COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HIGHLIGHTS 2016–17

CELEBRATING SUCCESS
IN 2016–17...

OUR RESEARCH AWARDS TOTALLED OVER £10,000,000

WE EDUCATED OVER 4,500 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, ALMOST 25% OF THE UNIVERSITY’S UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION

ALMOST 50% OF THE UNIVERSITY’S OVERSEAS STUDENTS WERE PART OF THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SOCIAL SCIENCES WAS HOME TO AROUND 850 MEMBERS OF STAFF;

WE TAUGHT OVER 6,000 POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS, MORE THAN 60% OF ALL POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

OVER 800 OF OUR STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT WHOLLY OVERSEAS

WE HAD OVER 100,000 ALUMNI FROM MORE THAN 185 COUNTRIES

WE WERE HOME TO OVER 400 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS, OVER 10% OF THE COMMUNITY OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WE WELCOMED OVER 1,500 NEW UNDERGRADUATE, OVER 3,500 NEW POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT AND NEARLY 100 NEW POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS TO OUR COMMUNITY
The College of Social Sciences impacts on all areas of society, evidenced by our diverse international staff body and our leading research, which impacts on communities locally and across the globe. Our influence on society dates back to the University’s civic roots. A century ago we pioneered business and social work education. More recently, we founded the UK’s first University secondary school, and tomorrow we will continue to expand our global reach as we take pride in being at the very heart of the University’s plans to establish a new campus in Dubai.

Building on our strong foundation of research and teaching excellence, last year the College launched the Lloyds Banking Group Centre for Responsible Business, an innovative research collaboration that aims to transform responsible business practice in the banking industry. In addition to this, the College was the driving force behind the Birmingham mental health policy commission, which aims to promote mental health awareness and illness prevention across society. We met and exceeded our targets for research income and for student recruitment, had our best ever results in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and have received numerous research awards including the ESRC Outstanding Impact in Business and Enterprise, which recognised the ground-breaking impact of our work with ethnic minority businesses. We also received funding from the ESRC to lead a series of studies looking at the impact of Brexit.

Last year also saw the opening of our new Alan Walters Building, devoted to teaching our Business School’s postgraduate community. This summer we have made significant improvements to the student spaces in School of Education building; and lecture theatres in University House. Looking ahead, we will continue to modernise our infrastructure, through a £23 million extension to the Business School as well as a modernisation of the catering facilities and student study spaces.

All of this all fits in with the College’s exciting and ambitious growth plan over the next ten years, including plans to invest in new posts, increase research income, improve our links with the city and the region, as well as the quality of the student experience on-campus, overseas and via our developing distance learning offer.

Professor Glyn Watson,
Interim Head of College of Social Sciences
BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL DEAN

Birmingham Business School has had another excellent year across our research, teaching and impact activity.

This year, in the area of research, we opened the Lloyds Banking Group Centre for Responsible Business, a £2.5 million-sponsored centre which seeks to support firms in embedding responsible best practice within their key activities. City-REDI continues to flourish, with its commitment to developing practical policy to inform economic growth; and the Centre for Crime, Justice and Policing this year celebrated its first anniversary. Finally, for this year, Professor Monder Ram and Professor Kiran Trehan jointly won the 2017 ESRC Impact Prize for their work with the Enterprise and Diversity Alliance, which has helped hundreds of ethnic minority businesses gain access to finance, mentoring and business support. This is yet another example of the many ways our research is having a direct impact on improving businesses.

In teaching, at the 2016 West Midlands Finance Awards, the School won the award for Training Body of the Year. This award recognises the value of our ability to produce the next generation of financial leaders. We had a record year in attracting high quality students to Birmingham. This demonstrates that the School is rapidly becoming a destination of choice amongst the next generation of business leaders. Demand for our programmes has proven to be particularly strong amongst overseas students; and this year there are plans to further grow our international footprint via our participation in the University’s new Dubai campus, when it launches in 2018. The challenge, now, is to ensure that we continue to provide a high-quality student experience as the School continues to grow its student body.

The ambitions of the School are further demonstrated through our recent investments in our infrastructure. The Alan Walters building opened its doors in the Autumn of 2016, and went on to win a much coveted regional architecture award from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Since then, we have also committed to undergo transformative work to the main Business School building with a £23 million extension to University House. Once the extension is completed in 2019, not only will it bring all of our academic staff under one roof, but it will offer our students a significant improvement in their learning environment.

Finally, at the end of a very busy academic year, we welcomed our new Dean, Professor Catherine Cassell, to the School. Cathy has a clear vision for the School, and with ambitious growth plans I have no doubt that the School will continue to build on its excellent foundations.

Professor Glyn Watson,
Dean, Birmingham Business School (2016-17 academic year)
The School of Education has had another hugely successful year as one of the top schools of education in the UK and our success is reflected in an improved position in several league tables. In the QS World University Rankings, Education at Birmingham is now ranked 25th in the world and joint sixth in Europe. We are in tenth position in The Good University Guide, moving up eight places from last year, and 6th in the Guardian University League tables (up 31 places).

