



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

2023

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

August 2023–July 2024

IPR Institute for
Policy Research

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Executive summary

Key highlights 2023–2024

The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) is a leading public policy research institute, based at the University of Bath. We aim to further the public good through research into issues of significant relevance to policy debate and decision-making, building links with the worlds of policy and practice, and increasing public understanding of policy research through our public events and publications.

We deliver activities for policymakers, researchers and practitioners to enable dual learning and original contributions to both research and practice, delivered through our Policy Fellowship Programmes, policy engagement activities, International Visiting Fellows scheme, and postgraduate programmes including an MSc in Public Policy and Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice.

Research



We had a successful year for income generation, returning approximately £840,000 in research income for the year.



We were awarded funding from organisations including the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), abrdn Financial Fairness Trust, Bath Beacons, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Nuffield Foundation and private philanthropy.



Our research is highly cited, with more than a quarter of our publications appearing in the top ten per cent cited worldwide.

Postgraduate teaching



Over 60 mid-career policy professionals currently registered on our Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP).

23

23 students enrolled on the MSc in Public Policy course.

Policy programmes



We received funding of approximately £81,000 for the pilot Bath Policy Engagement Academy (BPEA) for the academic year 2023-2024, with funding from Research England's Policy Support Fund and the ESRC and EPSRC Impact Acceleration Accounts.



We launched the BPEA, established to signpost the entry point for senior policymakers to access expertise from across the University, to unify pan-University policy engagement training and activities, and to expand policy engagement activities regionally, nationally and internationally.

35

35 Policy Fellows took part in our Policy Fellowship Programme, involving 155 meetings with 94 Bath academics or professional service staff, and we launched the new Health Policy Fellowship Programme.



We delivered two Masterclasses for the Policy Profession Unit and three workshops as part of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's inaugural Science and Engineering week.



We renewed our Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of South Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labor.



Led University of Bath delegations to COP28 and SB60 and presented *ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders in Conversation with Climate Experts* at COP28.

Events and communications



We ran 17 events, with a total audience of around 1,300 people.



We shared 11 new podcasts and 14 new videos, engaging with another 14,000 people.



We published over 50 blog posts and received over 23,000 views.

The IPR had a busy and productive year in 2023 – 2024, securing new research grants, teaching and supervising students on our postgraduate programmes, and working with policymakers in Whitehall and the West of England. The spate of elections in the UK and worldwide in 2024 have brought new opportunities and challenges for public policy institutes like ours.

Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director

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IPR structure



IPR team

- Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director
- Professor Peter Allen, IPR Sabbatical
- Dr Geoff Bates, Lecturer/Research Fellow
- Dr Joe Chrisp, Research Associate
- Dr Joanna Clifton-Sprigg, Understanding Society Research Fellow
- Professor James Copestake, Director of Studies for Professional Doctorate
- Professor Matt Dickson, Professor of Economic and Social Policy
- Andy Dunne, Policy Engagement Manager
- Dr Aida Garcia-Lazaro, Research Associate
- Dr Rita Griffiths, Research Fellow
- Maria Pia Iocco Barias, Research Associate
- Dr Charles Larkin, Director of Research
- Professor Jane Millar, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy
- Dr Alice Morrey, Research Assistant
- Amy O’Beirne, Events, Publications and Communications Officer
- Dr Andrea Serna Castaño, Research Associate
- Laura Smyth, Research Assistant and PhD Candidate
- Amy Thompson, Head of Policy Programmes and Communications
- Claudia Torres Cervantes, IPR Coordinator
- Dr María José Ventura Alfaro, Research Associate
- Dr Marsha Wood, Research Assistant



IPR Advisory Board

We are very grateful to all Advisory Board members for their continued contributions throughout 2023–2024.

- Lord John Eatwell (Chair), former President, Queen's College, University of Cambridge
- Marcial Boo, former Chief Executive, Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Anita Charlesworth, Director of Research and the REAL Centre (Research and Economic Analysis for the Long term) at the Health Foundation
- Dr Claire Craig, Provost, The Queen's College, University of Oxford
- Van DuBose, former investment banker and consultant
- Gail Kent, former Director of HR, Resources, Data within DGs HR and CONNECT, European Commission. Trustee, Executive Coach/Mentor
- Jessica Lee, Director of Strategy, West of England Combined Authority
- Paul Maltby, Chief Digital Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government
- Ryan Shorthouse, Director, Bright Blue
- Lord Christopher Tugendhat, former Chancellor of the University of Bath and former EU Commissioner



IPR visitors

IPR Honorary Professors

- Professor Ricardo García Mira, Full Professor of Social Psychology, University of A Coruña, Spain; former member of the Spanish Parliament
- Professor Sue Maguire, expert and independent consultant on education, employment and social policy
- Professor Allister McGregor, former Professor of Political Economy, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield; former Head of the Vulnerability and Poverty Team, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Professor of Practice

- Professor Chris Skidmore OBE, former MP for Kingswood; former Minister of State, including at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy; Chair of the Independent Government Review on Net Zero

IPR Visiting Fellows

- Dr Anthony Halog, Lecturer, School of the Environment, University of Queensland; Head of the Research Group for Industrial Ecology and Circular Economy
- Fran Bennett, Associate Fellow, Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford; independent consultant
- Jurgen De Wispelaere, Visiting Professor, Götz Werner Chair of Economic Policy and Constitutional Theory, University of Freiburg, Germany
- Kalyan Kameshwara, Research Fellow, University of Westminster
- John Springford, Associate Fellow, Centre for European Reform
- Malcolm Torry, General Manager, Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN); Senior Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- Steve Webb, Partner, Lane Clark & Peacock; former Pensions Minister and MP

IPR Visiting Policy Fellows

- Dr Jorge Sainz, Associate Professor, Applied Economics and Moral Philosophy Department, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
- Kit Vaughan, Senior Climate Policy Advisor, The Elders

Affiliated academics and researchers

- Dr Hannah Durrant, Senior Research Fellow, Wales Centre for Public Policy; former Research Strategy Lead at the IPR
- Dr Luke Martinelli, former IPR Research Associate and lead researcher on Universal Basic Income

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IPR research



IPR research overview

The IPR continues to excel as a source of original, high-quality and impactful research. Across a wide variety of domains, the IPR has a direct impact on the creation of evidence-based policy.

The IPR has maintained a consistent track record of publishing research and delivering policy impact, while being competitive for external funding.

The IPR is frequently invited to become part of funding applications, and we continue to contribute significantly to aspects of different research proposals and projects. This has allowed us to deepen relationships with other research institutes, faculties and departments at the University, including the Bath Institute of the Augmented Human; the Institute for Mathematical Innovation (IMI); the Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS); Accountable Responsible and Transparent AI (ART-AI); the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST); and the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies (CSCT) and several committees on Research Impact and Culture.

The IPR's research streams include:

- UBILab@IPR
- Education, welfare and work
- Sustainable futures and healthy living
- Political economy and politics

Understanding the barriers to placement years for students from widening participation backgrounds will help us formulate ideas to increase their placement participation, extending the benefits of work experience to more of our students.

Professor Matt Dickson, Professor of Economic and Social Policy, IPR



UBILab@IPR

Working with colleagues in the Department for Social and Policy Sciences, and with the Freiburg Institute for Basic Income Studies (FRIBIS), we research Universal Basic Income (UBI) from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

We undertake microsimulations and macroeconomic modelling of UBI proposals, study UBI pilots and experiments, research the political economy of UBI, and exchange knowledge with policymakers and civil society advocates for UBI.

Research projects in 2023–2024 include:

- The economics of basic income
- Freiburg Institute for Basic Income Studies, Microsimulation group

Key highlights from this research stream include:



The economics of basic income

Dr Joe Chrisp secured funding from the Basic Income Earth Network to develop an online database of UBI pilots and programmes. Dr Chrisp revised a book chapter in the *Palgrave International Handbook of Basic Income* and published journal articles in the *Journal of Sociology* (co-authored with Dr Jurgen De Wispelaere), the *Journal of European Integration* (co-authored with Professor Adriana Bunea), *Social Policy and Society* (co-authored with Joan Abbas) and *Basic Income Studies*. In addition, he published two IPR papers, 'The political economy of household debt, disposable income and consumption' and, co-authored with Professor Nick Pearce and Professor Matteo Richiardi, 'UBI-eh? Strengthening minimum income guarantees, universality and unconditionality in the UK working-age welfare state.'



