REPORT FROM THE THIRD ISSC WORLD SOCIAL SCIENCE FELLOWS SEMINAR 2014

Global Social Governance: Developing international social science research and impacting the policy process

The overall aims of the ISSC’s World Social Science Fellows Programme are to create the next generation of social science leaders, by focusing on global challenges and priorities with particular relevance to developing countries. The UK Academy of Social Sciences has prepared this Report on third World Social Science Fellows Seminar as a resource for early career social scientists seeking to collaborate in developing international and multidisciplinary research.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 29 July to 2 August 2014, the Academy’s International Advisory Group hosted the third in the International Social Science Council’s (ISSC) Programme of World Social Science Fellows Seminars on the theme of Global Social Governance.

The overall aims of the ISSC’s programme of seminars are to create the next generation of social science leaders, by focusing on global challenges and priorities with particular relevance to developing countries. At the London Seminar, the Fellows from across the world worked together with other participants, and with leading international specialists, policy advisers, practitioners and publishers, to explore different approaches to inter- and transdisciplinary research, their methodologies, the gaps and problematics of emerging themes.

In five intensive days, the Fellows were given the opportunity to chair, lead and report on conversations and panel discussions with experts on global social governance and the policy process, while collaboratively planning themed sections of journals, special issues, edited book and project proposals. They received valuable advice on international networking, project funding and dissemination from experienced researchers and organisers, and returned to their home institutions and regions ready to develop and consolidate their careers as international research leaders.

The Academy was partnered in London by the LSE’s Centre for International Studies (CIS). Venues and catering were provided by the British Council and the Suntory Toyota Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines (Sticerd) at the London School of Economics. The event was also generously sponsored by the LSE Asia Research Centre, the LSE Departments of International Relations and Social Policy, the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York, the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow, the Leeds Social Science Institute, the Social Sciences Division at Oxford University, and the UK’s Regional Studies Association and Social Policy Association. Several publishers – SAGE, Routledge Taylor & Francis, Edward Elgar, Policy Press, Palgrave Macmillan and Wiley–Blackwell – provided financial and practical support as well as making copies of books and journals available to the Fellows.

PART 1: Perspectives on Global Social Governance

In the opening session, the Fellows explored with Bob DEACON the concept of global social governance and assessed the impact of his work on its development by addressing the following questions: What is global social governance and what are its characteristic features? What are the current and emerging structures and issues in global social governance? How has the Sustainable Development Goals Process contributed to global social governance? What kind of gaps can we identify and what should future research agendas focus on?

The conversation with David LEWIS engaged with the what, why and how aspects of analysing the role of non-governmental organisations and civil society in international development policy from the perspectives of both insiders and outsiders, with a focus on anthropological approaches and the challenges that arise in development work on global social governance.

PART 2: Perspectives on Global Social Governance and Climate Change

The conversation with Ian GOUGH focused on the linkages between global social governance and climate change, with reference to his work on distinct scales of environmental and social problems, and his advocacy for ‘eco-social’ policy. The Fellows discussed with him the need for action at multiple scales to address climate change, specific policy tools that would achieve both environmental and social goals, and how to address social justice goals in policy making and implementation.

A major topic of concern for Adam COOPER in his work on climate change in the UK government context has been the disconnect between the natural and social sciences, and the marginalisation of social perspectives. The conversation considered how issues of social justice, carbon intensity of energy supply and climate change interact, and how policy has a role in improving the balance between these disparate elements.

PART 3: Perspectives on Global Social Policy and Research Impacts

The conversation with Kirsten AINLEY addressed issues that she raised in a draft article on ‘The Responsibility to Protect and the International Criminal Court’. With the Fellows, she explored the ways in which arguments about the complementarities between state sovereignty and operations of international institutions might apply in the case of social and economic crises resulting from natural disasters, and how the role of corporate social responsibility in global social governance could be made more effective.

The conversation with Ernestina COAST and Emily FREEMAN focused on work that they were carrying out to maximise the impact of an international project investigating the socio-economic costs of unsafe and safe abortion for women, their households and the Zambian health system. They documented the challenges and successes of their plans to engage with the health professionals, journalists, members of international and national civil society, civil servants, members of parliament and international academics, as well as with the women and girls seeking information on safe abortion.

PART 4: Perspectives on Evidence and the Policy Process in Global Social Governance

Drawing on the lived experience of the two speakers, the conversation with Ruth KATTUMURI and Susanne MacGREGOR focused on key issues that surround evidence-based social policy research and the ways in which it can make inroads into the policy process at the global and local level, with particular reference to India.

The discussion spanned the history of evidence-based policy research; the role played by context; ways of building bridges...
between research and policy; what works and what does not work, and why, including problems of implementation.

PART 5: Research and Policy Perspectives on Global Social Governance
In a panel discussion, four researchers with experience of working as policy advisers – Abbi HOBBBS and Caroline KENNY at the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, Nicola RANGER at the UK Department for International Development, and Andrew SORS, formerly at the Directorate General for Research & Development in the European Commission – engaged with the Fellows in exploring the relationship between research and policy across disciplinary and national boundaries. The panel proffered valuable advice about how to overcome the challenges and constraints of working in a policy environment in the UK and Europe.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

PART 1: Accessing Resources
The three sessions devoted to accessing resources were designed to provide information and guidance for the Fellows on funding and materials.

Claire McNULTY, Director of Science, Education and Society, who hosted the first day of the Seminar, provided the Fellows with an overview if the various worldwide grant and travel schemes organised by the British Council.

During a visit to the British Library, Jude ENGLAND, the Head of Research Engagement, introduced the Fellows to the British Library’s Social Sciences Collection and explained how they could access materials relevant to their own research.

Aygen KURT-DICKSON, Research Development Manager, LSE Research Division, presented a range of funding opportunities, many at European level, available to researchers from around the world for collaborative projects.

PART 2: Developing International Networks
Several sessions focused on opportunities for networking and career development in the international arena.

Two representatives of the UK Academy of Social Sciences’ member Learned Societies advised the Fellows on how to use professional associations to maximise career opportunities. Sally HARDY, Chief Executive Officer and Gordon DABINETT, Honorary Vice-Chair, of the Regional Studies Association, explained how the Fellows could make their work known by exploiting international conferences, publications and networking, including through social media.

Nick ELLISON, Chair of the UK Social Policy Association, provided another perspective on the opportunities for career development through membership of the SPA, and its scholarly associations and reciprocal arrangements in other countries.

Andrew SORS from the Brussels Office for the Eurotech Universities Alliance, and formerly European Commission, Directorate-General Research, responded to questions from the Fellows on interdisciplinary networking through international organisations with EU funding.

Laura CAMFIELD from the School of International Development, University of East Anglia, drew on her research experience to offer the Fellows advice on international networking, cascading and dissemination strategies. She stressed the importance of engagement with different audiences and of defining and following plausible ‘impact pathways’.

PART 3: Publishing
Prior to the Seminar, the publishers who had been invited to participate in the event had made available guidelines and other information about the publishing process, in addition to supplying many of the key texts in preparation for the conversations. In the course of the Seminar, the Fellows were given a number of opportunities to discuss publishing outlets with representatives of library services and publishing houses. Books and journals relevant to the theme of global social governance were on display throughout the Seminar and were generously donated to the Fellows on the final day by the publishers.

Natalia MADJARAVIC, Research Support Services Manager at the LSE Library Research Support Services, described the ways in which publication strategies can be developed within the context of open access.

Christina BRIAN, a Publisher at Palgrave Macmillan on International Political Economy, Development Studies and Environment, and Head of Politics and International Studies (Scholarly & Reference), provided tips on ‘How to Get Research Published’ and, with her colleague, Iain HRYNASZKIEWICZ, Head of Open Research Publishing, explained the publishing process at Palgrave Macmillan.

Alexandra KAASCH, one of the Fellows and Editor of the Global Social Policy Digest, described the launch of the Global Social Policy journal by SAGE in the context of the Globalism and Social Policy Programme.

Patrick BRINDLE, the SAGE Publisher for Online Content, responded to questions about the SAGE Online Methods Cases, and invited the Fellows to submit their own cases.

Julia BRANNEN and Linda HANTRAIS described the database of International Social Research Methods Case Studies that they had established as one of the sustainable outputs from an ESRC-funded project under the ESRC’s Researcher Development Initiative, and which had provided a number of international methods cases for the SAGE collection.

Emily MEW, a Social Policy Commissioning Editor at Edward Elgar, talked the Fellows through the commissioning process with an ‘international family publisher’, and presented guidelines for preparing book proposals and typescript.

Victoria PITTMAN, Commissioning Editor, Sociology, Social Theory and Social Research Methods, at the University of Bristol’s Policy Press, focused on the ways in which the Press work with editors of proposals for books and special issues of journals.
Jonathan MANLEY, Publisher for Journals with the Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, focused on three of the journals most relevant to the themes of the Seminar from among the 500 or so published on behalf of learned societies and professional associations.

Tom KIRK, the Wiley–Blackwell Online Editor of Global Policy, invited the Fellows to submit proposals for themed issues of the journal, for which the journal editors had supplied detailed guidelines.

LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE SEMINAR

Feedback from the Fellows indicated that the Seminar had largely fulfilled its objectives and had met their expectations. They appreciated the prestige conferred by being selected as ISSC World Social Science Fellows, as well as the experience gained from working collaboratively and sharing cross-cutting perspectives on a topic that brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

The Fellows, who were at a relatively early stage in their careers or from research communities with less international exposure, benefited especially from the opportunities provided to:

- build relationships across disciplines and cultures, including bridging the divide between research and policy
- learn how to shape research agendas
- learn about different methodological approaches
- develop collaborative international research projects
- build an individual international research profile
- become involved in preparing, leading and reporting on Seminar sessions
- cascade and disseminate knowledge to different audiences.

The meetings with publishers led to a number of proposals being submitted for edited collections and journal articles, and several of the Fellows had well developed plans for organising regional events in their home institutions.

INTRODUCTIONS

The ISSC and the World Social Science Fellows programme

Heide HACKMANN is Executive Director of the International Social Science Council. She has worked as a policy maker, researcher and consultant in the field of international science policy and management since the early 1990s. As ISSC’s executive director, she represents the Council on numerous international committees and policy fora, and is a member of several international scientific advisory committees.

The International Social Science Council

The International Social Science Council is an independent non-government organisation established by UNESCO in 1952. It is the primary body representing the social, economic and behavioural sciences at an international level.

The ISSC is a membership-based organisation governed by a General Assembly and an elected Executive Committee. Its members include international professional associations and unions, regional and national social science research councils and academies, universities and institutes with major interests in the social sciences.

The Secretariat in Paris manages a dynamic portfolio of programmes and activities aimed at strengthening the social sciences to help solve global priority problems and secure a sustainable future for everyone. The ISSC’s mission is to increase the production and use of social science knowledge for the well-being of societies throughout the world by working to:

- identify and mobilise resources for international research priorities
- facilitate research collaborations across regions, disciplines and scientific fields
- foster innovative talent and build social science research capacities
- provide access to global social science expertise, resources and networks
- and connect research, policy and practice.

ISSC Activities

The ISSC produces the World Social Science Report every three years, as part of its strategic partnership with UNESCO. The report addresses important social science challenges, takes stock of social science contributions and capacities, and makes recommendations for future research, practice and policy.

The ISSC regularly convenes a World Social Science Forum to provide a platform for researchers, funders, policy makers, and other stakeholders to debate topics of global significance and to determine future priorities for international social science.

The ISSC’s World Social Science Fellows programme seeks to foster a new generation of globally networked research leaders who will collaborate in addressing global problems with particular relevance for low and middle-income countries. Fellows from a diverse range of disciplines participate in seminars to discuss and design interdisciplinary perspectives on priority topics. They take the lead for most of the work and discussions at seminars, working with international experts, policy makers,
practitioners, activists, and other relevant stakeholders to enrich their reflections.

The Fellows programme is supported by the Swedish International Development Agency and the Government of Sweden. Individual seminars are implemented in collaboration with partner organisations, and coordinated by Charles EBKEME, the ISSC’s Science Officer on the World Social Science Fellows Programme, and Laura VAN VEENENDAAL, the Programme Manager.

For more information, visit: http://www.worldsocialscience.org/

The Academy of Social Sciences and its International Advisory Group

Madeleine BARROWS is Assistant Director (Secretariat) at the UK Academy of Social Sciences, with particular responsibility for issues connected with the governance of the Academy and its various publications. She also assists the work of the Executive Director in the development of strategy and new initiatives.

The Academy of Social Sciences

The Academy of Social Sciences is the National Academy of Academics, Learned Societies and Practitioners in the Social Sciences. Its mission is to promote social sciences in the United Kingdom for the public benefit.

The Academy is composed of over 900 individual Fellows and 47 Learned Societies, representing around 90,000 social scientists. Fellows are distinguished scholars and practitioners from academia and the public and private sectors. Most of the Learned Societies in the social sciences in the United Kingdom are represented within the Academy.

Academy of Social Sciences Activities

The Academy responds to Government and other consultations on behalf of the social science community, organises events about social science and seminars on topics that span social science disciplines, sponsors a number of schemes that promote social science and enhance its value to society, and publishes its own journal, policy briefs and a series of professional briefings. The Academy’s Campaign for Social Science was launched in 2011 to raise the profile of social science in the public, media and Parliament.

The Academy’s International Advisory Group

The Academy’s International Advisory Group was established in 2011 to advise Council on a co-ordinated strategy for developing the Academy’s international profile. In addition to making recommendations to Council on internationalising membership and enhancing awareness of the Academy’s mission internationally, the IAG fosters and develops opportunities for international social science research through work on international standards, training programmes for international careers, international research collaboration and international researcher mobility. It runs series of international seminars on evidence-based policy.

The UK Academy of Social Sciences’ International Advisory Group organised and ran the third World Social Science Fellows Seminar in London.

For more information, visit: http://acss.org.uk/

The LSE Centre for International Studies

Kirsten AINLEY is Assistant Professor in the LSE’s Department of International Relations and Director of its Centre for International Studies. Her core concern in her research is to identify the ethical practices that operate in international relations and to explore the history, inherent assumptions and empirical effects of these practices. She is particularly interested in the development and politics of international criminal law, and in notions of individual and collective responsibility, both in international law and in international political theory.

The Academy was partnered at the London Seminar by the LSE Centre for International Studies (CIS). The CIS was established in 1967 as one of the first major interdepartmental and interdisciplinary initiatives at LSE, supported by a 5-year grant from the Ford Foundation. The Departments of International Relations, History, Sociology, Law, Government, Social Policy and Economics supported its creation and remain represented today in the Centre’s Management
Committee, along with the Department of International Development. The CIS is formally housed in the Department of International Relations but retains its interdisciplinary identity.

**Aims and Objectives**

The primary purpose of the Centre is to encourage innovative research in international studies, broadly conceived. The Centre has hosted more than 180 visiting scholars from around the world, working on an extremely diverse range of topics. The Fellows connect the Centre to more than 70 countries through their home affiliations or research topics, and are drawn not just from universities but also from international organisations, government departments, NGOs, media organisations and think tanks. The CIS supports both individual scholarship and, through its events programme, intellectual dialogue among communities of scholars, reflective practitioners, students and engaged members of the public.

The Centre aims to:

- enable a diverse range of visiting scholars to undertake research at LSE and contribute to the intellectual life of the School
- facilitate in-depth dialogue on international issues
- serve as an interlocutor between Departments and research units within LSE to identify and build shared research agendas, and to design interdisciplinary research projects
- stimulate research collaborations between LSE academics and scholars and practitioners in other institutions.

**CIS Fellowships**

Applications for visiting fellowships are invited from any scholar whose research is innovative, interdisciplinary and has an international dimension. Applications are particularly welcomed from: candidates from the global South; postdoctoral candidates; and scholars whose interests complement the research of CIS Management Committee members.

For more information, visit: [http://lse.ac.uk/cis](http://lse.ac.uk/cis)

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**The Third World Social Science Fellows Seminar**

**Linda HANTRAIS** FAcSS, Chair of the Academy’s International Advisory Group, convened the London Fellows Seminar. She is a Visiting Fellow at the LSE Centre for International Studies, and Emeritus Professor of European Social Policy in the Department of Politics, History and International Relations, Loughborough University, UK. Her research interests span international comparative research theory, methodology, management and practice, with particular reference to public policy and institutional structures in the European Union, and the relationship between socio-demographic trends and social policy. She has coordinated several European research projects, and she acted as a consultant for an ESRC-funded Researcher Development Initiative for a training programme in International Social Research Methods.

**Hosting the London Seminar**

From 29 July to 2 August 2014, the Academy’s International Advisory Group hosted the third in the International Social Science Council’s (ISSC) Programme of World Social Science Fellows Seminars. The overall aims of the ISSC’s programme of seminars are to create the next generation of social science leaders, by focusing on global challenges and priorities with particular relevance to developing countries.

At the London Seminar, the 20 Fellows from across the world worked together with other participants and with leading international specialists, policy advisers, practitioners and publishers to explore different approaches to inter- and transdisciplinary research, their methodologies, the gaps and problematics of emerging themes.

**Seminar Rationale**

In the context of the global economic crisis, climate change and population growth, considerable debate has been engendered at all levels of governance concerning the implications of economic, environmental and demographic policies for social
development, particularly with reference to established and emerging social protection systems, education and training, poverty reduction, public health, ageing and well-being, and migratory movements. The Fellows were selected for their experience across a range of disciplinary and national perspectives on these many aspects of research into global social governance and the policy process, with a view to extending their knowledge and understanding of the current state-of-the-art of policy-relevant research, and developing a clear vision of major research priorities for the coming five to ten years.

In five intensive days, facilitated by Dave FILIPOVIĆ-CARTER, a Training Consultant, the Fellows were given the opportunity to chair, lead and report on conversations and panel discussions with experts on global social governance and the policy process, while collaboratively planning themed sections and special issues of journals, edited book and project proposals. They received valuable advice on international networking, project funding, publishing and dissemination from experienced researchers, commissioners and organisers, and returned to their home institutions and regions ready to develop and consolidate their careers as international research leaders.

Seminar Structure

The seminar combined an interactive workshop approach with the opportunity for roundtable, group and individual discussions on the topic of global social governance research and its impact on the policy process. The Fellows were invited to engage in conversations with experts from social science units in relevant government departments, university and independent research centres and learned societies, with whom they explored different approaches to global social governance. Guidance was offered on the drafting of chapters and articles for publications arising from the seminar. Opportunities were created to discuss access to resources, collaborative research proposals, and international networking and dissemination strategies.

Support and Sponsorship

Eight of the Academy’s Fellows, including five members of the International Advisory Group, and representatives from two of the Academy’s learned societies were among the contributors to the Seminar. Venues and catering were provided by the British Council, the Suntory Toyota Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines (Sticerd) at the London School of Economics, the British Library, the LSE Asia Research Centre, the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York and the Social Policy Association.

The event was also generously supported by the LSE Departments of International Relations and Social Policy, the LSE Asia Research Centre, the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow, the Leeds Social Science Institute and the Social Sciences Division at Oxford University.

Several publishers – SAGE, Routledge Taylor & Francis, Edward Elgar, Policy Press, Palgrave Macmillan and Wiley/Blackwell – provided financial and practical support as well as offering the Fellows copies of books and journals on topics relevant to the Seminar themes.
The World Social Science Fellows

Fellows’ Profiles

Karen ANDERTON is a Research Fellow in Low Carbon Policy and Governance at the Transport Studies Unit in Oxford University’s Centre for the Environment, where her research is focusing on understanding the transnational policy and governance landscapes required to deliver low carbon transport. With a background in law, international relations, environment and development, she has a strong interest in examining how long- and short-term policy processes and governance structures will need to shift to deliver measures across scales that can address some of the world’s most complex policy problems.

