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

POLSIS Spring Seminar Series Discusses Major Topical Issues (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/05/polsis-seminar-series.aspx)

The 2015 POLSIS spring seminar series focused on the crisis in Greece, the rise of populism, rhetoric and leadership, security, ethnic minority representation and the impending British general election.

Friday 1st May 2015

Prestigious best article prize for Birmingham sociologist (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/05/best-article-prize-will-leggett.aspx)

Dr Will Leggett, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, has been awarded the Best Article 2014 prize by the leading journal Policy & Politics.

Friday 1st May 2015

Birmingham Pre-election debate on Immigration co-hosted by The Guardian (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/05/guardian-debate-immigration.aspx)

The Department of Political Science and International Studies/School of Government and Society co-host a pre-election debate on immigration with The Guardian.

Friday 1st May 2015

Pollsters v bookies: who's on the money in election 2015? (http://theconversation.com/pollsters-v-bookies-whos-on-the-money-in-election-2015-40933)

Written by Chris Game, Honorary Senior Lecturer, INLOGOV. "Polls Apart!" used to be the cliché newspaper headline whenever two opinion polls about an impending election reported fractionally differing findings. For the 2015 election, they're rapidly running out of puns. The sense of frustration is palpable. Those polls keep coming, and none gives a clear idea of who will win.

Friday 1st May 2015

Blog: The West Midlands – a bellwether for the election? (http://polsis.org/2015/04/22/the-west-midlands-a-bellwether-for-the-election/)

In this post, Cherry Miller discusses the key battleground seats and issues in the West Midlands. The original version of this post was published as part of the General Election 2015 series on the LSE British Politics and Policy Blog on 14th April 2015.

Friday 24th April 2015

Why the zero-carbon homes policy hasn't gone to plan (http://theconversation.com/why-the-zero-carbon-homes-policy-hasnt-gone-to-plan-40650)

Written by Max Lempriere, PhD Researcher in Political Science. One of the UK's flagship sustainability policies is in big trouble. Less than a year from now, the theory goes, all new homes will be "zero-carbon". The reality is rather different. Economic meltdown, a housing crisis, pressure from developers and poorly designed legislation have all combined to leave the country way behind schedule.

Friday 24th April 2015

What Britain should learn from Syriza and Greek eurosceptics (http://theconversation.com/what-britain-should-learn-from-syriza-and-greek-eurosceptics-40653)

Written by Dr George Kyris, Lecturer in International and European Politics. The last few years have been remarkable for Greece's relationship with the EU. The bail-out agreements between the country and the EU-IMF, the interference of the latter two in domestic affairs and the imposition of austerity have caused a sharp rise in euroscepticism.

Friday 24th April 2015

Why the British election should be more like a student ballot (http://theconversation.com/why-the-british-election-should-be-more-like-a-student-ballot-40195)

Written by Chris Game, Honorary Senior Lecturer, INLOGOV. Wednesday April 15 is Democracy Day. It's the start of the final coordinated push before the 2015 voter registration deadline on April 20. It was organised, like February's National Voter Registration Day, by Bite the Ballot, a not-for-profit community movement that aims to encourage young people in particular to reject Russell Brand's baleful "stop voting" gospel and make their votes

count.

Monday 20th April 2015

Hillary Clinton announces presidential campaign: expert reaction (http://theconversation.com/hillary-clinton-announces-presidential-campaign-expert-reaction-39831)

Written by Inderjeet Parmar, City University London; Clodagh Harrington, De Montfort University; Rosa Freedman, University of Birmingham; Russell Bentley, University of Southampton; Scott Lucas, University of Birmingham, and Tom Packer, University of Oxford. The worst-kept secret in American politics is finally out in the open. What now?

Monday 13th April 2015

Blog: Seventh Annual POLSIS Postgraduate Colloquium (http://polsis.org/2015/04/11/seventh-annual-polsis-postgraduate-colloquium/)

This all day event is a brilliant opportunity for staff and students to find out what the School's PhD students are working on, as well as an opportunity for all our PhD students and staff to get together and discuss ongoing research.

Monday 13th April 2015

Kenya attack: al-Shabaab's violent radicalism can't be tackled by force alone (http://theconversation.com/kenya-attack-al-shabaabs-violent-radicalism-cant-be-tackled-by-force-alone-39714)

Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. The terrorist group al-Shabaab has claimed an attack on Garissa University College in eastern Kenya, in which an unclear number have been killed and many others taken hostage.