Freiburg Institute for Basic Income Studies, Microsimulation group

The IPR's work with FRIBIS on microsimulation studies of UBI proposals for Germany and the UK has concluded. Dr Eric Qiao completed his work on microsimulation and in March 2024 published an IPR-FRIBIS working paper, 'A UBI for Germany funded by indirect tax reforms.'

The IPR has developed a relationship with a team from the Centre for Microsimulation and Policy Analysis (CeMPA) at the University of Essex, which manages UKMOD (a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the UK) to continue the research.



Education, welfare and work

We research the reform of education, welfare, and work with a particular focus on the political economy, and its tools, methods, and explanatory frameworks.

We are concerned with the ways in which post-financial crisis government policies, labour market changes and socio-technological developments produce new social risks and vulnerabilities. We explore the range of political, public policy and social responses to these challenges and the options for better securing social justice.

Our research on widening participation in higher education helps to better understand the factors that promote participation from a broader range of students, and the policies and practices that enhance wider successful participation in higher education. We are concerned with ensuring that all students with the talent and desire to attend university can do so, and go on to achieve their full potential in education and beyond.

Working with the University of Bath Made Smarter Innovation: Centre for People-Led Digitalisation, we also explore people-led policy solutions to enable the manufacturing sector to have right-first-time digitalisation.

Research projects in 2023–2024 include:

- Addressing risks of graduate un/under-employment in the COVID-19 labour market
- Employment and earning returns to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees
- Explaining ‘unexplained’ grade inflation in the UK’s universities
- From the centre to the periphery: Evaluating the Opportunity Areas programme in the era of austerity (PhD project) IPED use in the UK
- Further Education colleges and the ‘levelling up’ agenda
- Revisiting the raising of the participation age to 18 in England
- Risky business: Understanding intergenerational persistence in entrepreneurship
- Work placements/study abroad opportunities: Barriers to participation for underrepresented groups
- People-Led Digitalisation
- Navigating monthly assessment in Universal Credit
- Shared parental leave in the UK

Key highlights from this research stream include:



Addressing risks of graduate un/under-employment in the COVID-19 labour market

In February 2024, Professor Dickson presented our work on the scarring effects of graduate underemployment at a UCL event, ‘Workshop on inequalities in teacher assessment, prediction and mismatch’. The audience comprised academics, research funders, including representatives of the Nuffield Foundation, and senior policymakers from the Department for Education (DfE). Professor Dickson has continued to discuss current policy challenges with civil servants from the DfE’s Skills Strategy unit and from the Disadvantage Strategy unit.

Professor Dickson also presented a synthesis of findings from the work on the scarring effects of graduate underemployment and his research on returns to undergraduate degrees at an event on student employability and progression organised by the Network Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions (NERUPI)

(November 2023), and at a University of Bath School of Management event, 'Emerging Futures: Empowering Youth in a Changing World of Work' (May 2024).



Employment and earning returns to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

Professor Dickson has co-authored a paper, with Dr Anna Adamecz and Dr Nikki Shure (both UCL), examining the returns to undergraduate higher education, using data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People (LSYPE) in England. The research has been released as a working paper and, after initial review, the authors have been invited to submit a revised version for publication in the *Economics of Education Review*. The paper was presented at the 14th International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education in June 2024. Also in June 2024, Professor Dickson commenced his secondment at the Department for Education. This will facilitate a new project looking at the relationship between family income and higher education access and attainment, with particular focus on students from families in the lower half of the income distribution. An analysis of inequality in access to grammar schools by family income will also be undertaken using this new data resource, building on previous work in this area.

In March 2024, Professor Dickson took part in a roundtable discussion at the Resolution Foundation, focusing on the ways in which higher education can drive economic growth in the UK and how UK data resources can best be used in future research. Chaired by Lord Willetts, attendees included Baroness Barran (the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System and Student Finance), Vivienne Stern (CEO, Universities UK), Chris Larmer (CEO, Student Loans Company) and Lord Johnson (former Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation).



Explaining 'unexplained' grade inflation in the UK's universities

Professor Matt Dickson is Co-Investigator on this Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded project, working alongside

Principal Investigator Robertas Zubrickas (Economics), additional Co-Investigator Judith Delaney (Economics), and postdoctoral research assistant Maria Pia Iocco Barias (Economics/IPR).

The project aims to understand the drivers of grade inflation in UK higher education over recent decades and will empirically test competing hypotheses for the increase in the proportion of students gaining an upper second-class or first-class degree. Initial analysis has been undertaken using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, and further analysis will take place during the summer and autumn of 2024 using the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset. The LEO data will provide additional background information on students, allowing greater confidence in the measures of student prior attainment. The findings of the research will have implications for the ongoing debate about higher education expansion and widening participation in higher education in the UK.

Initial findings from this project were presented at the second joint IPR and University of Bristol workshop 'Higher Education in a Cold Climate,' which took place in Bristol on 1-2 July 2024. The workshop featured 25 invited attendees who presented and discussed the latest UK research on higher education, with keynote talks from Professor Ian Walker (Lancaster University) and former Universities Minister Lord Willetts (Resolution Foundation).



From the centre to the periphery: Evaluating the Opportunity Areas programme

Our proposal to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) trial accelerator fund was awarded funding of £1.4 million over three years starting in July 2024. The project will use a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the impact of the Opportunity Areas policy, a £108 million area-based intervention that aimed to close the substantial gaps that exist in education and skills between regions in the UK.

The proposal is led by Professor Michael Donnelly (Education) and includes Professors Nick Pearce and Matt Dickson (IPR), along with additional co-investigators at the University of Bristol and Durham University. The evaluation will compare the educational attainments – including in higher education – and labour market outcomes of young people in the Opportunity Areas with those of comparable individuals in areas with similar social and economic challenges but not in

receipt of additional Government funding through the programme. Complementing this quantitative evaluation of the policy's impact will be qualitative research strands aiming to understand the mechanisms through which the additional funding translated into impact.

Building on IPR links, the project includes the Department for Education Disadvantage Strategy unit as a partner, along with the 12 local authorities receiving the Opportunity Areas funding.



Further Education colleges and the 'levelling up' agenda

This UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Policy Support Fund (PSF) project, which includes Professor Matt Dickson and Dr Predrag Lažetić as co-investigators, seeks to understand the value of Further Education qualifications and their role in 'levelling up' regions of the UK. In January 2024, Professor Dickson presented findings at the University of Bath School of Management workshop, 'Levelling up or down: Addressing regional inequalities in the UK'. A paper based on this presentation is under review for a special issue of the journal *Contemporary Social Science*.



Revisiting the raising of the participation age to 18 in England

This project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the policy of raising of the education and training participation age to 18 (RPA) in England which was implemented in stages from 2012. The project is led by Professor Matt Dickson as Principal Investigator, with IPR Honorary Professor Sue Maguire, Olly Newton and Andrea Laczik (Edge Foundation), and Dave Thomson (FFT Education Datalab) as co-investigators, and Dana Dabbous (Edge Foundation) and María José Ventura Alfaro (IPR) as project researchers.

The team have completed a policy and literature review, comparing findings from the national and international evidence-base and providing key insights into the rationale for extending the age of compulsory learning and how this is shaped by social, political, and economic contexts. Interviews with the RPA policy architects have taken place and the preliminary analysis for this strand of the project

has been completed. Case study areas in which to hold focus groups and interviews have been selected and the fieldwork is currently underway; this will be completed by September 2024. The work for the quantitative strand of the project will take place during the summer and autumn of 2024, with outputs expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

In May 2024, the team held a seminar with the Department for Education's Disadvantage Strategy unit for feedback and inputs into the project's design. The team will continue to liaise with both the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions as findings emerge from the research. A further seminar to present the analysis of the RPA policy architects interviews will take place at the Department for Education in August 2024.



