Welcome to the Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area Newsletter # The story so far... October 2018.

SRA News

New SRA Stream Details

For 2018/19 the new streams in the Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area are:

- Belonging and Faith in Law
- Collaborative and Inclusive Governance
- Gender, Intimacy and Sexuality
- Justice, Borders and Rights
- Leadership for Public and Social Value

SRA Events 2018

Engaged Scholarship Sessions
Winter 17/18

As part of the Engaged Scholarship Seminar Series, Grenfell: From social harm to social murder? took place in London and brought together people in academia, the media and local community groups to debate the issues.

The Engaged Scholarship Sessions in Citizenship & Governance were jointly hosted by The Open University, SRA Citizenship & Governance and the Harm and Evidence Research Collaborative (HERC) with the International State Crime Initiative (ISCI) and Human Rights Collegium at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) School of Law.

Reflecting Space Symposium
February 2018

Reflecting Space is a developing think-tank collaboration created to inspire discussion across government, industry, academia and wider, with a remit to further engage with the general public. Ultimately, acting as a facilitator and research body, Reflecting Space utilised discussion to increase the awareness of key issues and spur national level decision making to support the UK roles and responsibilities as a ‘space-faring’ nation.

The goal of this symposium was to facilitate discussion among key UK stakeholders in space to provide guidance for the development of a Space Governance ‘think tank’. The objective was to develop independent and effective support to the awakening of understanding across the UK space community.

Belonging Symposium March 2018

The Open University Law School and the Citizenship and Governance Strategic Research Area hosted an interdisciplinary symposium on the theme of Belonging, that took place at The Open University in April 2018.

This symposium brought together external and internal academics from the UK and Europe across a range of disciplines and research perspectives to discuss important topics related to the crucial contemporary question of belonging.

Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapons and Border Control Symposium July 2018

The purpose of the symposium was to provide an opportunity to examine the ethical, moral, legal, and governance issues associated with weapons that are designed to operate with increasing autonomy and how such
technologies will be integrated into new architectures of surveillance, geo-location and biometric identity recognition using artificial intelligence.

A strand of the symposium explored the emerging border control systems using new and more coercive exclusion technologies and recent EU and US military budget reallocations to these two related areas.

**Year of #Mygration 2018**

2018 is The Open University's *Year of Mygration*. The Open University is ‘open to people, places, methods and ideas’ so has always welcomed migrants as students and staff, and has encouraged pioneering methods of learning, teaching, research and engagement around the themes of migration, refugees, mobility and belonging.

Our Year of ‘Mygration’ emphasises that we are all affected by migration, whether or not we ourselves or immediate families are migrants. The issues of migration are vital to understanding not just current UK politics but also the world’s economies and communities.

Every day we share a reflection on the broad theme of migration which showcases the work of the OU academics and our partners. Be it a short blog, podcast or archive clip, tweet or link.

The Year of Mygration is a collaboration between the Citizenship & Governance and the International Development & Inclusive Innovation Strategic Research Areas of the Open University.

**Tate Exchange Events Spring 2018**
Who Are We? at Tate Exchange is an initiative of Counterpoint Arts and the Open University in association with Stance Podcast and the University of York Migration Network. The programme is shaped by co-creation, co-production and exchange among artists, organisations, audiences, activists and academics. This initiative is supported by Citizenship and Governance SRA.

Are we Data?

'Are We Data?' (AWED) questions the relationship between place and place-less 'big data'. Using an immersive installation it explored whether digital data can reveal or inform 'who we are'. AWED presents an encounter between two screens. One screen shows a collage of archival and contemporary footage of a housing estate in Milton Keynes. Netherfield was planned to accommodate an imagined people of the future. The second screen is a live 'dashboard' of data visualisations or representations of 'you', the audience - your geography, your cultural engagement and presence in this gallery space. Come and interact with us! By answering simple survey questions, tweeting and connecting to Wi-Fi you will become part of the installation. The gathered data will be anonymised and used to explore the changing methods of representing who we are. This was a HEIF and Citizenship and Governance SRA project.

Communities of Solidarity: The Story of the Pikpa
Refugee Camp Book Launch

This unique book was co-created by a collective of photographers and academics who came together as volunteers via Lesvos Solidarity at Pikpa Refugee Camp. This rare and beautiful book offers a compelling narrative that invites us to question the ways in which we think about and relate to refugees.

This beautiful book was produced with support from The Citizenship and Governance SRA, led by Professor Marie Gillespie

SRA Bid Success

Festival of Social Sciences event

Dr Olga Jurasz has received funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to organise a research impact event during the Festival of Social Science from 3-10 November. The event, ‘Slaying the trolls: social media use and abuse’ will build on Olga’s ongoing collaborative research on gender and social media abuse.

