

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE WITH THE PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE: THE UK PRODUCTIVITY-
GOVERNANCE PUZZLE: ARE UK'S GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS FIT FOR PURPOSE IN THE
21ST CENTURY

VACANCY REF: HUM-025992

Salary:	Grade 6 £36,024 to £44,263 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full Time
Duration:	Fixed term for 18 months
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Professor Andy Westwood / Professor David Richards

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A Researcher is required to work on to work on an ESRC-Productivity Institute funded project, *The UK Productivity-Governance Puzzle: Are UK's Governing Institutions Fit for Purpose in the 21st Century*, directed by Professor Andrew Westwood and Professor David Richards in the Department of Politics, University of Manchester [UoM] collaborating with Professor Michael Kenny (University of Cambridge and Dr. Patrick Diamond (UQM, London). The project started on 1 March 2020 and the contract is for 18 months of the projects remaining funded timeframe. The Research Associate will be based in the Department of Politics, in the School of Social Sciences, but will collaborate closely with the Department of Politics, QMU, London. The University of Manchester values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. This is a replacement post for an RA who has taken up a full-time position elsewhere.

Background

This project is a key element of the *Institutions and Governance* theme of the Productivity Institute and focuses on the central claim that improvements in UK productivity are constrained in part, by a range of governance pathologies: overcentralised decision making; top-downism; short-termism; siloed policy-making; and the absence of effective joined-up government. We surmise that the development of a coherent, stable and adequately resourced institutional

approach to local and regional government and to the devolved nations is an essential element of tackling economic inequalities and uneven/low productivity. It seeks to address the following key research questions:

- Is the British state and its associated institutions appropriately organised and equipped to deliver on a devolved and variegated economic strategy seeking to address the UK's relatively poor productivity performance?
- Is the current/evolving devolution programme sufficient for tackling these problems and what changes are needed in terms of regional and local power for developing and integrated training and infrastructure policy that meets local needs in order to boost productivity?
- How can better linkages and partnerships be forged between the UK level, and other tiers of government across the UK? Can productivity be framed as a shared challenge in a moment of increasing tension within the union?
- How distinctive or overlapping are the policy frameworks developed in each part of the UK in key areas of economic policy-making, and key related areas such as skills?
- What configuration of national, regional and local institutions are necessary in order to provide sufficient adaptability to deal with productivity questions around training and infrastructure at the local level?

The project employs a mixed methods approach drawing on process-tracing techniques, qualitative interviews, focus groups and case-studies.

The research has been developed through a series of case-studies thematically organised round education/skills, investment [R&D] and infrastructure. The over-arching approach has been to drill down beyond Whitehall to investigate the nature of the wider policy cycle [from agenda setting through policy formulation, implementation to evaluation] unpacking the complex networks and addressing the themes raised above.

The research is organised three phrases:

Phase One of the project draws on a review of the academic literature alongside government papers, official documents and other secondary sources [select cte evidence, memoirs etc] to examine the fragmented structures of government, and to what extent the policy cycle has changed over time focusing on a range of identifiable issues: short-termism; siloed policy-making; weak local/central institutional linkages; and the absence of effective joined-up government.

Phrase Two is the case study phase which uses interviews across each case-study to offer a deeper, collective, deliberative understanding of the key project questions. Purposive sampling techniques were used involving early-stage interviewees being asked to help identify potential case studies. Each case has broadly involved 40 or more interviews with actors identified as having a key strategic role in each policy chain in relation to policy delivery. Interviews are conducted under Chatham House rules and digitally recorded, unless otherwise agreed. To better understand centre/local linkages in relation to productivity strategy, this phase of the project also involved interviews with officials in city-region Combined Authorities and Local Economic Partnerships across England,. This element of the research will enable us to gauge how the centre is perceived by and sub-regional actors, and the potential implementation gap that often arises due to the disconnect between Whitehall and the devolved and sub-regional level. The majority of the interviews for this stage have now been completed, though there are a few that remain

outstanding. The interviews will need to be collated, coded and analysed using NViVo in conjunction with the data from the first phase.