Risky business: Understanding intergenerational persistence in entrepreneurship

This ESRC-funded project, with Professor Dickson as the Co-Investigator alongside Principal Investigator Professor Orietta Marsili (University of Bristol), continues to investigate the relationship between the entrepreneurship choices of parents and their children. Initial analysis of data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) has explored the strength of the relationship and finds that approximately 7 per cent of the young people in the data are entrepreneurs at the age of 29, but this doubles to 14 per cent amongst those whose parents are entrepreneurs. While the effects are significant for both genders, the impact of entrepreneurial parents is larger for sons than it is for daughters, and the effects remain robust to the inclusion of a wide range of family background characteristics. Future work will go on to consider the mechanisms through which entrepreneurialism is transmitted.



Work placements/study abroad opportunities: Barriers to participation for underrepresented groups

Professor Matt Dickson leads this project, which is funded by the University of Bath Teaching Development Fund. The project aims to understand the barriers to participation that students from

underrepresented groups face when considering a work placement or study abroad opportunity as part of their course at the University of Bath. Focus groups with students who did or did not undertake a placement or study abroad year will be complemented by a survey administered to current and past undergraduates at the University. There will also be a quantitative analysis of the impact of placements on final year degree attainment amongst our students. The project will produce a report including proposals aimed at resolving issues identified by the study and will suggest measurable indicators for longer term monitoring. The project team includes Professor Gail Forey (Education), Dr Jean-Phillipe Walhin (Health), Emily Richards (Strategic Engagement) and Martin Gore (Head of Employability), along with IPR Research Assistant Laura Smyth, and will run until Autumn 2024.



People-Led Digitalisation

Dr Aida Garcia-Lazaro continues to work on the People-Led Digitalisation (PLD) project, which is due to end in February 2025. Dr Aida Garcia-Lazaro is researching the impact of AI and digitalisation on the labour market in the UK. This labour market analysis was extended to a project with the West of England Combined Authority: 'Understanding R&D, innovation and productivity in the West of England'. The IPR presented the preliminary set of results to policymakers. Dr Garcia-Lazaro continues to collaborate with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and with Professor Chris Martin and Magdalyn Okolo (Department of Economics) and co-authors from the University of Bath School of Management.

Dr Garcia-Lazaro co-authored an article for the *Human Resource Management* journal and contributed a chapter to *Addressing Inequities in Modern Educational Assessment: Bridging the Gap*, edited by Professor Ismael Sanz and Dr Sainz. Alongside People-Led Digitalisation colleagues Dr Layla J Branicki, Professor Stephen Brammer, Professor Mark Brosnan, Dr Susan Lattanzio and Professor Linda Newnes, Dr Garcia-Lazaro has also published 'Factors shaping the employment outcomes of neurodivergent and neurotypical people: Exploring the role of flexible and homeworking practices' in *Human Resource Management* (2024), a four-star publication for the IPR.



Navigating monthly assessment in Universal Credit

Dr Rita Griffiths and Dr Marsha Wood continue their work on Universal Credit (UC), which is funded by abrdn Financial Fairness Trust (aFFT, formerly Standard Life Foundation). The project explores how UC's systems for assessing entitlement, recovering debts, and calculating benefit payments, are affecting income security and financial well-being in working households. Drawing on in-depth, month-to-month interviews with over 60 working UC claimants over a 13-month period (February 2022 to February 2023), the project has generated a rich and complex data set which contains a unique record of changes in monthly earnings and income in the context of UC receipt, together with qualitative insights into claimants' responses.

In April 2024, Drs Griffiths and Wood published their IPR report, 'Coping and hoping: Navigating the ups and downs of monthly assessment in Universal Credit,' which explored how UC's systems for assessing entitlement, recovering debts, and calculating benefit payments, are affecting income security and financial well-being in working households. An IPR policy brief, 'Working claimants navigating the ups and downs of monthly assessments in Universal Credit,' accompanied the report. Drs Griffiths and Wood presented the main findings at an online launch event on 16 April 2024, which was attended by academics, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) staff, think tanks and third-sector organisations.

Also in April 2024, Drs Griffiths and Wood presented their findings at a roundtable meeting hosted by the Resolution Foundation. The event was attended by senior DWP analysts and Treasury officials, together with other academics from LSE, Bristol and Essex universities and organisations including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Policy in Practice. In May 2024, Drs Griffiths and Wood presented their findings at a DWP policy, research and evaluation webinar.

aFFT have extended the funding of Drs Griffiths and Wood to 30 September 2024, which will allow them to explore other areas of UC policy that affect household income and work incentives, including UC and passported benefits; UC and childcare costs; and UC and self-employment. Drs Griffiths and Wood will be conducting further interviews with research participants from the original study to explore these topics and findings will be published as IPR policy briefs.

An earlier IPR policy brief, 'Universal Credit, working claimants and the Government's cost of living support,' published in 2022, was mentioned several times in a House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee report in November 2023. The IPR and its work is directly cited in the Committee's report.

Drs Griffiths and Wood are seeking further funding for their research on the topics of children under 16 living in families claiming Universal Credit; further work on Universal Credit and self-employment focusing on specific sectors such as farmers and young adults' experiences of Universal Credit.

In addition, Dr Griffiths has also been working with Fran Bennett to advise the Scottish Government's Expert Group for the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) on the theme of individual versus household means testing.

In January 2024, Dr Griffiths had a chapter published in the international collection *A research agenda for financial resources within the household*, edited by Fran Bennett and published by Edward Elgar. Dr Griffiths has also published journal articles in *Social Policy and Society* and *Families, Relationships and Societies*, and Dr Wood in the *Journal of Youth Studies*. Dr Wood is working on a research paper with Dr Magnus (University of Bristol) exploring parent and work coach interactions in the job centre, and Drs Wood and Griffiths are working on a paper on within-year income volatility and Universal Credit.



Shared parental leave in the UK

Dr Joanna Clifton-Sprigg, Lecturer in the Department of Economics, joined the IPR between September 2023 and July 2024 to research the effects of the 2015 Shared Parental Leave policy. This research uses the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) data and compares cohorts of parents pre- and post-April 2015. This project is funded by Understanding Society. In June 2024, Dr Clifton-Sprigg published a working paper with the findings, 'Fathers taking leave: Evaluating the impact of Shared Parental Leave in the UK' (co-authored with Professor Fichera (Economics) and colleagues at Cardiff University), and there is a forthcoming IPR policy brief based on her research.



Sustainable futures and healthy living

Using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework, we seek to bring together scientists, engineers and social scientists to research and develop solutions for the interconnected economic, social, environmental and health challenges we face in the UK and globally.

Research projects in 2023–2024 include:

- Tackling root causes upstream of unhealthy urban development (TRUUD)
- Commercial determinants of health
- Compliance of food safety regulations by the meat sector in England

Key highlights from this research stream include:



Tackling the root causes upstream of unhealthy urban development (TRUUD)

As part of the TRUUD project, a sub-team including Dr Geoff Bates and Professor Nick Pearce (IPR) is seeking to support urban development actors to consider health outcomes in decision-making, through the integration of a new economic valuation tool, Health Appraisal for Urban Systems (HAUS), within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) appraisal guidance. The tool will support the inclusion of health impacts within departmental funding and policy decision-making processes and appraisal activities. The team has collaborated with officials in DLUHC's Analysis and Data Division to adapt the HAUS tool for use in the Department.

The team has also engaged with central government departments, including the HM Treasury (HMT), the Department for Transport

(DfT), the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to explore opportunities for further collaboration. In addition, they are engaging with other stakeholders including local and combined authorities and the private sector to explore how the inclusion of HAUS in DLUHC appraisal guidance could impact other parts of the system, and how to maximise these impacts in the future. Dr Bates leads the project's central evaluation team.

