

Strategy

The research strategy and its operation

The Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) grew out of what James Curran described as the 'Westminster School' research tradition, with its roots in media policy and economics, history, and public institutions. This tradition employs empirical, historical and theoretical methodology to explore the changing relations between media, society and modernity, both nationally and internationally. It focuses on understanding social and cultural change through rigorous examinations of the media now and over time. CAMRI has now expanded this approach to consider the media of different countries and cultures.

CAMRI is located in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication within the School of Media, Arts and Design, which occupies a professionally-equipped, custom-built facility at the Harrow campus. It has 22 senior and junior researchers and over 50 doctoral students (www.wmin.ac.uk/camri). The Department runs the UK's longest-established degree in media studies. Members of CAMRI are the founding editors of *Media, Culture and Society* (1979). The establishment of both an undergraduate degree and a journal in the 1970s highlights the sustainability of Westminster's media research. The Institute is the successor to the Centre for Communication and Information Studies which was given a 5 rating in the Research Assessment Exercise of 1992, 1996, and 2001.

CAMRI's strategic shift since 2001 is to internationalise the Westminster tradition to reflect the changing nature of the field. The retirement of senior staff created opportunities to broaden the scholarly base by making senior and junior appointments in global media, European media policy, Chinese journalism, Arab and African media, and media audiences.

Under the directorship of Sparks, CAMRI pursues a policy of publishing research monographs and edited books, editorship of journals, securing external grants from a variety of sources, and supporting an international doctoral programme. In this period there are 18 single authored books, and 12 co-authored and edited collections, reflecting the emphasis on high quality empirical and theoretical research. Staff published 63 journal articles, and 64 chapters in edited collections. Members of CAMRI are actively involved in the editorship of six scholarly journals and in the production of four industry-led reports.

CAMRI's profile consists of three coherent and interconnected research programmes.

Policy and Economics Led by Steemers, the group includes Barnett, de Burgh, Garnham, Goodwin, Hills, Kavada, Michalis, Sakr, Sparks, Thussu and Xin. It builds on the Westminster tradition by adopting a political economic approach to the analysis of media policy, regulation, convergence, political communications, developments in the creative industries, and issues

connected with global media and democracy. The launch of the journal *Global Media* and the accompanying *Internationalising Media* conference, led by Thusu, highlights an initiative to pull different geographic strands together in addressing relations between power, economics and politics in a changing global environment.

Since 2001, two new Centres have been established, with independent funding, to promote critical research in Chinese and Arabic media (CMC and AMC respectively). The China Media Centre, led by de Burgh, focuses on journalism and the evolution of media policy. With a number of partnerships with leading Chinese media institutions, CMC has one early career researcher. It organises an annual international conference, has run seminar series in the House of Commons sponsored by Downing Street, trains visiting Chinese journalists and communicators, and consults for Chinese and UK political/media organisations.

Focusing on Arab television, and Arab media and modernity, and working closely with CMC and the audiences group, the Arab Media Centre is led by Sakr, and has one new early-career researcher (2008). Through conferences, workshops and guest lectures AMC brings together an international network of media scholars, practitioners, policy-makers and advocates, ensuring wide and effective dissemination of research.

Media History draws on Westminster's established expertise in the social history of public service broadcasting. The group is led by Seaton, who is currently working on the official history of the BBC, along with McNicholas. Hendy has recently completed a history of BBC Radio 4. Visiting professor Scannell specialises in media history. This group uses archives and oral history to consider questions of public service, the enlightenment project, the history of the BBC and its impact on media and public life. Through its vigorous policy of engagement with public institutions, policy-makers, politicians and regulators, it intersects with the activities of Politics and Economics in key ventures such as joint involvement in the establishment of the Office of Communications. Barnett's role as official advisor to the House of Lords ensures both groups collaborate in influencing media policy on public service broadcasting in Britain and abroad.

Media Audiences expands CAMRI's expertise in audiences and genres; diasporic audiences; and creative approaches to audiences, identity and new media. Led by Gauntlett and Hill, it includes Tsagarousianou, and junior scholars Dover, Mano and Sabry (not included in this submission). The group shapes current debates in this evolving critical field through active engagement in international projects and networks. Hill's research on British and Swedish audiences highlights cultures of viewing for hybrid genres; Gauntlett's European network on digital storytelling explores media audiences and Web 2.0; Tsagarousianou specialises in media consumption among diasporas. Colleagues work with CMC and AMC on issues such as methodologies, and also collaborate with policy advisors and broadcasters.

