

Department of Law, Governance and International Relations

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER, No. 3, June 2010

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the third issue of the LGIR Research newsletter. I compile and circulate the newsletter three times a year, in: October, February, and June.

The aim is to keep everyone informed about what the department and individual colleagues in LGIR are accomplishing in research-orientated activities.

As many colleagues know, research can be a lonely yet rewarding experience. My overriding concern is to improve the research output of LGIR over the next few years, in order to have a strong showing in our submissions to the Research Excellence Framework, which is still officially scheduled for 2013 but is likely to be delayed by up to two years. I believe that we can get the best results by, wherever possible, using our combined talents and efforts to achieve some outstanding results for LGIR.

During 2009-10, Wendy Stokes (Academic Leader, Research and Postgraduate Studies) and I undertook the following research-orientated goals in relation to LGIR:

- ✚ Conduct a holistic research survey of LGIR (accomplished in summer 2009), with follow up interviews in November 2009, **key findings highlighted in LGIR Research Newsletter #2, February 2010)**
- ✚ Co-organise a series of LGIR research seminars with Bruce Pilbeam, Matt Stone and Kelvin Knight, **details of seminars that took place in 2009-10 below)**
- ✚ Organise a ‘Preparation for Research Excellence Framework, 2013’ event for LGIR research active staff which took place in March 2010 (**details below)**

This newsletter includes the following:

- Update on the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework
- Review of LGIR REF Preparation Event, March 10, 2010
- Research profile: Dr Mark Wheeler, Reader, GIR
- LGIR research outputs update

❖ REF Update

In late March 2010 – that is, just before the recent general election – the chief executive of HEFCE, Sir Alan Langlands, wrote the following to, among others, Heads of HEFCE-funded higher education institutions. I have highlighted in yellow what I take to be key points in the letter, including in relation to one of the key controversies, that of research ‘impact’ and how to measure it:

25 March 2010



To Heads of HEFCE-funded higher education institutions
Heads of HEFCW-funded higher education institutions
Heads of SFC-funded institutions
Heads of universities in Northern Ireland
Organisations with an interest in commissioning and using academic research including businesses, public sector bodies, charities and other third sector organisations

Telephone 0117 931 7317

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Circular letter number 04/2010

For further information contact ref@hefce.ac.uk

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

Research Excellence Framework consultation outcomes

1. The four UK higher education funding bodies recently consulted on proposals for the future arrangements for the assessment and funding of research – the Research Excellence Framework (REF)^{see note 1}. This letter informs stakeholders about the high-level outcomes of the consultation and the next steps in implementing the REF.

Consultation responses

2. We received 534 responses and would like to thank respondents for their thoughtful and constructive input, which will help to ensure we develop arrangements that will carry the confidence of key stakeholders.

3. Across the responses there was overwhelming support for:

- the continuation of block-grant research funding as part of the dual support system, to be allocated on the basis of research excellence
- research excellence to continue to be assessed through a process of expert review, informed by indicators, and to be assessed on a UK-wide basis with reference to international standards
- the quality of research outputs to continue to be the primary factor in the assessment, and the vitality of the research environment also to be a significant factor.

4. There was widespread support in principle for including an element for the explicit assessment of impact within the REF from higher education institutions, mission groups, the national academies, research user representatives and other funders of research, and from a clear majority of academic subject associations. Many qualified their support by emphasising the need to develop a robust method for assessing impact, and suggested the weighting for this element within the overall quality assessment should be lower than the proposed 25 per

cent. A significant minority of responses objected to our proposals for the assessment of impact, and as an initial response to this we set out in **Annex A** some ways in which the proposals we are developing will meet their concerns.

5. Responses provided a wealth of feedback on all the key issues on which we had consulted. A **summary of the responses** is now available at www.hefce.ac.uk/ref alongside the **consultation document (HEFCE 2009/38)**.