On 9 July 2024, the team hosted an event in collaboration with DLUHC, 'Creating healthy places using systems thinking,' at Broadway House, London. This event focused on the work with DLUHC on the HAUS tool and more broadly on healthier placemaking. Around 120 officials from national and local governments and the third and private sectors attended.

Dr Bates, alongside TRUUD team members Dr Md Nazmul Hasan, Andrew Barnfield and Dr Krista Bondy has published the article 'Urban policies and the creation of healthy urban environments: A review of government housing and transport policy documents in the United Kingdom' for the *Journal of Urban Affairs* and the *IPPR Progressive Review* and has written three TRUUD briefing notes.



Commercial determinants of health

Dr Geoff Bates, Dr Andrea Serna Castaño and Professor Nick Pearce (IPR) are involved in a new research project led by the University of Bath to investigate how the commercial sector influences public health at the local level and what interventions can be implemented in response to these. The research is one of four projects funded by a new network, Population Health Improvement UK (PHI-UK), that aims to find innovative and inclusive ways to improve the health of people, places and communities and to reduce health inequalities.

Dr Bates leads the work that focuses on maximising the impact of the project on actions at local and national government to tackle the commercial determinants of health, and has been working with colleagues on the project and partners in the Association of Directors of Public Health and public health advocacy groups to design knowledge exchange and impact strategies for the project.

Compliance of food safety regulations by the meat sector in England

Dr Andrea Serna Castaño (IPR) is concluding her work with the Food Standards Agency on a project that seeks to apply behavioural science to food safety policy to maximise food business compliance. This is a joint project with the University of Bath Department of Economics and the Department of Psychology.

This work has allowed the IPR to develop expertise in the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) as part of an ongoing collaboration with Professor Eleonora Fichera in the Department of Economics at the University of Bath.



Political economy and politics

We are interested in political economy and the evolution of politics, the changing role of the state and the political ideas and values that define contemporary political parties, political identities, and public policies. Working with colleagues across the University, we study political parties, public policy, and policymaking.

Research projects in 2023–2024 include:

- World Island
- Brunel Centre
- Future of higher education
- Finance and public policy research at IPR

Key highlights from this research stream include:



World Island

Professor Nick Pearce (IPR) has been commissioned by Polity Press to co-author a book with Professor Michael Kenny (University of Cambridge). *World Island*, due to be published in 2025, will explore ideologies of Britain's role in the world.



Brunel Centre

The IPR, through Professor Nick Pearce, is leading a Research England Development (RED) fund bid to create a 'Brunel Centre' of economic research and data analysis for the West of England. The five-year bid will be submitted in October 2024 with academics at the University of the West of England and Futures West, the new business initiative for promoting the West of England in regional policy debates.



Future of higher education

Professor Nick Pearce (IPR) joined a Commission on the Future of Higher Education established by Universities UK, alongside Lord Willetts, Lord Mandelson, Professor Julia Black, Andy Haldane and others. Professor Pearce will be leading on the chapter on higher education, widening access and social mobility. The Commission will report in October 2024.



Finance and public policy research at IPR

Dr Charles Larkin (IPR) continues to work on the economics of cryptocurrencies as well as public policy work related to the economics of transport with the Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS). Dr Larkin, with his co-author Professor Shaen Corbet (Dublin City University), has published articles in *Basic Income Studies* (with Rachel Hochman) and *Research in International Business and Finance* (with Dr Iulia Cioroianu, Dr Greg Hou, Professor Yang Hu and Professor Richard Taffler) and an edited collection of essays with DeGruyter, *Themes in Alternative Investments* (2024). Dr Larkin has been appointed to the advisory board of the European University Association (EUA) university finance observatory project.



International collaborations

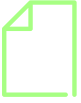
Through our research, we continue to develop our international collaborations.

Professor Nick Pearce, Professor Matt Dickson and Dr Charles Larkin (IPR) remain visiting Research Associates at Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Larkin has maintained research and teaching collaborations with the Krieger School of Arts and Science and the new Bloomberg School of Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University, Dublin City University and the University of Waikato, New Zealand. The IPR's work with the Freiburg Institute for Basic Income Studies (FRIBIS) on microsimulation models of UBI proposals for Germany and the UK has concluded.

The IPR is continuing its research with Professor Armando Sanchez-Vargas, Director of the Institute of Economic Research, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Dr Jorge Mendez Astudillo, also of the Institute of Economic Research, is working with Dr Aida Garcia-Lazaro on the performance of labour markets with respect to digital skills with special attention to the nuclear power industry. This is a project from the People-Led Digitalisation and in collaboration with Professor Linda Newnes of the Faculty of Engineering.

The IPR continues to excel as a source of original, high-quality and impactful research. Across a wide variety of domains, the IPR has a direct impact on the creation of evidence-based policy.

Dr Charles Larkin, IPR Director of Research



Publications



We use SciVal to evaluate the performance of our research publications. SciVal is a research performance assessment tool which analyses data from Scopus, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.




Key highlights for 2023–2024 are as follows:

- Our Field-Weighted Citation Impact Score was 2.57 (1.0 is global average)
- 26 per cent of our publications appear in the top ten per cent cited worldwide
- 40 per cent of our publications appear in the top ten per cent journals worldwide
- 47 per cent of our publications are published with international collaborators

Our 2020–2024 publications in stock market volatility (COVID-19), cryptocurrencies, steroids and performance enhancing drugs, UK austerity and welfare, the connection between health and the built environment, education and adult health, electric vehicle life cycle assessment, China and emission trading schemes appearing in the top 1 per cent of publications globally.

IPR published journal articles and books (2023–2024)

Research theme	Research area	Publication
UBILab@IPR		Chrisp, J. (2024). Book review: Laenen, Tijs. The popularity of basic income: Evidence from the polls. <i>International Social Security Review</i> , 77(1-2), pp. 137-138.
		Chrisp, J. and Martinelli, L. (2023). Neither left nor right. In: Torry, M., ed. <i>The Palgrave international handbook of basic income</i> . Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 547-563.
		Chrisp, J. and De Wispelaere, J. (2023). A basic income for every crisis? Building blocks of a political economy framework. <i>Journal of Sociology</i> , 59(4), pp. 914-930.
		Bunea, A. and Chrisp, J. (2023). Reconciling participatory and evidence-based policymaking in the EU Better Regulation policy: mission (im)possible? <i>Journal of European Integration</i> , 45(5), pp. 729-750.
		Abbas, J. and Chrisp, J. (2023). Working hard or hardly working? Examining the politics of in-work conditionality in the UK. <i>Social Policy and Society</i> , 22(1), pp. 31-52.
		Johnson, E., Reed, H., Nettle, D., Stark, G., Chrisp, J., Howard, N., Gregory, G., Goodman, C., Smith, M., Coates, J. and Robson, I. (2023). Treating causes not symptoms: Basic income as a public health measure. <i>Compass and Basic Income Conversation</i> .
		Chrisp, J. (2023). The macroeconomic effects of a UBI: A review of existing evidence and approaches. <i>Basic Income Studies</i> , 18(2), pp. 215-237.
Education, welfare and work		Chrisp, J., Garcia-Lazaro, A. and Pearce, N. (2023). Technological chance and growth regimes: Assessing the case for Universal Basic Income in an era declining labour shares. FRIBIS Discussion Paper Series.
		Adamecz, A., Dickson, M. and Shure, N. (2024). The labour market returns to graduation: Reconciling administrative survey data estimates. IZA Institute of Labor Economics Discussion Paper 16800. [Invited to revise and resubmit at <i>Economics of Education Review</i> .]
		Griffiths, R. (2024). Universal Credit and automated decision making: A case of the digital tail wagging the policy dog? <i>Social Policy and Society</i> , 23(1), pp. 1-18.
		Griffiths, R. (2024). The gendered effects of joint assessment for couples claiming means-tested benefits. In: Bennett, F., Avram, S. and Austen, S., eds. <i>A research agenda for financial resources within the household</i> . Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 225-239.
		Wood, M. and Bennett, F. (2023). Parenting in the pandemic: exploring the experiences of families with children on Universal Credit before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Families, Relationships and Societies</i> , 12(2), pp. 163-179.
		Wood, M. (2023). Falling between the cracks—the experiences of young parents on Universal Credit. <i>Journal of Youth Studies</i> , pp. 1-16.
		Branicki, L., Brammer, S., Brosnan, M., Garcia-Lazaro, A., Lattanzio, S. and Newnes, L. (2024). You don't have to be neurotypical to work here, but it helps! The moderating role of flexible working arrangements on the employment outcomes of neurodiverse people. <i>Human Resources Management [ABS 4 Journal]</i> .
		Garcia-Lazaro, A. (2023). Digital adoption in times of crisis: A study for the European countries. In Sainz, J. and Sanz, I., eds. <i>Addressing inequities in modern educational assessment: Bridging the gap</i> . Cham: Springer, pp. 183-201.

