

**No money, no baby...?**

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MESSAGE *from the Director*

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this, an improved and enhanced *LSE Connect* magazine, representing a transformation in format and design and with a greater emphasis on keeping you in touch with all aspects of LSE life.

At LSE we can justly take pride in the vibrancy, diversity and influence of our community, drawn from each corner of the globe and connected through study, research or profession to every major issue of the day. Our values of independent thought, critical debate and international outlook unite us in common endeavour and shared principles. In reflecting these values we hope the new *LSE Connect* will better represent the numerous ways in which our School continues to shape the world about us.

Change is indeed a current focus for LSE; as we lay the foundations for new long-term leadership of the School, and as we grapple with the consequences of the UK's vote to leave the European Union.

As ever, the School is demonstrating both readiness and foresight. I will be working closely with senior colleagues to ensure we hand over to our new Director a School that is in the most robust health possible, academically, financially and in terms of student satisfaction. In addition, a Brexit taskforce will be working to ensure the School's unique global influence and connectivity remains undiminished, with every opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of LSE knowledge and understanding doggedly pursued and every case to maintain it vociferously made.

I hope then, with such themes of change and continued connection in mind, you enjoy this issue of *LSE Connect*. I sincerely hope the articles within it serve to underline why LSE is so uniquely well placed to contribute ideas and people that make such a positive contribution to understanding a world in constant flux.

HBWL

Julia Black  
Interim Director, LSE



## NEWS *roundup*

# LSE APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR



**LSE has appointed Dame Minouche Shafik as its new Director.** An alumna of LSE with longstanding connections to the School's research and public engagement programme, she is the first woman to be appointed to the position on a permanent basis and LSE's 16th Director overall.

Currently Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, where she is a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, the Financial Policy Committee, and the Board of

the Prudential Regulation Authority, Minouche has previously served as Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development, and Vice-President of the World Bank.

Minouche Shafik said: "I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to lead LSE. The School's long tradition of bringing the best of social science research and teaching to bear on the problems of the day is needed now more than ever. LSE is a unique institution that combines intellectual excellence and global reach. I am looking forward to working with both staff and students to guide it through what will be a time of challenge and opportunity in the higher education sector."

# 11m FOCUS ON EDUCATION

LSE has pledged an £11 million investment in education and student experience over the next three years in order to better integrate its world-renowned research with high quality and innovative teaching and an outstanding student experience.

To this end, £2 million will be invested in teaching excellence, including a fund for educational projects to develop LSE's courses and programmes, and a fund to

reward exceptional teaching.

More than £5 million will be invested in LSE LIFE, an academic, personal and professional development centre for undergraduate and taught master's students that will integrate the many extracurricular opportunities offered by the School, providing a range of one-to-one, workshop and large group learning events and courses under the one roof. Another £4 million will go towards new academic posts to support the development of educational programmes.

The £11 million investment is being made in concert with the School's most ambitious building project undertaken in its 120-year history, providing new purpose-built learning spaces between now and 2021.

# LSE RANKED AS A TOP UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE

LSE has climbed to sixth place in the *Times Higher Education (THE)* European University Top 200 Rankings.

The rankings benchmark across key areas of higher education, with LSE scoring particularly highly for its international outlook and research. The School achieved the sixth highest score of all universities in the continent, and came fifth within the UK.

The *THE* European University Top 200 Rankings are based on the data and methodology used to compile the *THE* World University Rankings. Published annually in the autumn, these are one of the world's most widely referenced university rankings. In 2015 LSE was placed at 23rd in the world, a climb of 11 places on the 2014 table.

# Dr Tsai Ing-wen

## elected as President of Taiwan

At the start of the year, former LSE student Dr Tsai Ing-wen, chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, became president-elect of Taiwan. The 59-year-old, who served as Taiwan's vice premier between 2006 and 2007, gained a PhD Law from LSE in 1984.

Dr Tsai claimed victory in Taiwan's presidential and legislative elections, on Saturday 16 January 2016, having defeated Eric Chu of the ruling Kuomintang. She joined the Democratic Progressive Party in 2004 and secured the party's chairmanship in 2008.

Professor Christopher Hughes of the Department of International Relations said: "LSE can be immensely proud that Dr Tsai Ing-wen has been elected president of Taiwan. It has been widely recognised that she is the first woman to secure this position and it is the first time a woman has achieved presidential status in the Chinese-speaking world. This reflects the accumulation of experience through an impressive career since she left LSE with a PhD in Law."

