Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to Trinity 2012. I hope everyone had a good Easter break and certainly a break of some sort.

Last term was extraordinarily busy with mixed successes.

We have made three outstanding new permanent appointments. Professor Dominic Johnson has been elected as the first Alistair Buchan Chair (after its conversion from a Readership on Avi Shlaim’s retirement). Dominic, who is currently at the University of Edinburgh, will take up the post (held at St Antony’s) in September 2013 after spending next academic year at Princeton. Professor Catherine de Vries will join us, and Lincoln College, from the University of Geneva in September as the new University Lecturer in Comparative European Politics. Dr Karolina Milewicz will take up the UL in International Political Economy at Univ. Together they will make a tremendous contribution to the Department, adding new dimensions to our research profile and strong methods training skills. We also welcome Dr Nael Jebril to a 3-year post-doctoral position in the Politics of the Media. Nael will work in RISJ. At the same time, we have decided to re-open searches for posts in Comparative Political Economy at Magdalen in MT and Comparative Politics and Government at St Anne’s currently advertised. A UL at Worcester in Political Theory is to be shortlisted in 0th week. And that is not all, since we have at least one DL and one Research Fellowship currently under active consideration.

Many of you will have been involved in the 5-year Divisional Review of the Department last term. Thank you for that! I have little to report yet on that since...
From the Head of Department, continued

we still await the report. I will have first sight of it as HoD and will make some comments of my own. Then, the report with any amendments will come to the Department as a whole via its committees for discussion and response. I wish I could say that we would be able to complete the response over the next term – I hope we will – but this will depend on the report and its recommendations and what we propose to do. Of course, I will update you as and when.

I am squeezing in writing this before the start of Day 2 of the programme the Department is running for Indian MPs, our first foray into ‘executive education’. This programme is being sponsored by the FCO and the interests of the MPs match our capacities pretty perfectly. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the Department who made presentations – Timothy Garton Ash, Iain McLean, Jennifer Welsh, Mark Philp, and those beyond the Department who also contributed – David King, Ian Goldin, Karl Gerth, John Lloyd, Pegram Harrison. (I will even make a presentation myself with my colleague Eamonn Molloy at Pembroke.) I need also to thank David Hine and Stewart Wood for the huge efforts they put in to arrange a programme in Parliament. And most of all, thanks to Genevieve Garrido who really worked above and beyond to manage all the logistics. We will make decent money in the end out of the programme. We have also learned a few lessons – not least about food preferences. And we hope to have established a relationship with the MPs and the FCO that will mean more such programmes in future. Please see a short report on page 13 of this newsletter.

Other core activities run on. The Department’s REF panel is finalising its response to the Division-led dry-run due early this term. Thanks to everyone for responding to our requests for information about publications and impact case-studies. We are receiving some mixed or at least complex messages just now from the University and Division about the level of inclusivity that we should pursue in our submission. We have also been asked to consider in the dry-run submitting some people under various UoAs – chiefly Area Studies but also Communications and Media Studies – to see what would work best in terms of REF returns (under certain assumptions). Our aim is to be as open as possible about our decision process and we will have discussions with everyone if there is any question about the UoA to which they might be submitted or in some cases about whether they are to be not submitted at all.

The ‘Bermeo Commission’ to review graduate programmes in Politics rolls on. We are taking our time to do this right. Nancy conducted a very helpful survey of Politics students last term – achieving a near 100% response rate – that threw out some very interesting results. The Commission hopes to report to GPC this term. The review takes place against a backdrop of developments elsewhere that I think require our response. For example, the LSE Government Department will from its next September intake provide full funding to all its doctoral students. We have the aspiration to do the same. Now we must find the means. And it is difficult to see how, given our healthy but hardly wealthy financial position, without making important choices about how we run our graduate programmes. (We have already made some tough decisions about ‘size and shape’ of the Department that will also help provide support for studentships.)

Anyway, off now to see the MPs.

