

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.

FIFA offers a surprise lesson on how to reform post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://theconversation.com/fifa-offers-a-surprise-lesson-on-how-to-reform-post-conflict-bosnia-and-herzegovina-34633>)



Written by Dr Laurence Cooley. Bosnia and Herzegovina recently held its seventh general election since the end of the 1992-1995 war – a conflict that left more than 100,000 dead. On the face of it, the obvious victors of these elections appear to be the country's dominant nationalist parties, which have held power for almost two decades.

Friday 5th December 2014

IDD Guest seminar podcast: Using aid as a sanctioning device: The case of budget support suspensions? (/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2014/12/using-aid-as-a-sanctioning-device.aspx)



Speaker: Dr Nadia Molenaers, Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Antwerp.

Friday 5th December 2014

Focus on the Caucasus (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/focus-on-the-caucasus.aspx)



A roundtable on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, a presentation on the challenges and choices of the South Caucasus and participation at conferences in Baku highlight research strengths and interest in the Caucasus.

Thursday 4th December 2014

Catherine Staite named in top 100 most powerful people in local government (/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/12/catherine-staite-lgc.aspx)



INLOGOV are delighted to announce that Catherine Staite, Director of INLOGOV has been included in the Local Government Chronicle's top 100 most powerful people in the world of local government. Catherine was placed at number 45 in the list, above notable politicians such as Mayor of London Boris Johnson, and Birmingham City Council Leader Sir Albert Bore.

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Moldova's future in the balance after uncertain election result (<http://theconversation.com/moldovas-future-in-the-balance-after-uncertain-election-result-34895>)



Written by Professor Stefan Wolff. Moldova has gone to the polls in a vote seen as crucial for determining the country's future direction. Preliminary results indicate that the pro-European parties together achieved about 44% of the vote, while those parties considered to be more pro-Russia came in with just under 40% of the vote, on a turnout of around 56%. These headline figures, however, mask a more complicated picture.

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

IGS podcast: The Dark Side of EU-rope: Imperium Europaeum? (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/12/the-dark-side-of-eu-rope.aspx)



Speakers: David Engels (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Hauke Brunkhorst (University of Flensburg). Chair: Julian Pänke (IGS)

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

ESRC PhD studentships (/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/12/esrc-phd-studentships.aspx)



The School of Government and Society invites applications for fully-funded ESRC studentships for postgraduate research beginning in September 2015.

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Blog: The future is Intercommunality – yes, but with whom? (<http://inlogov.com/2014/12/01/the-future-is-intercommunality-yes-but-with-whom/>)



Written by Chris Game. Rom com/date movies aren't really my thing, so my excuse for watching the recent Words and Pictures was that I was a captive plane passenger – and that the ever-watchable Juliette Binoche was playing a rheumatoid arthritic abstract painter and prep school art teacher. The title refers to the silly challenge she charily accepts from alcoholic poet turned plagiarising English teacher, Clive Owen, to 'prove' whether Words or Pictures are more meaningful.

Monday 1st December 2014

[POLISIS Seminar Series Discusses Major Topical Issues \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/11/polsis-seminar-series.aspx\)](#)

The POLISIS seminar series this autumn focused on the implications of the Scottish referendum result, the state of the European Union, the 25th anniversary of the 1989 revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe, and the liberal quest for world order.

Friday 28th November 2014



[CREES Annual Report Highlights Vibrancy of the Centre \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/11/annual-report-2013-14.aspx\)](#)

The 2013-14 annual report for the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) has just been published.

Friday 28th November 2014



[Podcast: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: The Uses and Misuses of History \(/schools/government-society/departments/russian-east-european-studies/news/2014/11/nagorno-karabakh-conflict.aspx\)](#)

This round-table discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict which is one of the most complex and protracted ethno-territorial conflicts in the post-Soviet space. It focused on the role of historical narrative in the political discourse of all parties involved in the conflict. The round-table gathered together scholars and policy-makers with a lengthy empirical and political experience of this turbulent region.

Thursday 27th November 2014



[Iran nuclear deal will come down to economic pressure \(http://theconversation.com/iran-nuclear-deal-will-come-down-to-economic-pressure-34668\)](#)

Written by Professor Scott Lucas. Iran has failed to reach an agreement with six world powers about the future of its nuclear programme after talks. Talks in Vienna about the future of Iran's nuclear programme have failed for the time being. The countries involved have agreed to resume discussions in December with a view to reaching a political agreement by March 1 next year and a final deal by the end of June.

