Social Sciences

Annual Report 2013/14
The Annual Report this year includes the highlights of the activities of all the fourteen departments and two interdivisional centres (the Oxford-Man Institute and the Oxford Martin School) hosted by the Social Sciences Division. It is good to be able to reflect back on a very successful year.

The Division has continued to grow rapidly; in the past six years alone, it has grown in terms of those on the academic payroll by nearly 40% and in terms of financial turnover by nearly 50%. It returned 50% more individuals to Panel C (Social Sciences) in the REF than any other institution in the UK. It continues to be consistently rated among the very top social sciences communities in the world.

It is good therefore to be able to express appreciation to the outstanding contribution made by all the academics, researchers, students and support staff in the Division who have made this possible. I know that colleagues would also particularly want me to express collective thanks to Stephen Whitefield (who stepped down as Head of the Department of Politics & International Relations), Fernanda Pirie (who is stepping down as Director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies) and Vicky Nash (who served as the Acting Director of the Oxford Internet Institute); and to Lidia Lozano (Archaeology), Vicky Bancroft (Sociology), Dianne Donald (Geography & Environment) and Mary-Ann Robertson (Said Business School) who all stepped down as Heads of Administration during the past year. I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks for the fantastic support which I enjoy from the team in the Divisional Office under the leadership of the Divisional Secretary, Rachel Meyrick.

The main emphasis of my report to Council this year was on what I see as the next stage in the development of the Social Sciences Division since it was first established in 2000. Until now, the Division has operated as a collection of independent departments with devolved budgets supported by a central divisional office. This is a model which has served us extremely well. The Divisional Board has recognised, however, that the time has come for a number of reasons for the Division to develop a more integrated divisional culture. Among other things, this will allow us to tell a better story about what constitutes the distinctive nature of social sciences research and education in Oxford. This story will be increasingly important for current and potential students, staff, donors and research funders as well as our colleagues elsewhere in the University and the wider world.

Research is a good example of the need for a more joined-up strategy. Despite the growing total volume and total value of awards won by the Division in recent years, average award values have been falling (by almost 20% between 2011 and 2014) and we need a strategy to secure more large-scale, multidisciplinary awards.

In parallel with the research strategy, the report outlines our 10 year space plan, which seeks to provide better space for research and teaching, and facilitate inter-departmental and divisional working.

I am delighted that the Division has been able to make several key appointments in the past few months who will take forward this agenda of integrating our teaching, research, development and communication strategies: Associate Heads of Division for Education (Professor Margaret Stevens) and Research (Professor Sarah Whatmore) and Interim Heads of Development (Caroline Underwood) and Communications (Cécile Jenkins). I look forward to working very closely with them all and reporting back in the Divisional Annual Report on the progress that has been made in all these areas next year.

I would welcome any feedback that you have on the report. Please do contact me on roger.goodman@socsci.ox.ac.uk.

Roger Goodman, Head of Division
September 2014
“We are greater than the sum of our parts”

The Division is committed to developing a joined up strategy which will allow it to become (even) more successful than the sum of its parts. This is particularly important for ensuring growth in development and research funding.

Research strategy and communications
Throughout the year, the need for a new research strategy in social sciences became apparent. In many respects our approach to supporting research has been highly successful, with for example both the volume of research applications (up 4% in 2013/14) and the volume of research awards (up 22% in 2013/14) continuing to rise. We also have seen a high success rate in securing individual fellowship funding (19 from ESRC, British Academy and Leverhulme in 2013/14), and one of our key strengths is that our funding profile is diverse.

But despite the growing total volume and total value of awards, average award values are falling – we need a strategy to secure more large-scale, multidisciplinary awards.

We believe that this will involve:
• Working across departments by identifying – and investing resources in – divisional research themes. Some examples mooted in a recent exercise included: sustainability, capital, uncertainty, choice, trust;
• Working more closely with other Divisions: current successful examples include water, energy, food;
• Collaborating with other HE institutions (eg currently the Open University, University of Reading and Oxford Brookes, in the area of knowledge exchange);
• Developing knowledge exchange partnerships with research users beyond academia;
• Consolidating our physical estate which will allow departments to work more closely both within and beyond the Division;
• Finally, communicating better the excellence and impact of Oxford social sciences.

In 2014/15 we will put in place an agreed strategy for research across the Division (to support and complement the diverse range of activity that is already underway), supported by a well-developed, targeted communications strategy.
Our Priorities and Challenges

For 2014/15, the Division has identified the following priorities and challenges:

The Saïd Business School will be recruiting to a fourth stream of MBA students and the Blavatnik School of Government is preparing for a full MPP (Master of Public Policy) cohort.

We need to continue to build on recent knowledge exchange and research impact successes.

We need to continue to grow the development function of the Division (where a small number of very large gifts in past decade masks a relatively modest underlying success rate) to ensure we are maximising our financial support in line with our continuing growth.

We will commence the process of seeking Gender Chartermark recognition.

We will be bidding for renewal of the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre which, with College support, offers 75 studentships a year. This is about 10% of the total number of ESRC studentships nationwide.

Student number planning and the need to continue to innovate/develop teaching is more important than ever, and we will need to secure more graduate funding to ensure that more top-pick students are converted into enrolments and are not lost to other institutions.

Across the Collegiate University, there is an unrivalled scale of post-doctoral fellowship opportunities in the social sciences. A portal for advertising departmental and college posts will help us to attract the best candidates.

We will need to continue to address the financial pressures of the current funding climate both at university level and beyond.

We will be putting in place structures to support the expansion of executive education programmes across the Division.

And finally, we will be developing an effective communications strategy to articulate the strength and distinctive characteristics of social sciences at Oxford and which will show how all of these projects fit together and why none of them can be allowed to fail.
The Division has developed a space plan for the next 10 years which is sustainable, cost effective and supports the development of our teaching and research strategies for not only our departments to work better together but also to improve interdivisional working, especially with the Maths, Physical and Life Sciences Division (MPLS).

**Science Area**

Consolidation of Anthropology (currently in 7 buildings), Sociology and Social Policy & Intervention
Consolidation of Archaeology lab (currently in 3 buildings)
Growth room for School of Geography & the Environment
Research space for International Development
Adjacencies with MPLS departments

**Manor Road/St Cross**

Consolidation of one Law research centre based in Manor Road Building with Faculty of Law in St Cross Building, improvements to Bodleian Law Library, urgent space for Economics in Manor Road Building
The University is considering the possibility of moving English to the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, which would enable full consolidation of Law in St Cross Building, and growth room for Economics and Politics & International Relations in Manor Road Building
The 21st century poses enormous challenges for society – issues such as environmental change, poverty, economic turmoil, inequality, marginalisation, ageing and social development are at the heart of the social sciences. Here at Oxford, we provide the knowledge base and inspiration for new policies that promote resilience, sustainability and social change, and preserve human diversity and culture. Oxford trained economists, sociologists, lawyers and political scientists hold office in governments, non-governmental organisations and businesses worldwide. Policy-makers frequently engage with Oxford researchers through seminars, commissioned research and advisory groups. The world’s news media regularly turn to Oxford for authoritative comment on issues of the day.

