



Career pathways: Parliamentary Researcher

Damon Davies

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe)



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

**University of Edinburgh, E4 DTP Training for 1st
year students Tuesday 28 April**

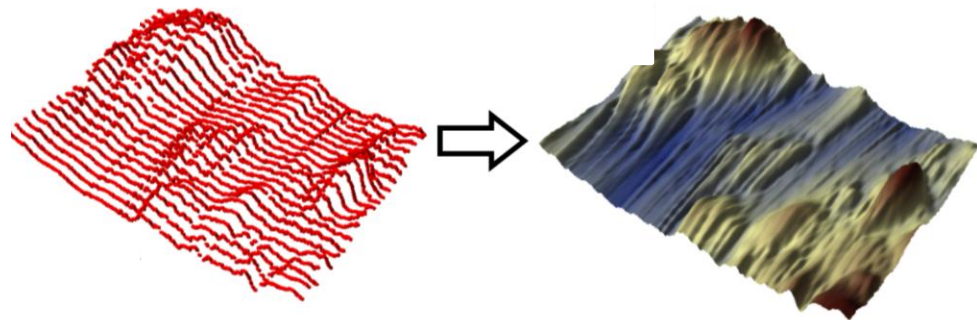
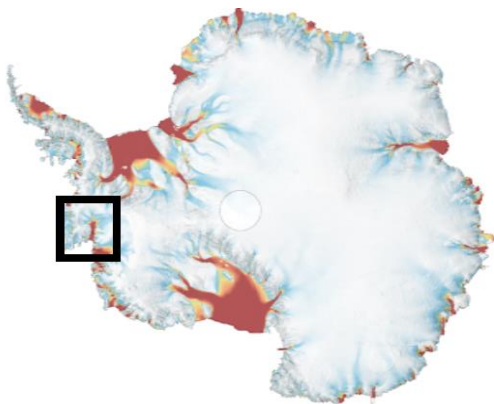
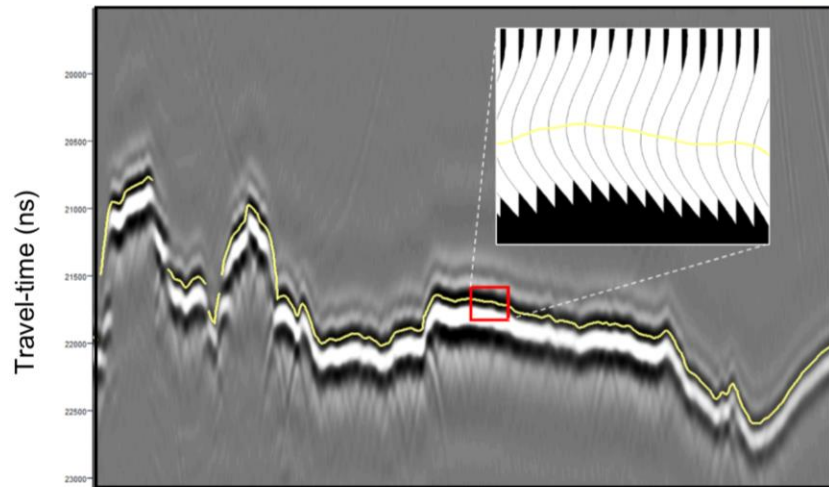
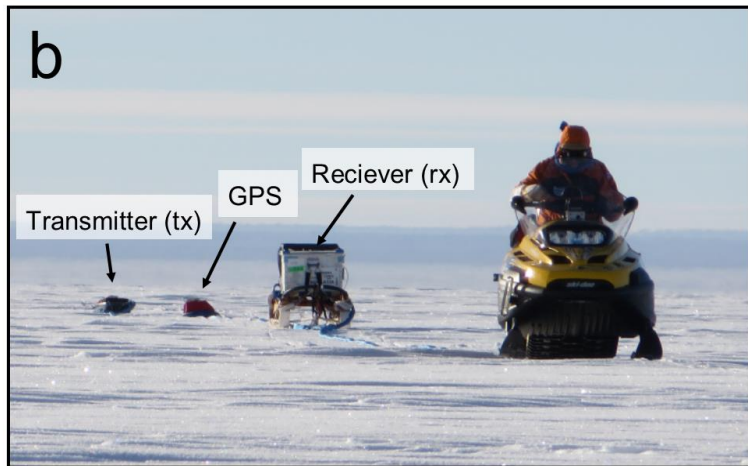
My PhD



2013 – 2018: PhD Atmospheric and Environmental Science

The nature and dynamics of ice stream beds: assessing their role in ice-sheet stability





My Pathway

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Jan-Mar 2017: UKRI Policy Internship

Sep 2017 – Mar 2018: Research Assistant

Apr 2018 - Present: Researcher, Brexit Environment & Rural Affairs



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



A faint, stylized graphic of several overlapping purple leaves is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide, behind the text.

