



This is *Politics'* inaugural Learning and Teaching Prize which will be awarded every two years to the best learning and teaching article published in *Politics* in the preceding two years.

### PhD Scholarship

**Chris Goldsmith**, with Richard Hall, is leading on a University PhD Scholarship on 'A critical evaluation of continuing professional development strategies for digital literacy in UK compulsory education'. Further details are available from this [link](#).

### In the Media

**Alistair Jones** was on BBC Radio Leicester on 10 and 11 February 2014 discussing the possibility of Leicestershire County Council becoming a unitary authority. Alistair has also written a piece for the Leicester Mercury First Person column on the same subject which was published on 15 February 2014 and is available from this [link](#).

### Expertise and Appointments

**Rob Baggott** has been appointed to the editorial board of the [Journal of Integrated Care](#).

### Conferences, Workshops & Events

#### *In February 2014*

**Alasdair Blair** and **Alison Statham** presented papers at the American Political Science Association [Teaching and Learning conference](#) in Philadelphia:

- Blair: 'Where Have We Got to in UK Higher Education Research in Politics and International Relations'
- Statham: 'Clickers and Twitters: Re-shaping Assessment and Feedback Practices through Technology'

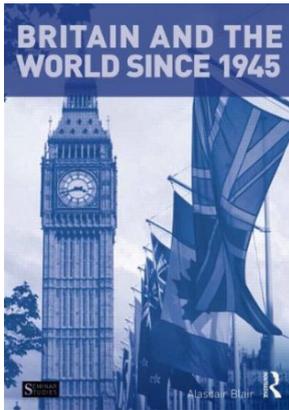
**Tim Brown** participated in a seminar in Eindhoven in the Netherlands on housing and the labour markets. He led on a session focussing on local authority responses to tackling the issues of households on the revolving door of work and welfare.

**Philip Davies**, with the Eccles Centre and the American Politics Group of the UK, hosted an event at the British Library in London. The US Ambassador to the Court of St James's, Matthew Barzun led 'A Conversation about the 2012 Presidential Campaign'. The event, conducted under the Chatham House Rule, was attended by some invited students from the Department (see [Course and Student News](#) below).

And **Philip Davies** was an invited participant in a discussion with senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials on 'the United States in the Next Decade'.

A reminder that Philip Davies especially welcomes DMU colleagues at Eccles Centre events, and will endeavour to reserve complimentary tickets for any who contacts him ([pjd@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:pjd@dmu.ac.uk)) in advance of the [events](#).

## New Publications



**Blair, A.** (2014 forthcoming) *Britain and the World since 1945*, London, Routledge, available from this [link](#).

## Department Seminar Series

To reserve your place(s) for any of the following seminars please contact **Suzanne Walker** at [swalker@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:swalker@dmu.ac.uk) or telephone 0116 257 7780.

**26 March 2014, 1.30–4.30pm, HU 3.96**

Joint symposium with School of Management, University of Leicester  
*Publishing for Multiple Publics*

**2 April 2014, 3.15pm, HU 3.94**

Work in Progress Seminar: *Collaborative urban governance in an austerity age: trends in Spain and the UK*, Dr Ismael Blanco, Visiting Fellow, Autonomous University of Barcelona

**7 May 2014, 12.30pm, HU3.96**

*Co-operatives – a stepping-stone to something or nothing?*, Professor Peter Somerville, University of Lincoln

**4 June 2014, 12.30pm, HU 3.96**

*Reclaiming Modernity: Democratic possibilities today*, Professor Jeremy Gilbert, University of East London

## COURSE AND STUDENT NEWS

### Roundtable discussion with US Ambassador at the Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library, London, 10 February 2014

*By Lewis King with Lorryne Camoes*

The roundtable discussion with Ambassador Barzun gave an opportunity to those who attended to hear the first hand his experience and knowledge gained from his time on the Obama campaign teams in 2008 and 2012. This provided us with information on the aims and methods that were employed during these campaigns, together with the methods that he had used during the 2004 election as well. This was an interesting insight from the Ambassador as it gave us a better understanding on how campaign teams try to connect with the electorate and try to achieve the goals that they were set.

Furthermore, this event allowed for discussion between the Ambassador and other academics on subjects that surround elections and the pros and cons of some of the arguments that exist on campaigning and it's financing. This event proved to be of particular interest to myself as it provided alternative angles on how to approach my dissertation research and has allowed me to gain a better understating on the process that a candidate goes through, how they are moulded, how it can potentially shape their character and the way they act if successful upon entering the oval office.

Finally, it was an exciting opportunity as the Ambassador was very polite and sincere in his responses to our questions, but also very well attuned to modern methods of campaigning such as the use of technology. He was very open to our questions as well as being happy to share the information that he had gained while campaigning and during his time as a diplomat.

### DMU Policy Commission

The DMU Policy Commission has been launched – bringing together its students to produce 100 policy ideas that will be given to politicians ahead of the 2015 General Election.

As a university dedicated to the public good, DMU created the Policy Commission to give students a say in the future of the country which will be inherited by their generation. With the support of DMU Chancellor Lord Waheed Alli, the commission will take its ideas to the House of Lords in the summer of 2014 to influence the main political parties' manifestos.

