One of the characteristics of political science, which is both a strength and a weakness, is its theoretical and methodological eclecticism. The lack of an overarching, agreed approach to the study of politics and policy has been a source of frustration for some and there have been repeated claims for one method or the other to take the lead and give the political science project more coherence and accumulative capacity. However, the lack of a disciplinary straight jacket has, at the same time, allowed for judicious borrowing of insights from other disciplines, resulting in what have been described as ‘hyphenated’ or bridging disciplines. One such borrowing that has proved particularly fruitful has been from psychology, which has provided insights into individual and group behaviour that have improved understanding and analysis of various aspects of political processes.

This Workshop seeks to bring together scholars working at the intersection of political science, public policy and psychology broadly to consider the role of values, attitudes, ideologies and behaviour in the political sphere. The underlying questions we want to address are:

- Do these new approaches offer valuable insight?
- Do they work as a direct contribution to the understanding of politics or in what way would they have to be adapted to do so? Do they offer something new?
- Are they complementary to other approaches or are they in some way problematic? What are their limitations and are those limitations created by their origins in psychology?
- Moving from often laboratory based psychological insights to an understanding of the messy, complex and structured world of politics and policy is not a simple exercise so are there guidelines that can help in the prospects for borrowing?
- Finally, and as ever, should we looking elsewhere for our borrowing?

The Workshop will be held over a day and a half and structured into three overarching themes: understanding individual values and political behaviour, managing the collective, and developing and implementing policy. There will also be a session on values versus interests. We aim to ask presenters to give us papers of about 2000 words in length, which hopefully can be shared before the event. Our aim will be to make the event as interactive as possible.