

News

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

Latest news

[INLOGOV briefing paper: The 2014 local elections – a preview \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/2014-local-elections.pdf\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/inlogov/briefing-papers/2014/2014-local-elections.pdf)

By Chris Game. This year's English local elections have been postponed to Thursday 22nd May to coincide with those to the European Parliament. There are all-out elections in the London boroughs, elections by thirds in the metropolitan boroughs, and a mixture of the two in some unitaries and shire districts. This preview will lead you through this potential confusion, and also provide a guide to those councils most likely to change political control.

Monday 14th April 2014

[Blog: The Great NHS Robbery - and the great fraud headline con \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/04/01/great-nhs-robbery/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/04/01/great-nhs-robbery/)

Written by Chris Game. Some social phenomena are exceptionally tricky to measure: the black economy, white-collar crime, illegal immigration. So when someone claims to have done so, no matter how flaky their findings, they attract huge, and largely uncritical, media attention. Like last week's excitement about the scale of NHS fraud.

Tuesday 1st April 2014

[Blog: Why do some PPPs fail to meet objectives? Evidence from Ireland \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/31/ppps-objectives-ireland/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/31/ppps-objectives-ireland/)

Written by Eoin Reeves. Governments around the world are seeking new ways of meeting the challenges of renewing and providing new infrastructure. Factors such as disenchantment with traditional procurement methods and increasing pressures on public finances (intensified by the global economics crisis) have encouraged governments to look to public-private partnerships (PPP) for the purpose of meeting these challenges.

Monday 31st March 2014

[Blog: Councillors and their disappearing pensions \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/27/councillors-pensions/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/27/councillors-pensions/)

Written by Chris Game. There's no doubt about the domestic conversation topic of the past week: pension pots. Which for many councillors, following a budget with little good news for local government – unless you're a pothole hoping for a makeover under the Chancellor's 'potholes challenge fund' – must have felt like being kicked when already down.

Thursday 27th March 2014

[Blog: Rebalancing Britain \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/24/rebalancing-britain/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/24/rebalancing-britain/)

The Scottish referendum campaign is having an interesting knock-on impact on English political debate. The position and dominance of London – the place Scots most dislike about the United Kingdom in its present form – is being looked at more critically. There have been a couple of think tank reports recently, but the debate has moved quite a way beyond the narrow audiences that these reports usually attract. That in itself is a reflection of the way the ground is shifting.

Monday 24th March 2014

[Blog: The impact agenda and political agency \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/21/impact-agenda-agency/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/21/impact-agenda-agency/)

Written by Matthew Wood. Why should we, as political scientists, 'bother' with impact? My answer is that as social actors we cannot avoid 'impacting' on society in one way or another, just like any other profession. The question is how we should choose to influence society. As British political scientists our choices are, thankfully, quite broad.

Friday 21st March 2014

[Blog: Reclaiming the impact agenda: making impact work for you \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/20/reclaiming-the-impact-agenda/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/20/reclaiming-the-impact-agenda/)

Written by Helen Louise Turton. When encountering the 'impact agenda' the ease of engagement is often dependent upon your discipline and/or the type of research being conducted. Certain forms of research don't lend themselves to be easily compatible with the requirements of the impact agenda as it is currently defined.

Thursday 20th March 2014

[Blog: The French local elections – and a quiet revolution? \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/19/french-local-elections/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/19/french-local-elections/)

Written by Chris Game. This Sunday, March 23, the French will be voting in their local / municipal elections, an occasion about as different from our forthcoming local elections on May 22 as it's possible to be.

Thursday 20th March 2014

[Blog: Three problems with the impact agenda \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/19/three-problems-with-impact/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/19/three-problems-with-impact/)

Written by Katherine Tonkiss. In a recent post for the LSE Impact of Social Sciences Blog, I argued with Catherine Durose that while the idea of

delivering policy relevant research is positive, too often our claims to relevance do not deliver genuine impact.

Wednesday 19th March 2014



[Blog: Embarking on impact: why do it and what to consider \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/18/embarking-on-impact/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/18/embarking-on-impact/)

Written by Katharine Dommert. The impact agenda has emerged as a prominent component of academic life. Over the last few years alongside the pressures of writing, teaching and administration scholars have been encouraged (if not expected) to conduct impact and public engagement activities.