Dr Tsai's success continues on the traditions of LSE alumni being elected to leadership in Taiwan. Yu Kuo-hua, an LSE student between 1947 and 1949, was Taiwan's premier from 1984 to 1989.

# + PRACTITIONERS ACTIVISTS

## join Centre for Women, Peace and Security

Jane Connors, Director of International Advocacy at Amnesty International Geneva, The Rt Hon The Lord William Hague, former UK Foreign Secretary, Angelina Jolie Pitt DCMG, UNHCR Special Envoy, and Madeleine Rees OBE, Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, have joined the Centre for Women, Peace and Security.

As visiting Professors in Practice they will contribute to LSE's new MSc programme in Women, Peace and Security, the first of its kind internationally, playing an active part in the Centre, delivering guest lectures to students, participating in expert workshops and public events, and undertaking their own work.

Students will be able to apply for the new one-year MSc, which will include courses on Gender and Militarisation and Gender and Human Rights, from autumn 2016.

“Bringing practitioners, policymakers and activists together with scholars is essential in advancing knowledge and influencing global and local policymaking. I am delighted to welcome these four leaders in their respective fields and look forward to their active involvement in our innovative educational programmes.”

**Professor Christine Chinkin**  
Centre Director





## British Academy honours

In recognition of their outstanding research, Professors Emily Jackson (Law), Judy Wajcman (Sociology), Robin Burgess (Economics) and Michael Power (Accounting) have been elected as Fellows of the British Academy, the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences. Commenting on the announcement, Professor Julia Black, Pro-Director of Research, said: "The School congratulates all four professors on their election to the Academy, which champions the humanities and social sciences and the important role they play in our daily lives. Their election as Fellows is testament to their outstanding scholarship and research contribution to their respective fields."

# LSE HEALTH IN THE WORLD

LSE Health has partnered with the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy to create a global health programme. The world's first transatlantic collaboration in global health policy and economics is expected to involve the development of a two-year Executive double Master's programme tailored for high-flying, mid-career health professionals on both sides of the Atlantic.

Anticipated to launch in 2018, the double master's programme will bring together LSE's focus on health economics and policy with Chicago Harris's expertise in global health and public policy. Students, who will be taught 50:50 between Chicago and London in compressed executive-style teaching modules, will study for two degrees simultaneously and will be exposed to international debates on global healthcare systems in OECD, low and middle income countries.

LSE Health has also broadened its engagement with China, with a range of new initiatives with Chinese partners across academia and government, including a collaboration with the School of Public Health at Fudan University to explore issues of policy reform in China's developing health-care system, joint research with Peking University, and a Sino-European forum on food and medicine quality.

## LSE marks 70th milestone of UK birth study



The National Survey of Health and Development, developed after the second World War with support from the Population Investigation Committee (PIC) at LSE, celebrated a milestone – and the 70th birthdays of all its participants, who are the longest continually-studied birth cohort in the history of science, having been tracked from their birth across one week in March 1946 to the present day – earlier this year.

Led by Dr James Douglas, with close support from LSE academic Dr David Glass, the survey aimed to understand long-term change in the national population in terms of fertility and to find out how to improve the health and care of mothers and babies. The scope of the survey has grown significantly over the years.

The PIC played a prominent role in establishing the parameters and survey questions, with LSE students also helping to data code and check the survey findings in 1946. Thanks to the 1946 "Douglas children", more is being discovered now than ever before about what factors, from early life onwards, contribute to the risk of the commonest diseases of later life.

# BREXIT and the future of Britain

On 23 June, following a passionate campaign from both Remain and Leave camps, the UK voted narrowly to leave the European Union.

The historic referendum was marked by LSE with an evening of debate and discussion, with around 800 members of the School, international media and other guests invited. The School's Brexit work, however, began many months before.

As befits an institution founded "for the betterment of society", LSE featured strongly in the debate, producing reports, blog posts, public lectures, a social media campaign and media events all aimed at informing the debate and ensuring that the arguments across both sides of the discussion could be heard.

Acknowledging the public need for reliable information, the European Institute convened the LSE Commission on the Future of Britain in Europe, holding a series of expert hearings over six months with senior British and EU public officials, policy practitioners, academics, think tanks, journalists and business representatives. Its report, published in the lead up to the referendum, analysed issues crucial to the referendum in order to inform the national debate with high quality, evidence-based and balanced analysis.