Our teaching is highly valued by our students and this year we achieved an outstanding score of 93% in the National Student Survey for overall student satisfaction. The excellence of our staff’s teaching has also been recognised with the award of Higher Education Academy Beacon Senior Education Fellowships to several individuals, taking the number of Senior Fellows in the School to 11, along with two Principal Fellows.

The University of Birmingham School continues to expand with the very first cohort of pupils entering Year 9 in September and with huge successes for the pupils over the last year including an extremely impressive first set of A level results. Pupils have won a whole host of awards, including the Rotary Club’s Young Person’s Award for Design and Craftsmanship, Bronze Crest Awards for projects on energy and Why Character Matters Awards. We continue to work with the school on a range of teaching, research and partnership activities.

Research within the School of Education seeks to make a difference to the lives of young people and families and the significant impact of two of our research centres has been recognised in awards from the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues this year won the CoSS Prize for Outstanding Impact in Public Policy and the School of Education Autism Research Centre was Highly Commended in the Outstanding Impact in Society Prize. Several colleagues have been engaged in high-level influence work with government departments, reporting research findings and giving policy advice.

We have also had significant research grant success over the last year. Most notably, the Arts and Humanities Research Council awarded additional funding to two existing projects led by Professor Ian Grosvenor and Professor Angela Cressy and the Jubilee Centre secured further funding from the Templeton Foundation. Many of our current research projects have attracted significant media attention, including translation and translanguaging: investigating linguistic and cultural transformations in superdiverse societies; and transforming practice in autism.

The School of Education building has recently had a much-needed facelift, with the transformation of the former library into a student facing service, with comfortable working and social spaces and a new café. We hope this will make the School a more welcoming environment for all.

Professor Julie Allan, Head of School of Education
The School of Government and Society is one of the leading and largest UK communities of Social Scientists focusing on the theories, policies and practices of governance across the world. Each of the School’s three departments has a record of excellence in teaching, research and public engagement stretching across several decades. Each brings novelty and innovation to its work. The Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) and the International Development Department (IDD) are departments whose specialist expertise is recognised among students, clients, and policymakers alike. The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSYS), meanwhile, is one of the UK’s largest departments of its kind, resulting in breadth as well as depth in its teaching and research, a dynamic and diverse faculty and student body, and engagement with opinion formers both in the UK and abroad. Staff within the School undertake research of international significance and in the last three years have attracted significant research income. In teaching, we have introduced new distance-learning programmes, developed one of the University’s first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and place a premium on student enhancement activities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Our teaching aims to prepare all of our students for life in globalised societies. Reflecting this, we have one of the highest employability rates for our students in the UK. The highlights of our work indicate a community of scholars and students which is vibrant, ambitious and forward-looking.

Professor Mark Webber,
Head of School of Government and Society
The mission of the School of Social Policy is ‘to understand the world – but also to change it’. This means not just carrying out high-quality research, but also using this new knowledge to make a practical difference in public services and in people’s lives. This might be through our teaching, our training programmes for front-line workers and managers, our policy advice, our work with the media, the relationships we build with people using services and local communities, and so on. The School has traditionally consisted of the Health Services Management Centre (one of the UK’s foremost centres for research, evaluation, teaching and professional development for health and social care organisations) and the Department of Social Policy and Social Work (SPSW). However, during 2016 we have significantly increased our teaching of Criminology and integrated staff and students from Sociology. In recognition of these changes, SPSW became two new departments from 1 August 2017 (a Department of Social Work and Social Care, and a Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology), with new investment in all these disciplines and additional new staff, new research and enhanced teaching programmes.

These changes build on significant current success. In teaching, our undergraduate social policy programme is the second largest in the Russell Group; HSMC currently has 1,600 MSc students registered on its Elizabeth Garrett Anderson programme (for mid-career NHS leaders) and nearly 1,000 people going through its Nye Bevan programme (for people aspiring to NHS Board-level positions); HSMC has a long track record in building consortia to deliver the educational component of the national NHS Management Training Scheme; and Birmingham has the oldest social work programme in the country (established in 1908). We are also the only Russell Group university to have our own BA/MA in Social Work, to be providing the educational component of the employer-led Step Up to Social Work programme and to be recognised by the Department for Education as a regional Teaching Partnership, playing a key role at the heart of regional devolution.

In 2016–17, we have seen a number of major research wins, including national/international work to explore scope for a more sustainable system of adult social care, evaluations of the impact of the Care Act, research into sexual and gender-based violence in the refugee crisis, a study of the impact of Brexit on EU families in the UK, involvement in a new ten-year improvement research institute for the NHS (the first of its kind in Europe), and many, many more. Our four cross-School research centres all make a key contribution to the life of the School, and are all multi-disciplinary, outward-focused and well networked with policy and practice. These include the Centre on Housing Assets and Savings Management (CHASM), Family Potential, the Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) and the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) – and involvement in a new interdisciplinary Institute for Mental Health to be launched in 2017, with further work underway to build further joint research and teaching with our College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

By 2020, we aim to be recognised as one of the top five Schools of our kind in the UK, and are well on the way to achieving this aim.