In 2013/14, the Social Sciences Development team moved from the central offices to the Divisional Office, marking a renewed emphasis on fundraising within the Division. 2014/15 will see the creation of a new Case for Support for the Social Sciences at Oxford, putting us in an even better position to support our researchers, academics, students and capital projects.
According to the News and Information Office’s media monitoring database, the Social Sciences Division secured 1,367 items of international, national and regional media coverage in the six months to 28 February 2014. Of these, 145 items were printed or broadcast in media outlets which reach more than one million people.

The Division’s largest audience was via the national UK media, accounting for 42% of all coverage. Overseas national media (eg New York Times, Times of India) were responsible for just under a quarter of all coverage. Multi-country outlets, such as Reuters, Bloomberg or BBC Worldwide, had a smaller share of the total, but this still amounted to 111 items (and it must be noted that much of the international coverage is much more difficult to capture). This snapshot of media coverage shows that a lot of the Division’s media attention comes through expert comment, usually on topical issues, accounting for 626 items of coverage.

There were 612 news items about the Division’s research activities; and 139 news items about the Division’s teaching, buildings, appointments and alumni. For example, there was coverage of the position of the Saïd Business School in the global MBA market, and local and national coverage of the launch of the Oxford Education Deanery.

Just over half of the Division’s coverage during this period was in newspapers or their related websites. Online-only news sites were the next largest outlet type, with 262 references to the departments’ activities. Our media-monitoring system picked up 47 television appearances; however, this figure probably under-reports the true extent of broadcast interviews undertaken by Oxford University’s social scientists.

Our news can be found online at www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events
One of our communications strategy objectives focuses on internal communications. Are all our researchers aware of the funding opportunities available to them? Is there a way of finding out who else is working on your research topic? Whom do you contact in the Divisional Office on specific topics and how does the activity of the Division complement what happens in departments? How can the Division contact departmental colleagues most effectively without generating information overload?

These are some of the questions that we plan to address, through consultation with departments.
News
During 2014, COMPAS (the Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society) celebrated its 10th anniversary. In addition to the conference A Decade of Migration, COMPAS also produced three series of publications within this theme: Migration: A COMPAS Anthology; The COMPAS Approach; The Migration Observatory and the Decade of Migration.

In July, Human Sciences hosted its first UNIQ Summer School. Sixteen state-school pupils in their first year of further education spent a week having a taste of a variety of the disciplines which make up Human Sciences. Professor Marcus Banks provided an introduction to Anthropology and Dr Iain Morley gave the students an insight into Human Evolution whilst Dr Piers Nye covered Physiology and Dr Amanda Palmer introduced them to Sociology.

Lectures and Events
The Marett Memorial Lecture 2014 was delivered by Professor Birgit Meyer (Utrecht University), and Dr Philippa Steele (University of Cambridge) presented the Evans–Pritchard Lectures series for 2014 on ‘Society and writing in ancient Cyprus’. In February 2014, as a celebration of the School’s achievements, a Book Launch was held at the Pauling Centre, during which authors and editors of six publications talked about their research and inspiration.

Awards and honours
Late 2013, Mette Berg (ISCA and COMPAS) received a Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for her innovative and unique contributions towards teaching, particularly on the Migration Studies degree with the introduction of a migration fiction reading list, a fortnightly migration documentary film series, and a 3-day fieldtrip to Istanbul, all aimed at deepening and enriching students’ understanding of migration as a human experience.

People
2013 saw the retirement of Professor David Coleman. David has made a huge contribution to the Human Sciences degree over many years. In addition to providing the majority of the Demography teaching for the course, he has been Chair of the Institute and Chair of Examiners for the Final Honour School of Human Sciences.

Sadly, Mike Morris, our Tylor Librarian, passed away in July this year. Mike, who had served the University for the past 24 years, started at the Philosophy Library and later joined the School of Anthropology as the Tylor Librarian. More recently he published his Concise Dictionary of Social and Cultural Anthropology. He will be sorely missed.

Research projects
The Migration Observatory secured additional core funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£1.20k) and Paul Hamlyn Foundation (£145k) to continue providing impartial, independent, authoritative, evidence-based analysis of data on migration and migrants in the UK. Early in 2014, Clare Harris was granted a Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust to work on ‘At Home in the Himalayas: Rethinking Photography in the Hill Stations of British India’. Xiang Biao (‘The Intermediary Trap: International Labour Recruitment and Transnational Governance in East Asia’) and Emma Cohen (‘Synchrony and similarity in human social bonding’) were awarded British Academy mid-career fellowships and Laura Peers won a Social Sciences Knowledge Exchange grant for the Great Box Project ‘Learning from the Masters’. David Gellner and Krishna Adhikari received an ESRC research grant in 2013 for ‘Caste, Class, and Culture: Changing Bahun and Dalit Identities in Nepal’ and Ramon Sarró received a HERA research grant for ‘Currents of faith, places of history: religious diasporas, connections, moral circumscriptions and world-making in the Atlantic space’. In 2013, Andy Gosler was awarded a £600k grant by the AHRC to develop the Ethno-ornithology World Archive in collaboration with Birdlife International, Lynx Edicions and the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) at SOAS.

ICEA’s core funding comes from an ESRC grant for the ‘Ritual, Community, and Conflict Project’ directed by Professor Whitehouse. Partly due to the success of initiatives that cross-cut ESRC project objectives, Professor Whitehouse leveraged another £1m from the Templeton Foundation for a 3-year project designed to extend and build upon the ESRC project by funding a more extensive programme of cross-cultural comparative research focusing on ritual, within-group cohesion, and between-group competition. Other recipients of awards are:

- Jonathan Jong and Matthias Bluemke (the Marsden Fund, Royal Society of New Zealand);
- Harvey Whitehouse (John Fell Fund award);
- Emma Cohen (John Fell Fund pump-prime award); and
- Laura Fortunato (National Science Foundation).
News

In 2013, Oxford acquired the Aerial Photographic Archive of the Ancient Middle East (APAAEM), through the kindness of Professor David Kennedy, its Director, in advance of his retirement from the University of Western Australia.

The Archive consists of over 60,000 aerial photographs of archaeological sites in the Middle East, with a particular concentration on Jordan where there is an ongoing aerial archaeology flying programme. Professor Kennedy has moved to Oxford as a Visiting Research Associate.

Funding for the archive and its flying programme is secured from the Packard Humanities Institute until the end of 2014, and the School has just been awarded £1.2m by the Arcadia Foundation to enable it 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.

A particularly exciting development is the revival of the Henry Wellcome Ancient Biomolecules Centre which from 2001 until its closure in 2006 put Oxford at the leading edge of ancient DNA studies (aDNA).

