

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

[Oil crisis: can short-term pain lead to economic gain for Russia? \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2015/01/oil-crisis-22-01-15.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2015/01/oil-crisis-22-01-15.aspx)



The recent crash in oil prices is causing much anxiety in oil-producing states. From Iran to Venezuela, many have come to rely on elevated oil prices to fuel economic growth and support government spending.

Friday 23rd January 2015

[Sociology Society Careers Conference 2015 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/events/2015/02-04-sociology-careers.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/events/2015/02-04-sociology-careers.aspx)



The Soc Soc Careers Conference is your chance to start thinking about your career post-graduation. Join us for the opportunity to speak to graduates from diverse fields of work to ask questions, network and enjoy plenty of free food!

Friday 23rd January 2015

[Podcast: Ethnic minority political representation in Britain: the end of the Race Relations Paradigm? \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/ethnic-minority-political-representation-in-britain.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/ethnic-minority-political-representation-in-britain.aspx)



The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) Departmental Seminar. Speaker: Maria Sobolewska (Manchester), Respondant: Dr Chris Allen (University of Birmingham).

Thursday 22nd January 2015

[Podcast: Trust, technology and salvation: An investigation of President Reagan's nuclear speech \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2015/01/investigation-of-president-reagans-nuclear-speech.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2015/01/investigation-of-president-reagans-nuclear-speech.aspx)



Laura Considine is a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Leeds. She received her PhD in International Politics from Aberystwyth University in 2014 and was a John W. Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress in Washington DC in 2011.

Wednesday 21st January 2015

[Obama's National Security Strategy: Predicting US Policy in the Context of Changing Worldviews \(http://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/obamas-national-security-strategy-predicting-us-policy-context-changing-worldviews\)](http://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/obamas-national-security-strategy-predicting-us-policy-context-changing-worldviews)



While the National Security Strategy (NSS) is a good predictor of an administration's policy, its declared strategic priorities are necessarily tempered by external reality, writes Dr Adam Quinn in a recent paper published by Chatam House.

Tuesday 20th January 2015

[Is Chechnya facing wave of jihadist violence? \(http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/30476381\)](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/30476381)



On 19 December 2014 BBC Europe News published an article by Dr Galina Yemelianova on recent Chechen bombing.

Tuesday 20th January 2015

[Blog: Playwright, Prisoner and President: the Life of Vaclav Havel \(http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/playwright-prisoner-and-president-life.html\)](http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/playwright-prisoner-and-president-life.html)



Written by Dr Tim Haughton, A review of Michael Zantovsky, Havel: a Life, London: Atlantic Books (2014). You only really appreciate someone when they have left. The death of Vaclav Havel in December 2011 provoked a week of mourning, warm and generous words from his political foes, and for many 'perhaps a rediscovery' of the man who had played so many different roles in his life: playwright, political prisoner and president (p. 14).

Tuesday 20th January 2015

[Research video: Dr Tim Haughton \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/research-video-tim-haughton.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/research-video-tim-haughton.aspx)



Dr Tim Haughton is a political scientist with a particular interest in electoral and party politics, the relationship between politics and government, the interaction between domestic and European sources of change, the relationship between Britain and the EU, the role of the past in the politics of the

present and the domestic politics of Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.

Monday 19th January 2015

[Corporeal Capitalism: The Body in International Political Economy \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/corporeal-capitalism.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/corporeal-capitalism.aspx)

New special section of the journal 'Global Society' on body politics in the global economy edited by University of Birmingham Senior Lecturer.

Monday 19th January 2015



[Former Student Becomes Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/former-student-becomes-albanian-deputy-foreign-minister.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/former-student-becomes-albanian-deputy-foreign-minister.aspx)

Former PhD Student Odeta Barbullushi has been appointed Albania's new Deputy Foreign Minister.

Monday 19th January 2015



[The arrival \(and departure\) of the parliamentary single-termers \(http://theconversation.com/the-arrival-and-departure-of-the-parliamentary-single-termers-36374\)](http://theconversation.com/the-arrival-and-departure-of-the-parliamentary-single-termers-36374)

Written by Chris Game. All university admissions tutors know about single-termers. They are those students – some badly advised and intellectually bewildered, others more devious – who decide around mid-November that they want to change degrees, study elsewhere or just drop out. They're a pain, but higher education is a complex world and, after all, they are young. MPs, you might suppose, would be different. But in this parliament anyway, you'd be dead wrong.