Professor Jon Glasby,
Head of School of Social Policy
BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW DEAN

Birmingham Business School was delighted to welcome Professor Catherine Cassell in September as the new Dean of Birmingham Business School. Professor Cassell is the first woman to lead Birmingham Business School in its history of over a century.

Professor Cassell joins us from the University of Leeds where she occupied the positions of Professor of Organizational Psychology and Deputy Dean at Leeds University Business School. Before beginning her time at Leeds, she was Deputy Director at the Manchester Business School. Both are highly ranked business schools and comparable to Birmingham Business School in terms of size, complexity and reputations. She has served at both institutions with distinction.

She is also an exceptional scholar and well known within the business school community. Professor Cassell is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, as well as the British Academy of Management.

Much of her work has been published in top-ranked journals and she is one of the most highly cited researchers in her field. Her areas of expertise cover organisational change and learning; dignity diversity and fair treatment at work; and qualitative research methods in the business management field. She was the founding chair of British Academy of Management’s Special Interest group in Research Methodology – a group she is still heavily involved with.

Professor Cassell was also a founding member of the steering committee of the European Academy of Management’s Special Interest Group in Research Methods and Research Practice. She was inaugural co-Editor of ‘Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management: an international journal’, and is on the Editorial Advisory Boards of five other journals.

She is currently leading a study on raising diversity and inclusion in corporate retailing – a £650,000 Economic and Social Research Centre (ESRC)-funded study.

Professor Cassell commented ‘I am both delighted and honoured to be the new Dean of Birmingham Business School, a School with a distinguished history and an exciting future ahead. I am looking forward to working with colleagues across the University and the region in enhancing the School’s world-class research, excellent student experience, and global reach.’
‘Birmingham’s Muslims: in the city, of the city’

Led by Dr Chris Allen,
Lecturer in Social Policy

‘Birmingham’s Muslims: in the city, of the city’ is more than academic research. Bold and unique in its approach, the project will consider the story of the city’s Muslim communities – their past, present and future – to better understand their contribution to the success of the city and provide an opportunity for open and honest discourse.

The aim of the project is to generate new ideas to encourage others to understand Birmingham’s Muslim communities as both ‘in’ and ‘of’ the city by focusing on the following seven themes:

- **Prevent and security** – Exploring the challenges faced by the city when protecting those vulnerable to extremist messages and ideologies.
- **Brummie and Englishness** – Looking at ways in which Muslims can comfortably and authentically express their identities.
- **Old and young** – The experience of being a young Muslim in the city of Birmingham today is likely to be significantly different to that of an elderly Muslim, and the project will seek to explore these inter-generational differences.
- **Cultural assets** – Develop a series of cultural assets to celebrate Birmingham’s Muslim community with the aim of hosting a festival event in the summer of 2019.
- **Inclusion and Cohesion** – Ensure that Birmingham remains a successful and vibrant diverse city that is founded on the principles of shared identities and spaces, of fairness, tolerance, collaboration and co-operation.
- **Language and discourse** – Look at ways we talk about ‘our’ diversity including how different groups and communities including Muslims – are able to speak about themselves and about ‘being Muslim’.
- **Collaboration and partnership** – Engage with a wide range of stakeholders – state, institutional, community and individual.

The three-year programme will be delivered in partnership with Birmingham’s Muslim communities, the city’s elected representatives and political leaders along with other relevant actors and institutions from across the city, including Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and the Police Commissioner among others.
SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHOLERA IN HAITI

Led by Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hebert, Senior Lecturer, International Development Department

Support for the Victims of Cholera in Haiti
In December 2016, the United Nations apologised for the cholera epidemic in Haiti that killed at least 9,000 and sickened nearly 1 million people since 2010. The UN now recognises that Nepalese peacekeepers working for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) have brought cholera to Haiti in 2010. The apology came after many years of silence from the UN, and was coupled with a promise to prevent future deaths and suffering and to remedy those that had occurred. But since then, the UN has done nothing to make good on its promises, in particular to consult with and remedy the victims.

Giving victims a voice
Research from Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hebert sheds light on this important issue, by giving a voice to the victims and their families. Along with Professor Rosa Freedman, Dr Lemay-Hebert has worked on a practical solution to end the current stalemate around the reparations or compensations to the victims of cholera.

Now that this step has been achieved, the focus is on the specific nature of the compensation package to be provided to the cholera victims.

Earlier this year, Dr Lemay-Hebert travelled to rural localities around Mirebalais in Haiti, where cholera first broke out, to gather testimonies directly from victims, their families and the public interest lawyers that represent them, to find out what remedies they were seeking and why consultations with victims are so urgently needed.