Recent advances in high-throughput DNA sequencing have ushered in a new era for ancient DNA studies, and it is now feasible to generate information from much larger numbers of archaeological samples, giving information of real archaeological and biological significance.

The time is ripe to re-equip this world-class facility to put Oxford once again at the forefront of this burgeoning field of research. The School has secured funding for £110k, half the capital cost of recommissioning the centre, from the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund, and a further £50k from the John Fell Fund, and it has appointed Dr Greger Larson, a leading aDNA specialist, to head the Centre which has re-opened in October 2014.

Research projects

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 and many other countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Greece, Turkey, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India. This year, the School received £727k in external grant funding, from a variety of funding bodies including the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, NERC, AHRC, Wellcome Trust, National Geographic Society, the Hilti Foundation and the European Research Council.

New grant-funded projects that started this year included:

- Dr Toby Martin (British Academy Postdoctoral Scholarship, £235k);
- Professor Tom Higham (Leverhulme Trust, £171k); ERC grant (£2.49m).
- Professor Christopher Ramsey (NERC, £87k);
- Professor Chris Gosden (Leverhulme Trust, £49k);
- Dr Rick Schulting (British Academy, £10k).

Teaching

The School’s postgraduate community, one of the largest in archaeology worldwide, continues to thrive; it organises 14 different research seminar series across the course of the year, and the Graduate Archaeology Oxford group organised their annual conference in March 2014 on Interdisciplinarity in Archaeology.

Overall numbers of graduate applications remain encouraging, but although the School continues to have considerable success with graduate funding awards (some 14 this year), increasing the number of scholarships for our best graduate students remains a high priority.

Finance

The School’s forecast income in 2013/2014 is £4.3m (Institute £2.1m; RLAHA £2.2m), with the main sources of income being graduate fees and research grant overheads, and, in the case of RLAHA, trading income from services.

People

The School has reached agreement with the Faculties of History and Classics to joint-fund an Associate Professorship in Byzantine Archaeology, to be appointed from October 2014, and has secured funding from the Peter Moores Foundation to endow just over half the costs of an Associate Professorship in Chinese Archaeology, to be appointed from October 2015. This will establish a permanent post in Chinese Archaeology, enabling the School to continue to offer teaching in this growing area.

The following joined the Institute of Archaeology this academic year:
- Dr Lambros Malafouris (Johnson Research and Teaching Fellow in Creativity, Cognition and Material Culture) and Dr Toby Martin (BAPDF). Dr Christopher Stimpson and Dr Tom White joined the Palaeodeserts project, based at the RLAHA.

Recently published in ‘Nature’ Neanderthals ‘overlapped’ with modern humans for up to 5,400 years. Professor Tom Higham explains...
News
The Blavatnik School of Government’s second year of teaching brought 64 students from 39 countries and territories to Oxford. For next year, the School received its largest number of applications ever, and anticipates a cohort of over 70 students from 50 countries.

There are three elements of progress to highlight:

• The success of efforts to pioneer ways to identify and recruit outstanding individuals with the energy, determination and integrity to make a difference. Successful applicants have made huge efforts to win scholarships and secure financial support to take up their places with the School. Their achievements, combined with the School’s own efforts to secure student funding, mean that 80% of our incoming students will be fully funded this year.

• The swift uplift of the School’s research programmes. The faculty is small but growing, and they have already won research funding from a variety of foundations and research councils. Doctoral programmes attracted nearly 100 superb applications, from which five outstanding candidates have been chosen.

• The expansion and deepening of collaborative relationships with outstanding institutions from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The School has established strong links with over 50 organisations internationally as summer project hosts, conference and short course partners, and through other engagement initiatives.

"As we look ahead to the future, and all the exciting changes that are yet to come, we are pleased to share with you this overview of our objectives and achievements over the past year."

Ngaire Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government

Teaching

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY
The School’s first class of 38 students from 19 countries and territories arrived in September 2012; its second class will be graduating later this year.

In 2015, when the School moves into its new, dedicated building, it expects to recruit a global cohort of 120 MPP students per year. The third MPP application cycle is now complete and demonstrates a steady trend of attracting more and better-qualified applicants with expanding country coverage. The School has now launched an alumni and career development programme that is providing opportunities to engage and support its graduates for the longer term.

DPhil of Public Policy
Applications for the DPhil in Public Policy opened in September 2013 and closed this August. The School had all five offers for a place accepted. The five successful candidates come from five different regions of the world: North America, Latin America, Middle East, Europe and Asia. They will be studying a range of public policy challenges, including: the costs of war, natural resource management, digital governance, citizen trust and global financial regulation.

Two DPhil students have been awarded the highly prestigious and competitive Clarendon Scholarships (awarded to academically excellent students with the best proven and future potential).

SHORT COURSES
The School’s first short course was organised in collaboration with the Revenue Watch Institute – Natural Resource Charter (now known as the Natural Resource Governance Institute) in September 2013. It attracted twenty participants from nine countries and received excellent feedback. The School is currently preparing to deliver its second short course in natural resource management for invited senior practitioners. The School aims to continue to develop courses as a way to support senior practitioners. The courses will allow the School to connect with different partners, reach new audiences, enhance the School’s reputation and generate income.

Research and impact

The School now has 19 academics who are building a track record of publications and achievements in a variety of research areas. Its research has been influential in key government debates (for example Professor Paul Collier’s work on the G20 agenda), and informed the development of policy memos and events (such as a conference convened by Professor Clare Leaver on improving education outcomes).

Events
The School has hosted over 75 external speakers during the academic year 2013/2014, including a current Head of State, a Vice-President, Government Ministers, the School’s Distinguished Practitioners, Visiting Professors and other supporters of the School.

Finance
The Blavatnik School of Government was founded at the University of Oxford with a £75m donation from Len Blavatnik. In the financial management of the School, its goal is to ensure long-term sustainability through building an endowment, attracting multi-year gifts and diversifying sources of income generation. It aims to ensure value for money in every aspect of its work and exercise vigilance on costs in all transactions.

The Blavatnik Gift has been crucial to the School’s development and it has worked to ensure its long-term preservation by reducing its dependency on the Gift as a main source of income for its operational costs.

In 2011/12, the Gift contributed to 96% of its operating budget; in 2013/14, it comprised 18% of the budget. Over the past two years, the School has started to generate more income from different sources, including programme and course fees, research grants, and other gifts and donations.
Research Projects and Impact

In 2014, a three-year programme of research on Urbanisation in Developing Countries was announced. The project will be carried out by the LSE and Oxford’s Paul Collier (Blavatnik School of Government) and Tony Venables (Economics) and is supported by a $5m grant from the World Bank.