Government and
Parliament
are not the same
thing!



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

- Proposes and implements laws for Scotland on devolved matters
- Makes and implements policy
- Proposes the Scottish budget
- Is headed by the First Minister



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

- Makes laws for Scotland on devolved matters
- Scrutinises the work of the Scottish Government
- Debates issues affecting Scotland

The logo for SPICe is contained within a purple-to-blue gradient rounded rectangle. The text 'SPICe' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

SPICe

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe)

SPICe provides factual, accurate and timely information and analysis to Members in support of parliamentary business.

SPICe

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

SPICe Structure

**Enquiries and
Collections
team**


**Financial Scrutiny
Unit**

**Justice, Health &
Social Affairs
Research team**

**Brexit,
Environment and
Rural Affairs**

4 teams, around 40 researchers

What's a typical
working week?





RESEARCH BRIEFINGS Brathan-ullachaidh Rannsachadh



WEDNESDAY 30 OCT 2019

Search

GO!



Subjects

Business and Industry	10
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Environment and Energy	8
Equalities	9
EU and International Affairs	32
Health	15
Housing and Planning	13
Justice	27
Parliament and Government	17
People and Communities	11
Rural Affairs	25
Social security	8
Transport	10

Tags

- Agriculture
- Animal welfare
- Benefits
- Budget
- Care
- Children
- Civil justice
- Climate
- Constitution
- Consumer law and licensing
- Courts



Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

30 October 2019

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill places a duty on Scottish Ministers to ensure that period products are made available free of charge on a universal basis; requires education providers to make period products available free of charge in on-site toilets; and enables Scottish Ministers to place a duty on other specified public service bodies to provide free ...



Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill

30 October 2019

The Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill was introduced in Parliament by the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, Michael Russell MSP, on 2 September 2019. The bill proposes changes to electoral law covering Scottish Parliament and local government elections, including reforming term lengths.



Brexit events timeline: Scottish Parliament engagement and scrutiny

28 October 2019

This briefing updates the SPICe Brexit timeline published on 14 December 2016. It sets out key events since the EU referendum on 23 June 2016. It particularly focusses on the Scottish Parliament's engagement and scrutiny with the withdrawal process. The briefing also provides links to key documents published by the administrations and legislatures of Scotland, ...



The European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill - Implications for ...

28 October 2019

This briefing examines the proposals in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill focussing on those which relate to the role and powers of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government. It has been prepared to aid any Scottish Parliament consideration of the Bill and the Scottish Government's related Legislative Consent Memorandum.



Competition policy - Brexit and the exercise of devolved powers ...

22 October 2019

This briefing is the second of two which look at the Scottish Government's new competition powers. It discusses the consequences of Brexit for the competition powers devolved to the Scottish Government by the Scotland Act 2016.



Competition policy - the UK framework and the impact of Brexit (republished)

22 October 2019

This briefing is the first of two which look at the Scottish Government's new competition powers. It sets out current competition policy powers at UK and EU level and considers what Brexit will mean in practice in this area.

SPICe Briefing
Pàipear-ullachaidh SPICe

The revised UK Fisheries Bill

Damon Davies, Anna Brand, James Harrison, Sarah Atherton, Andrew Alton

This briefing considers the UK Fisheries Bill 2019-20 from a Scottish perspective. The Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 29 January 2020. It follows on from the Fisheries Bill 2017-2019 introduced in the previous UK parliament on 25 October 2018 but which fell at the end of the parliamentary session. The Bill will provide the legal framework for the UK to operate as an independent coastal state now that the UK has left the European Union and will leave the Common Fisheries Policy after the transition period. Many parts of the Bill apply in Scotland.



1 April 2020
SB 20-29

SPICe Briefing
Pàipear-ullachaidh SPICe

UK-EU Future Relationship Negotiations: Fisheries

James Harrison, Damon Davies, Anna Brand, Iain Thom, Iain McIver

This briefing examines the UK-EU future relationship negotiations on fisheries. It sets out the context of the negotiations in terms of international commitments for shared management of fish stocks and the negotiating positions of the UK and EU. The briefing also explores the elements of fisheries agreements with other coastal states and highlights the economic, cultural and social importance of fisheries to Scotland and the UK. Cover Photo by [Markus Pflüger on Unsplash](#)



21 April 2020
SB 20-31



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SPICe Spotlight | Solas air SPICe

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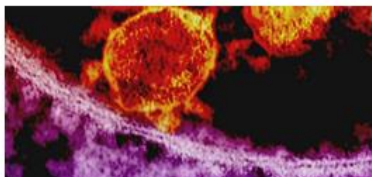
Parliament & Government

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Social Security

Transport



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Support – updated 27

material

Members in support of

What money is the Scottish Government getting for coronavirus (COVID-19) support and how is it being spent?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) –
Frequently Asked Questions
– Health

What does the self-employed population in Scotland look like?

