Social Sciences

Annual Report 2014-15
Social Sciences at Oxford University

The Social Sciences Division represents the largest grouping of social scientists in the UK, and possibly the world. The Division is home to outstanding departments, faculties and schools.

The University of Oxford’s social scientists are committed to developing a greater understanding of all aspects of society through research and teaching; from the impact of political, legal and economic systems on social and economic welfare to human rights and security. Through exploring new areas at the cutting-edge of discovery, we have a commitment to remaining at the forefront of research and teaching.

Facts and figures
#1 Just under 1,000 academic and research staff
#2 Almost 5,700 students (undergraduate and postgraduate) studying on a wide range of innovative degree programmes
#3 A total revenue of over £158m, including research income in excess of £40m (the highest research income across the social sciences of any UK university)
#4 Exceptional REF2014 performance, with Oxford making the largest submission of staff and accounting for more 4* (world-leading) and 4* or 3* (world-leading or internationally excellent) research than any other institution across the social sciences units of assessment to which it made submissions.
The eagerly-awaited results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) were announced just before Christmas and confirmed Oxford as the powerhouse of social sciences in the UK. Across the social sciences units of assessment to which we made submissions, Oxford accounted for more 4* (world-leading) and 4* or 3* (world leading and internationally excellent) research than any other institution. This recognition by our peers of the quality of Oxford’s social sciences research – and the reach and significance of the impact it has on wider society – was a richly-deserved acknowledgement of the work of the outstanding cohort of academic and research staff we have across the Division.

The REF is important not just because of the judgement formed about the quality and relevance of the research we undertake, but also due to the financial resources it attracts to enable us to pursue our research ambitions. Therefore we were delighted that the HEFCE grant letter we received in March confirmed that our Quality-Related research funding would increase by £2.8million or 22% for 2015/16 compared to that received in 2014/15 (where it was driven by results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise).

Despite this welcome increase in valuable funding in the immediate future, the medium-term picture both for universities and the social sciences in particular is far less certain. At the time of writing, government departments, funding agencies and universities are braced for the outcome of this autumn’s Comprehensive Spending Review which will shape the funding outlook for the rest of the Government’s term of office. It is certain that this will be painful and therefore it is essential that we continue to articulate and demonstrate the value and impact of the social sciences.

Social sciences will need to be both at the forefront of, and an active partner in, efforts to tackle many of the major challenges facing society in the 21st century such as climate change, global economic performance, migration, ageing, poverty and development, security and justice. Social sciences can seize new opportunities, such as those afforded through massive data sets or ensuring that policy and decision-making can be truly evidence-based.

Our new divisional research strategy, which I reported last year was under development and is now being implemented, is part of our response to these challenges. We are funding our first two ‘Incubator Themes’ drawing together multi-disciplinary research capacity from within the Division and beyond and which will influence the research agenda of tomorrow. We have showcased the impact of Oxford social sciences in various ways, such as through online case studies and videos and the ‘Social Animals’ LiveFriday event at the Ashmolean Museum. Here over 4,500 members of the public were able to engage directly with the research of our departments on one truly unforgettable evening in May.

I hope you will enjoy reading this Annual Report which includes the highlights of a universally successful year for the fourteen departments of the Division and the two interdivisional centres (the Oxford-Man Institute and the Oxford Martin School) it hosts on behalf of the University.

I would again like to take this opportunity to express my own appreciation of the outstanding contribution made by all the academics, researchers, students and support staff in the Division to these collective achievements.

On behalf of colleagues I would also like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of Francesco Billari, Timothy Endicott, Martin Seeleib-Kaiser and Sarah Whatmore who completed their terms as Heads of the Department of Sociology, the Faculty of Law, the Department of Social Policy & Intervention and the School of Geography & the Environment, respectively, as well as Hugh Collins who served as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law.

I wish all colleagues across the Division a productive and successful 2015/16.

Roger Goodman, Head of Division
October 2015
The Division operates to support the research and education priorities of its departments, and to enable it to be even more successful than the sum of its parts. To support this aim, the Divisional Board has agreed a set of cross-cutting strategic priorities for the Division. These are:

- To support continued innovation across our educational offerings. At graduate level this includes ensuring that students obtain the best grounding in social sciences research and professional training, that new programmes can come forward, and existing programmes can innovate and operate sustainability by securing additional student numbers.

- To implement our new Divisional Research Strategy with overarching aims to maintain Oxford’s position as a world leader in social sciences and to extend the influence and impact of Oxford social sciences.

- To ensure financial sustainability across teaching and research in an increasingly constrained funding environment.

- To provide sufficient functionally suitable space, with appropriate academic adjacencies, to support departmental activity and promote inter-disciplinary collaboration through implementation of the division’s strategic capital and space vision.

- To deliver our fundraising strategy targeted at departmental priorities.

- To promote equality and diversity across the staff and student body (with initial focus on gender and ethnic equality and diversity in academic and leadership roles).
From organised crime to endangered archaeology; from international warfare to refugee crises; from climate change to water scarcity, economic inequality, educational exclusion, and public health: perspective on the world’s most intractable problems fall within the domain of the Social Sciences Division. Indeed, any subject that engages with governance, policy, or the general public is an issue for social scientists and this extraordinary scope for impact is the foundation of the Division’s fundraising efforts. Oxford’s combination of breadth and strength of faculty, exceptional library resources, global convening power, and magnetism for the best students from around the world means that the Social Sciences Division attracts and retains scholars at the forefront of global solutions. Furthermore, as one of the world’s great training grounds for leaders outside academia – in the realms of politics, business, and NGOs – investing in Oxford has impacts that are both profound and far-reaching.

The Social Sciences Development Team works closely with donors and academics to identify opportunities for collaboration and tailor those opportunities for optimal outcomes. Prioritising graduate student support across the Division, the team is also dedicated to securing endowments and support for key research projects.
Grounded in Oxford’s long tradition of independent scholarship and academic freedom, Oxford social scientists deliver world leading research that continues to challenge current ideas and theories and explore new ways of thinking that benefits society.

During 2014–15, the Division launched a new five-year research strategy with overarching objectives to:

- Maintain Oxford’s position as a world leader in research and scholarship in the social sciences, attracting the best researchers at all career stages and creating a stimulating and supportive research environment in which to work.
- Increase the influence of Oxford social sciences research in addressing key societal challenges, strengthening our engagement with external partners and better communicating our research strengths and impacts.

In order to achieve these objectives the Division will focus on six strategic aims:

1. To influence the research agenda of major national and European funding bodies and research policy-makers.
2. To strengthen Oxford’s collaborative research capacity both as a source of innovation and a means of improving the quality and success of large grant applications.
3. To diversify funding sources in support of all forms of research activity, including the identification of research development priorities.
4. To extend the impact and influence of Oxford’s social sciences research beyond academic communities through more effective engagement and communication.
5. To train and support early career researchers to become the next generation of research leaders.
6. To support departments in strengthening their strategic research planning.

The full strategy can be read at: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/research/research-strategy.
One of the initial actions taken forward in connection with the strategy involved the first competitive call for Incubator Themes to encourage the development of new, cutting-edge interdisciplinary research themes for further development as collaborative research programmes. The first two themes selected (and which will receive Divisional funding over the next two years) will be coordinated by Professor Jan Zielonka (Europe Unbound: Geopolitics, Economics, and Communication) and Dr Mark Graham (Big Data and Human Development).

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
The results of the UK Government’s Research Excellence Framework (REF), announced at the end of December 2014, confirmed the Division as the UK powerhouse for world-leading research in social sciences.