Initial decisions and next steps

6. In the light of the consultation feedback the UK funding bodies have taken initial decisions on many key aspects of the design of the REF, with the main exceptions being the configuration of panels, the method for assessing impact, and the weightings between outputs, impact and environment. **We are considering the overall timetable for the completion of the first REF exercise, in the light of feedback from the consultation and the refinements we are making.**

7. Initial decisions about the REF and the basis for taking forward the assessment of impact are set out at Annex A.

8. Further details about these decisions, as well as the panel configuration and details of the process for recruiting panels, will be published later in the year [ie, 2010]. The method for assessing impact and the weightings between the three elements will be determined after the current impact pilot exercise has concluded in autumn 2010.

9. At this stage we are:

- a. **Progressing with the impact pilot exercise.** All 29 pilot institutions have now made their submissions and we have recruited expert panels for the five pilot Units of Assessment, to assess the submissions and report on the lessons learned. Each pilot panel includes a broadly even mix of leading researchers and prominent, highly qualified representatives of the audiences, beneficiaries and users of research from across a wide range of sectors relevant to each Unit of Assessment. Further details are available at www.hefce.ac.uk/ref.
- b. **Inviting applicants for the roles of Chairs Designate for the REF Main Panels.** In the light of widespread support for this proposal, there will be four Main Panels^{see note 2}, and we wish to make an early start in appointing Chairs Designate to these. Initially they will advise on the further planning and design of the assessment framework, before taking up their roles as Main Panel Chairs once the panels are in place. Further particulars are available at www.hefce.ac.uk/ref.
- c. **Establishing an expert group to advise on strengthening measures to promote equalities and diversity in the REF,** as outlined at Annex A, paragraphs 30-31.

10. As we proceed we are keen to have continuing, extensive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, especially in developing the impact element. As part of this, we are sponsoring King's College London to hold a conference in June to discuss the progress of the pilot exercise. Details will be available shortly.

Further information

11. Further details are available at www.hefce.ac.uk/ref, including:

- **the summary of consultation responses**
- the advertisement and further particulars for applications to become **Main Panel Chair Designate**
- details about the **impact pilot exercise**, including membership of the **Impact Pilot Expert Panels**.

Yours sincerely

Sir Alan Langlands
Chief Executive-

❖ **Review of LGIR REF Preparation Event, March 10, 2010**

I'd like to thank the presenters from LGIR at the March 2010 REF event – Mark Wheeler, Wendy Stokes, Marilyn Freeman, Kelvin Knight and Peter Leyland – for their interesting and informative presentations. I'd also like to thank very much non-LGIR colleagues, Felicia Teague and Simon Franks, for their illuminating presentations on the intricacies of external research funding.

Thanks too to the 25 colleagues who attended the event and for the interesting questions posed to the presenters. **I am very keen to hear from those who attended whether they found the event useful, whether they'd find another one useful and, if so, what should be the topics focused upon.** I am tentatively thinking of having another such event in the early autumn when we should know with greater clarity what the new Con-Dem government is thinking about the REF and its timing.

Finally, I asked presenters to forward me Powerpoint slides if used in their presentation. I circulated these when I received them soon after the event, but I include them again as attachments with this newsletter for those colleagues who missed them when first circulated.

Please find in the attachments the Powerpoint slides from: Peter Leyland, Simon Franks, Felicia Teague and Jeff Haynes.

❖ **Research profile: Dr Mark Wheeler, Reader in Politics, GIR**

My research interests include the political economy of the global mass media, policy reforms to media systems within Britain and the European Union, the political relations between Hollywood and Washington, and the rise of celebrity politics. I have published three books including *Politics and the Mass Media* (Oxford: Blackwells, 1997), *European*



Television Industries (with Petros Iosifidis and Jeanette Steemers) (London, British Film Institute, 2005) and *Hollywood: Politics and Society* (London: British Film Institute, 2006) which was reviewed in *The Guardian*, *The New Statesman*, *Medienwissenschaft*, *The Film Quarterly*, *the Historical Journal of Film Radio, and Television* and *Film International*. In addition, I have contributed peer-reviewed articles for journals such as *Democratisation*, *Convergence*, the *European Journal of Communication*, the *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, the *Canadian Journal of Communications* and *European Studies*.

