



January 2017

Your monthly update of news, views and interviews from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

Welcome to this month's **PodMag**, hosted by Karen Foley.

As we approach the inauguration of Donald Trump, the January edition focusses on the American Presidential election. We hear from Richard Heffernan, Agnes Czajka and William Brown about their thoughts in terms of the election as a democratic process, the nature of the campaign and about how Trump, as President, may fair as leader within an international context. To listen to the full edition (17 minutes duration) click [here](#).



### Dr Richard Heffernan

Richard highlights the voting differences between the political systems of the UK and the US. He also gives his opinion on how powerful he thinks Trump will be during his presidency and how he might work with congress.

Richard is Head of Department (POLIS), within the School of Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development, Geography.



### Dr Agnes Czajka

Agnes discusses what the American election shows us about the relationships between electoral processes and society. Hear whether Agnes thinks Trump had a clever strategic plan or if

people voted for him because there was no viable alternative; and whether he can deliver on his promises!

Agnes is a Lecturer in the department of POLIS, School of Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development, Geography.

## Diary

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 Student Hub Live Event

Online and interactive event open to everyone:

10am-12pm: Maths for students who aren't studying maths.

12pm-1pm: Non live interval during which time the chat will be open and some of recent bootcamp sessions will be replayed.

1pm-3pm: TMA feedback session. OU academics will offer practical advice and support on feedback related issues.

For full details and to log on to this event visit [The Student Hub Live](#).

If you are unable to take part in the live event you can always catch up at [The Student Hub Live](#).



## Dr William Brown

William looks at the implications of a Trump presidency in terms of international relations with countries such as Russia and China. He also gives his opinion on the wider implications of prospects for things that require international co-operation, for example climate change, and how foreign policy is actually conducted in the US.

William Brown is a Senior Lecturer in Government and Politics, School of Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development, Geography.

### Spotlight on new media:

The very successful BBC/OU co-production about the Brontes 'To Walk Invisible' aired over the Christmas holidays. There is still a small window of opportunity to watch it on [iPlayer](#) (available until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017) if you missed it, or want to watch it again. Alternatively you can visit [OpenLearn](#) and enjoy a range of content linked to the programme available on the [History and The Arts page](#).

The OU and BBC are doing a co-production on the history of LGBT and life in Britain which is due to air in late Spring. A website has been launched aiming to crowd source material for the programme. So if you have any funny, sad or emotional stories you would be happy to share, please visit the [People's History of LGBT+ Life in Britain](#) website or email [history@7wonder.co.uk](mailto:history@7wonder.co.uk).

### Students – have your say

If you have any suggestions for interviews or features you would like to see either via The PodMag or our student focused Facebook page please feel free to let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

Would you like to be interviewed yourself and tell your story? If so, please contact us on [connections@open.ac.uk](mailto:connections@open.ac.uk)

## FASS online community



### Facebook

Have you visited our student Faculty Facebook page yet? We have over 28,000 followers - why not join us!

Click [here](#) to take a look and feel free to like, comment on and share our posts.



### Instagram

You can also follow us on Instagram. Click [here](#) to view our latest posts.



### Twitter

Are you a Social Sciences follower?

Catch up with the latest tweets from the Faculty [here](#).