Across the social sciences’ units of assessment (UOAs) to which we made submissions, we made the largest submission of Category A FTE to the exercise and accounted for more 4* (world-leading) and 4* or 3* (world-leading or internationally-excellent) research in the field than any other institution.

The outstanding results in terms of the quality of Oxford social sciences as judged through REF 2014 have also been reflected in a significant increase in Quality-Related (QR) from HEFCE. The Division's HEFCE Research Funding for 2015-16 (now based on REF2014 results) increased by £2.8million or 22% to £15.6m compared to 2014-15 (where funding was based on RAE2008 results), with an increase for the majority of our departments.

Research Impact
The results of the REF also confirmed the scale of the impact of Oxford social science research in many fields beyond academia and the influence our research has on addressing major societal challenges.

A selection of case studies highlighting the impact of our research can be found at: [www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/research/casestudies](http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/research/casestudies). These show how social sciences research at Oxford is influencing policy makers (in the UK and overseas), business, practitioners and global communities.
The Social Sciences Division teamed up with the Ashmolean Museum for LiveFriday: Social Animals, an event held as part of the Ashmolean Museum’s regular LiveFriday late opening series.

The programme consisted of short talks, video and photography presentations, hands on activities, music and physical theatre performances, highlighting the depth and breadth of the work that our academics are involved in and the impact it has on people's lives across the world.

Attractions included a ‘Mass Experiment in Voting Behaviour’ and a ‘Victorian Tag-a-thon’ where visitors were invited to add tags to any images they could identify from the museum’s newly-digitised archive of slides. There was a high level of audience engagement with the research methodologies, findings and concepts. Guests also had a chance to find mystery objects around the museum and enjoy Senegalese dance.

The event was a great success with over 4,500 members of the public attending and over 70 researchers and staff members involved from all of the division’s 14 departments. A dedicated web page and video have been made to document the collaboration and to showcase the research www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/research/livefriday.

Image l-r: LiveFriday logo courtesy Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology; LiveFriday images courtesy John Cairns
Social Sciences Departments offer a range of diverse, stimulating and high quality undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes, all of which are underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. Degrees range from lab-based science in departments such as Geography and Archaeology, through to the professionally-oriented provision in Business, Public Policy and Education. A number of part-time postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes are also offered.

**Doctoral Training Centre (DTC)**

- A new interdisciplinary pathway in Quantitative Finance was approved by the ESRC in the autumn of 2014, which admitted its first students in 2014-15.
- 71 ESRC-funded students (including three co-funded by ESRC and EPSRC) are expected to take up places in October 2015, bringing the total funded to date to 316.
- A joint graduate school event was held with South East DTCs in December 2014, attended by 35 students from eight higher education institutions across the South East.
- The Division hosted the ESRC National Conference for final-year students in April 2015 at the Natural History Museum and Examination Schools, attended by 184 students from all 21 national DTCs.
- Work has been ongoing to prepare the University to bid for a new ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (the new name for DTCs) and at least one interdisciplinary Centre for Doctoral Training.

**Courses Development and Enhancement**

- A range of enhancements and innovations in teaching and assessment have been approved and a number of programme reviews have been undertaken as part of the regular cycle of quality assurance practices.
- The Division has continued to work closely with departments on education policy matters relating to the Quality Assurance Agency Quality Code and the Higher Education Review, scheduled for March 2016.
- As of October 2015, both the Master of Business Administration and the Master of Public Policy will be admitting their full complement of students. A new part-time MSc in Taxation has been approved, to be offered by the Faculty of Law and Centre for Business Taxation from October 2016.
- As part of a pilot scheme, a new part-time version of the full-time MSc in Social Science of the Internet has been approved, for admission from 2016.
- Work in a number of areas is being undertaken with the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies to enhance their programme offerings.
Space Plan – Capital Projects

Space plan – capital projects
Progress has continued in delivering the Division’s capital and space strategy, focussed on providing both functionally-suitable space as well exploiting opportunities for co-location or physical adjacencies (so-called ‘hubs’) between units and departments within the Division and across other divisions. The strategy will engender a coherent and vibrant academic community, and promote inter- and multi-disciplinary collaboration, delivery of educational provision, and the sharing of facilities and services.

Progress during 2014-15 includes:
• The iconic Blavatnik School of Government building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter is nearing completion ahead of its opening in the 2015-16 academic year.
• The University has allocated the Old Power Station at Osney, a landmark Oxford building, to the Said Business School for the preservation and renovation into a state of the art centre for Executive Education. Initial stakeholder consultations have been held and an architectural competition is underway.
• Planning and listed building approval has been granted for major improvement works in the St Cross Building for the Law and English faculties and their respective libraries. The works, which will commence in September 2015, mark the second of three phases to enable the consolidation of the Social Sciences hub at St Cross Road/Manor Road. The final phase will be completed once the English Faculty and Library relocate to a new Humanities building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.
New Appointments

We are delighted to announce the following new appointments during 2014-15:

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<tr>
<th>Statutory Professors</th>
<th>Head of Departments</th>
<th>External Appointments</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Stephen Broadberry</strong>, Professor of Economic History, Department of Economics</td>
<td><strong>Professor Anne Davies</strong> succeeded Professor Timothy Endicott as Dean of the Law Faculty</td>
<td><strong>Professor Roger Goodman</strong> (Head of Division) appointed Chair of the Academy of Social Sciences</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Stefan Dercon</strong>, Professor of Economic Policy, Blavatnik School of Government and Department of Economics</td>
<td><strong>Professor Melinda Mills</strong> succeeded Professor Francesco Billari as Head of the Department of Sociology</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Horst Eidenmüller</strong>, Freshfields Professor of Commercial Law, Law Faculty</td>
<td><strong>Professor Rachel Murphy</strong> succeeded Professor Ian Neary as Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Wolfgang Ernst</strong>, Regius Professorship of Civil Law, Law Faculty</td>
<td><strong>Professor Heather Viles</strong> succeeded Professor Sarah Whatmore as Head of the School of Geography &amp; the Environment</td>
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Media, Press and Communications: a 12-months’ snapshot

According to the News and Information Office’s media monitoring database, the Social Sciences Division secured 1,490 items of international, national and regional coverage (print, online and broadcast) in the 12 months to 31st August 2015. Of these, 191 were in media outlets which reach more than one million people. The Division’s largest audience was via the national UK media, accounting for 49.1% of all coverage. Overseas national media (e.g. Die Welt, Times of India) were responsible for just under a one-fifth (19.5%) of all coverage.

Our media-monitoring system also picked up 58 television appearances and 217 radio appearances; however, this figure almost certainly under-reports the true extent of broadcast interviews undertaken by Oxford University’s social scientists.

Highlights include:
• A study co-authored by Oxford researchers which says spikes in food prices during the last global recession can be linked with the increase in malnutrition among children in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in 2009.
• A report which shows floods, droughts and a lack of investment in providing good quality, reliable water supplies is dragging down the global economy.
• A study which found that the time spent playing video games could be linked with problem behaviour and this duration was the significant factor rather than the types of games played. The study found that children who play video games for more than three hours a day are more likely to be hyperactive, get involved in fights and not be interested in school.
• A study which suggests that rather than the international community relying on a costly, heavy military presence around Somalia in order to keep shipping lanes safe, a more sustainable way to tackle piracy would be to build new roads and harbours so clans in the remoter areas of Somalia do not miss out on legitimate trading opportunities.
• Research showing that a party leader’s image really does matter to people’s voting intentions.

Our news can be found online at [www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events](http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events)
Home to over forty academic staff, the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) is renowned for its contributions to anthropological theory, its commitment to long-term ethnographic fieldwork, and its association with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the anthropology of visual and material culture.