In 2013, the Bank of England implemented a new version of Professor Paul Klemperer’s “Product Mix Auction”. Paul designed and helped implement the original auction in response to a request from the then-Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, at the beginning of the financial crisis. He, together with Dr Elizabeth Baldwin, advised on the implementation of the new version of the auction.

Later that year, Professor Vincent Crawford was awarded a European Research Council Advanced Grant for his research project: “Behavioural Economics and Strategic Decision Making: Theory, Empirics, and Experiments”.

Lectures and Events

In Trinity Term 2014, Professor Paul Krugman (Princeton University) joined the Department of Economics as the Sanjaya Lall Visiting Professor. During his visit, Paul Krugman gave a number of lectures and seminars to students and members of the department, and joined a panel discussions with Lord Adair Turner and Lord Robert Skidelsky on the current state of the global economy.

More than 400 delegates attended this year’s Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of African Economies in March 2014, and more than 200 papers were presented. This included a large number of delegates from Africa, who comprised a fifth of regular attendees and more than a quarter of participants in our plenary sessions. The conference keynote speaker was Leonard Wantchekon; the department also hosted plenary sessions on mobile technologies in Africa (featuring William Jack, Isaac Mbiti and Ignacio Mas) and on state capacity (with Tim Besley, Stefan Dercon and Kieran Holmes).

Honours and Awards

Professor Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and Co-Director, Centre for the Study of African Economies, was knighted in the New Year’s honours for services to promoting research and policy change in Africa.

Professor Sir David Hendry received the ESRC Celebrating Impact Lifetime Achievement Award in June 2014. Over five decades Sir David Hendry has developed macroeconomic models capturing how economies work, which are now embedded in software widely used by policymakers and decision-makers.

Dr Debopam Bhattacharya was elected a Fellow of the Journal of Econometrics; Professor Tony Venables to the Council of the British Academy, and Sir David Hendry has been selected as a 2013 Thomson Reuters Citation Laureate for contributions to the field of economics. Earlier in 2013, he was also appointed Honorary Doctor of Aarhus University, after collaborating with Aarhus University for a number of years.

And also in 2013, Professor Venables was appointed a Trustee of the Centre for Economic Policy Research. The Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) was founded to enhance the quality of economic policy-making within Europe and beyond, by fostering high quality, policy-relevant economic research, and disseminating it widely to decision-makers in the public and private sectors.

And finally, five young Oxford economists were selected to attend the 5th Lindau Meeting of the Winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in August 2014:

• Abi Adams
• Silja Baller
• Sam Wills
• James Wisson
• Charles Gottlieb

This meeting includes the participation of approximately 20 Nobel Laureates and 450 young economists, who had the opportunity to exchange ideas.

For more information, visit www.economics.ox.ac.uk
News
The Oxford Education Deanery was launched in November 2013 at an event held in the Department of Education at Norham Gardens. This important new development in creating a research-based professional learning community for the wider University and schools in Oxford was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton, and by the Chief Executive of the National College for Teaching and Leadership, Charlie Taylor, among others. The model of knowledge exchange on which the Deanery is based has been attracting much attention nationally and internationally.

Research
The department is actively diversifying its sources of research income in response to the current funding constraints. To date the number of grant applications has remained constant despite the funding climate, as has the success rate.

Teaching
This year the department introduced a new part-time low-residence course (Masters in Teacher Education) which will be delivered by a cutting edge online pedagogy. The course was conceived firstly as a means of widening participation – enabling teachers and teacher educators to access Teacher Education theory and research evidence whilst still in employment, – and secondly to diversify and internationalise our Teacher Education offer alongside our highly successful and acclaimed national PGCE course.

For more information, visit www.education.ox.ac.uk
**Awards and Honours**

Several of the School’s staff members were honoured this year. Professor Sarah Whatmore was one of 42 UK academics elected Fellow of the British Academy in recognition of their outstanding research. Dr Johanna Waters was awarded 2014 BERA Brian Simon Fellowship.

Climatecare received a Queen’s Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development for outstanding contributions to poverty alleviation and tackling climate change. Climatecare was established by ECI alumnus Mike Mason in 1997. The award is the UK’s highest accolade for business success.

**Research Projects**

The School was awarded more than 30 up-to-£100k project awards this year with a total value of more than £1m. In addition, the Environmental Change Institute’s Professor Jim Hall and Dr Nick Eyre collectively received just under £3m, with the majority being for Professor Hall’s Marius project: Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of Droughts and Water Scarcity, funded by NERC.

Professor Heather Viles received a EC Marie Curie Fellowship and Dr Joe Gerlach and Dr Maan Barua both received British Academic post-doctoral fellowships.

Professor Yadvinder Malhi was awarded over £200k by DEFRA and Unicef awarded Dr Rob Hope more than £200k for his Africa Rural Water Sustainability project.

In 2014, press coverage focused on the extreme levels of rainfall, in Oxfordshire and beyond, and news items included coverage of the UK Flooding experiment that assessed the effects of global warming, which found a small but statistically significant increase in the probability of extremely wet winters in southern England.

The department also received an EPSRC Doctoral Training Centre award, through the leadership of Professor Heather Viles.

And in February 2014, the School announced the launch of a £2m, three-year multi-disciplinary research project, which will provide new insights to minimise and manage the harmful impacts of droughts and water scarcity in the UK.

More news can be found online at www.geog.ox.ac.uk/news
Dickson Poon China Centre Building opened

The Duke of Cambridge formally opened the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building in the grounds of St Hugh’s College. The University of Oxford has been regarded as Europe's leading centre for the study of China for some time. The Centre now has a dedicated building bringing its academics with an interest in China under the same roof.

The Duke officially opened the China Centre building by jointing others in a traditional Chinese ribbon-cutting ceremony in its courtyard garden. He said: 'The China Centre is an enormous achievement. It stands on the foundations of many centuries of learning in the University of Oxford about China, and it marks a significant leap forward. The strength and creativity of the partnership between the University and St Hugh's provides a solid foundation for the creation of what has the potential to become the foremost place of study about China in the world.'

He added: ‘Learning from and learning about China has never been more important than it is now. China is one of the world's oldest civilisations. Its long history, customs and artistic and technological ingenuity have endured as a source of fascination and wonder in the world.’

The new building has floor space of nearly 5,500 square metres (excluding the Chinese central courtyard and garden) over five floors. Its dedicated library and a reading room will provide a permanent home for 60,000 volumes and a significant part of the Bodleian Libraries' Chinese book collection. It also features a 100-seater lecture theatre; a dining room, study areas, a state-of-the-art language laboratory; and a green, ecologically efficient roof terrace. There are 63 study/bedrooms for students of St Hugh's College in the same building, as well as a range of conference and seminar facilities.

Since July this year, the Contemporary China Studies staff have been housed in this brand-new, state-of-the-art building.

Research

Rachel Murphy was awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship, which commenced 1 September 2013, to write a monograph 'The Children of China's Great Migration and Urbanisation'.