Research theme	Research area	Publication
Education, welfare and work		<p>Dickson, M., Forrester-Jones, R. and Skinner, T. (2023). The dynamic effects of becoming disabled on work, wages, and well-being in the UK from 1991-2018. (Invited to revise and resubmit at <i>Journal of Social Policy</i>.)</p> <p>Donnelly, M., Davies, J., Dickson, M., Courtois, A., and Lažetić, P. (2024). Education and the spatial division of labour: Further Education and prospects for 'Levelling Up.' (Under review, <i>Contemporary Social Science</i>.)</p>
Sustainable futures and healthy living		<p>Bates, G., Nazmul, H., Barnfield, A. and Bondy, K. (2023). Urban policies and the creation of healthy urban environments: A review of government housing and transport policy documents in the United Kingdom. <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i>, pp. 1-19.</p> <p>Newman, J., McClatchey, R., Bates, G. and Ayres, S. (2024). Tackling health inequalities: The missing delivery mechanisms in national health missions. <i>IPPR Progressive Review</i>, 31(1), pp. 63-69.</p> <p>Bates, G., Barnfield, A., Larkin, C. and Ayres, S. (2023). How can health evidence be packaged to reach actors across a complex system to influence the development of healthy urban environments? <i>Population Medicine</i> 5 (Supplement).</p> <p>Bates, G, Ayres, S, Barnfield, A, & Larkin, C (2023). What types of health evidence persuade policy actors in a complex system? <i>Policy & Politics</i>, 51(3), pp. 386-412.</p>
Political economy and politics		<p>Pearce, N. (2024). Nothing works, but plenty to do. <i>Political Quarterly</i>.</p> <p>Pearce, N. (2023). 'East of Suez' and the 'Indo-Pacific' in British politics: Some lessons of history. <i>International Journal</i>, 78(3), pp. 345-358.</p> <p>Garcia-Lazaro, A. and Pearce, N. (2023). Intangible capital, the labour share and national 'growth regimes.' <i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i>, 51(2), pp. 674-695.</p> <p>Bates, G., Larkin, C., Pearce, N. and Smyth, L. (2023). Policy 'R&D,' capacity and advocacy in English Combined Authorities. <i>Local Economy</i>, 38(3), pp. 226-241.</p> <p>Kelly, G. and Pearce, N. (2023). 'Riders on the Storm': What would a Labour government face? <i>Renewal</i>, 31(3).</p> <p>Ayres, S., Barnfield, A., Bates, G., Le Gouais, A. and Pearce, N. (2023). What needs to happen to 'level up' public health? <i>Contemporary Social Science</i>, 18(3-4), pp. 500-526.</p> <p>Hochman, R., Larkin, C. and Corbet, S. (2024). A survey of Universal Basic Income experiments. <i>Basic Income Studies</i>.</p> <p>Cioroianu, I., Corbet, S., Hou, Y.G., Hu, Y., Larkin, C. and Taffler, R. (2024). Exploring the use of emotional sentiment to understanding market response to unexpected corporate pivots. <i>Research in International Business and Finance</i>, 70(A), 102304.</p> <p>Corbet, S. and Larkin, C. (2024). <i>Themes in Alternative Investments</i>. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter. https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110757941</p> <p>Corbet, S. and Larkin, C. (2023). The impact of central bank digital currency (CBDC) development on cryptocurrency: A taxonomic analysis. <i>Review of Corporate Finance</i>, 3(4), pp. 597-626.</p>

Research theme	Research area	Publication
Political economy and politics		<p>Ravi, S.S., Brace, C., Larkin, C., Aziz, M., Leach, F., and Turner, J.W.G. (2023). On the pursuit of emissions-free clean mobility – Electric vehicles versus e-fuels. <i>Science of The Total Environment</i>, 875, 162688</p> <hr/> <p>Corbet, S., Larkin, C., and McCluskey, J. (2023). The influence of inclement weather on electric bus efficiency: Evidence from a developed European network. <i>Case Studies on Transport Policy</i>, 12, 100971.</p> <hr/> <p>Grimson, W., Buch, A., Larkin, C., McCarthy, N., and Michelfelder, D. (2023). Conversations on Engineering Challenges. In Christensen, S.H., Buch, A., Conlon, E., Didier, C., Mitcham, C. and Murphy, M. (eds) <i>Engineering, Social Sciences, and the Humanities: Have Their Conversations Come of Age?</i> (Vol 42) Springer Nature.</p> <hr/> <p>Cioroianu, I., Corbet, S., Larkin, C. and Oxley, L. (2023). Developing central bank digital currencies: a reality check during cryptocurrency euphoria. <i>Economics and Business Letters</i>.</p> <hr/>



IPR postgraduate teaching and internships



Teaching

We offer postgraduate courses and doctoral supervision through our Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP) and our joint MSc in Public Policy. We also supervise full-time doctoral students, as well as joint supervision with the Department of Chemistry, the DBA in Higher Education Management and through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Centre for Doctoral Training in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent AI (ART-AI) and the Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS).

Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP)

Over 60 mid-career policy professionals from more than 20 countries are registered on our Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP), with nine of these students enrolling in September 2023 as the ninth international cohort.

Doctoral graduates from the programme in the last year were:

- Margaret Satya Rose: Examining the normative-ethical orientation of modern public procurement governance systems
- Ahmed Aref: Family-focused social protection systems in the Gulf: Is maternity being left behind?
- Ali Salman: Policy discovery through a complexity lens: Case studies of economic reforms and policy practice in Malaysia and Pakistan
- Philippe Clerc: Breakthrough or buzzword? The uses and misuses of 'resilience' in the Syrian refugee response in Turkey

MSc in Public Policy (MPP)

At the end of June 2024, 23 students were enrolled on our MSc in Public Policy (MPP) course, across all current cohorts of the programme. We currently have students employed in, amongst

other organisations, the Home Office, the UK Space Agency, local councils and universities in the UK and abroad, the Local Government Association, the Parliament of South Africa and UNICEF. MPP alumna Claire Hazelgrove (2019-2021) was elected as the Member of Parliament for Filton and Bradley Stoke in July 2024.

IPR PhD students

The IPR continues to develop and foster PhD candidates from many departments across the University. Current PhD candidates that are (co-)supervised by IPR researchers include:

- Rachel Ambler: The impact of early childhood development on social mobility in the UK
- Adam Coates: Using cognitive diagnostic modelling with national and international assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses of mathematics learning in England
- Seren Essex: Do subject requirements of degree courses impose unfair or inappropriate constraints on who can apply, and impair efforts to widen access to higher education?
- Joe Goodier: Interpretable diagnostic imaging using generative priors
- Nadim Hamdan: The impact of COVID-19 on ethnic disparities in the British labour market
- Tasha Marino: Decarbonising the UK industrial sectors through Green Hydrogen, its storage and floating offshore wind: Lessons from the literature
- Jac Mccluskey: A green bond for the finance of low-carbon bus operations
- Deborah Morgan: The role of anticipatory regulatory instruments within the regulation of AI systems
- José Muñiz Martinez: ESG, EDI and SRI reporting and equity market performance
- Maxime Perrott: Exploring the relationship between relative school starting age, emotional development and ADHD diagnosis in England
- Patrick Prince: The identification of a breakthrough entrepreneurial opportunity that is pursued in a cross-industry alliance entrepreneurship

- Laura Smyth: Place, governance structures and narrative: A case study of digital skills policy in England
- Damian Ziubroniewicz: Fair Machine Learning

In 2023, Levana Magnus completed her PhD: The Jobcentre, welfare-to-work agencies, and the household: The network of labour-market activation under Universal Credit.



