

Research news

[Tower Hamlets residents must be wondering why they bothered to vote \(http://theconversation.com/tower-hamlets-residents-must-be-wondering-why-they-bothered-to-vote-34440\)](http://theconversation.com/tower-hamlets-residents-must-be-wondering-why-they-bothered-to-vote-34440)



Written by Chris Game. With a forced smile and through gritted teeth, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, has announced himself willing to accept – and even "welcome" – the intervention package set out for his borough by Eric Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government.

21/11/2014

[Erika Rackley speaks at 'Being Human' Festival Event at the UK Supreme Court \(/schools/law/news/2014/11/rackley-being-human-festival.aspx\)](/schools/law/news/2014/11/rackley-being-human-festival.aspx)



Erika Rackley, a professor at Birmingham Law School, joined a panel of speakers, chaired by Supreme Court Justice, Lord Carnwarth, to consider what it means for a judge to 'be human'.

21/11/2014

[Blog: Pickles' Tower Hamlets takeover: a sad affair all round \(http://inlogov.com/2014/11/20/pickles-tower-hamlets-takeover-a-sad-affair-all-round/\)](http://inlogov.com/2014/11/20/pickles-tower-hamlets-takeover-a-sad-affair-all-round/)



Written by Chris Game. He kept Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles, waiting until almost literally the 23rd hour of the 14th day of his two-week deadline. In the end, though, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, having last Friday lost his second, and ill-advised, application for a judicial review, was left with little choice.

20/11/2014

[IDD Guest seminar podcast: The Green State in Africa: Environmental politics, climate change and social movements \(/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2014/11/green-state-in-africa.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2014/11/green-state-in-africa.aspx)



Speaker: Carl Death, University of Manchester.

20/11/2014

[Podcast: Russia and the West since 1991: a tale of growing distrust \(/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/11/russia-west-since-1991.aspx\)](/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/11/russia-west-since-1991.aspx)



The high level of trust that had been constructed between western and Soviet leaders in the late 1980s and early 1990s was not sustained when western leaders had to face an independent Russia, even though the new Russia began with every intention of transforming itself into a full participating member of the international institutions set up after 1945 to keep the peace. However, Russians – not just their government – had come to view international institutions with profound distrust as having deceived them in both the economic and diplomatic spheres.

20/11/2014

[Podcast: Russia and the West since 1991: a tale of growing distrust \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/11/russia-west-since-1991.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/11/russia-west-since-1991.aspx)



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20/11/2014

[Abe can win Japan's snap election but he needs to win big \(http://theconversation.com/abe-can-win-japans-snap-election-but-he-needs-to-win-big-34438\)](http://theconversation.com/abe-can-win-japans-snap-election-but-he-needs-to-win-big-34438)



Written by Dr Julie Gilson. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to call a snap election for December 14 comes after what has been a rather bad week for him. Japan has slipped back into recession for the first time since 2012 and Abe has seen his popularity ratings drop below 50% for the first time.

19/11/2014

[HSMC in Australia: Setting health priorities \(/schools/social-policy/departments/health-services-management-centre/news/viewpoint/2014/hsmc-in-australia-setting-health-priorities.aspx\)](#)



Last week was the biennial meeting of the International Society for Priorities in Health Care, and it took place in the glorious setting of the South Wharf of the Yarra river in sunny Melbourne Australia.

19/11/2014

[Creating tomorrow's leading social scientists \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/creating-tomorrows-leading-social-scientists.aspx\)](#)

The University of Birmingham is proud to offer 25 ESRC scholarships to fund postgraduate training and doctoral research.

18/11/2014

[The future of social housing \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/the-future-of-social-housing.aspx\)](#)

Housing and Communities Research Group launches new research programme on the future of social housing.

17/11/2014

[Deciphering Obama's letter to the Supreme Leader](#)

[\(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/11/obama-letter-13-11-14.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/11/obama-letter-13-11-14.aspx)



Earlier this week, it was reported by The Wall Street Journal that President Barack Obama had sent a secret letter to the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urging him to accept the terms of a comprehensive agreement with the United States and other major world powers on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme.

17/11/2014

[Creating tomorrow's leading social scientists \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/ESRC-research-council.aspx\)](#)



The Birmingham Doctoral Training Centre is one of only 21 across the UK to be accredited by the ESRC. It has 22 ESRC scholarships to fund doctoral research starting in 2015.

17/11/2014

[Creating tomorrow's leading social scientists \(/schools/business/news/2014/november/leading-social-scientists.aspx\)](#)



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14/11/2014

[Blog: What legacy will the rush to build houses leave for the next generation? \(http://inlogov.com/2014/11/12/what-legacy-will-the-rush-to-build-houses-leave-for-the-next-generation/\)](#)



Written by Ian Briggs. Many rural and semi-rural localities are struggling to cope with the increasing number of applications for potential new housing developments, a proportion of which seem to defy logic and sound planning sense when matched against local knowledge and established patterns of socialisation.

13/11/2014

[Sans Papiers: The Social and economic lives of young, undocumented migrants \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/sans-papiers-social-and-economic-lives-of-young-undocumented-migrants.aspx\)](#)

IRiS's Dr Nando Sigona and Professor Roger Zetter (University of Oxford) will present their new book 'Sans Papiers: The social and economic lives of young undocumented migrants', at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford on Wednesday 19 November.

12/11/2014

[Glittering penguins: the power of the Christmas ad to win over \(and lose\) customers \(/schools/business/departments/marketing/news/2014/november/power-of-christmas-ad.aspx\)](#)

As well as the tell-tale signs of decorations going up, the rolling out of Christmas advertisements has become a key moment for getting us all in the seasonal mood. And the competition to capture the festive spirit – and the customers that come with it – is fierce.

11/11/2014



[LEPs, Growth and Minority Business \(/research/activity/business/creme/news/2014/november/minority-business.aspx\)](/research/activity/business/creme/news/2014/november/minority-business.aspx)

It's likely that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will remain intact regardless of which political party (or parties) prevails at the next General Election in May 2015. The jury's out on the extent to which LEPs have delivered on their remit to drive growth and create jobs.

11/11/2014

[The Business Support Landscape and Ethnic Minority Businesses: What we Know? What we don't Know, and What we aim to Know? \(/research/activity/business/creme/news/2014/november/business-support-landscape.aspx\)](/research/activity/business/creme/news/2014/november/business-support-landscape.aspx)

While existing research has been useful in painting a picture on who EMBs go to support and the some of the barriers they face, there are still important questions that remain

11/11/2014

[IRiS Event: Ralph Grillo seminar on Superdiversity \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/ralph-grillo-event.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/ralph-grillo-event.aspx)

All are welcome at this event at which Ralph Grillo from the University of Sussex will ask the question 'How can the law be expected to cope with 'Superdiversity'?'

11/11/2014

[Connected or Disconnected? Re-thinking the role of local councils in changing times \(/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/connected-or-disconnected-rethinking-the-role-of-local-councils-in-changing-times.aspx\)](/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2014/11/connected-or-disconnected-rethinking-the-role-of-local-councils-in-changing-times.aspx)

The Third Sector Research Centre, in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils, the University of Gloucestershire and the Institute of Local Government Studies, hosted a conference at Hucclecote Village Hall (Gloucestershire), to explore the challenges facing town and parish councils.

11/11/2014

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