LSE's Centre for Economic Performance also produced a series of policy papers on

some of the key issues in the referendum, including living standards in the UK and overseas, trade, immigration, investment, inequality and regulation.

Expertise was also shared through the LSE Brexit blog, which featured articles by experts from all walks of life, as well as through the national and international media. For those on social media, LSE launched its #LSEBrexitVote video series, which saw 77 short video clips shared through LSE's social media channels daily in the ten weeks leading to the vote.

Pre-eminent figures from around the world were also invited to share their expertise through the School's Public Lecture Programme. With speakers including former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, speaking for Remain, and Professor Alan Sked, founder of UKIP, who argued the case for Brexit, both sides of the debate were represented in the months leading to the vote.

The vote may have passed but the debate is far from over, and LSE will continue to play its part in informing policymakers going forward, with ongoing research and events on how Brexit might be achieved.

Visit the LSE Brexit blog for more, at [blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit)

# 259,000

#LSEBrexitVote  
videos views



# 611,348

total impressions

# 4,584

engagements



#LSEBrexitVote  
playlist attracted  
**19,383** views



UK viewers  
represented over  
**50%** of the  
audience



Once in the playlist,  
users watched  
an average of  
**3** videos

MORE NEWS AT  
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LSE *and me*

# Martin Lewis OBE

award-winning campaigning broadcaster,  
entrepreneur and charity founder

"I wish I'd been clever enough to plan and design my career, but I'm not sure anyone is," says Martin Lewis (BSc Government 1994) when asked if he graduated from LSE with everything mapped out. "I'm a better tactician than strategist – I seem to make good short term calls that turn out to be the right long term ones."

That's some understatement. Planned or otherwise, he is now a household name, the "Money Saving Expert" whose campaigns and advice have helped consumers across the UK save an estimated £10 billion. While he enjoyed initial success as a producer on personal and business finance radio programmes, and as a presenter on a now defunct digital television channel, a twist of fate ignited his career.

"After the Simply Money TV channel went bust I was offered a *Sunday Express* column,

a great relief at the time," he recalls. "The best thing I did there was retain copyright of my articles: to help promote my broadcast work, I put them on a website I called MoneySavingExpert.com that cost me £100 to set up." Yet the column and radio work didn't cover his bills, and in 2003 he was days from quitting for a more reliable job when the editor of the *This Morning* television show was stuck in traffic and heard him on her car radio. "She booked me to appear. It went so well I was offered a regular slot."

Martin's approach was unique, changing how financial journalism in the UK was perceived. "I was a classic LSE nerd – I did my own spreadsheets on everything – and my research ranging from flights to energy bills appealed to viewers," he states. "The two radical things were being prescriptive and defining finance as anything you spend money on, not just stocks and shares. I wanted to talk about money through the lens of products not issues."

Aside from indulging his passion for spreadsheets, what stood out at LSE? "I liked how the School was placed in the centre of the city, political and legal worlds," he says. "But the greatest part was the practical education. Theory must underpin the study, but at LSE we had the opportunity to 'live' our education too."

Professor Nick Barr, under whom Martin was a willing student finance guinea pig, embodied that commitment to "practical education". Over 20 years later, he chaired the Independent Taskforce on Student Finance Information. "That traces back to Nick and LSE," he says.

Martin's second-year tutor was similarly "enlightened" when his passion for student politics grew, encouraging him to participate, aware of the impact a practical political education could have on his academic and personal development. It clearly worked. After graduating, Martin became General Secretary of the LSE Students' Union. "I was 22 with these amazing opportunities, both within LSE and beyond," he says. "And I made sure I learned. I recall Sir John Ashworth, then Director of LSE, instructing me to 'focus on acquiring skills, not jobs'. In our portfolio career world, that advice has stuck with me."

As Gen Sec, Martin made an impression on the School leadership when he won a debate with the Standing Committee (now LSE Council) on student representation. Sir Peter Parker, then chairman of LSE, was suitably impressed at Martin's powers of persuasion and implored him to

contact his son Alan, the founder of Brunswick PR.