Key words: environment, policy transformation and leadership.

Web link: http://www.tsu.ox.ac.uk/people/kanderton.html

Roderick GALAM is a Postdoctoral International (POINT) Research Fellow at the Centre for Area Studies, affiliated to the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. His research has focused on the spatio-temporalities of subjectification in the context of labour migration, and on gender and nationalism. Currently, he is interested in the social experience of time and the temporalities of waiting among Filipino youth looking for work in the global maritime industry, and in exploring the nexus between migration and youth employment, thereby contributing a ‘youth perspective’ to Philippine migration research and policy.

Key words: youth unemployment, global maritime industry, temporality, migration–employment nexus


Nuria GINIGER is a researcher with the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) of Argentina, working on a programme focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Global Compact. She is a professor at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, while also lecturing in different national universities in Argentina. She has a particular interest in the topics of work, workers and the relationship between corporations and communities.

Key words: corporate hegemony, corporate social responsibility, workers and unions


Alexandra KAASCH is a junior professor in transnational social policy at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, where she convenes courses in global social policy. Her research interests include mapping and conceptualisation of institutions as global social governance actors in the areas of social policy and health policy, through a comparative analysis of their structures and characteristics, the mechanisms by which they may have an impact on national social policy institutions, and the implications for the state and development of global social governance as a complex process of inter-related agency and structure.

Key words: global social policy, global social governance, global health policy, international organisations

Web link: http://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/pers_pub/publ/PersonDetail.jsp?personId=49792390

Tatjana KIILO is a part-time researcher at the Institute of Social Studies at the University of Tartu, where her main fields of research are ethnic relations, social problems and welfare. At the same time, she holds a full-time position as Deputy Head of the European Union and International Cooperation Department at the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Within the framework of global social governance research, her interest is primarily in ‘governance’ and, especially, in the interplay of global, national and local actors in addressing common social problems.

Key words: ethnic relations, intergenerational solidarity, sociology of education, social welfare

Web link: http://ee.linkedin.com/pub/tatjana-kiilo/b/303/963

Lindsey KINGSTON is an Assistant Professor of International Human Rights at Webster University in Saint Louis, Missouri, where she directs the Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, manages the undergraduate programme in International Human Rights and oversees publication of the undergraduate journal Righting Wrongs: A Journal of Human Rights. She also holds a research affiliation with the International Observatory on Statelessness, based at Middlesex University London, and is an editor for Human Rights Review. Her research interests include: international human rights, statelessness, citizenship, immigration, human rights education, refugees, internal displacement, transnationalism, social movements, indigenous rights, the right to health, and genocide prevention.

Key words: international human rights, internal displacement, social movements

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Declan KUCH is a sociologist of science and technology, working as a Research Fellow at the School of Law, University of New South Wales, Australia. His research spans the intersections between science, politics and technology in the fields of community energy, unconventional gas, and carbon emissions trading. His current research focuses on socio-legal support structures and related constraints to the ‘sharing economy’ on an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship project.

**Key words:** regulation, science and technology studies, renewable energy


Tahu KUKUTAI is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, where she specialises in Maori and indigenous population research. She has undertaken numerous research projects with Maori communities and works collaboratively with researchers at the Centre for Sami Research (Sweden) and Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (Australia). She is currently leading a major project investigating how governments around the world count and classify their populations by ethnicity.

**Key words:** demography, indigenous research, ethnic classification

**Web link:** [http://www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea/people/tahuk](http://www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea/people/tahuk)

Angela LAST holds a position as Postdoctoral Researcher in Feminist Geopolitics in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow. An interdisciplinary researcher with a background in design and geography, her work explores the possibilities of ‘active citizenship’ and its limitations in the context of national and global institutions. She is investigating institutional innovation by ‘parallel institutions’ that continue to be set up by disenfranchised citizens across the world, and the kinds of interaction between them, national governments, intergovernmental institutions and NGOs.

**Key words:** active citizenship, institutional innovation, geopolitics, political aesthetics

**Web link:** [http://mutablematter.wordpress.com](http://mutablematter.wordpress.com)

Alex LO is a political economist and geographer based at Griffith University, Australia. He conducts research into climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a focus on the contributions and limits of market-based governing approaches in the context of globalisation. His current research projects explore aspects of households’ economic resilience to natural catastrophes and the role of economic development and social capital in climate change adaptation. He is an editorial board member of the journal Environmental Values.

**Keywords:** climate change, environmental policy and governance, political economy, ecological economics

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**Key words:** disaster risk management, policy and planning

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**Key words:** natural resources, democratisation, political economy of development, rising powers, global governance.

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**Key words:** global environmental politics, contentious politics and activism, political economy, water and energy governance.

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CRITICAL ENQUIRIES INTO GLOBAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE

Four sessions at the Seminar were devoted to conversations between the Fellows and invited experts on various aspects of global social governance, and one session took the form of a panel discussion.

Briefing notes with information about the experts’ research, accompanied by key texts and suggestions for discussion topics for the conversations, were supplied to the Fellows prior to the Seminar. Small group sessions were scheduled to enable Fellows to prepare for the conversations and panel discussion.

A chair, lead person and rapporteur were appointed for each conversation from among the Fellows with a specialist interest in the topic. Fellows were also given an opportunity to meet the experts before the conversations took place, and to pursue the discussion and exchanges after the sessions, both during the Seminar and, subsequently, by email. Collaborative drafting of the reports began during the Seminar. The final versions were completed through email exchanges following the Seminar, agreed with the experts and reviewed by a panel of Academy Fellows before publication by the Academy.

PART I: Perspectives on Global Social Governance

Understanding Global Social Governance

Chair: Angela LAST; Lead and Rapporteur: Alexandra KAASCH and Mulyadi SUMARTO

In conversation with Bob DEACON, FAcSS, Emeritus Professor of International Social Policy, Sheffield University

Bob DEACON FAcSS is Emeritus Professor of International Social Policy in the Department of Sociological Studies at Sheffield University. He was Director of the Globalism and Social Policy Programme (GASPP), which was a joint research initiative of the Department and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Helsinki. He recently held the UNESCO–UNU Chair in Regional Integration and Migration at UNUCRIS in Bruges. He has been an adviser to the International Labour Organisation, UNICEF, United Nations Development Project, UNESCO, World Bank, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, European Commission and African Union. He was Founding Editor of the journal Global Social Policy, an international journal of social development and public policy, and of Critical Social Policy. He was also a founding editorial board member of the Journal of European Social Policy.

Fellows: Can you explain what you mean by global social governance?

Bob Deacon: A global social perspective is commonly defined as consisting of two dimensions or processes: on the one hand are prescriptions relating to different national social policies, as developed, discussed and disseminated by global policy actors; on the other hand, it is about a genuinely global level, or the ‘emerging supranational social policies and mechanisms of global redistribution, global social regulation and global social rights’ (Deacon, 2007: 1), also referred to as the ‘3Rs’. The governance perspective on global social policy studies focuses on the fragmentation and competition between national and international institutions, and tries to identify structures (Deacon, 2007: 142) or processes in complex inter-actor relationships. The scope of attention in global social policy and governance research has recently expanded both to include more (groups of) actors, such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the media, and intersections with other policy fields such as climate change (Gough, 2014), and to add two further ‘Rs’,...
named ‘resource consciousness’ and ‘relationality’ (Deacon, 2014).

Another important distinction in defining global social governance is the difference between using it as an analytical concept and engaging with it as a global political project. As a scholarly exercise, global social governance needs to be further developed to improve our understanding of the actors and processes. As a political project, global social governance is connected to specific normative ideas about appropriate institutions, ideas and policies in shaping social policy at the global level.

Fellows: How would you characterise global social governance?
BD: Global social governance is primarily characterised by different sites of contestation. There are numerous global actors that make themselves heard and try to influence social policies at national level. My work has essentially investigated the role of international organisations and their Secretariats. The role of the World Bank is important as demonstrated, for instance, by its fights over social policy ideas within its headquarters, and between the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as over pension policies. The World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) role is another example; it contrasts with the ILO’s role and, as such, represents another critical site of global social governance, raising the question: Which organisation is best suited to determine the limits of free trade, or to protect workers’ rights? Another issue is the role of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in some policy fields, challenging United Nations social organisations, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) or United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). These are only a few of the fields of inter- and intra-organisational contestation.

This view contrasts with other characterisations of global diffusion processes. Rather than a belief in best practices to spread across the world, the perspective developed here is more pessimistic regarding the likelihood of ‘good solutions’ being spread and realised, as well as being more political by engaging in debates about appropriate policies between different actors.

Fellows: What are the current and emerging structures and issues in global social governance?
Earlier work in the field focused on a limited number of international (governmental) organisations fighting over some well-defined social policy fields (namely pension policies and reforms). Since the 1990s, when studies on global social policy and governance emerged, the scenery has changed dramatically. This means that the focus has shifted to the analysis of global social policy and governance by a wider range of actors, while numerous new actors have either expanded into social policy fields, or have emerged in power shifts in world politics.

The situation has, in a way, changed dramatically since social policy and governance began to be studied in the 1990s. Back then, one could observe neoliberal moves to deregulation versus EU-driven initiatives to re-regulate. Neoliberal ideas were countered by something like progressive global social policy ideas, debates and initiatives. The ‘affiliation’ of countries to North–South dichotomies at least seemed to be a concept with which to understand the world. Now China, which in some ways still belongs to the ‘South’, appears as ‘the G77 and China’ in some important global social governance issues. The way it intervenes in the development of Africa is very ‘Northern’, if not ‘worse’, as China gives loans for infrastructure projects leaving aside any issues of the social protection of people.

Other questions arise when looking at the example of the BRICS. This group of countries is increasingly driven primarily by their national interests, each with its own development agendas, while also increasingly creating institutions that challenge the role of existing global institutions, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as exemplified by the BRICS Development Bank, which was formally established on 15 July 2014 in the Fortaleza Declaration, and called the New Development Bank (NDB) (see: http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/140715-leaders.html). With headquarters in Shanghai and a first bank president from India, the capital for the bank will be split equally among the five participating countries. This is an important move considering the ongoing debates on representation and other criticisms of the World Bank and IMF. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) welcomed the move, but also demanded ‘that these new financial instruments contribute to a more equitable distribution of income, sustainable development, food security and decent work’ (see http://www.ituc-csi.org/brics-development-bank-should?lang=en). However, one wonders how different it will be from the IMF given also that the NDB will also work on the basis of ‘the more you put in, the more say you have’. From that perspective, the NDB does not appear to be an improvement on existing institutions.

The other significant development in global social governance worth mentioning is marked by the increasing importance of the G20 as a new global social policy actor, particularly since the start of the global economic and financial crisis. Here, at least for a while, the social protection floor ideas found a home and could be advanced to some extent (see Deacon, 2013).

Fellows: Could you say more about the sustainability of the development goals process as a component of global social governance?
BD: The process of defining a new set of global development goals, following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is currently the dominant process in global social governance. The so-called ‘Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals’ (OWG) concluded its work in July 2014 by proposing a set of 17 goals. The OWG will now be discussed in the United Nations General Assembly, implying that the process of developing a new set of goals has moved from the sphere of global civil servants, development experts and activists, to that of member state representatives.

Many of the proposed goals have a meaning for global social policy and are debated by global social policy actors. Four of these goals can be cited to illustrate the role of different actors in global social governance:
- The role of civil society organisations has been particularly important with regard to the attempt to have a stand-alone goal on social protection, or social
protection floors (see Deacon, 2013). The coalitions within civil society and the UN social agencies, particularly the ILO, did not, however, seem able to find a strategy to make that happen. Social protection floors now appear under goal 1 (‘End poverty’): ‘implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable’ (1.3). The formulation changed slightly over the course of the revisions of the outcome document and, in previous versions, social protection floors also appeared under the ‘equality goal’. However, social protection is stressed in goal 5 (‘gender equality’) and goal 10 (‘equality’) (for more detail see Global Social Policy Digest 13.2, 2013).

• The cleavages between Northern and Southern perspectives become apparent when looking at two other goals related to inequality and climate change. Those speaking for developing countries, including the G77 and China, emphasised the need for a stand-alone goal on inequality to hold developed countries accountable for addressing inequalities between countries. Although this proposal was not supported by the developed countries, it was included in the final version (‘Proposed goal 10. Reduce Inequality within and among countries’).

• In the discussions around the climate change goal, developing countries wanted to see the goal streamlined with other SDGs on grounds that ‘the SDGs cannot pre-empt or prejudge the outcomes of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)’ (see http://www.twnside.org.sg/title2/unsd/2014/unsd140506.htm).

• Of further concern is the proposed goal 17: ‘Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development finance’. In the 1990s, the discussions were well advanced on this topic. Now there is nothing on a global tax authority, which would be needed to realise some of the goals and reduce inequality between countries, while the proposed amendments by major groups and other stakeholders make explicit the issue of taxation systems (see http://www.ituc-csi.org/brics-development-bank-should?lang=en).

Fellows: What kind of gaps in research can you identify and what should future research agendas focus on?

BD: A central question for researchers might be: Is what we observe now a reason for optimism or pessimism? There is, unfortunately, reason for pessimism regarding progressive global social policy agendas, due to the fact that the way forward for ‘Southern’ governments has not continued along the path of arguing for a more just world, apart perhaps from the issue of having an inequality goal included in the SDGs to hold ‘Northern’ countries accountable. Instead, they fight for their own national sovereignty; and a global alliance of like-minded governments seems to be further away than ever. Sadly, we see a fight for power, driven by national interests, not one for a globally more just world.

The process of defining the post-2015 development agenda by setting up a coherent list of sustainable development goals is currently the dominant process of global social governance. It deserves our attention, as it will have a major impact on the meaning and effectiveness of global social governance in the years to come. However, this brief also hints at a number of concerns around the process, and alerts us to the need to study some of the processes closely from a global social governance perspective, as well as looking for ways to engage in the making and shaping of such major processes, if we want to make a contribution to global social justice from a social science perspective.

In understanding global social governance better and providing ways to influence what is happening, it is important to go further in understanding the roles and positions of the various actors involved, to study carefully the role of Secretariats, and that of individuals and institutional processes.

We might also need to consider other characterisations of global alliances of countries, given that the North–South divide is decreasingly helpful in characterising global social governance cleavages. At the same time, the respective concerns of developing and developed countries over some of the proposed SDGs shows that the world has not changed much, if at all, for the better. However, North–South discussions have always proved to be difficult because of the partial resistance of ‘the South’ to accept any lesson from ‘the North’ and have emphasised the other side of ‘social protectionism’, even if it was about understanding the role of the middle classes in building up national social policies. The SDGs might evolve to advance global social governance a step further, but it might equally just be an expression of how little things change.

References
David LEWIS is Professor of Social Policy and Development and Head of the LSE Department of Social Policy. His research is concerned with international development policy. He has a particular interest in the roles of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society in development, and in anthropological approaches to the study of development organisations. His main geographical focus is on South Asia, primarily Bangladesh, as well as India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and he has also worked in the Philippines. He has undertaken consultancy for a range of development organisations including Oxfam, Save the Children, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and The Body Shop.

Fellows: Can you explain what you mean by an NGO?
David Lewis: The term NGO is in popular use in modern society. So regular is its use that it could be considered 'normalised', at least in the sense that there is an assumed understanding of the term in public discourse and a general perception of the conduct of such organisations. The term itself is a relatively recent creation with origins that can be traced back to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 (Lewis, 2013), but NGOs are of course much older than that. For example, one of the first International NGOs (INGOs), ‘Anti-Slavery International’, was established in 1839 (Davies, 2008:7).

In its first instance, the term was used to denote UN observer status of selected international non-state actors. Since then, it has been broadened and narrowed — and used in different ways — to become what can be described as a ‘notoriously imprecise abbreviation’ (Lewis, 2013: 61). The term covers various organisations involved in a variety of activities and acting at every scale and in every geographical region. In its broadest sense, it refers to a diverse range of actors from small-scale community-based organisations that also now have their own acronym, CBO, to large-scale professional agencies. NGOs are involved in a range of fields of human endeavour, from arts and leisure to human rights and the environment.

NGOs sit alongside the state and the market, but are often regarded as a distinct ‘Third Sector’ or civil society. They are made up of a diverse set of non-state and non-profit organisations. In their broadest sense, the two main roles of NGOs are to deliver services to people and to campaign or advocate for problems or interests. The term is often used interchangeably with similar terms such as ‘voluntary’, ‘non-profit’, ‘civil society’ and ‘community-based organisation’, each of which has its own cultural and ideological origins. Narrower uses of the term NGO often reflect the particular interest of the individual using it. For example, those concerned with refugees and human rights may use it to refer to a subgroup of organisations working on refugee issues, such as legal aid, ethnic community groups, resource centres or international advocacy organisations. Those working in the development fields tend to use the term to denote organisations active in that area, funded primarily — but not exclusively — from within the international aid system.

Fellows: Do NGOs have a role to play in global social governance?
DL: Social policies are no longer confined to the national/domestic sphere, or solely to the governmental sphere, if they ever were, and greater account must be taken of the transnational realm in charting the development of social policy. However, the role of NGOs in global social governance is broadly the same as that at the national or local level: to deliver services and to raise awareness of issues. Reflecting on Deacon’s understanding of global social governance, which was the starting point for the 2014 World Social Science Seminar, NGOs can be situated within Deacon’s conceptual framework that provides four interrelated approaches to understanding social policy: sector policy, redistribution and rights, social issues and welfare regime theory. NGOs play an important role in each of these areas:

- Sector policy: increasing subcontracting to NGOs has in some cases provided for more flexible and effective service delivery, while in others it has raised problems of accountability and quality. Moreover, there are concerns about NGOs creating parallel and competing services that undermine state provisions and reduce the responsibilities of the state to its citizens.
- Redistribution and rights: NGOs have emerged as advocacy organisations seeking to shape the formulation and the implementation of social policies on behalf of citizens. However, they have attracted criticism among those who question their legitimacy and whose voice is being represented. Concern is also expressed about how and which issues emerge, and which do not, and
which powerful actors within NGOs and outside of NGOs determine issue emergence or non-emergence (see for example Kingston, 2012).

- Social issues: Issues of empowerment, gender, social development and participation have been raised and promoted in the development field by NGOs. At the same time, questions are asked about what constitutes an NGO in different contexts, and whether the take-up is meaningful, appropriate and inclusive in practice.

- Welfare regime theory: NGOs have achieved greater recognition as key actors within welfare regimes, including the newly identified insecurity and informal security regimes that characterise many poorer countries.

Compared to the state – also an actor within Deacon’s conceptual framework – NGOs are sometimes characterised as being more flexible than governments, and are more likely to come up with creative solutions to complex problems. NGOs are often closer than the state to particular groups of people and can therefore fashion locally appropriate responses with stakeholders and have greater community buy-in. This is not always the case, as shown by evaluations of NGOs’ activities that have not worked, and NGOs themselves are not immune to the pitfalls of technocratic managerial activities that are imposed upon communities. For example, NGO activities in Mozambique have led to the fragmentation of the local health system, undermining local control of health programs and contributing to growing social inequality (Pfeffer, 2003). Moreover, NGOs are increasingly substituting rather than influencing public action that should be the responsibility of the state. However, as globalisation has intensified transnational politics, and the space between the global and the local has grown ever more distant, NGOs have an important role to play in reducing that gap in social policy making.