Future Strategy

CAMRI's strategic aim is to be a global centre for critical research in media and social change. Each group has plans post 2008 to consolidate its strengths, working on collaborative projects both within and across areas of expertise.

Media Policy and Economics is leading an international project on media and socio-political change in China, Russia, South Africa and Latin America. The policy of political intervention continues with annual Westminster Hearings on China. CMC will organise a public event on the impact of China in Africa, collaborating with junior colleagues who are developing African Media. In 2008-09 the group will be organising a conference on digital switchover, linking work on Ofcom, Parliament and the BBC with European policy-makers and academics.

Media History focuses on the completion of the BBC History project in 2008-09. Seaton and McNicholas plan future projects on relations between public service institutions and politics. Scannell and Hendy plan historical and production research on the Proms. Close collaboration with media institutions will continue, eg CAMRI hosts Revisionary Interpretations of the Public Enterprise in 2010, consolidating its position as a leading place for research in public service broadcasting.

Media Audiences will launch an Audiences Centre in 2008, providing a focus for research on contemporary audience transformations. Its flagship project, funded by the BBC/AHRC in children and new media, uses production and reception research to critically examine the BBC's engagement with Web 2.0. The project highlights the internal connections with policy, public service broadcasting, and audiences in CAMRI. The Centre will work with colleagues from across the School on a large-scale Arts and Interactivity project (2008-2010) which will examine new opportunities for representing and experiencing art and aesthetics.

Reflecting its commitment to growing the research culture, CAMRI appointed a number of post-doctoral researchers whose interests connect with the strategic aims of the Institute post-2008. These include three RCUK Fellows to work on Chinese journalism, Arab media, and media audiences, and one post-doctoral researcher to work on media and social change. McNicholas, who was an AHRC post-doctoral researcher on the BBC History Project, is now a full-time member of staff and is seconded to the project until 2009. Two research assistants work on externally funded projects on new media and interactivity.

Sustainability of the research environment

Since the 1970s, the University has supported the development of research in media. The department has a well-established portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses that link to the research interests of staff. CAMRI's expertise is illustrated by the internal research culture, the active

dissemination of work through conferences and public lecture series, connections with other academic and media institutions, and various user communities.

The online newsletter *Findings* keeps researchers informed on publications, projects and awards. The self-published Open Access journal, *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (hard copy and online), is an outlet for junior scholars and doctoral students around the world. Research is disseminated through CAMRI's conferences and colloquia, and its programme of weekly seminars which are open to staff and research students. Featuring both internal and visiting speakers, the seminars foster connections with international partners. For example, Leverhulme Visiting Professor Zhengrong Hu delivered a series of lectures as part of the launch of CMC. AMC runs a similar public lecture series, including speakers such as Lawrence Pintak, editor of *Arab Media and Society*. CAMRI is at the forefront of intellectual debate with its own journals: *Media, Culture and Society*, one of the leading European journals in the field; *Global Media and Communication*; *Convergence*, *Journal of African Media Studies* and the *Middle East Journal of Communication and Culture*.

CAMRI is establishing itself as a global centre for media research through its conferences and seminars. To mark the retirement of Garnham in 2002 it hosted 'Capitalism and Communication in the 21st Century', resulting in an edited collection of key papers. In 2006, 'Internationalising Media Studies' was attended by 250 scholars from all over the world. Since 2004 CMC has organised three conferences on different aspects of Chinese media. It was co-organiser of the 2007 conference in QUT (Brisbane) and, with the International Communication Association/Chinese Association for Communication, the first large-scale meeting between Western and Chinese scholars in Beijing (2007). AMC organised an ESRC-funded series of research seminars on the 'Public Sphere in the Arab World' (2004-05), with further conferences on methodology (2006) and teaching in the Arab world (2007). Media History ran major conferences on 'Live Aid' and 'Eastenders' (2004), and 'Women in the BBC' (2006). Audiences organised conferences on 'Diasporas' (2002) and 'Transforming Audiences' (2007), with the European Communication Research and Education Association and ICA. The groups collaborated on three African Media conferences (2005-) and an academic/industry seminar on children's programming (2007).