Research and Teaching News

SAME completed another successful year of teaching, research, and leadership – nationally and internationally. In connection with the ‘Future of Cities’ Programme, Steve Rayner served on the Lead Expert Group for the UK Government’s Foresight Programme on the Future of UK Cities, while Michael Keith took on the role of Coordinator of the ESRC’s Urban Transformations Programme. New research is underway on migration and begging, and all existing research groups in the School continue to grow and develop.

Knowledge Exchange and Impact continue to play a key role in the School’s research: COMPAS launched a new Knowledge Exchange initiative, ‘Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity’, while Laura Peers, with an ESRC Impact Acceleration grant, worked with two Haida First Nation carvers, brothers Gwaai and Jaalen Edenshaw, to replicate an important 19th-century Haida carved chest in the Pitt Rivers Museum collections. Information about School research can be found in publications such as the Huffington Post and the BBC iWonder website.

Recently awarded grants to colleagues in ICEA include the European Commission H2020 project, “ALIGNED: Quality-centric Software and Data Engineering” from 2015–2018 and also the John Fell OUP Research Fund project, “Mapping the Moral Domains: The development of a new scale for cross-cultural research.”

Over 25 doctoral dissertations were submitted in the course of the year, and over £2m was raised in research grants.

Lectures and Events

The Maretton Memorial Lecture 2015 was delivered by Professor Joel Robbins (Cambridge) on ‘What is the Matter with Transcendence? On the Place of Religion on the New Anthropology of Ethics’. Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander (Yale) presented The Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture on 3 June on the subject of ‘The Societalization of Social Problems: Recent Social Crises and the Civil Sphere’. The Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture was an initiative of SAME in collaboration with UCL Anthropology and the Royal Anthropological Institute. The Human Sciences Institute hosted the Astor Lecture in May, given by Dr Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (UC Berkeley) on ’When the “Wages of Sin” is Death: Premarital Sex and Infant Mortality in Africa’.

In Trinity 2015, Zuzanna Olszewska and Mette Berg organised a workshop on Ethnography and Policy-making, which was very well received and well-attended by students and early career researchers from several other departments across the Division.

Awards and Honours


Chris Morton was awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship for the project ‘A visual economy of 19th-century photography from Southern Africa’. Inge Daniels and Elizabeth Ewart received a Teaching Award for their project ‘Collaborative teaching: incorporating web-based resources and technologies’. Also honoured were Neil Carrier and Laura Fortunato.

For more information, visit www.anthro.ox.ac.uk
School of Archaeology

Oxford’s School of Archaeology is one of the few departments in the world where so many diverse aspects of archaeological teaching and research are brought together to address critical questions about our past.

Research
Research in the School of Archaeology extends from questions of human origins through the origins of agriculture, ancient environments, classical and historical archaeology, underpinned by the development of new techniques of scientific dating and analysis.

Fieldwork this year was conducted in the UK as well as numerous countries overseas, including Morocco (Taforalt caves), Tunisia (Utica), Greece (Lefkandi, and Knossos, Crete), Turkey (Aphrodisias), Jordan (aerial archaeology programme), and Saudi Arabia. The range and dynamism of our research programme is made possible only by the School’s considerable success in obtaining external grant funding from a variety of funding bodies including the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, NERC, AHRC, Wellcome Trust, National Geographic Society, Hilti Foundation, and the European Research Council, which this year totalled £743,302. This success was reflected in the results of the 2014 REF exercise, in which the School gained the best overall Grade Point Average score (3.19) of any Archaeology department in the UK. 80% of Archaeology’s submission was evaluated as world-leading (4*) or internationally-excellent (3*). This represents an increase from 65% in the RAE 2008.

Research projects
New grant-funded projects that started this year included:

External
- ‘Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa’, Professor Andrew Wilson (Arcadia Fund, £1.2m), this has attracted a lot of media coverage in the light of current events;
- ‘Reviving ancient DNA at Oxford (Wellcome Trust Institutional Support Grant,’ £101,000, in addition to John Fell OUP Research Fund grant, £50,000).

John Fell OUP Research Fund grants:
- ‘History in Ice: Creating a 3,000-year record of lead pollution’, Professor Andrew Wilson (£47,000; collaboration with the Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada).

In addition, further grants were awarded which will start next year:

External
- ‘Flow of Ancient Metals across Eurasia (FLAME): New frameworks for interpreting human interaction in Later Prehistory, Professor Mark Pollard (European Research Council, £2m);
- Testing the metal: characterising the chemical composition of ancient Indian copper, Dr Wendy Morrison (British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme grant, £9,890).

John Fell OUP Research Fund:
- Investigating the effects of the Industrial Revolution on oral biology and health, Professor Greger Larson (£60,000).

Our acquisition last year of the Aerial Photographic Archive of the Ancient Middle East (APAAME), has enabled us to secure £1.2 million from the Arcadia Fund in order to develop the archive into a resource for identifying and monitoring threats to archaeological sites (from urban and infrastructure development, agriculture, warfare and looting) across North Africa and the Middle East, using a combination of aerial and satellite photography. This project started in January and employs a project director and seven researchers.

In October Dr Greger Larson joined the School from Durham to oversee the revival of the Henry Wellcome Ancient Biomolecules Centre, which (thanks to grants from the Wellcome Trust and the Fell Fund OUP Research Fund) allowing its refurbishment, reopened in 2015 as the Palaeo-BARN (Palaeogenomics & Bio-Archaeology Research) with Dr Larson as its Director, and a team of five postdoctoral researchers and a doctoral student. This will allow Oxford to regain its position at the forefront of Ancient DNA Studies (aDNA).

For more information, visit www.arch.ox.ac.uk
The Blavatnik School of Government (BSG) is a global school pursuing a vision of a world better led, a world better served and a world better governed. BSG is committed to excellence in leadership and public policy education through teaching, research and engagement.

Research and its impact
Academics at BSG are currently running over 30 projects on diverse topics from trust in banking to healthcare financing, and from immigration and jobs to territory and war. This year has seen the award of major grants, focussed on cutting-edge research with direct policy relevance, including:

- A multi-million pound award from the UK’s DfID for an international project called Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE). This large-scale, multi-country programme seeks to answer the question: “What works to improve education systems to deliver better learning for all at scale in developing countries?”
- A three-year grant from the DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme to study the impact of global financial regulations on low-income countries (LICs). The project will examine how LICs in Africa and south-east Asia are affected by new global standards for regulating banks. The project will be among the very first to look at how political institutions and processes – at both the domestic and global levels – shape the impact of global banking initiatives on LICs and their ability to harness financial flows for inclusive growth.

BSG have also won six grants from the John Fell OUP Research Fund; and a number of research grants from the Leverhulme Foundation, Health Foundation, Rush Foundation and Ford Foundation, to support and develop research on diverse projects encompassing trust and virtue; shared services in government or the politics of social policy.

BSG launched a new Working Paper series disseminated Research Insights and Policy Memos to share insights and recommendations with wider audiences.

Teaching and learning
This year the School expects to recruit a cohort of 120 students on to the Master in Public Policy programme. This intensive programme provides aspiring leaders with an excellent foundation for a successful career.

The School will again run the popular short course on Oil, Gas and Mining Governance for senior policy and decision makers delivered in collaboration with the Natural Resource Governance Institute. To date 37 ministers and senior officials from 17 countries have participated in the intensive six-day course.

Estates
The new School building is currently under construction, and will be a world-class educational facility for teaching, research and convening.

