

News

Keep up to date with the latest news and [events \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/index.aspx) from around the department and the wide-ranging projects our staff and students get involved with.

[More news throughout the School of Government and Society \(/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx)

Latest news

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.

Friday 29th August 2014

If lauding Thatcher was cause to recall parliament, why not Iraq? (<http://theconversation.com/if-lauding-thatcher-was-cause-to-recall-parliament-why-not-iraq-30697>)



Written by Chris Game. MPs from all parties have called in recent weeks for parliament to be reconvened to enable them to debate the ongoing crisis in Iraq. They have met with unbending opposition. But David Cameron's decision to bring everyone back last year to eulogise Margaret Thatcher might make it difficult for him to resist indefinitely.

Thursday 21st August 2014

Masters taught module: Global Cooperation in Practice - Professor Mark Webber (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/global-cooperation-in-practice.aspx>)



This exciting taught module is offered as part of our new Global Cooperation and Security MSc. Taught by Professor Mark Webber Global Cooperation in Practice examines how academic debates on cooperation and policy-making stand up against the actual experience of implementation.

Monday 18th August 2014

Masters taught module: Theories of Global Cooperation - Professor Nicholas Wheeler (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/fear-cooperation-trust-world-politics.aspx>)



This exciting taught module is offered as part of our new Global Cooperation and Security MSc. Taught by Professor Nicholas Wheeler this module provides advanced theoretical training in how to think about the challenges of building security in an uncertain world characterised by multi-level interactions and unprecedented levels of global interconnectedness.

Monday 18th August 2014

Research video: Dr Stephen Jeffares - #Hashtag Politics (</schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/02/stephen-jeffares-hashtag-politics.aspx>)



Dr Stephen Jeffares talks about his current research on Hashtag Politics.

Monday 18th August 2014

Is Boris Johnson a sop to the Tories' UKIP tendency? (<http://theconversation.com/is-boris-johnson-a-sop-to-the-tories-ukip-tendency-30279>)



Written by Dr Peter Kerr. There is a certain section of the Conservative Party – and not necessarily a minority – which has a penchant for self-destruction. This is the same section which takes its leadership cues from Nigel Farage rather than David Cameron; that section which has repeatedly frustrated the latter's attempts to modernise the party, while steadfastly drawing the leadership back towards the types of agenda, on Europe and immigration and so on, which proved so electorally damaging for the party throughout the noughties.

Monday 11th August 2014

Podcast: ASPA Roundtable on US Political Science (</schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/07/aspa-roundtable.aspx>)



Roundtable with Professor Steven R. Smith, the American Political Science Association (APSA) Executive Director and a leading scholar on the non-profit sector, 29 July 2014, Chaired by Professor Chris Skelcher, INLOGOV, University of Birmingham.

Friday 1st August 2014

INLOGOV Summer Symposium 2014 (</schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/07/summer-symposium.aspx>)



This summer symposium brought together distinguished UK and international academics and leaders in the field of local government to share new ideas, creativity, evidence and experience on some of the major challenges for local government.

[Blog: From repression to co-production with citizens: Why we need behaviour change in healthcare \(http://inlogov.com/2014/07/21/from-repression-to-co-production/\)](http://inlogov.com/2014/07/21/from-repression-to-co-production/)

Written by Jörgen Tholstrup. What's the mission of health care? I've been working as a physician and gastroenterologist both in Denmark and Sweden for more than 30 years. Over time, I've become more and more puzzled about our healthcare system and how otherwise responsible human beings can tolerate the way that common behavioural rules are suspended when you access healthcare.

Monday 21st July 2014

[Blog: A view from Barnet's Chris Naylor: how the class of 2014 are responding to perma-austerity \(http://inlogov.com/2014/07/15/a-view-from-barnets-chris-naylor-how-the-class-of-2014-are-responding-to-perma-austerity/\)](http://inlogov.com/2014/07/15/a-view-from-barnets-chris-naylor-how-the-class-of-2014-are-responding-to-perma-austerity/)

Written by Chris Naylor. Two weeks ago I gave the lunchtime pep talk to a dozen young hopeful students each vying for a coveted place on Barnet's graduate programme. Furiously clever, ambitious for Barnet and public services more generally – I didn't envy those with the task of making a final selection. Like the alumni who have come through the Council's programme before them, many of whom a decade on, as senior managers, continue to make a profound contribution to the success of the borough, the Class of '14 will truly be the 21st Century Public Servants.

Tuesday 15th July 2014

[INLOGOV MSc brochure 2014 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/degrees/inlogov-pg-courses.pdf\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/degrees/inlogov-pg-courses.pdf)

Read the latest MSc brochure from INLOGOV. At INLOGOV, we recognise that everyone's needs are different. To ensure that your course is right for you, we have designed our programmes with this mind and have created flexible and adaptable programmes to meet the needs of both you and your organisation.

