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Introduction

This report documents research outcomes achieved by De Montfort University’s Department of Politics and Public Policy (PoPP) in the academic year 2012-13. Our research is concentrated predominantly in public policy, but encompasses international politics, political theory and pedagogy within the discipline of politics. Our work epitomises the DMU mission to deliver research excellence with impact, covering everything from developments in governance theory and critical urban studies to high-level research partnerships with policy makers, advisory and consultancy projects for central government and other prominent public sector stakeholders. Departmental research is channelled through three dedicated policy research units. We highlight notable achievements in each area:

The Centre for Comparative Housing Research (CCHR) delivers high quality consultancy, research and teaching in housing policy. Members of staff are Dr Tim Brown (Director), Dr Peter King, Ros Lishman, Professor Mike Oxley and Dr Jo Richardson. The CCHR team recently won an ESRC Knowledge Exchange grant totalling £148,000 for a comparative project, Boosting the Supply of Affordable Rented Housing in the UK: Learning from other Countries. Led by Dr Jo Richardson, the ESRC seminar series Creating space and place for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma concluded with a memorable event in the House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Whitaker and the Roma, Gypsy Traveller All Party Parliamentary Group. This event was reported in the ESRC Britain in 2014 magazine http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/publications/britain-in/.

The Health Policy Research Unit is a university-wide network carrying out multi-disciplinary academic and policy research on health issues. Core PoPP staff are Professor Rob Baggott (Director) and Dr Kathryn Jones, with membership from across the university. Research highlights include Baggott’s British Academy sponsored investigation of the Cuban health system (in partnership with former colleague George Lambie) and his work with Jones on health consumer and patient organisations/patient and public involvement in health, which is influencing current policy thinking. In 2012 Jones was accepted onto the first cohort of DMU’s highly competitive future research leaders programme. Notable publications in the past year include Baggott’s monograph Partnerships for Health and Wellbeing (Palgrave).

The Local Governance Research Unit is a centre of excellence for theoretically informed, robust and rigorous policy relevant research into British and comparative urban and local governance. PoPP staff members are: Professor Colin Copus (Director), Professor Jonathan Davies and Dr Steven Griggs, together with associates Frances Jones, Roger Lawrence and Ines Newman. In early 2013, Steven Griggs concluded the ESRC Knowledge Transfer Project, The Ensuring Council, a partnership with the Association for Public Service Excellence. This project was graded outstanding by the ESRC and influences policy deliberations throughout local government. The Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee has now adopted the code of practice for central-local relations written by Colin Copus,
known as “Magna Carta 2.0”. The code proposes to enshrine the independence of local government in the British constitution. In September 2013, Jonathan Davies hosted the Urban Studies Foundation funded conference Interrogating Urban Crisis: Governance, Contestation and Critique. The conference attracted scholars and activists from all over the world to explore the potential for comparative studies of crisis-governance in cities. Notable academic publications include Davies’s contribution to the 40th Anniversary special issue of Policy & Politics (41:4), titled Just do it differently? Everyday making, Marxism, and the struggle against Neoliberalism, and a forthcoming special issue of Urban Studies co-edited by Griggs with Ismael Blanco (Autonomous University of Barcelona) and Helen Sullivan (Melbourne) on Explaining Local Governance: ‘Transformation’ through Neoliberalism.

The Department has also developed a number of successful crosscutting projects, forging links between researchers across the department and the University. Led by Head of department, Professor Alasdair Blair, DMU won €75,000 from the European Commission to establish the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2013-16). This award was one of only three to UK Universities in 2013. We received a further £22,000 from the DMU Higher Education Innovation Fund to boost the work of the new Jean Monnet Centre. Building links between social sciences and the humanities, Dr Clodagh Harrington organised an international conference in May 2013, The State of the Union: Challenges and Expectations for the Obama Administration.

The remainder of this report lists all departmental publications in 2012-13, research grants, conferences and seminar presentations and current PhD Students.
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Publications

Refereed Journal Articles: published and forthcoming


Department of Politics & Public Policy
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Department of Politics & Public Policy
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Research Monographs (including multi-authored) (published and in press only)


Non-refereed Journal Articles


Edited Collections


Text Books


Chapters in books

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Policy and Practice


Other Publications


Research Income

External Grants

- Rob Baggott: Investigation of Cuban health system (British Academy) 2012-14 (with G. Lambie), £7,500.

- Alasdair Blair: Leicester De Montfort University Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, European Commission €75,000.

- Tim Brown; Ros Lishman; Mike Oxley and Jo Richardson: ERSC Research Grant ES/K007564/1 Knowledge Exchange, Boosting the supply of affordable rented housing in the UK: learning from other countries. July to December 2013. The ESRC award is valued at £73,000. Places for People will additionally provide support in kind worth £75,000.