Events
BSG programme of events creates an active annual calendar of opportunities for academics and students both to engage with each other and reach out to policy makers and practitioners, these events attracted an audience of approximately 3,500.

Looking ahead
The School’s plan for the next five years is to build on its successful delivery of teaching, research and engagement whilst further growing and developing our partnerships, reach and impact. To determine the School’s year-on-year progress towards improving government, six indicators have been identified against which success can be measured. These are based on the World Wide Governance Indicators:

1. Improving citizen voice and representation
2. Enhancing human security
3. Improving government effectiveness
4. Ensuring a quality regulatory environment
5. Strengthening the rule of law
6. Building integrity in government

Simply put, how many of BSG alumni are working on these issues? How many of School research projects, and engagements with senior policy-makers are “shifting the needle” in one of these domains? The School looks forward in the coming years, as its alumni base grows, research carried out begins to deliver impact, and collaborations with policy audiences strengthen, to bringing you answers to these questions.
The Department of Economics is home to a diverse and internationally renowned group of academic economists, many of whom have made major recent contributions to modern economic analysis.

Research
In the REF 2014, the Department of Economics maintained its top ranking in terms of overall research power in Economics and Econometrics, with more of our research assessed as world-leading than any other UK institution. In a submission of 83.9 FTE academics, 56% of the Department’s research was rated as ‘world-leading’ (4*) and a further 33% rated as ‘internationally excellent’ (3*).

Grant funded projects
Oxford economists continue to be successful in obtaining prestigious research fellowships and grants to support their work. New grant-funded projects in 2014-15 include:
• A five-year European Research Council Consolidator Grant, awarded to Sophocles Mavroeidis, for a major research project on New Approaches to the Identification of Macroeconomic Models.
• A major grant, awarded to Simon Quinn (with Marcel Fafchamps (Stanford)), by Private Enterprise Development for Low-Income Countries (a joint research initiative of the Centre for Economic Policy Research and the Department for International Development) to investigate the impact of internships on the employment prospects of young educated Ethiopians.

• A major ESRC Research Grant, awarded to Howard Smith, for a project to compare the predictive performance of alternative theoretical models of intermediate product competition and to assess the implication for competition policy towards intermediate product markets.
• A three-year Leverhulme Research Grant, awarded to Francesco Zanetti, for a project entitled “Where is the news in business cycles? A new approach with novel methodologies.” The aim of the project is to understand how changes in expectations affect fluctuations in real economic activity, employment and prices.

Knowledge exchange
The Department’s research continues to make its mark externally, gaining recognition and public attention. Paul Klemperer and co-author Jeremy Bulow (Stanford) have devised a new financial instrument to make banks safer while keeping regulators at distance. This proposed instrument was the subject of an article in the Economist in May. Equity Recourse Notes (ERNs) are designed to ameliorate booms and busts by creating counter-cyclical incentives for banks to raise capital and so encourage bank lending in bad times; they help solve the too-big-to-fail problem; and reduce the regulatory system’s reliance on accounting measures of capital.

Events and Awards
The Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of African Economies, which is held in Oxford each March, is one of the biggest gatherings of development economists in the world. In March 2015, the three day conference attracted some 400 delegates, many from Africa, and more than 280 papers.

In June 2015 the Department welcomed distinguished economists from across the world, including Nobel prize winners Roger Myerson and Thomas Schelling to a conference in honour of H. Peyton Young, James Meade Professor of Economics at Oxford since 2007. Professor Abhijit Banerjee, Ford International Professor of Economics at MIT, joined the Department of Economics as the Sanjaya Lall Visiting Professor for Trinity Term 2015. Professor Banerjee is a founding director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and in 2011 he was named one of Foreign Policy magazine’s top 100 global thinkers. Professor Sir Anthony Atkinson was awarded the 2015 Economics Investment Bank Outstanding Contribution Award.

For more information, visit www.economics.ox.ac.uk
Department of Education

Oxford has been making a major contribution to the field of education for over 100 years and today this Department has a world class reputation for research, for teacher education and for its Masters and doctoral programmes. A major component in the Department’s strategy has been to internationalise both its teaching and research portfolio.

Teaching
In October 2014 the Department offered for the first time a distance learning Masters in Teacher Education, with a particular focus on mathematics and science, a course which has already attracted students from a variety of countries and is probably unique in its content and pedagogical approach. The Department also very recently developed an international route in its Masters in Learning and Teaching and a number of short courses have taken place for teachers and university tutors including those from Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. These, alongside the many international students on Master’s and Doctoral programmes, have enriched our understanding of the challenges that, particularly, low-income countries face in developing their educational systems.

Research
The Department was ranked a very clear first in the Education Unit of Assessment of the 2014 REF and its research has had a significant impact in a number of areas.

Two studies based in the Department were selected by the British Education Research Association (BERA) as part of its 40 years celebrations, to be named among the set of 40 ‘landmark studies that have had a significant impact on educational policy, educational practice, research methodology and/or educational theory’ since 1974:


In June, the Department’s research was cited in a House of Commons debate. The debate explored how the Government could assist a number of local authorities to deal with the consequences of large-scale migration of pupils with English as an Additional Language and the impact of this on primary schools and pupils’ educational attainment. Speakers in the House quoted extensively from the report by Professors Steve Strand and Victoria Murphy on learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL) and educational achievement in England, and the recommendations of the report were discussed.

News and events
An event in November marked the close of a two-year leadership and development programme for senior and middle leaders from 14 schools in the City. The programme was delivered by education experts from Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University, and funded by the City Council to help primary school staff develop their leadership skills. The programme was directed by Professor Ian Menter.

The Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education was appointed by the DfE to be the Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme evaluation coordinator for September 2014 - August 2016. The programme seeks to support local efforts to transform services for the most vulnerable children by providing tailored funding and professional support for up to 40 innovative projects over the next two years. The Centre was also awarded a contract to evaluate the London Schools Excellence Fund programme on the Education of Children in Care from July 2014 - September 2015.

The Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE) held an ESRC Festival of Social Science on the ‘Future of Higher Education’ in November.

Awards and honours
Dr Catherine Walter won an Outstanding Tutor Award and Dr Susan James Relly won an Outstanding Staff Award both from the Student Union; Emeritus Professor John Furlong was awarded 1st prize by the Society for Educational Studies for his book, titled Education – An Anatomy of the Discipline; and BERA awarded Professor Kathy Sylva one of the first two BERA John Nisbet Fellowships.

For more information, visit www.education.ox.ac.uk
The School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE) is internationally recognised for the quality of its teaching, research and wider engagement across the breadth of human and physical geography and environmental studies.

**Teaching and Learning**

In Hilary Term 2015 SoGE welcomed its first five students as part of the new NERC Environment DTP. SoGE continues to develop opportunities for its students, such as the new UK Meteorological Office Academic Partnership Award for the best climatological Final Honour School dissertation. Our students continue to make their mark with national and international success, such as Sebastian Koa's award of the 2014 History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group prize for his undergraduate dissertation. Our staff continue to provide award-winning teaching and learning support, with Dr Patricia Daley winning the Oxford University Student Union outstanding supervisor award for 2015.

**Research**

SoGE retained its position as one of the UK’s top departments of Geography and Environmental Studies in the 2014 REF. Over 80% of the School’s total submission was graded as 4* and 3* (the highest categories of international standard activity); and the School ranked second in the Research Volume/Power index, which multiplies the percentage of the research profile classed 4* and 3* by the number of FTEs submitted. The School was the only geography department in the UK to score 100% (4*) for the quality of its research environment.