IPR internships

The IPR runs an internship programme that allows students and early career researchers to enhance their research and professional skills. IPR interns in 2023–2024 included:

- Valeria Ortega Berzunza, International Tax Consultant, Symbiotics
- Nichole Schantz, Climate Ambassador Southwest Hub Manager, The Met Office
- Nadine Shannon, Research Assistant, Trinity College Dublin
- Thea Wright, BSc Politics and International Relations, University of Bath

5

IPR policy programmes



IPR policy programmes

During 2023-2024, we were delighted to receive funding from Research England's Policy Support Fund and from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)'s Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) schemes to establish the pilot Bath Policy Engagement Academy (BPEA). Amy Thompson (IPR) is the Principal Investigator, supported by two new members of staff, Andy Dunne as Policy Engagement Manager and Thea Wright as Policy Engagement Intern.

We continued to develop our activity and relationships between University of Bath academics and policymakers across Whitehall, Westminster and the West of England, and enabled international policy engagement through our virtual programme offer and Amy Thompson's engagement at COP28 and UNFCCC SB60. Our policy engagement activities align with core areas of the University's research strengths and our own expertise, as well as the needs of local, national and international decision-makers.

We expanded the Policy Fellowship Programme by introducing a regionally focused Policy Fellowship Programme and a new stream on Health. We launched the Bath Policy Engagement Academy (BPEA), signalling a clear entry point for senior policymakers to access expertise from across the University, and delivered new online resources, policy engagement training sessions and coaching and mentoring sessions for University of Bath academics.

In addition, we hosted two well-attended Masterclasses with the Policy Profession Unit and three workshops for the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) as part of their inaugural Science and Engineering week delivered by the Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor.

We co-produced *ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders in Conversation with Climate Experts*, a global youth voices film which was launched in the Green Zone at COP28 in December 2023.

Amy Thompson was invited by UNFCCC Youth4Capacity to present a joint session at the SB60 meeting in Bonn. The workshop, 'Decoding UNFCCC Language', was for youth climate leaders and demonstrated how to turn language barriers into stepping stones and routes for

meaningful youth participation and action on climate change within the UNFCCC processes.

Amy Thompson is now a member of the BPEA Strategic Advisory Group, the University's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Programme Board and Research Impact Steering Group.



The IPR Policy Fellowship Programme (PFP)

The IPR Policy Fellowship Programme (PFP) provides senior policymakers and decision-makers from government and the third sector the opportunity to connect and engage with world-class academics from across the University of Bath to explore the policy questions or challenges they are looking to address in their professional role.

In addition to our flagship PFP – through which policymakers can apply to connect with academics across topics – we host policy fellows through the following streams:

- Artificial Intelligence Policy Fellowship Programme
- Health Policy Fellowship Programme (launched in January 2024)
- Net Zero Policy Fellowship Programme
- Regionally focused Policy Fellowship Programme (launched Autumn 2023)
- Affiliate agreement with the University of Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP)

During the academic year 2023–2024, we welcomed 35 Policy Fellows to Bath, hosting 155 meetings with 94 academics or professional service staff, a 41 per cent increase on the previous academic year.

We successfully engaged policymakers from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Department for Science,

Innovation and Technology (DSIT), the Department for Transport (DfT), the Environment Agency, the Government Office for Science (GO-Science), Number 10, the Office for Life Sciences (OLS), the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the Western Gateway.

Sixty per cent of fellows came from government departments and affiliated agencies; eight per cent were from non-UK government departments; 12 per cent were from Local and Combined Authorities and Police and Crime Commissions; and 20 per cent were from the third sector.

Across the PFP streams, 46 per cent of fellows participated in the Net Zero stream; 17 per cent in the AI stream; 16 per cent in the Health stream; four per cent in the general programme; and 17 per cent in the regional programme. We hosted eight fellows through our CSaP affiliate programme.



Policy Fellowship Programme impacts

Policy Fellow Tom McNeil, former Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands, invited Professor Christos Vasilakis to present his work on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to West Midlands Police and to have follow-on conversations with teams from West Midlands ICBs covering the Black Country, Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire.

Akriti Brady, Assistant Principal at the Department of Transport, Ireland, invited Lois Player (IAAPS) to share research by the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST) with Cornwall Council to help inform plans for the Government of Ireland's Department of Transport.

James Boyd-Wallis, co-founder of the Appraise Network, produced a report (expected to publish September 2024) on the current state of play with AI and policy, drawing on conversations he had during his fellowship.

Dr George Economides, Head of Digital Twins for the Department of Transport, continued conversations with Dr Jie Zhang from the Department of Computer Science to explore further research questions.

Ben Henshall, former Deputy Director, Data Science and AI, Number 10, invited two members of staff to visit Number 10 following his fellowship.

Policy Fellows during 2023–2024

Date	Policy Fellow	Organisation
12-13 Sept 2023	Joy Hadden, Strategic Advisor	Executive Office in Northern Ireland
28 Sept 2023	John Wilkinson, Director James Cooke, Deputy Director Barbara Jackson, Policy and Public Affairs Joe Ball, Head of Communications and Marketing Steph Jary, Deputy Director William Mansfield, Head of Sustainable Energy Tom Burton, Policy Apprentice Fiona Williams, Communications Officer	Western Gateway
28 Sept 2023	Will Lord, Head of Government Relations *	Aerospace Technology Institute
3 Oct 2023	Laura Thain, Climate Change Senior Advisor Jo Wybrow, Climate Change Senior Advisor Ian Myers, Senior Technical Advisor	Environment Agency
24 Oct 2024	Adam Heathfield, Senior Director *	Pfizer's Global Health and Value Innovation Centre
30 Nov 2023	Liam Izod, Team Lead, Technology & Innovation Regulation	Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
11-12 Dec 2023	Ben Cook, Team Leader – Future of the Gas System	Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero
11 Dec 2023	Lina Nieto, Senior Policy Advisor	Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs
24-25 Jan 2024	Charlotte Bright, Deputy Director *	Department for Health and Social Care
26 Jan 2024	Tom McNeil, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner *	West Midlands Police and Crime Commission
6 Feb 2024	Dr Rebecca Jones, Head of Cancer, Ageing and Digipath *	Office for Life Sciences (Department for Science, Innovation and Technology/Department for Health and Social Care)
22-23 Feb 2024	Akriti Brady, Assistant Principal, Public Transport Corporate and Services Division	Department of Transport, Ireland
23 Feb 2024	James Boyd-Wallis, Co-founder	Appraise Network for AI policy and comms professionals
11 Mar 2024	Laura Thain, Climate Change Senior Advisor Mark Whiteman, Senior Advisor	Environment Agency
19 Apr 2024	George Economides, Head of Digital Twins	Department for Transport
22 Apr 2024	Ben Henshall, Deputy Director, Data Science and AI *	Number 10
22-23 Apr 2024	Joy Hadden, Executive Office	Northern Irish Government

Date	Policy Fellow	Organisation
13-14 May 2024	Joanne Wilce, Grants and Learning Manager Paul Blyth, Trustee – Investment Committee Member Abigail Ginson, Head of Funding Strategy	Friends Provident Foundation
15 May 2024	Fionnuala Costello, Deputy Director for Net Zero Innovation Delivery	Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero
16 May 2024	Jessica Lee, Director of Strategy Rachel Pykett, Head of Policy George Margesson, Principal Economist	West of England Combined Authority
5 June 2024	James Peacock, Data Lead	Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs
12-13 June 2024	Sarah Steiner, Head of Science Networks, Systems and Capability * Jo Foreman, Head of Science Networks, Systems and Capability	Government Office for Science
17 June 2024	Ruth Keilly, CEO	Mentoring Plus

* CSaP Affiliate Fellow



The Bath Policy Engagement Academy

Established in September 2023, the pilot Bath Policy Engagement Academy (BPEA) was established to signal the main entry point for senior policymakers who want to access expertise from across the University, to consolidate the University of Bath's policy engagement activities and to strategically align this work with research objectives and priorities to build greater capacity, capability and routes to regional, national and international policy impact, as well as to support research income via successful research grants.