Best wishes

Stephen Whitefield, Head of Department
People

The Department would like to welcome the following new staff:

Research Staff:

- **Dr Nael Jebril**, Career Development Fellow, RISJ (started 16/03/12). Please see a profile on page 5.
- **Dr Hugo Slim**, Senior Research Fellow, ELAC (started 01/03/12)
- **Nicola Horsburgh**, Junior Research Fellow, 21st Century Concerts of Power Project (A Hurrell) (started 26/03/12)

Administrative Staff:

- **Tim Barnett**, Personnel Officer, covering Sophie Forsey’s maternity leave (started 07/03/12)
- **Maria Moreno**, Courses Manager (returned from maternity leave)
- **Wendy Wilkin**, PPE Administrator (transferred from the International Growth Centre, Economics)

The following member of Administrative Staff has left the Department and we wish her well:

- **Beatrice Itan-Tovar**, Ex-Courses Administrator

The Department would like to welcome the following new visitors:

- **Prof Toshihiko Aono**, Hitotsubashi University
- **Dr Bhumitra Chakma**, University of Hull
- **Dr Giorgos Charalambous**, University of Cyprus
- **Prof Henar Criado**, University Complutense
- **Dr Karolina Milewicz**, University of Essex
- **Mr Murat Eren**, Ege University
- **Mr Kadira Pethiyagoda**, University of Melbourne/Australian Government
- **Mr Jonathan Pickering**, Australian National University
- **Miss Nino Zhghenti**, University of Milan

Research centre and programme visitors are listed under each centre / programme.

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New Baby!

Congratulations to Sophie Forsey and family on the birth of her daughter Olivia Grace!
Philipp Amour

I joined the Department of Politics and International Relations in January 2011 as a visiting postdoctoral fellow. Prior to this, I completed my conjoined BA and MA (2001–2006) in contemporary history and political science (University of Fribourg) and in Islamic studies (University of Bern).

For my PhD thesis at the University of Fribourg (2006–2010), I examined the transformation of the Palestinians and the institution building process from 1948–1983. More specifically, I challenged prevailing orthodoxies on the history and politics of the Palestinians and investigated the role of the intelligentsia in building para-state institutions and in fostering socio-economic and political changes within the Palestinians in exile. Many of these para-state institutions were retained to play a central role in the nation- and state-building process post 1993.

As a historian and a political scientist, I attempt to provide empirical analysis of political and social dynamics (based on fieldwork or on indigenous primary materials) combined with underlying political theory. From this perspective I spent three years conducting field research in several Middle Eastern countries on several topics and subjects, including the Palestinian political and social transformation process (my MA and PhD project) and international relations and related historical cross-regional narratives (my postdoctoral projects). From 2007–2010, I was a doctoral visiting fellow at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, and at Birzeit University in the Palestinian territories.

Due to my interdisciplinary education, I have research interests across a broad spectrum of politics, diplomacy, international relations and research methods. My particular areas of expertise are comparative politics of the Middle East, security system of the Gulf region, conflict and negotiation (particularly Israel/Palestine), politics and international relations of the developed world and Swiss-Middle Eastern relations.

My current research at the University of Oxford expands upon my doctoral thesis. I explore Swiss–Middle Eastern relations (a project funded by SNF) and especially focus on the Libya–Switzerland diplomatic dispute from 2008–2010 and the official endorsement of the referendum banning minaret construction in 2009. I am really interested in issues concerning the international relations of Western neutral and small countries with the Middle East. European–Middle Eastern relations have often been a reflection of the classic Western powers.

I also have a side research project focusing on the current Arab uprisings. My aim is to analyse comparatively the countries that have been upswept in uprisings and to examine the impact of the political transition on the Middle Eastern security system. Here I would like to explore the potential role of neutral countries in promoting and transferring global values of modernity (e.g. freedom, practices of participation, justice, emancipation and democracy) into Arab and Islamic societies.

From 2011 to the present, I have been able to revise my doctoral thesis for publication as a book, to publish a journal article entitled ‘Practical, Theoretical and Methodological Challenges of Field Research in the Middle East’ (forthcoming this summer in the Historical Methods journal) and to widely examine Swiss–Arab relations (I have three articles in the last preparation phase). I have also provided tutorial teaching in Politics and International Relations of the Developed World (Magdalen College/OSAP).

As a visiting postdoctoral fellow with a Swiss academic background, I really admire the Oxford academic traditions and appreciate the facilities offered to visiting fellows. These enable me to research extensively over the course of my visit and to be academically productive. The on-going academic conferences and talks give me the opportunity to enrich my knowledge and to exchange my thoughts with a range of experts in my field. I must say: Oxford is addictive – once you have been here, you want to come again!

