News in the departments

Keep up to date with the latest news and **events (/schools/government-society/events/index.aspx)** from around the school and the wide-ranging projects our staff and students get involved with.

Podcast: Emancipation without agenda? – The recovery of non-Western subjecthood and its implications for the study of world politics (/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2015/05/emancipation-without-agenda.aspx)

This discussion assembled scholars from different fields and of diverse regional expertise to present the different forms of non-Western subjecthood that they identify or envisage in order to discuss the possibility and constellations of non-Western subjecthood and corresponding forms of agency. The event thus made an attempt to link recent theoretical debates about a 'post-Western' IR with insights from other disciplines to show how post-colonial agency operates both within the framework of the international state system, but also appears in more diffuse and less obvious ways that serve to challenge and re-shape this system.

Friday 22nd May 2015

Blog: Do select committees deserve 'universal praise'? (http://polsis.org/2015/05/22/do-select-committees-deserve-universal-praise/)

In this post, Dr Stephen Bates and Dr Mark Goodwin argue that a more rounded evaluation of Select Committees is needed to assess whether they deserve 'universal praise'.

Friday 22nd May 2015

Blog: A new typology of local government systems (http://inlogov.com/2015/05/22/a-new-typology-of-local-government-systems/)

Written by Pawel Swianiewicz. "Typologies of the European systems of local government are important and frequent point of reference for many scholars. But the trouble for scholars from my part of Europe is that the most popular classifications concentrate on Western part of the continent, totally disregarding the post-communist Central and Eastern Europe."

Friday 22nd May 2015

Blog: The Wedding of the Century: More Evidence of a Soft Exit for Chechnya? (http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/the-wedding-of-century-more-evidence-of.html)

By Karena Avedissian. In Chechnya, the wedding of a 17-year old girl and a middle-aged policeman has put centre-periphery relations and the growing divergence of regional arrangements in Chechnya and the rest of the Russian Federation in the spotlight.

Friday 22nd May 2015

IGS podcast: 50 Years of German-Israeli Relations: Reflections on History, Memory and International Politics (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/05/fifty-years-of-german-israeli-relations.aspx)

IGS Symposium. Speakers: Lorena De Vita (Aberystwyth University); Harald Kindermann (former FRG Ambassador to Israel); Shimon Stein (former Israeli Ambassador to the FRG); Ruth Wittlinger (University of Durham).

Friday 22nd May 2015

Podcast: Take A Chance: Trust-Building Across Identity Groups (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2015/05/trust-building-across-identity-groups.aspx)

Speaker: Professor Andrew Kydd (University of Wisconsin). Trust is central to cooperation and it is often taken for granted that trust is higher among members of an identity group than between groups. However, apart from assimilation or creating new overarching identities, we lack a compelling explanation for trust-building.

Friday 22nd May 2015

Podcast: Violence, Civilization and Humanity (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/conflict-cooperation-security/news/2015/05/violence-civilisation-humanity.aspx)

Speaker: Professor Andrew Linklater (Aberystwyth University). The ICCS Distinguished Lecture Series continues on the 18th May with a talk from Professor Andrew Linklater, arguably one of the 50 key thinkers writing in the field of International Relations today. Professor Linklater will discuss his recent research on 'Violence, Civilization and Humanity'.

Friday 22nd May 2015

Undergraduate Open Days - 26-27 June 2015 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/events/visit-open-day.aspx)

Our Undergraduate Open Days offer you the perfect opportunity to hear first-hand from our current undergraduates and teaching staff about living and learning at Birmingham.

Friday 22nd May 2015

China and India sign US$22 billion in deals but tensions simmer under the surface (http://theconversation.com/china-and-india-sign-us-22-billion-in-deals-but-tensions-simmer-under-the-surface-41983)

Written by Dr Tsering Topgyal. Despite the emphasis on a mutually beneficial economic relationship, political and security concerns have the power to undermine cooperation between China and India.

Wednesday 20th May 2015

As refugee crisis deepens, the world is losing patience with South Sudan (http://theconversation.com/as-refugee-crisis-deepens-the-world-is-losing-patience-with-south-sudan-41696)

Written by Dr Jonathan Fisher. Africa's youngest country has been at war for 18 months, and its people are paying the price. Its neighbours and supporters aren't happy.