For the third phase [currently on-going], the primary focus of analysis is on Whitehall itself and in particular key departments/units involved in a] co-ordination and central control – Number 10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury and b] those departments central to the Government's various productivity, levelling-up and growth strategies: the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department of Work and Pensions, Department of Education and the Department of Housing, Community and Local Government. Again, it draws on a qualitative data collection and analysis approach which involves an estimated 50-60 interviews across the listed departments. This comprises a series of semi-structured, elite interviews. Snowball sampling is employed to identify key actors. The interviews drawn from across the various departments are with actors identified as having a key role in relation to key themes/case-studies identified in phase 2 and include ministers, special advisers, permanent secretaries and other key civil servants. This stage is on-going with a number of interviews still to be completed.

As with the first two phases, this qualitative data will be analysed using NVIVO and then all three phase of data collection will be subjected to a process of triangulation. This will require coding interviews, word documents, and literature reviews, enabling the team to organise textual data into relevant themes and categories to address and analyse the questions set out above.

You will assist the P.I.s in the administrative elements to the project, as well as provide support for stakeholder engagement, workshops and other events. The P.I. will provide a mentoring role throughout and ensure you have a collaborative role in the various outputs to flow from the research as part of their career development.

The duties of the post include:

- Contribute to stages two and three of the qualitative data-collection and analysis. This will involve completing the outstanding interview interviews identified above. It also requires data-analysis. Here, NVIVO will be used to process, code and analyses this data, alongside other documentary sources drawn from the process-tracing element of the project to triangulate the data. You will be required to code the interviews, focus groups, word documents, and literature reviews and organise textual data into relevant themes and categories and to assist the team in the data analysis.
- You will expect to be a co-author with other members of the research team in the co-production of various academic outputs including a potential book and articles to peer-reviewed journals.
- You will contribute to a variety of knowledge transfer/stakeholder engagement activities including blog writing, evidence to Select Committees, Policy Briefings and Infographics.
- You will assist the team in the promotion of the project through various social media platforms including the maintenance of a project website.
- You will assist in the organisation of project workshops.
- You will assist the research team in the administration of the research project as appropriate.
- You will play an active role in the research culture of the Productivity Institute.
- You will adhere to the ESRC Rules and Guidelines
- You will be required to familiarise yourself with the University's Equality and Diversity Policies and to actively support these wherever possible.

The publication duties listed above refer to the duration of the post itself (18 months), but the project itself lasts for a further 18 months and it is expected that publication plans will extend

beyond the life of the post and involve collaboration in further outputs arising from the project including the articles and book listed above. You will also be encouraged to produce other single-authored publications.

This job description reflects the present requirements of the post and, as duties and responsibilities change/develop, the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.

Person Specification

Essential

- A doctoral degree in political science or a related subject, or equivalent status (applicants without a PhD must demonstrate equivalent status in terms of research experience, publication profile, etc.)
- Demonstrable training in political science research methods including specialist knowledge of qualitative methods, in particular elite interviewing and focus groups and trained in NVIVO.
- Skills in historical and archival data-gathering and analysis, as part of a process-tracing methodology and case-study approach.
- Research experience in topics related to the project theme.
- Proven experience in carrying out first-hand data collection and analysis of kinds relevant to the project.
- Experience of doing research in some or all of the following areas: UK - public policy, governance, public administration and/or political economy.
- An excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Initiative, motivation, ability to work in teams and to liaise with other team members and project collaborators.

Desirable

- Experience of working in research teams
- Experience in knowledge transfer/stakeholder engagement
- Experience of working in/with government – either nationally or locally
- Experience of web-authoring skills, social media engagement, policy briefing, blog writing,
- Experience of organising academic workshops or similar events
- Experience in research administration
- Evidence of emerging track record in academic publications

Summary of Project

This research will look at the way in which centralised policy making limits the policies necessary to improve productivity in regions and examine ways in which changes in regional and local governance structure could create the conditions for allowing the development of policies to improve productivity by focussing on local needs. The research will then look at how central government mitigates against the tackling of regional productivity. The Treasury focus on financial control and macro-economic policy means that the variegated needs of localities and the particular requirements of regions are not properly accounted for. In addition, the fact that despite degrees of devolution in recent years, the government resources and policies are still largely controlled at the central level. Hence a key contention of the project is that regions and localities do not have the means to develop integrated training and transport infrastructure

necessary to tackle their particular productivity problems. The focus on a market driven trade and finance macro-economic policy has prevented the development of a locally based productivity drive adapted to the particular needs of regions.