The BPEA is funded by Research England's Policy Support Fund and the ESRC and EPSRC's Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) schemes and is supported by a pan-university Strategic Advisory Group.

So far, we have delivered:

- A new BPEA website, launched in March 2024
- New online policy engagement guides and resources, including case studies on policy engagement from University of Bath academics
- Presentations to five University of Bath Departments, Centres or Groups, highlighting the guides
- Four selective, cohort policy engagement training sessions for 19 early career researchers from across all faculties
- 1-2-1 policy impact coaching with 12 principal investigators for selective research bids that have significant policy impact potential
- Nineteen 1-2-1 coaching sessions for academics applying to external policy fellowship programmes such as UKRI Future Leaders, Thematic Research Leads and the Royal Society Pairing Scheme
- New pan-faculty cascade mechanisms to share and highlight policy engagement opportunities
- A new video that highlights the ambitions of the pilot

Following on the success of the first-year pilot, funding for the BPEA has been secured until September 2025.



Policy Professional events



Policy Profession Masterclasses

During 2023–2024, two Masterclasses were held with the Policy Profession Unit, which over 150 senior policymakers attended. Feedback from the two sessions was very positive, with attendees rating the webinars highly and saying they successfully delivered on their learning objectives.

The University has a strong national and international reputation for its policy work. Through the Bath Policy Engagement Academy, our aim is to ensure that more of the expertise and evidence of our researchers is available to, and usable by, those responsible for developing public policy.

Professor Julie Barnett, Associate
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)

- **Climate ambition in the UK: Policy, leadership and opportunities.** Professor Chris Skidmore, Professor of Practice and a former Minister of State at BEIS, DfE and DHSC, and Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST). Chair: Manny Ibiayo, Deputy Finance Director – Integrated Corporate Services, Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero. May 2024.
- **Policy leadership in uncertain times: 'Mission government,' the polycrisis and strategic government.** Professor Nick Pearce, IPR Director. Chair: Chandru Dissanayeke, Director, Safer Greener Buildings Regulatory Reform, DLHUC. May 2024.



Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero workshops

The IPR coordinated with the Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor from the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to deliver three online workshops as part of DESNZ's Science and Engineering Week. Over 100 people attended the workshops.

- **Putting behaviour change evidence into practice: Lessons from environmental and transport policy.** Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, Director of the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST) and Pete Dyson, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Chaired by Amy Thompson (IPR). March 2024.
- **Electrical power systems: The past, present and future.** Professor Furong Li, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Power Distribution, and Nigel Turvey, Professor in Practice. Co-chaired by Dr Charles Larkin and Amy Thompson (IPR). March 2024.
- **Research challenges in hydrogen and hydrogen carriers.** Professor Tim Mays, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment. Chaired by Professor Sam Akehurst (IAAPS). March 2024.



Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Through the IPR's policy connections, Dr Philippe Blondel (Department of Physics) presented to the Space Horizon Scanning Network (SHSN), convened by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) with the National Composites Centre. SHSN brings together policy and analysis teams from across government and beyond working on space-related topics. Dr Blondel, who is also part of the Space West consortium, presented his research on scanning for space debris. The online event, chaired by Ann Fielding, Head of Research Engagement at DSIT, was attended by over 70 people, including colleagues from DSIT, the Met Office and the UK Space Agency.



Policy networks and partners



The Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)

UPEN is a network of 120 UK universities who are working together to increase the public policy impact of their research. It offers a dedicated contact point for policymakers, and a collective response to requests for evidence. UPEN also organises knowledge exchange events with government, parliament, devolved bodies, and identifies mechanisms to take forward specific projects.

Amy Thompson remains the as the University's lead UPEN policy contact and has cascaded opportunities of engagement to relevant parties.



The Foundation for Science and Technology (FST)

We have continued our membership with the Foundation for Science and Technology on behalf of the University of Bath. It is a registered UK charity providing an impartial platform for debate of policy issues that have a science, research, technology or innovation element.

Established in 1977, the Foundation brings together parliamentarians, civil servants, industrialists, researchers, learned societies, charities and others. It convenes discussion events, publishes a journal three times per year, and hosts a weekly podcast and a blog. It also organises the Foundation Future Leaders Programme, supporting the next generation of professionals from universities, industry and the civil service. In addition, the Foundation provides guidance on governance issues to professional and learned societies.

Through this, we have shared details of networking events with colleagues across the University.



The UK Universities Climate Network (UUCN)

The UK Universities Climate Network (UUCN) is a group of 85 UK universities and research organisations working together to promote a zero carbon, resilient future.

The network enables collaboration across the UK academic sector to advance climate action nationally and internationally. It does this by disseminating climate change research and analysis, conducting evidence-based public engagement, and sharing evidence for climate action with policymakers, such as UK Government officials, to support the integration of science and policy.

Opportunities for our academics to engage with this network are cascaded to relevant colleagues across the University.



International policy engagement



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UIn 2023, Amy Thompson (IPR) co-directed *ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders in Conversation with Climate Experts*, an international youth voices in climate change project.

The film was produced by the IPR and Cambridge Zero, with support from the UK Universities Climate Network (UUCN) and in partnership with One Young World. It was showcased twice at COP28, in the Green Zone on 8 December 2023, with opening remarks delivered by former Irish President and Chair of The Elders Mary Robinson, and in the Blue Zone on 9 December 2023. Both screenings were followed by panel discussions, featuring participants in the film and members of the ActNowFilm project team, including Amy Thompson.

The 2023 ActNowFilm brought together youth climate leaders and prominent climate experts from 33 countries across six continents. Through 1-2-1 conversations, they explored their personal experiences of the devastating impacts of climate change, their perspectives on the COP process, the critical role of young people, and ways to empower them to be at the frontline of global climate action and key decision-making processes. Applications to take part were open to any young person aged 35 or under, and the project received applications from 342 youth climate leaders from 88 countries.

The 2023 film followed on from the success of two previous ActNowFilm projects: *Intergenerational Conversations on Climate Change* (2022) and *Youth Voices on Climate* (2021). A fourth film, *ActNowFilm: Youth Climate Leaders as Agents of Change*, is currently in production for showcase at COP29 in November 2024. This will weave together the insights of global climate experts with the narratives and actions of young climate leaders from across the world, and will call for the official inclusion of young people in national climate teams and international climate negotiations.

COP28 marked the first time the University of Bath attended as an officially accredited institution, with Amy Thompson as the Head of

Delegation and Dr Yixian Sun from the Department for Social Policy Sciences also part of the delegation team.

In May 2024 the University of Bath sent a delegation to Bonn for the 60th sessions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Subsidiary Bodies (SB60), with Amy Thompson acting as Head of the Delegation and Professor Chris Skidmore also part of the delegation team. This was the first time the University has attended an SB conference, an annual international gathering which occurs at the midpoint between COP meetings.

At the conference, Professor Skidmore attended the launch of the Indicators of Global Climate Change 2023 report and a reception for the IGCC and Climate Analytics. He attended the Climate Community reception hosted by the High-Level Climate Champions team and was a speaker in the High-Level Climate Champions roundtable discussion on catalysing private finance and investment, organised by Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. He met with Professor Piers Forster, interim Chair to the Climate Change Committee (CCC), to discuss climate policy and CCC work for the forthcoming parliament; with the UK Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC) delegation to discuss policy and youth engagement; with the UK Universities Climate Network; and spoke to Professor Jim Skea, current Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC).