This culture facilitates networking among leading media academics and diverse user groups. It continues the Westminster tradition of engaging with the wider world through participation in research and debate on issues, such as the setting up of Ofcom, media literacy, or Arab satellite television. As a result of CAMRI's close links with the media industries, Westminster hosted the first public debate on the fallout from the Hutton report.

The delivery of research takes different forms. CAMRI receives research grants from public funding bodies, regulatory bodies, NGOs, and media institutions. It has ESRC, AHRC and RCUK fellowships and research positions, BBC-funded positions, and research assistantships funded by

organisations such as 3WE. There are consultancies with the BBC and other European public service broadcasters and also with the House of Lords. Linked to these projects are doctoral scholarships and fee waivers, with many students researching and teaching alongside staff, ensuring the continued growth and vitality of the research culture.

Research grant applications and other forms of research income

The University supports diverse funding applications to academic/industry user groups. A central research and consultancy unit, set up in 2001, advises on funding applications and budgets. CAMRI offers specialised help, from funding workshops to mentoring first-time applicants, to an external consultant for large-scale applications. The campus research office provides administrative and financial support. Successful principal applicants are allocated 50 per cent of School overheads for dissemination or preparation for follow-on projects.

Since 2001, CAMRI has increased the number of awards and other financial support from diverse sources. It has received research project, travel and seminar grants, and research leave awards from the ESRC, AHRC, British Academy and Leverhulme Foundation, and three research fellowships from RCUK. European-led networks and seminars have been funded by the ESRC, Rockefeller Foundation, and the EU. Independent research was commissioned by the International Broadcasting Trust, the Rowntree Foundation, the BBC, Channel 4, and former regulatory bodies Broadcasting Standards Commission/Independent Television Commission. There were 31 successful applications from January 2001 to July 2007, with 23 completed projects, funded from diverse sources. The total amount for research council, charity, and other awards during this timeframe was £882,014.

Policy and Economics utilise the reputation of the 'Westminster tradition' for critical analysis in their funding strategy. Sparks secured 414,478 Euros for the EU Cost A20 programme on the internet and mass media. Barnett has been conducting a series of projects on international news and current affairs trends in Britain for the International Broadcasting Trust. CAMRI encourages senior academics to lead large-scale funding bids. The appointment of de Burgh, with his specialism in Chinese journalism, was instrumental in securing a quarter of a million in funding from the Quintin Hogg Foundation for the CMC; the appointment of Sakr, with her specialism on the modern Middle East, led to joint funding applications with Hill and Sparks to the ESRC and HEIF 3 initiative (£20,000) for the AMC. CAMRI secured three RCUK Academic Fellows in Chinese journalism, Arab media, and audiences in order to develop teaching and research in these areas (£375,000, awarded 2005, 2007).

CAMRI's record in public service broadcasting led to the award of major collaborative funding from the AHRC/BBC for the BBC History Project. Other funding from Leverhulme, AHRC and Scouladi supported Hendy's study of BBC Radio 4. Audience research has been boosted by awards (£105,000) for two of Hill's projects from public and private sources (ESRC, ITC/BSC,

Channel 4, Jönköping International Business School, Göteborg University). Institutional support also helped Hill develop a HEIF-funded collaborative project on interactive audiences and design with Brunel University (£125,000, 2005-09). Two recent appointments, Gauntlett and Steemers, have won a new AHRC/BBC funded project on children's interactive media (£74,243), with a BBC-funded doctoral student now a part-time researcher on this project.

The doctoral programme has also benefited from external funding. Porter and Hill won awards from the Socrates Foundation for the European Doctoral Summer School (2001-2004). Early career researchers are mentored by senior colleagues, while other projects are supervised and evaluated by peers. Project and Centre leaders are given extra relief from teaching and additional assistance for the successful completion of projects. The programme of seminars, conferences, publications and public events involving diverse stake-holders supports CAMRI's strategy for dissemination and exchanging knowledge with the wider world.

