

Diverse and original PhD research showcased at fifth annual postgraduate colloquium

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The fifth annual School of Government and Society postgraduate colloquium recently took place (Wednesday 13 March 2013), giving PhD researchers an opportunity to share their ideas with students and staff. The day was an astounding success and highlighted the diverse range of fascinating PhD research that is taking place across the school.

The day began with an opening panel of CREES researchers on the topic of conducting fieldwork in eastern Europe. Veysef Erdemli talked about the issues of researching Georgian immigrants in Turkey, and [John Kennedy](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/kennedy-john.aspx) sketched his initial approaches to researching industrial risk in Russia.

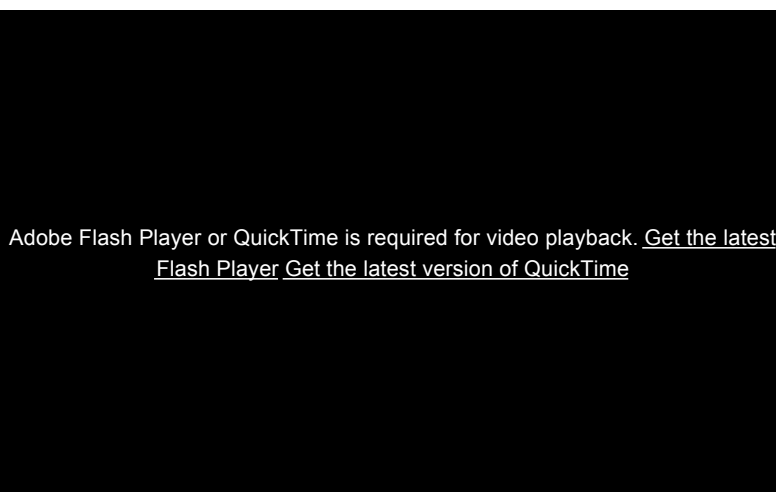
The second panel saw POLSIS PhD researchers [Rhys Crilley](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/crilley-rhys.aspx) and [Andris Banka](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/banka-andris.aspx) talking about their research into contemporary technologies of security in regards to social media and drones respectively.

Incorporated with the day's proceedings was the POLSIS doctoral colloquium where [Samir Naser](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/naser-samir.aspx) provided an in depth summary of his work titled 'the political theory of religion and violence; does religious thought really lead to violence?'

After lunch, a panel on the broad topic of conflict and conflict resolution gave POLSIS researchers [Daniel Pinheiro Rio Tinto de Matos](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/daniel-rio-tinto.aspx) and Reina Kartsonaki an opportunity to discuss their work alongside CREES researcher Lance Spencer Davies. In order, they talked about anarchy and domestic political violence, state secession in Kosovo and Russia's approach to humanitarian operations.

The final PhD researcher panel focused on development and political change. CREES PhD student [Duncan Leith](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/leitch-duncan.aspx) spoke about his research on international donor advice in Ukraine, [Gareth Wall](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/wall-gareth.aspx) from IDD gave an insight into his work on local priorities for development and [Max Lempriere](/schools/government-society/research/doctoral-researchers/profiles/lempriere-max.aspx) from POLSIS looked at the topic of ecological reform in local government.

The day was brought to a close with a roundtable discussion on how to survive during and after the PhD process. POLSIS PhD student Kenneth Searle gave a riveting talk on non-elite interviews in the context of his research and guest speaker [Dr Adam Quinn](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/staff/profiles.aspx?Referenceld=4509) provided an insight into the publishing process. Esteemed guest speaker Dr Linda Ahall, a POLSIS PhD alumna and lecturer in International Relations at Keele University, rounded off the discussion with an informative account of the ups and downs of the job hunting process.



The fifth annual School of Government and Society postgraduate colloquium was a great success and a brilliant showcase for the original and diverse research that is taking place within the PhD community across the school.

Further information

The full days proceedings can be found on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5TjiPpilP8idGuziz7iwzO5dUhdGeqk> (<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5TjiPpilP8idGuziz7iwzO5dUhdGeqk>).

[More Student activities throughout the school](/schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx) (</schools/government-society/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx>).

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