What the victims said
Individuals simply wanted to be given the money they spent to take family members to hospital, to pay for medicines, or to bury the dead. They acknowledged that whilst the collective remedies the UN proposed, such as building health centres and schools, might address the causes of why cholera spread so quickly, they didn’t trust that these plans would come to fruition. They also expressed concern that collective remedies would benefit those who did not suffer from cholera.

Next steps
The victims clearly expressed the willingness to meet with and talk to UN officials, but also expressed a strong preference for individual reparations. Waiting indefinitely to organise consultations with the victims is not a solution. In this context, it is imperative that the UN enters into a direct dialogue with the victims.

The next publications by Dr Lemay-Hebert and Professor Freedman will emphasise this argument. They are currently working on a book project (The Fight for Human Rights in Haiti), with the aim of bridging the gap between the positions of the UN and the representatives of the victims of cholera in Haiti.
Professor Jenny Phillimore (Social Policy) received funding for her research project entitled ‘Sexual and Gender-based Violence in the Refugee Crisis: vulnerabilities, inequalities and responses’ as part of the ‘Europe and Global Challenges’ scheme, a joint funding initiative from three funders: Volkswagen Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences).

New research from the Housing and Communities Research Group (Social Policy) and the West Midlands Housing Officers Group, found that Social Letting Agencies (SLAs) had a significant impact on homelessness prevention, enabling their clients to quickly access good quality properties with tenant support and good services. The research, which has already attracted wide interest in the region, will be used to make the case for policies to make SLAs more viable following the positive mention in the 2017 Housing White Paper ‘Fixing our Broken Housing Market’.

Professor Adrian Blackledge and Professor Angela Creese (School of Education) have been awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund, to conduct research which will inform equitable language policy and practice in university education in South Africa. ‘Overcoming Barriers to University Education in South Africa’ is a collaboration between researchers at University of Birmingham, University of Cape Town, and Universities South Africa, a non-profit organisation representing South Africa’s public universities.

The Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (MEDMIG) project, co-led by Dr Nando Sigona (Social Policy), was nominated for a Guardian University Award 2017 for Research Impact.

Professor Kalwant Bhopal (Education) was a judge for the Guardian University Awards 2017. The awards recognise qualities and achievements across a range of categories and were celebrated at a ceremony in London in March.
Professor Monder Ram (Birmingham Business School) was successful in gaining funding from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP’s Growth Hub Development Fund for a project titled ‘Building an Inclusive Ecosystem for Business Development and Growth in Disadvantaged Areas’. Led by the University of Birmingham, this is a partnership project with Citizens UK and Natwest Bank. It will also be supported by colleagues including the University’s Business Engagement team over the next 18 months.

Dr Vivek Soundararajan (Birmingham Business School) was successful in winning funding from The Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE), supported by the ESRC, for a project around Sustainable Entrepreneurship. This application was supported by the Impact Hub Birmingham, and will involve a close collaboration with the team there.

The School of Social Policy has succeeded in securing three projects from the Department of Health/NIHR. The projects focus on various aspects of care and mental health service delivery, and are led by Professor Jerry Tew; Dr Karen Newbigging and Dr Catherine Needham.
‘WHO KNOWS BEST?’
OLDER PEOPLE’S CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING AVOIDABLE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

Led by Professor Jon Glasby,
Professor of Health and Social Care and Head of School of Social Policy

Regardless of the time of year, the pressures on acute hospital care are intense. In the context of an ageing population, growing demand and ongoing funding challenges, these pressures are likely to continue. With estimates of over 2 million unplanned hospital admissions per year of people aged over 65, policy makers and local leaders have often asked themselves whether all these people really need to be in hospital, or whether there is scope to care for people in community settings.

Until now, studies which seek to address these questions have relied largely on retrospective accounts by health professionals and academic researchers, often looking at people’s case notes. Remarkably very few studies world-wide have talked to older people and their families with personal experience of these issues.

A study from the Health Services Management Centre and Department of Social Policy and Social Work, which is thought to be the first of its kind, addressed these issues from a different perspective, by interviewing older people directly about their experiences. The study also involved interviews or focus groups with 47 health and social care professionals, thereby drawing on the expertise and experience of front-line staff.

Findings
The study found that older people were admitted to hospital appropriately. Only nine of the 104 older people interviewed felt that hospital was not the right place for them (and most of these people seemed nonetheless very unwell). None of the GPs or hospital doctors who took part felt that these (or any other) admissions in the study were ‘inappropriate’ (making a rate of ‘inappropriate’ admissions of 0% from a medical perspective). Despite this, older people were able to identify scope to do some things differently, and their experiences are summarised in a national good practice guide sent to every hospital in the country. Most of the older people interviewed tried to avoid going to hospital, even when ill or in pain, highlighting a need to encourage older people to seek help at an early stage (rather than keeping them away from services). The study also highlights the crucial role that older people have to play in understanding the issues at stake in terms of emergency admissions. Any attempt to generate solutions which does not draw on this expertise misses a major opportunity and is unlikely to be successful.