People

Support and training for research staff

The School of Media, Arts and Design provides structured support for a balance of teaching and research:

1. Relief from teaching and administrative duties on a regular and consistent basis, including 40 per cent remission for senior staff and 20 per cent for junior researchers.
2. A programme of rotating sabbaticals every three years allowing relief from all teaching and administration for six months.
3. Provision for research expenses for conferences and pilot projects.
4. Financial and administrative support for grant applications and knowledge transfer activities.
5. Financial and administrative support for regular away days, workshops, conferences, and other activities that facilitate the research culture.

Support is agreed on an annual basis by the Director of Research for the School (Hill) and CAMRI, in consultation with the School senior management group.

All RCUK Fellows and post-doctoral researchers receive special weighting in their timetables, teaching one day per week, and attending training run by the University. There are additional University funds to support developing researchers (up to £3000 each) for specific projects. Senior staff mentor early career researchers, acting as 'buddies' for funding applications, writing articles, conference papers and book proposals. Group leaders offer specialised help for projects, publications and dissemination for CAMRI members, associates and fellows.

The retirement of Porter, and departure of Selwood and Winston, created opportunities for new directions in CAMRI's research profile. Significant new

appointments include Gauntlett (2006) whose expertise in audiences complements the work of Hill; Steemers (2006) extends policy analysis in global television. Xin (2006) and Kavada (2007) are working on Chinese media, and new media and social activism, reflecting CAMRI's policy of enriching the research culture by teaming new researchers with senior staff.

Support and training for research students

Team supervision for doctoral students is led by a specialist Director of Studies. There are University-wide arrangements for progression, monitoring and addressing unsatisfactory performance. The School Research Degrees Committee addresses enrolment, progression and completion. CAMRI is the largest doctoral programme in the University with 65 students and 43 completions since 2001. In addition to CAMRI's own internal scholarships, consisting of a three-year bursary and fee waiver, students can apply for up to £1000 for help with fieldwork or dissemination. External funding sources include the AHRC, Overseas Research Student Awards, and funding bodies in overseas countries.

CAMRI seminars and conferences prepare students for presenting their work to the academic community. It hosts the twice-yearly [Doctoral Research Symposia](#), established in 2001 in collaboration with Goldsmith's College, and subsequently the LSE and City University. With panels chaired by staff who provide written feedback on presentations, the Symposia offers valuable opportunities to network and collaborate with peers. Westminster's long-standing involvement in the European Doctoral Summer School, established in the early 1990s and now run by ECREA, extends opportunities for doctoral training and support to the international stage. The MeCCSA Postgraduate Network (chaired by Hill from 2004-06) is another opportunity for students to participate in conferences and workshops.

Staff involved in editing *Media, Culture and Society* also helped to establish *WPCC*. The membership of the editorial board changes every few years to allow new staff and students to take the reins. The success of this model is evident in two new journals established by junior researchers Sabry and Mano, CAMRI doctoral scholarship students who were then appointed as lecturers, and played an active role in establishing *WPCC*. They now in turn mentor students in editorship and publications, running workshops at the ECREA Doctoral Summer School.

Other research activities

Each research group fosters a lively research culture, with an increasing number of publications and growing collaborations with industry and policy bodies, in addition to those activities included in RA2.

Barnett's work on media policy is published in two reports on news trends for the 3WE and Department for International Development, and book chapters in *Public Opinion and Democracy* (2001), *New News?* (2002), *From Public Service Broadcasting to Public Service Communications* (2004), *What Can be*

done? *Improving Media and Politics* (2006); and articles in *Pacific Journalism Review*, *Political Quarterly* and the *British Journalism Review*. de Burgh's research in investigative journalism and Chinese media led to the book *China: Friend or Foe* (2006) and the co-edited *Globalisation and the Future of UK Universities*, with book chapters in *Political Communication in Greater China* (2002), *China and Britain* (2005), and articles in *Public Affairs*, *Media History*, *Media Culture and Society*, *Journalism*, *Journalism Studies*, *The Chinese Journal of Media Studies*. Michalis publishes on European policy, with chapters in *European Economic and Political Issues* (2002), *Creative Destruction* (2001).