Tuesday 18th March 2014



[Blog: Sustainable construction and local authorities: a failed experiment \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/sustainable-construction-and-local-authorities-a-failed-experiment/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/17/sustainable-construction-and-local-authorities-a-failed-experiment/)

Written by Max Lempriere. Sustainable housing policy is a hot-topic at the minute. The autonomy that local authorities have had from central government since 2007 to require local energy efficiency and sustainable construction that supersede those in national building regulations is set to be revoked.

Monday 17th March 2014



[Win:Win network: empowering women in leadership - 26 March 2014 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/events/2014/winwin-network.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/events/2014/winwin-network.aspx)

We are delighted to announce that Norma Jarboe OBE, Director of Women Count and author of a recent report on gender and leadership in higher education will be joining us on 26 March 2014 to discuss her work and the potential benefits for colleagues. The Win:Win network offers a space primarily for academic women at the University of Birmingham to come together, share experiences, develop reciprocal support and facilitate action on issues of gender, diversity, employment, career development and leadership.

Tuesday 11th March 2014



[Cooperation in the Contemporary World: University of Birmingham unveils latest MOOC \(/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/03/cooperation-contemporary-world-mooc.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/03/cooperation-contemporary-world-mooc.aspx)

Experts from the the School of Government and Society including the International Development Department, Department of Political Science and International Studies and the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security at the University of Birmingham have introduced a free, open online course today offering a taste of higher education to learners worldwide. Registration is now live for this online course which is scheduled to start in May 2014.

Monday 10th March 2014



[Blog: The Political Colour of an English Parliament \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/07/the-political-colour-of-an-english-parliament/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/07/the-political-colour-of-an-english-parliament/)

Written by Chris Game. One of the closing questions put to Professor Eastwood following his recent Distinguished Lecture on The British State: Past, Present and Future concerned the place, if any, of an English Parliament in the kind of future federal or quasi-federal Britain about which the lecture had speculated.

Friday 7th March 2014



[IRiS Podcast: Conviviality, Encounter, Diversity, Migration: But Where Did Race Go? \(/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/03/conviviality-encounter-diversity-migration.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/03/conviviality-encounter-diversity-migration.aspx)

Speaker: Sarah Neal, University of Surrey. Migration, Citizenship and Diversity: Questioning the Boundaries Seminar Series.

Friday 7th March 2014



[Professor Henry Maddick \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/03/professor-henry-maddick.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/03/professor-henry-maddick.aspx)

Henry Maddick, the founder of INLOGOV died at the age of 98 on the 27th of January, after a lifetime of achievement.

Friday 7th March 2014



[Blog: Migration, citizenship and diversity: questioning the boundaries \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/06/migration-citizenship-and-diversity-questioning-the-boundaries/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/03/06/migration-citizenship-and-diversity-questioning-the-boundaries/)

Written by Dr Katherine Tonkiss and Dr Nando Sigona. In recent decades, a significant transformation in the meanings, practices and experiences of membership in contemporary Western democracies has taken place. These transformations have challenged traditional conceptions of state membership which have typically assumed the existence of a nation-state, with a burgeoning line of scholarship challenging the significance of the nation-state in determining membership and endowing rights. This literature argues that recent trends in globalisation, human rights and multiculturalism have made state borders less important.

Thursday 6th March 2014



[Blog: Policing the journey along the low road \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/02/25/policing-the-low-road/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/02/25/policing-the-low-road/)

Written by Alan Doig. Up to the 1980s, crime control in the UK was widely seen as virtually the sole domain and responsibility of law enforcement.



Nearly all police forces had, for example, a fraud squad whose purpose was laid out in a 1970 Home Office circular (apparently 115/1970 since you ask) and who traditionally dealt with criminalised aspects of local government misconduct.

Tuesday 25th February 2014

[Blog: The Coalition's mishandling of recall: worse than Baldrick's war poem \(http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/02/24/the-coalitions-mishandling-of-recall/\)](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2014/02/24/the-coalitions-mishandling-of-recall/)

Written by Chris Game. Seeking an arresting phrase to convey the protracted abjectness of the events described in this blog, my first thought was Education Secretary Michael Gove's 'misbegotten shambles' – his accusatory summary of how certain historians and popular TV programmes like Blackadder have depicted the First World War.

Monday 24th February 2014

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

Bridging the gap: can demand management, behaviour change and coproduction improve outcomes and reduce costs in public services?. Lecture delivered at the University of Illinois at Chicago, October 2013. This paper focuses on public services in England.

Wednesday 19th February 2014



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