

A New Agenda ... Values, World Society, Modelling

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>

A New Agenda seeks to explore all aspects of society using all the academic disciplines paying special attention to values ... with special interest in modelling ... not disinterested in practice ... and aspiring to high academic standards.

Commentary, January 2017

No. 37

Obama ... World universities ... peace & conflict ... Oxford, September 2017

1 Obama's farewell speech	2
2 Peace and conflict research	3
2.1 CRS in Oxford, September 2017	3
2.2 Online Peace Science Colloquium	3
2.3 Books	4

Judith Large. *Push back. Sri Lanka's dance with global governance.* 2016.

Steve Pickering. *Understanding geography and war. Misperceptions, foundations and prospects.* 2016.

3 World universities research	5
3.1 World University Rankings, research	5
3.2 University websites	6

Oxford

Brexit

Epidemics

Inequality: Tony Atkinson

Mathematics public lectures

Cambridge

Human minds are only one example of mind on earth

Being society's critic and conscience

Macro-economic impact of Brexit

Antarctic ice-sheet study reveals 8000-year record of climate change

Harvard

How power of positive thinking works

Uncertain times: a journey to Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Syria, 1915 - 1930

Our crumbling infrastructure ... Trump wants to rebuild

Why city blocks work

University of California, Berkeley

Peering back in galactic time

Global warming hiatus disproved - again

Big data: why (oh why?) *this* computational social science?

A social-cognitive approach to understanding gender differences in negotiator ethics:
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Stanford

To confront North Korea, talk first and get tough later

The 'black box' of rising costs, inconsistent care

Election 2016 ... a Donald Trump presidency

Why the intelligence community matters

1 Obama's farewell speech

Barak Obama's valedictory speech touched on foreign policy, the economy and society.

Regarding foreign policy, he had re-established relations with Cuba, negotiated the shutting down of Iran's nuclear weapons programme and had achieved the assassination of Osama Bin Laden, mastermind of 9/11.

Regarding the economy, his administration had reversed a recession, revived the car industry and unleashed a long period of job creation. Looking to the future, he agreed that trade should be fair as well as free. However economic dislocation would come not from foreign trade, but from automation making certain jobs obsolete.

Society in the USA was divided. There was a lack of solidarity among its citizens; society was fractured by naked partisanship into irreconcilable political tribes; increasing economic and regional stratification; secure in our bubbles; accepting information which fits our opinions, regardless of evidence; race remains a potent and divisive force; ... The corrosive influence of social media; the splintering of media into a channel for every taste.

Instead there needs to be a basic sense of human solidarity – “that we rise and fall as one” – seeing things from the perspectives of others

For blacks and other minorities, tying our own struggles for justice to the challenges that a lot of people in this country face ...

For white Americans ...

For native-born Americans ...

Americans are fundamentally good ... change can be achieved ...

Blakely, Rhys. “Our democracy is under threat, Obama declares.” *The Times*, January 12, 2017: 11.

The Associated Press. Text of Obama's farewell speech as prepared for delivery. January 11, 2017.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/5f2a5b8bf38e4bd58852cfaee5864430/text-obamas-farewell-speech-prepared-delivery>

2 Peace and conflict research

2.1 CRS in Oxford, September 2017

<http://conflictresearchsociety.org/ourevents/crs-conference-oxford-2017/>

The next Conflict Research Society (CRS) conference will be held in Oxford, hosted by the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford University, Monday September 18th and Tuesday 19th September, 2017.

2.2 Online Peace Science Colloquium

<http://pssonlinecolloquia.wixsite.com/opsc/schedule>

The Autumn 2016 series:

September 9: Anita Kellogg

PhD Candidate, University of California - Los Angeles

["When It Is Not 'Business as Usual': Petro-States and International Conflict"](#)

September 23: Meredith Blank

PhD Candidate, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

["Dancing in the Dark: Information Challenges and State Allocation of Force in Civil Conflict"](#)

October 7: Adrian Florea

Lecturer, University of Glasgow

["Rebel Governance: An Empirical Test"](#)

October 28: Michael Kenwick

PhD Candidate, Pennsylvania State University

["Is Civilian Control Self-Reinforcing? A Measurement-Based Analysis of Civil Military Relations"](#)

November 11: Anita Gohdes

Assistant Professor, University of Zurich

["Women Combatants and the Politics of Gender-Based Repression in the Syrian Conflict"](#)

December 2: Rachel Stein

Assistant Professor, George Washington University

["The Face of the Enemy: Images, Stereotypes, and Support for War"](#)

December 16: Cathy Wu

PhD Candidate, University of Texas - Austin

["Public Resolve, Endogenous Publicity, and Crisis Bargaining"](#)

2.3 Books

Judith Large. *Push back. Sri Lanka's dance with global governance*. London: Zed Books. 2016.

