

## Research news

### **[The Conversation: Ban pre-election opinion polls at your peril \(http://theconversation.com/ban-pre-election-opinion-polls-at-your-peril-31762\)](http://theconversation.com/ban-pre-election-opinion-polls-at-your-peril-31762)**



Written by Chris Game. I really thought we might make it. We'd got past the publication of YouGov's potentially constitution-changing poll showing a minuscule lead for the Yes campaign without anyone grabbing for an easy headline by calling for opinion polls to be banned in the run-up to elections and referendums.

18/09/2014

### **[Podcast: The Security Impact of Drone Warfare \(/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/09/security-impact-of-drone-warfare.aspx\)](/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/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.

18/09/2014

### **[Connecting Africa: Transport Infrastructure \(/schools/civil-engineering/news/connecting-africa-transport-infrastructure.aspx\)](/schools/civil-engineering/news/connecting-africa-transport-infrastructure.aspx)**

Connecting Africa: Transport Infrastructure, 20 – 22 October 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

16/09/2014

### **[The Warship 'Anne' Returns to Her Final Resting Place \(/schools/eece/news/warship-anne-returns-final-resting-place.aspx\)](/schools/eece/news/warship-anne-returns-final-resting-place.aspx)**



In an attempt to bring the 17th century to the 21st century, and building on a quadcopter site survey conducted in March 2014, a small group of researchers from the University of Birmingham have developed a highly detailed Virtual Reality model of the warship 'Anne', in collaboration with the Shipwreck Museum in Hastings and using historical book references and paintings. The University's Human Interface Technologies Team specialises in advanced simulation technologies for defence, healthcare and heritage applications and their aim on this occasion has been to stage what is believed to be the world-first "resurrection" of an historic vessel using Augmented Reality techniques, viewed from an unmanned drone in flight.

16/09/2014

### **[Engineering and Physical Sciences in the media - September 2014 \(/university/colleges/eps/news/eps-media/2014/september.aspx\)](/university/colleges/eps/news/eps-media/2014/september.aspx)**

From dishwasher loading robots to social media and apps data revealing global eating habits and more...

15/09/2014

### **[Daniela Kühn and Deryk Osthus: LMS Whitehead Prize and ICM invited lecture \(/schools/mathematics/news-and-events/kuhn-osthus-LMS-ICM.aspx\)](/schools/mathematics/news-and-events/kuhn-osthus-LMS-ICM.aspx)**

Professor Daniela Kühn and Professor Deryk Osthus have been invited to give a lecture at the 2014 International Congress of Mathematicians in Seoul.

15/09/2014

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



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 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/09/security-impact-of-drone-warfare.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/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

## **[Study ties groundwater to human evolution \(/schools/gees/news/2014/11sep-study-ties-groundwater-to-human-evolution.aspx\)](/schools/gees/news/2014/11sep-study-ties-groundwater-to-human-evolution.aspx)**



A new study, led by Dr Mark Cuthbert of the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, shows that our ancient ancestors' ability to move around and find new sources of groundwater during extremely dry periods in Africa millions of years ago may have been key to their survival and the evolution of the human species.

11/09/2014

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## **[Proton radiotherapy: hype, fiction and a few facts \(/research/impact/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/09/Proton-radiotherapy-hype-fiction-and-a-few-facts.aspx\)](/research/impact/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/09/Proton-radiotherapy-hype-fiction-and-a-few-facts.aspx)**

Proton beam therapy (or our preferred title of proton radiotherapy), is a form of radiotherapy delivered with beams of high energy protons rather than the more usual beams of high energy x-rays (or less frequently beams of electrons). It is part of the general field of particle radiotherapy that includes use of particles that are heavier than protons. Beams of carbon ions are the main topic for clinical research around the world, although there is also interest in other particles such as helium ions.

11/09/2014

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## **[Proton radiotherapy: hype, fiction and a few facts \(/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/09/Proton-radiotherapy-hype-fiction-and-a-few-facts.aspx\)](/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/09/Proton-radiotherapy-hype-fiction-and-a-few-facts.aspx)**

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11/09/2014

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## **['Harnessing the potential of technology' at the British Science Festival \(/facilities/digitalhumanitieshub/news/2014/british-science-festival.aspx\)](/facilities/digitalhumanitieshub/news/2014/british-science-festival.aspx)**



Members of the Digital Humanities Hub team gave a series of quick-fire presentations for the public.

11/09/2014

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## **[More needed to protect our sportspeople from brain injury say Birmingham experts \(/news/latest/2014/09/sportspeople-brain-injury.aspx\)](/news/latest/2014/09/sportspeople-brain-injury.aspx)**

Two University of Birmingham academics are calling for more research to be carried out looking at how the brains of sportspeople – including children – react when they receive a blow to the head.

11/09/2014

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

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## **[New digital map reveals stunning hidden archaeology of Stonehenge \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2014/hidden-stonehenge.aspx\)](/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/news/2014/hidden-stonehenge.aspx)**



A host of previously unknown archaeological monuments have been discovered around Stonehenge as part of an unprecedented digital mapping project that will transform our knowledge of this iconic landscape.

10/09/2014

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## **[New digital map reveals stunning hidden archaeology of Stonehenge \(/news/latest/2014/09/new-map-reveals-hidden-archaeology-of-stonehenge-10-09-14.aspx\)](/news/latest/2014/09/new-map-reveals-hidden-archaeology-of-stonehenge-10-09-14.aspx)**

A host of previously unknown archaeological monuments have been discovered around Stonehenge as part of an unprecedented digital mapping project that will transform our knowledge of this iconic landscape – including remarkable new findings on the world's largest 'super henge', Durrington Walls.

10/09/2014

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

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

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

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**[How age alters our immune response to bereavement \(/news/latest/2014/09/age-alters-our-immune-response-09-09-14.aspx\)](http://news/latest/2014/09/age-alters-our-immune-response-09-09-14.aspx)**

Young people have a more robust immune response to the loss of a loved one, according to new research from the University of Birmingham, providing insight into how different generations cope with loss.

09/09/2014

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