-day workshop on 'Visual International Politics: Theories, Methods and Institutions'. The PhD visual methods workshop is now also being used in the LSE's Methodology Department.

Looking to the future, given the success of IR318, the Department is continuing discussions with LTI on ways to integrate video production into undergraduate and postgraduate courses more broadly, and pioneer innovative ways of teaching and assessment more widely in the School.

Visit <http://goo.gl/4Qov9w> for further information on the 'Visualising International Politics' exhibit.

Visit <https://goo.gl/YVDQYb> to view the students' films.



Follow us on Twitter ([@LSEIRDept](https://twitter.com/LSEIRDept)) and add **#VisualisingIR** to your comments.

Workshop series in International Political Economy



A robust workshop series is a key component of any teaching programme. Such a series fosters community, bringing together colleagues and students both within the department and across the School. It provides students and colleagues an opportunity to present their own work, gaining experience and feedback in the process.

The workshop series in International Political Economy (IPE), led by Dr Julia Gray and Dr James Morrison, creates a platform for staff and students to meet once a week, and discuss the latest research in IPE.

The programme, which runs for the duration of the academic year, boasts a variety of international academics including; Professor Andrew Moravcsik (Princeton University), Dr Karolina Milewicz (University College Oxford), Professor Peter Rosendorff (New York University), Professor Stephanie Walter (University of Zurich) and Professor Robert Keohane (Princeton University).

Arguably, the students stand to gain the most from this workshop. It grants them access to the visitors, allowing them to network with leading scholars, and helps them socialise and professionalise into the norms of intellectual engagement within a particular subfield.

In time, both James and Julia hope to create one of the highest profile - and best quality - IPE workshop in the world, bringing considerable benefits to the students and colleagues in the Department, raising the visibility of the Department and of the School more broadly.

If you'd like to be added to the IPE Workshop mailing list, please e-mail Dr Julia Gray (j.c.gray@lse.ac.uk) or Dr James Morrison (j.a.morrison@lse.ac.uk).

Research

News from the European Foreign Policy Unit

The **European Foreign Policy Unit (EFPU)** is one of several research units based in the IR Department. EFPU members are currently researching and writing on topics such as the EU's policies towards the Middle East and south-eastern Europe; EU-UN relations; European diplomacy; and EU trade policy. The EFPU is also part of the **ANTERO** network, a research and teaching network connecting experts on EU foreign policy across Europe, funded by the European Union (**more information here: <http://www.eufp.eu/antero>**).



Over the past year, the EFPU has been active in the current debates in the UK about the future of its relationship with the European Union. The EFPU has responded to several calls for evidence from the UK government and parliament, to contribute its combined expertise to ongoing debates about the UK's future relationship with the EU, and the future direction of EU foreign and security policy:

December 2014; evidence submitted by EFPU members to UK government's 'Review of the Balance of Competences between the UK and the EU: Enlargement', cited extensively in the final report.

September 2015; EFPU members submitted evidence to House of Lords Sub-Committee on EU External Affairs about the ongoing review of the EU's foreign policy strategy.

October 2015; EFPU members contributed evidence to House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee about the implications of 'Brexit' for British foreign policy.

The EFPU will continue to engage in the public debate about Brexit and foreign policy, as that debate heats up in the months to come.

If you'd like to know more about the EFPU, visit: **<http://goo.gl/nEYWzY>**

History and Theory in International Relations

The History and Theory (HAT) research group, set up by Dr Tarak Barkawi, Dr George Lawson and Dr James Morrison, supports researchers at the LSE (and beyond) who work on 'History and Theory in International Relations' broadly construed. It seeks both to raise the profile of historical work in IR and to deepen the historical sensibility of IR scholarship more generally.

Recent years have seen renewed interest in historically informed IR scholarship, and a turn to historical materials in the development of IR theory. The rise of constructivism, the reconvening of the English School, and the re-emergence of classical realism exemplify this trend in mainstream IR. Despite this (re)turn to history however, there is little reflection within IR about what type of history is used – and sometimes abused – by theorists.

The HAT research group addresses these concerns through three main activities including; a speaker series; a brown bag lunch series for LSE staff and students; and the development of a summer workshop in historical methods for PhDs from around the world.