- Jonathan Davies: Partner on Spanish Research Council-funded project - consortium led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona to study governance under austerity in Spain and the UK.


- Jo Richardson: Somerset Councils Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update, March to September 2013, Project Director, £16,920.

- Jo Richardson: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update, September 2012 to January 2013, Project Director, £44,765.

- Jo Richardson, Chartered Institute of Housing Project – Future of the Housing Officer, Project Director, October 2013 and ongoing to March 2014, £21,350.
DMU Funded Research

- Alasdair Blair: Clickers and Twitters: re-shaping assessment and feedback practices through technology, De Montfort University Teaching Innovation Project £4,880.60 (2013-14).


Conferences and Seminars

Conferences Organised


Conference Papers

- Rob Baggott, ‘*The Big Society in an Age Of Austerity: Threats and Opportunities for Health Consumer and Patients’ Organisations in England*’, 14th Biennial Congress of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology, Hanover, 2012 (with Kathryn Jones).


- Alasdair Blair, ‘The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Using Twitter for teaching Politics and International Relations’, paper presented at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Long Beach, California. 8-10 February 2013

- Alasdair Blair, ‘Similar or Different? A comparative analysis of Higher Education Research in Political Science and International Relations between North America and the United Kingdom’, workshop paper given at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Long Beach, California. 8-10 February 2013

- Colin Copus: EURA Conference: Cities as Seedbeds for Innovation, Enschede, 3rd to 6th July 2013 University of Twente. Paper Title: *Local Political Leadership: Governing Through Governance Networks*. 
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- Mike Oxley: ‘Starters in urban housing markets; evidence from Europe’ Michael Oxley, Centre for Comparative Housing Research, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, 2013 RC43 conference Amsterdam Being at home in the housing market, University of Amsterdam, Centre for Urban Studies, July 10-12, 2013.


Seminar papers

- Jonathan Davies: 26.10.12 – Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo: Why don’t governance networks fulfil the promise of network governance?


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Other Speaking Engagements


- Colin Copus: Invited key-note speaker at an event sponsored by the Italian prime Minister’s Office and organised by the Devolution Club, on the role of provincial (County government), 28-29th September, 2012.


- Colin Copus: South East Employers, Enhancing Local Democracy Seminar, 21st June 2013 for practitioners in local government.

- Colin Copus: The Territorial Alliances for Innovation (funded by the observatory for European structural funds) seminar University of Aveiro, Portugal, 19th July 2013


- Colin Copus: Istanbul Policy Center seminar, Sabancı University, Centralization versus Decentralization Debate Revisited: Challenges to Local and Regional Governance in Turkey and Europe, İstanbul, on 15-16 November, 2013.

- Colin Copus: Association of Democratic Services Officers National Conference, Birmingham City, 21st November 2013
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- Colin Copus: Centre for Public Scrutiny’s 10th Anniversary Roundtable: The role for leaders in creating an accountable culture in public services, 3 December 2013, Westminster.

- Jonathan Davies: 23 November 2012 – Keynote Address: Workshop on Networks and Democracy, University of Lucerne.


- Peter King: Keynote plenary speaker at Housing Studies Association Conference, University of York, April 2013.


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Current PhD Students

Student

Haila Altwaian
Tim Cheetham (DMU Studentship)
Michael Dadd
Lei Dai
Olawale Fawehinmi
Yoric Irving-Clarke
Eleanor Mackillop
Abdulbaset Ghnedi
Robert Ogman (DMU Studentship)
Jing Pan

Raksha Pandya-Wood
Catherine Saltis
Jane Scullion
David Simmonds
Vinod Singla
Andy Thomas
Steve White
Laura Wilkes

Supervisor

Alasdair Blair/Lixian Jin
Colin Copus
Colin Copus
Alasdair Blair/Andrew Tolson
Rob Baggott/Kathryn Jones
Peter King
Steven Griggs/Jo Richardson
Alasdair Blair/Chris Goldsmith
Jonathan Davies/Steven Griggs
Alasdair Blair/Melvin Wingfield/Martyn Denscombe
Kathryn Jones
Colin Copus
Colin Copus
Colin Copus
Alasdair Blair/Parmjit Kaur
Alasdair Blair/Jo Richardson
Colin Copus
Colin Copus

PhD Completions

Student

Dan Allen
Lindiwe Msengana Ndlela (Warwick)
Mark Poynter (MPhil)

Supervisor

Jo Richardson
Jonathan Davies
Alasdair Blair/Clodagh Harrington
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