

## News

Keep up to date with the latest news and [events \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/events/index.aspx\)](#) 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 \(/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx\)](#)

### Latest news

#### **[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.

Thursday 18th September 2014

#### **[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-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.

Monday 15th September 2014



The staff at the School of Government and Society look forward to meeting all new students for the start of the 2014/15 academic year. All the information you'll need for starting at the University of Birmingham can be found on our Welcome homepage.

Friday 12th September 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.

Thursday 11th September 2014

#### **[POL SIS 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)**



POL SIS 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.

Wednesday 10th September 2014

#### **[Student Exchange and Year Abroad \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx)**



Dr Huw Macartney talks about why you should do a year abroad degree with the Department of Political Science and International Studies. All programmes offered in the POL SIS provide students with the opportunity to develop a broad disciplinary knowledge base and a range of analytical and transferable skills, as well as allowing them to build up expertise in specific areas of political life.

Wednesday 10th September 2014

#### **[Recent publications and conference presentations demonstrate the strength of research in POL SIS \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/09/publications-conference-presentations.aspx\)](/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 (POL SIS) demonstrate the quality and vibrancy of research in the department

Tuesday 9th September 2014

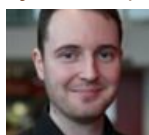
#### **[BRICS keep supporting Russia in bid to rebalance world power \(https://theconversation.com/brics-keep-supporting-russia-in-bid-to-rebalance-world-power-31122\)](https://theconversation.com/brics-keep-supporting-russia-in-bid-to-rebalance-world-power-31122)**



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.

Tuesday 9th September 2014

## **[Why 'fools rush in' is Obama's watchword in Iraq and Syria \(http://theconversation.com/why-fools-rush-in-is-obamas-watchword-in-iraq-and-syria-31267\)](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.

Friday 5th September 2014

## **[Student Enhancement Fund profiles 2014 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/funding/student-enhancement-fund.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/funding/student-enhancement-fund.aspx)**



Find out how our undergraduate and postgraduate students have used the School of Government and Society student enhancement fund throughout 2013/14 and read about their experiences.

Thursday 4th September 2014

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

Wednesday 3rd September 2014

## **[Douglas Carswell by-election is a rare and honourable event \(http://theconversation.com/douglas-carswell-by-election-is-a-rare-and-honourable-event-31060\)](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

## **[Nationalism sparks a summer of deadly violence in the Caucasus \(http://theconversation.com/nationalism-sparks-a-summer-of-deadly-violence-in-the-caucasus-30933\)](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.

Thursday 28th August 2014

## **[If lauding Thatcher was cause to recall parliament, why not Iraq? \(http://theconversation.com/if-lauding-thatcher-was-cause-to-recall-parliament-why-not-iraq-30697\)](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

## **[Inside Donetsk, a city at war, while the jaw-jaw over Ukraine continues \(http://theconversation.com/inside-donetsk-a-city-at-war-while-the-jaw-jaw-over-ukraine-continues-30486\)](http://theconversation.com/inside-donetsk-a-city-at-war-while-the-jaw-jaw-over-ukraine-continues-30486)**



Written by Professor Tatyana Malyarenko (Professor of Public Administration at Donetsk State Management University) and Professor Stefan Wolff. The past few days have seen another round of the seemingly endless cycle of escalation and de-escalation that has characterised the crisis in Ukraine for several months.

Tuesday 19th August 2014

## **[Sino-Indian Relations in the 21st Century: Economic and Security Implications and Responses \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/08/sino-indian-relations-21st-century.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/global-cooperation-in-practice.aspx)**



This conference hosted by the University of Birmingham took place on Thursday 10 July 2014. The conference brought together leading scholars from China, India and the UK to address the following questions: what are the key drivers of Sino-Indian relations, particularly their economic and security relations? What are the cooperative and competitive elements in their economic and security strategies towards their Asian neighbours and beyond? What kind of regional and extra-regional responses are provoked by the increasing capabilities and expanding ambitions and activities of these rising powers?

Monday 18th August 2014

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

**Contemporary Violence: Postmodern War in Kosovo and Chechnya Paperback version of book released** (</schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/08/contemporary-violence-postmodern-war-kosovo-chechnya.aspx>)



The monograph by Cerwyn Moore, *Contemporary Violence: Postmodern War in Kosovo and Chechnya* (Manchester: MUP, 2014), is released in paperback.

Monday 18th August 2014

**Blog: On Reporting the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict** (<http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2014/08/on-reporting-nagorno-karabakh-conflict.html>)



Written by Dr Kamala Imranli-Lowe and Dr Galina Yemelianova. In early August 2014 the British media reported an escalation in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This has brought the conflict, which has been less covered since the cease-fire of May 1994, back to the media's attention. This blog is intended to shed some light on the role of the British, and the wider Western, media in shaping particular attitudes among the public, as well as policy-makers involved in the negotiation process over this conflict.

Monday 18th August 2014

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