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**SPRU 50th Anniversary 2016**  
Keep in touch for updates, with an ambitious programme of events and activities planned. As part of our preparations, we are keen to hear from SPRU alumni so do get in touch.

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# SPRU

Science Policy Research Unit

**US**  
University of Sussex  
SPRU – Science Policy Research Unit

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## The SPRU way

A message from Professor Johan Schot, Director



What makes SPRU distinctive and excellent are the values around which it thrives. Through an emphasis on plurality, SPRU research and teaching spans the great divides between quantitative and qualitative, positive and constructivist, instrumental and critical. We strive to uphold values of academic excellence and solidarity in the collaborative production of knowledge – across both disciplines and hierarchies. We also pride ourselves on having impact and engaging outside academic arenas – with diverse real-world problems, pressurised policy-makers, powerful stakeholders, an impatient media and a restless civil society.

As we look ahead to our 50th anniversary in 2016, we believe these are the values and expectations which will help SPRU excel for a further fifty years. To mark our anniversary, SPRU is embarking on

an ambitious new strategy focused on long-term transformative change and innovation across different sectors, societies and structures. Whether it be in the provision of food, energy and healthcare, or in the development of more inclusive, innovative economies, our aim is to deliver new fundamental knowledge on the nature and governance of these transformative changes, as well as to offer practical ideas and solutions for setting the direction of change towards more positive societal outcomes.

Our strategy will expand and build on SPRU's proven track record across research, teaching, impact and engagement, and we look forward to working with colleagues across academia, government, business and civil society on these important agendas.

Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy and management, and continues to be internationally recognised as a leading centre in this field.

Today, with over 50 faculty members, SPRU is at the forefront of new ideas, problem-oriented research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society.

### Pioneering research

Our research addresses pressing global policy agendas, including the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise and funding, energy policy, security issues, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future.

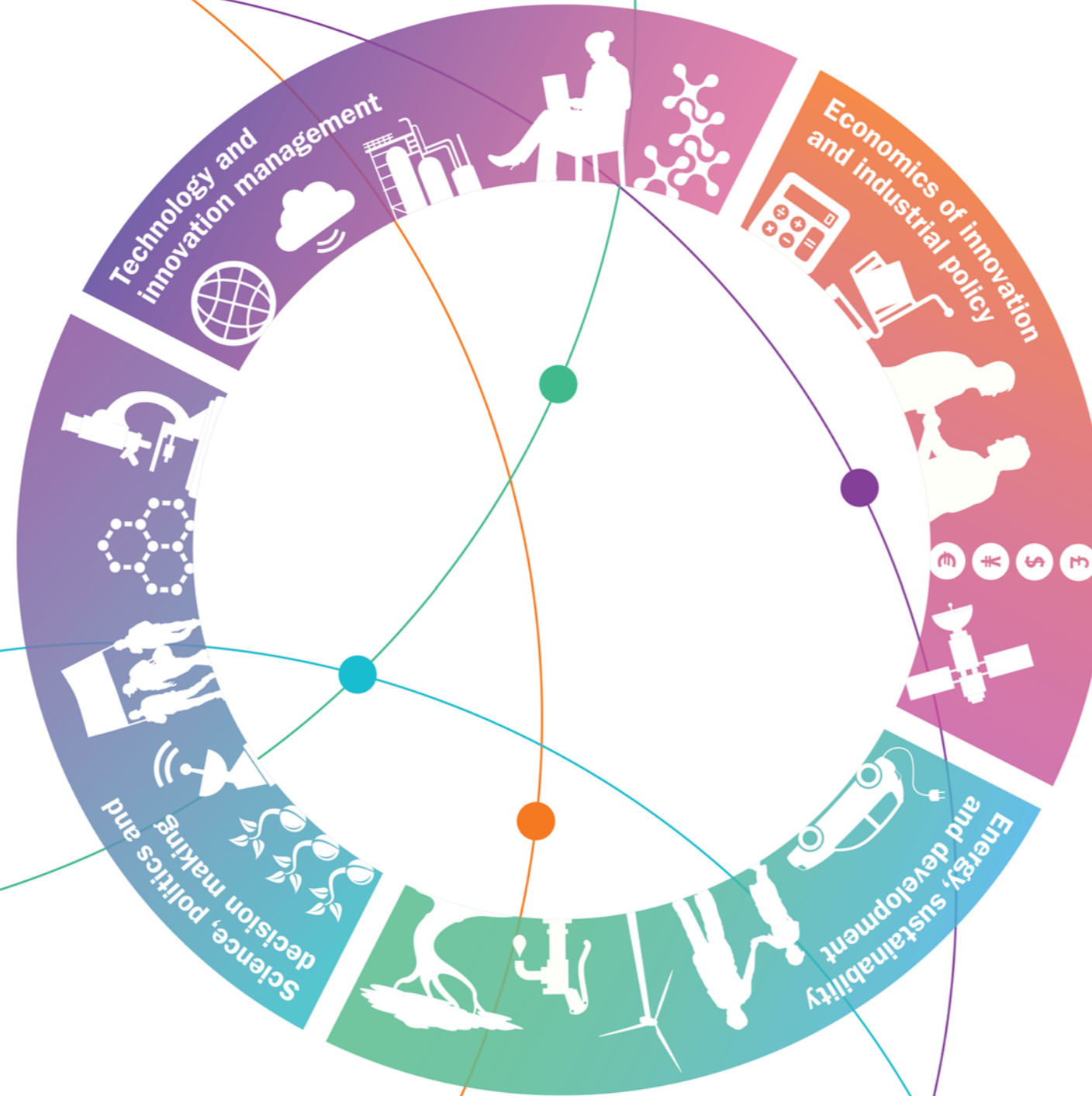
We are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper theoretical understanding of how innovation is shaping today's world. Located within the School of Business, Management and Economics, SPRU is a dynamic contributor to the University of Sussex's wider culture of research and teaching excellence.