At the official launch on 12 February 2014, dozens of students and members of staff from the Department met to discuss five key areas:

- Young people and employment
- Welfare reform and local communities
- Future of our urban spaces and cities
- Migration and communities
- Citizenship and political participation



**Alasdair Blair** said: “The Policy Commission brings together the expertise of our staff and harnesses the energy of our students to shape the political agenda for the broader public good.

“This is an exciting opportunity for students to share their views of how they would like the country to be and counter the established viewpoint they do not always identify with. The discussions that have taken place prove that young people are not apathetic toward politics, they just have not been engaged in the right way until now.”

Final year Politics and Government student Jamie Osowski (20) said: “The Policy Commission combats the idea that young people aren’t interested in politics. We have new ideas and just need a platform and a culture that encourages us to get involved.”

For further details about the Policy Commission visit the webpage [www.dmu.ac.uk/policycommission](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/policycommission), email directly at [policy@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:policy@dmu.ac.uk) or follow on Twitter #DMU100.

### **SCOPE in Hong Kong**

From 14 to 16 February 2014 **Alistair Jones** was at the School for Continuing and Professional Education at City University Hong Kong. He facilitated an experiential exercise, focusing on policy making. The idea was to see how different groups interact with the governing body with regard to conflicting concerns – in this case, it was the rights of women to inherit land. Different groups of students performed different roles, including the media, the government, various women’s groups and the village elders. It was absolutely fascinating, and the students threw themselves wholeheartedly into the exercise. While at SCOPE, Alistair also gave a lecture to the students on the possible consequences of the European Parliamentary elections to be held in May 2014.

### **Alumni Success**

On 28 February 2014 **Kathryn Jones** attended an East Midlands NHS Graduate Internship presentation by Janki Valand, a former student on Health Strategy and Management (POPP3406) - an option module co-taught by Kathryn and **Rob Baggott**. Janki has spent the past six months as a Business Management Advisor Graduate on the Innovation Team at [Health Education East Midlands](http://Health Education East Midlands). She was one of nine University of Leicester and DMU graduates awarded a place on the internship programme. Following on from an extension to her six month internship, in July 2014 Janki will start her placement on a graduate management training scheme run by Amey Plc.

### **Congress to Campus**

**Clodagh Harrington** was involved in convening the first of the Spring Congress to Campus events at the British Library, hosted by **Philip Davies**. Clodagh booked a range of American and British speakers to address an audience of 100+ sixth form students on contemporary US political issues.

### **John Bercow’s Digital Democracy Project**

**Clodagh Harrington** and other Digital Democracy commissioners have set up the Student Online Forum for the project, with has seen impressive student input so far. DMU final year politics students Lewis King, Peter Sinclair and Emmanuel Oyeniran are involved, and have been very proactive in their engagement to date.

## Parliamentary Outreach

**Alistair Jones** was invited by [Parliamentary Outreach](#) to attend the launch of the Universities Programme on 4 March 2014. While there, another trip to Parliament was planned for DMU students in conjunction with Parliamentary Outreach, for the first [Enhance Your Employability](#) week next academic year (3-7 November 2014). John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, expressed an interest in meeting our students at such an event.

## Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

On 14 March 2014, students were invited to a seminar led by Anthony Teasdale, the Director-General of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) at the European Parliament on 'The Politics of the May 2014 European Elections'.

## Debate Photos

The photos from the debate, chaired by John Bercow on 23 January 2014, are now available from this [link](#).

## Online Teaching and Learning

**Ros Lishman** has been successful in a bid for funding for a De Montfort University Teaching Fellow Project on learning object repositories. Ros is working with the [Centre for Enhancing Learning through Technology](#) on the project, which links up with a current frontrunner placements on [online learning and housing policy making](#) led by **Tim Brown**.

## Frontrunners

Applications by current students are now open, until 10 April 2014, for the following [Frontrunner](#) placements opportunities in the Department:

[Urban Politics Think Tank](#) with **Alison Statham**  
[Jean Monnet Centre](#) with **Alasdair Blair**  
[Avatars in Teaching and Learning](#) with **Ros Lishman**

## Open Days

Meet staff and find out about Department courses at the following open days:

**Postgraduate and professional programmes:** Wednesday 2 April 2014

[Link to event details](#)

[Link to course details](#)

**Faculty Open Day:** Wednesday 16 April 2014

[Link to event details](#)

[Link to course details](#)

**Housing Open Day:** Tuesday 3 June 2014

Contact **Ros Lishman** [rlishman@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:rlishman@dmu.ac.uk) for details

**University Wide Open Day:** Saturday 5 July 2014

[Link to event details](#)

# Student and External Examiners Feedback

- "I think the best part of this course is the quality of the staff. There are some really inspiring lecturers who have been very supportive and make the course enjoyable."
- "Well structured course programme with enough teaching material. Tutors willing to help and very understanding and respectful."
- "Excellent tutors with an extremely professional and academic approach to the subject matter, the university was well suited for a variety of research methods and support areas."
- "The undergraduate programmes are well benchmarked against the rest of the sector. Their contents are sophisticated and responsive to recent developments in the discipline." Tim Stanton (University of York)
- "Module delivery... is supportive of student development. A range of delivery methods are used and this enhances student experience within these modules and across programmes." Janice McMillan (Napier University, Edinburgh)

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Department ranked 6th out of 69 Politics Departments in UK Universities\*

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