Project Title	Terrorism in Nigeria: Boko Haram
School	School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS)
Project Supervisor/ Scholar Mentor	Dr Gordon Clubb

1. Project overview

The research project aims to develop an extensive case-study of Boko Haram and conflict in Nigeria to serve two related pieces of research. The first piece of research is on radicalisation, specifically examining the relationship been ideology and terroristic behaviour. The purpose of the project is to theorise on the causal role of cultural systems to contribute to debates on radicalisation, which has hitherto viewed ideology as having a limited role in causing terrorism. It aims to understand the different components of Boko Haram's ideology and how these relate to the broader culture of the movement and in society more generally.

The second piece of research is part of a collaborative project looking at the impact former combatants have within society, analysing how the former combatants frame violence and tracing their diffusion and reception through community networks. The purpose of this project is to engage with debates on the reintegration of former combatants and whether, in addition to looking at the risk of recidivism, to explore to what extent they play a role in violence/conflict prevention. The scholarship holder's role in these projects will be to develop a good understanding of Boko Haram, therefore knowledge of theories and concepts is not a requirement.

2. Key tasks to be pursued by the scholarship holder

The researcher will develop an expertise on Boko Haram and other Nigerian militant groups by primarily reading academic sources – from the causes of conflict and radicalisation, ideology, organisational structure and modus operandi. The first year will focus on conducting an extensive review of the literature to address pre-set questions, specifically mapping out the group's ideology. The second year will focus on researching former Boko Haram combatants and DDR programmes in Nigeria. Tasks to facilitate the research project will include the building of a literature database and an expertise database on Excel. The researcher will be given the option to assist with organising and participate in conferences on the project topic when possible.

3. Principal academic outcomes/outputs to be generated by the scholarship holders' research

The scholarship holders' research will produce a report on Boko Haram which will inform an academic article on radicalisation and ideology and a large-scale funding application for a project analysing the impact of former Boko Haram combatants on community attitudes to violence.

4. Support and personal development

During term time there will be one formal meeting to discuss the project and the scholar will be encouraged to approach the PI in office hours. During the period of research, weekly meetings (in person or via skype) will be held with the purpose of providing structure, giving feedback on research skills, and engaging in debate and discussion on the topic. At the start of the project, a meeting will be arranged to aid research skills – familiarising the scholar with basic research search tools and academic writing skills. The project will enable the scholar to develop a high level of expertise on the case. Throughout the project the scholar will be gradually introduced to the theoretical and conceptual components, where they will be invited to contribute as and where they feel comfortable. The scholar will be encouraged to develop presentation skills, where they will present on research questions at each of the weekly meetings and be given support in developing these skills.

5. Resource requirements of the proposed research

Preferably resources would be available to allow the scholar to participate in my panel on former combatants at the ECPR conference in Oslo, 5-7th September – costs to attend the conference would normally be provided by the UGRLS scheme.

6. Who should apply?

- Knowledge of Boko Haram, Nigeria, and concepts in terrorism studies is desired but not required.
- Evidence of commitment to learning about a topic in depth, as a part of work and/or as a part of leisure, is essential.
- The student must be hard-working, reliable, and capable of working on their own initiative without constant supervision.
- Evidence of analytical skills and problem-solving skills is desirable.