Friday 10th April 2015

Iran celebrates historic nuclear deal – all eyes now on supreme leader (http://theconversation.com/iran-celebrates-historic-nuclear-deal-all-eyes-now-on-supreme-leader-39528)

Written by Professor Scott Lucas. Finally, after years of diplomacy and brinkmanship, the long-awaited nuclear deal with Iran has been done. There is jubilation in the streets as Iran's people, who have struggled under the weight of western sanctions for decades, are waking up to the prospect of a brighter economic future.

Friday 10th April 2015

Are the Conservatives really about to increase minority representation? (http://theconversation.com/are-the-conservatives-really-about-to-increase-minority-representation-39605)

Written by Chris Game, Honorary Senior Lecturer, INLOGOV. The Sunday Times recently ran a pretty incredible headline, claiming that in the 2015 election, "Tories may secure most ethnic MPs". This would represent a huge turnaround. Ten years ago – and 18 years after the all-Labour quartet of Dianne Abbott, Paul Boateng, Bernie Grant, and Keith Vaz had become the UK's first post-war black and minority ethnic (BME) MPs – the Conservatives didn't have a single one.

Thursday 2nd April 2015

Sociology Society Careers Conference 2015 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/teaching/student-profiles/undergraduate/2014-15/sociology-society-careers-conference.aspx)

The Sociology Society hosted a careers conference on 04 February 2015. This event provided current students with the opportunity to meet alumni from a variety of careers including HR, PR/Marketing, Consultancy, Social Work, Law (in particular a postgraduate qualification) and Education.

Thursday 2nd April 2015

Germanwings crash: the ins and outs of the two-person rule (http://theconversation.com/germanwings-crash-the-ins-and-outs-of-the-two-person-rule-39453)

Written by Daniel Rio Tinto, Doctoral Researcher in POLSIS. It takes two people to launch a nuclear missile - it's time the same level of safety returned to the cockpit.

Monday 30th March 2015

Blog: The cyber threat to the United Kingdom (http://polsis.org/2015/03/27/the-cyber-threat-to-the-united-kingdom/)

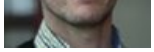
Written by Gavin Hall, Doctoral Researcher in POLSIS. When the new government takes office in May 2015 one of the first tasks will be to initiate a Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR).

Monday 30th March 2015

POLSIS academic interviewed by Turkish Weekly (http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/182385/vieira-brazil-demands-unsc-should-be-reformed.html)

Dr Marco Vieira shared his views with the Turkish Weekly on Brazil and the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine.

Thursday 26th March 2015



Understanding the Post-Crisis Landscape: Assessing Change in Economic Management, Welfare, Work and Democracy (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/03/assessing-change-in-economic-management-welfare-work-and-democracy.aspx)

This seminar introduced a 6-seminar ESRC seminar series: Understanding the Post-Crisis Landscape: Assessing Change in Economic Management, Welfare, Work and Democracy. It highlighted and contested contemporary political economy approaches to macroeconomic management, welfare, work, and democracy, in the light of the global economic crisis - thereby setting the scene for four subsequent seminars to explore each of these themes in more depth.

Friday 20th March 2015

He's back – but the power struggle around Vladimir Putin continues behind the scenes (http://theconversation.com/hes-back-but-the-power-struggle-around-vladimir-putin-continues-behind-the-scenes-38868)

Written by Dr Adrian Campbell. The apparent disappearance of Russian president Vladimir Putin between March 5 and 16 provoked a festival of Kremlinological speculation on a scale not seen since the temporary ousting of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the abortive coup of 1991.

Thursday 19th March 2015

Blog: In Crimea, Time for Pressure (http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/03/in-crimea-time-for-pressure.html)

By Liana Fix - Associate Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations and Visiting PhD Researcher at the University of Birmingham. Forgetting about Crimea and the fate of the Crimean Tatars means implicitly acknowledging Russia's claim to the region. Instead, the international community must demonstrate to Russia that its arbitrary interpretation of international law regarding Crimea has long-term consequences. We are not yet in a post-Crimea phase.

Thursday 19th March 2015

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