Fellows: The relevance of the North–South distinction to global social governance has been a recurring topic at the Seminar. Many Fellows have questioned whether the dichotomy is still relevant. Do you think that it is relevant to an understanding of the role of NGOs today?

DL: With the rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), it seems particularly counterintuitive as a description of the complex relationships governing social policy. The BRICS are influential players in global governance, and the 2013 creation of the New Development Bank (NDB), formerly the BRICS Development Bank, is testimony to their collective power: the NDB will take away some of the power of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In terms of understanding the role of NGOs in global social governance, the North–South distinction is less relevant than ever. We need a more sophisticated lens through which to view the kinds of complex relationships that govern global social policy more broadly. It is better seen as a patchwork or continuum of influential organisations that is not restricted by a North–South divide. For example, Oxfam was established in the so-called ‘global North’, but, along with its work in the so-called ‘global South’, it also does some work on poverty and inequalities within the North (and has done so for two decades). Also, the development organisation BRAC, an NGO based in Bangladesh, is working in many other countries, including Africa, and is engaged in a wide range of new South–South development relationships. Although rich and poor countries remain, there are clearly ‘Souths in the North and Norths in the South’, as John Gaventa (1998) once argued. By considering the complex operations of NGOs globally, including new forms of international NGO such as BRAC, the relevance of the North–South divide is even further undermined.

Fellows: What are the tensions and challenges facing NGOs?

DL: Given the diversities and complexities of the organisations operating under the term ‘NGO’, it is unsurprising that NGOs face various tensions and challenges to their legitimacy. The roles of NGOs are somewhat ambiguous, and competing views exist about what those roles should comprise. In the field of international development, for example, some observers view NGOs as activists operating at society’s grassroots to promote social change in developing countries. However, those that belong to more neoliberal persuasions see NGOs as a new arm of the market and important private actors with the potential to deliver private services (which they do) more efficiently and cheaply than government agencies. Increasingly there are organisations that do both service contracting and advocacy. For some NGOs, this practice is a question of survival: a means to increase funding. Although other NGOs may engage in such practices, more strategically they need to deepen the government influence or address a need among its stakeholders. There are benefits for NGOs delivering services: for instance, they can establish their status as practitioners and thus advocate on behalf of particular groups from an evidence base that is more respected by government. However, the ‘non-government’ status of NGOs is likely to be criticised as their funding is increasingly drawn from ‘government’ sources, and they begin to act on the government’s behalf.

The ambiguous role of the Third Sector leads to contestation at the global level, as well as at the national, subnational and community levels. NGOs are a diverse collection of distinctive organisations, and so contestation is inevitable. The suite of NGOs covers a spectrum of values, some more conservative, some more radical; some act as service providers, whereas others are purely advocates. NGOs represent a sweeping range of issues and peoples, and they can also be in opposition to one another. This dialectic is important to the functioning of the sector; multiple issues and citizen actions are able to influence and shape social policy that broadly reflects social diversity. Contestation is fundamentally helpful, although context is everything. What constitutes an NGO in one country is not necessarily the same as in another. NGOs evolve out of different values, changing values, cultures and influences. For example, NGOs in Asia and Africa have distinctive influences from the history of Christian missionaries; in India, Gandhi’s ideas of voluntary action and village-level self-reliance have been influential; in Bangladesh the Grameen Bank has been powerful and influential both there and beyond; in Africa, local associations are common in many areas of community work. In Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, NGOs have emerged as a result of local activists rediscovering civil society ideas. Finally, in Central Asia, Western donors were influential in promoting democracy and civil society development efforts. The tension between whether or not NGOs should deliver services is one that cuts to the core of their legitimacy. Most
NGOs wax and wane between complementing and substituting for the state. However, within the sector the value of engaging in service delivery is often questioned. For NGOs that are grappling with such a decision, the aim is not to be a substitute for the state but to complement its activities. Perhaps NGOs (and this fits more easily with small scale NGOs that are not subsidised by the state) are best valued as small-scale agents of experimentation and creativity. Such NGOs are well placed to create locally appropriate responses and demonstrate alternative service provision models, which can be tested and then fed back to government. Governments can then decide whether or not to scale up these experiments, and whether to take on the cost, coordination, responsibility, sustainability and accountability. However, if an NGO takes on major service provision activities, this may have the unintended consequence of de-politicisation. NGOs as intermediaries take away the democratic accountability from citizens and government, particularly if they are foreign funded. In democratic societies, service delivery should fall to governments rather than to NGOs, since this offers a level of accountability. However, such advice is not a one-size-fits-all recommendation, but may be appropriate for particular NGOs in particular contexts that are grappling with this tension.

Fellows: In your article about ‘development blockbusters’ (Lewis, 2014), you discussed the recent rise of popular ‘blockbuster’ books written by international development industry insiders and produced by commercial publishers. Could you comment on the impact of these books on public debate and academic publishing? These books are not entirely new (Schumacher’s Small Is Beautiful, 1973; Hancock’s Lords of Poverty, 1989), but in the past decade or so there have been more and more books on development published by commercial publishers that aim to challenge or inform the wider public about international development issues, such as Jeffrey Sachs’ The End of Poverty (2005) or Dambisa Moyo’s Dead Aid (2009).

Common characteristics of the recent crop of ‘blockbuster books’ are that they are usually written by ‘development insiders’, and are prescriptive, offering simple common sense solutions to complex global problems. They have an autobiographical element to them that gives them a special power to convince and influence. These authors have experienced development work at first hand and want their readers to know that, having found out the hard way, they are in a position to provide a definitive diagnosis of the problems that others have been unable to solve, question long-standing beliefs and provide new solutions. As I explain in the paper, these books may offer useful ideas and are highly informative, but in my view they also need to be treated with caution, since they form part of the increasingly commodified forms of expert knowledge being produced in and about international development. Analogous to popular ‘self-help’ books (although in this case about how to help others), this publishing phenomenon forms a niche within the increasingly commercialised priorities of modern publishing while also serving the interests of development agencies in an era in which impact and results are increasingly emphasised.

References
PART 2: Perspectives on Global Social Governance and Climate Change

Climate Change: the ‘Grandest Narrative of All’

Chair: Alex LO; Lead: Lee Pugalis; Rapporteur: Kate NEVILLE

In conversation with Ian GOUGH FAcSS, Visiting Professor, LSE Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion, and Associate, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and Environment

Ian Gough is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and an Associate at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (GRI) at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is also Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bath. His current research addresses the relationship between climate change and social policy. In a book project on climate change and sustainable welfare, he is addressing a number of issues at the interface of climate change, well-being, and social policy, at multiple levels, ranging from the distribution of emissions between households in the UK to the centrality of human needs in understanding sustainable well-being.

Fellows: To begin the conversation, could you outline your career trajectory and tell us how you came to be interested in climate change?

Ian Gough: My interest has developed from a focus on economics and social policy to political philosophy, human needs, and well-being, through to my current work on environmental and climate change policy (Gough, 2013a, 2013b). This has involved overcoming some of the major disconnects and cleavages between social and climate change policy. Linking the two agendas remains challenging given the different scales of these policy domains. Social policy has been ‘intrinsically national’, while climate change is ‘intrinsically global’, although some scholars, including Bob Deacon, recognise the global aspects of social policy. For myself, researching climate change has involved a huge learning curve.

Linking social policy with climate change raises several problems, including:

- Climate change, like biodiversity, cannot be addressed through domestic measures alone.
- Social policy has focused on welfare policies at the national level, and is therefore difficult to reconcile with the global scope of climate change.
- Work on social policy and social exclusion tends not to interact with work on climate change.

Fellows: Considering linkages between climate change and social policy, your advocacy for ‘eco-social’ policy as a launching point raises the question of the need for action at multiple scales to address climate change, specific policy tools that would achieve both environmental and social goals, and how to address social justice goals in policy making and implementation. What are the main challenges that you have identified in your work?

IG: The most important challenges that have arisen in my research are how to:

- find practical, politically-palatable ideas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- design and advocate for specific policy options to meet the dual goals of emissions reductions and social justice
- distinguish between necessary and luxury emissions, to reduce the socially regressive impacts of emissions reduction efforts
- and bridge the gap between the national reach of policy prescriptions and the global scope of climate change.

Climate change has re-introduced the centrality of materiality into the realm of social science that, over recent decades, was perhaps neglected due to the ‘post-modern turn’.

Work on how to mesh the different scales of policies is in the early stages and requires further research. In my current book project on ‘climate change capitalism and human needs’, I am looking broadly at the determinants of climate change and human needs, and then at how different levels of policy might apply. The role of collective action and regulation in addressing some of the externalities associated with capitalist markets is relevant here, described by Karl Polanyi (1944) as the ‘fictitious commodities of land, labour, and money’. Also relevant are the links between market capitalism, the winding back of regulation at domestic and global levels through a process of deregulation, and the financial crisis. Fiscal cuts and austerity measures have sidelined many environmental issues. It can be argued that:

- Capitalist markets create perverse externalities (including social and environmental costs). While welfare and other progressive policies can help to address these issues at the domestic level, further collective action is
needed to address externalities beyond the nation state.
- Market de-regulation associated with the financialisation of global capitalism plays a crucial role in the scope and extent of the recent global economic downturn.
- The effect of the economic crisis has been to downplay the salience of environmental issues.

Fellows: What are the possible alternative futures and policy paradigms? Do you think that eco-social policy might be a solution?
IG: In my past work, I have been active in various forums and efforts to provide policy advice. These include the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD), and participation in national government bodies’ steering meetings and groups. Because of this experience, I am even more aware of the difficulties as a researcher of finding ways to have substantive policy influence.

On climate change policies, I would stress the value of personal action for creating awareness. Although corporate social responsibility has some laudable merits, it also has limits: neoliberal capitalism is not conducive to long-term thinking about the triple bottom line.

Traditional leaders and societies have minimised social risk from extreme environmental events. Global capitalism tends to undermine local traditions and coping strategies. Some cities are outpacing states as a force for carbon reduction and climate change action, and greater state support should be given to city initiatives. The effects on national carbon mitigation policies of the degree of devolution to regions and cities could be a possible research agenda.

Coming back to the question of social justice, a focus on intergenerational and global social justice may obscure issues of distributional justice within countries. Broadening the discussion to the role of the social sciences and social dynamics, it is important to underscore the centrality of social relationships to these questions. Climate change action and carbon reduction are not only technological issues. Policy-relevant work on climate change, such as that of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has always included economists, while other social sciences have
often been excluded. The situation is changing, as demonstrated by the recent contribution of ethicists to the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report.

In the past few decades, the social sciences have been dominated by post-modernism, which underplays the role of structures and historical narratives. Climate change has brought both the material domain and ‘grand narratives’. Indeed, it can be said to represent ‘the grandest narrative of all’.

References

Perspectives on the Social Governance of Energy and Climate Issues

Chair: Alex LO; Lead: Saadia MAJEED; Rapporteur: Declan KUCH
In conversation with Adam COOPER, Head of Social Science Engagement, Department of Energy and Climate Change

Adam COOPER is a lecturer in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy at University College, London. He was Head of Social Science Engagement for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) from October 2011 until 2013, where he had responsibility for developing the external relationship with the social science community, and raising the profile and representing social science in energy and climate policy research planning at a strategic level. As a member of the Government Social Research Service since 2003, he started his civil service career working on child poverty and welfare research at the then Department of Education and Skills, before moving to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in 2006, where he developed and led the Culture and Sport Evidence (CASE) Programme.

Fellows: You have worked in neuroscience research, child poverty and now energy research with a social science and policy focus. These are very different areas. Could you explain how you managed the move across disciplines and from research into policy, and how you built alliances internally and externally in establishing the Social Science Panel at the Department of Energy and Climate Change?
Adam Cooper: I capitalised on the Labour Government’s recruitment of social researchers into government during the early 2000s. Moving across the public service over the past decade, culminating with my time in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), this experience has informed my understanding of how sociality is grasped through various disciplinary lenses: physics, engineering and especially economics.

At DECC, I was confronted by the dominance of engineering thinking at the expense of the social. Engineers talk about building big stuff and tend to forget lifestyles, welfare and justice. The Department of Energy and Climate Change focuses on the distant and technical at the expense of the lived habitats that energy systems actually service. A Department of Comfort (warmth, light, cooking ability) could reframe our delivery of energy by bringing social practices into view as the primary locus of governance.

This is what I was trying to do by bringing specialists, such as Nick Pidgeon at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research on risk communication, low carbon transitions expert Andy Gouldsen and energy policy guru Jim Watson, into Departmental briefings. These panels and briefings aim to give a focal point for social science in the Department to balance out the influence of physics and engineering to say: ‘Just a minute these are socio-technical problems, and we need social science to help deal with these issues’.

Fellows: Can you give examples of how you have brought social science perspectives to bear in dealing with environmental issues, in particular through your work on the Energy Lab?
AC: With colleagues at the interdisciplinary UCL Energy Institute, which delivers world-leading learning, research and policy support on the challenges of climate change and energy security, we have been conducting a feasibility study for a UK
Energy Lab, investigating ethical, methodological, financial and practical constraints to studying when and why energy is actually being used. Attitudinal surveys may be informative, but the tougher questions elude the dominant ‘ABC – attitudinal, behavioural, (rational-) choice – approaches’, for example: When are the best opportunities to retrofit homes? This kind of question is the focus of the UK Energy Lab idea, which is to create a nationally representative longitudinal panel of 10–20,000 homes, providing new forms of data about lifestyles and practices to augment other data. These data can also help to reframe our supply system management. For example, we know that energy demand peaks in UK winters at 5pm due to the organisation of working hours around these peak times. By changing working times – ostensibly a social exercise – the Energy Lab can help show just how we might re-engineer the social and technical together

Fellows: Can you explain how the UCL Energy Institute projects are funded and give more examples where insights from social science are incorporated into engineering projects?

AC: The funding for socially experimental thinking, such as the Energy Lab, is woefully skewed against social science: compare, for example, the £1bn demonstration Carbon Capture and Storage projects with the maximum of a million pounds spent on social science and technical research. Technical research tacks on social science, in practice: for example, if technical researchers go into homes, they see them as technical systems with humans as an afterthought. In the ‘Russian doll’ model of thinking and research at DECC, engineering tends to contain the rest.

A few more examples provide an indication of the value of combining technical with social knowledge in tackling the complicated cross-border and multi-scalar problems associated with climate and energy:

- National comparative measures of social and climate policy can be found in a Grantham Institute Working Paper (Bassi et al., 2014), and in work on comparative environmental policy (Steinberg and VanDeveer, 2012), and Ian Gough’s (2011) paper (with James Meadowcroft). They suggest that leading countries, such as Germany, the Nordic countries, and Great Britain, have more developed welfare systems and social policies, whereas the USA, Canada and Australia are lagging badly behind. However, consumption-based emissions’ accounting has been used to challenge some of these findings by showing the ways high emitting industries in the developing world have grown to cater for Western lifestyles (for example Barrett et al., 2013).

- Global transport regulation is associated with international shipping emissions, known in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations as ‘bunker fuels’. The long cross-border shipping supply chains leave huge legislative and regulatory blind spots that national government need to address more effectively. Experience with the World Trade Organisation and United Nations Environment Programme may provide lessons here.

- ‘Green capitalism’ has a key lure for recalcitrant institutions in existing capitalist political economies, affording an ‘optimistic realpolitik’ to scale up global, national and local levels of the problems to build a global agreement. City leaders could break through, especially in the form of groups like the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

- Procedural justice issues can be considered when thinking through energy policy decision making: for example, in Germany and France, they build ‘nukes’ on borders, sharing risks undemocratically.

Fellows: Can you explain how you managed to persuade DECC to make greater use of social science, how you have brought social science perspectives to bear in dealing with environmental issues, and how the concept of social justice has entered the debate?

AC: My advocacy for good social science work in DECC started from a very low base. It gained traction in part because many policy bureaucrats are not engineers and understand that policy is about people. However, we need better methodological tools to understand people in their social and domestic settings. Elizabeth Shove (2010) has described the hegemony of ABC approaches in her work. She helped me in my journey from neuropsychology to critical theory. Neuropsychology thinks across boundaries more easily than other experimental scientific disciplines: the boundary of the body is not so important in brain science. Boundaries between the individual and the world are permeable in the sense that the stuff of the world is also in our brains. Physical structures as well as social structures are also in our heads as a function of how the neurons work. The social and physical thus merge in interesting ways. The questions then arise:

- How do you explore that relationship?
- How do you address ‘the social physics’?
- Which are the right methods to make a Department of Comfort operate effectively?

Turning to ‘social ontology’: the human barely existed in DECC. Interest was only in the material. Disciplines matter here. Economists still work in 2D, whereas 3D needs to be built. Within government, it is not fully formed. Some aspects, for example regarding income, sex and job, are known, but biography needs to be studied as spatial and temporal. The focus afforded by these approaches obscures the importance of social practices in everyday life and their relationships to energy use (see Shove, 2010). Two examples illuminate technocratic approaches and their limitations:

- Decarbonising gas central heating: the dominant narrative sees heat pumps replacing gas boilers. Social science in this example is only used in the service of market research to understand why people ‘choose’ not to install them.
- DECC’s UK 2050 Emissions Calculator presents the user with knobs and dials to control the climate impacts of policy decisions. This approach obscures the social role of energy, narrowing the issue to a set of technical inputs and scientific outputs.

Bringing the humans back into view is not just an epistemological challenge but also a methodological and ethical one. Ian Gough reinforced the limits of ABC approaches to policy when he pointed out that ethical issues underpin the modelling exercises of economists like Nick Stern. Despite the hegemony of ‘tweaking prices’ as the main policy levers, discount rates must be chosen that give more or less value to future generations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s most recent report, AR5, has
made some important clarifications on the ways matters of justice might be understood and debated nationally and globally. A key question for Fellows is how to make issues of justice live within the norms of fairness and democracy, and how we should frame national policy responses.

Equality and well-being are currently invisible in the main energy policy arenas of markets that are discussed in terms of megawatt hours of electricity and tonnes of CO₂. Addressing inequality requires methodological novelty in order to be attentive to both procedural justice and distributive justice. This can potentially reframe traditional questions of engineering so that we ask: How do you build a just nuclear power station? Perhaps more pressing is the experience of fuel poverty in the UK. This is not just a philosophical issue of justice but has wide-ranging social consequences. Thus the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has been advocating changes to the triple injustices of climate policy, namely that the lowest income households pay more, benefit less from policies and are responsible for the least emissions (Brisley et al., 2012; Bulkeley and Fuller, 2012).

Achieving socially just mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change therefore means working communally to advocate for justice that emerges from injustice. Scale and temporality are tremendously difficult to grasp, which is part of the appeal of ABC methods, and the present approach tends to bracket them out or leave them out in often unhelpful ways.

Just climate policy means building infrastructures of information to inform equity in new ways. A philosophy – and methodology – does not exist to do this, but would require meshing together the technical, physical and political in radical ways to address what it means to be human and social. The UK Energy Lab is one vehicle for breaking open methods to understand domains like comfort; to build up our understanding of them again we need to break down the multiple problems of matter and politics.

