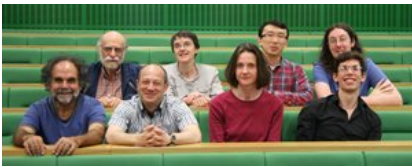




News Archive

September 2015 – August 2016

August 2016: Combinatorics Colloquia 2016 report published



The write up from our Combinatorics Colloquia 2016 is available to read online - just follow [this link](#). It provides a summary of all our speakers' presentations and some great photos which really capture the sense of the event. Thanks to everyone who made our 10th anniversary so special!

August 2016: Congratulations to Dr Steffen Issleib!

Well done, Steffen and welcome to the department of Mathematics' alumni family! We're so happy for you to have been awarded your PhD in Mathematics. Congratulations, also, to your supervisor, Prof. Graham Brightwell. For details of Steffen's thesis and to view the ever-growing list of PhD alumni of the department, please view our PhD "[Roll of Honour](#)".

July 2016: Summer Graduation Day



LSE graduation is always one of the best times of the year and 2016 has been no exception. We had a wonderful time celebrating with our graduates and sharing their special day with their friends and families. We're extremely proud of all our students and wish them well in their future careers. Please do stay in touch with us via the [LSE Alumni community](#)!

July 2016: Cyril Offord Prize 2015/16



Congratulations to Sicen Liu, a student on our BSc Mathematics and Economics programme, who has been awarded the annual Cyril Offord Prize for Outstanding Performance in Mathematics. To find out more about Professor Cyril Offord, the first Professor of Mathematics at the LSE, please read his [obituary](#). Details of the Prize can be read [here](#).

July 2016: Joseph Abraham Prize 2015/6



Congratulations to Miguel Angel Garrido Garcia the first winner of the Joseph Abraham Prize for Outstanding Achievement on the MSc Financial Mathematics programme. To find out more about the Prize please [click here](#).

December 2015: [Norman Biggs – Strictly not dancing](#)

With the season finale set to air just before Christmas, [Norman Biggs](#), Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at LSE, has addressed some questions arising from the scoring system of the popular UK television programme [Strictly Come Dancing](#). Taking the limited data the programme reveals, Norman shows that it is still possible to deduce public voting trends.

December 2015: PhD Christmas competition: best mathematics joke

For the last few years, the Department has run a (somewhat silly...) Christmas competition for our PhD students. For 2015, we asked them all to write some cracker jokes for our Christmas party - the only rule was they had to be maths related. Here were some of our top entries:

- Why does the Matrix Algebra teacher only lecture at home? ... Because he rarely commutes!
- Why was the Python bad at sums? ... Because he wasn't much of an Adder!
- Why did the topologist marry her husband? ... They simply connected.

And the winner was [Matthew Jenssen](#):

- Why did the mathematician name his dog Cauchy? ... Because he left a residue at every pole!
- Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas everyone!

December 2015: [Danny Quah – The world's tightest cluster of people](#)

[Danny Quah](#) (Professor of [Economics](#) and [International Development](#) at [LSE](#), Director of the [Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre](#), at LSE's Institute of Global Affairs, and a [Senior Fellow](#) at [LSE IDEAS](#)) considers large economic facts about the world that mathematics helps uncover. In his blog article "[The world's tightest cluster of people](#)", Danny tries to locate the smallest area of our planet containing a majority of the world's population.

December 2015: Festive Bake-Off



Staff from the Department of Mathematics got their competitive Christmas bake on, cooking up a feast of sweet treats and offering them up to the gingham altar. It was a closely fought contest of gingerbread versus puff pastry, with the ultimate winnings being awarded jointly to a marvellous selection of Plätzchen and some fabulously fruity Festive Flapjacks. Best of all, our fun and frolics raised a great contribution to the [Crisis at Christmas](#) fund.

December 2015: Public Event: Using Mathematics: Making Big Economics Visible to the Human Eye



World-renowned [Professor Danny Quah](#) (Professor of Economics and International Development, LSE) discussed large economic facts about the world which mathematics helps to uncover. The event was hosted jointly by the [LSESU Applicable Maths Society](#) and the Department of Mathematics and was chaired by [Professor Jan van den Heuvel](#) (Mathematics, LSE).