Philipp Amour

www.philipp-amour.ch

dr@philipp-amour.ch
Giulia Sandri

Dr Giulia Sandri is Wiener-Anspach Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford. Giulia holds a PhD in Political Science from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

After graduating from a Masters in International Relations (University of Turin) and a Masters in European Studies (ULB) in 2005, she worked as a research assistant on different research projects at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and then at ULB (mainly on political participation, representation and also on sub-national democracy in the European Union). Her doctoral dissertation, directed by Prof Pascal Delwit and entitled ‘Intra-party democracy and political activism: a comparative analysis of attitudes and behaviours of grass-roots party members’, analyzed the impact of perceived roles and party organizational changes on members’ internal mobilization, loyalty and political attitudes through original survey data in three parties (UK Labour party, Belgian Socialist party and Italian Democratic party).

From 2007 to 2011, she collaborated in the research project ‘PARTIREP – Changing Patterns of Participation and Representation in Contemporary Democracies’ (http://www.partirep.eu) directed by Prof Kris Deschouwer (VUB). Within this framework, she took part in the implementation of various voters and elites’ (national and sub-national MPs) surveys.

She is currently collaborating in other research projects, among which the international project ‘MAPP – Members and Activists of Political Parties’, (http://www.projectmapp.eu/) coordinated by Emilie van Haute (ULB) and Wolfgang Rüdig (Strathclyde University), on cross-national comparative surveys on party members. She is also collaborating with the Standing Group on Candidate and Leadership Selection of the Italian Political Science Association (http://www.candidateandleaderselection.eu/) in the systematic data collection on national, regional and local primary elections in Italy (surveys, focus groups and aggregate electoral data). She recently published in Politics and Policy, Ethnopolitics and Regional and Federal Studies.

She is currently co-editing with Prof Mario Telò a special issue of Comparative European Politics on the quality of Italian democracy. Her main research interests are party politics, primary elections, political behavior, and quality of democracy, ethnoregional parties and regional elections. She is currently collaborating with Prof David Hine on a comparative project on the impact of leadership selection methods on party internal power distribution in UK, France, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands.

Nael Jebril

In March 2012, I joined the Department of Politics and International Relations and the Reuters Institute for the study of Journalism as a Career Development Fellow in Media and Democracy. During my current post, I will be doing cross-national comparative research about media audiences and change for democracy in the Middle East, while contributing to teaching and service at DPIR and RISJ. My research interests include political communication, audience studies, media effects, and democratization and the media.

Prior to joining Oxford, I worked as a PhD candidate and lecturer at the Department of Political Science and Public Management at the University of Southern Denmark, where I received my PhD degree in Journalism in 2011. Broadly, my doctoral dissertation dealt with the effects of various political news media on the dynamics of public opinion in England, Denmark and Spain. The goal of my research, which draws on large-scale panel surveys and news content analyses in each country, was to test, re-assess and refine a number of propositions regarding the malign influences of news media on political perception and cognition at a time where the characteristics of political coverage have changed. My thesis manuscript was published as a book by the University Press of Southern Denmark in 2011, and a new co-authored
Nael Jebril (continued from p. 5)

book and journal articles on relevant political communication topics are currently under review.

As a PhD candidate, I had been a long-term visiting scholar at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research at the University of Amsterdam. Before that, I earned my master’s degree in Global Journalism from Örebro University in Sweden, and had been a visiting postgraduate at the Universities of Helsinki and Tampere in Finland and the Journalism program at the University College in Oslo. My experience in Europe was a progression of my work at different Palestinian institutes, among the highlights of these was the Disengagement Unit, where I held a key position liaising between the Palestinian ministerial and civic committees which addressed the Israeli unilateral withdrawal from the settlements in the Gaza Strip in 2005.

Nael Jebril

Training events at the Higher Education Academy

The Higher Education Academy is holding training events for those working in Politics and International Relations in Higher Education. Please book places at these free events by contacting the organiser (at the email address given at the bottom of the event webpage).

Upcoming courses include:

- Feeding Back, Looking Forwards: The Role of Assessment Feedback in the Student Experience (Canterbury Christ Church, 2 May) www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/seminars/disciplines/DW149
- Teaching Speaking: The Academic and the Vocational (Goldsmiths, University of London, 17 May) www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2012/seminars/disciplines/DW136

For the most up-to-date list of Politics events, please go to www.heacademy.ac.uk/events?disciplines=Politics.