Sakr's reputation for work on Arab media policy, reflected in contributions to reports by UNDP, Deutsche Orient-Institut, IFES and others, stems from both her individual research and her two edited collections, *Arab Media and Political Renewal* (2007) and *Women and Media in the Middle East* (2004, reprinted 2007). Sparks published extensively on global media and social change, co-editing *Towards a Political Economy of Culture* (2003), contributing chapters in *Global Activism*, *Global Media* (2004), *The Internet and Modern Communications* (2003), *Critical Issues in Communication* (2001), *Democratic Reconstruction in the Balkans* (2001), *Print and Online Newspapers in Europe* (2001), and articles in *Journalism and Communication Review*, and *Javnost*. Steemers' publications highlight a profile in television production and European policy, with chapters in *The Media Globe* (2006), *The BFI Television Handbook* (2005), *Contemporary World Television* (2004), *Broadcasting and Convergence* (2004), *Cultural Dilemmas in Public Service Broadcasting* (2005), *Media and Democracy* (2006). Thussu has focused his publications on internationalising media studies, with articles in *Javnost* and *Media, Culture and Society*, and chapters in various edited collections.

Hendy's involvement in the Radio Studies Network and the BBC History Network gave rise to his book on radio which was translated into Italian, and he has published in the edited collection *New Media Language* (2005). Jean Seaton, the successor to Asa Briggs as the BBC historian (1975-87), has produced several radio documentaries for BBC Radio 4 based on the archive and co-edited *Doing Politics Better* (2006) with John Lloyd. Seaton was the expert evaluator of the Leverhulme 'Media and Communication Programme'. Alongside his collaborative role with Seaton, McNicholas' research in Irish history is in *Cultural Studies* and *Irish Historical Studies*. As Visiting Senior Fellow, Scannell has published widely on media events and phenomenology, with journal articles and chapters in edited collections.

Gauntlett has contributed a number of articles and chapters on audiences and identities in *Visual Sociology* and *Medienpädagogik*. His web editorship and publications contribute to his international profile (www.theory.org.uk and www.artlab.org.uk). Hill's profile in television and cultures of viewing includes her edited book *Television Studies Reader* (with Robert C Allen, 2003); chapters in *Reading Makeover Television* (with Dover, 2007), *Blackwell Companion to Television* (2006), *Critical Readings* (2006), *Young People, Soap Operas and Reality TV* (2005), *Ill Effects* (2001); articles in *Journal of Risk Analysis*, *Journalism and Communication Studies Review*, *Cultural*

Trends (with Weibull and Nilsson), and *Journal of British Cinema and Television* (with John Corner). She published two reports on Swedish television audiences (with Weibull and Nilsson 2005). Tsagarousianou's profile in diasporas includes a chapter in *Black Marks* (2001) and articles in *Javnost*, and *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*.

Publications by junior researchers not included in this submission include Dover's work on documentary in *Journal of British Cinema and Television*, and media and identity in *Participations*; Mano's work on African radio in *Media, Culture and Society*, *Radio Studies*, *Journalism Studies* and his edited collection on African media in *WPCC*; Sabry's work on transnational audiences in *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Transnational Studies*, and his edited collection on media and migration in *WPCC*; and Way's research on the papacy, politics and the media in a variety of European conference publications.

Forthcoming publications not completed within this RAE include Tsagarousianou's co-authored book on *Islam in Contemporary Europe* (2008); and McNicholas' co-edited collection *Television and Public Policy* (2008). Research projects to be completed after the RAE deadline include the publication of Volume 6 of the Official History of the BBC which is planned for 2008 alongside an educational pack and accompanying radio and television programmes and public forums. Continuing collaboration with the BBC includes the AHRC/BBC project led by Gauntlett and Steemers (2008). Steemers will also complete the related AHRC funded project on the production ecology of pre-school television (2007-09), which will feature a book-length monograph and an industry/academic conference. Dover is working on an ESRC funded project on children, media and identities (with King's College 2005-08). Hill's 'Interactive Media' project (2006-09) will result in industry led events and academic articles.

Structure

The intellectual infrastructure

Media, Arts and Design provides support for research and knowledge transfer across the five departments in the School. The School Research Director oversees the strategic and financial aspects of research, liaising with University, School and departmental committees, and is a member of the School senior management group. She works with Sparks who manages the research activities of staff. Sparks leads a CAMRI committee made up of research group leaders. The Director of the CAMRI Doctoral Programme (Tsagarousianou) manages all aspects of research student training and supervision. In recognition of the growth of research in the School after RAE 2001, a dedicated campus research office was established, where two full-time administrators provide support for funded projects, publications, conferences and seminars, and doctoral training and supervision.