Amy Thompson was invited by UNFCCC Youth4Capacity to present, alongside colleagues from Cambridge Zero, ClimaTalk and ClimateWords, a joint session at the SB60 meeting in Bonn. The workshop, 'Decoding UNFCCC Language', was for youth climate leaders and demonstrated how to turn language barriers into stepping stones and routes for meaningful youth participation and action on climate change within the UNFCCC processes. This event was highly successful, with the venue at capacity. The team have been invited by Youth4Capacity to present this session at COP29 in November 2024.

In addition, Amy Thompson presented the third ActNowFilm at a youth climate conference in Munich (May 2024) and at the University of South Wales' International Conference on the Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change: 200 Years Since Joseph Fourier (June 2024).

The SB60 at Bonn is an important moment on the road to COP29, where key issues where agreement is needed, such as climate finance, will be discussed.

Professor Chris Skidmore,
Professor of Practice



Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding

In May 2024 we renewed our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic of South Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL). Renewed for another five years, the MOU promotes knowledge exchange and collaboration between the institutions, enabling ministry staff to spend up to one year at the University of Bath focusing on a research project that aligns with the IPR's portfolio. The renewal further strengthens the partnership between the IPR and the government of South Korea, with a similar MOU in place with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA).

To date, the IPR has welcomed eight Visiting Policy Fellows from the Republic of Korea, from both MOEL and the Ministry of Farming and Agriculture. Visiting Policy Fellows in 2023-2024 included Heo Dong-Ung (Director of Planning and Coordination Division, MAFRA), Jo Min-kyung (Director of Direct Payment Management Division, MAFRA), Jiwon Kim (Director of Unemployment Division, MOEL), Jungseo Jang (Director of the Presidential Commission on Policy Planning, Customer Support Team, MOEL) and Myeongsu Jang (Deputy Director of the Bureau of Regulatory Innovation and Reform, Office for Government Policy Coordination).

The IPR will host Youngmin Lee (Deputy Director, Financial Services Commission) from September 2024 to July 2025, and Taegyeoung Kim (Deputy Director of the Social Services Policy Division, Ministry of Health and Welfare) from December 2024 to July 2025.



The impact of our policy engagement work

Our policy engagement work has brought important benefits to the IPR and the University, particularly in policy areas that address the climate and nature crisis.

We have designed and rolled out new streams in the Policy Fellowship Programme, engaged in multiple international policy

networks, run well-attended Masterclasses for senior civil servants and successfully launched the inaugural Bath Policy Engagement Academy. We have significantly increased the number and range of policy fellows on our programmes and have engaged with a wider portfolio of academics from across the University.

A direct success of our BPEA mentorship work includes the successful award of a UKRI Future Leaders bid, with PI Dr Tom Freeman, (Department of Psychology) on his project: 'Reducing cannabis harms through state-of-the-art tools for quantifying use, dose-related guidelines for safer use, and evidence-based drug policy'.

Significant numbers of policy–academic links and relationships have been established across multiple government departments, local organisations and institutions. These relationships have helped strengthen our policy networks, and our ability to engage our policy relevant research with senior policymakers and have enabled the potential for relevant policy support and engagement for future research bids. We have also established links with The Western Gateway, Bath and North East Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority, and we look forward to working more closely with them on regional policy challenges in 2024-2025.

Through the national and international policy networks we are well connected to the UK university and policy sector, and we have established new international climate-related links. Our work here has increased the reputation of the IPR and the University of Bath and has enabled opportunities for future collaboration.



Events and communications



IPR events

Between August 2023 and July 2024, we have continued to deliver a varied and engaging programme of 17 events, including seminars, lectures, panel discussions and screenings of ActNowFilm. Six of these events were hosted in collaboration with other University of Bath institutions or external partners, such as the Centre for the Study of Violence, the Departments of Computer Science and Economics, the International Relations Office, Bristol Ideas and the Resolution Foundation.

At the start of the academic year, we launched a new lecture series, Challenges for Britain. The series discussed a range of pressing concerns, including: the systemic governance failures that explain why Britain is struggling to effectively respond to a host of urgent public policy challenges; the fallout of the Brexit referendum and ways forward to recover from the divisions and disruptions it has caused; the urgent actions needed to support the net zero transition; future directions for Britain's economic growth strategy; and the burgeoning problems facing Britain's schools and other parts of the education system. As part of this series, we were delighted to host a range of high-profile speakers, including Professor Dame Diane Coyle (University of Cambridge), Peter Foster (Financial Times), Joss Garman (European Climate Foundation), Professor Sir Geoff Mulgan (UCL) and Dr Anna Valero (Centre for Economic Performance, LSE).

In total, about 1,300 people attended our events during the reporting period. Additional engagement with our events series has been achieved through our policy podcast series and our online lectures, as well as accompanying social media activities, details of which are given below.



IPR publications

We produced ten publications during the reporting year. All were delivered to strategic and key contacts working in relevant fields to each report's findings and/or recommendations.

Our publications during 2023–2024:

- Griffiths, R. and Wood, M. (2024). *Working claimants navigating the ups and downs of monthly assessments in Universal Credit*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Griffiths, R. and Wood, M. (2024). *Coping and hoping: Navigating the ups and downs of monthly assessment in Universal Credit*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Weyman, A., Glendinning, R., O'Hara, R., Coster, J. and Roy, D. (2024). *Should I stay or should I go? – 2: Monitoring influences on NHS staff retention in the post COVID-19 world, Winter 2020 to Spring 2023*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Room, G. (2024). *Responsible Research and Innovation: The strategic challenge for universities*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Qiao, E. (2024). *A UBI for Germany funded by indirect tax reforms*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Chrisp, J. (2024). *The political economy of household debt, disposable income and consumption*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Chrisp, J., Pearce, N. and Richiardi, M. (2024). *UBI-eh? Strengthening minimum income guarantees, universality and unconditionality in the UK working-age welfare state*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Dimos, C. and Pearce, N. (2023). *Understanding productivity, R&D and innovation in the West of England*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.

- Fichera, E., Beshir, H. and Serna Castaño, A. (2023). *Low Emission Zones improve air quality, physical health and mental well-being: Evaluating the impact of the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) schemes in England*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.
- Lee, K. (2023). *How ways to address the climate crisis are presented in UK national curricula: Comparisons, implications and recommendations across the four nations*. Institute for Policy Research (IPR), University of Bath.



Media

- In collaboration with the University of Bath communications department, we have assisted in the development of press opportunities for several academics, where there have been strong links or relevance to our research. IPR academics and publications received over 730 media mentions in the reporting period, including coverage in outlets such the BBC and BBC Radio, the Financial Times, The Independent, Daily Mail, Sky News, LBC and Channel 4.



Social media, newsletter, policy podcast, videos and blog



Social media and newsletter

We utilise social media platforms to engage with interested individuals and organisations. We have continued to grow our social media reach and engagement. The IPR LinkedIn account currently has over 2,000 followers and our X (Twitter) account has around 3,500 followers. We joined Bluesky in November 2023.

We are continuing to distribute a fortnightly newsletter to our mailing list of around 3,700 subscribers. The newsletter summarises our latest news, events, research and publications and continues to be an effective method for engaging with external stakeholders who are not on social media.



Policy podcast

Our policy podcast series, shared on SoundCloud, is designed to enable people who miss our events, or those located internationally, to catch up on the best of our lectures and seminars. During 2023-2024, we uploaded 11 recordings, and these have received over 3,500 listens. To date, we have shared 132 recordings on SoundCloud, and these have received around 127,500 listens in total.



Videos

Our videos, shared on YouTube, enable people who miss our events to catch up or re-visit the best of our lectures and seminars. Our videos also inform viewers about the variety of programmes we offer. Our channel continues to grow, gaining approximately 150 subscribers this year and bringing us to a total of over 750 subscribers. During 2023-2024, we shared 14 videos on the channel and received over 10,500 views. To date, we have uploaded 171 videos and received more than 48,300 views across the channel.



Blog

Our blog continues to offer expert analysis, debate and comment on recent developments across UK government, policy, and academia, and pieces to supplement the IPR's publications and events. During 2023-2024, we published over 50 blog posts and received around 23,000 views. To date, we have published over 580 posts and received more than 330,000 total views.



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