Thursday 27th November 2014



[Course on corruption from the grassroots \(http://www.dlprog.org/news/course-on-corruption-from-the-grassroots.php\)](#)

DLP Research Fellow Dr Caryn Peiffer is lecturing at the ninth Afrobarometer / Centre for Social Science Research Summer School at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, which runs from 17 November - 12 December 2014.

Wednesday 26th November 2014



[Podcast: Reflections On UK Africa Relations by Mark Simmonds MP \(/schools/government-society/departments/international-development/news/2014/11/reflections-on-uk-africa-relations.aspx\)](#)

This event entitled 'Reflections on UK Africa relations', covered Mark Simmonds time in office as well as his thoughts on the future of UK Africa relations in arenas including development, security and trade. The event was organised by the BISA Africa and International Studies Working Group, of which Dr Danielle Beswick is co-convenor, as part of a series of events around the UK during 2014 on 'Britain and Africa after 50.'

Wednesday 26th November 2014



[Podcast: NATO after the Wales Summit \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2014/11/nato-after-the-wales-summit.aspx\)](#)

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, NATO's recent summit in Newport, Wales marked a seeming return to a traditional agenda of reassurance and deterrence. NATO has taken measures to shore up the defence of its eastern allies, but to what extent does the Alliance remain a useful tool of multilateral security cooperation in an era of defence austerity, cyber-attack and the collapse of order in Syria and Iraq? How important is NATO for American and British foreign policy? And what hope is there for a continuing dialogue with Russia? These issues were addressed by experts at this event.

Wednesday 26th November 2014



[Parliamentary strengthening: fix the car, or worry about the driver? \(http://www.dlprog.org/news/parliamentary-strengthening-fix-the-car-or-worry-about-the-driver.php\)](#)

In a guest post on Duncan Green's From Poverty to Power blog, DLP Senior Research Fellow Alina Rocha Menocal revisits the evidence on parliamentary strengthening that she and former colleague Tam O'Neill of ODI presented in mid-November 2014 to the UK's International Development Select Committee (IDC).

Monday 24th November 2014



[Blog: Ebola - where are the governments? \(http://iddbirmingham.wordpress.com/2014/11/21/ebola-where-are-the-governments/\)](#)

Written by Dr Andrew Nickson. The terrible Ebola tragedy has spawned massive coverage in the world's media of Sierra Leone and Liberia – with harrowing images of victims, relatives, health workers, doctors, and aid agency staff. Yet one key 'stakeholder' in the fight against Ebola has been notably missing from this coverage – the government of both countries. Most of us would be hard pressed to name the presidents of either country* as they have been almost invisible, and the same goes for their respective health ministers.

Friday 21st November 2014



Tower Hamlets residents must be wondering why they bothered to vote (<http://theconversation.com/tower-hamlets-residents-must-be-wondering-why-they-bothered-to-vote-34440>)



Written by Chris Game. With a forced smile and through gritted teeth, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, has announced himself willing to accept – and even "welcome" – the intervention package set out for his borough by Eric Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government.

Friday 21st November 2014

Blog: The PwC report on Tower Hamlets highlights fundamental tensions in local democracy, not always thought through clearly in new mayoral systems (<http://bit.ly/1yKtNgM>)



Written by Michael Keith. Competent bureaucrats commonly believe they protect the public interest by delivering transparent decision making in public institutions. This is commendable. Politicians normally believe that they are elected to carry out the wishes of their voters. This is forgivable. But these imperatives rub against each other when politicians try reshaping things in an image they prefer and the bureaucrat wants to preserve an order they recognize. This is difficult.

Friday 21st November 2014

Blog: Pickles' Tower Hamlets takeover: a sad affair all round (<http://inlogov.com/2014/11/20/pickles-tower-hamlets-takeover-a-sad-affair-all-round/>)



Written by Chris Game. He kept Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles, waiting until almost literally the 23rd hour of the 14th day of his two-week deadline. In the end, though, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, having last Friday lost his second, and ill-advised, application for a judicial review, was left with little choice.

Thursday 20th November 2014

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