In 2004, I contributed ‘Supranational regulation: Television and the European Union’ to the *European Journal of Communication* (London, Sage, 2004), which has been widely cited by scholars. In 2006, it was translated into Chinese where it was appeared in Jin Guanjan, Zheng Han and Shaoyi Sun, *Global Media Policies: New Perspectives* (Shanghai, SJPC, 2006). Most recently, I have published chapters in Jackie Harrison and Bridgette Wessels (ed.) *Mediating Europe: New Media, Mass Communications and the European Public Sphere* (New York, Oxford, Berghahn Books, 2009) and Petros Iosifidis (ed.) *Reinventing Public Service Communication: European Broadcasters and Beyond* (Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). I have had a paper accepted concerning the European Union’s Competition Policy to Public Service Broadcasters at the prestigious Re-Visionary Interpretations of Public Enterprise (RIPE) Conference ‘Public Service after the Recession’ which will be held at the University of Westminster in September 2010.

I have presented conference papers both national and internationally, and as the joint founder of the Political Studies Association (PSA) Media and Politics Specialist Group (MPG), I was responsible for the creation of a network for academics working in similar or related fields, an annual MPG conference and the sponsoring of panels at the PSA conference. Most recently, my research interests have focused on political representations in American films and the role of celebrity diplomacy in international affairs. To this end, I was invited by the Institute of the Study of the Americas to present a paper entitled ‘Darryl F. Zanuck’s *Wilson* (1944)’ at the inaugural symposium for the United States Presidency Centre in 2008 and by the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* for a roundtable celebrating the work of Professor John Street on Celebrity Politics at the 2010 PSA Conference. Moreover, I was asked by Dr. Jo Littler to provide a presentation entitled ‘Celebrity Diplomacy: UN Goodwill Ambassadors and Messengers of Peace’ at Middlesex University and this will provide the basis of an article to be supplied to a special edition in the journal *Celebrity Studies*. Presently, I am developing this interest in Celebrity Politics in a book proposal for Polity and I am seeking to develop historical and contemporaneous research on celebrity engagement.

❖ LGIR research outputs update

Marko Bojcun

Conference paper:

‘International Economic Crisis and the 2010 Presidential Elections in Ukraine’, at the Conference on International Crisis and the Post Soviet States, University of Glasgow, 14 May 2010. Paper is forthcoming in the *Journal of Communist*



Studies and Transition Politics.)

‘Peter Gowan’s analysis of the collapse of the Soviet Union’, at the Peter Gowan Memorial Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Paper to be presented 12 June 2010

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Steven Curtis

A. Blair and S. Curtis, ‘It’s Good to Talk: Feedback, Dialogue and Learning’, the Political Studies Association Annual Conference, Edinburgh, 29th March-1st April 2010.

J. Craig, S. Curtis J. Parker and M. Wyman, ‘Institutions that Support Teaching and Learning: A European View’, the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Philadelphia, 5th-7th February 2010

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Marilyn Freeman

Articles published

‘Re I – The Perfect Storm’, co-authored with Teertha Gupta, Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE, and Henry Setright QC [2010] forthcoming: *Journal of Family Law and Practice*, May 2010.

‘Relocation – Themes from The reunite Research Project’ – forthcoming [2010] IFL, published 24th May 2010.



Papers delivered at:

Colloquium Series, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, 18th February 2010

The University of the Western Cape seminar, Cape Town, March 2010

International Judicial Conference on Cross Border Family Relocation, Washington, March 2010

Family Law Bar Association Conference, Windsor, May 7th - 9th 2010.

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Jeffrey Haynes

Book chapters

'The state, religion and the challenge to state hegemony' in E. Keller (ed.), *Religious Ideas and Institutions and Transitions to Democracy in Africa*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2010.