Recent speakers have included Dr Jonathan Wyrzten (Yale University) and Professor Iver Neumann (LSE). This year, Dr Josef Ansorge (Yale University), Professor George Steinmetz (University of Michigan) and Dr Jeppe Mulich (LSE) will participate, and help raise the profile of historical IR, fostering links with other universities who share similar interests.

The annual PhD Colloquium will also take place in May, intended for PhD students paving the way in history and IR research.

From positivist political science to post-colonial theory, from historical sociology to the New Institutional Economics, the HAT research group builds bridges between scholars in a variety of fields who work at the nexus of history and IR.

For further information on the HAT research group, please visit:

<http://goo.gl/RkEuZY>

Third annual CAF-LSE Global South Unit Conference

The **Global South Unit (GSU)** is a research and teaching initiative based in the Department, aimed at investigating the changing role of the South in shaping the global order. Co-founded by Professor Chris Alden and Dr Alvaro Mendez, and sponsored by an IR alumnus, the remit of the GSU is to 'de-centre' the study of International Relations and focus on:

- differing dimensions of emerging power foreign policy;
- the changing dynamics of South-South cooperation;
- the impact of the Global South on key international issues such as global governance and climate change
- the relationship between North and South across political, economic, and social development dimensions

The GSU achieve this through a combination of original academic research and an active outreach programme of events and publications.

On Friday 15 January 2016, the GSU hosted its third annual CAF-LSE conference. Housed in the Shaw Library, the conference sought to contribute to understanding the rise of the global south by focusing on key international actors from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and their perspectives on 'global governance in an era of uncertainty'.

The programme featured a variety of prominent policy-makers and researchers including; Enrique García (President of CAF – Development Bank of Latin America); Leonel Fernández (Former President of the Dominican Republic); and Celso Amorim (Former Minister of Foreign Relations and Minister of Defense of Brazil).

With approximately 200 people in attendance, the success of this conference is a clear indication of the GSU's attribution to a growing global network, as a virtual and substantive centre of excellence on the study of the Global South.

Visit <http://goo.gl/InBV1> for further information on the GSU.



Follow the GSU on Twitter: [@LSE Globalsouth](https://twitter.com/LSE_Globalsouth)

LSE United States Centre

Peter Trubowitz, Professor of International Relations, is the Director of the newly launched **United States Centre** at LSE. The US Centre will serve as a hub for global expertise, analysis, and commentary on America, as well as a means to promote innovative research on the international and domestic sides of American political life.

Launched in October 2015, to address the shortage of research on US domestic politics at LSE, the US Centre pioneers an approach to understanding contemporary America that is diverse, multidisciplinary and internationalised, drawing on over 50 LSE faculty who write, teach and comment about the United States across virtually every department.

Operating across three research streams - Geopolitics and Foreign Policy, Globalisation and the Economy, and Democracy and Governance – the Centre will coordinate, advertise and financially support graduate training, scholarly research and public engagement on the US across the School.

Professor Trubowitz is joined in the Centre by Nick Kitchen, who gained his doctorate from the IR Department in 2009, and Professor Emeritus Mick Cox, who serves on the Centre's steering Committee.

A number of faculty from the department are also associated with the new Centre, including Barry Buzan, William Callahan, Christopher Coker, Jeffrey Chwieroth, Toby Dodge, Robert Falkner, Fawaz Gerges, Jurgen Haacke, Covadonga Meseguer and James Morrison.

For further information on the US Centre, please visit:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/UnitedStates/Home.aspx>



Follow the US Centre on Twitter (@LSE_US)

Staff spotlight

Introducing...: Dr Janina Dill and Dr Julia Gray



Dr Janina Dill

Dr Janina Dill joined the IR Department in September 2015 as Assistant Professor, to teach the MSc International Relations core course, International Politics, and International Political Theory, the second year BSc International Relations course.

Previously, Janina Dill was a Lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford and Associate Director of the Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict.

Dr Julia Gray also joined the IR Department in September 2015 as Assistant Professor, to teach International Political Economy and Political Economy of Trade on the MSc IPE.

Previously, Julia Gray was an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, specialising in international relations with a focus on international political economy.



Dr Julia Gray

We wish both Janina and Julia all the best in their new roles within the Department.

British Academy Mid-Career Fellowships

Associate Professors in International Relations, Dr Katerina Dalacoura and Dr Tomila Lankina, have been awarded a **British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship**. The aim of the Fellowship scheme is to both support outstanding individual

researchers with excellent research proposals, and to promote public understanding and engagement with humanities and social sciences.