References

DISCUSSION

In the discussion of the two presentations, the following issues were reiterated:

- Global capitalism can undermine local traditions and practices of risk mitigation, and also undermines the longer-term potential of corporate social responsibility, creating the need for a better understanding of the big structures of Nation States through a kind of analysis that has been underplayed by subjectivist notions of the social and personal.
- Cities are becoming a place of innovation and leadership in climate change action and carbon reduction.
- A future research programme could examine the effects on national carbon mitigation policies of devolution of power from central states to regions and cities.
- Policies are needed to bring people up to a basic living standard, and then to curb excessive consumption.
- Countries with more developed welfare systems and social policies seem to be leaders in climate change policy, and additional research on these linkages would be valuable.
- Carbon mitigation efforts can lead to ‘triple injustices’, where those who have not benefitted from carbon intensive production are disadvantaged by both the impacts of climate change and by mitigation efforts.
- In some cases, questions of global and intergenerational justice seem to have obscured questions of domestic distributitional justice, and both levels must be addressed.
- It is critical to consider not only technology but also social relationships.
- ‘Eco-social’ theory is being developed to reframe the human as an eco-social entity.
- Whereas material constraints have been lost in most social science, climate change has brought the post-modernist turn of the social sciences back into conversation with materialism in the ‘grandest narrative of all’.
PART 3: Perspectives on Global Social Policy and Research Impacts

International Relations’ Perspectives on Global Social Policy

Chair: Jewelord NEM SINGH; Lead: Nuria GINIGER; Rapporteur: Lindsey KINGSTON

In conversation with Kirsten AINLEY, Director, LSE Centre for International Studies

Kirsten AINLEY is an Assistant Professor in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Director of the LSE Centre for International Studies. Her research focuses on the history and development of international criminal law, international political theory, human rights and humanitarian intervention. She has published on international criminal law, transitional justice, the International Criminal Court, individual and collective responsibility for atrocity and the notion of evil in international relations.

Fellows: We are interested in your work on critical issues in global social governance, focusing particularly on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine and the International Criminal Court (ICC). In a draft article on the subject, you refer to recent mass atrocities, so what is your view of the international human rights regime? Has the human rights project succeeded?

KA: No, it has not succeeded. We can just look at the crises in Gaza, Syria, Sri Lanka. No one could say or mean that human rights are universally observed. That said, human rights discourse has had an impact. If not completely successful, there are at least some observable successes. We are getting closer to the shared norm that all people have value and rights. There is more international concern when massacres happen, even when they happen in far-away places. The level of concern today is drastically different from what it was 50 years ago. Whether that reflects a broader view of humanity or is the impact of the media is uncertain, but human rights have led to changes in an ethical vocabulary, such as corporations now framing their actions in terms of corporate social responsibility. Those are important changes, but to say that the human rights regime is a complete success would be to disrespect the experiences of people who are still suffering rights abuses.

Fellows: Both R2P and the ICC are relatively narrow in their scope. Do you see any need to broaden these views and expand our understanding of global responsibility?

KA: The ICC and R2P were set up around issues that are not controversial, such as war crimes. Most states consented to the Rome Statute, which was possible because it did not deal with more complicated issues such as terrorism. People do not deny ‘war crimes’ as a concept. They can deny that they took part in war crimes, but not the value of that norm. If we try to broaden our understanding of responsibility, there will be less agreement and less state cooperation. It is particularly surprising to see the crime of aggression coming onto the books of the ICC, although in a complex way, in 2017. If R2P is used responsibly, maybe we will see a broadening of its scope one day. If R2P and the ICC are trusted, maybe they will be entrusted with more far-reaching powers later, but I do not see that happening now. For instance, there probably is not enough international agreement about norms related to crimes against the natural environment, which will take more time.

Fellows: Much of your work focuses on global responsibility. Do you think that there is potential for local or corporate-level responsibility?

KA: Not at all. At least not at the moment, and this is a major problem. If you think about corporations and war crimes, for instance, you see that many corporations benefit from war. They either contribute to it directly or benefit as bystanders. Some people are trying to rejuvenate the crime of ‘pillage’, but it is hard to achieve recognition. Corporations are good at dealing with whoever is in power at the time, making their actions look as if they were operating under legitimate contracts. A lot of what they do is deeply unethical, but not illegal. Corporations are not individuals, but individual responsibility is what is embedded in international justice, making it difficult to hold corporations criminally responsible. The first prosecutor of the ICC wanted to go after corporations, but gave up. Corporations are wealthy and governments rely on them; they play a big role, so going after them is not always feasible. My work looks at the ways to hold groups responsible using political responsibility. To hold groups and firms accountable, there needs to be social movement action around changing norms and requiring more acceptable behaviour. It is hard to imagine what the ICC can do to corporations without the crime of pillage being recognised. R2P is a vocabulary that could be used in conversations about how states should
protect people from corporations. But that would not be the first place where I would look.

Fellows: What is the connection between economic development and violence prevention?
KA: The ICC and R2P are not particularly useful for dealing with live conflict, so I believe they should be used to prevent violence, for example the development of early warning systems for mass atrocities. Already more descriptions of human rights abuse are seen in the media, together with more recognition of dehumanising activities. In many cases, these indicators become visible, and only a spark is needed to start the violence. I think we need to take a step back. Economic development alone is not enough, but it is linked to lower levels of conflict. Atrocity does not spread from nowhere. War often happens where we see low levels of life chances, human rights protection and development, and high levels of corruption. If more money is spent on development, we can measure whether it leads to less conflict in the long term. It is not a perfect solution; it would not have stopped the violence in Syria, for instance, but it could prevent lots of other situations. I think there is a sufficient connection between conflict and poverty; enough where we should stop thinking about development as charity. There is a moral aspect, but also a conflict prevention aspect. If we redirect some of those funds previously allotted for humanitarianism, the next question is: What do we fund? We still have a long way to go when it comes to fleshing out what we mean by protecting civilians. We need rich debate; this is not just about security measures, but also talking about internal measures and what a good state should be.

Fellows: We are having this conversation as violence rages in Israel/Palestine. What does this conflict teach us about global social governance and responsibility?
This really ties into the first question about whether the human rights regime has succeeded. What we are seeing is the result of great fear on one side, and neither side showing respect for human dignity. The present conflict shows the importance of state power despite claims that we are becoming more global. Israel exists as a state and has state supporters, so it has more space to do what it chooses. Hamas looks as if it is making an existential argument: no cease fire until the blockade is lifted, which means that they really have to rely on the media to turn the tide of public opinion. Palestinians have asked the ICC to take their case, but the court did not want to take that jurisdiction at the time. We are seeing the limits of global social governance and human rights protection and the importance of state power.

Research Impact Activities

Chair: Jewelord NEM SINGH; Lead and Rapporteur: Roderick GALLAM and Tatjana KIILO
In conversation with Ernestina COAST and Emily FREEMAN, LSE Department of Social Policy

Ernestina COAST is Associate Professor of Population Studies in the LSE Department of Social Policy, and Research Associate at the LSE Centre for Global Health Population, Poverty and Policy. A demographer with a particular interest in the inter-relationships between social context and demographic behaviour approached using a combination of demographic and ethnographic methods, her research focuses on relationships, including union formation, sexual behaviour and HIV/AIDS, which she has studied in Africa, India, Kenya, Sub-Saharan Africa and Tanzania. She has acted as adviser to a number of organisations, including DFID, UNAIDS, Marie Stopes International and DANIDA (Denmark’s Development Cooperation), and has been a Visiting Scholar at the African Population and Health Research Centre. She is an editorial board member for Globalisation and Health. Her recent publications include: ‘The power of the interviewer: a qualitative perspective on African survey data collection’ (with S. Randall, N. Compaore and P. Antoine, Demographic Research, 2013, 28(27): 763–92).

Emily FREEMAN is a Post-doctoral Research Officer in the LSE Department of Social Policy, and a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton. She is a qualitative demographer drawing on anthropological, sociological and social psychological approaches. Her research is in the area of ageing and sexual and reproductive health. She has carried out research in the UK and southern Africa (Malawi, Zambia and South Africa). She has a particular interest in methods for engaging public, civil society, practitioner and government audiences in social science research evidence, and tools for facilitating the exchange of ideas among academics With Ernestina Coast, she is currently working to extend the influence of research looking at the socio-economic costs of different pregnancy termination trajectories in Zambia.
Fellows: There are significant changes in doing research and organising science, including with and for whom we do our research. These changes are enabled by digital technologies, i.e. big data, increased interconnectedness and complexity of data sources, and facilitated by an increasing demand from the general public for quick solutions to societal challenges. Can you explain the meaning and purpose of impact and how it fits in with the traditional research cycle in this context?

Ernestina Coast: ‘Impact’ as a category means different things in different settings. The word ‘impact’ is very prominent in the UK, because it is a component in the funding and evaluation of research. It is also being used to measure the influence of academic outputs. There are many associated concepts such as dissemination, research uptake and research maximisation. For example, I have had experience of working with colleagues from France on a comparative research project across six countries (Fanghanel et al., 2013). For the same project, the components funded by the UK agency had to have an impact strategy. For the components funded by the French funding agency, there were no impact strategy requirements, although they had to do a restitution. There is no direct translation of this term; it means ‘giving something back in your research’, and it is different from the concept of impact. We must acknowledge that where we are working and who is funding our work is going to shape our understanding of impact.

Emily Freeman: Our partners, the organisations we work with, and the final goal of our impact strategy all shape the way we interpret impact. Currently, we are working on a research project on safe abortions in Zambia (see http://zambiatop.wordpress.com/). There are different ways of defining the aim of the impact strategy for this project. Should it be from the perspective of women in Zambia or from the angle of policy makers and policy-making processes? The world is complex, and our studies are often too small to answer the huge global questions. However, as researchers we can contribute to the conversation and influence different audiences with the outputs of our research.

EC: Doing research of the highest quality should always be the first priority. Doing the research properly is our departure point for the impact strategy. The link between research, findings and impact is very complex. One cannot draw a straight line between the three.

EM: In order for research to become impactful, we need to start with our research communications at the beginning. The research question needs to be linked to the definition of who are the beneficiaries of our research, and to the relevant policy issues.

EC: An example can be drawn from the Zambia project. Conversations with policy makers around the issues of abortions revealed that there was a need for evidence about the health system costs of dealing with unsafe abortion in a setting where there is legal provision for pregnancy termination. Because of these conversations, our research included a health systems component. The question for a researcher is: Whom do you need to talk to in order to get a fuller picture of a social problem?

Fellows: What do impact maximisation measures mean for research outputs?

EF: Outputs might be different for different audiences, for example for a Ministry of Health or a peer-reviewed journal.

In order to communicate results to different audiences, we need to understand and identify the interests and messages relevant to each audience. For example, in the case of unsafe abortions in Zambia, multiple government ministries might be interested in our research findings. Impact is not only about publishing in peer-reviewed journals, it is about capacity building, being able to talk about something that a policy maker would be interested in.

EC: Thinking about impact in social science research is not only about substantive findings; it could be a theoretical position or a methodological approach. All these are part of impact. We also need to acknowledge that there is so much serendipity in impact. We need to plan our impact, but we also need to be open and reflexive to opportunities that emerge over time.

EF: We need to consider these as ‘policy windows’. When these policy windows open, we need to be ready for them if we are to make use of them. We can prepare for these kinds of opportunities. One straightforward way is to make sure that everything relating to our research is available open access, and we have good search engine optimisation. When somebody – it could be another researcher or it could be a journalist – is looking for information and searches Google, then you might receive the call. It might happen in 10 years’ time, but we should be ready when it comes.

Fellows: Could you elaborate on ethical considerations in impact maximisation and on the accountability of researchers?

EC: The issue of how not to do any harm has been profoundly important in our work. In Zambia, we are working in a setting where abortion is legal. However, our research reveals barriers preventing women from accessing safe and legal services. These issues are real and objective, and are part of the settings, part of everyday life. It important that the way we discuss abortion in Zambia does not have any unintended consequences leading to the reduction of availability of legal services to Zambian women. We have a huge responsibility about the way we present and communicate our research. There are ethical and moral implications in studying something that is quite difficult to study and then doing something with what we have found out.

Fellows: To conclude, what is your vision on doing the research together with people, for people and for communities? What will be happening in this respect in 10 or 20 years?

EC: The ways that impact happens are changing very rapidly. We are tweeting about our projects, and this is revealing all sorts of interesting connections to global and regional organisations. We are talking about impact mainly for research funded from specific UK funders. For other sources of funding, the issue of impact might be less important.

Reference
The following points were emphasised in the discussion:

• Impact maximisation does not necessarily require a large budget line. It requires thinking about what we can do with the available resources. We all attend conferences, workshops and meetings. The best way to get in touch with people and maximise impact from our research is to look at the attendance list: e-mail interesting individuals before the conference and have a talk with them during the event. We should be proactive.

• Is impact something really new or has it existed for a long time? The question of what a researcher does with findings has long time been part of reviews submitted to ethics boards. For a journal publication, they also have to explain why this kind of research is needed, which can be a launching point for an impact communication strategy.

• When doing research on very sensitive issues, we should be aware of our responsibility not to do any harm. To minimise negative unintended consequences, it is important to talk to as many people as possible and to keep the lines of communication open with different stakeholders. There could also be positive unintended consequences: having conversations with people reveals facets and demands lesson learning.

• Impact maximisation actions operate over very different time scales; and they operate in ways that cannot be predicted. The time frame to report to a funder might be relatively short. Impact on societal change can appear after decades, and it can be incremental. It is possible that there will be no direct impact at all, or that impact is generated from a contribution to a corpus of work.

PART 4: Perspectives on Evidence and the Policy Process in Global Social Governance

Chair: Rushil RANCHOD; Lead: Pooja RAVI and Victor S. PEÑA; Rapporteur: Danica ŠANTIĆ

In conversation with Ruth KATTUMURI, Co-Director, LSE Asia Research Centre and India Observatory, and Susanne MacGREGOR FAcSS, Professor of Social Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Ruth KATTUMURI is Co-Director of the Asia Research Centre and the India Observatory at the London School of Economics. She is adviser to various education and skills development institutions in Europe and Asia, and is also actively engaged in promoting South–South cooperation. Prior to joining the LSE, she was a Professor in Statistics and Computer Science in Madras, India. She has pioneered several innovative knowledge sharing and skills development programmes in the UK and in India. Her current research focuses on sustainable growth and inclusion.

Susanne MacGREGOR FAcSS is a Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, attached to the Centre for History in Public Health. She is also Emeritus Professor at Middlesex University, and a member of the UK Academy of Social Sciences’ International Advisory Group. She has been a Scientific Adviser to the UK Department of Health and was Programme Coordinator for their Drug Misuse Research Initiative from 2000 to 2008. She is currently a member of a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development research collaboration: ‘Towards Universal Social Security in Emerging Economies’ (UNRISD, 2012); an Associate Editor of the International Journal of Drug Policy; and Guest Editor of a Special Edition of the journal entitled: ‘Towards Good Governance in Drug Policy: evidence, stakeholders and politics’ (vol. 25, 2014).
Fellows: Can you begin by explaining how evidence-based policy research has developed and become an important element in policy making in the areas in which you are working?

Ruth Kattumuri: Evidence-based policy research has a long development trajectory. My own research into sustainable development and inclusion in the global South has focused on human development, food security, social protection, climate issues and social inclusion (Kattumuri, 2011a; Kattumuri, 2011b; Kattumuri and Singh, 2013, Kattumuri and Ravindranath, 2014). I have long been interested in the links between research evidence and policy development, especially regarding sustainable growth, equitable access to services and quality issues.

Some researchers are deeply involved in understanding evidence from the field. I have always been very interested in factual understanding of economic, social and political issues affecting people by going beyond the statistics. Doing evidence-based research and influencing policy are for me an important commitment for impacting the community and contributing to its benefit. For example, when researching people living with HIV/AIDS, it was important for me to spend many hours with them, to mix quantitative and qualitative techniques, and immerse myself in trying to understand the issues involved. I also engaged extensively with the policy community on relevant issues. Immersion in the field has produced policy-relevant research with considerable influence at the national and global level (see for example Stern and Himanshu, 2011; UNRISD, 2012).

Recently, there has been a revival of interest in using evidence from longitudinal studies and state-wide surveys. Longitudinal studies have great value in understanding social practices and issues, tracking cohorts and observing changes and impacts of policies over a period of time. Collecting primary data is resource intensive, but is rewarding when it is done well. Policy makers are always keen to listen to field narratives from researchers. They appreciate strong (most often quantitative) data but are prepared to use qualitative data to enrich policy making.

Susanne MacGregor: I think that the idea of ‘going beyond the statistics’ is very important. My international experience with research-based evidence stems from work on health and social security, and drug, alcohol and tobacco policies (for example MacGregor, 2014; MacGregor et al., 2014a, 2014b). This research shows that impact on policy is rarely immediate. For example, researchers had already made the link between tobacco usage and lung cancer in the 1950s and 1960s, but it is only now, 40–50 years later, that we see the evidence of the harm caused by tobacco being generally accepted and used by governments to formulate policy in the interest of public health, for example with policies around plain packaging and restrictions on sales. It took decades of action by leading doctors such as Judy Mackay, an anti-tobacco advocate who led a campaign against tobacco in Asia from 1984, along with other campaigning groups, for change to come about, and in many countries, public health policies still have a long way to go.

Importantly, support was provided at international level by leading politicians, especially Gro Harlem Brundtland, who as a physician, former Prime Minister of Norway and later Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), was able to lend support for an International Tobacco Framework Convention. In May 2003, the 192 members of the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, unanimously adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which was described as a ‘milestone for the promotion of public health’. In general, it can be said that the use of evidence in tobacco policy was promoted by an ‘epistemic community’, or a network of knowledge-based experts, such as medical practitioners and public health officials, providing the scientific basis for tobacco control.

Such long gaps between research and its translation into public policy should not discourage researchers. In terms of global social governance regarding health issues, evidence has always played an important role. The policy field is full of players, including lobbyists, the media, politicians, pressure groups, and research is just one of them. However, policy makers are increasingly interested in knowing about the findings from research carried out in the field to illuminate and illustrate epidemiological or clinical data.

Fellows: Can you give examples to show how evidence has to be context specific if it is to influence policy? How important are time scales? What has been the influence of ‘policy teams’ employed in international and national agencies?

RK: Context is extremely important in evidence-based policy research, and also in determining the extent to which policies can be generalised to different population groups. Take for example the policy that was adopted for AIDS prevention in India, focusing on lorry drivers. One of the measures prescribed was the distribution of condoms for the purpose of preventing transmission of the virus. However, when research was conducted to assess the efficacy of this intervention, it was found that lorry drivers were using the condoms to repair their vehicles. Similarly, a study of the distribution of mosquito nets for the prevention of malaria showed that people were not using them as bed nets but for fishing and other purposes. The failure of such measures is largely due to a lack of knowledge of the situation on the ground and poor communication. Some stakeholders go in and out without being sufficiently aware of local specificities, and wrongly assume universal application.

Time scales are very important; understanding the links between cause and effect may take a long time.

SM: Policy makers are interested in the generalisability of research findings, but they are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of understanding the role of specific contexts. Research evidence will be taken into account if other pressures for change are working in the same direction.

Examples can also be quoted of changes coming about quickly as a result of a certain events, sometimes driven by sensational stories in the media. Decisions taken hastily may be misguided, especially if they are not based on evidence.

Best practice is where evidence is built up over time and validated by the scientific community. Policy teams working within bureaucracies play an important role in translating this knowledge into policy. People with relevant expertise may be employed with a policy role, in UN agencies or within
government departments for example, which may involve reviewing and collating evidence in response to a policy question, and presenting it clearly in an accessible form to decision makers. For those interested in influencing policy, this may be an attractive career option. Similarly, outside experts can play key roles as scientific advisers, for example the expert committees set up by WHO or within the EU or at national level to review evidence, and make judgements and recommendations on policy questions. This is a particularly effective route for communicating evidence and carrying it through into policy decisions.

