

LPS Circular

The School of Law, Politics and Sociology



Head of School Briefing

2011-2012 was a year of considerable progress within the School and there is much to celebrate.

National Student Survey Results

The School's 2011 NSS scores for teaching were excellent. We secured the following satisfaction levels: Law: 95.4%; Politics (disaggregated from IR): 93.1%; Sociology: 91.8%.

Law was 5th in the country for its teaching out of the 90 Law departments for which a return was published. Sociology was 14th out of the 85 Sociology departments for which a return was published. For organisation and management Law and Sociology were both 6th in the country, based on the rankings of our students.

In comparative NSS tables, Politics and International Relations are conjoined. This means it is not possible to provide rankings for the Department but it is to the Department's credit that in 2011 it improved in every category except Learning Resources when compared with 2010. And the same was true of Law.

As I write, the School is waiting release by the University of its 2012 NSS scores.

League Tables

All our discipline areas have performed well in the League Tables:

- Law is now in the top 20 in all four UK newspaper League Tables, and in 2011 it broke into the top 10 in a newspaper league table for the first time (see the Sunday Times Subject Rankings which was published in September 2011).
- Sociology was rated 20th in the UK in *The Guardian's University Guide* for 2013; 13th in *The Independent's Complete University Guide* for 2013; and 8th in *The Times* for 2013.
- Politics is aggregated with International Relations in newspaper league tables. As with the NSS rankings, this means that comparative performance in newspaper league tables for Politics is not helpful in the understanding the performance of the Department.

Professor Stephen Shute

Inside this issue

Head of School Briefing

Student News

SLS graduate publishes article in law journal

Sussex Law School win the final of the DMH Stallard Mooting competition

Annual Undergraduate trip to Berlin an Unbridled Success

Politics Undergraduate Trip to Paris

PhD Conference 2012

Staff News

SEI Co-Director visits Croatia ahead of EU referendum

Aleks Szczerbiak launches new book at the Polish Embassy

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Platt recipient of three awards

LPS in the News

Leverhulme grant success for Susie Scott

LPS School Office Away Day

LPS Final Year Results Day 2012 celebrations

Straight from the LiPS

New School Building "nabbed" by ruthless business interests

Student News



SLS graduate publishes article in law journal

A graduate of the Sussex Law School, Federico Clementelli, has recently had an article on the reform of the rules on capital maintenance accepted for publication by the International Company and Commercial Law Review.

Commenting on the article, the reviewer for the journal stated that it was one of the best he had seen for years on the subject.

This takes to a total of 30 articles that have been published by students in the Sussex Law School in the past five years under the aegis of a project developed by Paul Omar, Senior Lecturer in Law.

Sussex Law School win the final of the DMH Stallard Mooting competition

SLS congratulates Liam Edwards and Katherine Jones for winning the final of the DMH Stallard Mooting competition, this year held in the Supreme Court before Lord Wilson of Culworth on Tuesday 1 May 2012. We also congratulate Vincenzo Volpe and Matthew Eastman for their spirited performance in the competition.

Craig Lind (Senior Lecturer in Law)

Annual Undergraduate trip to Berlin an Unbridled Success

The first week in March once again saw me lead a group of intrepid Sussex undergraduates to Berlin for three days. As in previous years, the trip involved discussions with politicians from a range of political parties, a visit to the British Embassy to talk Anglo-German relations, a tour around the infamous Stasi remand prison in East Berlin and trips to the Holocaust Memorial and what's left of the Berlin Wall.

As ever, though, it was not all work, work, work. Indeed, the trip enjoyed a couple of firsts; it had its very first birthday boy, with the group helping Andy Horrell celebrate his 20th birthday on Wednesday, whilst Luke Williams gained the (in)auspicious honour of becoming the first student in the trip's seven year history to be told that he'd eaten enough at the hostel's 'all you can eat' breakfast! Work that one out if you can!

Dr Dan Hough (Reader in Politics)

Politics Undergraduate Trip to Paris

In Spring Term I took 10 students on a three day study trip to Paris. We were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and we went on a mega walking tour of some of the capital's most significant sites that give a sense of how the turbulence of French history, marked by 'Franco-French wars', continues to impact on its politics today. We were there at an exciting time given that the presidential election (the centre piece of French politics) took place in two rounds on April 22nd & May 6th.

They saw how France's attitude towards its difficult past can be traced through various statues and monuments which indicate how it 'remembers' its heroes and villains.

The use of public space is also highly significant in Paris, and the strong contrasts between the different parts of the old historic centre, the modern business district at La Défense, and the suburb of St Denis hopefully brought this home to them.