Katerina's Fellowship began in September 2015, and focuses on '*Alternative Universalisms? Contemporary Turkish Discourses on Culture in International Relations*'. Tomila Lankina, whose grant began in October 2015, is conducting research into Political Mobilization in Ukraine and Russia.

An award from the AXA Research Fund

Jeffrey Chwieroth, Professor of International Political Economy, has been awarded a €250,000 award from the **AXA Research Fund** to support his latest research project.

The AXA Research Award was designed to support mid-career researchers with extremely high potential for innovation in their fields.

Professor Chwieroth will use his award to investigate the political consequences of systemic risk in non-democratic societies over the long run. The project begins this year and will be carried out until 2019.

International Relations Department Teaching Excellence Awards 2015

The Department is pleased and proud to announce that five of our staff have been awarded **Teaching Excellence Awards** by the LSE Student Union; Leo Baccini (Winner for Inspirational Teaching), Martin Hearson (Highly Commended for Excellent Feedback and Communication), Gustav Meibauer (Highly Commended for Innovative Teaching), James Morrison (Highly Commended for Excellent Welfare and Pastoral Support), and James Strong (Winner for Sharing Subject Knowledge).

Overall, the IR Department gained an impressive 25% of all nominations, which was the highest total achieved by any Department in the School.

Student spotlight

IR Cumberland Lodge Conference 2015

Report by Benjamin Mueller, PhD International Relations 2015



Cumberland Lodge

On the weekend of November 20-22 2015, the IR Department once again went on its annual weekend retreat to **Cumberland Lodge, in Windsor Great Park**.

This year's conference was entitled '*Violent International Relations in the 21st Century: New Actors, New Weapons, New Norms?*', and a good 80 students (MSc and Research) plus academic staff attended.

The conference began on Friday evening with a seminar from Dr Lauren Wilcox (University of Cambridge) on '*Bodies of Violence: Explosive Bodies, Bounded States*', before all retreated to the bar for well-deserved libations.

Saturday opened with a paper from Dr Annette Idler (University of Oxford) on '*Complex Cooperation: Shifting Alliances Among Rebels, Paramilitaries and Criminals*'. The lunchtime session then examined a paper from Dr Samir Puri (King's College London) on '*The Fallacy of "War-to-Peace Transitions" in Generational Conflicts Involving Armed Groups*'.

After a free afternoon, in which participants had a chance to enjoy the gorgeous countryside, the evening began with a paper from Dr Janina Dill (LSE) on '*Becoming 'Collateral Damage': Does International Law make Sense to the Victims of War?*'

Following dinner, Dr Michael Sulmeyer (Harvard University) discussed '*War and non-War in Cyberspace*' and, after a day of intense and stimulating academic discussion, the conference party retreated to the bar and basement, for a lively session of drinking and dancing till the wee hours.

On Sunday morning, attendees of the Matin service at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Park were delighted to find HM the Queen in attendance. It provided a memorable touch to a splendid weekend retreat of debate and socialising.



Final session

The final session of the weekend was a roundtable discussion on the changing character and definitions of war, bringing together the best of the insights from the Dr Sulmeyer, Dr Dill, Dr Puri as well as LSE's Dr James Strong.

The conclusions of this Cumberland Lodge conference are, first, that war is an evolving, changing, adapting and 'living' concept; second, that there is simultaneously has a timelessness quality to armed conflict: war remains a function of domestic politics as well as the behaviour of foreign adversaries, as has been the case since time immemorial.

To read Benjamin's full report, including a summary of each paper, visit:
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/internationalrelations/2015/12/09/cumberland-lodge-conference-2015/>

MSc Dissertation prize-winners announced



The IR Department is pleased to offer their congratulations, and announce the **MSc dissertation prize-winners** for the 2014-15 session:

The **MSc International Relations Philip Windsor Dissertation Prize** was awarded to **Maia Holtermann Entwistle** for her dissertation entitled *"Everything Leaks": Security, Pop Culture and the War on Terror*.

The **MSc International Relations Research Martin Wight Dissertation Prize** was awarded to **Christopher Murray** for his dissertation entitled *Hybrid Visions of African Sovereignty: empire, pan-African society, and the co-constitution of international moral order*.

