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Research news

The Conversation: Scotland vote appears to be defying usual referendum swing (http://theconversation.com/scotland-vote-appears-to-be-defying-usual-referendum-swing-31490)

Written by Chris Game. It seems Scottish voters are warming to the whole independence idea, then – bucking the trend that the experts have been telling us for months they're almost bound to follow.

15/09/2014

Podcast: The Security Impact of Drone Warfare (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/09/security-impact-of-drone-warfare.aspx)

From counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, to Amazon delivery services, the use (and ownership) of drone technology has major implications for domestic and international security. But what are the legal and ethical implications of this technology, and can drones ever be fully autonomous? Join leading experts for a topical and timely debate on the civilian and military use of drones.

11/09/2014

POLSIS Seminar Series 2014-15 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/events/seminar-series/2014-15/index.aspx)

POLSIS hosts a number of seminars throughout the year which focuses on a number of different topics. Listen to the latest podcasts from our recent events.

10/09/2014

Recent publications and conference presentations demonstrate the strength of research in POLSIS (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/09/publications-conference-presentations.aspx)

Several publications and conference presentations by academics in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) demonstrate the quality and vibrancy of research in the department

09/09/2014

The Conversation: BRICS keep supporting Russia in bid to rebalance world power (https://theconversation.com/brics-keep-supporting-russia-in-bid-to-rebalance-world-power-31122)

Written by Dr Marco Vieira. While Western nations beef up economic sanctions and Nato discusses what stance to take toward Russia, the BRICS are maintaining tacit support for Moscow despite the Ukraine crisis.

09/09/2014

Blog: In case you missed it: the Local Government (Independence) Bill (http://inlogov.com/2014/09/09/in-case-you-missed-it-the-local-government-independence-bill/)

Written by Chris Game. It was partly the timing. In combination, the suddenly increased likelihood of both Scottish independence and a Coalition break-up were bound to eclipse last Friday's scheduled Second Reading of the Local Government (Independence) Bill. It was unfortunate, though. After all, local government independence would be a pretty big deal too, wouldn't it?

09/09/2014

Chris Allen appears on Radio WM Breakfast Show (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/09/chris-allen-interview-with-radio-wm.aspx)

Listen to the recording of Chris Allen's appearance on BBC Radio WM's Breakfast Show hosted by Pete Morgan where he discussed the ongoing shadow cast by the allegations made as part of Operation Trojan Horse.

08/09/2014

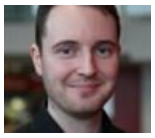
IRiS to host workshop on poverty among refugees and migrants (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-

studies/news-and-events/2014/09/poverty-among-refugees-and-migrants.aspx)

All are welcome at a workshop hosted by the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) on causes, experiences and responses to poverty among migrants and refugees.

08/09/2014

The Conversation: Why 'fools rush in' is Obama's watchword in Iraq and Syria (http://theconversation.com/why-fools-rush-in-is-obamas-watchword-in-iraq-and-syria-31267)



Written by Dr Adam Quinn. US president Barack Obama has yet to work out exactly what America's strategy is in confronting Islamic State (IS), and has been foolish enough to say so in public. Cue the foreseeable torrent of point-scoring from opponents.

05/09/2014

IRiS to host event on examining diet and physical activity behaviours amongst older adults through the lens of superdiversity (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/09/diet-and-physical-activity-amongst-older-adults.aspx)

All are welcome at this Free workshop "Examining diet and physical activity behaviours amongst older adults through the lens of superdiversity" which is being hosted by IRiS.

04/09/2014

Grassroots civil society at crossroads (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/09/grassroots-civil-society-at-crossroads.aspx)

A new paper co-written by Jenny Phillimore with IRiS and TSRC colleagues, explores how very small scale 'grassroots', that is self-organised civil society action, including that undertaken by minority and new migrant groups, contributes to society at local level.

03/09/2014

'Community research within a social constructionist epistemology' : New article from IRiS (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/09/new-article-on-social-constructionist-framework-published.aspx)

A new article by Jenny Phillimore, co-written with colleagues at the University of Victoria, Melbourne, explores the way that a social constructionist framework can lend itself to undertaking policy relevant research.

03/09/2014

NATO Must Look Forward to the Past (https://ip-journal.dgap.org/en/ip-journal/topics/nato-must-look-forward-past)

Written by Professor Mark Webber and Heidi Reisinger (Senior Analyst at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy). NATO's intent to follow America's lead and pivot towards Asia is illogical and unrealistic. The Ukraine crisis has served to bang their heads together and remind them that although the connection to the US is crucial, NATO business is in Europe.

03/09/2014

Shadow of extremism scandal lingers as Birmingham goes back to school (/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/09/shadow-of-extremism-scandal-lingers-as-birmingham-goes-back-to-school.aspx)

If a week is a long time in politics, then the school summer holidays must have seemed like a lifetime the for governors, teachers, pupils and staff at the 21 schools at the centre of the Trojan Horse plot in Birmingham.

03/09/2014

The Conversation: Forgotten South Sudan tangled in factionalism and failed politics (http://theconversation.com/forgotten-south-sudan-tangled-in-factionalism-and-failed-politics-30994)

Written by Dr Jonathan Fisher. Largely knocked out of the news by the crises in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria and Gaza (to name a few), a civil war has nonetheless devastated South Sudan since December 2013. It has left thousands dead, and more than a million have been internally displaced or forced into refugee camps.

03/09/2014

Whizz, Bang, Roar - come and design a dinosaur! (/news/latest/2014/09/come-and-design-a-dinosaur-01-09-14.aspx)

The University of Birmingham is counting down the days to the launch of the biggest celebration of science in the UK.

02/09/2014

University opens its doors for rocket-fuelled Community Day! (/news/latest/2014/09/university-community-day-02-09-14.aspx)

The University of Birmingham's Community Day returns this year with a scientific theme to celebrate the British Science Festival.

02/09/2014

Blog: Councils should have the power NOT to tax supermarkets (http://inlogov.com/2014/09/01/councils-should-have-the-power-not-to-tax-supermarkets/)

Written by Chris Game. There's no shortage of reasons to dislike supermarkets generally and Tesco in particular – their flimsy carrier bags, their irritating BOGOFs and BOGOHOs (Buy One, Get One Half Off), their unpoliced disabled parking bays, their Everyday Value instant coffee granules. Then there are all the economic, environmental and social reasons – the ones understandably more emphasised in Derby City Council's recent proposal that local authorities be given the power to introduce a levy of 8.5% of rateable value on large retail outlets: a supermarket or Tesco tax, as it was instantly labelled by the media.

01/09/2014

The Conversation: Douglas Carswell by-election is a rare and honourable event (http://theconversation.com/douglas-carswell-by-election-is-a-rare-and-honourable-event-31060)

Written by Chris Game. The least surprising part of Douglas Carswell's defection to UKIP was surely his decision to resign his Clacton seat and seek re-election in a by-election.

29/08/2014

The Conversation: Nationalism sparks a summer of deadly violence in the Caucasus (http://theconversation.com/nationalism-sparks-a-summer-of-deadly-violence-in-the-caucasus-30933)

Written by Kevork Oskanian. The world has been brutally reminded of the unresolved conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in the South Caucasus which Armenia and Azerbaijan have locked horns over for more than 25 years. While the situation is clearly at a low ebb, the facts of what is happening are far from clear.

28/08/2014

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