

## Sussex IR Excels in RAE

Full results for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise have now been released. These results concluded that:

- Sussex International Relations is amongst the top three dedicated IR departments in the UK, and one of the top seven Politics and International Studies departments.

95% of our research is deemed world class, internationally leading or internationally recognised – no Politics and International Studies department in the country has a higher proportion of such research.

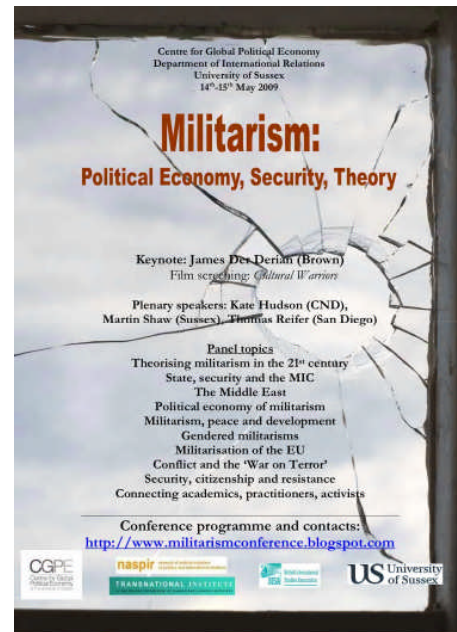
The Research Assessment Exercise is the UK government's mechanism for assessing research quality across all UK higher education institutions. RAE 2008 considered research from 2002 to the end of 2007. Sussex IR was one of 59 departments submitted into the Politics and International Studies section of the RAE. The RAE is considered not only the primary marker of research quality; it is also used as a basis for allocating government research funding.

Head of Department Jan Selby says, 'The department is very pleased with this result. This establishes us as one of the top centres for research in International Studies in the UK, above Cambridge and Kings College London, amongst others. This result is a testimony to the quality and originality of the work done at Sussex.'

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## Capitalism and Resistance Workshop

The centre for Global Political Economy is holding a one-day workshop on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to examine various dimensions of resistance to capitalism. Papers will explore such themes as: resistance in the Global South, resistance and everyday life, and progressive politics after the financial crisis. Anyone interested in attending should contact: [s.knafo@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:s.knafo@sussex.ac.uk)



## International Conference on Militarism

The Department's Centre for Global Political Economy is hosting an international, interdisciplinary conference on militarism on May 14-15<sup>th</sup>. Whilst the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have prompted the return of debates about empire, there has so far been no similar resurgence of the literature and language of militarism that was visible during the Cold War.

This conference will bring together scholars, practitioners and activists who are working on issues of militarism and militarisation from a variety of theoretical and political perspectives in an attempt to work collaboratively on a common problem. Over 30 panellists and 80 participants will spend two days discussing themes as diverse as political economy, gender, conflict, resistance, peace and development, the military-industrial complex, theories of militarism, and the ways in which militarism plays out in regions such as the Middle East, European Union, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference will also feature a preview screening of James Der Derian's new film, *Cultural Warriors*, providing a context of 'the scholar as warrior: culture as the killer variable of counter-insurgency.' For more details of the conference and participants, please go to: <http://www.militarismconference.blogspot.com/>.

## New Faculty In International Relations

The department has just made three new lecturer appointments – all due to start in July. Shane Brighton currently lectures at Birkbeck College London, and before that worked at the Royal Institute for International Affairs; he researches issues of political violence and international security. Stefanie Ortmann joins us from Royal Holloway; she is a specialist in Russian and Post-Soviet politics, and will be teaching undergraduate and masters courses on Russia and contemporary geopolitics. Lisa

Smirl is currently completing her doctorate at Cambridge on the international development and humanitarian relief industries, and will be teaching on our new programmes on conflict, security and development.

Last but not least, Danny Weddup has recently been appointed departmental coordinator – standing in for Daniella while she is on maternity leave.

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## Congratulations

Congratulations to Louiza and Stefan on the birth of their son James, and to Daniella and her partner Rob on the birth of their daughter Mila Christine.

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## Virus Alert!

As part of a British Academy-funded research project on health security, Stefan Elbe has been interviewing policymakers on international pandemic preparedness efforts at the headquarters of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Held just prior to the outbreak of swine flu (H1N1) flu, these interviews discussed issues of surveillance and detection of infectious diseases, health regulations, international risk communication, and the serious discrepancies that exist around the world in terms of access to medicines such as anti-virals and vaccines. Stefan also got to see first hand the new Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC) from where the WHO co-ordinates its real time emergency response to the new infectious disease outbreaks.

## Teaching exchange with L'Orientale

The department has signed a teaching mobility agreement with University of Naples, L'Orientale. This allows Sussex faculty to spend time teaching in Naples, and will enable L'Orientale faculty to teach at Sussex at some stage. Professor Kees van der Pijl and Fabio Petito will be in Naples during April and May, teaching on L'Orientale's undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in International Relations.



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## Israeli-Palestinian Water Politics

Jan Selby is currently leading a research project, funded by a consortium of EU donor states, evaluating the work of the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Water Committee. The JWC was established in 1995 to coordinate the management of water resources and infrastructure in the West Bank, and to determine the allocation of scarce water supplies between Palestinian and Israeli communities (including Israeli settlements). The JWC is one of very few joint Israeli-Palestinian institutions to have continued operating ever since the collapse of the peace process in 2001 – and Jan's research, which involves analysis of JWC archives plus interviews with key participants, aims to assess whether this means Israeli-Palestinian cooperation over water has been a success.