The **MSc International Political Economy Susan Strange Dissertation Prize** was awarded to **Etienne Lepers** for her dissertation entitled *The Neutrality Illusion: Biased Economics, Biased Training & Biased Monetary Policy: Testing the Role of Ideology on FOMC voting behaviour*.

The **MSc International Relations Theory Fred Halliday Dissertation Prize** was awarded to **Jacob Kripp** for his dissertation entitled *"Idealism as Rage" Theodor Adorno and the Failed Intersubjective Epistemology of Critical Theory*.

IR student Dimitrios Stroikos wins ISA prize

One of the IR Department's PhD students, Dimitrios Stroikos, has been awarded 'The English School Award for Outstanding Research Paper by a Younger Scholar' by the International Studies Association (ISA) English School section, for his paper on *"International Society in Orbit: Reconceptualizing Order on the Higher Frontier."* The paper draws from his thesis that deals with the space programmes of China and India. The thesis is supervised by Professor Christopher Hughes. He will receive the award at the 2016 ISA convention in Atlanta.



2015 Millennium Conference

Millennium, a peer-reviewed journal operated by postgraduate students within the IR Department, ran their annual conference in October 2015. After a record number of abstract and paper submissions, the organisers put together a two-day programme on *'Failure and Denial in World Politics'*.

Hosted at the School, a variety of speakers, including Professor Cynthia Enloe (Clark University) and Bruno Latour, took to the stage to offer stimulating theoretical explorations of this problematique within IR. After its resounding success, the *Millennium* Conference will no doubt return later this year.

For further information on *Millennium* please visit: <http://goo.gl/sjRQcp>

Alumni spotlight

MSc IR alumnus appointed cabinet minister in the Government of Canada



Catherine McKenna

Catherine McKenna, who studied for an MSc in IR at LSE in 1996, has been appointed cabinet minister in the Government of Canada.

Announced on November 4, 2015, Catherine was appointed Minister of Environment and Climate Change in the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Party, Justin Trudeau.

This appointment follows a lengthy campaign as representative of the Ottawa Centre district in the Canadian House of Commons for the 2015 federal election.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine will take the lead in implementing the government's plan for a clean environment and a sustainable economy. Her key priority will be to ensure that the Canadian government provides national leadership to reduce emissions, combat climate change and price carbon, and help restore Canada's reputation for environmental stewardship.

We offer our congratulations to Catherine, and wish her success in this new role.

Calling all IR Alumni!

If you have some news, an achievement, or an aspect of LSE life that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you - please get in touch! Our contact details are listed at the end of this newsletter.