Impact
The study was launched with a free training video for health and social care staff hosted by the UK’s Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), and a good practice guide has been sent to every hospital, Director of Adult Social Services and lead GP in the country.

This year, Birmingham Business School launched the Lloyds Banking Group Centre for Responsible Business, an exciting £2.5 million externally funded challenge-based research collaboration which will embed ‘Principles of Responsible Business’ into programmes to transform management education and drive long-term change in the country’s business community.

The funding provided a timely and unique opportunity to create a holistic, interdisciplinary body of work, informed by high-quality research and extensive practice engagement. This body of work is intended to inform, shape and energise what has been referred to as the business responsibility revolution.

Transforming businesses from irresponsible to responsible practices is one of the major challenges of our time. Irresponsible businesses create social, economic and environmental harm to the many for the short-term profit of the few. They are implicated in modern slavery, social inequality, gender inequality, perpetuating poverty, pollution of air, water and land, biodiversity destruction, exploitation and climate change.

Trying to understand how and why businesses make these irresponsible decisions has been a recurring theme of researchers at Birmingham Business School and the lessons from this research have been a central theme of our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. The Lloyds Banking Group Centre for Responsible Business looks to build on this tradition through creating a space where academics, students, businesses, civic society and other change agents can critically engage in the challenge to transform businesses from irresponsible to responsible thinking and action.

The centre will seek to understand and critique irresponsible businesses and offer solutions to responsible business transformation, as well as support the development of business graduates with the capacity to contribute to responsible business transformation and societal flourishing.
This year the College submitted a record number of grant applications and achieved a £3.5 million increase in research awards year-on-year.

Professor Kiran Trehan (Business School) was this year appointed as Vice President for Research at the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE). The ISBE is a national organisation, focusing on research, policy and practice in small business and entrepreneurship.

The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues (School of Education) ran a new iteration of the Birmingham Heroes campaign, using philosopher quotes to provoke discussion and debate amongst the general public around issues related to character.

Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas (Government and Society) won a Leverhulme/British Academy Small Grant titled ‘The Politics of Forced Migration in the Mediterranean: Interstate Bargaining and Issue-Linkage in Greece and Jordan’

The Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), based in IDD, was featured on Oxfam’s influential development blog From Poverty to Power. Duncan Green, Oxfam’s Senior Strategic Adviser, highlighted the GSDRC’s ‘brilliant literature and evidence reviews’ for policy-makers and practitioners. The GSDRC, he explained, is an example of how universities can provide knowledge brokers and ‘gateway’ portals to make evidence accessible – and therefore usable.

The Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (Birmingham Business School) won an ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize, taking the award for Outstanding Impact in Business and Enterprise at a ceremony in June 2017. The Centre also received follow-on funding from the ESRC to support their ongoing Business Leaders Project with Citizens UK.
Dr Karen Guldberg (Education) was commissioned by the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), an initiative of the Qatar Foundation, to examine current access to and quality of education provided to individuals with autism in Qatar. Karen’s research team have conducted fieldwork with individuals with autism, parents and carers, professionals and policy makers, including representatives from the Ministry of Education. The study will culminate in recommendations for policy and practice that will be disseminated at the WISE global summit in November 2017.

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity and others from the College were featured in the latest iteration of the Birmingham Heroes campaign. This included Professor Jenny Phillimore (Social Policy), Professor Kiran Trehan (Business School) Dr Nando Sigona (Social Policy), who were featured for their critical work across the issues of migration and displacement and their profound importance to our cultures, societies and economies.

The Centre for Household Assets and Savings Management (CHASM) has secured funding from one of its most generous supporters. Andrew Fisher, who has been involved with the Centre over the past six years, has provided a gift that will help to fund research fellows, a PhD scholarship, continued funding for the Centre’s innovative internship programme and continued support for CHASM’s Annual Conference, as well as other projects.

Professor John Mohan (Third Sector Research Centre) secured funding from the Leverhulme Trust to lead a study on community-level perspectives on post-war change in the British voluntary sector.

The Health Services Management Centre (Social Policy) is a key partner of a new £40 million world-leading health care improvement research institute, which will be led by the University of Cambridge and has been funded by the Heath Foundation. This new institute seeks to strengthen the evidence base for how to improve health care aiming to grow research skills capacity in the NHS, academia and beyond.

Birmingham’s Voices of War and Peace First World War Engagement Centre, a consortium of universities funded by the AHRC and led by the School of Education, has received two further research grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, providing support for community projects and core funding for the Centre.
RESEARCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HELPING TUNISIAN WOMEN TO BREAK THE SILENCE AROUND REPRESSSION

Led by Dr Christalla Yakinthou, Birmingham Fellow, POLSIS

Dr Christalla Yakinthou is working with the International Center for Transitional Justice to help female Tunisian victims ‘break the silence’ on the atrocities experienced after 60 years of suppression under successive dictatorships.