You can also apply to cover travel costs from the HEA’s UK Travel Fund.

DPIR ‘People’ Webpages

Please keep your DPIR online profile up to date at http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/index.php/people/people.html!

For information about updating your profile, please contact Jason Hussain, jason.hussain@politics.ox.ac.uk
Research Bulletin Board

Research Centre and Programme Announcements

Centre for International Studies (CIS)
Director: Professor Kalypso Nicolaïdis
http://cis.politics.ox.ac.uk

• CIS Events
• CIS welcomes the following visitor:
  • Ms Sadaf Aziz, Lahore University

Global Economic Governance Programme (GEG)
Director: Professor Ngaire Woods
http://www.globaleconomicgovernance.org

• GEG Event: ‘Three Challenges to Globalization: Migration, Health and Natural Resources’, 4 May 12–1.30pm
  Seminar Room G, Manor Rd Building

Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders Fellowship Programme (GLF)
Director: Professor Ngaire Woods
http://glf.politics.ox.ac.uk

Profiles for the Programme's three Global Leader Fellows for 2011-13 are online: Dr Anar Ahmadov (Azerbaijan), Dr Luara Ferracioli (Brazil) and Dr Jin Jiyong (China).

Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC)
Directors: Professor Jennifer Welsh, Mr Dapo Akande (Faculty of Law) and Dr David Rodin
http://www.elac.ox.ac.uk

Events
• ELAC will co-host another exciting series of Tuesday lunchtime seminars with the Changing Character of War Programme in Trinity Term. Speakers will include Professor Alan Kuperman on Intervention in Libya: A Humanitarian Success?, and William Lietzau (US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rule of Law & Detainee Policy) – Detention in 21st Century Armed Conflict.
• ELAC will also host several special panel discussions this term, on Curbing the Arms Trade, Religion in War and Peace and a topical event on The ICC at 10. Visit the ELAC website or sign up to our mailing list to receive further details.

All ELAC Events

• The institute has recently published a policy briefing summarising some of the key issues from the research project ‘The Responsibility to Prevent: Developing Ad-hoc and Systemic Strategies’. This two-year project was funded by the Australian Responsibility to Protect Fund, focussing on a comprehensive strategic framework for understanding and implementing measures to prevent mass atrocities, and analyses the effectiveness of preventive strategies. The document is available to download from the ELAC website.
• We are very pleased to welcome Dr Alex Leveringhaus to ELAC as our new Post-Doctoral Research Fellow seconded from the University of Delft as part of the NWO funded collaborative project ‘Military Human Enhancement: Design for Responsibility and Combat Systems’. He will specifically focus on the research theme ‘The Changing Context of the Ethics and Laws of War: Technology, Norms and Strategy’.
• Dr Hugo Slim, former ELAC Visiting Fellow, has recently joined DPIR as Senior Research Fellow to focus on a new project within ELAC designed to deliver the first major practical text on humanitarian ethics in war and disaster, and develop professional ethics in humanitarian organizations to new standards of care and accountability.

ELAC welcomes the following visitors:
• Prof Max Du Plessis, University of KwaZulu
• Dr Nina Jorgensen, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Centre for Political Ideologies (CPI)
Directors: Dr Elizabeth Frazer and Dr David Leopold
http://cpi.politics.ox.ac.uk

• CPI Events: please note that the lunchtime seminar programme continues into Trinity term – Thursdays (weeks 1, 2, 3, 4) 1 – 2pm, Seminar Room B in the DPIP
Research Bulletin Board

Research Centre and Programme Announcements, continued

Oxford Centre for the Study of Inequality and Democracy (OCSID)
Director: Professor Nancy Bermeo
http://ocsid.politics.ox.ac.uk

- OCSID Events

Public Policy Unit (PPU)
DirectorResearch Director: Professor Iain McLean
http://ppu.politics.ox.ac.uk

- PPU Events

Centre for the Study of Social Justice (CSSJ)
Director: Professor Simon Caney
http://social-justice.politics.ox.ac.uk

- CSSJ Events

- CSSJ welcomes the following visitors:
  - Prof Loren King, Wilfred Laurier University
  - Dr Dominic Roser, University of Zurich

Oxford-Sciences Po Research Group in the Social Sciences (OXPO)
Director: Dr Florence Faucher
http://oxpo.politics.ox.ac.uk

- OXPO Events

Oxford Research Network on Government in Africa (OReNGA)
http://orenga.politics.ox.ac.uk

- OReNGA Events

Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ)
Director: Dr David Levy
http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk

- RISJ Events

For a report on three recent high-profile RISJ events, please see page 10.