Conceptually, the research will be framed at the meta-level on the extensive, critical literature on the British Political Tradition and the Westminster Model, UK governance and more specifically on Moran's notion of a UK 'club governance' approach, which provides the framework to address the potential pathologies of the WM and the related challenges this presents to current policies surrounding both productivity and economic growth. What are the structural barriers and obstacles to effective reform of the UK's political economy arising from the current configuration of governance institutions?

Organisation of the research

Andy Westwood and David Richards the joint P.I.s for the project, will act as project manager and co-ordinators including responsibility for financial and ethical aspects of the grant and will be primarily responsible for overseeing and managing the Research Assistant. They will take the lead in developing the historical analysis and interviewing on parts of the programme, as well as contributing to the data-analysis, writing-up and knowledge transfer elements.

Patrick Diamond will take the lead on the process-tracing phase of the research and on the stakeholder engagement element, interviews at the centre, as well as contributing to writing up of outputs. He will also be engaged throughout in contributing to the planning of the project's work at each stage.

Michael Kenny Mike will lead on issues relating to the UK and the Devolved Nations (with some separate project outputs).

Research Assistant/PhD Studentship will have responsibility for assisting in the qualitative analysis, data-gathering and analysis for the process-tracing element and a central role in the interview phase including analysis [NVIVO coding]. They will also assist the P.I.s in the administrative elements to the project, as well as provide support for engagement and other events. The P.I.s will provide a mentoring role throughout and ensure each has a collaborative role in the various outputs to flow from the research as part of their career development.

Background

THE UNIVERSITY

The **University of Manchester**, in its present form, was created in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST. Twenty-five Nobel Prize winners have either studied or conducted some of their work here: Rutherford began his work on splitting the atom here and the world's first modern computer also came into being at The Victoria University of Manchester. Professors Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2010.

The President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, is leading a bold and exciting plan - the **Manchester 2020 Agenda**, which aims to make The University of Manchester one of the top 25 universities in the world. The plan identifies three goals: Research; Outstanding Learning and Student Experience and Social Responsibility.

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fueling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

The University offers a range of support for [new staff](#) a great [employment package](#) that includes good terms & conditions and pension schemes, flexibility in approach, family friendly initiatives, development opportunities and services to support your health & wellbeing. In addition, there is a host of other staff benefits and excellent campus facilities. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, culturally diverse city, we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help international job applicants plan for life in the UK, we have put together some [useful information](#) on passports and visas, travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations.

Equality and Diversity

We have a genuine commitment to equality of opportunity for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve. One of our guiding principles and values, as set out in [Manchester 2020: The University of Manchester's Strategic Plan](#), affirms our commitment to being: "an accessible organisation, committed to advancing [equality and diversity](#)". Championing equality and diversity in all our activities, including staff employment and advancement, also forms part of our commitment to our strategic Goal Three: social responsibility.

Amongst many [awards](#), the University has held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2008, and was one of the first UK universities to be awarded a Race Equality Charter Mark. The School of Social Sciences was awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2017. We are listed in Stonewall's list of Top 100 Employers for 2016, and have been awarded the Two Ticks symbol by Jobcentre Plus.

The School of Social Sciences is working hard to enhance the diversity of both its staff and student communities. Recent initiatives include the piloting of a fund to subsidise caring costs for staff whose work requires them to be away overnight. We run annual [pre-university courses](#) in economics, philosophy, politics, sociology and social anthropology for local state school students who meet widening-participation criteria; we also participate in the University-wide [Manchester Access Programme](#).

THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

The [Faculty of Humanities](#) encompasses academic areas as diverse as Arts, Education, Law, Social Sciences and Business & Management. **With** over 16,000 students and some 1200 academic staff, it is the largest Faculty of the Humanities in the UK and is equivalent to a medium-sized university. All the departments in the Faculty recruit students globally and the overwhelming majority of our academics have international reputations for the quality of their research. The University is committed to the ongoing enhancement of the international profile of the Faculty of Humanities. The School of Social Sciences is one of five Schools in the Faculty.

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The [School of Social Sciences](#) (SoSS), within the Faculty of Humanities, is home to eight distinct departments: Criminology, Economics, Law, Politics, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Social Statistics and Sociology. The School comprises one of the largest collections of social scientists in the UK. We have over 430 academic and research staff, each of whom is supported with an annual research allowance.

The School submitted five 'Units of Assessment' – Economics and Econometrics, Politics and International Studies, Sociology, Anthropology and Development Studies and Philosophy – to the Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), which confirmed Manchester as one of the leading centres for Social Science research in the UK; ranked 3rd in the UK, based on research power. Sociology (including Social Statistics) is 1st in the UK, based on the percentage of overall research activity that is world leading (4*), and 2nd based on research power. Social Anthropology is also ranked 2nd, based on GPA (within the combined Anthropology and Development Studies assessment panel), but is now 1st among Social Anthropology Departments. Both Economics and Politics were ranked in the top 10 for Research Power. This broad configuration of discipline strength, together with major research [centres and institutes](#) (including the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity, the British Election Study, the Sustainable Consumption Institute, the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research and the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing), provides an unparalleled range of degree programmes and delivers ground-breaking research, exploiting an extensive portfolio of quantitative and qualitative methods, applied to substantive socio-economic issues; including, but not limited to, macro-economic growth and development, global political economy, sustainability and consumption, social inequalities, diversity and cohesion, social and cultural change and moral and ethical behaviour.

The School's international and national reputations in its constituent departments are reflected in the substantial external research income that it generates, ESRC recognition for training PhD students and success in securing ESRC and AHRC studentships for research postgraduates. The School supported by more than 30, annually awarded, internally funded studentships, Individual and collaborative research is supported by the School's Research Office, whose staff provide assistance and expertise in applying for external funding and managing externally funded projects. We operate a one-semester-in-seven research leave scheme for all permanent staff on standard research and teaching contracts. The University Library is one of only five designated National Research Libraries (along with Oxford, Cambridge, LSE and SOAS) and we have an exceptionally generous library budget, allowing individual academic staff to order new library books for research and teaching purposes whenever they are required. The School of Social Sciences is committed to research-led teaching. It has an extensive portfolio of undergraduate teaching programmes: single and joint honours programmes in its constituent departments; joint programmes with other Schools in the Faculty of Humanities; and large interdisciplinary programmes – the BA(Econ) and as well as the BA Social Sciences. Teaching quality is high across the School's six departments, and is recognised in promotions and by recent external Faculty and University Teaching Awards.

The University and the City

The University's main campus is located only a short distance from the city centre and offers outstanding provision for research. The University of Manchester Library is one of only five National Research Libraries and, as such, it is one of the best-resourced academic libraries in the country. Manchester Central Library re-opened to great acclaim in March 2014 following a massive refurbishment which has not only preserved its historic features but has also transformed it to 21st century standards. The neo-gothic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, with its spectacular

Reading Room, holds the University's Special Collections and hosts regular exhibitions and events. The [city of Manchester](#) is one of the great European cities. Its architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing. It has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere, and its cultural and sporting life are internationally renowned. Manchester's cultural venues include the Bridgewater Hall, home of the Hallé orchestra; the Royal Exchange Theatre; the outstanding Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI); the new arts complex HOME; Manchester Art Gallery; and the University's Whitworth Gallery, winner of the Art Fund's Museum of the Year in 2015. The Royal Northern College of Music, next door to the University on Oxford Road, hosts regular lunchtime and evening concerts, and the Manchester based Camerata chamber orchestra plays at a variety of venues. Salford Quays – a short tram ride from the city centre – boasts the Lowry Centre, which hosts exhibitions, concerts, and dance and theatre productions as well as a permanent Lowry exhibition, and MediaCityUK, the new base for an increasing amount of BBC production as well as Granada TV and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Across the Manchester Ship Canal in Trafford is the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind.