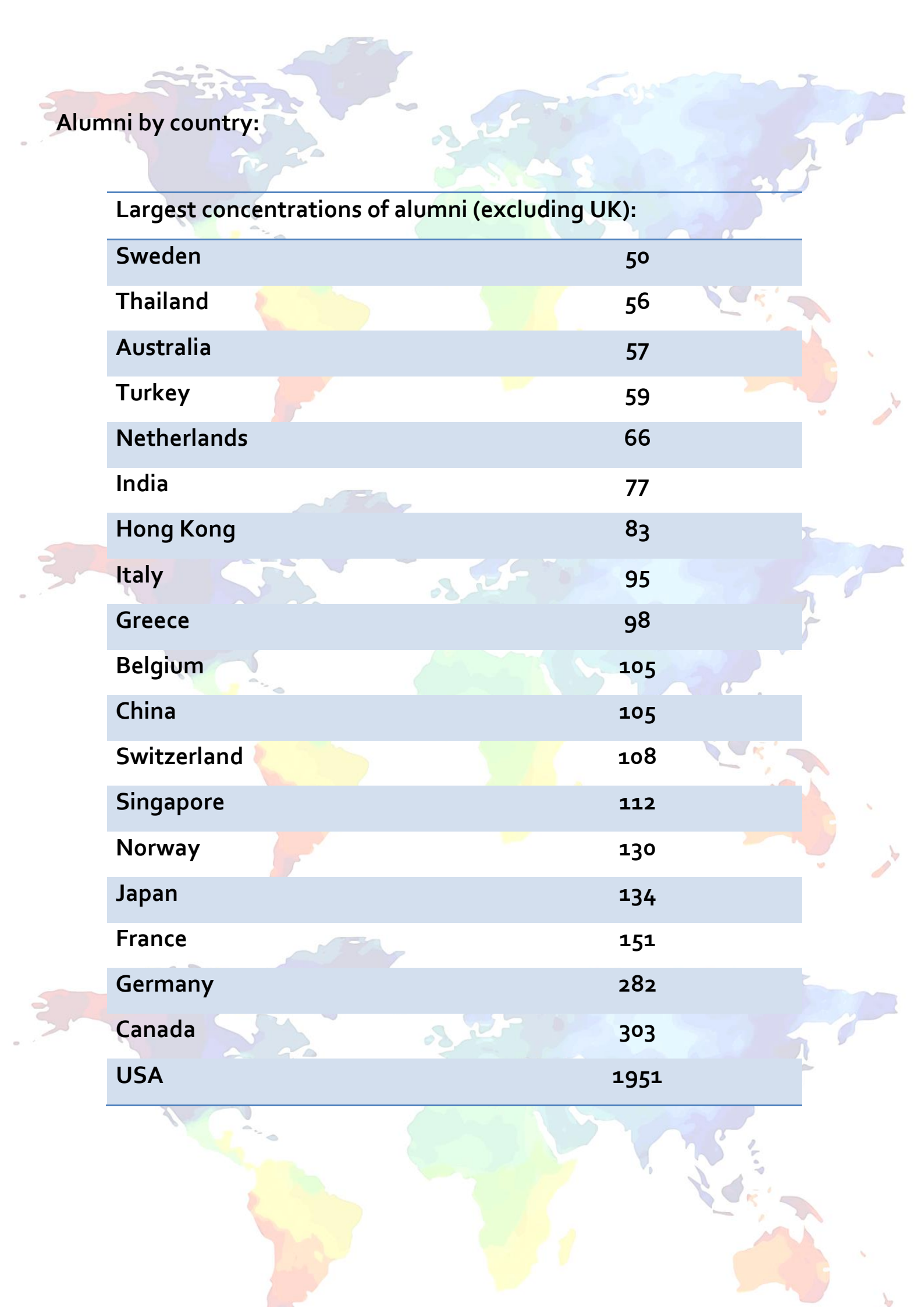
IR Alumni: Facts and figures

Total number of IR alumni on database:

9728

Alumni by class year:

1930	10
1940	28
1950	97
1960	256
1970-75	243
1976-80	499
1981-85	904
1986-90	1042
1991-95	1156
1996-2000	1335
2001	255
2002	270
2003	280
2004	248
2005	264
2006	310
2007	328
2008	291
2009	313
2010	294
2011	302
2012	324
2013	357
2014	322

A faint world map is visible in the background of the entire page. The map uses a color gradient where warmer colors (red, orange, yellow) represent higher values and cooler colors (blue, purple) represent lower values. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

Alumni by country:

Largest concentrations of alumni (excluding UK):

Sweden	50
Thailand	56
Australia	57
Turkey	59
Netherlands	66
India	77
Hong Kong	83
Italy	95
Greece	98
Belgium	105
China	105
Switzerland	108
Singapore	112
Norway	130
Japan	134
France	151
Germany	282
Canada	303
USA	1951