Kate Sullivan was awarded a Teaching Excellence Award which allowed her to recruit native Hindi speakers to engage students studying Hindi in a series of role-play situations.

Anna Lora-Wainwright was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize in Geography 'to recognise and facilitate the work of outstanding young research scholars of proven achievement, who have made and are continuing to make original and significant contributions to knowledge in [their] discipline'.

Paul Chaisty, Nic Cheeseman and Timothy Power won a prize – the Comparative Area Studies (CAS) Award – for the global comparison of presidential systems from the GIGA (German Institute of Global and Area Studies)

Awards and Research Projects

The Area Studies Green Impact Team (Susannah Bartholomew, Polly Bunce and Alexia Lewis) received a Bronze Award from the Vice-Chancellor in June for raising awareness of environmental issues, by promoting recycling, reducing energy and water consumption, using sustainable products and reducing the School’s carbon footprint.

Diego Sanchez-Ancochea was appointed co-editor of the ‘Journal of Latin American Studies’.

Kate Sullivan convened a conference titled ‘Towards an international society of the future: world perspectives on India’s global role’ that brought together members of the School with an interesting comparative topic.

In the 2013/14 year, William Beinart, Roy Allison and Derek Penslar started projects funded by the Fell budget; Clarinda Still started work on projects funded by the ERC and the ESRC titled ‘An anthropological investigation of muscular politics in South Asia’, ‘An Ethnographic investigation into the persistence of poverty amongst Adivasis and Dalits’ and ‘The underbelly of the Indian Boom: Adivasis and Dalits’; Monique Chu started work on a project funded by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation titled ‘China’s Sovereignty Challenges: Cases of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Tibet’; Gwen Sasse started work on her Leverhulme funded project titled ‘Political remittances: understanding the political impacts of migration’; Rachel Murphy started work on her BA funded project 'The children of China's great migration and urbanisation'; Jonny Steinberg started work on his BA/Leverhulme funded project titled 'Political transition and life history'; Anna Lora-Wainwright started work funded by her Philip Leverhulme Prize; and Julie Archambault started work funded by the Leverhulme Foundation on a project titled ‘A concrete future: building dreams in peri-urban Mozambique’.

Projects that are due to begin soon include Fell funded projects led by Ekaterina Hertog and Neil Carrier, and a Sasakawa Peace Foundation project led by Philip Robins.

News

For more information, visit www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk
Research projects

ODID has continued its success in securing research funding from a wide range of sources this year with the total for 2013/14 increasing year on year to £4.86m. This included:

- £412k for a new project at the International Migration Institute (IMI) on Political Remittances, Migration, Social Transformation and Revolution as part of the EC FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network
- £360k in funding for the work being carried out at ODID as part of Phase II of the International Growth Centre
- £357k from Norface for another new IMI project on European Welfare States in Times of Mobility
- £160k from Irish Aid and £286k from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support the continuing work of Young Lives
- £270k in two donations towards the work of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

In addition, ODID Junior Research Fellows Indrajit Roy and Oliver Owen both won ESRC Future Research Leaders Awards totalling around £340k for research on the Migration of Ideas, Identities and Practices and Tax Reform in Nigeria respectively.

Admissions and Scholarship

Applications to the department remained strong, with nearly 900 applicants for 151 places for 2013/14 entry. Scholarships were awarded to around a third of those who won places; in total the department supported students with over £500k in funding for various purposes.

Events and Lectures

A number of high-profile events were organised by the department during the year:

The department held an international “Symposium on the Interface of Academic Research and State Policy in Developing Countries and Emerging Economies” on 9 December. Speakers included policy-makers and academics from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the event featured a wide-ranging discussion about the most effective routes to impact for academic research.

Nobel Laureate Professor Paul Krugman gave a lecture entitled “Stagnation: The New Normal” on 3 June. The event was co-organised by ODID and the Economics department.

IMI hosted the “7th International Conference on Migration and Development” on 30 June–1 July. The conference investigated ways in which international migration affects economic and social changes in developing countries.

Young Lives hosted a conference on “Inequalities in Children’s Outcomes” on 8–9 July. It brought together researchers from other longitudinal studies and child-focused policy-makers.

The RSC held a two-day conference on “Refugee Voices” in March 2014, bringing together scholars from across the social sciences and researchers in cultural studies, literature and the humanities.

For more information, visit www.qeh.ox.ac.uk
This has been another great year for the Oxford Internet Institute. It has continued its programme of growth, expanding its range of disciplines with the psychologist Dr Andy Przybylski and the philosopher Professor Luciano Floridi.

As well as growth, maturity as a department was evidenced by the award of the title of Professor to Ian Brown and the title of Associate Professor to three of its Senior Research Fellows. As the Institute bids a sad farewell to Professor Bill Dutton, the founding Director of the OII, it looks forward to the appointment of his Chair in Internet Studies.

OII has also had a great year for policy impact, establishing the need for multi-disciplinary expertise to understand the digital world, in government and policy-making, both in the UK and beyond.

As a member of the Digital Advisory Board overseeing the Government Digital Service, Professor Margetts has consolidated OII relationships with UK government, particularly the Cabinet Office and Department of Work and Pensions as the growing need for data science expertise and education becomes widely recognised across government. Internationally, OII faculty have held meetings and events with high level policy-makers from the US, Japan, Columbia, Mexico and at the EU level in Brussels.

Professor Floridi and Professor Mayer Schoenberger have been hugely in demand by policy-makers and media alike, over the recent European Court of Justice ruling on the Right to be Forgotten, with Floridi appointed to Google’s Advisory Committee on the Right to be Forgotten. The Institute expects these kind of relationships to proliferate and strengthen as the regulatory and ethical complexity of society’s dependence on the Internet becomes ever more evident.

The OII was awarded £1.63m across 20 new grants during 2013/14. With several projects being successfully completed during the year, the total number of current funded research projects is now 34. 42 applications were submitted during 2013/14, more than three times the number submitted in the previous year.

Projects in the area of big data recently awarded include:

- The Ethics of Biomedical Big Data (John Fell Fund) – Professor Luciano Floridi £62k
- Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities (Arts and Humanities Research Council) Professor Eric Meyer and Professor Ralph Schroeder £142k
- Urban Data2Decide: Integrated Data Visualisation and Decision Making Solutions to Forecast and Manage Complex Urban Challenges (EC/ESRC) Dr Jonathan Bright and Dr Stefano De Sabbata £126k
- Developing models and metrics for conceptualising interaction and learning in MOOCs (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) Professor Rebecca Eynon £15k

Teaching

Teaching at the OII grew from strength to strength during the 2013/14 academic year. It is beginning to see the impact of the DPhil Programme Director especially in relation to DPhil submission rates.

On the admissions front, 2013/14 has proved to be another strong year, with the quality of applicants rising yet further, as borne out by the impressive array of external scholarships awarded to incoming students.