Dr Yakinthou’s research, which focuses on intergenerational trust-building, involves collecting personal narratives of atrocity among women survivors and victims of political violence.

In January 2017, Dr Yakinthou held a workshop at the University with an intergenerational group of female human rights activists, five of whom were survivors of Ben-Ali era human rights violations and four of whom were under the age of 30. Over the course of the workshop, the activists were trained in oral history technique, in collection and writing of personal narratives, and in radio interviewing techniques.

As a direct result of the workshop, three pieces of work emerged to provide the women with platforms to share their harrowing stories, not only with the younger generation who would not have experienced life under a dictatorship, but also with the rest of the world. These included:

Podcast series: The first podcast was based on stories associated with the word ‘tariff’, which to the group symbolised what they had given and what had been taken from them by autocracy. The podcast was created by the women activists and will be placed both on radio stations as well as streamed online.

Collection of narratives: Written by women themselves, these narratives will be compiled for various uses, one of which will be a graphic novel. It will be distributed by partners to youth-focused after-school human rights clubs across Tunisia.

Art exhibit: The exhibition will be based on the story of the ‘kouffa’, which is a Tunisian basket that women would take to their loved ones who were imprisoned by the regime. The kouffa and its contents tell the story of a life spent travelling between prison and home. The exhibition is projected to travel through four key regions of Tunisia, and, funding permitting, will be brought to Birmingham and taken to New York.
The Transform Autism Education (TAE) project focuses on the domain of ‘good autism practice’ in the education of pupils with autism in the UK, Greece and Italy. By researching good autism practice in education, it aims to produce teacher training programmes which will facilitate the inclusion of autistic children in primary schools in Greece and Italy.

Funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus Plus scheme, the project involves a range of Greek, Italian and UK partners and employs the Autism Education Trust collaborative training schemes – which the Autism Centre for Education and Research was instrumental in developing – as a founding model.

While the requirements of each country were distinct, what united all aspects of the project was a desire to improve the educational inclusion of autistic children, as well as their general experiences in school.

**Impact**
Starting in 2014 and running over three years, the TAE programme has traversed several stages, such as the launch of a resource-based website, and it has included a number of international meetings in Greece, Italy and the UK. These incorporated a range of academic and practical activities, including conferences during which information about the project was shared with teachers, researchers and parents. Already, over 1,600 school staff in Greece have received the training and the Italian team launched their own bespoke training programme at the final TAE conference in June 2017.

The project has led to further research, including a current research project in Qatar, which investigates how the educational needs of pupils with autism can be best met.
Researchers from the College of Social Sciences and College of Arts and Law won three of the 25 projects on Brexit commissioned by the ESRC. The funding will be used to lead a series of studies looking at the impact of Brexit on people in the UK. Dr Nando Sigona (Social Policy) will look at the study of Eurochildren and their families’ experiences and responses to Brexit. Professor Raquel Ortega Argilés’ (Birmingham Business School) study will look at the economic impacts of Brexit on the UK, its regions, its cities and its sectors.

Research led by Dr Frank Strobel (Birmingham Business School) has led to the development of a new ‘early warning system’ that could help policymakers around the world take action to avert or lessen the impact of financial crisis.

Research from Dr Daniel Wheatley (Birmingham Business School) found that autonomy in the workplace has positive effects on well-being and job satisfaction. The results were drawn from two separate years of data for 20,000 employees from the Understanding Society Survey. The research findings have received international coverage and were featured in India’s biggest paper.

Dr Chris Allen (Social Policy) organised a conference celebrating Birmingham’s Muslim community and their role in the city, ‘Birmingham’s Muslims: past, present and futures, challenges and opportunities’. The event saw over 65 members of the public and academia come together to contextualise the past and explore the future, and was a great success.

Professor Paul Burstow (Social Policy) launched the Birmingham Mental Health Policy Commission in February 2017 with a call for evidence. The Commission aims to produce practical recommendations to improve mental health care, based on evidence from policy-makers, academics, practitioners and service users.

Following the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Productivity and Skills Commission, City-REDI (Birmingham Business School) managed the Productivity and Skills Commission’s rapid evidence review under the leadership of Professor Nigel Driffield (Warwick University).
TEACHING AND LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17
Birmingham Business School was this year awarded Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) accreditation, a global movement to generate positive change by embedding universal values of social responsibility and sustainability into the academic institution.

The Health Services Management Centre, together with Alliance Manchester Business School, KPMG and the NHS Leadership Academy won the prestigious European Foundation for Management Development 2016 Excellence in Practice Gold Award in the ‘Talent Development’ category, in recognition of our Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Nye Bevan leadership development programmes.

The Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) and the Medical School Public Health faculty will be delivering the new Aspiring Public Health Leaders’ programme from 2017, in partnership with Public Health England.
Birmingham Business School won the Training Body of the Year Award at the 2016 West Midlands Finance Awards. The award recognises the value of the School’s ability to produce excellent finance graduates and highlights the success of the KPMG School Leavers Programme in Accounting, as well as our Online MBA, which is the first in the world to be accredited by the Association of MBAs.

The College are thrilled to be playing a central role in the opening of the University’s campus in Dubai in September 2018. We will be offering both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes during the initial phase of development, and will continue to play a major part in the expansion of this overseas base in the coming years.

The College had a strong showing at the 2016 Social Worker of the Year Awards. Jamie McEwan (MA Social Work, 2013) won Gold for ‘Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year’, while Annabelle Stock (MA Social Work, 2016) took home Silver as runner-up for ‘Student Social Worker of the Year’.

The Jubilee Centre this year joined forces with Step up to Serve’s #iwill campaign, to create a new free online training course. The two-week MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), entitled Building Character through Youth Social Action, explored how social action can change the lives of young people by building character and confidence.

Groups of students from the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) have this year:

- Travelled to London for a talk on UK Russia relations by officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a presentation at the European Leadership Network
- Been invited to an exclusive private briefing at the Royal United Services Institute with Sir Mark Lyall Grant (at the time National Security Advisor), before receiving a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament

Note: The text above is a selection from a document and does not necessarily represent the full content of the document.
POSITIVE LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE

In the 2018 *Complete University Guide*, all eight subjects from the College were rated within the top 20 in the UK, with three subjects appearing in the top 10, including Education (which was ranked 5th in the UK jumping five places since last year), Social Work (which was ranked 6th), and Sociology (which was positioned 8th, climbing 11 places since last year).

RISING

3 PLACES

In the 2018 *Guardian University League Tables*, Education is ranked 4th in the UK, rising two places from last year, and Social Policy is ranked 7th in the UK, rising three places since last year.

INCREASED RANKING

The MBA programme has retained its ranking as one of the top 90 in the FT European Business School Rankings 2016. Birmingham is ranked at 73, a rise to 17th out of the UK institutions listed.

TOP 50

In the QS University World Rankings 2018, Education, Social Policy and Development Studies were all ranked in the top 50, reflecting the outstanding education and research taking place within the College.

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EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17
Birmingham Business School welcomed Melanie Richards, Vice Chair and partner at KPMG UK to campus, to give a Distinguished Leaders’ Lecture on trust in business.

The Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME) hosted their 20th annual conference in October 2016, with the conference showcasing new developments in research and practice across diversity and enterprise.

The College were delighted to welcome internationally renowned speaker, community change maker and Co-Director of the Industrial Areas Foundation, Ernesto Cortes Jnr to the University in May 2017. This event brought together a diverse audience of key stakeholders from sectors across the city as well as leading academics and a panel of thought leaders and experienced practitioners.
A NUMBER OF OUR PROFESSORIATE HELD THEIR INAUGURAL LECTURES THIS YEAR, INCLUDING:

- Professor Paul Burstow on closing the mental health treatment gap
- Professor Catherine Staite on whether we expect too much of our leaders
- Professor Ian Thomson on the concept of citizen accounting, audit and accountability for sustainable transformation
- Professor Jerry Tew on social perspectives on unease, mental distress and recovery

The College of Social Sciences once again hosted a series of events for the ESRC Festival of Social Science, with 13 events across campus and the city, encouraging the public to engage with our cutting-edge research across the social sciences.

In November, the Health Services Management Centre, together with the College of Medical and Dental Sciences hosted a visit from Sir Robert Francis QC, Chair of the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. He gave a public lecture on the state of the NHS four years after the Inquiry, attended by over 300 people.
In December, Birmingham Business School was proud to open their new postgraduate centre, the Alan Walters Building. Named after Sir Alan Walters, Chief Economic Adviser to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during the 1980s and Professor of Econometrics and Statistics from 1951 to 1968, the building was supported by a donation from his family. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Lord Burns GCB, former Chair of Santander UK plc, followed by an unveiling by the Vice-Chancellor.

University of Birmingham alumnus and Vice Chairman of Investment Banking at J.P. Morgan, Laurence Hollingworth delivered March’s Distinguished Leaders lecture, reflecting on his personal journey, and sharing his experiences and insight into what makes a successful leader in business.