Fellows What influence do different stakeholders have on the type of evidence collected, and how it is interpreted and used? Is research an equal stakeholder, or is it subordinate to the interests of others, especially funders? Is business a legitimate stakeholder in partnerships between policy and research? Given these different pressures, how do you think that researchers can make inroads into policy?

RK: Policy making is most likely to become effective when there is an equal level of participation between the various actors involved in the process. Researchers need to find reliable people in the field, but they must also give something back to their community, for example through newsletters and face-to-face contact. It is crucial to get communities to take responsibility for the outcomes of the fieldwork and engage in collective action to ensure implementation.

Evidence can be presented in a variety of ways: through workshops, conferences, presentations and meetings with policy makers. Regular discussions with policy makers and small workshops with focused research discussions are usually most effective and productive. Large conferences are beneficial for networking and dissemination. Technology also offers multiple options for online publications, such as blogs and social media. Data can be made accessible to a wider community through setting up online open access systems.

Researchers must be able to withstand pressure to use ‘fancy’ methods for the sake of it and focus on relevance and ensuring accurate understanding and interpretation of evidence.

It is not always possible to have control over all methods and techniques when working with multiple collaborators given the range and variation of the motivations of different stakeholders. However, it is important to ensure diligence and rigour in the techniques used. It also becomes imperative to scrutinise the needs and demands of each stakeholder and respond accordingly. Researchers must remain unbiased in their analyses and be careful in choosing their partners and institutions, so that the topics selected are not studied merely to satisfy one’s own ulterior motives. They need to develop strong relationships between the academic and research fraternity, and guard against being influenced by any biases of donors (and other interested parties) that may compromise the objectivity of the findings.

Partnerships should be based on equality, commonality and complementarity. The best practices to be followed for working with multiple national and international agencies are mutuality, cooperation, collaboration and willingness to share knowledge.

SM: Different types of stakeholders can either expedite the implementation process or block it. For example, doctors may be in favour of certain policy changes regarding alcohol, such as minimum unit pricing, while the alcohol industry may put up barriers and challenge policy proposals using legal means, citing commercial law for example. Currently in public health communities, it is virtually taboo to work with the tobacco industry as a partner. The picture is more mixed regarding alcohol, although increasingly there are voices arguing that the alcohol and food industries should be viewed with equal scepticism.

We tend to focus a lot on the role of government-funded research, but other sources of funding, such as philanthropic organisations, may have different agendas from governments or research councils. Sometimes these organisations will support more radical policies and fund research that fits with their values and interests. An alliance between researchers and campaigning organisations is often important to build up influence and change the way issues are framed. Communities may also be important players in certain types of policy interventions.

In addition, academic status and institutional affiliation need to be taken into account in ensuring influence; the power base of the evidence or researcher is key. A lone voice is unlikely to be heard.

One way in which various stakeholders can be encouraged to coordinate their activities and agree on a policy direction is by establishing partnerships. If academics truly want the practical knowledge that they acquired in the field to be fed into the policy process, they must work with their partners. This takes time and involves different skills from pure research. Not all academics have the same set of talents and motivations. Some see themselves as activists who become engaged in campaigns or forge partnerships with communities; others may be happier working more in the background, providing technical expertise. Both are important roles. When working with partners, however, it is important for researchers to retain control of their methods, if they are to maintain the integrity of the research process throughout.

Fellows: What are the main constraints on evidence-based policy research? How can researchers respond to the pressures from funders and yet maintain research independence and the integrity of the research process?

RK: In addition to the pressure on researchers (and on policy makers) to demonstrate value for money, a major constraint on researchers is the limit on resources. Unlike in the past, there is now a general consensus on the value of mixed methods, and researchers often combine quantitative and qualitative methods. The question that researchers have to ask themselves all the time is: What is your commitment? They need conviction/courage to withstand the many pressures that they encounter and to be able to maintain the integrity and independence of their research.

Policy makers are very interested in evidence from the field. Good governments may sometimes fail to make the best use of evidence-based policy because, even though they intended to introduce important policy changes, they may not be able to communicate effectively about improvements they have made or plan to make.

SM: As already mentioned, researchers need to insist on academic integrity and independence and maintain high ethical standards in their relationships with stakeholders. Trust
becomes a key variable in exchanges between researchers and policy makers. A point to bear in mind when discussing community involvement in research is that all stakeholders should be treated equally. Sometimes community representatives or service users are expected to be involved in research but are not rewarded for their time, effort and expertise. It is important to retain the support of all stakeholders. The success of a policy intervention may depend on how far it responds to the interests and values of all actors. Quite often, no policy change is made after consultation with communities or service users, which, over time, can lead to cynicism and resentment, and the feeling that involvement has been tokenistic. These are issues that, if not addressed, can lead to a backlash and may result in loss of trust and the failure of a policy intervention.

Fellows: How does the relationship between evidence, policy and practice vary at different levels (local, national, international)? How can researchers demonstrate what works and what does not work?

RK: An example is the work of the World Bank in India. Over the years, it has been increasing the number of ways of working closely with all levels of government: local, national and international, which has helped in gaining a better understanding from evidence of what works and what does not at the country level. Another important feature to be highlighted in this regard is the issue of ‘policy space’. ‘Policy space’ can be defined as the area available to policy makers, where they have the freedom to follow their own intuitions and methods. Sometimes they are constrained by political, populist and other factors and are unable to make full use of their knowledge and understanding to enrich policy making. Policy makers continue to struggle with the challenge of ‘evidence-based policy’ or ‘policy-based evidence’. However, it is important to persevere in trying to move policies in the right direction. It is also important to take into consideration the various obstacles that governments face in making policy. Introduction and implementation of new schemes and policies take time to produce an effect and show results or evidence, and it is not realistic to expect changes to happen overnight.

SM: Working in a global context is complex. One of the key difficulties to overcome is the lack of a common language across different stakeholders. Not only are national languages problematic but also the fact that different disciplines work with different sets of concepts, and that expert specialist language is different from that of the general public. The issue of research translation is critical here. Research translation is increasingly being seen as a specialist skill. Communication skills matter. Today the ability to present findings in a punchy, accessible way is valued. This may require expertise in the use of computer graphics. Visual presentations can be much more effective than screeds of text.

Much valuable work on important issues in public health is, by its nature, multidisciplinary and applied, as with policies and practices concerning HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Common understandings build up over time with dedicated teams working together across borders and in networks. International networks are important in linking people across localities, and across countries, and they act increasingly as independent influences in the development of policies on global issues. Implementation is another major issue in the policy process. A long list of examples could be given of situations where impact in real life has not been achieved. Deciding ‘what works’ is not just a technical matter but also involves gaining the support of the people who are affected by policy change, from practitioners to taxpayers, the public, communities or patients.

Fellows: Are different principles and practices needed in the North and in the South? What is the value of international comparisons of evidence-based policy processes and multidisciplinary approaches?

RK: It is important to be aware of the different stages of development in the North and South. In making international comparisons, one has to be culturally sensitive to variations in environments or scenarios, and respect the differences in modus operandi. The levels of research and policy interaction can be varied and limited in some places.

The last 10 years have seen an increase in opportunities and the availability of funding to encourage international collaborative and comparative research between the North and South. They are extremely helpful for gaining a better understanding of global economic, social, political and security issues, and are being facilitated and supported by national and international governments, as well as public and private organisations. Examples include UK Research Councils and the European Union.

In evidence-based policy making, there is no set pattern or disciplinary approach that has to be followed. Change is gradual, and every experience produces its own challenges. If researchers are prepared to be flexible, patient and persevering, however, the rewards are considerable.

References
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Andrew SORS is Head of the Brussels’ Office for the Eurotech Universities Alliance, which brings together four elite technical universities in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany.

Fellows: Could you each begin by explaining how you came to be working in your current positions and what the work involves?
Abbi Hobbs: Prior to joining POST, I worked for the Academy of Medical Sciences and as an independent consultant on several social science research projects in science policy and health. My base at the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Public Policy at University College London provides a useful connection between research and policy advice.

Caroline Kenny: Before joining POST, I worked for the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and
Management Solutions Ltd (RMS), where I was a Senior Analyst on climate change and disaster risk. I have been involved in research for organisations including the World Bank, OECD, World Resources Institute, World Economic Forum, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UK Adaptation Sub-Committee, CERES (a non-profit organisation advocating for sustainability leadership), Munich Re, Association of British Insurers and Lloyd’s of London. I have also held positions as a scientific adviser and policy analyst for the Department of Energy and Climate Change and on the Belfer Centre’s Working Group on the Economics of Climate Change at Harvard.

Andrew Sors: After a period in industry I was Deputy Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Research Centre (MARC) at the University of London, which carried out research for UN Agencies and Programmes on global environmental issues. I joined the European Commission in 1982. In 1999, I became Head of the Unit for Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities. I left Brussels in 2005 to spend three years as Science Counsellor at the Commission’s Delegation to India, followed by three years in Budapest as Rector of Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Study. I continue to be interested in the Commission’s attempts to foster interdisciplinary research, and I addressed these issues in a short article published in Research Europe, entitled ‘Social sciences and humanities can learn from Frameworks past’ (9 January 2014).

Fellows: Can you explain briefly what your current positions involve?

AH and CK: The UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) is an office of both Houses of Parliament (Commons and Lords), created in 1989 and charged with providing balanced and independent analyses of science and technology-based issues of relevance to Parliament. Historically, POST has focused on the natural sciences and technology, but in September 2013, in partnership with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and with the support of University College London, POST established a dedicated Social Science Section to provide parliamentarians with more access to social science research evidence. POST now seeks to support the use of research in Parliament wherever it has relevance to issues of public policy and debate.

POST’s core activities include producing concise, accessible, impartial, peer-reviewed analysis of research evidence (4-page briefings called POSTnotes). These involve a brief review of the literature, around 20 interviews with experts from across government, academia, industry and the third sector, exploring emergent issues, and a robust process of internal and external peer review to ensure that the briefings are accessible, factually accurate, balanced and comprehensive.

Examples of some of the areas we have looked at since the beginning of 2014 include:

- a suite of work around ‘Big data’, including public health, transport, biobanks, crime and security, social media, business, environmental citizen science, and smart metering of energy and water
- a number of topics relating to public health, such as childhood allergies, HIV prevention, surveillance of infectious diseases, transparency of clinical trial data, stroke, telehealth and telecare, electronic cigarettes
- and energy and the environment, covering the reduction of emissions from deforestation, intermittent electricity generation, ambient air quality, new nuclear power technologies, risks from climate feedbacks, livestock emissions, and electricity demand-side response (POST, 2014).

POST also facilitates connections and engagement between parliamentarians and researchers. For example, we run events on topics of interest to inform discussion and debate by bringing in external expertise and understanding, and we also run funded fellowship schemes for PhD students, which give them the opportunity to spend (usually) three months working at POST, and some fellowships are also open to post-doctoral researchers. Fellows usually work on a POSTnote, but in some cases can be seconded to other parts of the House, such as a Select Committee or the Library in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. POST also assists Select Committees, for example by advising on potential witnesses or specialist advisers, commenting on evidence received, producing oral and written briefings, or providing technical guidance and support around specific issues.

Similar organisations exist in other countries, for example POST is a member of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) network of technology assessment institutions that advise parliamentary bodies in Europe.

NR: My current role at the Department for International Development involves providing technical advice on climate change and natural hazards to support UK development aid, as well as designing and managing large international research programmes. At the same time, I am continuing my research interests in risk assessment and decision making under uncertainty, focusing on disaster risk management, adaptation and insurance.

AS: The Brussels’ Office for the Eurotech Universities Alliance was established in 2006 to bring together four top-class European technological universities, enabling them to pursue common goals and programmes in international research. The Alliance is committed to finding technological solutions that address the major challenges facing society in the fields of energy, climate change, mobility and infrastructure, and to making an active contribution to public policy. Among other joint research initiatives, the Alliance has established a network for green technologies.

Fellows: What are the constraints, systemic issues and challenges that you face as intermediaries between researchers and policy makers, especially in a context where impact has become a primary concern in academia?

AH and CK: As knowledge brokers, we have to recognise that research is only one of many factors that parliamentarians need to take into account. Furthermore, staff supporting parliamentarians (and often policy makers more broadly) may have limited time and access to academic journals – POST itself has only limited access to academic journals – and they may not know where to look for research information. For example, some sections within Parliament
may need to gather information in a very short timeframe, as little as 30 minutes. In addition, disciplines can use very different language to discuss similar topics and issues, for example even within the social sciences.

AH: I think that changes have been taking place in the interactions between academia and policy, and that the UK’s Research Excellence Framework (REF) has been a key and important driver in the process. But the understanding of what ‘impact’ means to different groups of users still needs to mature. The model that some people have of ‘one researcher, one project, one policy change’ does not capture the multitude of ways that research can feed into, and contribute to, parliamentary and policy processes.

CK: I agree. The boundaries between different disciplines are largely academic and do not really apply in the policy/parliamentary context. Often, the complex questions that policy makers are interested in require research that provides evidence from a number of different subject areas and disciplines, and so the distinction between positivist methods and others is often unhelpful for policy makers.

NR: In government, we need evidence on two timescales: long-term vs rapid policy making, for example in the case of an emergency. In long-term policy making, we have time to support new research. For more rapid evidence gathering, the relationship between academics and policy makers is crucial. An example of the sorts of interdisciplinary long-term policy questions that we are asked to address would be: Why should the UK invest in early warning systems in developing countries? How can we deliver vaccines most effectively? The challenge I am sure academics find in engaging with us is the speed with which we need the answers; usually much faster than typical academic research. It is also difficult to identify who to talk to.

Major challenges still arise in accessing evidence, in addition to the point that most government departments do not have access to journals. One such challenge is that researchers are not incentivised by academia to write policy reports or build relationships with policy makers. They get no academic prestige for doing so. The right incentives are needed if research is to impact on policy.

The research councils in the UK have recently become more supportive of research and activities designed to produce impact, and researchers are increasingly under pressure to provide evidence of ‘impact’. However, I worry that this has become a box-ticking exercise for many researchers, who do not understand how to create an impact. For example, I have had researchers who think that to achieve an impact means a quick 5-minute discussion over the phone, which is enough to check the impact box. A problem for researchers in demonstrating impact is the difficulty of tracking the spread of influential ideas, since much of it happens in conversations rather than in published articles. Individual papers rarely, if ever, make ‘impact’ alone. It is the aggregation of ideas and evidence over time that is important. Policy tends to be influenced through a long process of discussion of ideas and evidence not by single academic papers. However, we should remember that not all research needs to have an immediate impact. We also need more blue skies research that pushes the boundaries of the science.

My advice to researchers wanting to have an impact on policy is, first and foremost, to research something that answers a real-world need. Build relationships with those whom you want to influence; understand their needs and be responsive to them; also seek opportunities to communicate your knowledge at the right time, when the question comes up.

AS: A major barrier to connecting research to policy at the EU level is the lack of ‘spaces’/agora for debates and discussions in European policy making. This is one specific aspect of what is frequently referred to as the ‘democratic deficit’. In relation to research, it is especially serious for the social sciences and humanities, which tend to be squeezed when spending has to be justified in the context of interdisciplinary problems, such as climate change research.

Fellows: Do you find that policy makers favour particular hierarchies of evidence?

AH and CK: POST requires methodological rigour in ways that trump any disciplinary hierarchies. It is more important to be careful and thorough with how you arrive at conclusions than to assume that only research derived through particular methods is relevant to policy. However, so far we have found that the ways in which research is used tend to be highly context specific.

CK: The research I am leading into the role of research in Parliament will hopefully highlight the factors that shape how, whether and to what extent, research is used. Boundaries between academic fields seem irrelevant from a policy perspective. Policy makers just want evidence to address the questions that they are interested in. Disciplinary training is still necessary, although future researchers will require interdisciplinary training if they are to work in a policy environment.

NR: I do observe that economics is often the ‘god’ of evidence in government, but this is because it presents evidence in a way that is useful to policy makers, that is in hard numbers. Similarly, natural sciences produce tangible ‘things’ like vaccines or weather forecast models. Social science brings a huge amount of value to policy making; for example better understanding of institutional constraints is key in delivering effective development programmes.

The problem is that social science outputs are not so immediately tangible and are often much more complex and nuanced, which can make it more difficult to sell social science research to policy makers than other forms of research as something they should invest in, despite its importance.

From my perspective, researchers focus too much on individual disciplines. Multidisciplinary working is essential to answer most of the questions we face. Disciplines are necessary for academic training, but have little relevance in the real world.

AS: There are channels for science to feed into policy, but the situation is difficult for the social sciences, as well as for the humanities. Furthermore, the divide between natural and social science persists in many settings, due to the unwillingness and inability of both sides to engage in deep collaboration. At European level, discussion is long-standing
on what to do with social sciences, raising question such as: What are the deliverables? Should we fund social sciences at European level?

The legacy of disciplines is still salient, and can lead to a rigid approach to theory and frameworks.

In the design of research programmes (both in the UK and Europe), a strong conditionality remains when bridging the divide between natural and social sciences and between research and decision making.

Fellows: Thinking about the future, what opportunities do you see for developing the relationship between social research and policy, for example through social media?

AH and CK: Social media can help to develop relationships between research and policy. POST finds lots of good material via Twitter, and researchers can also use it to track what is going on in Parliament, for example for select committee inquiries.

CK: Building your own brand as a researcher through social media can be an important way of raising awareness about your research and gaining influence.

NR: I think that social media have been massively oversold as a ‘silver bullet’ for getting research into policy. I completely disagreed with a recent LSE publication on this topic. To influence policy you must understand the policy need and respond to it. You also need the right network to convey your message. If your research does not answer a real need, social media will not help. For researchers who do produce research that answers a real need, social media could help in getting your message heard, assuming you have the right readers that can convey your message to the right people.

AS: The increased use of the social media in science provides opportunities that social scientists should take seriously. The European Commission’s Open Consultation on Science 2.0 (see http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/science-2.0/consultation_en.htm), which affords an opportunity for open or networked science, is currently a high research policy priority in the European Union.

Reference
For POSTNotes produced between January and July 2014, visit: http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/bicameral/post/publications/postnotes/

DISCUSSION

The following points were raised in the discussion and reiterated or endorsed many comments made in other sessions:

• It is often more difficult to bring social science data into policy discussions than data from the natural sciences, although efforts are currently being made in some countries to increase the uptake of social science research by policy makers.

• The lack of policy influence of academic research might not reflect a lack of engagement by academics but rather a democratic deficit due to the lack of policy space where research can be taken up.

• Researchers and policy makers are operating with very different time horizons and access to resources. For the relationship to be effective, they need to find reliable partners and build trust.

• Boundaries between disciplines are often irrelevant in policy arenas, as is the fact that researchers are operating in silos, since policy makers are focused on issues, not disciplines, and will look for research that informs the problems that they are addressing.

• Researchers are expected to demonstrate the impact of their research, although it is often difficult to establish a direct link between a particular piece of research and a policy decision.

• In considering social science evidence, policy makers and advisers tend not to rely on individual articles/studies to inform their decisions, but prefer research reviews and aggregated data that are context specific and presented in jargon-free language.

• Often ‘policy’ is presented as homogeneous, but it is intensely heterogeneous, and involves multiple and very different structures of policy making and policy-making institutions.