Events and Lectures

This year has seen the OII profile enhanced through significant international engagements by the Director. In January Professor Helen Margetts was a constituent at the World Economic Forum (WEF) as part of the Ideas lab coordinated by Professor Ian Goldin when she spoke on Taking Collective Action in an Online Society. As a result of attending this meeting she was invited to contribute to the WEF Forum Academy and will also attend the Global Agenda Council in Dubai.

Professor Margetts also spoke at the North Oxford Alumni Weekend in New York in April when she made useful contacts facilitated by the North American Office. It is hoped that later in the year or possibly next year a visit to potential industry partners in the US can be arranged.

The Director has also engaged with Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) initiatives extending our profile in Japan and in South America. In February she was part of a group visit organised through the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills at the UK Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. Along with her Japanese-speaking research assistant she spoke at meetings with Japanese industrialists and academics in the Embassy and also on site visits.

Significant speakers have been attracted to the OII during the past academic year to two prestigious series. The Internet and politics series instituted by Dr Victoria Nash was extremely well attended and short webcast interviews gave an insight of the lectures which were held under the Chatham House rule. Significant among the speakers were Marietje Schaake MEP, Alec Ross, former Senior Advisor for Innovation in the Office of the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and science fiction novelist and co-editor of weblog Boing Boing, Cory Doctorow.

A new study suggests video game-playing for less than an hour a day is linked with better-adjusted children and teenagers.
News

This year, the Faculty appointed two of the world's leading figures in corporate and commercial law to the Allen & Overy Professorship of Corporate Law (Luca Enriques) and the new Freshfields Professorship of Commercial Law (Horst Eidenmüller). Human Rights is also a growth area, with major developments in the Oxford Human Rights Hub. It is also collaborating with the Principal of Mansfield College on plans for a prospective Oxford Institute of Human Rights.

The Faculty have begun a significant programme of support of teaching, research, and library facilities for the University of Yangon Law Department, with support from the Law Bodleian, the central University, and a US$100k donation.

It has also begun developing links between Oxford Law and Africa, aiming to build the same strength of engagement in common law countries of Africa that it has in India and Australia; it is also in the concrete stages of negotiation and fundraising for student exchanges with China. This summer, the Faculty agreed to support the development of a new Centre for the Common Law at Renmin University, Beijing, in cooperation with the Great Britain China Centre.

Widening Participation and Access

The Faculty’s efforts to widen participation are long-standing but have tended to be focused on ‘input’, namely ensuring that those with the qualifications and capabilities to thrive on its degree programmes aspire to do so. Those efforts continue unabated and take their most obvious form in the UNIQ and Pathways to Law initiatives, but so much more is done by individual members of the Faculty and, of course, the Colleges.

Broader concerns about social mobility now see the Faculty increasingly looking in the direction of ‘output’, by working with employers to maximise opportunities in, and preparedness for, a career in the legal professions after leaving Oxford. In this regard, the Faculty is particularly delighted that it can report on the first Freshfields Stephen Lawrence Scholar, Bertrand Nzabandora. The Faculty is very grateful for the continued support from law firms, chambers and individual alumni which enables it to undertake the work which you can read about here and in the latest edition of Law News.

Honours

John Gardner, Professor of Jurisprudence and a Fellow of University College, has been made a Fellow of the British Academy.

Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC, FRSA has been made an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy, and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Andrew Burrows, Senior Research Fellow of All Soul’s College, was elected Vice-President Elect at the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) conference in Edinburgh in September 2013. Andrew will become Vice-President in 2014/15, and President in 2015/16, during which time the annual SLS conference will be held 6–9 September 2016 at St Catherine’s College, Oxford.

Dr James Goudkamp has been appointed as an Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple.

For other Honours, including the New Year’s Honours, please see the latest edition of Law News.
Introducing the Oxford Q-Step Centre
The Department of Politics and International Relations, in close cooperation with the Department of Sociology, was awarded generous funding from the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE to launch the Oxford Q-Step Centre (OQC). Oxford is one of 15 universities to be selected nationally to host Q-Step, a £19.5m programme designed to promote a step change in quantitative social science training. The programme will enable undergraduates across the social sciences to have access to enhanced training in quantitative methods, through lectures and data labs.

As data become increasingly available, the need for graduates who are able to make sense of them increases too. A thorough understanding of statistics makes the department’s graduates even more competitive in the job market. The private sector, civil service, non-governmental organisations, media, polling institutes, and many others demand graduates with statistical knowledge.

To train the department’s students better, new options in quantitative training will be made available to undergraduates taking the PPE or History and Politics courses. Hands-on data labs will become a core element of the new teaching programme, allowing students the opportunity to work with datasets within the context of their disciplines. The skills training provided through OQC will be shared widely, with the University of Oxford hosting summer schools in quantitative methods for undergraduates from other UK universities. Oxford academics will also develop open access online teaching materials about quantitative methods for wider audiences.

Expertise and resources will be shared across the higher education sector through an accompanying support programme, which will also forge links with schools and employers. Students who go on work placements to develop their quantitative methods will be able to apply for bursaries through the programme.

Events and Lectures
The department hosted and organised over 50 conferences, workshops and seminars covering a number of research interests varying from ‘Opposition Rights and Majority Rule in European Democracies’, ‘Serbia/Kosovo: The Brussels Agreements and Beyond’ to ‘The Political Origins of Global Justice’. These events are a valuable element of the department’s activities, enhancing the profile of the department and providing opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and perspectives between local, national and international academics, graduate students, practitioners and policymakers.

Research awards
The department received 20 funding awards in 2013/14, at a value of £1.7m.

People and Honours
This year, several individuals in the department received prizes, two honorary awards, and 20 research grants. Two major appointments are highlighted here.

Professor Simon Caney appointed to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics
It was announced on 2 June that Simon Caney has been appointed to join the Nuffield Council on Bioethics.

The Council was established by the Nuffield Foundation in 1991, in response to concerns that there was no government-sponsored national body responsible for overseeing developments in biomedicine and biotechnology. There was seen to be a need for an independent body that could review developments in research, identify ethical issues, make recommendations about policy and stimulate public discussion. The Council perceives its independence as critical to help maintain public trust in its work.

Simon’s research interests are in contemporary political philosophy – including distributive justice and scarce resources, health and health care, and the ethical issues surrounding innovation in the life sciences. He was a member of the Council’s Working Party on Biofuels.

Sir Ivor Crewe appointed new President of the Academy of Social Sciences
Professor Sir Ivor Crewe AcSS, Master of University College, Oxford and sub-faculty member of DPIR, will be the next President of the Academy of Social Sciences. The Academy’s Council formally approved the appointment at a meeting on Wednesday 20 November.

The President’s role is to represent the Academy at public meetings and events, and Sir Ivor will serve for three years from 1 January 2014. The Academy comprises more than 900 individual academicians – awarded the title for services to social science – and 46 learned societies, representing nearly 90,000 social scientists.
News
The Oxford Launchpad officially opened in early 2014. An entrepreneurship incubator, this space and its activities are open to students from across the University. There is strong demand from non-business school students for support and facilities in this area.