The video of the lecture can be viewed [here](#) with accompanying slides available [here](#).

December 2015: Departmental Christmas party



As we come to the end of Michaelmas Term 2015, all staff and PhD students joined together at our Christmas lunch to celebrate a busy and successful year. We've seen lots of exciting changes and welcomed a number of new members to the team so this was a perfect opportunity for everyone to catch up, relax and begin their countdown to Christmas and the New Year. Have a fantastic break, everyone!

December 2015: Haya Freedman Prize 2014/5

Congratulations to Alastair Maxwell and William C Palmer joint winners of the Haya Freedman Prize for "Best Dissertations" 2014/5 on the MSc Applicable Mathematics programme. To find out more about the Prize please [click here](#).

November 2015: Giacomo Zambelli (LSE) awarded the 2015 Lanchester Prize by INFORMS



[Giacomo Zambelli](#), Assistant Professor in LSE's Mathematics Department (with co-authors [Gerard Cornuejols](#) (Tepper School of Business) and [Michele Conforti](#) (University of Padova)) has been awarded the prestigious [Frederick W. Lanchester Prize for 2015](#) by the [Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences \(INFORMS\)](#), the largest professional body in the world in the field of operations research, management science, and analytics. The prize, which honours "the best contribution to operations research and the management sciences published in English in the past three years", was awarded for their book "[Integer Programming](#)", published by Springer in December 2014. It is of note that the prize, conferred since 1954, is so selective that it was not awarded four of the previous six years.

[Martin Anthony](#), head of the [Mathematics Department](#), said "I am delighted that Giacomo's outstanding work in mathematical operations research and his ability to communicate it has been recognized by the award of this prestigious prize. The prize committee has noted that this major book 'will serve the next generation of researchers to further advance the field in the years ahead'. We congratulate Giacomo on this achievement."

October 2015: [Tom Lidbetter \(LSE\) - Being Hunted](#)



Viewers of Channel 4's intense reality television show [Hunted](#) might have been stunned by the degree to which our behaviour can be monitored and predicted by hidden surveillance systems and the state. Tom Lidbetter's blog article "[Being "Hunted": how randomness can help](#)" looks at the best randomised strategies both for searching and hiding using game theory.

October 2015: Boat Party

On Thursday 8th October, our [MSc Applicable Mathematics](#), [MSc Financial Mathematics](#), [PhD](#) students and staff got together for a boat party on the River Thames. Setting off from Westminster Pier and cruising down to Greenwich. Along the way they were able to enjoy some of London's many well-known landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf, Cutty Sark and the Old Royal Naval College. It was a great evening and an excellent start to the new term!

October 2015: Departmental Teaching Prize Winners – 2014-15



We are very happy to announce the winners of the Departmental Teaching Prizes for academic year 2014-15: Hao Hang, [Matthew Jenssen](#), Amal Merhi & [Barnaby Roberts](#). The photos show [Jan van den Heuvel](#) (Head of Department 2011-15) awarding them with certificates and prizes to thank them for the excellent teaching they delivered as Graduate Teaching Assistants.

October 2015: Maths at LSE Blog launch



The Department celebrated the launch of our blog ([Maths at LSE](#)) by joining together with Communications and Research colleagues across the School for an afternoon reception. We are very grateful to Adrian Thomas (Director of Communications), Chris Gilson (Managing Editor LSE USAPP blog) and Sierra Williams (Managing Editor LSE Impact blog) for presenting their experiences of academic blogging, social media and communications strategy. It was a very fun, informative event and really inspired us all to get blogging! Some great photos, captured by [Dr Tugkan Batu](#), can be found [here](#).

September 2015: Macmillan Coffee Morning



The Department took part in the [World's Biggest Coffee Morning](#) to raise funds for Macmillan. Lots of staff got their bake on, with sweet treats including Black Forest gateaux, lushious lemon fairies and chocolate orange cupcakes, and savoury delights such as Spanish tortilla and feta parcels. It was a great opportunity to shares elevenses and raise money for a fantastic cause.