The CAMRI committee manages day to day activities, interim workshops, annual away days, to plan the strategic direction of the research culture, and

the individual and collaborative work within the research groups. CMC and AMC also have committees with senior research managers from the School, alongside advisory boards with external consultants in academic, policy and industry sectors. The intellectual infrastructure supports the development of staff expertise. For example a strategic outcome of an awayday to internationalise the 'Westminster tradition' was the School's appointment of several senior positions to develop new intellectual directions.

The wider context of the research infrastructure

CAMRI's work is located within a range of different research contexts. At the local level, CAMRI links its doctoral programme with that of other London Universities, and nationally it is active in MECCSA, in establishing and helping to sustain the Postgraduate Network. Internationally, CAMRI is active in ECREA, and the European Doctoral Summer School, as well as IAMCR, Euromedia, and RIPE. CAMRI has taken an initiative in developing European networks amongst scholars studying the Chinese and Arab media, the impact of the internet, television audiences, digital storytelling, and EU policy issues.

Much of the research undertaken by CAMRI reaches beyond the academy to inform and engage with policy and industry decision-makers both nationally and internationally. In industry, CAMRI members have worked with the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Ofcom, as well as international broadcasters such as CCTV and Al Jazeera. Industry and public bodies have been well represented at conferences. Hill has been advisor to an AHRC/BBC programme of collaborative projects between industry and academia. Barnett has been advisor to ITV's Thinkbox project on the future of advertising.

In the political field, CAMRI members are active in UK debates over the setting up of Ofcom, the governance and funding of the BBC, media ownership and digital switchover. Seaton's work allows her special access to the BBC World Service, Board of Management and BBC Trustees. Barnett's work on media policy and political journalism led to his role as key advisor to the House of Lords on communications issues, as well as invitations to speak or advise at the Foreign Office, the British Council, BBC Trust and the Royal Television Society. Staff regularly advise parliamentary select committees and regulatory bodies. Both Centres provide independent critical research and advice on issues related to China and the Arab world. Sakr's advice has been sought by the House of Lords, Oxford and Cambridge universities and the BBC. de Burgh has been active in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on China and the Select Committee for Trade & Industry (2005-06), and is Chair of China School, the National Meeting of Organisations for the Promotion of Chinese Language and Culture in Schools (2006-), Chair of the Foreign Office 'Global Opportunities Fund China Human Rights Project' (2005-07), and Chair of AGORA (2004-). CMC has organised a series of meetings together with Agora, the Smith Institute and the Parliamentary China Group.

The operational infrastructure

The School Research Director and CAMRI committee oversee quality assurance. The objectives of the School are to support colleagues in developing their research activities and producing high quality research; to maintain links between research and the curriculum; to support and develop knowledge transfer activities; and to maintain high quality research degree supervision and training. To achieve these objectives staff receive relief from teaching and administration, sabbaticals, expenses, support for funding applications and industry projects, support and training for supervisors and students.

These aims connect with the University-wide committees for quality assurance, including the Research Committee, the Research Degrees Committee, Ethics Committee, and Academic Council. There is a University code of practice for researchers and doctoral students, and guidelines and regulations on research, consultancy and knowledge transfer, as well as doctoral research and training provision. The Academic Registrar's office oversees all quality issues for the University. The QAA praised the quality of doctoral students and training provision in the University (2006). The Scholarships Committee was winner of the Times Higher Education Supplement Award 2005 for Outstanding Support for Overseas Students.

Students and staff have 24-hour access to a large library of books, journals and IT resources and dedicated studios for television, radio, print, film, photography, music and artistic practice. A team of technicians, library and computing staff provide support and training all year round. Doctoral students have designated rooms with computers, networking and a social space and access to state-of-the art media equipment and studios. These same facilities and support are available for research fellows and visiting scholars.