**Research Awards**

The School continued to be highly successful in obtaining external research funding during the year with 60 awards made, 22 of which were for over £100k. Notable highlights include the following: £15 million from DFID to Dr Rob Hope for the REACH – Improving water security for the poor programme; £318,000 from NERC to Professor Richard Washington for the IMPALA project (Improving Model Processes for African Climate); £570,000 from Zurich Insurance to Professor Gordon Clark for the Zurich Income Protection Gap project; £322,000 from the Leverhulme Trust to Dr Anna Lora-Wainwright for research on e-waste in China and Japan, and £266,000 from ESRC to Dr Tim Schwanen for research on policy to encourage cycling and walking.

**Research highlights, impact and knowledge exchange**

Research within the School continues to make its mark externally, gaining academic recognition, provoking public attention and generating tangible impacts. Professor Jim Hall led a high-profile paper in Science in 2014 which examined how regions around the world cope with variable and unpredictable freshwater resources and how this affects economic output. Amongst many examples of SoGE’s research in the news, Professor Myles Allen’s research on climate change and extreme weather events, and Professor Danny Dorling and Dr Ben Hennig’s research on the housing crisis both featured widely in the national and international press. A collaborative research project led by Professor Sarah Whatmore resulted in a successful low-cost project to reduce flooding in Pickering.

**Awards/Honours /Appointment**

SoGE’s research, staff and students continue to gain recognition across the whole spectrum of our activities. For example, Dr Jane Dyson was awarded the 2015 ESRC Prize for Outstanding International Impact for her film ‘Lifelines’ showcasing her research in the challenges facing young people in the Indian Himalayas, whilst Dr Nihan Akyelken was awarded the International Transport Forum’s 2015 Young Researcher of the Year Award. In May 2015 the School’s Radcliffe Meteorological Station celebrated 200 years of climate observations, making it the longest running continuous weather station in the UK and gaining it a special award from the UK Meteorological Office. Pilio, a spin-out company, has been named one of the most exciting energy management companies to watch in a 2015 report by Verdantix. In 2015 Professor Sarah Whatmore was appointed to DEFRA’s Science Advisory Council, whilst Dr Derek McCormack received a British Academy Mid Career Fellowship, Dr Richard Powell obtained a Leverhulme Trust Research fellowship, and Professor Heather Viles was awarded the Ralph Ager Bagnold Medal by the European Geosciences Union.
The School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS) is devoted to research and graduate teaching in academic disciplines which attempt to understand the complexity and the interrelatedness of society through anthropology, economics, politics, history, sociology and culture. SIAS has continued to work hard to maintain its position as a world leader in teaching and research on areas and regions.

Teaching
In 2015, the QS released its annual subject rankings showing the best institutions across 36 subject areas, and the University of Oxford has the top spot in two subjects, both Geography and Area Studies, the only UK institution to do so. The School is also delighted with high levels of student satisfaction for our taught courses. In the latest nationwide student barometer, three of our five taught postgraduate masters programmes received overall satisfaction levels higher than 96%, above the university average of 92%, while one of our programmes achieved 100%.

Research Funding
SIAS faculty continue to be successful in obtaining prestigious research fellowships and grants to support their work, including:
- Julie Archambault was awarded a British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Grant for a collaborative project on Africa rising? Everyday life and the contours of prosperity in Lusophone Africa.
- William Beinart was awarded a grant from Send a Cow charity to conduct a collaborative impact assessment of Farmers’ Food and Income Security in Africa.
- Miriam Driessen was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship to research China’s Marriage Squeeze and the Housing Market.
- Anna Lora-Wainwright was awarded a Leverhulme grant for a three year project on Circuits of Waste and Value: Making E-Waste Subjects in China and Japan.
- Nicolette Makovy was awarded a Fell Fund OUP Research grant to look at Ecologies of Citizenship: Reviving Pastoralism in the Polish Carpathians.
- Ian Neary was awarded a grant from the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee to research the Expansion of the Welfare State in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
- Leigh Payne was awarded funding from the Open Society Foundation and the Ford Foundation to support her research into Human Rights Violations in Latin American Countries.

Research Projects
Many innovative research projects were carried out this year. Here, four projects are highlighted to offer a flavour of the School’s global reach and diverse expertise.
- Paul Irwin Crookes carried out interviews with Chinese and European policy makers for his forthcoming co-authored monograph into China–EU economic relations, which included discussions with the former president of the EU, José Manuel Barroso.
- George Kunnath spent several weeks in the Maoist affected areas of India investigating the functioning of and participation in elections by local people. This was part of his longer term project on people caught between the Maoists and security services in India. Supported by a grant from the Great British Sasakawa Foundation.
- Ekaterina Hertog conducted pilot research for her project on contraceptive use in Japan, presenting at a workshop at Nara Women’s University, with funding from the Wiener Anspach Foundation.
- Martin Rosenfeld and Neil Carrier undertook research for their project “Border crossing, Trade and Trust”. It explores how business exchanges take place in situations of uncertainty, when the state is missing or unable to guarantee basic institutional trust. It seeks to answer this question by following one commodity, clothing, through the supply chains bringing clothing to two African business hubs.

Recognition and Honours
Gwen Sasse became a non-resident associate at Carnegie Europe. Leigh Payne’s was recognised with an ESRC Knowledge Exchange Award for her research into human rights violations and corporate social responsibility in Latin American countries. Diego Sánchez-Ancochea and Francesca Lessa were recognised with a Knowledge Exchange Oxford award for their research on accountability for transnational crimes in South America.
The Department of International Development (ODID) is a world-leading centre for postgraduate teaching and multidisciplinary research on economic, social and political change in the developing world and the emerging economies.

Research
ODID was judged to be the leading international development department in the UK in the 2014 REF. The department ranked top in its field in terms of both the quality of its research activity and the volume of its world-leading work. ODID also made the biggest submission to the REF in international development, with 47 members of staff entered. ODID research income remained steady at around £3.6min 2014-15. The department was also awarded a number of new grants during the year, including £2min new funding for Young Lives from the DfID.

Honours and recognition
- Dawn Chatty, Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in recognition of her outstanding research.
- Oliver Owen, ESRC Future Research Leaders Fellow, was awarded an ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize, coming second in the Outstanding Early Career Impact category for research that is contributing to reform of the Nigerian Police Force.
- Two academics won teaching excellence awards: Evelyn Ersanilli, Departmental Lecturer in Migration Studies, won for her teaching on the MSc in Migration Studies; Cathryn Costello, Andrew W Mellon Associate Professor of International Human Rights and Refugee Law, won for a project to enhance teaching on International Human Rights and Refugee Law, part of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Knowledge Exchange
ODIDs work continues to have a major impact on policy. 2015 was the fifth anniversary of OPHI Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, which features in the UN Human Development Report and now covers 101 countries in the Global South. In June, OPHI issued the latest updates to the index, with six new countries added and 32 updated. OPHI Director Sabina Alkire and OPHI Research Associate James Foster were appointed to serve on the World Bank’s Commission on Global Poverty. The Commission’s mandate is to report on the best ways to measure and monitor poverty and deprivation.

The Humanitarian Innovation Project at the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) launched a major report titled ‘Refugee Innovation: Humanitarian innovation that starts with communities’. Funded by the World Humanitarian Summit, the report showcases stories of creative problem-solving and entrepreneurship among refugees. Members of the RSC have also been quoted widely in the media on Europe’s current migrant and refugee crisis.

The UN General Assembly invited the Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Xiaolan Fu, to speak at a meeting on ‘Fostering science, technology and Innovation’ in December 2014. She argued that development of technological and innovation capabilities should be a priority of the post-2015 development agenda.