Manchester hosts the biennial Manchester International Festival, which focusses on original new work. From 2019, the Festival is due to be housed at The Factory, a theatre and arts venue to be built on the old Granada Studios site whose name pays homage to Tony Wilson's world famous Factory Records.

Manchester is also home to two Premier League football teams, the National Football Museum, the Old Trafford cricket ground, and the Manchester Velodrome, home to the National Cycling Centre. The University is a stakeholder in the Manchester Aquatics Centre on Oxford Road, which offers an on-campus, world-class 50m swimming pool as well as full gym facilities and fitness classes. For food lovers, Manchester boasts many outstanding restaurants, catering to a very wide variety of culinary tastes and budgets. It is home to Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown and, a short walk south of the University, perhaps the best stretch of road in the entire country for Indian and Pakistani food.

Housing is varied, plentiful and, by English standards, moderately priced. Schooling ranges from world-famous private schools to excellent sixth-form colleges and comprehensives. Manchester is well-served by a major [international airport](#), with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America, Asia and direct flights to Beijing. Manchester Piccadilly railway station is served by inter-city and other train services, including direct services to Manchester Airport (15-20 minutes), London (just over 2 hours), Birmingham (90 minutes), Oxford, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Sheffield, Leeds and Liverpool are all less than an hour away by train. The expanding network of [Metrolink](#) tram service offers an alternative mode of public transport from an increasing number of areas of the conurbation (including services to Manchester Airport). Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over thirty minutes' drive from the University in the Peak District National Park, and the Yorkshire Dales are also easily accessible to the North. The Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.

ABOUT POLITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The Politics Department is one of the United Kingdom's leading providers of internationally-recognised research and teaching in Politics. Politics was created in 2004-5 out of the earlier Department of Government. This change came about as a result of the creation of a new University bringing together the (Victoria) University of Manchester and UMIST. As part of this development and associated internal re-organisation, Politics emerged to carry forward the heritage of the Department of Government, which had existed for over fifty years, but carrying a

new name to reflect our current activities. Politics at Manchester is one of the largest politics units in the European Union. It currently has 55 academic staff including 14 Professors, 10 Senior Lecturers and Readers, 25 Lecturers and 6 postdoctoral fellows.

The Department is structured around three broad themes – Comparative Politics, International Politics and Political Theory. This structure informs our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, our research training, and our research. Our large scale allows us to support internationally recognized and world leading research across a broad range of areas within and across these themes, including a number of distinctive research clusters of significant size.

Our scale also contributes to the quality of teaching and research training in Politics: at undergraduate level we offer a wide range of courses that build directly on research expertise, and our postgraduate community of approximately 140 MA students and over 60 PhD students provides a vibrant and varied environment.

The Department works within the framework of the School of Social Sciences and the broader University to provide both a wide range of resources and considerable opportunities for collaboration in all aspects of teaching and research. Our overarching strategy is to promote research of the highest quality in the context of a dynamic research environment that balances the benefits of specialist research groups with the breadth of research interests across our three themes; and to continuously develop and improve our teaching with a focus on the integration of the active research experience of staff and the development of independent research skills in students.

RESEARCH IN POLITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Our primary focus is on developing and supporting research of high quality across the range of our three themes and utilizing an appropriate range of research methods. Within the continuum of research that stretches across this substantive and methodological range we recognise a number of clusters of distinctive research strength which bring together significant numbers of researchers. These clusters relate to Comparative Public Policy and Institutions, Democracy and Elections, Analytical Political Theory, Global Political Economy and Critical Global Politics. While these clusters represent the largest concentrations of research excellence, there are also other areas in which high quality research is underway including: European Politics, Chinese Politics, Political History, the Politics of Gender, and the Politics of War and Terrorism.

The **Comparative Public Policy and Institutions** cluster examines the causes and consequences of public policies in contemporary democracies, with particular interest in the practice and application of the comparative method. The group is interested in developing the methodology of the study of public policy, including the use of experiments, quantitative analysis and mixed methods. Topics include gender and the policy process, the policy agenda, social policy, policy in the European Union, rhetoric and public policy, the media, and the role of bureaucracy. The cluster has strong links with Policy@Manchester which promotes impact and engagement with stakeholders across a range of policy areas, the Manchester Urban Institute, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies and an ERC funded research project Understanding Institutional Change: A Gender Perspective.

The **Democracy and Elections** cluster specialises in the study of elections, including: voting behaviour, public opinion, political parties, electoral systems, social movements and organisations, race and ethnicity, political geography, political psychology, new media, participation and voter turnout. Members of the cluster offer particular strength in quantitative and experimental methods, amongst a broad range of methodological and normative expertise.

Politics at Manchester is also the base for the British Election Study and members of the cluster work extensively with colleagues from a range of social science backgrounds.

The **Analytical Political Theory** cluster focuses on the core areas of contemporary analytical political theory including theories of justice (including global justice), liberalism, equality, rights, responsibility, democracy, and the links between political and moral philosophy. Members of the cluster also work on the interaction between theory and more practical and policy concerns.

The **Global Political Economy** cluster represents a wide range of research interests, all of which are concerned with problematising the 'dichotomy' between the 'political' and the 'economic' in the constitution of the global political economy. The research done by cluster members is informed by a variety of critical theoretical perspectives. Some of our specific areas of interest include neoliberalism, critiques of capitalism, European and global crises, environment and development in Africa, debt and financialisation, the political economy of trade, gender and institutional change, corporate power and the rise of philanthrocapitalism. What our work has in common is the desire to take inspiration from debates within Global Political Economy while also being informed by literatures rooted in a number of other social science disciplines. Hence, the cluster's activities can be defined by a unity in diversity, making it an exciting place to work together – as faculty and postgraduate researchers - on issues of common interest while also forging our own distinctive research agendas.

The members of the **Critical Global Politics** cluster work within or are inspired by poststructural and critical thought. They pursue excellence through theoretically informed, politically engaged interdisciplinary research. Particular research strengths include critical security studies with terrorism and political violence; studies of conflict, war and peace; studies of citizenship, ethics and (human) rights; and studies of critical methods and the politics of knowledge. The expertise of the cluster spans across the globe, including Europe, North America, China and Africa. The cluster provides a vibrant and collegial research environment, including many postgraduate researchers.

Our research strategy is to support and develop both the variety and range of research represented by the 'continuum' and the strength of research 'clusters', with an appropriate balance between the two: new 'clusters' may develop from within the 'continuum', while existing 'clusters' may return to the 'continuum' as the research environment changes over time. The resources available within Politics to support research are allocated so as to develop and facilitate high quality research and its dissemination, whether within a cluster, or in the continuum.

Some research 'clusters', and some elements of research within the 'continuum', relate to the work of broader research groups that cross disciplinary and School boundaries. For example, there are connections between the research cluster on Global Political Economy and the Sustainable Consumption Institute; the Comparative Public Policy and Institutions cluster and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies (JMCE), and the University wide Policy@Manchester initiative; and between the research cluster on Democracy and Elections and the British Election Study, just as there are links between researchers in international politics and the more recently established [Manchester China Institute](#), and Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute. We recognise the strategic value of these links, and actively support links between Politics and such cross-disciplinary groupings.

The Politics Department has a highly developed and supportive research culture and environment. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, we were rated 6th in terms of

Research Power, thereby denoting international excellence. Twelve politics journals are edited from Manchester including *Peacekeeping*; *The Journal of Elections Public Opinion and Parties*; *Critical Studies on Terrorism*; *Politics and Religion*; *International Feminist Journal of Politics*; *Constitutional Political Economy and Representation*. Politics has a system of sabbatical leave (one semester after six); offers an annual research budget (with additional discretionary sums available). Politics also operates a very effective research support to colleagues providing internal peer review of draft grant proposals, journal articles, and book proposals. We regularly hold bespoke workshops and other events to assist colleagues to enhance their research output and grant success.

Further details about the Department, its programmes, and its staff can be obtained from <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/politics/>.