Tuesday 15th July 2014

[Blog: How can the 21st century public servant survive an era of perma-austerity? \(http://inlogov.com/2014/07/09/how-can-the-21st-century-public-servant-survive-an-era-of-perma-austerity/\)](http://inlogov.com/2014/07/09/how-can-the-21st-century-public-servant-survive-an-era-of-perma-austerity/)

Written by Catherine Mangan. We are launching the first theme from our 21st Century Public Servant project – the need to survive a seemingly unending period of austerity – to coincide with the Local Government Association conference, where austerity is a central theme. Our research with local government and other public service delivery organisations found that 'perma-austerity' is both inhibiting and catalysing change, as organisations struggle to balance short-term cost-cutting and redundancies with a strategic vision for change.

Monday 14th July 2014

[Blog: 21st century public servant: the discussion phase \(http://inlogov.com/2014/07/08/21st-century-public-servant-the-discussion-phase/\)](http://inlogov.com/2014/07/08/21st-century-public-servant-the-discussion-phase/)

Written by Catherine Needham. This post is based on a provocation which I posed at INLOGOV's recent Summer Symposium. It is an attempt to move on the conversation about engagement between local government, other public institutions, citizens and communities.

Tuesday 8th July 2014

[INLOGOV briefing paper: What happened to the NOC councils after May 2014? \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/2014-local-election-results.pdf\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/2014-local-election-results.pdf)

Written by Chris Game, Honorary Senior Lecturer at INLOGOV. Most of the results – and effectively the outcomes – of May's local elections were in the media the following day. For a fifth of councils, though – the black holes in this Briefing Paper's cover map – while the results, in terms of seat numbers, were available, the all-important outcomes – who will actually run the authority – weren't, often for weeks. The Briefing Paper's main purpose is to fill in those black holes, detailing who's now running what and how.

Friday 4th July 2014

[Blog: What happened to the NOC councils after the May elections: a moan and a puff \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/30/what-happened-to-the-noc-councils-after-the-may-elections-a-moan-and-a-puff/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/30/what-happened-to-the-noc-councils-after-the-may-elections-a-moan-and-a-puff/)

Written by Chris Game. 'Five Days in May': the time it took in 1940 for Churchill to manoeuvre the War Cabinet into a five-year World War, in 2010 to form Britain's first post-war peacetime coalition – and in 2014 for Tower Hamlets LBC to announce its local election results. OK, I've exaggerated – it was actually 119 hours after the polls closed, so only 4.96 days, but still not good, even discounting the malpractice allegations.

Monday 30th June 2014

[INLOGOV briefing paper: Reflections on 'Bridging the gap' \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/reflections-on-bridging-the-gap.pdf\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/reflections-on-bridging-the-gap.pdf)

Written by Daniel Goodwin, June 2014. The Inlogov Symposium, Bridging the Gap, was designed to encourage the sharing of new ideas, creativity, evidence and experience on some of the key challenges for local government. This post expands on an earlier blog piece, reflects on the discussions and suggests points and questions for the future.

Thursday 26th June 2014

[Blog: Strengthening democracy and participation: routes to re-connection and engagement - a provocation \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/strengthening-democracy-and-participation-routes-to-re-connection-and-engagement-a-provocation/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/strengthening-democracy-and-participation-routes-to-re-connection-and-engagement-a-provocation/)



Written by Catherine Durose. This post is based on a provocation which I posed at INLOGOV's recent Summer Symposium. It is an attempt to move on the conversation about engagement between local government, other public institutions, citizens and communities.

Friday 20th June 2014

[Blog: Re-valuing The Public \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/re-valuing-the-public/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/re-valuing-the-public/)

Written by Teresa L. Córdova. When we are on the ground getting the policies implemented, or perhaps even making the policies, we focus on doing what we can get done. One of our first questions is, "what are the constraints, the limits of what is possible (or probable), given current fiscal conditions, regulatory structures, or political dynamics."

Friday 20th June 2014

[Blog: Building communities to bridge the gap \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/12/building-communities-to-bridge-the-gap/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/12/building-communities-to-bridge-the-gap/)

Written by Daniel Goodwin. England is around halfway through significant reductions in public expenditure and heading for a 'new normal' at much lower levels, whilst seeing demographic and other pressures rise. Local Government is currently projected to see a £10.5bn funding drop between 2010 and 2020.

Friday 13th June 2014

[Blog: Democracy in The Circle: a route to reconnection and engagement? \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/13/democracy-in-the-circle/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/06/13/democracy-in-the-circle/)

Written by Frank Hendriks. One of the theme's at INLOGOV's 2014 summer symposium is "Strengthening democracy and participation: routes to reconnection and engagement." One of the possible routes is tellingly sketched in Dave Eggers's recent novel The Circle (2013).

Friday 13th June 2014

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