Douglas Gollin, Professor of Development Economics, testified before the Parliamentary Committee on International Development in January 2015 on agricultural development and overall growth and employment creation.

Raufu Mustapha, Associate Professor of African Politics, was involved in work with the Office of the National Security Advisor in Abuja that explored radicalisation of Muslims in northern Nigeria.

Teaching
Applications to the Department continued to rise, with 985 applicants and 177 arrivals for 2014-15. 40 % of ODID students were in receipt of various scholarships and grants. The department dedicated over £600,000 to support students with funding.
The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) is an academic centre for the study of the societal implications of the Internet. Grounded in a determination to measure, understand and explain the Internet's multi-faceted interactions and effects, OII brings together some of the best international scholars within a multi-disciplinary department. Multidisciplinarity is an important part of the Institute’s academic identity. OII believes it is only possible to understand the complex interactions of the Internet and society by approaching it from many different disciplinary perspectives.

**News**

2014 has been a great year for OII. In October the Department welcomed the largest intake of MSc students ever, and expanded into the new second site at 34 St Giles to accommodate our growing numbers of faculty and students. The multidisciplinary excellence of the Department was also evidenced by our contribution to the University's strong submission to the 2014 REF. OII members were returned to nine units of assessment, namely Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Computer Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Geography, Law and Education, spanning all four University academic divisions. OII is pleased to be a contributing department to the new Alan Turing Institute, which will place the UK at the forefront of world-wide research in data science. Oxford is one of the five universities selected to lead the Institute. OII will contribute unique multi-disciplinary expertise to the Institute, bringing expertise in ethics, the understanding of human behaviour in digital settings, and the development of data science approaches for understanding the social world. Representing the Social Sciences Division, the OII will draw on the richness of expertise and excellence across the Division, and building on existing collaborations with other departments across the University.

**Research awards**

Research highlights include the awarding of a five-year European Research Council Starting Grant to Dr Vili Lehdonvirta, who will study the fundamental change taking place in labour markets. There are new projects in the smart cities field: UrbanData2Decide is a consortium of European universities and cities that explores how local government problems can be resolved with urban generated data. NEXUS is a collaborative partnership with BT, which will look at how social media data can be used to estimate and visualize movement of people and traffic around a city, to facilitate policy decisions. The Institute’s OECD commissioned report on Using and Sharing (Big) Data for Advancing Dementia Research was presented in Geneva at the WHO First Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia. OII continues to inform UK digital inclusion policy, with Dr Grant Blank helping the Government Digital Service develop new measures of digital inclusion.

**Teaching**

OII’s graduate programmes continue to be heavily over-subscribed, and are delighted to be offering part-time study for the MSc in Social Science of the Internet, having been selected as a pilot case for part-time study in the Division. The Institute hopes this will attract an even broader mix of applicants, in particular professionals working in industry and government, and policy experts looking to increase their expertise in IT policy and regulation.

The ever-popular Summer Doctoral Programme is now in its fourteenth year, and has become an established and important part of the Internet studies field, attracting the best young scholars from around the world. We have 450 alumni in the network, many of whom now hold senior academic positions.

**Events**

OII held 40 research seminars this year, joining the 500 webcasts already available for public viewing. The third “Internet, Politics and Policy” conference brought together scholars from across the world to focus on the challenges and opportunities of crowdsourcing for politics and policy. We held our first election night event, staying up into the night of May 7th to do live analysis of social data around the elections. OII’s fourth Internet Awards ceremony honoured some of the individuals who have played a pivotal role in shaping the Internet. Dame Stephanie Shirley, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Barry Wellman, Beth Noveck, Baroness Lane-Fox, and Laura Bates were added to an illustrious array of past awardees.
The Faculty of Law is one of the largest in the United Kingdom and offers students an outstanding education. Oxford has the only graduate degrees in the world that are taught in tutorials as well as in classes; and has the largest doctoral programme in Law in the English-speaking world.

News
The year began with a celebration of 50 years of the St Cross Building and the Law Bodleian library. More than 150 alumni and Faculty attended the event in October and shared memories of the building and its occupants, a successful event enjoyed by all.

Research impact
The results 2014 REF, confirmed the quality of the research carried out in Faculty which:

- attained the highest ‘Power’ rating for Law at 100; (Power rankings reflect the quantity of highly rated research)
- scored first for the quantity of impact rated 4*

Research Projects
Several research projects received funding awards this year. Research topics range from ‘future directions in EU Labour Law’, ‘the future of contract law in Latin America’ to ‘the value of mounted police forces in the UK’.

Many research centres are being created and are flourishing in the Faculty, often in partnership with colleges. The Commercial Law Centre at Harris Manchester College aims to provide an environment for high quality research in all aspects of law relating to commerce and finance and seeks to provide opportunities for researchers, legal practitioners and policy-makers from around the world to come together. Thanks to the outstanding fundraising efforts of Baroness Helena Kennedy, we are close to completing the creation of a new Institute of Human Rights in the Law Faculty to be based in a new building at Mansfield College. The Institute will facilitate collaboration between the large number of researchers in the university with interests in human rights law and will help them to disseminate their research to international audiences in law, policy and government. As part of the Faculty’s programme of extending a helping hand to the law schools of Myanmar, Professors Adrian Briggs and Andrew Burrows made working trips to the law faculties of Yangon University, as well as shorter visits to Dagon and East Yangon Universities. The primary purpose was to teach: not only to impart legal knowledge, but also to demonstrate ways of teaching which, though tried and tested in Oxford, are unknown in Myanmar.

Teaching
The Tax Group at the Faculty of Law has developed a new part-time MSc in Taxation. The programme, taught in association with the Centre for Business Taxation based at the Said Business School, will commence in September 2016.

Widening Participation and Access to Law degrees
Members of the Law Faculty have been working hard to ensure that admission is open to everyone, no matter what background an applicant may come from. The UNIQ Summer School and Pathways to Law programme is now beginning to demonstrate impressive results. The Summer School is for Sixth form students from target schools, and gives them a realistic experience of studying law at Oxford, including lectures, tutorials, and life in college. From the 80 students who attended the week long course, 63 applied to study at the University, and 17 received offers to study here in 2015.

The Pathways to Law programme gives support and encouragement to academically able students in Years 12 and 13, from non-privileged backgrounds who are interested in law. Each year the Faculty takes on a new cohort of 35 Year 12 students from the local area and supports them through their A-Levels.
Department of Politics and International Relations

The Department of Politics and International Relations (DIPR) is an internationally renowned centre of excellence for teaching and research. The study of these disciplines at Oxford has a long and distinguished history and the department is now one of the largest in the field in the UK.

Research excellence and impact
The 2014 REF results, confirm the quality of the research carried out in the department. DIPR made the second largest submission overall in Politics and International Studies, and by volume of overall 4* research (impact, environment, outputs) is the leading Unit in the discipline in the UK. In terms of 4* impact (the highest score attainable), DIPR is the leading Unit and achieved a 100% 4* research environment score.

This year has also seen the new Cyber Studies Programme start work in the department. Funded by the European Social Fund and the Estonian Government, and headed by Dr Lucas Kello, the programme will carry out research that clarifies how the expansion of cyberspace into essential functions of government and society affects core aspects of political science thinking.