The West Wing was formally named the Thatcher Business Education Centre in June by the Prime Minister David Cameron in an event attended by the School, University Officials, donors and friends.

Catherine Quinn, the School’s new COO who joined in November 2013, has begun reshaping the School’s administrative and operational support functions and has focused in her first year on improvements to Marketing and Finance, as well as on drawing together cognate functions in support of students and faculty.

People
In 2013, the School welcomed four new faculty members: Professor Teppo Felin, Professor of Strategic Management (Marriott School, Brigham Young University); Dr Hiram Samel, UL in International Business (MIT Sloan School of Management); Dr Michael Smets, UL in Management and Organisation Studies (Aston); and Dr Kazbi Soonawalla, SRF in Accounting.

The School welcomes six additional full-time members this academic year: Dr Rhonda Hadi; Professor Thomas Hellmann; Professor Matthias Holweg; Dr Ilaria Piati; Professor Sally Maitlis and Professor Thomas Lawrence.

Teaching
As part of its work to ‘embed’ the School in Oxford, it is continuing to build on recent innovations. The Oxford 1+1 MBA Programme is continuing to grow. 22 programmes have joined and Colleges have responded positively with 22 agreeing to accept students on the programme. This coming year, the School will also welcome the inaugural Pershing Square Graduate Scholarship holders.

College relationships remain very important to the School, especially with the approval of the fourth stream of the MBA and the planned growth of EMBA to a second stream.

Research
Noteworthy and significant research grants secured by faculty include CRESSI (Alex Nicholls) with funds of €2.5m for the project consortium from the European Commission, £154k from the Nuffield Foundation and £1.4m from the ESRC for projects led by Mike Devereux, and Sue Dopson has been awarded £426k as part of the University’s CLARHC award from the NIHR.

Over the course of the year, the faculty have produced over 100 research outputs including over 60 papers, 10 book chapters, 1 book and 3 edited collections, as well as several monographs and working papers. Faculty have been cited in the media on average 100 times a month in outlets including the Economist, the Financial Times, and the BBC, and have hosted and presented at dozens of conferences.

“We think that the power of studying business inside a University as amazing as Oxford will produce tremendous results. Not only will we become better business people, but also we collectively can help change the world.”

Peter Tufano, Peter Moores Dean, Saïd Business School.
News

In 2013/14, the department celebrated the centenary of its establishment as Barnett House in 1914. Initially independent from the University, Barnett House moved into a closer relationship with the University and eventually became a department.

The Centenary provided an opportunity for the department to start to build relationships with its alumni, and it will be continuing to develop in this area in the coming years, with a longer term plan to increase development activity including a focus on graduate scholarships.

Research activity continues to be at the heart of the department, with a number of significant projects running.

This year, it had an opportunity to consider impact as well as broader knowledge exchange activities, and the development of four impact case studies, showcasing the work of Lucie Cluver, Frances Gardner, Michael Noble and Martin Ruhs, highlighted the range of work underway in the department.

A number of members of the department received knowledge exchange funding in recent months from the ESRC (Robert Walker with Elaine Chase), HEIF (Paul Montgomery and Stuart Basten) and ESRC Knowledge Exchange Impact Acceleration funding (Lucie Cluver) which has facilitated development of knowledge exchange activity.

The department was delighted that Dr Stuart Basten was awarded the ESRC 2nd Prize for Outstanding International Impact for his research into Asian fertility that helped convince the United Nations to revise its forecasts on future population trends. The re-launch of the department’s website in early 2014 has also provided an opportunity to focus on key areas of activity, although there is still work to be done in presenting some of this work.

Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser was appointed for a second term as Head of Department to September 2016. Professor Robert Walker is reaching the end of his second term as Deputy Head of Department, and the department wishes to thank him for his hard work for the department over the last six years.

Research

Colleagues in the department continue to undertake a significant amount of work on funded research projects. Research activity has been funded by the EU, including Lucie Cluver’s five year ERC Starting Grant to work on a project entitled Preventing Abuse of Children in the Context of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser’s involvement in two consortia. In addition, Paola Mattei is involved in the project Designing strategies for efficient funding of higher education in Europe (DEFINE).

Colleagues in the department continue to be active in winning research funding, and highlights have included Frances Gardner’s award from the NIHR and Elaine Chase’s ESRC funding for her three year project Becoming adult: conceptions of futures and wellbeing among young people subject to immigration control in the UK. In addition the department has taken the opportunity to work with the Oxford Martin School on the £2m EEG project, a collaboration that will become visible throughout the department.

Events and Lectures

As part of the Centenary celebrations, the department held the first Alumni Lecture at Jesus College, delivered by one of its alumni, Professor Jacqueline Bhabha, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health.

The department also welcomed a number of leading academics to speak in the Centenary seminar series, including Patrick Diamond, Queen Mary University of London; Manuel Eisner, University of Cambridge; Maurizio Ferrera, University of Milan; Bernard Harris, University of Strathclyde; Eileen Munro, London School of Economics and Political Science; Herbert Obinger, University of Bremen; and Noel Whiteside, University of Warwick.

For more information, visit www.spi.ox.ac.uk
News

The department continued its growth, with new academic and administrative staff joining this year. In particular, Professor Melinda Mills was welcomed as the first Nuffield Professor of Sociology in June 2014. Professor Mills, who is also the Editor of the European Sociological Review, will also be the Principal Investigator of the new project ‘ReproGene: Unravelling the genetic influences of reproductive behaviour and gene-environment interaction’, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under their Consolidator Grant scheme. Moreover, Professor Mills is one of the work-package leaders in the EU-funded project ‘FamiliesAndSocieties (FAS) – Changing families and sustainable societies: Policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations’, of which the department has become a partner. The challenges of growth include space constraints. In addition to the main location in the Manor Road Building, the new location of 74, Woodstock Road was added to host the activities of the Centre for Time Use Research (CTUR).

Teaching

In addition to the department’s MSc and DPhil programme in Sociology, it has introduced a new MPhil programme, in Sociology and Demography, which is due to start in 2014/15. The new programme introduces students to contemporary theories and research methods at the intersection of Sociology and Demography. The curriculum emphasises:
1) population-level analysis and demographic measures;
2) a life course approach;
3) sociological analysis as the key approach to explanation; and
4) advanced quantitative methods.

Together with the Said Business School, the department has decided to offer an MSc in Sociology as part of the innovative ‘1+1’ programme, where prospective students can combine a Sociology degree with an MBA.