Dr Sue Collard (Senior Lecturer, Politics)

PhD Conference 2012

The School's inaugural PhD conference *Rights and Responsibilities: Global Perspectives* (held on the 14th of June) was a resounding success.

Over 50 delegates attended the event representing nine different universities from across the country. The conference had three main sessions, including a plenary paper session, poster presentations and afternoon workshops. Twenty students from Sussex presented their work, with all papers being of an extremely high quality. Many thanks to all of those who attended and for their help making the event an enjoyable and interesting day.

Mark Walters (Lecturer, Law)





The Polish Ambassador HE Barbara Tuge introduces Aleks Szczerbiak at the launch of his new book.

SEI Co-Director visits Croatia ahead of EU referendum

Aleks Szczerbiak, visited Croatia from 19th to 20th January just days before Croatians voted to join the European Union. During his visit Aleks was involved in a number of meetings with academics, policy makers, journalists and business leaders to present and discuss his research on EU referendums. He gave the keynote address at a major academic conference hosted by the Zagreb University Political Science Institute and attended by the Croatian foreign minister. He also spoke to 60 young professionals (including more than 20 SEI graduates) at a meeting sponsored by the British Council in Croatia.

Professor Szczerbiak said: "I was particularly pleased to meet up with so many SEI alumni who are now having a huge, positive impact on public life in their country. It was really gratifying to hear them talk about their positive experiences at Sussex and how helpful this has been to them in their professional careers."

Emeritus Professor Jennifer Platt recipient of three awards

The American Sociological Association's section on the History of Sociology presented its 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor Platt at the ASA's annual conference in Denver, Colorado in August.

In April the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Gent in Belgium awarded her the Sarton medal for 2012-13.

And also in April, Professor Platt became the first recipient of the British Sociological Association's award for Distinguished Service to British Sociology.

LPS in the News

In politics, Dr **Susan Collard's** letter in the *Guardian* (12 June) points out one of the paradoxes of the French national assembly election, while Professor **Tim Bale** wrote in the *Guardian* (20 June) about why a two-party system no longer works for Greece or Britain.

Aleks Szczerbiak launches new book at the Polish Embassy

The Polish Embassy in London was the venue for the well-attended launch of Aleks Szczerbiak's new book: *Poland Within the European Union: New awkward partner or new heart of Europe?* The book examines the first five years of Polish EU membership, looking at Poland's influence on the EU as a new member state, and the impact that becoming an EU member has had on Polish public attitudes towards the EU and on party and electoral politics in that country.

Speaking after the launch, Aleks, who comes from a Polish family, said: "I am absolutely delighted to have had the opportunity to launch my new book at such a prestigious venue and am extremely pleased that it has generated so much interest, and not just among the usual 'Poland-watchers'.

Leverhulme grant success for Susie Scott

Dr Susie Scott (Department of Sociology) and Dr Matt Dawson (formerly of the same department; now at Glasgow University) have been awarded a Leverhulme research grant of £103,782 for their project, *A qualitative exploration of asexual identities and practices of intimacy*. The project will run for two years from March 2013, and will be led by Susie Scott as Principal Investigator, with Matt Dawson as Co-Investigator, and a Research Fellow, to be appointed.

We said farewell to **Margaret Greener** who is returning home to Western Australia .

LPS welcomed **Debbie Minto** to the School Office Team.

Congratulations to **Amelia Haynes** on her engagement to Kieron and, also, to **Louise Pizzey** on her engagement to Steve.





LPS School Office Away Day

The School Office team spent a great day at Knockhatch on 3rd July 2012 working with birds of prey including Harrier Hawks and various owls, including Loki whose picture you can see. The birds put on a terrific show and the harrier hawks certainly gave justice to having a fighter jet named in their honour.

Isla Fraser, former receptionist in the School Office, left LPS in May to work at the Maban refugee camp in South Sudan. The work is challenging and, shortly after arriving, Isla sent an email back home saying that in a two day period the camp had taken in 4000 refugees and expected another 6000 in the following four days. In her words conditions are "pretty harsh at the camp, a lot of malnutrition in the young children and elderly, and some people are passing away in the transit from the boarder."

Bertie Norton

LPS was shocked to learn that Bertie and her partner, John, had such a horrible road accident while on holiday in Thailand. They have now returned to the UK and our best wishes to them as they continue on the road to recovery.



Professors Richard Vogler and Heather Keating celebrating their appointment to Chairs

LPS Professional Services staff at their annual team building event.

LPS Final Year Results Day 2012 celebrations

On Friday 22 June staff and students in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology celebrated Finalists Day 2012 with a barbecue at the Friston Building.



The next issue will be out Autumn Term 2012.

Contact:
l.m.gibbs@sussex.ac.uk

www.sussex.ac.uk/lps