Esteem

Recognition

The 'Westminster tradition' is founded on the influential role of its researchers in academic, industry, and policy arenas. Academic recognition includes keynote addresses to IAMCR (2006 Sakr), RIPE (2004, 2006, Scannell, Hill), Siena Radio Studies Conference (2005 Scannell), Media and Society in Asia (2006 Thussu, Sparks). Numerous lectures have been given at universities around the world, including: Oslo (Scannell, Gauntlett), Copenhagen (Scannell, Hill), City University Hong Kong (Sparks), University of California, Santa Barbara (Hill), and Harvard University (Seaton). Visiting Professorships are held at numerous European Universities, for example Stockholm and Helsinki (Hill), and four Chinese Universities (De Burgh, Sparks). Staff won three divisional prizes for "Best Paper" at the annual ICA conference (2004-06, Sparks, Hill), and the 'Middle Eastern Studies Book Prize (2003 Sakr).

CAMRI members are regularly invited to speak at a diverse range of industry conferences such as the European Broadcasting Union (Barnett), China

Central Television (de Burgh, Sparks), YLE (Hill), BAFTA, the RTS (Barnett, Steemers), the Westminster Media Forum, Association for International Broadcasting (Barnett), the Montreux Rose D'Or International Television Festival (Steemers). Consultancies include CCTV, Hunan TV (de Burgh), Southern Metropolitan Group, Southern Television Group (de Burgh), the BBC Trustees (Seaton, Barnett), ITV (Barnett), the Foreign Office (Sakr), Department for International Development, All-party Parliamentary Group on China, Select Committee for Trade and Industry (de Burgh), House of Lords (Barnett, Sakr), Agora, Demos, the Smith Institute, the Future Foundation (Barnett), AHRC (Hill), NESTOR (Gauntlett), Helsingin Sanomat Foundation and SVT (Hill). International connections and collaborations with other doctoral programmes include Amsterdam, Aarhus, Bergen, Barcelona, Grenoble, Hamburg, Helsinki, Lund, Madrid, Moscow, Oslo, Siena, Stockholm, Tampere.

Influence

The Westminster tradition of critical research in media and power relations now has a more global focus, so that the long-standing influence of *Media, Culture and Society* is evident in the values of the more recent *Global Media and Communication*. Editorship of journals such as *Convergence* engages staff in current media studies debates, while they contribute to the international arena through the *Journal of African Media Studies*, and *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*. Additionally CAMRI researchers are editorial board members of *Political Quarterly*, *Television and New Media*, *Javnost*, *Media Asia*, and *British Journalism Review*.

New theories on media and democracy, globalisation, audiences, identities and diasporas, have been debated at conferences organised by CAMRI, with presenters from around the world contributing intellectual debates at annual conferences on Chinese, Arabic and African media. Edited collections from these conferences continue the strategy, eg *Arab Media and Political Renewal* came from the ESRC seminar series on this subject.

The work of CAMRI scholars has been instrumental in the development of policy, media history and the role of public service broadcasting. Seaton has worked with the Board of Governors, the BBC Trust, government and European policy. The audience group has contributed to the development of research practices, with recent projects creating new datasets on television audiences in Britain/Sweden, and diasporic audiences in Europe; and new methodologies using arts and visual sociology. There have also been collaborations with Nordic universities, such as the SOM Institute, Sweden (Hill). Members have refereed projects and programmes for Leverhulme (Seaton), ESRC (Sparks, Hill), AHRC (Gauntlett, Hill, Steemers), and many European bodies; and book proposals or journal articles for all major publishers. Scannell was a former member of the RAE (1996, 2001), three members are on the AHRC peer review panel, and knowledge transfer panel (Scannell, Thussu, Hill).

Benefit

The context of the Westminster tradition has enabled CAMRI and its researchers to conduct critical research and consultancy. With its long-standing reputation for media research, Westminster is committed to providing a sustainable environment for supporting and developing staff. Internal and external funding enable CAMRI staff to contribute to its global reputation. Collaboration with academic, political, non governmental, and industry user groups fosters engagement with the wider world, including British, European, Chinese, Arab and African countries. Privileged access to the BBC archives, and government papers, provides unique opportunities for large scale histories and political engagement in media institutions. Diverse funding for research projects allows researchers to shape debates in political economy, globalisation, China, the Middle East, public service broadcasting and audiences. The specialist groupings within CAMRI increasingly interconnect to offer a powerful blend of research interests and expertise which will ensure its future position as a global centre for critical research in media and social change.