### Transformative teaching and extensive outreach

With a community of over 150 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes. Our multidisciplinary nature means that students have access to an extensive range of expertise, whilst also contributing directly to research as part of their training and development.

With its extensive global alumni network among senior science and technology policy makers, SPRU is committed to engagement and generating impact, not only in the dissemination phase, but also by involving stakeholders in the framing and conduct of research.

## Our research themes



## SPRU is home to five major research centres and programmes

### Harvard Sussex Program

The Harvard Sussex Program, formally established in 1990, is an inter-university collaboration for research, communication and training in support of informed public policy towards chemical and biological weapons.

### Sussex Energy Group

The Sussex Energy Group (SEG) is one of the largest independent social science energy policy research groups in the world. SEG aims to identify ways of achieving transitions to sustainable, low carbon energy systems whilst addressing other important policy objectives such as energy security and affordability.

### Centre on Innovation and Energy Demand

The Centre on Innovation and Energy Demand, led by SEG in partnership with the universities of Oxford and Manchester, is one of six research centres on End Use Energy Demand funded by RCUK. The Centre adopts a socio-technical perspective and looks at the emergence, diffusion and impact of low energy innovations.

### STEPS Centre

The STEPS Centre, co-hosted by SPRU and the Institute of Development Studies, brings together development, science and technology studies with policy engagement activities involving partners in Africa, Asia, North and South America and Europe. Funded by the ESRC, STEPS researchers work on innovative approaches to social, technological and environmental sustainability that favour the rights, interests and values of marginalised and excluded peoples.

### The Nexus Network

The ESRC funded Nexus Network fosters debate, innovative research and practical collaborations across the linked domains of food, energy, water and the environment. Working with the universities of East Anglia and Cambridge, participation is open to researchers from all disciplines, and to decision makers in government, business and civil society.















## Study at SPRU

From technology policy and managing innovation, to fostering sustainability, international development and understanding complex energy systems, students at SPRU benefit from working at the frontier of new knowledge on some of today's most pressing global policy agendas.

Working with outstanding scholars, our students are an integral part of the development of new research agendas as part of their training. We pride ourselves on offering problem-led, rather than discipline-based teaching. As SPRU embarks on a new ambitious strategy focused on long-term transformative change and innovation, our students will have the opportunity to help shape and contribute to our work in this important area.

SPRU is the largest academic body in the world studying science, technology and innovation. We offer both post graduate Masters and research degrees (MPhil and PhD), attracting the best students from all over the world. SPRU invests in young talent through a range of fully funded scholarship opportunities. There is also a wide range of university level and general scholarships for which SPRU students may be eligible to apply.

Please see our online prospectus for further details by visiting:  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/study](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/study)

### As a student at SPRU you will have:

#### Access to extensive expertise

Our academics are world-class researchers in their respected fields of study who pioneer new understandings and approaches in the governance of science, technology and innovation.

#### Work placement opportunities

There are opportunities for students to be placed in policy institutions, firms, governmental departments, not-for-profit and non-governmental organisations to conduct research for their dissertation.

#### Experience of multidisciplinary research

SPRU's emphasis on problem-led academic study means that students experience a range of interdisciplinary interactions across multiple socio-political perspectives. This has created a unique SPRU style, consisting of inter and intra disciplinary study, strong empirical research, and an emphasis on developing new analytical tools, theoretical frameworks and policy approaches.

#### Opportunities for collaboration and creativity

SPRU students are invited to participate in weekly research seminars as well as in conferences and workshops. Working closely with our academics, students also have the opportunity to learn and contribute directly to SPRU research as part of their training.

### Our taught courses include:

Energy Policy for Sustainability MSc

Innovation and Sustainability for International Development MSc

Managing Innovation and Projects MSc

Science and Technology Policy MSc

Technology and Innovation Management MSc

### We offer two routes to PhD study:

- An integrated degree combining one of SPRU's MSc degrees with doctoral research. The expected duration of the combined degree is four years.
- A stand-alone degree of doctoral research undertaken by students whose prior research training in a relevant field has been equivalent to that provided by a SPRU Masters degree. The expected duration of this degree is three years.

### Potential career paths

SPRU graduates enjoy successful careers in government, academia, business and civil society, with employers including the UK Government, the OECD, the United Nations, RAND group, Harvard University, Technopolis and more.

### Alumni perspectives

*'An MSc in Science and Technology Policy at SPRU offers a very special blend of training; from the history and philosophy of science through to managing innovation and understanding risk. It gave me the ABC of science policy, the edge to stand out in an increasingly competitive job market, and the understanding and tools to work on a wide range of public policy issues in the UK, Europe and in the emerging science economies of the Far East.'*

#### Rapela Zaman

Senior Policy Adviser, The Royal Society

*'SPRU is my intellectual heritage. Although my PhD focused on different areas than my work requires now, the theoretical lenses developed through the research and intellectual dialogue amongst my SPRU community still serve me well on the practical challenges of translating science into the marketplace. Very simply, my SPRU training made my current career possible for me.'*

#### Virginia Acha, PhD

Director, Regulatory Policy – Europe, Middle East and Africa, Amgen