Wednesday 20th May 2015

University Showcases Dynamic Doctoral Researcher Community in POLSIS (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/05/annual-postgraduate-colloquium.aspx)

Last week doctoral researchers in POLSIS organized a colloquium and presented their latest findings to peers from across the University.

Tuesday 19th May 2015

IDD researchers share findings at OECD discussions on peacebuilding and statebuilding (/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2015/05/idd-researchers-share-findings-at-oecd-discussions-on-peacebuilding-and-statebuilding.aspx)

Heather Marquette leads a team of researchers from IDD who will present their work at the OECD this week. They will share findings with two INCAF Task Teams at discussions of the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals on legitimate politics and on revenues and services.

Tuesday 19th May 2015

Burundi teeters on the brink of civil war following coup attempt (http://theconversation.com/burundi-teeters-on-the-brink-of-civil-war-following-coup-attempt-41869)

Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. An attempt by the incumbent president to change the constitution and run for a third term has exposed deep and dangerous divisions.

Monday 18th May 2015

Blog: A day for devolution (http://inlogov.com/2015/05/14/a-day-for-devolution/)

Written by Daniel Goodwin. "The Cities Devolution Bill, with careful attention to principle as well as expediency and in the context of wider constitutional renewal, could just be the way to start to make that happen and help to address the wider devolution challenges which the UK faces following the General Election".

Friday 15th May 2015

Blog: The emergence of city regions (http://inlogov.com/2015/05/14/the-emergence-of-city-regions/)

Written by Jon Bloomfield. The structures of sub-national government in the UK are about to undergo major change not just in Scotland but across the major conurbations. As George Osborne has said "In a modern, knowledge-based economy city size matters like never before."

Thursday 14th May 2015

Blog: The other 1215 Charter: 800 years of elected mayors (http://inlogov.com/2015/05/11/the-forgotten-local-elections-conservatives-defied-predictions-here-too/)

Written by Chris Game. "You'd not have known it from the national media, either before Election Day or since, but the 650 parliamentary contests weren't the only ones taking place in the UK last Thursday. It was the year in local government's four-year election cycle that almost all English district and unitary councils – 279 of 293 – had elections, and there were votes too for six mayors, for many parish and town councils, plus the odd local referendum."

Tuesday 12th May 2015

The forgotten local elections – Conservatives defy predictions in council votes too (http://theconversation.com/the-forgotten-local-elections-conservatives-defy-predictions-in-council-votes-too-41627)

Written by Chris Game, Honorary Senior Lecturer, INLOGOV. Gains for the Tories and obliteration for the Lib Dems as councils are selected — sound familiar?

Tuesday 12th May 2015

Blog: The Ties that Bind: War, History and Power in and around Today's Russia (http://creesbham.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/the-ties-that-bind-war-history-and.html)

By Dr. Kevork Oskanian. It is difficult indeed to overstate the importance of victory day in Russia. In its solemnity, it is as close to a religious festival as any secular event could be. The Soviet Union was adept at filling the void left by its Marxist atheism with ritual and symbolism, and, more than on other days of the contemporary calendar, its imprint was still palpable on May 9th, 2015.

Tuesday 12th May 2015

Blog: The other 1215 Charter: 800 years of elected mayors (http://inlogov.com/2015/05/06/the-other-1215-charter-800-years-of-elected-mayors/)

Written by Chris Game. "The LGA's Magna Carta web pages have recently featured a delightful homophone – sounds the same as another word, but different spelling and meaning. Among this summer's many MC commemorative events will reportedly be "a programme of inciteful lectures and talks" (my emphasis)."

Thursday 7th May 2015

Blog: Why the zero-carbon homes policy hasn't gone to plan (http://polsis.org/2015/05/05/why-the-zero-carbon-homes-policy-hasnt-gone-to-plan/)

In this post, Max Lempriere, PhD Researcher at The Department of Political Science and International Studies discusses why the zero-carbon home policy has not gone to plan. First Published on The Conversation 15th April 2015

Thursday 7th May 2015

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