RISJ Recent Publication

Squeezing Out the Oxygen – or Reviving Democracy? The History and Future of the TV Election Debates in the UK, Report by Ric Bailey

The impact of the TV debates during the 2010 Election campaign has led many to assume they will now become a permanent feature of UK general elections. This firsthand account of how those debates were negotiated also looks back on why it took 50 years for them to arrive in Britain and draws lessons both from that failure and the 2010 success to analyse the prospects for TV debates at the next general election. The report examines the arguments over whether debates are appropriate for the UK’s parliamentary democracy, if they reduce elections to “X-Factor” politics or instigate a crucial improvement in democratic engagement. It warns that, despite their galvanising impact on the 2010 campaign, especially for younger voters, future debates cannot be taken for granted if old difficulties recur and some new ones emerge. Download the report.

New Fellowship Funding

The RISJ is pleased to announce the creation of a new Said-Asfari Fellowship jointly sponsored by the Asfari Foundation and the Said Foundation.

The Fellowship will enable one journalist from the Levant region (Lebanon, Syria or Palestine) to join the RISJ Journalism Fellowship Programme for 6 months in the academic year 2012–13. The application process is under way and will close on 25th April. Details on how to apply are at http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/fellowships/apply.html.
Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (MDCEE)
Director: Professor Jan Zielonka
http://mde.politics.ox.ac.uk

Events

- During Hilary term, the project took advantage of having a number of Polish visitors with us, to host a seminar titled, Common Good after ‘Solidarity’: Reflections on Democracy and Media in Poland. This was very well attended and drew attendees from the University’s Polish student and academic community.

- Media, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Central and Eastern Europe
  In February we hosted a two-day conference in Oxford hosted by Professor Martin Krygier (UNSW) and Professor Jan Zielonka.

  All our speakers, from over eight different countries, made it to Oxford through the February snow to present to audiences drawn from academia, journalism and students.

  The conference programme can be found here. Further details, including podcasts and presentations will be available shortly on the project website.

- Models of public media in Poland and in Europe
  In March, MDCEE co-organised a conference in Warsaw with the National Broadcasting Council of Poland, in collaboration with Polish Public Television, Polish Public Radio and the Civil Committee for Public Media. Professor Zielonka gave a presentation on behalf of the project which was held under the Honor Patronage of the President of the Polish Republic, Bronisław Komorowski.

  Dr David Levy (Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism and MDCEE Advisory Board Member) also presented. The conference programme can be seen here.

- A number of our research team attended a jointly organised conference on The Media, Democracy and Political Culture in Perugia, in March. The programme for the conference can be found here. The conference was hosted by Professor Paolo Mancini (University of Perugia and MDCEE Advisory Board Member).

- Further details of all forthcoming events will be posted at MDCEE Events

Visiting Fellows

- MDCEE welcomes the following Visiting Fellows:
  - MDCEE’s Senior Research Fellows will be conducting the project’s 3rd year fieldwork during and after the Trinity term 2012.
  - The research is based heavily on in-depth interviews with key political and media stakeholders throughout our area of study. This year we plan to conduct research in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
  - We are grateful to all our Visiting Fellows from last term, who contributed to a very busy and successful period for the project. Full details of all our previous visitors can be found on the project website. We anticipate another ‘full house’ of senior visitors next year, from a range of academic and professional backgrounds.

Anglo-German ‘State of the State’ Fellowship Programme, 2010-11
Director: Dr Radoslaw Zubek
http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/index.php/research-projects/anglo-german-project.html

- Registration is now open for Transformations of the State, a conference to be held on Friday 11 May. Please see full details on page 12.

Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods for Social Research
Director: Professor Geoffrey Evans
http://springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk

- A course titled Multilevel Analysis, taught by Tom Snijders and Daniel Stegmueller, was held 16–19 April 2012. The course gave an introduction to multilevel modelling and was attended by approximately 30 participants.