<https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/push-back/>

In 2009, after decades of conflict, the Sri Lankan government proclaimed the decisive defeat of the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Elam. Since then, the state has proved resistant to attempts by the UN and other international bodies to promote post-war reconciliation.

In this incisive new work, Judith Large investigates the ways in which the Sri Lankan government has been able to subvert international diplomatic efforts, as well as exploring the wider context of rising Sinhalese nationalism, the attendant growth of discrimination against Tamils, and efforts by both the Tamil diaspora and groups within Sri Lanka to lobby the international community.

Push Back is vital reading not only for those interested in Sri Lanka, but also for those interested in the wider implications of the conflict for human rights, peacemaking, and geopolitics.

- Examines how the Sri Lankan government has become adept at deflecting international criticism over its increased authoritarianism, and the wider implications for global human rights
- Offers a provocative critique of current attitudes towards international humanitarianism
- Investigates the role of China and the influence of the War on Terror

“A brilliant exposition of the end game in the Sri Lankan civil war. This book is essential background reading for anyone interested in how civil wars end and the role of different actors in these processes.”

Kevin Clements, University of Otago

‘The first serious academic study of the Rajapaksa regime’s manipulation of the international system, which enabled them to preside over mass atrocities and get away scot free.’

Frances Harrison, former Sri Lanka correspondent for the BBC and author of *Still Counting the Dead: Survivors of Sri Lanka’s Hidden War*

‘A fascinating account of the Sri Lankan government’s tense relationship with the international community.’

Alan Keenan, Sri Lanka project director, International Crisis Group

‘Incisively interrogates Sri Lanka’s socio-political fabric under the Rajapaksa regime ... sheds new light on how the government got away with outrageous human rights violations, even after the war.’

Sanjana Hattotuwa, Centre for Policy Alternatives (Sri Lanka)

Steve Pickering. *Understanding geography and war. Misperceptions, foundations and prospects*. London: Palgrave. 2016.

<http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137522160>

Problematizes geopolitics and geography, compiling a wide range of thought on the subject while also contributing new perspectives

Offers both quantitative and critical perspectives on geopolitics and geography

Broadens the view of geopolitics to include global phenomena such as disease, sport, and mass immigration

By delving into the history of geopolitics and bringing us up to date with cutting-edge case studies looking at infrastructure, terrain, and maps, this book will dispel simplistic and misleading notions about the nature of how humans interact with the environment. Stops on the way will include critical geopolitics, religious geopolitics, popular geopolitics, feminist geopolitics, and, newest of all, critical quantitative geopolitics. More importantly, it uncovers new areas of research for the next generation of researchers, showing how critical and quantitative methods can be applied to look at how geography and war relate to diverse areas such as disease, sport, dispossession, and immigration.

History

Critical Approaches

Feminist Approaches to Geopolitics: Beyond the Geopolitics of Gender

Popular Geopolitics

Religious Geopolitics and the Geopolitics of Religion

Critical Quantitative Geo-Spatial Methods and War

3 World universities research

3.1 World University Rankings, research

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2017/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/scores_research/sort_order/asc/cols/scores

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for research 2016-2017 list the top five as:

Oxford

Harvard

Cambridge

University of California, Berkeley

Stanford

3.2 University websites

Oxford

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/>

Brexit

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/oxford-and-brexit/brexit-analysis>

‘The University of Oxford offers a breadth of academic analysis and expert commentary as Britain’s new relationship with the European Union and wider world takes shape. Faculty members across our academic divisions – Social Sciences, Humanities, Medical Sciences and Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences – discuss the national and global implications, help explain the key processes, pose the most pressing questions, and address significant challenges and opportunities.’

