

## UNIVERSITY LEARNING & TEACHING AWARD HOLDERS PROFILE

### **Cristina Leston-Bandeira,** **Politics and International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Dr Cristina Leston-Bandeira is Senior Lecturer in Legislative Studies in the Department of Politics and International Studies, which she joined in 2002. The quality and innovation of her teaching have been recognised by a University Teaching Fellowship in 2006 and by becoming an Associate of C-SAP (Higher Education Academy subject centre for Anthropology, Sociology and Politics) in 2007.

She has had an important role in the enhancement of the research methods teaching programme, as well as the development of online teaching within the Department. She has used mainly a learner-centred approach to teaching following the principle of active learning - a very effective way to develop the students' analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as to engage the students in the learning process.

As an Associate of C-SAP she built on her University Teaching Fellowship, which aimed to disseminate good practice in the use of active learning approaches to teaching. This includes the development of the website Platform for Active Learning ([www.hull.ac.uk/pal](http://www.hull.ac.uk/pal)) which created a data bank of practical examples of teaching activities which lecturers can use, adapt and/or apply to their own teaching. The website includes examples mainly from Politics but it aimed originally to expand to other subject areas in the social sciences. As part of this promotion of the use of active learning principles in teaching, she also organised a workshop with an external speaker for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in April 2008 on small group teaching.

Dr Leston-Bandeira is also the coordinator of the MA in Legislative Studies Online (MALSO), which has been singled out as an example of good practice in eLearning in a JISC nationally funded project which assessed the tangible benefits of eLearning. MALSO was the first Politics MA delivered online to receive ESRC recognition.

**Keywords:** active learning, research methods teaching, online teaching