Publications and events

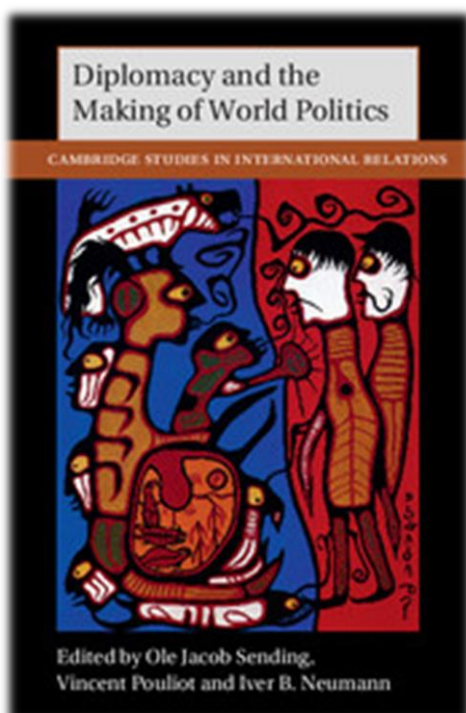
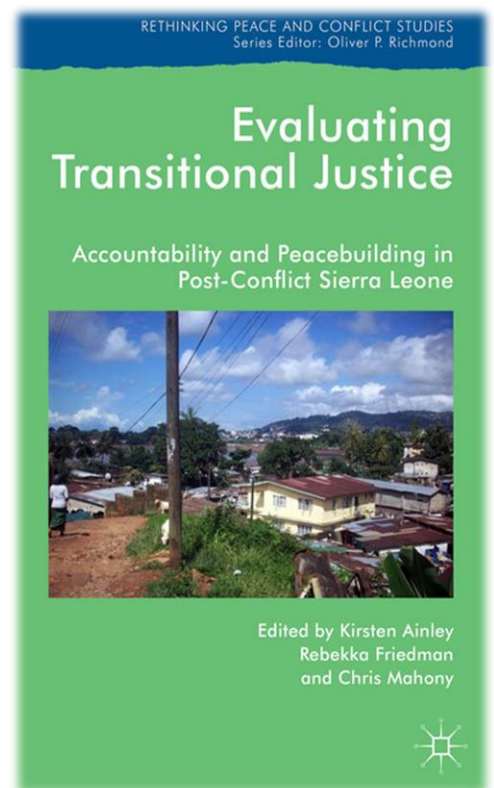
Recent publications

Evaluating Transitional Justice: Accountability and Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone (Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies)

Edited by Kirsten Ainley (LSE), Rebekka Friedman (King's College London), Chris Mahony (University of Oxford)

Published: July 2015, Palgrave Macmillan

This major study examines the successes and failures of the full transitional justice programme in Sierra Leone. It sets out the implications of the Sierra Leonean experience for other post-conflict situations and for the broader project of evaluating transitional justice.



Diplomacy and the Making of World Politics

Edited by Ole Jacob Sending (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs), Vincent Pouliot (McGill University), Iver B. Neumann (LSE)

Published: August 2015, Cambridge University Press

This book examines world politics through the lens of diplomatic practice. It argues that many global phenomena of our time, from the making of international law to the constitution of international public power, through

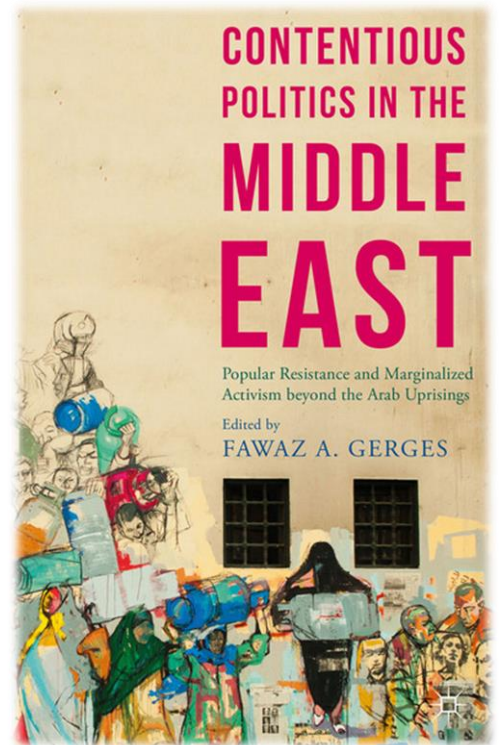
humanitarianism and the maintenance of global hierarchies, are made possible and shaped by evolving forms of diplomacy.

Contentious Politics in the Middle East: Popular Resistance and Marginalized Activism Beyond the Arab Uprisings

Edited by Fawaz A. Gerges (LSE)

Published: September 2015, Palgrave Macmillan

While the Arab people took centre stage in the Arab Spring protests, academic studies have focused more on structural factors to understand the limitations of these popular uprisings. This book analyses the role and complexities of popular agency in the Arab Spring through the framework of contentious politics and social movement theory.