[Populism on the Rise?](#) - Professor Catherine De Vries

[The Brexit Case](#) - Professor Alison Young

[The UK research ecosystem](#) - Professor Ian Walmsley

[Modern Languages in the UK](#) - Professor Katrin Kohl

[Impact of Brexit on Europe-China Relations](#) - Dr Paul Irwin Crookes

[The view from abroad](#) - Sir Ivor Roberts

[The need for a second referendum](#) - Professor Bo Rothstein

[Brexit offers opportunities](#) - Professor Sir John Bell

[Rethinking globalisation](#) - Dr Emily Jones

[Legislation](#) - Professor Stephen Weatherill

[What Hashtags Reveal](#) - Yin Yin Lu

[Article 50](#) - Professor Alison Young

[Scotland, Ireland, and Brexit](#) - Professor Iain McLean

[Complex negotiations](#) - Tim Cullen

[Views from Oxford](#) - Vyacheslav Polonski, Stephen Fisher, Madeleine Sumption, Erik Jones, Philippa Byrne and Katrin Kohl

Epidemics: predicting the spread of yellow fever

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/science-blog/predicting-spread-yellow-fever-central-africa>

Inequality: Tony Atkinson

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2017-01-04-economist-professor-sir-tony-atkinson-pioneered-study-inequality>

Andrew Dilnot

Thomas Piketty

Mathematics public lectures

<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/events/public-lectures-events>

January 18 Black holes

Stephen Hawking

February 6 Statistics: why the truth matters

Tim Hartford

May 9 The butterfly effect: what does it really signify

Tim Palmer

Cambridge

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/>

Human minds are only one example of mind on earth

https://medium.com/@cambridge_uni/i-think-therefore-i-am-a-human-a-crow-a-chimp-a-bonobo-or-a-robot-a714bc138897#.9sgjb540f

Being society's critic and conscience

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/opinion-being-societys-critic-conscience>

Macro-economic impact of Brexit

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/new-report-on-macro-economic-impact-of-brex-it-questions-treasury-forecasts>

Antarctic ice-sheet study reveals 8000-year record of climate change

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/antarctic-ice-sheet-study-reveals-8000-year-record-of-climate-change>

Harvard

<http://www.harvard.edu/>

How power of positive thinking works

http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2016/12/optistic-women-live-longer-are-healthier/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=hu-twitter-general

Uncertain times: a journey to Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Syria, 1915 - 1930

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/fellowship-program/research-partnership-opportunity/uncertain-times-journey-lebanon-syria-palestine>

Our crumbling infrastructure ... Trump wants to rebuild

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/01/our-crumbling-infrastructure/>

Why city blocks work

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/01/why-city-blocks-work/>

University of California, Berkeley

<http://www.berkeley.edu/>

Peering back in galactic time

Global warming hiatus disproved - again

Big data: why (oh why?) *this* computational social science?

A social-cognitive approach to understanding gender differences in negotiator ethics:
the role of moral identity

Peering back in galactic time

<http://berkeleysciencereview.com/article/peering-back-galactic-time/>

Global warming hiatus disproved - again

<http://news.berkeley.edu/2017/01/04/global-warming-hiatus-disproved-again/>

Big data: why (oh why?) *this* computational social science?

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/0rn5n832#page-1>

A social-cognitive approach to understanding gender differences in negotiator ethics:
the role of moral identity

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/35w5c23d>

Stanford

<https://www.stanford.edu/>

Why the intelligence community matters

<https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/news/why-intelligence-community-matters>

Election 2016 ... a Donald Trump presidency

<http://news.stanford.edu/2016/08/24/election-2016-2/>

How will the election affect ...

... the economy?

... key legal issues?

... Obamacare?

... the EPA?

... energy policies?

... policy towards the environment?

... the US-Russia relationship?

... the US-China relationship?

What are the ethical obligations of US presidents?

How can people move past anger after the election?

To confront North Korea, talk first and get tough later

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/to-confront-north-korea-talk-first-and-get-tough-later/2017/01/06/9334aee4-d451-11e6-9cb0-54ab630851e8_story.html?utm_term=.59ccdbfc6112

The 'black box' of rising costs, inconsistent care

<http://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2017/01/david-chan-on-the-black-box-of-rising-costs-inconsistent-care.html>