'Religion, nationalism and transnational actors', in R. Denmark (ed.), *The International Studies Compendium*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2010.

Invited participation

Keynote speech: 'Religion and Globalisation', 'International Theoretical and Practical Conference: Fortune of National Cultures in the Process of Globalization', Faculty of Oriental Studies, Chelyabinsk State University, Chelyabinsk, Russia, March 18-19, 2010.

AHRC/ESRC 'Religious NGOs and the United Nations at New York and Geneva', Research Colloquium: 'Religious NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations at the UN: Theoretical and Definitional Problems', University of Kent, May 6-7, 2010

Roundtable organised by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly: 'Envisioning Secularism in Everyday Life: Experiences from Different Contexts', Istanbul, Turkey, May 21-23, 2010.

Keynote speech: The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy 2010: 'Culture, Globalization and International Relations over the next Two Decades', Berlin, Germany, May 24-27, 2010.

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Douwe Korff

Journal article, with Ian Brown of Oxford University: 'Terrorism and the proportionality of Internet surveillance', *European Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 119-134, 2009 (available from Douwe's SSRN website (where he has begun to upload stuff: <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/results.cfm>

Powerpoint presentation at a 'Round Table in the Stockholm Programme' at the Asser Institute in the Hague, the Netherlands, in January 2010 on 'Data protection in the EU after Lisbon.

To be published in June 2010: Reports on a 'Comparative Study on Different Approaches to New Privacy Challenges, in Particular in the Light of Technological Developments, which Douwe led with Ian Brown (and which included a team of scholars from Europe, Australasia and the USA).



Douwe wrote:

- the final report
- the executive summary
- working paper no. 2 (on the legal problems in Europe), with a comparative chart

and the country reports on: France, Germany, UK

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Peter Leyland

Public lectures, conferences, seminars and workshops since December 2009

Fifth Italian-British Constitutional Conversation, Italian Cultural Institute, 10 May 2010: 'Fiscal Devolution in Scotland' delivered paper 'Fiscal Devolution for Scotland?: The Virtue of Arranged Marriage of Convenience'.

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, Bologna, 13 April 2010: Public Lecture 'Thailand's Islamic Insurgency: Resolution by Devolution?'



International Academic Positions

2010 Visiting Professor, University of Innsbruck, EURAC Winter School, February 2010

Publications

'Combatting Scandal, Codes of Practice and the Implementation of Ethical Standards in Public Life in the United Kingdom' in F. Merloni and R. Perin *Al Servizio della Nazione*, Collana Di Diritto e Societa, Milano, FrancoAngeli, 2009, ISBN 978-88-568-1593-1, pp.313-339.

'The Genealogy of the Administrative Courts and the Consolidation of Administrative Justice in Thailand' in A. Harding and P. Nicholson, *New Courts in Asia*, Routledge 2009, ISBN 978-0-415-47005-6 pp.231-251.

'Thailand's troubled South: examining the case for devolution from a comparative perspective' *Australian Journal of Asian Law*, (2009) Volume 11(1) 1-29, ISSN 1443-0738.

Inns of Court

Honorary Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, appointed November 2009.

Media Commentator

BBC World News February 2010 interviewed as specialist on Thai constitutional situation.

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Wendy Stokes

Invited as a Fellow to the John Smith Trust Fellowship Programme weekend retreat at the end of June 2010 (<http://www.johnsmithmemorialtrust.org/web/site/home/home.asp>)

Took part in a panel programme ('Agenda') on Press TV about women in parliament.

Guest lectures for 15 mid-career overseas professionals at the University of Bradford in January and April 2010 in context of FCO sponsored Chevening course 'Using Democracy for Peace'



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Matt Stone

Conference paper:

'Justice and Asymmetry', *Martha Nussbaum, Cosmopolitanism and Global Justice*, University of Nottingham, May 2010.