The School of Social Policy was delighted to host the first international conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) inclusivity in Higher Education. Taking place in September 2016, the conference welcomed delegates from across the UK, Spain, Australia and Nigeria, among others.
ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS 2016-17
The college is leading the university's engagement agenda, on a regional, national and international scale. We have a number of partnerships, initiatives, research groups and individuals working towards this activity.
PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY
Maximising the impact of Birmingham research by working with public services

THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH CENTRE
Researching charities, voluntary organisations, community groups, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN ETHNIC MINORITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Leading research on ethnic minority enterprise and business

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT CENTRE
Facilitating key developments in policy and practice with agencies

CITY-REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
Developing an academic understanding of major city regions across the globe

CENTRE ON HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND SAVINGS MANAGEMENT
Providing a focus for world-class research on financial security, financial inclusion, financial capability and wealth taxation

INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES
Exploring current issues around devolution and combined authorities

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH INTO SUPERDIVERSITY
Seeking to answer the questions that emerge at the nexus of migration, faith, language, ethnicity and culture

BIRMINGHAM PARTNERS
Hosting a key civic partnership, actively encouraging links to strengthen Birmingham
Dr Catherine Needham, Professor Paul Burstow and Professor Judith Smith (all Social Policy) were delegates at the 2016 British Council Apeldoorn UK-Netherlands symposium on the future of older people’s care, hosted in Utrecht by the Dutch Foreign Ministry and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Professor James Arthur (Education) was invited to a reception at No.10 Downing Street by Prime Minister Theresa May in March to discuss with her the character building activities in the new University of Birmingham School.

Professor Kalwant Bhopal (Education) submitted written evidence to the Women and Equalities Parliamentary Committee on the inequalities faced by the traveller community.

The Health Services Management Centre submitted written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee Inquiry on the integration of health and social care.

The College welcomed the Work and Pensions Select Committee to campus in January, gathering evidence on Universal Basic Income. Those giving evidence included Professor Pete Alcock and Professor Karen Rowlingson. The session was attended by Rt Hon Frank Field MP, Steve McCabe MP, University alumnus Craig Mackinlay MP, Karen Buck MP, James Cartlidge MP and Mhairi Black MP.

The College was pleased to welcome James Morris MP, Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, to campus to discuss the launch of the Birmingham Mental Health Commission. Mr Morris met with Professor Jon Glasby, Head of the School of Social Policy, Professor Jerry Tew (Social Policy), Dr Nathan Hughes (Social Policy) and Dr Rachel Upthegrove (Institute of Clinical Sciences).
The Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security's (ICCS) Director, Professor Nick Wheeler (School of Government and Society), contributed to a policy briefing on ‘The governance of UAVs in defence and security’. Professor Wheeler gave a presentation based on the findings of the ESRC-funded research project on the ‘Political Effects of UAVs’, which explored the impact of drones on international conflict and domestic peace processes.

Dr Chris Allen (Social Policy) spoke to the Home Affairs Parliamentary Committee during an evidence hearing session on Islamophobia. The hearing was part of the ongoing inquiry into hate crime in the UK.

Professor James Arthur was invited to attend a round table discussion with the acting US Ambassador to the UK, Mr Lewis Lukens, in London in April. The meeting was organised by Step Up To Serve to discuss volunteerism and character and followed an exchange programme on volunteerism.

Hilary Brown (Social Policy) took part in the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network and Institute of Translational Medicine seminar on ‘moon shot’ grand challenges facing health care in an era of genomic medicine, this forming part of discussions about the new UK Industrial Strategy.

The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues (Education) helped The Duke of Cambridge launch a ground-breaking new award programme, to help school children build character, confidence and resilience. The award programme draws on the expertise and skills of predominantly ex-Services personnel who work as SkillForce instructors.

Professor Judith Smith (Social Policy) presented to a seminar of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Future Sustainability of the NHS, setting out evidence on the integration of health and social care.

The College, in collaboration with Citizens UK, welcomed the West Midlands Combined Authority mayoral candidates to the University in March for a Mayoral Election Assembly. Andy Street and Sion Simon spoke to an audience of over 900, outlining their plans for the region.
The Jubilee Centre’s Director of Education, Dr Tom Harrison met with the Colombian Minister of Education, Yaneth Giha Tovar, whilst giving the keynote address at a character and positive education conference in Bogota. Dr Harrison discussed plans for a national roll out of a character and positive education programme in schools in Columbia in partnership with the Florecer Institute and Jubilee Centre.

The British Academy hosted an all-day event in February, discussing the Anti-Corruption Evidence scheme, which is run in partnership with the Department for International Development (DfID). Dr Heather Marquette (Government and Society) gave a presentation on the University of Birmingham project.

The International Development Department (Government and Society) hosted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s Africa Study Day at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This is the Africa Directorate’s annual research away day, where most of the Directorate assembles to engage with Africanist researchers and discuss contemporary challenges. This reflects Birmingham IDD’s growing reputation in this area.

Health Services Management Centre (HSMC, Social Policy), led by Dr Karen Newbigging, have produced a report on mental health in the region as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission. The Commission, focusing specifically on the West Midlands region, was chaired by Norman Lamb MP. This was launched at a major public event in January and there was significant broadcast and social media coverage.

Professor Karen Rowlingson (Social Policy) was the specialist advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on Financial Exclusion which released its final report, ‘Tackling Financial Exclusion: A Country that Works for Everyone?’ in March, receiving considerable media attention.
The entrance to the new Alan Walters building, opened in 2016

Photo credit: Quintin Lake