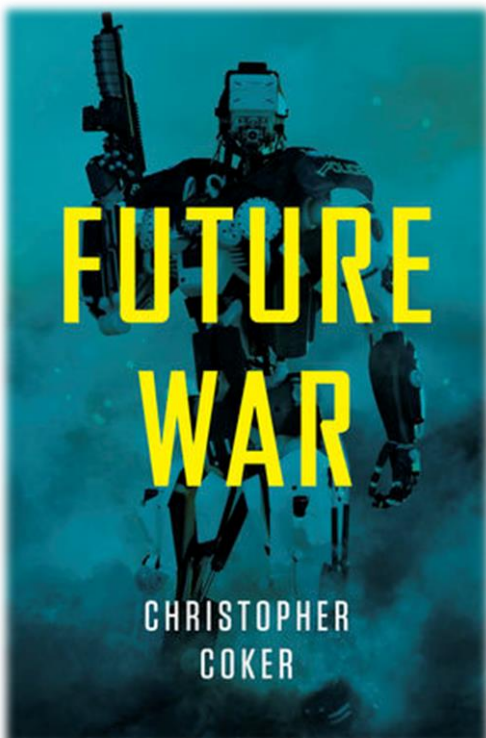


Future War

By Christopher Coker (LSE)

Published: September 2015, Polity

In this illuminating new book Christopher Coker takes us on an incredible journey into the future of warfare. Focusing on contemporary trends that are changing the nature and dynamics of armed conflict, he shows how conflict will continue to evolve in ways that are unlikely to render our century any less bloody than the last.



Previous events 2014-15

Last year, the IR Department hosted a wealth of world-renowned speakers for an array of impressive lectures.

Highlights include;



Professor
Robert Keohane

Nominal Democracy? Prospects for Democratic Global Governance

Professor Robert Keohane, October 2014

Robert Keohane is Professor of International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Is the American Century Over?

Professor Joseph Nye, June 2015

Joseph Nye is University Distinguished Service Professor and former Dean of the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

What is the Responsibility to Protect?

Professor Michael Walzer, March 2015

Michael Walzer is Professor Emeritus of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: the politics of the UN Security Council's approach to the protection of civilians

Professor Anne-Marie Goetz, November 2015

Anne-Marie Goetz is Clinical Professor at the Centre for Global Affairs, New York University, and Chief Advisory on Peace and Security for UN Women.



Professor Anne-
Marie Goetz

For a full list of our previous events, where you can also download the podcast, please visit: <http://goo.gl/g1R8sJ>

Forthcoming events 2016

The following events are free and open to all, with no ticket or pre-registration required.

IR Public Lecture

Thursday 11 February 2016, 5.00 – 6.30pm

When War Is Oikonomia By Other Means

Professor Patricia Owens (University of Sussex)

Clement House, Room 7.02

This lecture will present a new history and theory of counterinsurgency with major implications for social, political and international thought.

IR Public Lecture

Friday 12 February 2016, 2.30 – 4.00pm

The Future of the EU in the Face of BREXIT

Enrico Letta (Dean of Sciences Po and former PM of Italy)

Old Theatre, Old Building

IR Public Lecture

Friday 26 February 2016, 12.30 – 2.00pm

Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of Conflict Resolution

Professor Séverine Autesserre (Columbia University)

Clement House, Room 4.02

Peaceland suggests a new explanation for why international peace interventions often fail to reach their full potential.

IR Public Lecture

Monday 29 February 2016, 1.30 – 3.00pm

What is an "Islamic state"? Rethinking sovereignty historically in Muslim contexts

Dr Ayşe Zarakol (University of Cambridge)

New Academic Building, Room 1.04

In this lecture, Ayşe Zarakol will contextualise the concept of the 'state' ('dawla') historically in various Muslim contexts and discuss how the legacy of such historical understandings may be informing present day practices of ISIS/Daesh, as well other actors with similar inspirations.

IR Public Lecture

Wednesday 2 March 2016, 1.30 – 3.00pm

Nuclear Contrapuntality: The Articulation of a Postcolonial Global Disarmament Ethic

Professor Shampa Biswas (Whitman College)

Clement House, Room 7.02

In place of an abstracted or parochial globalism, this lecture conceives of a different kind of globalism, involving a felt and sympathetic awareness of the multiple experiences of a cohabited nuclear world.

IR Workshop

Wednesday 9 March 2016, 2.00 – 3.30pm

Brexit and EU foreign policy: the view from other EU member states

20 Kingsway, Room G.01

For a full list of our forthcoming events, or further information, please visit:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalRelations/events/events.aspx>

Contact us

If you have some news, an achievement, or an aspect of LSE life that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch via:

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Follow us on Twitter: [@LSEIRDept](https://twitter.com/LSEIRDept) 

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