An economy fit for key workers?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland – latest data

Coronavirus (COVID-19):
Constituency support –
updated 27 April 2020

Enquiries

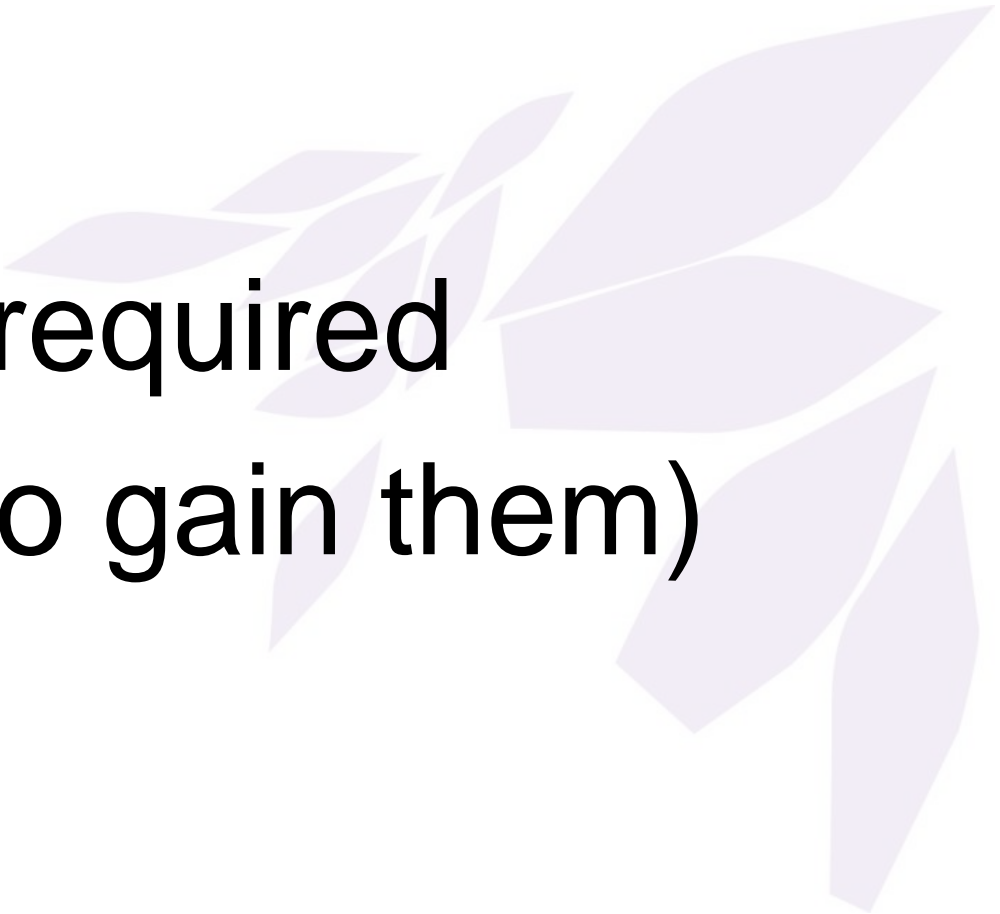
Who from?

- MSPs,
- MSP's staff
- Constituency staff

How many?

- 383 last month
- 4-5K per year





Skills required (and how to gain them)

Key Skills needed	What can you do to gain them?
Communicating complex ideas clearly and concisely (written and oral)	Blog about your research, teach, public outreach, tweet your research.
Quickly develop knowledge on unfamiliar subjects	Teaching unfamiliar topics, Read about research outside of your expertise.
Working to short, tight deadlines	Arrange regular deadlines with your PhD supervisor, internships.
Understanding of Parliament and Government, political awareness	Follow current affairs, engage with parliament, escape your bubble!
Critical thinking (impartiality)	Do a PhD!
Ability to carry out independent research	Do a PhD!



Some perspectives on a career outside academia

What do I like about my job?

- Good work/life balance
- Working in a diverse team, supportive environment
- No week is the same, things change quickly
- Developing a broad knowledge
- Having an impact
- Working in the Parliament building

What do I miss about academia?

- Being at the cutting edge
- Getting your teeth into a topic
- Problem solving
- Fieldwork, conferences
- Teaching
- Constantly developing new skills, innovating

Questions?

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SPICe Briefings

<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings>

SPICe blog:

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/>



[@ScotParl](https://twitter.com/ScotParl)

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UK Research and Innovation Policy Internships Scheme

The Policy Internships Scheme provides the opportunity for PhD students funded by the research councils of UK Research and Innovation to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations.

- 30 host partners
- Funding available from research council + extra funding for travel and accommodation costs (up to £2,400)
- Available to students funded by **NERC, BBSRC, ESRC**, EPSRC, MRC, AHRC, and STFC.
- Next round in 2020. Call goes out in the summer (end of August deadline).

<https://www.ukri.org/skills/policy-internships-scheme/>