Research

Under the leadership of its Directors, Professor Jonathan Gershuny and Professor Oriel Sullivan, the CTUR won two major research grants, from the ERC, under their Advanced Grant Scheme, and from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). CTUR is internationally recognized for research using surveys of individuals’, households’ and societies’ patterns of time-use, and supplies data and other resources to the international research community. It is the home of the Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS), the largest collection of harmonised time-use data in the world, including 65 surveys, and more than three-quarters of a million diary-days, for 21 countries, covering the last 50 years.

Professor Stephen Fisher was among the proponents of a module selected for inclusion in the European Social Survey 2016 on “Public Attitudes to Climate Change, Energy Security, and Energy Preferences”.

The Faculty is keen on engaging in knowledge exchange with policy-makers. Professor Francesco Billari closed the European Population Conference in a ceremony held in the Hungarian Parliament. Professor Jonathan Gershuny gave a speech at the House of Lords on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Institute for Social and Economic Research. Professor Federico Varese was called to give evidence on organised crime to the Italian Parliament.

Awards and Honours

Professor Francesco Billari was elected a Fellow of the British Academy and Foreign Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In November 2013, Professor Billari was also awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the Faculty of Economic, Social, Political and Communication Sciences of the Université Catholique de Louvain. Professor David Stuckler, whose distinction was recognised by the University with the title of Professor of Political Economy and Sociology, was also named one of Foreign Policy’s Leading Global Thinkers of 2013.
News
The Oxford-Man Institute (OMI) aims to support public domain research through sustainable and productive partnerships with commercial and public bodies in the financial sector. It aims to be the Oxford focus for interdisciplinary and quantitative research in this area. Its activity is embedded in the Social Sciences Division and in Maths, Physical and Life Sciences Division. The long term relationship (since 2007) with its founding sponsor was confirmed for another period — at least until 2018.

In the past year, OMI has broadened its disciplinary focus, with a wider academic engagement. Data has become a key focus and OMI has invested significant resource in providing data, and particularly in making it accessible. The Institute recently built a small computational cluster and some of its senior members have used it, saying it has transformed their research. Some of the datasets used in the OMI’s research are quite exceptional and only available because of its commercial partnerships.

OMI has seen a surge in its development of fundamental analytics. In parallel with its strength in innovation in econometrics, OMI is now actively contributing to the development of tools in Machine Learning and there are new links and projects spanning the two divisions in this area.

The standing and relevance of the researchers at OMI were reflected in the exceptional fact that three members of OMI were invited speakers at Global Derivatives 2014, the world leading practitioner-led conference. Many OMI members presented at the America Finance Association annual meeting and more at the MidWest Finance Association meeting.

The director of OMI, Professor Terry Lyons, is currently President of the London Mathematical Society, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2015. He will lead the British delegation to the International Mathematical Union in Korea.

Research
OMI’s relationship with Man has broadened, reflecting the developing interests represented at OMI. There are currently 8 research projects of various scales active with Man. Man’s engagement with researchers at OMI has been a two-way process and many early stage researchers have benefited from the engagement in quite unique ways.

OMI’s interactions with commercial partners are based on openness. Over the year, a new partnership has been consolidated with BNP Paribas. OMI facilitated workshops (eg in visualisation and machine learning) that engaged experts from both partners. In one case there were further follow-on exchanges direct between the partners. These activities proved incredibly valuable to the Institute’s academics.

OMI is in significant negotiations with two other potentially substantial partners at the moment. Both are international companies and leaders in their sectors of the financial industry. One is a data driven company in the area of retail finance, the other is a key financial institution. Both can offer important synergies for OMI; OMI continues to look for partners who can help sustain and grow its quantitative, data-driven, research agenda.

The financial industry embraces the technical disciplines in a wide variety of directions, whether it is running farms of thousands of computers solving PDEs, using machine learning to detect changes in foreign exchange markets, or building risk models to allow individuals to better model their risk. Questions from the social sciences also abound and interact. OMI was delighted to have been able to play a small part in the bids for three of the successful bids for Centres for the Doctoral Training in MPLS (Partial Differential Equations, Autonomous Intelligent Machines & Systems and Statistical Science) and to have just been awarded for this year two FTE studentships from ESRC. All graduate students in the Institute belong in a department as well as at OMI.

People
OMI is actively moving to fill the Man Chair in Quantitative Finance and, depending on discussions with colleagues, there is a move to seek to fill it in the area of Data Science for Finance.

OMI welcomed James Wolter and Jerry Tsai as joint appointments from Economics.

OMI has recruited two Post-Doctoral Researchers, Xi Geng and Andrey Kormilitzin. Xi Geng will work on Professor Lyons’ ERC advanced grant (on mathematical underpinning of rough path theory) and Andrey Kormilitzin will work on a joint project with Psychiatry recently awarded by the Wellcome Trust looking at exploiting rough path theory (and other techniques) to detect and recognise patterns in sequential non-numeric data. These postholders, while pushing at the frontiers, are also expected to significantly increase capacity and experience in the area of machine learning of serial data with numerous applications in behavioural and social science.
‘Now for the Long Term’

The Oxford Martin School works on the major challenges of the coming decades, and a recurring theme is the failure of societies to address long-term issues due to short-term preoccupations. In an attempt to address this, the Oxford Martin School created the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations. Chaired by Pascal Lamy, the former Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Oxford Martin Commission gathered 19 international leaders from government, business, academia, media and civil society. The Oxford Martin Commission’s report, Now for the Long Term, was launched in October 2013; it calls for a radical shake-up in politics and business to embed long-term thinking, and provides practical recommendations for action in order to create a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

The report has been accessed over one million times in 166 countries, and has generated media coverage across the world. The Commission’s work has been highlighted at 32 events in 13 countries, and has generated media coverage across the world. The Oxford Martin School reopened on 18th October 2013, when Lillian Martin unveiled a plaque to commemorate Jim and his vision in founding the School. The building now hosts the School and Professor Sir Mark Walport, awarded the 2014 Dirac Medal for outstanding contributions to theoretical physics, awarded by the Institute of Physics. The judges said his work on developing probabilistic weather and climate prediction systems had “led a revolution in the fields of weather and climate” and benefited all sections of society.

Sir David Hendry (Director, Program in Economic Modeling, at the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School and Professor of Economics) was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2014. The ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize recognises the successes of ESRC-funded researchers achieving outstanding economic and societal impacts. Over five decades Professor Hendry has developed macroeconomic models capturing how economies work, which are now embedded in software widely used by policymakers and decision-makers.

Research and People

Oxford Martin School academics continued to make an impact in the course of the academic year, both nationally and internationally. With 30 research programmes and over 200 academics, what follows is a snapshot of activity, rather than a comprehensive listing.

A number of prizes and awards came to OMS academics this year, including: Professor Tim Palmer, awarded the 2014 Dirac Medal for outstanding contributions to theoretical physics, awarded by the Institute of Physics. The judges said his work on developing probabilistic weather and climate prediction systems had “led a revolution in the fields of weather and climate” and benefited all sections of society.

For more information, visit www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk