

Research Environment (REF5)

UoA 21: Politics and International Studies

Overview

Throughout the REF 2014 period Politics and International Studies at Ulster has continued to pursue and enhance the strategic research aims identified in its RAE 2008 submission. Conflict, conflict transformation, nationalism, multi-nationalism and identity remain the core research themes. The further development of research agendas combined with the inclusion of new members in the UoA has meant that while traditional concerns such as the shape and effects of devolutionary institutions and ethno-nationalist identities are reflected in submitted outputs, the UoA has expanded its research to encompass a broad range of transformational issues. For example, it has made important scholarly interventions across a number of politically contentious areas that coalesce around the theme of dealing with the past in both local and international contexts, including political memory, commemoration, victims, conflict tourism, community relations, peace walls, and processes of demilitarisation. UoA members are recognised as prominent scholars in their areas of expertise, which is reflected in the way others in these fields have engaged critically with their research. Their outputs represent core reference points across a range of subfields.

Membership of the UoA has increased from eight in RAE 2008 to twelve in REF 2014. It has benefitted from a number of new academic appointments. Trench, who is an honorary senior research fellow at the Constitution Unit at University College London, joined the Politics team in 2013 to teach on the new Parliamentary Studies module. This module is delivered in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission and House of Commons Parliamentary outreach staff. McGrattan, who took up his first academic appointment in autumn 2009, is now a well-established scholar. He moved from the University of Swansea to take up a lectureship in Politics at Ulster in 2013. Braniff, another new appointment, has successfully competed for two research council grants since joining the UoA. Her monograph, *Integrating the Balkans*, demonstrates that her research brings a European dimension to the UoA's thematic concerns. Other additions to the UoA include McDowell who has investigated the politics of commemoration in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Morrow was seconded to the position of Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council in 2003 and returned to the University in January 2012. He was returned in the RAE 2001, and his research has extensive impact as evidenced in REF3b. Simpson joined the Politics team in 2009 and is an expert on truth recovery. Supported by a British Academy grant he published two monographs during the current REF period. Grant joined the university in 2013 as an ECR and has published the book *Irish Socialist Republicanism 1909-36 (Four Courts Press)*.

Ashe, Aughey, Gormley-Heenan and Patterson were submitted in RAE 2008. Aughey and Patterson's submitted research has reinforced their position as leading scholars in the area of British and Irish politics. Both have produced monographs in the review period. Ashe and Gormley-Heenan have been promoted to Senior Lecturers for their research achievements since the last review. Gormley-Heenan's appointment as Director of the Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRiSS) in 2010 reflects the UoA's role in developing the strategic research aims of the Research Institute and its influence on research planning, leadership and strategy. Wilson is a Professor in the area of political communication and was also returned by the UoA in RAE 2008. A leading scholar in his field, Wilson's work expands the UoA's research profile to encompass issues relating to marginalised identities. Additions to the UoA have not only strengthened its overall profile but have produced synergies that have enhanced its capacity for collaborative research funding bids.

UoA members have secured external peer-reviewed funding during the REF 2014 period. Researchers have also employed their cross-cutting expertise to structure and inform debates on a range of sensitive political issues through the hosting of open and closed sessions on nationalist movements, peace agreements, victims and shared futures. This activity has encouraged a number of MLAs and MPs, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to visit the University to give presentations organised through IRiSS. The UoA has been active during this review period in strengthening the discipline nationally and internationally by hosting the 62nd, UK Political Studies Association (PSA) Annual International Conference in Belfast 2012.

The Research Institute Director provides strategic leadership management and support in terms of UoA strategy and key strategic research aims. All UoA members are Research Institute members. Affiliated Research Institutes in the form of the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) and the Inter-Institute Peace and Conflict Cluster (IPAC) provide additional structures for collaborative research, dissemination and links to external research groups. INCORE is an international centre of excellence for research in peace and conflict. Its research databases (ARK) provide extensive mechanisms for dissemination and have been supported by large external grants. ARK is comprised of a number of unique web resources including CAIN (Conflict Archives on the Internet), The Life and Times Survey, and the Young Life and Times Survey. The web resources of INCORE and ARK attract over 12 million hits per annum. IPAC is an initiative to bring together researchers at the University of Ulster working on peace and conflict related research. It creates opportunities for collaboration to increase impact, quality output and the vitality of the research environment. Joint publications and research grants have tightened links.

Research strategy

IRISS contributes to the University's corporate plan for research. The 2011 to 2016 plan identifies the achievement of international excellence in the University's chosen areas of research. The UoA identified attracting external research funding and the further consolidation and enhancement of international research profiles as key strategic priorities in its submission to RAE 2008. Intensifying strategies to generate impact was identified as a core aim in 2008. A range of mechanisms at University, Faculty and Research Institute level are in place to support the UoA's research strategy, including on-going strategic reviews. Within the Institute, the Director and Associate Directors (Management Group) provide strategic leadership. The Management Group's terms of reference are to: develop and implement a research strategy in line with the University's research strategy; create, sustain and promote a vibrant culture of research; use resources effectively to maximize research performance; promote the dissemination and implementation of successful research initiatives; and monitor research performance. The Institute Director is a member of the University Research and Innovation Committee, which advises Faculty Board.

Structured internal peer-review mechanisms have supported successful bids for a range of prestigious external grants. Aughey was awarded a three year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (£126,167) in 2008 for the project: 'The British synthesis: Identity and artifice in a multi-ethnic society'. This major research project developed ideas that were set out in Aughey's earlier work on devolution and Englishness to examine the evolution and effect of devolution in the UK, the 'Britishness' of the institutions and the institutions of 'Britishness'. In 2009 Patterson was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (£14,800) which funded an extension of his work on the political history of the Northern Ireland conflict, in a project titled: 'The Irish state and border security during the Troubles'. In 2010 McDowell was awarded an ESRC grant (£65,458.89) for a project titled: 'Commemoration as conflict: Exploring the war by other means'. McDowell interrogated processes of political memorialisation in multiple geopolitical contexts including Sri Lanka, South Africa, Israel/Palestine, the former Yugoslavia and the Basque Country. In 2013 Braniff and McGrattan secured a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (£9,900) as part of a multidisciplinary, cross-institutional team to assess the promise of peace in Northern Ireland in cultural, legal, policy and institutional arenas. McGrattan also secured a Carnegie Trust Award. In 2013 Braniff, Gormley-Heenan, McDowell and Morrow (with Byrne) received an AHRC Care for the Future Exploratory Awards Scheme grant (£20,774) for a research project titled 'Past or place? Exploring the relationship between violence and commemoration in the "new" Northern Ireland'. The UoA exploited other sources of funding. Gormley-Heenan (with Byrne and Robinson) received an Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) grant (£80,000) in 2012 to conduct quantitative research on attitudes to peace walls. In the review period Wilson, as Chair of the Board of the Monreagh Heritage Centre, secured an International Fund for Ireland grant (€374,000) to create the Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre in County Donegal, which acts as a Community Education centre for mutual cultural and political understanding. He secured further funding from the Dublin government through the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (€195,000) for research on Ulster-Scots heritage and the presentation of research materials into modalities suitable for general public presentation held at the centre, and secured a further €10,000 for research purposes. Ashe was awarded seed funding by the Centre for Community and Social Innovation, Dundalk Institute (£3,000) in 2011 to support empirical research on gender, restorative justice and conflict transformation. In 2013 as part of an international multi-disciplinary research team which included scholars from Clark University, Boston College and the University of Sydney, Ashe received United States Institute of Peace funds to conduct research on the theme of 'Women and Post-

Conflict Transformation: Lessons of the Past, Implications for the Future' (\$102,000). In 2013 Morrow (with Robinson and Dowds) secured OFMDFM funding (£58,643) to conduct research on the theme of 'Twenty years of changing community attitudes to cohesion, sharing and integration'. He received £11,000 from Scottish Government to produce, as Chairman of a Ministerial Advisory Group on Sectarianism for the Scottish Government, advice on practical interventions to promote anti-sectarianism at community level, to establish a government research programme on sectarianism, and to report to the Minister on the nature and extent of sectarianism in modern Scotland.

Research Profiles

Aughey's outputs during the REF cycle have extended and influenced political discussions on Englishness. Aughey's framing of English nationalism as a 'mood not a movement' has been taken up by other researchers. His reworking of Peter Madgwick and Richard Rose's conceptualisation of the UK Parliament as the 'Fifth Nation' has been widely influential in debates on devolution. He also debated issues of Englishness with other academics, for example, Aughey (2010) 'Response to Simon Lee' in *British Party Politics and Ideology after New Labour*, Palgrave, and with politicians. He presented oral and written evidence to the McKay Commission and he was invited to a workshop in Number 10 Downing Street. He has co-edited a book on the question of Englishness and written a monograph, *The British Question*. He delivered the Centre for British Politics' Annual Norton Lecture at the University of Hull, titled, 'With a shrug of the shoulders: Is England becoming a nation once again?' in 2011.

Patterson's engagement with how societies should deal with the victims of political conflict has emphasised the importance of different methodological approaches to dealing with victims of political violence. Additionally, it has influenced and widened academic debates on conflict transformational processes such as truth commissions. His latest monograph *The Violent Frontier* was published by Palgrave in 2012. He has presented research at a range of international conferences, including two lectures at Cambridge and an invited paper at the 'Columbian Peace Talks Conference' at Oxford University in 2013.

During the review period Wilson was Director of an interdisciplinary funded research centre (£600,000) focusing on historical, cultural and political aspects of Ulster Scots minority identity. He is editor of a general series on Ulster and Scotland which has published over 12 volumes in 10 years. He has used this work to create a Community Education centre for mutual cultural and political understanding, leveraging support funding circa €750,000 from government and charitable bodies. In 2011 he was invited to talk to the Linguistics Department of Georgetown University, and in 2012 he was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Washington Seattle, and at the University of Florida, where he gave talks to the School of Communication and the Department of Linguistics respectively. He was invited to contribute papers to *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis (Political Language 2012)*. He was co-convenor of 'Discourse and Women as Global Leaders' held in Berlin 2012 and produced as an edited book for John Benjamin. He is also currently writing a research text on pragmatics and political language, contracted by the US division of Oxford University Press (*Talking with the President*). Gormley-Heenan has continued to explore issues of political power and the dynamics of ethno-nationalist elite bargaining. She has extended her analysis of ethno-nationalism to encompass issues of inter-communal segregation through peace walls research. She has been highly active in producing and contributing to collaborative research. She was co-editor, with Aughey, of *The Anglo-Irish Agreement: rethinking its legacy* (2011) published by Manchester University Press. She also co-edited *Special Issue: Political Reverberations: Northern Ireland's Conflict, Peace Process and Paramilitaries* (2012), *Behavioural Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, 4 (1). She contributed a chapter 'Power Sharing in Northern Ireland' to *Developments in British Politics 9*, Palgrave Macmillan (2011). *Political Quarterly* also published a series of articles on the theme of the PSA conference, 'In Defence of Politics', which she co-edited in 2012 with Matthew Flinders (University of Sheffield).

Ashe has continued to enhance her profile as a feminist scholar through a series of papers that generated critical questions around national and international issues in gender studies. She has delivered papers at a range of international conferences and has presented invited papers at specialist panels in Orebro, Lund, at the PSS-ISA conference in Budapest, and at the 2012 BISA conference in Edinburgh. She secured a Phillip's Price Memorial Fund travel grant to present an invited paper at the 'International Praxis' Conference held in Istanbul in 2010. She presented a keynote at the Institute of Small Business Enterprise 'Think Space' event held in Manchester 2011, which led to her co-editing a collection of papers from the Dianne Conference in Canada in 2010. Reflecting her interest in the history of gender studies, Ashe also commissioned and edited a range of

articles to explore the themes of gender, sexuality and class in the (2010) 'Special edition: Gender, Sexuality and Class' in *Socialist History*. She has been working with a team of international researchers to explore gender in contexts of ethno-nationalist violence including Joyce Kaufmann (Whittier, CA) and Jane Parpart (Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia), and was invited to give a roundtable presentation with Sonya Rose (Professor Emeritus at Birkbeck) at the 'Ireland and Masculinities in the Longue Durée' organised by NUI Galway, Concordia and Birkbeck in August 2013. She is currently contracted by Routledge to complete the monograph, *Gender and Conflict Transformation in Northern Ireland*. She continues to develop conceptual resources in critical studies of masculinities as evidenced by recent engagements with de-militarisation and neo-liberalism.

Morrow's expertise in the area of community relations has led to a wide range of scholarly activity since his return to the UoA in 2012. He has acted as a consultant for numerous organisations (see REF3b). McDowell has extended the analysis of memory practices in conflict transformational societies through a series of important papers, producing seminal work on gendered commemoration and on conflict tourism. She has presented a range of papers at international conferences, secured research council funding and hosted conferences. Braniff has engaged with the role of the European Union in conflict transformation in the Western Balkans. She has also given evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly and contributed to successful inter-disciplinary research council bids. McGrattan is an established scholar on conflict transformation. He has produced 2 monographs and jointly authored another book (with Edwards, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst). An extensive range of articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals and invited presentations at numerous international conferences have enhanced his position in the field. Similarly Trench has forged a reputation as an expert on devolution in the UK; he holds a broad range of advisor roles and has been invited to advise a range of governmental committees (see REF 3a).

Simpson's research on truth recovery built on original and extensive theoretical and empirical work, and resulted in the publication of two monographs during REF 2014. The first of these, *Truth Recovery in Northern Ireland: Critically Interpreting the Past* (MUP, 2009) challenged hegemonic and partisan notions of dealing with the legacy of a violent past by proposing a new, dialogic-Habermasian based model of communicative interaction that built on Simpson's previous published work, comparing the strength and weaknesses of truth processes in other political contexts (including Europe, Africa and Latin America). Even though it is a work of political science, Simpson discussed the book as an invited plenary speaker at the internationally renowned Anthropological Studies Association Conference (2010). Grant is the editor of *Scolaire Stáire*, a committee member of the Irish Labour History Society, a founding member of the Irish Centre for the Histories of Labour and Class and Director of the Exchange Community Partnership in Inishowen.

Research Culture

Fostering a vibrant research culture that supports discussion in academic and public arenas has remained a core strategic aim of the UoA. It hosted the PSA, Annual Conference in 2012. UoA members organised a number of specialist panels. This well-attended conference included keynotes from John Bercow MP, David Blunkett MP and Matthew Flinders. IRiSS also organises annual lectures and an extensive range of seminars and events too numerous to list. Invited speakers have included Matthew Goodman (Nottingham), Dean Godson from the Policy Exchange who is also Visiting Professor, and Professor Terrell Carver (Bristol University). In 2011 Lord Peter Hennessy presented the IRiSS Annual Lecture titled 'Watching British Prime Ministers' at an event that drew large numbers of academics, civil servants, students, parents and teachers. In 2012 Matthew Flinders (Sheffield) delivered a presentation titled, 'The Political Imagination and Defending Political Science'. This event was a joint collaboration between the PSA, the British Journal of Politics and International Relations, the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy (QUB) and the School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy (University of Ulster). The presentation developed the themes Flinders outlined in his keynote address at the PSA conference in Belfast. IRiSS has also co-hosted a number of PSA specialist group conferences including 'Northern Ireland's Culture Wars' organised by the PSA Specialist Group on Britishness; 'Conservatives and Unionism in the 21st Century' organised with the Centre for British Politics at the University of Hull in conjunction with the PSA Conservatives and Conservatism Specialist Group. Aughey and Ashe presented papers at the 'Northern Ireland 20 Years After the Ceasefire conference' held in Belfast (September 2013), and supported by the Irish Politics Specialist group. Aughey also presented a paper at the New Elizabethans Conference in London (2013).

In March 2013, Braniff, Morrow and Patterson convened 'Unionism and Loyalism: Challenges and Futures' which was a closed event designed to facilitate discussion around sensitive issues. UoA members provided focussed debates between journalists, loyalists and policymakers. This event was followed in May 2013 by a roundtable discussion convened by Braniff on 'The Needs of Victims and Survivors in Northern Ireland: Assessing Legislation and Policy Developments'. Drawing on the expertise of key stakeholders, academics and service users, the discussion examined the impact of present policy innovations in this area. In April, Gormley-Heenan and McGrattan with Niall Ó Dochartaigh (NUI Galway) convened 'The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement 15 Years On: A Symposium', which was co-organised by the University of Ulster, NUI Galway, and the PSA Ireland Specialist Group on Peace and Conflict. The symposium reflected on the making and implementation of the Agreement and assessed its legacy. Speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds and from the media were joined by some of those directly involved in the negotiations to discuss the process that led to the Agreement, its implementation and eventual stabilization. IRiSS hosted speakers from political parties including Basil McCrea MLA and John McCallister MLA (May 2013). It supported the 'Bridging Division Derry/Londonderry and Mostar' conference organised in the context of the City of Culture events which was co-hosted with the University of the Saarland. Ashe convened 'Transformative Politics and Women's Human Rights' (May 2012) which received funding from the PSA Irish Specialist Group and was supported by the Center for Women Policy Studies, Washington, DC. Leslie Wolfe, President of the centre, was keynote speaker.

People (Staffing strategy and staff development)

The age range of the UoA is 28-65. Five members are under 40 and the number of women has risen to four due to the appointment of Braniff. The output of some members has been affected by extenuating circumstances. Morrow's 10 year secondment means that he can be submitted with one output. Grant, an ECR, is being returned with one output. McDowell had two maternity leaves during the review period and is being submitted with three outputs. Braniff has ECS and is being returned with one output. McGrattan is still an ECR taking up his first post-doctoral position in October 2009. He is being returned with three outputs.

The University has put in place an Organisational Development Strategy for the period 2011 to 2015. In this Strategy it recognises that its excellence is dependent on its employees. It has three strands: People Management; Leading and Developing Employees; and Valuing Employees (through engagement, recognition and equality). The Strategy acknowledges that the key to maintaining, enhancing and developing Ulster's excellence in research is the ability to attract, recruit, develop and retain high-performing research staff. The University has a comprehensive suite of Human Resources policies and practices to support the recruitment and career development of our research staff. In recognition of these HR policies and practices the University has recently gained the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission. The University is already working to ensure that this prestigious award is retained in 2015. Staff Development structures support and develop ECRs and ensure their integration into a wider, supportive research environment. Each ECR will have access to the University's Online Welcome and Orientation Programme, which provides a personal welcome from the Vice Chancellor and signposts the researcher to essential organisational and practical information. The Online Welcome and Orientation Programme and four online Mandatory Training Programmes are currently available on our VLE Blackboard Learn. New appointments are encouraged to access and complete the online Mandatory Training Programmes at the earliest opportunity within their probation period. In addition, ECRs will have a Local Induction co-ordinated by their Line Manager with the aim of welcoming and introducing the researcher to their colleagues and ensuring s/he has the required information and resources to be effective in their new role.

The University Researcher CPD Framework incorporates all the domains and sub-domains of VITAE UK's Researcher Development Framework. Ulster's Researcher CPD Framework aligns the support and development options available within the University against each of the respective sub-domains of VITAE UK's Researcher Development Framework. Support and development options within Ulster's Researcher CPD Framework may be accessed by doctoral students, ECRs, contract researchers and researchers. ECRs and contract researchers are encouraged to agree a Personal Development Plan with their Line Manager via a Developmental Appraisal Review at the earliest opportunity within their probation period, to ensure a mutual understanding of performance objectives and to agree the required support and development to achieve the objectives. A menu of Career Advice and Development Options provided by Student Marketing and Employability is included within Ulster's Researcher CPD Framework.

The University of Ulster values its research staff and has a long tradition of ensuring that researchers are appropriately managed and that their developmental needs are met. Since 1998, when the Research Careers Initiative (RCI) was launched, the University has developed a number of mechanisms in order to effectively implement all aspects of Institutional Contract Research Staff (CRS) policy. The two key committees which consider CRS career development are the Research Concordat Steering Group (RCSG) and Research/HR Forum which are both chaired by the PVC (Research and Innovation). These committees incorporate a broad membership and are vital in providing a medium for CRS and other representatives from the research community to raise pertinent issues in relation to the research environment.

It is the University's policy to provide equality of opportunity to all, irrespective of gender; gender reassignment; marital or civil partnership status; having or not having dependants; religious belief or political opinion; race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, being an Irish Traveller); disability; sexual orientation or age. This UoA endorses the University's Equal Opportunities Policy, the Code of Practice on the selection of staff for the REF 2014 submission and the principle that staff eligible for return are not excluded for reasons related to a protected characteristic or for a non-traditional career pattern resulting, for example, from a career break, maternity, paternity or adoption leave or by being an ECR. Staff in this UoA involved in selection decisions have received or undertaken equality and diversity training in relation to REF 2014. The University carried out equality screening on the Code of Practice and conducted regular equality analysis of staff following each REF review. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the final selection of staff. The University is a member of the Athena SWAN Charter.

Research students

Much of the responsibility for quality assurance in research degree programmes resides with the Research Graduate School (RGS). The RGS, in cooperation with relevant supervisors, monitors the progress of students. Through the University Staff Development Unit, the RGS provides a range of training skills and developmental opportunities for research students. There has been a growth of quality applications. Each student is associated with a Research Institute. Graduate Research Seminars provide a forum for discussing work in progress. There is encouragement for students to publish and to become actively involved in professional networks. Postgraduates have PSA roles and had supporting roles during our hosting of its conference.

The Doctoral Innovation Programme provides a comprehensive range of professional development programmes. Doctoral students have the option of both Project Management Accreditation (ILM Level 5 Unit) and Associate Membership of the Higher Education Academy via the First Steps to Teaching in HE Programme; component parts of the Doctoral Innovation Programme. Part of the Doctoral Innovation Pilot includes a review of the professional support and development for research supervisors and Staff Development is continually consulting with both the Research Office and Research Committee/Boards within each of the faculties to agree the support and development requirements of both new and experienced research supervisors. The aims of the consultation with Faculty Research Committee/Boards are to present the structure and content of the Doctoral Innovation Programme Pilot, provide an opportunity for feedback and recommendations from members of the Faculty Research Committee/Board.

Income, infrastructure and facilities

The method for allocation of Research Institute budgets by the Research Office evolves from year to year and involves a combination of QR earned and rewards for research grant activity. The UoA attracted £1,111,039 of external research funding during REF 2014. UoA 21 forms a constituent part of the Institute for Research in Social Science which is one of 16 Research Institutes (RI) created by the University to better support the management of research activities. Full membership of the Institute is based upon criteria designed to reflect the highest excellence in research performance. Associate membership of the Institute supports others in fulfilling their potential as high performing researchers. The Institute Director, UoA Coordinator and the Head of School work together in relation to the research, teaching and administrative duties of members. They hold annual review meetings with all members before the allocation of teaching and administrative duties, in order to discuss and agree on research plans for the academic year. Research Institutes are fully embedded within the University's organisational system, are represented on key policymaking committees and receive significant annual funding to support research. The Research Office, headed by a Director and within the portfolio of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), works closely with Deans and Heads of Faculty Research Graduate Schools to provide guidance and support (infrastructure and funding) to Schools and RIs for

the implementation of the University's research strategy. Six-monthly performance review meetings with the PVC and the Institute Directors monitor the progress of Research Institutes.

Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Members collaborate and contribute to the discipline through external roles and activities. For example, Aughey is Senior Fellow at the Centre for British Politics at Hull. Wilson acted as Visiting Professor at the University of Washington Seattle and the University of Florida. Ashe has collaborated with scholars in the US, Australia and Ireland through funded research and specialist conference panels. Her invitations to Lund and Orebro Universities led to collaborations with Scandinavian scholars that produced (Eds: Kronsell, A. and Svedberg, E.), *Making Gender, Making War* (Routledge, 2011). Visiting Professor Dean Godson (Policy Exchange) connects us to wider policy networks and provides seminar briefings about major issues facing government. Gormley-Heenan and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science at Ulster, Prof. Paul Carmichael, are both elected members of the PSA Executive Committee. UoA members have been active in the PSA through their organisation of specialist panels and membership of specialist groups. Organisation of PSA sponsored panels has supported collaborations with Irish and UK Universities. UoA activity in the Association was significantly extended through a successful bid by Gormley-Heenan and Carmichael to host the annual conference at the Europa Hotel in Belfast in 2012.

Wilson has been internationally elected to serve a third term on the Consultation Board of the International Pragmatics Association. He presently serves on the International Board of a Communication and Regional Community Development Project located at University of Washington Seattle. Patterson and Aughey are members of the editorial Board of Irish Political Studies and Patterson sits on the editorial board of Contemporary Political History. Ashe is a member of the editorial Board of Socialist History and is joint editor of the International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology. Gormley-Heenan is a member of the international editorial boards of Politics, State Crime, Community Development, and Conflict Transformation and Security. Additionally, members joined peer-review panels for the AHRC (Patterson) and the ESRC (Gormley-Heenan and McDowell). McDowell also acted as a member of the AHRC consultative committee on dealing with the past in 2008. The interconnections between research centres led to Gormley-Heenan's collaboration with Robinson (Director of INCORE) and Byrne (criminology team) which produced joint publications. A range of collaborations have been facilitated through PSA specialist groups including the Irish Specialist group. UoA members have also been invited to make a broad range of contributions to inter-disciplinary scholarly editions. Examples include Aughey, A. (2011) 'The Con-Lib Coalition Agenda for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland' in *The Con-Lib Government: Coalition Politics in an Age of Austerity*, Palgrave; Aughey, A. Osmond, J. and Bort, E. (2011) 'Unique Paths to Devolution: Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland' in *Institute of Welsh Affairs*, 35; Aughey, A. (2009) 'The Wager of Devolution and the Challenge to Britishness' in *Britishness: Perspectives on the British Question* (Eds: Gamble, A. and Wright, T.), Political Quarterly Publishing/Wiley Blackwell; Patterson, H. (2009) 'The republican movement and the legacy of the Troubles' in *Republicanism in Ireland: Confronting theories and traditions*, Manchester University Press; and Patterson, H. (2008) 'War of national liberation or ethnic cleansing: IRA violence in Fermanagh during the Troubles' in *Terror from tyrannicide to terrorism* (Eds: Bowden, B. and Davis, M. T.), University of Queensland Press. McDowell has contributed to collections in the area of memory studies and McGrattan in the area of conflict and justice.