  Course materials for all past Spring School courses are available online on the course archive webpage.
RISJ Conference and Event Reports

RISJ/BBC David Butler Lecture
The second annual Reuters Institute / BBC David Butler Lecture took place on 5th March at the BBC Council Chamber at Broadcasting House in London. The lecture, entitled ‘The Second Superpower’ was given by Peter Kellner, Director of the polling organisation YouGov.

The lecture and discussion were chaired by Nick Robinson, BBC News Political Editor, and attracted a large and distinguished audience including political editors from UK TV networks and newspapers, and representatives from the House of Lords and House of Commons.

The lecture was televised on BBC Parliament on Saturday 17 March and subsequently is available online via the BBC Democracy Now website.

The full text of the lecture can be found on RISJ's website.

Conference: Media and the Boundaries of Disclosure: Media, Morals, Public Shaming and Privacy

Papers presented by participants explored why both privacy and disclosure are important and the extent to which privacy is warranted for activities outside the scope of professional lives from philosophical, ethical, legal and practice-oriented points of view.

A publication based on the conference is being prepared and is expected to be completed within a year.

Details of the participants and programme are available on the RISJ website.

Conference: Political Journalism in Transition
In March, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism hosted a workshop on political journalism in transition focused on Western Europe. The event was supported by the Department of Politics and International Relations and by Queen Mary, University of London, and brought together a range of academic experts and professional practitioners from eight countries to discuss how political journalism is changing today and what it means for democracy. The presentations are being collected for an edited volume on the topic expected to be published in 2013.

Details of the participants and programme are available online.

Research Funding deadlines
Research funding opportunities are listed on the website at:

If you would like to apply for any of the schemes, please contact Rasangi Prematilaka (rasangi.prematilaka@politics.ox.ac.uk) by the dates given in the ‘Contact RST by’ column at the latest.
The Politics in Spires blog is ‘on the up’!

“Politics InSpires has the potential to become a major site for thoughtful commentary on current affairs. Given the outstanding faculty, students, and research staff in DPIR and the incredible number of alumni who dominate politics and international relations in the UK and around the world, Politics in Spires really just needs a little bit of seed money and a few lucky breaks before it will start to catch the world’s attention.”

Christine Cheng, Bennett Boskey Fellow in Politics and International Relations

The DPIR communications team (Kate Candy and James Baldwin) and Blake Ewing, Graduate Editor and DPhil student in Politics, are making great strides in making Politics in Spires, the Department blog, a nationally recognised source for expert academic expertise and commentary. Run in partnership with POLIS at the University of Cambridge, the blog has forged important links with academic blogs at other universities in the UK and worldwide. Two of the most prominent blogs are hosted by the faculty at the LSE and University of Nottingham respectively.

Our blog, with a new look to its home page, now attracts thousands of unique visitors a week and now boasts an average of 30 posts per month on a wide range of topics. Politics in Spires is very popular with DPhil students and the wider graduate community. It has also seen an increasing amount of posts and social media traffic from academics and post doctoral fellows.

As the LSE’s Patrick Dunleavy and Chris Gilson write, blogs and social media are becoming important new ways to share and link to recent scholarship - books, journal articles and seminar papers - and connect with current and prospective students. The Graduate Editor is keen to integrate the blog with other social media profiles and existing staff blogs and websites. Moreover he is keen to set up blogger debates around certain topic areas (such as US elections or EU after the financial crisis). Further suggestions are most welcome.

If you are interested in learning more about the blog or have suggestions, please get in touch at Oxbridge.blog@gmail.com

Blake Ewing, Graduate Editor

Visit Politics in Spires: http://politicsinspires.org

Follow us on Twitter! @PoliticsinSpires

Blake Ewing and Kate Candy have taken part in a video podcast about the blog for the Learning Technologies Group at OUCS. The ‘vodcast’ is part of a series of podcasts to capture examples of innovative technology use in teaching and learning at Oxford.
Four forthcoming events to note:

**Anglo-German State of the State Fellowship Programme, Third Conference, ‘Transformations of the State’**
9am – 6.30pm, 11 May 2012, Manor Road Building

Functions of the modern state have disintegrated, power has shifted to other actors, supra-state constitutional polities and political systems have emerged, and citizens even adhere to legal rules that are not backed by the classical notion of state power. This conference brings together lawyers and political scientists to identify and discuss functions and transformations of the modern state with reference to the applicable normative frameworks and the relevant socio-political developments. Professor Desmond King will be the keynote speaker.