Benefits Of The European Space Agency: Exploration Roadmap In Socioeconomics

A cross SRA collaboration has been successful in securing a prestigious grant from the European Space Agency to carry out research into the benefits of the ESA roadmap in socio-economics.

This project will be lead by Dr Leslie Budd from the Citizenship and Governance SRA and Dr Manish Patel from the Space SRA.

Understanding the transformation of European public administrations

Citizenship and Governance SRA academic Professor Edoardo Ongaro, as part of an international consortium led by Northumbria University, has been awarded €4.5m funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme to study how Europe is governed.

The three-and-a-half year project will see the OU working with nine partners including universities, municipalities and private companies from six European states; the UK, France, Holland, Denmark, Croatia and Slovenia. The funding will be used to explore new approaches to involving the public in the governance of public services across Europe, including the use of digital technologies.

The project aims to locate, explore and diffuse leading edge experiments in new and more participatory approaches to public administration, which are becoming
evident across various countries in Europe, including the cultural sector which is a key part of the knowledge-based economy and society that is now developing. The project relies on a strong pan-European collaboration of academic and policy partners and is strongly connected to, and informed by, practice.

**Making international law work for women post-conflict: new voices**

Dr Olga Jurasz was awarded the British Academy Rising Star Award in May 2018. This grant will fund a workshop which seeks to bring together early career researchers to explore new perspectives on international law, women and post-conflict situations.

It will address the multifaceted challenges facing women in post-conflict situations and to explore ways in which international law can (and should) be put to work in order to effectively assist women and secure their rights in the aftermath of contemporary conflicts. Contributions which explore the interdisciplinary perspectives on this theme as well as those which reach beyond the question of accountability for CRSV are particularly welcome.

The workshop will take place in November 2018 and provide an opportunity for early career researchers to share their research with experts in the field of international law, women, peace and security.

**Workshop to broker knowledge in migrant third sector organisations**

Sara de Jong from the Citizenship and Governance SRA, together with OU colleague Vita Terry from FBL, have been awarded nearly £2,500 from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Knowledge Exchange Dialogues Scheme through the University of Oxford for a project entitled ‘Knowledge brokers in migrant third sector organisations’.

The project, submitted as part of the Citizenship and Governance strategic research area (SRA), brings together three academics with both research and practice-based expertise regarding migration and the third sector to facilitate a workshop with a range of stakeholders (volunteers, case workers and managers).

They are Vita as policy advisor of the Employability Forum and providing support for destitute asylum seekers as a volunteer with the Red Cross; Sara as volunteer with Refugee Action, Yarl’s Wood Befrienders and a women asylum seekers support group; and Jacqui Broadhead (University of Oxford) who managed the Refugee and Migrant Team at Islington Council. The workshop aimed, through interactive exercises, to foster knowledge exchange between academics and practitioners in order to identify how refugee and migrant frontline staff can most
effectively broker knowledge between service users and (non-migrant) staff.

**Other SRA News**

**One of five visiting professors studying brexit**

Dr Leslie Budd, SRA Stream Lead for Collaborative and Inclusive Governance has been appointed Visiting Professor at the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University together with four other academics. Two of the others, David Bailey (Aston) and Phil Tomlinson (Bath), are working with Les to produce *Industrial Strategy: Towards a Better Future* (Agenda Publishing). Les was a keynote speaker at the Centre’s inaugural and most recent annual conferences, and authored a recent blog on Brexit and the Irish question.

**Dr Jan Figel**

The Faith in Law Stream of the Citizenship and Governance (SRA) has been delighted to appoint a visiting academic to undertake research projects and bidding work with Faculty members. Ján was appointed as the first Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion and Belief outside the EU in May 2016. Ján led Slovakia’s accession negotiations to the European Union until 2003 and held the post of European Commissioner for Education, Training and Culture (2004-09). After this he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia. In 2009, he contributed to a book on the Integration of adolescents with a migration background into European society. Since his appointment as EU Special Envoy, Ján has travelled extensively in Africa and the Middle East on diplomatic missions to foster the freedom of thought, conscious and religion. He is currently working with Jessica Giles to develop religious freedom projects in fragile states and has authored the preface to her forthcoming book, ‘Law, Religion and Tradition’. Jessica and Ján, together with Professor Zachary Calo, an OU Law School visiting professor who holds a professorship at Hamad bin Khalifa University in Qatar, are attending the International Consortium of Law and Religion Scholars Conference in Rio this September to present a panel on religious freedom in international development and foreign policy.

**Events**
Watch this space for future Citizenship and Governance SRA events in 2018/19

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