• Important distinctions can be found between reactive and anticipatory policy making, involving different roles for research inputs.
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

PART 1: Accessing Resources

British Council Partnerships and Grants

Claire McNULTY is Director of Science, at the British Council’s London office. She leads the Science and Research team, which develops and supports science and research-related projects across the British Council global network, and builds and maintains relationships with key stakeholders in the UK and overseas. Previously, she was a senior science policy adviser at the Royal Society, where she worked on the Pfizer-Royal Society African Academies Programme, an initiative aimed at building capacity within the national academies of science in Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia. She is also involved in a number of international projects, including the European Commission’s ‘Euraxess’ initiative. She has acted as an independent science consultant on several science-related projects for the British Council, including ‘Next Generation Science’, aimed at school children, and ‘Network UK’, a support service for international researchers in the UK.

The British Council as a Worldwide Cultural Relations Organisation

The British Council hosted the first day of the World Social Science Fellows Seminar at its headquarters in Spring Gardens, Trafalgar Square.

The British Council is the UK’s international cultural relations organisation, which has been working for 80 years to forge links between people in the UK and other countries. They have 218 offices in 109 countries around the world.

The Council’s main purpose is to build engagement and trust through worldwide exchange of knowledge and ideas. Its charitable aims are to:

- promote cultural relationships and the understanding of different cultures between people and peoples of the United Kingdom and other countries
- promote a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom
- develop a wider knowledge of the English language
- encourage cultural, scientific, technological and other educational cooperation between the United Kingdom and other countries
- and otherwise promote the advancement of education.

In seeking to encourage internationalisation, the Council fosters a virtuous circle by attracting talented students and researchers, which in turn creates a strong research base, increases international collaboration, and results in the production of high quality research.

The British Council’s International Activities

The Council supports international mobility and collaboration through the provision of information about funding opportunities, practical support and skills training, covering:

- global, multilateral and bilateral initiatives
- initial links and partnership building
- opportunities for individuals, research groups, and institutions.

Among the many schemes available, ‘Researcher Links’ focus on early career researchers, with input from more senior researchers, for thematic workshops and travel grants. The Council operates an open call with selection on the basis of mutual benefit, research quality and potential for sustained interaction, with a view to encouraging interdisciplinary interactions and the inclusion of social sciences, and arts and humanities researchers.

In 2013–14, the following countries were targeted: Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Morocco, Egypt, Qatar, South Africa, Nigeria, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam and the USA (travel grants only)

For workshops: 400 applications were received, and 52 were funded.

For travel grants: 380 applications were received and 178 were funded.

Other collaborative research opportunities include:

- UK–China Partnerships in Education
- UK–India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)
- Exploratory Grants (for example Turkey, Ukraine and Hong Kong) – small amounts of funding to initiate partnerships
- EURAXESS – practical support and information for mobile researchers in 40 European countries (Links extend to the USA, China, Japan, Singapore for ASEAN, India and Brazil)
- EURAXESS Amber – a consortium of European partners whose aim is to promote researcher mobility between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe by providing access to information on European research opportunities, minimising the problems caused by existing administrative barriers, and supporting the career development of researchers during their stay in Europe.

For more information about EURAXESS and to sign up for their newsletter, visit: http://www.euraxess.org.uk

The provision of skills training is delivered through the Researcher Connect course. The material has been piloted in
World Social Science Fellows Seminar: Global Social Governance

India, Egypt, France, Switzerland and China, among others, focusing on:

- communication skills training for researchers
- face-to-face, intensive training
- writing for publication
- writing funding proposals
- informal communication (networking, emails)
- presenting at conferences.

For more information about research skills training see: http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/bc_researcher_connect_brochure_web1.pdf

The Council is also a delivery partner for the Newton Fund: building science and innovation capacity in developing countries, working in partnership with the Higher Education International Unit. Under this scheme, the UK Government is providing £375 million (£75 million a year for 5 years starting 2014–15) as part of the UK’s official development assistance. Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and social welfare of partner countries.

The fund is designed to provide a wide variety of opportunities for engagement, ranging from individual visits to longer term research programmes, through open competitive calls, managed by the main delivery partners: Research Councils UK, Technology Strategy Board, British Council, the Academies and the Met Office.

The Fund will cover three broad categories of activity:

- People: capacity building, people exchange and joint centres
- Programmes: research collaborations on development topics
- Translation: innovation partnerships.

The initial country list includes: China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Egypt and Kazakhstan.

Opportunities that could arise through the Newton Fund include:

- PhD scholarships and placements
- institutional Links – grants for establishing links between higher education and research institutions, and businesses, with the aim of translating research into benefit for poor communities; and driving economic development in partner countries
- opportunities to supply technical consultancy services in the areas of Professional Development and Engagement, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education, and Technical training and employability.


The British Library’s Social Science Collection

Jude ENGLAND FaCSS is Head of Research Engagement at the British Library. Her career began in survey design in the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys and at the LSE as a Research Assistant on a project that looked at the attitudes of supporters of extreme right political parties, followed by research at NatCen, an independent social research agency. She subsequently worked for the government’s Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service and moved into research consultancy in the employee relations and communications fields. She spent 10 years working as a self-employed research consultant, and, immediately prior to the British Library, spent five years at ECOTEC Research and Consulting, doing social policy research and consultancy. She joined the British Library in 2006 with the specific task of improving its profile and services for the Social Science research community. Her role now covers a wider brief for researchers across Social Science, Science, Technology and Medicine, and Arts and Humanities.

The British Library as a World Knowledge Base

‘We exist for everyone who wants to do research – for academic, personal or commercial purposes’

Jude England hosted a visit to the British Library on the second day of the World Social Science Fellows Seminar.

The British Library’s mission is to advance the world’s knowledge. Its strategic priorities are to:

- guarantee access for future generations
- enable access for everyone who wants to do research
- support research communities in key areas for social and economic benefit
- enrich the cultural life of the nation
- and lead and collaborate in growing the world’s knowledge base.

The Library’s vision for 2020 is to be a leading hub in the global information network, advancing knowledge through its collections, expertise and partnerships, for the benefit of the economy and society and the enrichment of cultural life.

The British Library is one of six UK legal deposit libraries, with two sites, one in London on Euston Road, the other in Yorkshire at Boston Spa. Its collections hold more than 150 million objects (including 13 million monographs), covering all subject areas: from science, technology, medicine, arts &
The Library’s social science collections comprise:

- All official UK publications from around 1800 on social conditions, education, health, finance, trade and industry, media and culture, and transport, as well as guides to holdings across the world
- Government reports and grey literature on social policy, welfare state, legislation
- Materials published by intergovernmental organisations (UN, EU, OECD, World Bank) since inception, including:
  - internal affairs (minutes of committees, conferences, resolutions)
  - diplomatic affairs (peacekeeping, mandates, mediation)
  - social issues (health, women and children, drug trafficking, refugees, human rights)
  - economic issues (unemployment, labour conditions, transport, trade
  - statistics
  - evidence from expert groups and witnesses
- Oral history holdings, including:
  - voices of Science: ‘Made in Britain’ and ‘A Changing Planet’
  - pioneers in Charity and Social Welfare
  - food: from source to sales point
  - Tesco: an oral history
  - Millennium Memory Bank
  - Sisterhood and After
- Research studies, including:
  - a study of researcher behaviour, ‘Researchers of Tomorrow’. For more information, visit: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/reports/2012=researchers-of-tomorrow.aspx
  - Envia, a new resource for the discovery and access of environmental science information, being developed by the British Library in collaboration with Living With Environmental Change, a partnership of 22 public sector organisations that fund and carry out environmental research. For more information, visit: http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/experthelp/science/eventsandprojects/enviatbl/
  - Social Welfare at the BL: an online resource of research reports and information across the broad areas of social care and social welfare, and social policy. For more information, visit: http://social.welfare.bl.uk

The Library’s many partnership projects include:

- EthOS, the UK’s national thesis service, which aims to maximise the visibility and availability of the UK’s doctoral research theses
- UK Research Reserve (UKRR), a collaborative distributed national research collection managed by a partnership with the Higher Education sector, which allows Higher Education libraries to de-duplicate their journal holdings of a title if two copies are held by other UKRR members, ensuring continued access to low-use journals, while allowing libraries to release space to meet the changing needs of their users

Its capacity building and engagement activities cover:

- Doctoral Training Days
- Collaborative doctorates, interns and placements
- Public events: Myths & Realities, Equality Lecture, Wootton series, Beautiful Science
- Professional and academic conferences and workshops
- Professional and learned societies
- CLOSER, ODIN, funded by the 7th European Commission Framework Programme, with the aim of providing technical solutions for identifying and connecting data creators, authors, researchers, contributors and research objects related to British Birth Cohort Studies. For more information, visit: http://www.slideshare.net/johnkayebl/odin-closer-pres

Readership is open to all researchers on completion of an application form and production, on site, of two pieces of identification: one with an address and one with a photograph.

International Research Funding

Aygen KURT DICKSON is a Research Development Manager in the LSE Research Division. Before joining the LSE, she worked part-time as a research fellow on a European Commission, Framework Programme 7 Science in Society project at Middlesex University, UK, where she researched into the ethical/social implications and governance of the technological development process. Her research interests are in research governance and innovation policy, the formation of the European Research Area, and how socio-political integration can be enhanced via innovation activity at sectoral and national levels. In her role as RDM at LSE, she focuses on increasing research bidding activity: by following the research policy landscape in the UK and Europe; providing strategic funding plans for academic units; supporting academics with their research grant proposals; co-designing training on grant capture; and developing extended networks with other higher education institutions, policy bodies and research stakeholders concerned with the long-term well-being of social sciences based research.
Aygen Kurt Dickson provided an overview of a number of international funding opportunities available to non-UK-based researchers, covering:

**Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK, Research Grants**

Led by a UK-based research organisation, excellent research project ideas within the remit of ESRC can be submitted to the Research Grants open call. International co-investigators can be included in proposals. ESRC also has bilateral agreements with funding agencies in other countries. Examples include the ESRC–Austrian Science Fund, which aims to encourage collaborative projects between social scientists in the UK and Austria; and the Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and Research Councils UK agreement, which aims to reduce the barriers to international work between researchers in the UK and USA.

For more information, visit: [http://www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk)

**Leverhulme Trust International Networks, UK**

This scheme allows a UK-based researcher to build a new collaborative research project with overseas institutions.

For more information, visit: [http://leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/IN/IN.cfm](http://leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/IN/IN.cfm)

**Horizon 2020, European Commission**

Horizon 2020 is the European Union’s Research and Innovation programme that funds research, innovation, and coordination actions, including business development for small and medium-sized companies (see also Andrew Sors, Part 2 below).


**European Research Council (ERC) Investigator Grants**

ERC Grants aim to support researchers from any country of origin and age who have ground-breaking research ideas.

For more information, visit: [http://erc.europa.eu/starting-grants](http://erc.europa.eu/starting-grants)

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**

The objective of the MSCA is to support the career development and training of researchers, with a focus on innovation skills in all scientific disciplines through worldwide and cross-sector mobility:

- Innovative Training Networks (ITN) provide support for joint research training and/or doctoral programmes between universities, research organisations and non-academic institutions.
- Individual Fellowships (IF) provide support for experienced researchers undertaking mobility between countries, optionally to the non-academic sector.
- Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE) aim to support international and inter-sectoral cooperation.
- The European Researchers’ Night (NIGHT) is a public event encouraging research careers among young people.


**European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)**

COST aims to open the European Research Area to worldwide cooperation through its Actions: ‘science and technology networks open to researchers and stakeholders’. COST funds networking and stakeholder engagement activities, such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions, and dissemination events. COST also funds the coordination, planning and decision-making meetings related to specific Actions’ activities.

For more information, visit: [http://www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

**Nato’s Science for Peace and Security (SPS)**

The SPS is a policy tool for enhancing cooperation and dialogue with all partners, to contribute to the Alliance’s core goals and to address the priority areas for dialogue and cooperation identified in the new partnership policy. Multi-year projects, training, advanced training courses and advanced research workshops can be funded.

For more information, visit: [http://www.nato.int/ cps/en/natolive/87260.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/87260.htm)

**How to find about funding opportunities:**

- For EU member and associate states-based researchers, connect to your EU funding national contact points (NCPs) and join their circulation mailing lists for specific funding calls.
- Attend information sessions, funders’ visits, training events that are organised at national and institutional level.
- Talk to other colleagues in your academic departments and your research support office if applicable.
- For information on funding from UK public sources, check UK public funding opportunities by regularly visiting funders’ websites, and signing up to the UK Research Councils’ newsletters by visiting each Research Council’s individual website or the umbrella organisation RCUK’s website: [http://www.ecuk.ac.uk](http://www.ecuk.ac.uk)
- Check if your institution is subscribed to Research Professional (http://www.researchprofessional.com), which is a funding search engine with research news, funding alerts and magazines covering funding opportunities at global level.
- Find out if your institution has an internal research office, which searches for and disseminates funding information on a regular basis.
PART 2: Developing International Networks

The Regional Studies Association as an International Learned Society

Sally HARDY is Chief Executive of the Regional Studies Association, having previously worked as a Higher Scientific Officer for the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She leads on the RSA’s UK policy engagement work, currently with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on meetings in relation to their Future Of Cities programme. She speaks regularly on behalf of the RSA, and has become a commentator on open access publishing, particularly where this impacts on the learned society sector. She is particularly involved in the RSA’s territorial expansion and engagement with knowledge exchange with colleagues in the European Commission, particularly DG Regio, and with organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, OECD and Committee of the Regions.

For more information, contact: sally.hardy@regionalstudies.org

Gordon DABINETT is former Chair and currently Honorary Vice-Chair of the Regional Studies Association, and a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. He is Professor for Regional Studies in the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield, having previously worked in the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) and in the School of Environmet and Development at Sheffield Hallam University. His research has contributed to the study of uneven spatial development and the practices of public policy in securing greater spatial justice. At the University of Newcastle and then Cleveland County Council and Sheffield City Council, he focused on how alternative local economic development practices might address inequality in spatial development. He is interested in constructing meanings and understandings of spatial justice, and the analysis and evaluation of regional and local policies to address uneven spatial development.

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About the Regional Studies Association

The Regional Studies Association is an international learned society, an NGO and a member society of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, working on development and policy primarily at the sub-national level. It has a global membership and, in September 2014 opened a Division and associated project office in China working with colleagues from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A similar arrangement is shortly to be launched in the USA following a successful pilot project with UCLA, California. The RSA has an extensive publishing portfolio, including three hybrid journals and an innovative gold open access journal: Regional Studies, Regional Science. The RSA recently became a research funder launching a scheme for early career researcher grants of £10k, with 20 awarded by July 2014.

(Net)working in Interdisciplinary and International Environments

The RSA works with its international membership to facilitate the highest standards of theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate of issues at this sub-national scale, incorporating both the urban and rural, and different conceptions of space such as city-regions and interstitial spaces. Its members are, for example, interested in issues of economic development and growth, conceptions of territory and its governance and in thorny problems of equity and injustice.

Maximising Career Opportunities

Sally Hardy and Gordon Dabinett discussed the role of learned societies and, more especially, of the RSA in research career development, and offered tips on how to maximise career opportunities with the help of the learned societies.

Using learned societies to maximise your research career

Every discipline and sub-discipline in the UK has a learned society, and many have international umbrella societies.

The main areas in which societies are active include:
- membership organisations, some of which are global like RSA;
- conferences and events;
- publishing portfolios;
- knowledge exchange / policy engagement;
- funding/grants.

Why is it worth engaging?
- The publishing paradigm is shifting towards open access publishing models. ‘Publish or perish has gone replaced by visibility or vanish’.
- Evidence is needed of international engagement, engagement in multi- and interdisciplinary work, linking to communities of knowledge and practice.

Using the Regional Studies Association

For access to grants:
- Research Networks £5k (12 per annum)
- Early Career Grants £10K (20 per annum)
- Travel Bursaries £500 (8 per annum)
- Event Support Scheme £1K (per event)
- Conference Bursaries £500 (and free place at conference)

For access to awards:
- RSA/Routledge Early Career Award
- Early Career Conference
Early Career social events at major international conferences;
  - Early career special sessions, for example on publishing, building your career, publishing for non-native speakers, speed dating
  - Specialist early career publishing support

To promote career development:
  - Early Career place on RSA Board and other committees
  - Open Days/European Week of Regions and Cities – Master Class

To provide publishing outlets:
  - Regional Studies – Early Career Editor
  - Spatial Economic Analysis – Early Career Editor
  - Territory, Politics, Governance – Early Career Editor
  - Regional Studies, Regional Science – Early Career mentored paper section

Regions and Cities – Book Series
Regions – Magazine

Hot tips – informal routes to getting your name and work known:
  - befriend the gatekeepers
  - use association social media
  - offer to edit or moderate
  - network all the time (Facebook, blogs, LinkedIn, Twitter), opportunity page on RSA website for external jobs and grants
  - exploit symbiotic learned society/member relationship
  - know that societies work with research leaders
  - help yourself
  - volunteer/be engaged
  - maximise the career value of your publications

For further information: visit: http://www.regionalstudies.org/opportunities

About the Social Policy Association

The Social Policy Association (SPA) is a member society of the Academy of Social Sciences and the UK’s professional association for teachers, researchers, students and practitioners of social policy. It promotes social policy in teaching and learning, and seeks to advance the role of research in policy making, practice and wider public debates.

The SPA, together with the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York generously sponsored the World Social Science Fellows’ Seminar, and several members of the Association contributed to the Seminar. Nick Ellison hosted a reception for the Fellows on the third day of the Seminar at the London School of Economics.

International Engagement in Social Policy

The SPA aims to be an outward-looking association where international, comparative and global aspects of social policy, a broad world view and engagement with scholars residing both outside and within the UK lie at the heart of its ethos and activities.

The SPA has scholarly associations in other countries and reciprocal arrangements with the African, Australian, East Asian and Indian Social Policy Associations, and links to their websites. It also has links to the websites of a number of other overseas social policy associations and organisations, and publishes journals relevant to the international and global aspects of social policy, for example the Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy (see Part 3 below).

The SPA actively supported the creation of the Indian Social Policy Association and co-organised a series of collaborative workshops and conferences. It continues to collaborate and have constructive dialogue with social policy associations in a wide range of countries, including the USA, China, South Africa and Japan.

For more information about the SPA and its international network, visit: http://www.social-policy.org.uk/

Opportunities for Career Development with the Social Policy Association

In hosting the reception at the Fellows’ Seminar, Nick Ellison described the SPA Standard and Postgraduate Small Grants Schemes for members of the Association. Both Schemes are designed to help fund seminars and workshops dealing with research and/or learning and teaching that will benefit the UK social policy community, involve dissemination of knowledge about UK social policy internationally, or for work on international issues that would be of interest to UK social policy academics and practitioners.

For more information about SPA grants, visit: http://www.social-policy.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/

Each year, the UK SPA holds an Annual Awards Ceremony. The awards recognise the contributions and achievements of
academics and non-academics working within the social policy arena. In 2013, Professors Ian Gough and Bob Deacon (contributors to the World Social Science Fellows Seminar) both received Special Recognition for their achievements in the field of social policy.

Nick Ellison announced a new Fellowship support scheme, which his Department in York is developing to enable promising postdoctoral researchers to prepare an application to a Research Council or similar funding body for a fellowship.