**‘Volcano: A Symposium to Discuss and Respond to the Global Crisis’**
12- 13th May, Ashmolean Museum,

The Department is proud to be co-organising ‘Volcano: A Symposium to Discuss and Respond to the Global Crisis’ in conjunction with the Ashmolean Museum. The symposium will bring together specialists to talk from their own perspectives, including economists and political scientists; artists, filmmakers, novelists, painters; historians and sociologists; journalists and commentators; religious thinkers and philosophers.

This interdisciplinary gathering will bring together intellectuals of many different backgrounds, with the aim of agreeing on, or at least seeing the outlines of, shared understandings of the crisis and its solutions.

The symposium is sponsored by the Actual Realism Collection Foundation, Vitaly Vavilin and Sergey Aldukhov, Samvel Avetisyan, Denis Smislov, Pavel Tikhomirov and Alex Yusfin.

Admission by ticket only. Programme information and tickets from: Nicola Froggatt, nicola.froggatt@politics.ox.ac.uk

**Second Distinguished Fulbright Lecture on International Relations: ‘The Decade Ahead: The US Role in the World’, Ambassador Thomas Pickering**
5pm, 18 May 2012, Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, St Cross Building, Manor Road

The Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, in association with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, the United States Embassy, Pembroke College and the Lois Roth Endowment will be hosting the Second Distinguished Fulbright Lecture on International Relations.

The lecture will be followed by a reception at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Manor Road Building.

**Inaugural Chichele Lecture: ‘*Political* Political Theory’**
5pm, 3 May 2012, Examination Schools
Professor Jeremy Waldron (Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, Oxford). To be followed by a reception.
Chevening IBFP Parliamentarians Programme

The Department was greatly honoured to host the Chevening IBFP Parliamentarians Programme from 14-21 April.

Prominent scholars and members of DPIR and the University led discussions on some of the most important topics facing the world, Europe and the UK today. We visited London, where we had meetings at Portcullis House, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. We hugely valued the opportunity to engage with our esteemed Indian Parliamentary guests:

- Deepender Hooda, Indian National Congress
- Jayant Chaudhary, Rashtriya Lok Dal
- Sachin Pilot, Indian National Congress Union Minister of State, Communications & Information Technology
- Dr. Chandan Mitra, Bharatiya Janata Party, Lagadapati Rajagopal, Indian National Congress
- Supriya Sule, Nationalist Congress Party
- Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen party (MIM)
- Piyush Goyal, Bharatiya Janata Party
- Ramesh Chandran, Advisor, FICCI and Executive Director, Forums of Parliamentarians

The Vice Chancellor and the Master of Pembroke hosted the certificate ceremony along with the programme team consisting of Professor Stephen Whitefield, Genevieve J. Garrido and Richard Briant.
Event Notifications Email

As you know, Department policy specifies that we don’t clutter up your inboxes with events notifications: in term time we send one weekly email listing details of events coming up in the following week, duplicating the information on the DPIR website. However, in response to recent concerns raised that we do not publicise upcoming events sufficiently widely within the Department, we have decided to send the events email to everyone in the DPIR, with an option to opt out. You will therefore have received the first email last week.

Please note that we need sufficient lead-in time for events to be posted online and therefore to be included in the weekly events email. If you wish for an event to be advertised on the DPIR website please send details by Monday morning of the week before the event is due to take place to events@politics.ox.ac.uk, indicating if it is a Department or non-department event. If event information is sent to us later than this, we cannot guarantee its inclusion in the weekly email, nor will we circulate details of the event outside the weekly email. If there are any last minute changes to the event (e.g. time or venue, please indicate this in the header of your email (e.g. ‘urgent change of time’). Thank you for your help with this.

The Department weekly email is in addition to research centre emails, which target recipients within a specific research area.

If you have announcements, notices or suggestions for editorial pieces for Michaelmas term’s issue of Newswire, please contact Kate Candy, kate.candy@politics.ox.ac.uk.

Copy deadline: Noughth week, Michaelmas term 2012