Monday 19th January 2015



[Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch adds Paris attacks to list of successes \(http://theconversation.com/al-qaedas-yemen-branch-adds-paris-attacks-to-list-of-successes-36308\)](http://theconversation.com/al-qaedas-yemen-branch-adds-paris-attacks-to-list-of-successes-36308)

Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. Al-Qaeda's most active and notorious branch – the Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) – has claimed responsibility for the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris. While some questions remain about the full credibility of the claim, it is not entirely implausible: it's been established that some of the attackers had been trained in Yemen, and at least one of them had met AQAP's former chief ideologue, Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born jihadist killed in a US drone strike in 2011.

Monday 19th January 2015



[Ukraine steels for more unrest as Donetsk bus attack kills 12 \(http://theconversation.com/ukraine-steels-for-more-unrest-as-donetsk-bus-attack-kills-12-36266\)](http://theconversation.com/ukraine-steels-for-more-unrest-as-donetsk-bus-attack-kills-12-36266)

Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. The deadly attack on a bus carrying civilians near Donetsk, killing at least 12 of them and wounding many more, comes in the wake of yet another round of failed talks among the foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and France. It also follows a pattern of persistent violence between rebels and government forces that has made a mockery of a ceasefire agreement brokered between the two sides back in September 2014.

Thursday 15th January 2015



[Political Engagement and political alternatives in the age of austerity \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/political-engagement-political-alternatives-in-the-age-of-austerity.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/political-engagement-political-alternatives-in-the-age-of-austerity.aspx)

Scholars from Italy, Ireland, Germany and the UK attended a workshop in Birmingham examining political engagement and political alternatives in light of the current crisis affecting Europe.

Tuesday 13th January 2015



[Two More PhD Successes Highlight the Strength of POLSIS Doctoral Research \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/phd-successes.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/phd-successes.aspx)

Two more doctoral researchers successfully defend their PhD theses.

Tuesday 16th December 2014

[Slovak Expert Visits University of Birmingham \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/12/slovak-expert-visits-birmingham.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/12/slovak-expert-visits-birmingham.aspx)

Leading Expert on Slovak politics, Marek Rybar of Comenius University, visited the University of Birmingham.

Tuesday 16th December 2014



[CREES staff member delivers talk at The National Defence Academy of Latvia \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/12/derek-averre-delivers-talk-national-defence-academy-of-latvia.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/12/derek-averre-delivers-talk-national-defence-academy-of-latvia.aspx)

Dr Derek Averre of CREES/POLSIS spoke about Europe and the Ukraine crisis at the National Defence Academy of Latvia, Riga, on 03 December 2014.

Monday 15th December 2014



[IGS podcast: Disobeying Hitler: German Resistance in the last year of WWII \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/disobeying-hitler.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/disobeying-hitler.aspx)

Speaker: Randall Hansen (University of Toronto).

Thursday 11th December 2014



[Podcast: Ethics in Syria: Analysing the International Response \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/12/ethics-in-syria.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2014/12/ethics-in-syria.aspx)

The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security, in conjunction with the Centre for Global Ethics, organised this timely panel discussion of the ongoing crisis in Syria. Leading academics and human rights activists convened a panel to discuss the ethics of responding to the crisis in Syria.

Tuesday 9th December 2014



[Podcast: The New Challenges and Choices of the South Caucasus: Between Political, Cultural and Economic Priorities \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/11/challenges-and-choices-of-the-south-caucasus.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/11/challenges-and-choices-of-the-south-caucasus.aspx)

Dr Denis Dvornikov spoke on the current political situation in the South Caucasus region, focussing on the new challenges linked with geopolitical integration projects such as the Eurasian Economic Union and the Iran factor as well as the situation with the region's non-recognised states (Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Nagorno-Karabakh). He will also address recent events in Russia – Georgia dialogue and perspectives for economic development.

Friday 5th December 2014



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