**Interdisciplinary Networking through International Organisations**

**Andrew SORS** is Head of the Brussels’ Office for the Eurotech Universities. Previously, he was Head of the Unit for Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities, at the European Commission’s Research Directorate General, responsible for the operational implementation of EU level Social Science and Humanities research in Framework Programmes 4, 5 and 6. He was also Head of Unit for Strategy and Policy in the Directorate for Social Sciences, Humanities (SSH) and Foresight. Previously, he was Head of the Unit for Socio-economic Environmental Research and was involved in the development of research cooperation with countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Before joining the Commission, he was Deputy Director of the environmental Monitoring and Assessment Research Centre (MARC) at the University of London, which carried out research for UN Agencies and Programmes on global environmental issues. Before returning to Brussels, he spent 3 years at the Commission’s Delegation as Science Counsellor in India, and 3 years in Budapest as Rector of the Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Study.

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**Opportunities for Networking in Europe**

Many of the questions raised in discussion with Andrew Sors concerned opportunities for participation in, and funding by, EU programmes, not only from the Fellows working in Serbia and Estonia, but also from fellows in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and India. Information about the possibilities, for example under EU–Australia/New Zealand research cooperation agreements, seemed to be relatively poorly disseminated in the research community.

In relation to the Framework Programme, discussion focused on the range of opportunities for social science and humanities research through the European Research Council, Marie Curie and Societal Challenge 6 programmes, as well as by contributing to the other Challenges’ pillars (see also Kurt Dickson in Part 1 above).

The challenge-based approach adopted in Horizon 2020 reflects the policy priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and addresses major concerns shared by citizens in Europe and elsewhere. Horizon 2020 is intended to bring together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and disciplines, including social science and humanities, covering activities from research to market with a new focus on innovation-related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, and support for public procurement and market uptake.

All the Societal Challenges identified in Horizon 2020 are relevant to global social governance and the related themes developed at the Seminar, namely:

- health, demographic change and well-being
- food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bio-economy
- secure, clean and efficient energy
- smart, green and integrated transport
- climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Europe in a changing world, inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- secure societies, protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens


**Routes to Successful European Funding Bids**

A number of Fellows were under the impression that the application processes were very complicated and that obtaining funding was almost impossible. By providing a few facts and figures, Sors attempted to change these perceptions.

He explained that success rates vary across different parts of the Framework Programmes, but they are not out of line with national funding success rates in Europe, typically ranging from 1 in 4 to no more than 1 in 10. Many proposals are not of the highest quality, so good proposals have a realistic chance of being funded. Two-stage evaluations are being used increasingly for Horizon 2020 proposals, and the first stage requires much less detail and is much less time consuming. Those that get through Stage 1 can submit full proposals for Stage 2 where the success rates are higher: even 25–50%.

Concerning support services, the National Contact Points (NCP) can be really useful. In Framework Programme 7, the NCP network for Socio-economic Science and Humanities (net4society) was highly proactive. For more information, visit: [http://www.net4society.eu/](http://www.net4society.eu/)

Sors encouraged fellows to take a look at the CORDIS website and its expert database with a view to possible registration. For more information, visit: [http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html)

**Research–Policy Networking**

Several of the issues that had been discussed during the panel on ‘Working in Policy Environments’ were raised again in the session, namely:
Which types of (European) policy makers were using the results of projects?
As indicated in the Panel Discussion, Sors stressed that the relative lack of European public policy spaces are real barriers to the direct use of research results. First, the results of investigator-driven research, for example funded by the European Research Council, do not automatically come to the attention of policy makers. For objective and Challenge-driven collaborative research, it depends to a large degree on the Challenge concerned. In general, research on environment/climate change, energy and health-related Challenges can more easily find a ‘policy home’ in the EU as compared to, say, bio-economy and security, where the EU has relatively low policy-making responsibility. The answer to this question is, to some extent, related to subsidiarity considerations. Specifically, results from socio-economic sciences and humanities research diffuse relatively slowly and rather indirectly into policy making.

How can the time scales of research be reconciled with policy-making time scales?
Sors’ highly ‘personal’ comment in answer to this question was that, in general, Member States seem to be reluctant to give the Commission the authority to anticipate or react quickly to changing European policy priorities. Partly as a consequence – without prejudice to its scientific quality – by the time the project delivers its findings, the issue might not be of the greatest policy concern. Time lags are therefore a problem in relation to research underpinning policy.

What are the differences in policy take up across different social science disciplines, for instance economists vs sociologists?
Sors felt that it was very difficult to say, especially since the participation of economists in EU (and perhaps national) research is far weaker than that of sociologists.

International Networking and Dissemination Strategies

Laura CAMFIELD is Senior Lecturer in the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and a Masters in the Anthropology of Development from the School for Oriental and African Studies, London. Before joining UEA, she was a Research Fellow on ‘Young Lives’, an international study of childhood poverty, at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, and worked with the ESRC Wellbeing in Developing Countries Research Group at Bath. Her current research focuses on enhancing the quality of cross-national methodologies used to collect qualitative and quantitative data on poverty and vulnerability throughout the life course (funded by an ESRC Comparative Cross-national Research grant). She has published widely on methodology, specifically in relation to mixing methods to improve the quality of surveys and measures. She is a co-editor of the European Journal of Development Research, an associate editor of Applied Quality of Life Research, and a board member of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies. She also co-edits the Anthropology, Change and Development book series for Palgrave Macmillan, and is active in the Development Studies Association and the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, co-convening their joint multidimensional poverty and poverty dynamics group.

For more information, contact: L_Camfield@uea.ac.uk

The Importance of Engagement

In her presentation, Laura Camfield drew on her personal experience to emphasise the importance of knowing how to cascade, disseminate and communicate research. She talked about a range of activities that assist in the process of securing funding, carrying out a project and ensuring impact.

The first steps in the networking process are to engage with others’ work and get to know different audiences. Engagement is critical not only for sharing what you have learned, whether in terms of methodological and substantive lessons or implications for policy and theory, but also for getting to know others, developing a sense of community, developing your own research, finding partners for events, proposals, articles, finding out about jobs, future funding streams, and for getting known.

Engaging means knowing who might be interested in your research: international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), funders, government, civil society organisations (CSOs)/advocates, politicians, media and research participants. It involves knowing the best way to engage with them: in conversation, face-to-face, by telephone, at their regular events/meetings or at events organised for them; in writing, through blogs, briefing notes/policy briefs, articles, cartoons and videos. It also implies knowing when to engage: ideally not just at the end of the project, but also at the beginning, during and beyond.

From Engagement through Impact to Communication

The increasing focus within research on engagement and impact requires the researcher to set out plausible ‘impact pathways’ as part of an application. Camfield stressed the importance in defining impact pathways of knowing whom you want to reach and of having thought through the best way to do so. This involves showing that you know what others are doing and how your work both builds on existing research and yet remains distinctive.

As demonstrated by her biographical sketch, Camfield’s working life has been inherently interdisciplinary, due to the nature of applied research, particularly when tackling complex problems such as international development. Her approach has provided opportunities for communication across conventional divides. She has long been aware of the pressures on contemporary academics, particularly given that ‘publish and perish’ is still an imperative, alongside the new directive to be ‘visible or vanish’, which requires increasing amounts of engagement. She noted some of the simpler ways in which visibility can be achieved by:

- exploiting the social media by uploading publications on
Researchgate, Academia.edu, and in institutional or funder repositories

- keeping staff or personal web pages up-to-date, including a current CV
- using LinkedIn to showcase skills, as a potential source of contacts, and a resource for collaboration
- blogging individually or through an institution, and using Twitter to share information and build a profile

She noted, however, that this strategy can be time consuming, commenting that it is important to balance ‘stock’ (research, writing) with ‘flow’ activities (presentation, networking).

Pathways to Influence through Networking

Camfield advocated focusing on what you enjoy, using established pathways and ‘easy wins’. Multiple pathways can be exploited to achieve impact, such as seeking an area of work, for instance in publishing, that brings personal fulfilment and opportunities to develop your own and others’ skills. Using the example of development studies, she described conventional pathways to achieve influence, such as working your way up through the hierarchy of a journal or a disciplinary organisation where enthusiastic and consistent contributions are welcome and rewarded.

Engagement can involve assuming the role of a ‘critical friend’, in that many opportunities are available to contribute as a peer reviewer (journals, grants, draft calls) or external adviser on NGO research projects, mindful of some of the rewards and frustrations involved. Many different ways are available to engage others, but the right medium and the right message have to be found. Some activities are synchronous, for example editing a journal and engaging with young scholars, but Camfield warned against trying to do too much, and advised focusing on what is of most interest.

Synchronicity in networking can be achieved by joining overlapping networks: for example, working with the national and international organisation for your discipline or field.

Supporting and connecting other researchers can be achieved through serendipity rather than strategy, by being open in making connections and focusing more on what you can give to others (for example by linking people in creative ways), than on what you can extract from them. An instrumental reason for such an approach is that it is not always possible to predict which connections will be the most valuable or enduring.

Researchers are, however, under considerable time pressure today due to the growing level of evaluation to which research grants and related activities are subjected, and the importance of networking in securing impact. Camfield therefore advised the Fellows to be open-minded, but focused, in developing their careers, given that it becomes increasingly difficult to move from early career to a more established status.

Questions to Address in Research Planning

In conclusion, Camfield invited the Fellows to address a number of questions when planning a research project:

- Who are the most important stakeholders for you to engage?
- How do you plan to do this?
- Think in detail about when will you engage with them and how will you do so. Why will they want to engage with you?
- Anticipate any challenges you might face
- Think about support you might need and resources to draw on.

PART 3: Publishing

Open Access and Publication Strategies

‘Free your research through Open Access’

Natalia MADJARAVIC, LSE Library Research Support Services Manager, presented an overview of the pros and cons of the many open access opportunities for publishing currently being developed (see also ‘The Publishing Process with Palgrave Macmillan’ below).

What is open access?

Unrestricted online access to scholarly research: ‘permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other lawful purpose.’

For more information, visit Sparc: http://www.sparc.arl.org/resources/open-access/why-oa

What are the benefits of open access?

- increased research visibility, usage and impact
- improved access to knowledge and research
- significant increase in citations
- publicly-funded research mandates
- why do research if it is not going to be shared?
- building your research profile
- finding collaborators
- free access without subscription costs and paywalls
What are the routes to open access?
Green route: author deposits accepted manuscript in an open repository, such as LSE Research Online.
Gold route: paper is freely available from publisher website; article Processing Charge is often paid by the author or institution.

What do I need to consider?
Check your open access options when publishing:
- green or gold
- open access or hybrid journal

APC costs and process:
- publicly-funded research
- publication fee waivers
- open access monograph options
- discuss depositing preprints with collaborators
- assert your copyright: Creative Commons.

For further information, visit: http://creativecommons.org/about

What is your publishing strategy?
- monograph/collective, authored/edited, book/journal article/social media
- selecting a publisher, book series, journal, single/multiple authorship, themed section, special issue
- acceptance rates
- turnaround time
- where are the top peers in your field publishing?
- blogging
- what about the Impact Factor?

How to increase your online impact
- blog and tweet about your work;
- deposit in an open repository:
  - Research Gate: http://www.researchgate.net/. A free repository where researchers can share the full-text of their research outputs online.
  - Figshare: http://figshare.com/. A free repository where users can make all of their research outputs available in a citable, shareable and discoverable manner.
  - OpenDepot: http://opendepot.org/. Another free repository option where researchers can share the full-text of their research outputs online for free;
- Register for an ORCID: http://orcid.org/. ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognised.
- Use ImpactStory: https://impactstory.org/
  - ImpactStory is an open-source, web-based tool that helps researchers explore and share the impacts of all their research outputs on sources such as Twitter, Facebook and Mendeley.
- Follow altmetric: http://www.altmetric.com/. Altmetric tracks what people are saying about papers online on behalf of publishers, authors, libraries and institutions.

Tips on How to Get your Research Published

Christina BRIAN, Publisher at Palgrave Macmillan on International Political Economy, Development Studies and Environment, and Head of Politics and International Studies (Scholarly & Reference), provided some useful tips for publishing with Palgrave Macmillan, most of which apply to other publishers.

For more information, contact: c.brian@palgrave.com

Choose the right publisher:
- Look at publishers’ websites:
  - What else do they publish in your subject?
  - What global territories do they publish in?
  - What format do they publish?
- Speak to colleagues: good/bad experiences
- Look for any series that your book might fit into
- Speak to an editor at events like seminars or conferences
- Email commissioning editors/publishers

A good proposal should include:
- Name and affiliation
- Brief description
- Table of Contents and chapter-by-chapter synopsis
- Market/readership
- Competing titles
- Technical details (extent/illustrations)
- Realistic delivery date
- CV (contact details and list of publications);

NB: What is the suitable format for your book, for example Standard monograph (60–90k) vs Palgrave Pivot (25–50k)?

How academic publishers decide what to publish:
- Peer review process
- Contributes to the field
- Adds to prestige of programme
- Global reach
- Sales precedents
- Fit to programme.

NB: Take a risk and trying something new.
World Social Science Fellows Seminar: Global Social Governance

Don’t:
- Say there is ‘no competition’
- Submit proposals without proofreading/checking language
- Assume your book will reach a general audience
- Assume all publishers are the same
- Send to multiple editors in-house
- Chase up too frequently… but follow up if you have heard nothing

Do:
- Meet/speak to editors
- Think about your publishing strategy
- Consult those who have published previously
- Ask for guidelines

Next steps:
- 1–2 weeks for 1st feedback
- 4–6 weeks external review
- discussion of review & response
- editorial board
- formal offer & contract

The writing process:
- Author guide for house style
- Copyright material
- Illustrations and tables
- Prelims, bibliography, index
- Special requirements for edited volumes

Manuscript submission:
- Manuscript – clearance read
- Cover image ideas
- Endorsements
- Author forms
- Publicity
- Editorial
- Production

The production process:
- 6 months for monographs versus 12 weeks for Palgrave Pivot
- copyediting
- cover design
- typesetting of pages
- proofs
- print

Post production:
- Sales & marketing
- Sales updates
- Reviews
- Reprints/print on demand
- New edition/paperback potential
- Your next book
- Web companion
- E-book

The Publishing Process with Palgrave Macmillan

Christina BRIAN, Publisher at Palgrave Macmillan on International Political Economy, Development Studies and Environment, and Head of Politics and International Studies (Scholarly & Reference), and Iain HRYNASZKIEWICZ, Head of Data and Human and Social Sciences Publishing Open Research, presented the characteristic features of the Palgrave Macmillan publishing process and advised the Fellows on the many pathways to publishing with Palgrave Macmillan.

For further information, contact: c.brian@palgrave.com and iain.hrynaszkiewicz@nature.com

About Palgrave Macmillan
Palgrave Macmillan are a global academic publisher for scholarship, research and professional learning. They publish monographs, journals, reference works and professional titles, online and in print. With a focus on humanities and social sciences, Palgrave Macmillan aims to offer authors and readers the very best in academic content whilst also supporting the community with innovative new formats and tools.

With offices in London and New York, and sales teams across 50 countries, Palgrave Macmillan have a global reach and a tradition of over 170 years of academic publishing.

Their research series include a list on International Political Economy, which examines a variety of capitalisms and connections by focusing on emerging economies, companies and sectors, debates and policies. The series informs diverse policy communities as the established trans-Atlantic North declines and ‘the rest’, especially the BRICS, rise. Another series of particular interest to the Fellows treats Energy, Climate and the Environment. For further information, visit: http://www.palgrave.com/page/about-us/

Getting Research Published with Palgrave Macmillan
Flexible formats
Publishing is across all formats, encompassing journal articles, authored monographs, edited volumes and Pivots. Palgrave Pivot is a new innovative format, which publishes short monographs with a length of 25,000–50,000 words. For more information, visit: http://www.palgrave.com/page/about-us-palgrave-pivot/
Peer review
All Palgrave projects, disregarding length and the author’s expertise, are peer reviewed before offering a contract. A proposal with chapter summaries, sometimes also a few draft chapters, is reviewed within 4–6 weeks.

The process from proposal to publication
After peer review and acceptance of the final manuscript, Palgrave work to a 6-month production schedule for standard length monographs, including copy-editing, typesetting and the cover design. The production schedule for Palgrave Pivot allows release of the eBook within 3 months or less.

Distribution and visibility
All scholarly publications are published simultaneously in print and electronic form. eBooks are sold via the Palgrave Connect (digital collections for libraries) and via third parties like Amazon and ebooks.com. Palgrave Connect has won the Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Resources (see http://www.palgraveconnect.com). eBooks are compatible with Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, Apple iPad, WHSmith Kobo, Sony eReader (PDF + EPUB formats).

Innovation
Authors and their funders are offered the option to publish open access (OA) research across three publication outputs: journal articles, mid-form (Pivots) and long-form monographs.

Open access publishing options
- OA is the free, unrestricted online access to the results of scholarly research. Palgrave offer several gold OA options to provide choice for authors who want to publish open access and/or whose institutions or funding organisations require that they make their work available through open access.
- Since publishing work OA typically requires payment of an article processing charge (APC), it is important to consider if funds are available from your department, institution, funding agency or personal funds. As the work is available freely and immediately online, a charge is applied because there is no subscription charge to cover the costs of peer reviewing, producing, editing, typesetting, archiving, indexing and distributing the work.
- OA has numerous benefits to authors: it makes your work available to the widest possible audience, and has the potential for increased visibility and citation impact. Publishing OA also means that you retain the copyright to your work and are free to share and reproduce as many copies as you like for any purpose, as work is published under the Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CC-BY).
- In 2014, Palgrave Macmillan launched Palgrave Communications, the first high quality open access journal for original peer-reviewed research across all areas of the humanities, the social sciences and business (HSS). Palgrave Communications champions interdisciplinary research, fostering interaction between the disciplines that the journal encompasses. Palgrave Communications is worth considering for authors requiring OA to research articles (typically 8,000 words in length) and for work that would be relevant to researchers in different disciplines or is interdisciplinary in nature. Palgrave Communications also ensures speed of publication. Its online-only continuous publication format, as used by many purely OA journals, means articles can be peer reviewed and published in as little as 3–4 months from initial submission.
- Palgrave Macmillan supports self-archiving of content by authors (also known as ‘green open access’), which is permitted for monographs and for the author’s version of journal articles in the majority of Palgrave journals, subject to embargo periods of 18–36 months depending on the type of content.

Publishing on Global Social Policy with SAGE

Alexandra KAASCH, 2014 World Social Science Fellow and Editor of ‘Global Policy Digest’ (see Introductions to Fellows) described the products resulting from work initiated at Sheffield University on global social policy.

For more information, contact: alexandra.kaasch@uni-bielefeld.de

Together with the Global Social Policy Digest and the Global Social Policy Observatory (GSPO), the Global Social Policy journal, which was launched in 2000 by SAGE, is one of the many products of the Globalism and Social Policy Programme (GASPP). The Programme began in 1997 as an Anglo-Finnish collaboration between STAKES (The National Research and Development Centre for Workforce Optimisation, Helsinki, Finland) and the European Social and Cultural Studies Centre (University of Sheffield, England), investigating the impact of the globe on social policy. Today, the Programme is networked globally through the journal’s regional editors in South America, South and East Asia and Africa, and the editorial board in Canada.

Global Social Policy is a fully peer-reviewed journal, which seeks to advance understandings of social policy, social development, social and health governance, gender and poverty, social welfare, education, employment, and food, and the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation, from transnational and global perspectives. The journal publishes...
scholarly and policy-oriented articles that address global social policy discourse and practice, as well as transnational flows of capital, people, and policies including the diffusion of ideas. The journal embraces two aspects of global policy: the supranational policy field of global redistribution, regulation and rights, and global social governance; and prescriptions and advice about national social policies (health, education, social protection, habitat and food) provided by global organisations and actors.