## New School of Global Studies

Sussex's new School of Global Studies, which brings together the departments of International Relations, Anthropology and Geography, as well as interdisciplinary programmes in Development Studies, will be launched in August.

The new School will be headed by Professor Richard Black, currently Director of Research in the School of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, and Co-Director of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research. As Director of the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (funded by the Department for International Development) since 2003, he has led a major programme of research, training and capacity building focused on understanding both the causes of migration and its consequences for the poor.

Richard said 'Sussex has always been a superb place to work and study for anyone concerned with global issues, bringing both interdisciplinary and international perspectives to bear on the world's most pressing concerns. The wealth of experience and knowledge in the new School of Global Studies provides a strong foundation for world leading academic programmes, and I look forward to playing my part in shaping it.'



## Best Wishes to Martin Coward

Martin Coward is leaving Sussex this summer to take up a position at the University of Newcastle. Head of Department Jan Selby said 'Martin has made a huge contribution to the department since arriving in Sussex in 2002. He is a committed and brilliant teacher: his courses have almost always been over-convened, and the queues for his office are usually longer than anywhere else in the department. He is also a tremendously generous colleague, who has always been willing – sometimes too willing! – to cover when a job needs doing, to represent the department on university committees, and so on. We all wish Martin and family the very best for their move back to the north-east.'



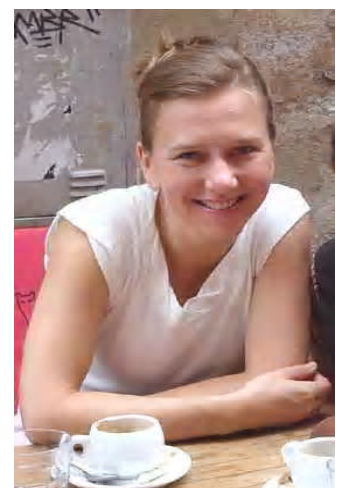
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## Visiting Research Fellows

The department is currently hosting two visiting fellows. Iraklis Oikonomou is visiting between February and June, as part of a two-year post-doctoral project, funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies programme. The project, undertaken jointly at Sussex, Ghent University, and the Hellenic Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, involves an analysis of the military aspects of European Union space policy and its contradictions. During his stay at Sussex, Iraklis has (with Anna Stavrianakis) been co-organising our May Militarism conference. He is also working on a book project based on his PhD thesis, analysing the role of the European arms industry in the making of EU armaments policy.

Iraklis said, 'The department of International Relations at Sussex is a unique place to do research, especially for a student of European affairs. In EU studies, due to the dominance of mainstream, problem-solving accounts of European integration, it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between official EU discourse and the analysis of EU affairs *per se*. The Sussex IR department is an exception to the rule. The amount and depth of critical IR scholarship produced here is fantastic.'

Nicola Short is visiting in May and June from the University of York, Canada, where she is Associate Professor of Political Science. Her current research examines the political economy of inequality and difference in world affairs from the perspective of Gramscian political theory. Whilst at Sussex, she will be presenting her work to the Militarism conference, and participate in the CGPE workshop on Capitalism and Resistance. Nicola is the author of *The International Politics of Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Guatemala* (Palgrave: 2007). 'It's great to be at Sussex for the term, immersed in such a strong tradition of critical scholarship. I look forward to many challenging and rewarding discussions, at the organized events this term and with those who'd like to discuss my work or areas of interest more informally.'



## World Politics in Brighton

An innovative new first-year undergraduate course, 'The Local and the Global: World Politics in Brighton,' is running for the first time this year. Students are working on group projects investigating the international dimensions of Brighton-based issues. Their projects cover such diverse topics as: perceptions of fair trade amongst coffee drinkers, gay marriage and international human rights, the impact of the UK intervention in Afghanistan on the heroin trade in Brighton, the impact of immigration on Brighton, and the possibilities for food sustainability in the local area.

The main aims of the course are for students to connect everyday life in and around Brighton to theories and issues in International Relations and Global Political Economy, and to understand and undertake basic research design. Course convenor Anna Stavrianakis says, 'the students have taken to the course fantastically. It's an opportunity for them to find a way into the abstract and sometimes disorienting world of the academic study of IR through a topic that interests them. They are learning by doing, getting to grips both with social science and their own learning styles.'



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## DPhil News

Sussex IR DPhil student Renk Ozdemir has been awarded the 2009 Robert and Jessie Cox Award. The Cox Award is given by the International Studies Association to honour the best postgraduate student paper of critical enquiry into International Relations. Renk is currently concluding her doctoral research on Foundational Myths of Statehood: Turkey, Greece and the 1923 Population Exchange, and her Cox Award paper formed part of this broader project. This is a tremendously competitive award, so many congratulations!

Congratulations on being recently 'doctored' to:

- Duncan Wigan, A Global Political Economy of Financial Derivatives: Risk, Property and the Artifice of Indifference
- Kamran Matin, The Refracted Transformation: The International Relations of the Iranian Revolution
- Steven Knell, Hydrocarbon Civilization and the Economics of Global Climate Change
- Philip Golub, The State of War: Imperial Politics and the Question of World Order.

Congratulations also to Duncan Wigan, who has been offered an academic post at Copenhagen Business School.

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