Events
The department continues to host a large and diverse range of events, and organised over 50 conferences, seminars lectures and workshops over the past year. Highlights include the annual Fulbright lecture, given by former US ambassador to the Soviet Union, Ambassador Jack Matlock; the annual Cyril Foster lecture ‘Has European Integration Reached the End of the Road?’, given by Professor Loukas Tsoukalis; and a workshop on ‘How to Study Global IR’ organised by Professor Andrew Hurrell, which brought together leading specialists to debate the state of scholarship in International Relations. Podcasts from many of the department’s events are available online at www.politics.ox.ac.uk

Teaching and learning
The start of this academic year saw the launch of the new Q-Step centre. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE, the programme enables undergraduate students in the social sciences to have access to enhanced training in quantitative methods, through both lectures and hands-on data labs. As data and statistics become increasingly important, this programme will make the department’s graduates even more competitive in the job market, as well as facilitating further research and study. Q-Step teaching has since received very positive feedback from students.

Prizes and honours
Many individuals in the department have received prizes and awards over the course of the past year. Among these, Professor Ben Ansell won both the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award and the William Riker Book Award, both presented by the American Political Science Association. Professor Andrew Hurrell was awarded the Susan Strange Award by the International Studies Association, and Professor Iain McLean was given the Special Recognition Award by the Political Studies Association. Professor Desmond King was elected as an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy and as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Finally, Professor Simon Caney was appointed a Lead Author for a chapter entitled ‘New Growth or No Growth?’ in the report being produced for the International Panel on Social Progress. This chapter will attempt to provide an authoritative account of the state of play in the social sciences on the extent to which key social ideals and goals are being realised throughout the world.

For more information, visit www.politics.ox.ac.uk
The Saïd Business School continues to make progress in its mission to be a “world class business school community, embedded in a world class university, tackling world scale problems.” The activities of the year represent progress towards this objective.

Programmes and Executive Education
Following the approval by the University for a fourth stream of the MBA for 2015–16, Oxford Saïd is on course to welcome 320 students in September. This is a significant achievement as the global MBA market remains relatively flat. Oxford Saïd is extremely grateful to Mr Saïd for a generous donation towards MBA scholarships for the incoming class. This year saw the School collaborate with the World Economic Forum’s Global Shapers which offered them to opportunity to study the MBA with two dedicated scholarships being created.

Oxford Saïd’s Executive Education portfolio remains strong. For example, the School is working with Rolls Royce to deliver a custom executive development programme for the company’s top 150 managers.

Rankings
This year the School has received a lot of positive news across the various business school rankings:

- The Financial Times introduced the Top Ten MBA Programmes in the world for Entrepreneurship. The School ranked seventh in the world and first in Europe. In addition, the School ranked 10th in the world for Executive Education with Open Programmes being placed first in the UK and 10th globally.
- The Economist ranked the Executive MBA as first in the UK and second globally.
- The Guardian ranked Economics and Management, the School’s undergraduate programme, as first in the UK.

Being embedded within the University
Oxford Saïd continues to strengthen its embeddedness within the University. The Oxford 1+1 Programme, which allows students to combine an Oxford MSc with the MBA, now offers 28 partner MSc courses. Our Global Opportunities and Threats Oxford (GOTO) programme is working with the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment to develop the next module on Water Scarcity and a number of Heads of House and senior University members are tutors. We continue to build links the Humanities through our “Engaging with the Humanities” series where business students learn important leadership lessons from Humanities professors.

In addition, the activities coordinated and delivered by Oxford Entrepreneurship Centre and Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship are increasing and are open to students across the university and beyond. The Oxford Launchpad has continued to grow since it officially opened in January 2014. The Launchpad and its activities are open to students from across the University, serving those who seek to learn about entrepreneurship, get engaged in entrepreneurial activities, and for some, to launch new ventures. The latest addition is Oxford VIEW (Venture Idea Exploration Workshop), a startup workshop for students and non-students, Oxford undergraduates, graduates and alumni. The workshop, developed by a team of startup experts and university professors, provides hands-on learning, allows the exploration of entrepreneurial ideas, and accelerates the startup process.

Research
The School’s current research portfolio has many strong elements, being ranked fourth in the 2014 REF in terms of quality relative to other UK business schools.

Oxford Saïd launched the CEO Report at the World Economic Forum in January. The report, the product of a year-long global research partnership between the School and Heidrick & Struggles, revealed what CEOs need in order to lead and navigate a world of unprecedented complexity and unpredictability. The Report was widely cited in the press and is helping to develop a new executive education programme for C-Suite executives.

Estates
The School is delighted to have been allocated the Osney Power Station. This project provides the School with the opportunity to dramatically transform its delivery of executive leadership training and remains a priority for the forthcoming year.
The Department of Social Policy and Intervention (DSPI) is a multidisciplinary centre of excellence for research and teaching in social policy, the development and systematic evaluation of social interventions, and population studies.

News
The result of REF 2014 was a significant milestone for the department with an outstanding result: 79 per cent of the submission was assessed in the highest category of “world-leading” or 4* - the highest score of all Units of Assessment in the UK higher education sector. This will provide DSPI with additional financial resources to continue its growth path for the coming years.

The department thanks Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, who stepped down as Head of Department on 30 September 2015, to focus his attention more fully on research after serving the department as Head for four and a half years. Dr Rebecca Surender has taken up the Headship. During the year Surender was also appointed as Pro-Vice Chancellor (without portfolio) and the University’s first Advocate for Diversity from 1 February 2015.

Research
Members of DSPI continue to be successful in attracting externally funded research grants. Among the projects that started in 2014–15 is Dr Elaine Chase’s project entitled ‘Becoming Adult: Conceptions of futures and wellbeing among young people subject to immigration control in the UK’, funded by the ESRC. Professor Frances Gardner has been awarded two projects funded by the UBS Optimus Foundation: Providing evidence for prevention of child maltreatment through Skillful Parenting in Tanzania; and Parenting for Lifelong Help in the Philippines. Professor Lucie Cluver has started work on two projects funded by UNICEF HQ and by UNICEF Innocenti supporting her programme of work on children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

Over the past year, DSPI has developed a strong partnership with the Oxford Martin School through the Employment, Equity and Growth (EEG) Programme, directed by Professor Brian Nolan and funded by the Resolution Foundation. The EEG programme is working on economic theories, policies and institutional changes required for fairer, more inclusive growth, with a focus on creating sustainable jobs and reducing unemployment in a period of intensifying globalisation and technology change.

Knowledge Exchange
Knowledge exchange activity is an important part of our work and many staff are engaged in it. For example, Professor Mary Daly contributed a discussion paper on Child-related Financial Transfers and Early Childhood Education and Care for the UN Women’s flagship report “Progress of the World’s Women 2015–2016’. The Discussion Paper Series serves as a platform to showcase research on gender equality and women’s rights by feminist experts, with the aim of making it available to a broad audience of UN colleagues, civil society activists and policymakers. Professor Paul Montgomery was appointed to serve on the Cross-Whitehall Trial Advice Panel, a group of top academics and government representatives, who will support the design and implementation of effective trials to improve the effectiveness of government policies. Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser and his research team are actively engaged in the ESRC initiative “The UK in a Changing Europe”, which aims to improve access to high-quality research on the relationship between the UK and the European Union.

Professor Lucie Cluver won a Philip Leverhulme Prize (a £100,000 prize awarded annually to early career researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising). Dr Stuart Basten (with Professor Francesco Billari at the Department of Sociology) won an OxTALENT award celebrating innovative technology use in teaching, outreach and research for the academic blog, openpop.org, which aims to provide demographic researchers with a platform to both present their ongoing research and to respond to contemporary population issues of relevance to economic and political stakeholders.
Sociology at Oxford has a strong analytical, empirical and comparative orientation. Focus is on developing and testing theories that engage with real world problems. Particular strengths include the statistical analysis of social surveys, collection, management and analysis of complex datasets, the development of rational choice theory, micro-social experiments and simulation studies.