Another product of the GASPP, the Global Social Policy Observatory (GSPO) was launched in 2012, supported by the University of Bremen’s Centre for Social Policy Research, as a source of information about global social policies and their governance. It is also a platform for exchange of information between researchers, practitioners and activists in global social policy. The GSPO provides updates about global social policy between the periodic four-monthly regular editions of the Global Social Policy Digest, which has, since 2000, reported developments in global social policy in both the journal and on the websites of supporting institutions, including the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP).

SAGE Online Methods Cases

Patrick BRINDLE, SAGE, Publisher for Online Content, and Bronia FLETT, Associate Editor, presented the SAGE methods publications.

For more information, contact bronia.flett@sagepub.co.uk

SAGE is reputed to be the world’s largest independent academic publisher and is committed to global dissemination of research.

SAGE Open
SAGE have published open access journals for a number of years with the goal of disseminating vital research to the broadest community. In December 2010, they launched SAGE Open, the first open access journal spanning the social and behavioural sciences and humanities. SAGE Open is a peer-reviewed, ‘Gold’ open access journal publishing original research and review articles in an interactive, open access format.

SAGE Research Methods
This is a research methods tool created to help researchers, faculty and students with their research projects. SAGE Research Methods links over 175,000 pages of SAGE’s book, journal and reference content with advanced search and discovery tools. Researchers can explore methods concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify a new method, conduct their research, and write up their findings. Since SAGE Research Methods focuses on methodology rather than disciplines, it can be used across the social sciences. For more information, visit: http://srmo.sagepub.com/page/About$0020SRMO$0020Public/about

SAGE Research Methods Cases
These are available as an add-on to SAGE Research Methods or as a stand-alone product. They are a collection of case studies of real social research that academics can use in their teaching. Cases are original, specially commissioned, and designed to help students understand often abstract methodological concepts by introducing them to case studies of real research projects.

What is a SAGE Research Methods Case?
Research methods are the ‘how’ of doing research. If you conduct social science research, you will be using methods to generate your data and analyse that data. SAGE Research Methods Cases are practical, real-world examples of this research ‘in action’. Cases put methodological concepts into a real research context. They illuminate the difficult decisions that researchers face on ‘how’ to do their research.

What sorts of methods are covered?
The collection covers all sorts of methods: quantitative methods such as significance testing, structural equation modelling and survey analysis; and qualitative methods including participant observation, interviewing and archival analysis; and many research projects that combine methods.

Publishing in the Journal of Global Social Policy
The editors of Global Social Policy are interested in publishing articles that address the intersections of social issues, governance, politics and policies at various levels or scales – transnational social movements and non-governmental organisations, international intergovernmental organisations, and world-regional and transregional intergovernmental institutions and groupings – using a global or transnational analytical framework.

Focusing on aspects of social policy and social governance, and factors of globalisation and policy diffusion, broadly defined, in both contemporary and historical contexts, the journal serves academic, policy-making and policy-advocacy audiences across the global North and South, and is committed to multidisciplinary studies.

Contributions from across all disciplines and fields of study from a wide range of theoretical and political perspectives are strongly encouraged.

Where is the collection published?
SAGE Research Methods Cases are published on the SAGE Research Methods online platform. The collection can be accessed at: http://srmo.sagepub.com/cases. If your university library does not subscribe to SAGE Research Methods Cases, you will need a log-in code.

Why should I write a SAGE Research Methods Case?
Here are three reasons for writing a case:
- SAGE is a recognised world leader in the publication of research methods;
- The hard work is done already when you have successfully completed a research project;
- Authors who publish with SAGE Research Methods Cases are given 12 months access to the larger SAGE Research Methods platform, which contains over 175,000 pages of SAGE Research Methods contents.

Will my case be published?
The collection is peer-reviewed. SAGE works closely with its authors to ensure that they submit their best work and have the opportunity to revise and resubmit. If you follow the guidelines and take on board the review comments, your likelihood of success is greatly increased. For more information on cases visit: http://www.methodspace.com/page/sage-research-methods-cases

International Social Research Methods Case Studies

Julia BRANNEN and Linda HANTRAIS, both FAcSS and members of the Academy’s International Advisory Group, described the databank that they had established as Consultants for an ESRC Researcher Development Initiative, and invited the Fellows to submit International Social Research Methods Case Studies.

For further information, contact: J.Brannen@tcru.ac.uk; L.Hantrais@lse.ac.uk

International Social Research Methods Databank
The databank is one of the outputs from an award under the UK Economic and Social Research Council's Researcher Development Initiative, completed in 2012.

The website is being hosted by ReStore, the Sustainable Web Resources Repository, under the auspices of the National Centre for Research Methods at the University of Southampton.

The databank was developed and tested in a series of training workshops in international social research methods funded under the ESRC initiative. The workshops were designed to meet the needs of researchers who are engaged in, embarking on or using social research with an international dimension. They targeted early career, as well as more senior, researchers, from all sectors (academia, local and central government, government agencies, voluntary and independent organisations) and from different cultures.

Publishing a Case Study
The website provides further information about the format and contents of the workshops, together with a searchable database of case studies and a guide to further reading on international social research methods. The expanding databank of case studies takes readers through the stages of planning, designing and implementing international research projects in the social sciences, using a Framework developed at the workshops, which was applied to real and fictitious international comparative social science research projects conducted by individuals and teams of researchers.

Researchers who have participated in international social research projects are invited to submit proposals for methods case studies at any time, using the Framework for International Social Research Methods Case Studies and the Proposal Form on the web page.

For more information, visit: http://www.restore.ac.uk/ISResMeth/

Preparing Book Proposals for Edward Elgar

Emily MEW, Commissioning Editor at Edward Elgar, explained the commissioning process to the Fellows and advised them on the preparation of book proposals. She referred to Edward Elgar’s particular interest in international and comparative works that will appeal to a global audience, and also outlined the various features of the high quality service offered by Edward Elgar.

For further advice, contact: emily@e-elgar.co.uk
Edward Elgar as a Family Publisher
Founded in 1986, with offices in Cheltenham and Camberley in the UK and Northampton, MA, US, Edward Elgar is a leading international family-owned firm publishing in economics, finance, business and management, law, political science, development studies, and public and social policy. They have created a list with over 3000 titles in print, and publish over 300 new books a year.

Edward Elgar specialises in research monographs, reference books and upper-level textbooks in highly focused areas. They provided over 20 volumes for display at the World Social Science Fellows Seminar on the many issues relevant to the Seminar, including a number of edited volumes and handbooks on globalisation, governance, social policy and development, several of which contained chapters written by contributors to the Seminar.

The Publishing Process
Edward Elgar provide specific online proposal forms and guidelines for authors/editors and contributors in Business and Social Science.

Preparing Book and Journal Proposals for Policy Press

Victoria PITTMAN. Commissioning Editor, Sociology, Social Theory and Social Research Methods, explained how Policy Press, as a university-based academic publisher, are different from other publishers and talked the Fellows through the process of preparing a book or journal proposal.

For further advice, contact victoria.pittman@bristol.ac.uk

About Policy Press
Established in 1996, the aim of Policy Press has always been to try to improve social conditions with publications that will make a positive difference to learning and research, policy and practice. In essence, Policy Press are a publisher with a purpose.

Based in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Bristol, Policy Press are now well known as a leading international publisher of high quality books and journals across a wide range of subjects including: social policy and social welfare, childhood studies and family policy, ageing, social work and social care, public policy, criminoLOGY and criminal justice, health, housing and urban policy. Their authors range from leading scholars and thinkers around the world to talented first-time authors, and they also collaborate with a large number of organisations and associations. Many of their titles are multi- and/or interdisciplinary spanning disciplines including social policy, social work, sociology and political science.

Policy Press have over 650 titles in their book list and publish over 80 new titles each year as well as some of the key journals in the field. They make use of new technologies such as print on demand and produce both journals and books in electronic formats. They market and sell their publications in more than 60 countries internationally.

Each publication proposal is managed by a dedicated commissioning editor who endeavours to reach a publishing decision in as short a time as possible. Books are copy-edited, proofread and printed in the UK. Edward Elgar aim to publish a book 5–7 months after passing the manuscript to production. They have a strong international sales network in Europe, North America and the Far East, especially Japan, Taiwan and China. In North America, their list is marketed by their US associate company, Edward Elgar Publishing Inc., which is based in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Edward Elgar has a strong online offering and publishes the majority of books as ebooks alongside the print editions. They now also have their own ebook platform, Elgaronline, through which libraries and institutions can subscribe, providing access to Elgar content for their service users.

For further information about publishing with Edward Elgar, visit: http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/whypublish.lasso; http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/proposal.lasso, edited, by N. Yeates (2nd edn 2014), was of particular interest to the Fellows at the Seminar, as were The Global Social Policy Reader, edited by N. Yeates and C.
Guest Editing Special Issues of Taylor & Francis Journals

Jonathan MANLEY, Publisher for Routledge journals within the Taylor & Francis Group, provided an overview of the Group’s journal publications, before focusing on the journals that were likely to be of most relevant to the Fellows.

For further information, contact: jonathan.manley@tandf.co.uk

In his introduction, Jonathan Manley explained that Taylor & Francis publish over 1,800 journals (mostly in the social sciences), of which about 500 are published on behalf of learned societies and professional associations and distributed to their members (for example the journals of the Regional Studies Association referred to by Sally Hardy above). These journals publish around 1,000 special issues annually, of which approximately one third are also published as books. He noted that journal special issues were becoming more popular as academic book publishers were tending to issue fewer edited collections and research monographs in favour of textbooks and professional titles. In the session, Fellows were keen and to learn more about trends in journals publishing and to discover how to publish in the Taylor & Francis journals for optimum impact and discoverability, both as guest editors and authors of articles.

The Taylor & Francis Journals Author Services website was created to provide all the information needed by journal authors, and covers every aspect of the publication process at http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/

Articles can also be submitted to Taylor & Francis journals online via the journal’s ScholarOne Manuscripts site, which is a product of the ScholarOne® platform owned by Thomson Reuters and an online system used by journal editorial offices to manage the submission process and peer review articles. For a Guide to submitting manuscripts to ScholarOne, visit: http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/pdfs/SubmitGuide_S1M_1.pdf

Guidelines for Authors

In addition to supplying guidelines for proposal writing, drafting, editing, production and marketing, Policy Press also provide advice for authors on using social media to engage with key policy makers and practitioners, focusing on the micro-blogging site Twitter.

For more information, visit: http://www.policypress.co.uk/info_for_authors_guide.asp?&http://www.policypress.co.uk/info_for_authors_guide.asp#proposalguidelines; http://www.policypress.co.uk/PDFs/General/Policy%20Press%20Social%20media%20guidelines%20for%20Journal%20Boards%20and%20Authors.pdf

Contemporary Social Science

Contemporary Social Science is the journal of the Academy of Social Sciences. It aims to be interdisciplinary, of interest and value across the social sciences by bringing together articles on topics of common concern in special issues that are fundamentally multi-disciplinary. Although any one paper may be clearly within a distinct discipline, because it relates to a topic of broad social science interest, it will nonetheless be of value to people embedded within other disciplines.

Fellows were invited to submit proposals for special issues of the journal, and to become reviewers for articles from the ‘global South’.

For guidance on preparing special issues, visit: http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/RSOC-guest-editor-guidance.pdf

Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy

The Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy is one of the journals edited by members of the Social Policy Association, and was a sponsor of the World Social Science Fellows Seminar. The editors welcome proposals for both special issues and themed sections on all dimensions of comparative and international social policy. Papers are sought that will enhance and develop theoretical, empirical and...
methodological insights and knowledge in the field, and a greater understanding of different welfare systems and policy actors operating nationally and internationally. Papers should be comparative and/or international in scope, including those that focus on national, world, regional or global social policies. Country case studies that locate national welfare systems within a comparative or international context are also welcome. Articles may deal with policy processes as well as welfare outcomes, and cover the full range of the ‘welfare mix’ within social policy.

For more information, visit: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjcs21/current#VBguDGB0w5s

Papers can be submitted via email to the editors: k.farnsworth@sheffield.ac.uk or z.m.irving@sheffield.ac.uk

International Journal of Social Research Methodology

The International Journal of Social Research Methodology has published articles and special issues on many of the methodological issues raised at the Seminar. A key feature of the journal is the mix of academic and theoretically-slanted methodological articles, articles relating to research practice in professional and service settings, and those considering the relationship between the two. It thus addresses an audience of researchers within academic and other research organisations as well as practitioner-researchers in the field.

The journal provides a focus for on-going and emerging methodological debates across a range of approaches, both qualitative and quantitative, and including mixed and comparative methods, as these relate to philosophical, theoretical, ethical, political and practical issues. It is also an international medium for the publication of discussions of social research methodology and practices across a wide range of social science disciplines and substantive interests; and a forum for researchers based in all sectors to consider and evaluate methods as these relate to research practice.

The editors welcome single article contributions relating to methodology and methods, as well as suggestions for special issues, from both established and newer scholars.

For more information, visit: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsrm20/current#VBguamB0w5s

Submitting Proposals for Themed Sections of Global Policy

Tom KIRK, Global Policy Online Editor, introduced the journal of Global Policy and talked the Fellows through the process of producing a themed special section.

For further information, contact Tom Kirk at: Online@global-policy.com

The Global Policy Ethos

Global Policy, which is published by Wiley-Blackwell both online and in print, has a multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and international outlook. The editors are committed to developing the accuracy, policy relevance and progressive outlook of academic research. The focus for most of the accepted work in Global Policy lies in economics, global politics, government, international law, international relations and international political economy, but the journal is equally relevant to and interested in a much wider range of disciplines.

Global Policy is committed to the effective communication of research in the most accessible and professional fashion, both through the quarterly journal and Global Policy’s innovative website. These platforms allow the editors to engage meaningfully with the widest range of readers and contributors both in the global public policy research fields and in major governments, international organisations, central banks, industries and NGOs dealing with global policy issues.

Editing a Themed Section

Special sections focus on specific topics or issues of global relevance, and contain a mixture of research articles and shorter opinion pieces. Most are guest edited by a notable academic or practitioner working in the chosen field. Fellows interested in proposing a themed section can obtain detailed guidelines drawn up by the Global Policy editorial team on request. Click here for the Special Section Editor Guidelines (pdf), which include useful checklists for editors.

Global Policy is one of the many Wiley journals that offer an open access option with OnlineOpen, which can be used by authors of primary research articles who want to make their article available to non-subscribers on publication, or whose funding agency requires grantees to archive the final version of their article. With OnlineOpen the author, the author’s funding agency, or the author’s institution pays a fee to ensure that the article is made available to non-subscribers upon publication via Wiley Online Library, as well as being deposited in PubMed Central.

Making an article OnlineOpen increases its potential readership and enables authors to meet institutional and funder open access mandates where they apply. Authors of OnlineOpen articles may immediately post the final published PDF of their article on a website, institutional repository or other free public server.

For more information, visit: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1758-5899/homepage/FundedAccess.html
LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE SEMINAR

Feedback from the Fellows indicated that the Seminar had largely fulfilled its objectives and met their expectations. They appreciated the prestige conferred by being selected as ISSC World Social Science Fellows, as well as the experience gained from working collaboratively and sharing cross-cutting perspectives on a topic that brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers. The Fellows who were at a relatively early stage in their careers, or who were from research communities with less international exposure, benefitted especially from the opportunities provided for developing their knowledge, skills and networks.

The Fellows commented on the value of having the opportunity to:
- gain insights into the topic of global social governance from different perspectives
- learn about the place of social sciences in relation to other disciplines in studying global social governance
- find out about the role of advocacy in research on global social governance
- broaden and change their own research direction/focus
- and assemble a wider range of materials on the topic for teaching and research.

Researching Global Social Governance
The Fellows learned that global social governance is a contested concept. Most of the experts felt uncertain about the future development of global social policy, although they agreed that the North–South divide had become much less meaningful. They noted that, at least until the global economic crisis became of primary concern worldwide, the debates over environmental and development issues had raised the level of interest in the social dimension of global policy among a wider range of stakeholders, including international organisations, NGOs, corporations and citizens. Several of the experts argued that, more recently, emphasis has shifted to the question of a socially just adaptation to climate change through an eco-social approach.

Echoing the Seminar’s sub-title, ‘Developing international social science research and impacting the policy process’, all of the conversations addressed the question of the relationship between social science research and the policy process within the context of the multiple facets of global social governance.

Developing an International Social Science Research Career
Almost all the contributors to the Seminar had experience of working in different environments – academic, local, regional and international organisations, public and private sector institutions, NGOs, think tanks – as well as across different cultures and disciplines. They were able not only to demonstrate how they had been able to exploit their cumulative and varied experience in their own careers but also to pass on what they had learnt to researchers at an earlier career stage.

Through the advice proffered by the experts, the Fellows were able to:
- learn about different methodological approaches and their transferability to teaching
- understand different systems and ways of working
- become aware of partnership programmes and funding opportunities and how to access them
- identify potential international research funders
• learn how to pump-prime international projects
• find out about the value of learned societies and resource persons
• and learn how to develop an effective individual international research profile.

**Designing and Leading International Collaborative Research Projects**

More specifically, the sessions were organised so as to provide hands-on experience of some of the tasks involved in developing and delivering research leadership skills, in line with the Seminar objective of helping to prepare the next generation of social science research leaders for an international role. In addition to providing opportunities for the Fellows to prepare, lead and report on the Seminar sessions for publication by the Academy, they were invited to exchange ideas and experience of:

- shaping collaborative research agendas;
- developing collaborative international research projects, including workshops, seminars and publications;
- and using a methodological framework for designing and conducting (comparative) international social science case studies.

Following the Seminar, groups of Fellows continued working on international collaborative research projects on topics such as relief distribution after natural disasters, and transnational social policy development.

**International Networking**

Most of the sessions were designed to facilitate and encourage international networking, with a view to enabling the Fellows to become globally connected by building relationships across disciplines and cultures (academic matchmaking). In addition, several of the contributors provided specific guidance on exploiting opportunities for networking, particularly through involvement in learned societies, including:

- identifying and engaging with a variety of stakeholders;
- attending international conferences and other events;
- volunteering for committee membership in learned societies.

• taking on editorships
• involvement in international projects
• forming research teams to collaborate on common topics
• using social media
• and exploiting pathways to influence.

**Publishing**

The meetings with publishers and the materials they provided afforded a rare opportunity to discuss options and proposals and to obtain first-hand practical advice. The Fellows were able to:

- extend knowledge about the range of publication opportunities, including social media;
- learn about open access publishing and the incentives for doing so, as well as the obstacles that had to be overcome;
- learn about the publishing process with different publishers and in different media;
- and prepare research proposals for funding and publications.

Following the Seminar, Fellows continued to work on joint proposals for edited collections (a Policy Press shorts publication) and journal articles and themed sections or special sections (Palgrave Macmillan, Taylor & Francis journals, Global Policy).

**Dissemination and Cascading**

In preparation for the Fellows’ return to their institutions, several sessions explored regional dissemination and cascading strategies, and further practical advice was given about:

- how to maximise research and policy impact;
- how to cascade and disseminate knowledge in different formats and to different audiences;
- and how to energise and organise research activities.

Here too, plans were being developed for regional events and meetings, in some cases with support from the ISSC, and one Fellow was planning to launch a national Social Policy Association to be affiliated to the UK’s Association.