International rankings and REF outcome
The international reputation of Oxford Sociology remains widely recognised. We are ranked fourth in the world (and first in Europe) according to QS Rankings by Subject 2015. As in the past, the international reputation of the department is higher than the outcome of formal research assessment in the UK. Sociology was ranked fourth in the REF (by output and volume) compared to eleventh in the previous RAE, and it ranks as first if one considers research submitted to the REF and published in the top-10 journals in sociology by impact factor.

Research grants
Professor David Stuckler has been awarded a Wellcome Trust grant of £93,000 to fund a doctoral studentship in Medical Humanities/Society and Ethics; Professor Leigh Payne and Dr Gabriel Pereira have received a Knowledge Exchange Impact Acceleration Award for work on a research model to advance accountability for corporate complicity in authoritarian regimes and human rights violations; Dr Evrim Atlantis has been awarded a British Academy Rising Star grant of £13,000 to fund a Data Launch Workshop; Dr Neil Ketchley has been awarded £7,250 from the John Fell Fund for his work on Elections and Protest after the 25 January Egyptian elections; Professor Federico Varese has been awarded £2,000 on cybercrime; Professor Heather Hamill and Dr Ekaterina Hertog have been awarded, respectively, £5,000 (Trust and Healthcare in a Globalised Context) and £10,000 (comparative project on the low fertility rate in six East Asian countries) from the Returning Carers Fund; and Dr Joseph Workman has been awarded a British Academy Small Grant of £5,000 for work on State Variations in Intergenerational Educational Mobility in the United States (1901-1980).

The Department is also involved in collaborative projects with two other universities. Professor Man-Yee Kan was awarded £32,000 for a project on Research Centres in Micro-Social Change, in collaboration with the University of Essex. Professor John Ermisch is collaborating on the ESRC Life Course and Family Dynamics in a Comparative Perspective grant worth a £239,200 quota for Oxford.

Teaching
The new MPhil in Sociology and Demography is now under way and has admitted its first cohort in 2015-16.

Events
The Department continues to hold weekly seminars during term, with a wide range of internal, national and international speakers. On 2 December the seminar was given by Per Gullestrup, former CEO of the Clipper Group, who discussed the hijacking of his own ship by Somali pirates.

New appointments and career progression
Professor Richard Breen, formerly Chair of Yale’s Department of Sociology and a world-leading scholar, took up the post of Professor of Sociology in association with Nuffield College. Dr David Kirk, formerly Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Texas, Austin, was appointed to the post of Associate Professor in Sociology (Quantitative Methods) in association with Nuffield College. The post’s initial period has been funded by the Q-Step Programme sponsored by ESRC, HEFCE and the Nuffield Foundation.

Associate Professor Tak Wing Chan left the Department to take up a chair in sociology at the University of Warwick. Among the post-doctoral fellows, Dr Paolo Campana left to take up a lectureship at the University of Cambridge, and Dr Maria Sironi, who had been awarded a BA postdoctoral fellowship, left to take up a lectureship at University College London at the Institute of Education.

For more information, visit www.sociology.ox.ac.uk
The Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance is a world-leading centre for interdisciplinary research into the financial economy. We answer fundamental questions about financial markets, and develop new quantitative methods and insights with the potential to transform them. Our researchers have leading experience in fields that include mathematics, economics, computation, statistics, law, engineering and data science. Their work has shed new light on subjects that range from identifying hidden risks and uncertainties in the financial system to extracting valuable information from noisy market data-streams.

**News**
The Man Chair in Quantitative Finance has been advertised.

**Research**
The Institute continues to attract industrial funding for senior researchers with new awards from Man Group plc and from BNP Paribas for this purpose. Following an academic review, and following advice from its advisory board, The Institute is emphasising data science much more in its research programmes. The Institute has created a new pathway for ESRC research students to pursue quantitative finance. This training pathway brings together students registered in a range of departments across the social, mathematical and physical sciences, and provides them with the additional and specialist skills and research environment to carry out research on the societal dimensions of financial markets and their regulation. It works in close collaboration with the CDT structures that have been set up in the Science departments around data science; and students admitted to the pathway receive part of their funding from commercial sources.

**Events**
The Institute, along with the Mathematical Institute and the Department of Statistics, hosted the 38th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications in July, and the conference was organised under the auspices of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability. This world class programme, including two Fields Medallist speakers, welcomed over 400 speakers and delegates, from 39 countries and representing 198 institutions and organisations. The director of the Institute gave an invited lecture at the quadrennial International Congress of Mathematicians in Seoul in 2014, and received a Humboldt Research Award in October 2014.

For more information, visit [www.oxford-man.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxford-man.ox.ac.uk)
Ten years on from its foundation, the Oxford Martin School continues to strengthen its commitment to addressing pressing global issues through ground-breaking research, policy impact, and increasing public understanding of the major challenges facing humanity in the decades ahead.

Research and its impact

2015 has seen the launch of a major research partnership with Citi, which has enabled the establishment of the Oxford Martin Programme on Technology and Employment, building on widely-cited research by Dr Carl Benedikt Frey and Associate Professor Michael Osborne into the impact of automation on jobs. The School is also working with Citi to produce a series of reports analysing key challenges and trends and their impact on the global economy.

In the past year, the school has published two policy papers, Robo-Wars: The Regulation of Robotic Weapons, by Dr Alex Leveringhaus and Dr Gilles Giacca; and Short-Lived Promise: The Science and Policy of Cumulative and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, by Professor Myles Allen. These papers address critical policy gaps, and, with the support of the School, the academics involved undertake considerable work to ensure their recommendations reach policy makers, the media and the public.

The School and its members continue to collaborate with key national and international organisations and institutions, including the World Economic Forum and the Bank of England. Individually, researchers have in the past year undertaken work with the UK Government, the European Commission, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation, ensuring that their research achieves an impact beyond academia.

The work of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations continued in 2014–2015. Partnerships, expert meetings and high-level working groups are exploring the advancement of four of the Commission’s recommendations, while the Commission report, Now for the Long Term, was presented at high-profile events, including the annual Ambrosetti Forum in Italy. Productive private discussions of the Commission’s recommendations were also held with officials including the Secretary-General of the OECD, Ángel Gurría and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The School’s work continues to receive regular and widespread media coverage, with highlights including Dr Alex Leveringhaus’ op-ed in The Times on the launch of the ‘Robo-Wars’ policy paper, Professor Myles Allen and Dr Max Roser writing for The Guardian (on the Oxford Martin Safe Carbon Initiative and the Our World In Data project respectively), and in-depth coverage by The Economist and others of the work of Professor Sir Tony Atkinson, and of Carl Frey and Michael Osborne. Professor Ian Goldin, Director of the School, has been interviewed by a variety of media outlets on topics including immigration, globalisation and existential risks.

Events

The School has welcomed a number of high-profile speakers over the past year, including Dame Sally Davies, Professor Peter Piot, Lord Patten and Thomas Friedman. Our lectures, seminars and book talks have covered topics ranging from antibiotic resistance and the Ebola outbreak to the forthcoming UN climate negotiations, and in the past year have been attended by nearly 5,500 people.

Awards and honours

Awards for members of the School include a CBE for Professor Tim Palmer, the Royal Society Faraday Prize for Professor Kathy Willis, the Institute of Physics Kelvin Medal for Professor Chris Lintott, the European Investment Bank (EIB) Prize for Professor Sir Tony Atkinson, and a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award for Professor Gero Miesenböck.