On joining the firm his excitement diminished when what was meant to be an introductory task of pinning the financial newspapers to the wall for staff each morning continued for a month. Having had enough, he asked how long the menial work would continue. The response was blunt: "Until you're not crap at it. The papers aren't straight, they're creased, they're scrappy." Far from being chastened, he arrived early the next day armed with a protractor to ensure the papers were hung perpendicular and straight. Another life lesson was the enduring result: "I

learned we are judged on everything we do, and must take pride in all our work, not just the exciting parts. No one will ever give you the big jobs if you can't do the small ones."

His success in the subsequent years has brought wealth and fame (since 2007 he has been in the top ten most Googled people in the UK – ahead of Barack Obama). Throughout, Martin has maintained a strong connection to LSE. A governor and Annual Fund donor, he also captained LSE's alumni team to the 2015 Celebrity University Challenge final. Why does the School still matter to him? "LSE isn't a finishing school for the elite, it's a platform where people like me –

the son of teachers, I grew up in a forest – can network and make connections based on who you are as an individual. I thrived on that," he responds. "LSE was a springboard to opportunity: I think many alumni owe somewhere between a smidgeon and chunk of their success to it – I certainly do."

He believes the School remains an important ballast to students in an increasingly corporatist world: "The real joy of LSE is that those whose focus is on making money learn there's a responsibility that comes with that, and those who want to change the world learn not to ignore the economics. Those values still resonate with me."

LSE Alumni

Thank you

...to our 2,600 alumni volunteers for your work enhancing LSE and for helping to keep your global alumni network strong

[alumni@lse.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lse.ac.uk) | [alumni.lse.ac.uk/volunteer](https://alumni.lse.ac.uk/volunteer)



# WILL AMERICA TRIM ITS SAILS?

Complaints about unfair trade agreements, illegal immigrants and unhelpful allies are not uncommon in politics, but with growing discontent among American voters about US internationalist policies, not all election talk can be written off as campaign rhetoric. As the US gears up to elect a new president, **Peter Trubowitz** looks at why foreign policy has become a hot topic for Democrats and Republicans alike.

Foreign policy often takes a back seat in US presidential elections. Voters are typically more concerned about domestic “pocketbook” issues when they cast their ballots in November. This year could be different. Terrorism, trade and NATO have already found their way into the presidential campaign. Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton has been touting her international experience while distancing herself from President Obama’s trade agenda in Asia and Europe. On the other side of the fence, Republican nominee Donald Trump has slammed Obama’s policies towards China, Iran and Syria as feckless and promised to seal the border with Mexico to stop the flow of illegal immigrants.

Some of the campaign rhetoric can be dismissed as election year posturing. But the rhetoric does raise deeper questions about what kind of foreign policy we might expect the next president to pursue, and what that might mean for US engagement in Europe, Asia and other regions. While there are good reasons for thinking that the United States will uphold essential commitments no matter which party wins the White House, both parties will be under pressure to avoid taking on new commitments, and to scale back where possible. Support for free trade, military alliances and international institutions can no longer be taken for granted in either party.

One reason for this is that Americans are no longer convinced that internationalist policies are in the country’s best interest. Rightly or wrongly, they see cheap Chinese imports, illegal Mexican immigrants and “freeriding” NATO allies as evidence that the internationalist

policies that once worked for America are no longer paying the same kind of economic dividends for the country, or for individual American voters. Moreover, they blame Washington for failing to get things right, internationally as well as domestically. As I write this, over 60 per cent of Americans have been found to think that government does not care about them, with two-thirds of voters stating that they believe that “the system” favours the wealthy.

This is not the first time that complaints about “trade unfairness” or illegal immigrants or stingy allies have found their way into US presidential campaigns. Yet these issues have never gained the kind of political traction with voters that they have in this electoral cycle – at least not in the modern era. Much of this has to do with the fact that many Americans have not benefited from the economic recovery. But it also reflects Americans’ growing sense that the US can afford internationally to scale back – that, at a time when America does not face a peer competitor, the strategic risks in “doing less” are relatively low and manageable.

Internationally, the United States now enjoys a great deal of “geopolitical slack”, or geopolitical latitude. While China should be watched, it does not pose a Soviet-style threat to American interests. ISIS is an ongoing challenge but, as Obama stated in a much discussed interview in *The Atlantic Monthly*, it too does not pose an existential challenge to American security. A Gallup poll has shown that most Americans, like Obama, are in fact much more worried about the state of the economy than they are about foreign threats.

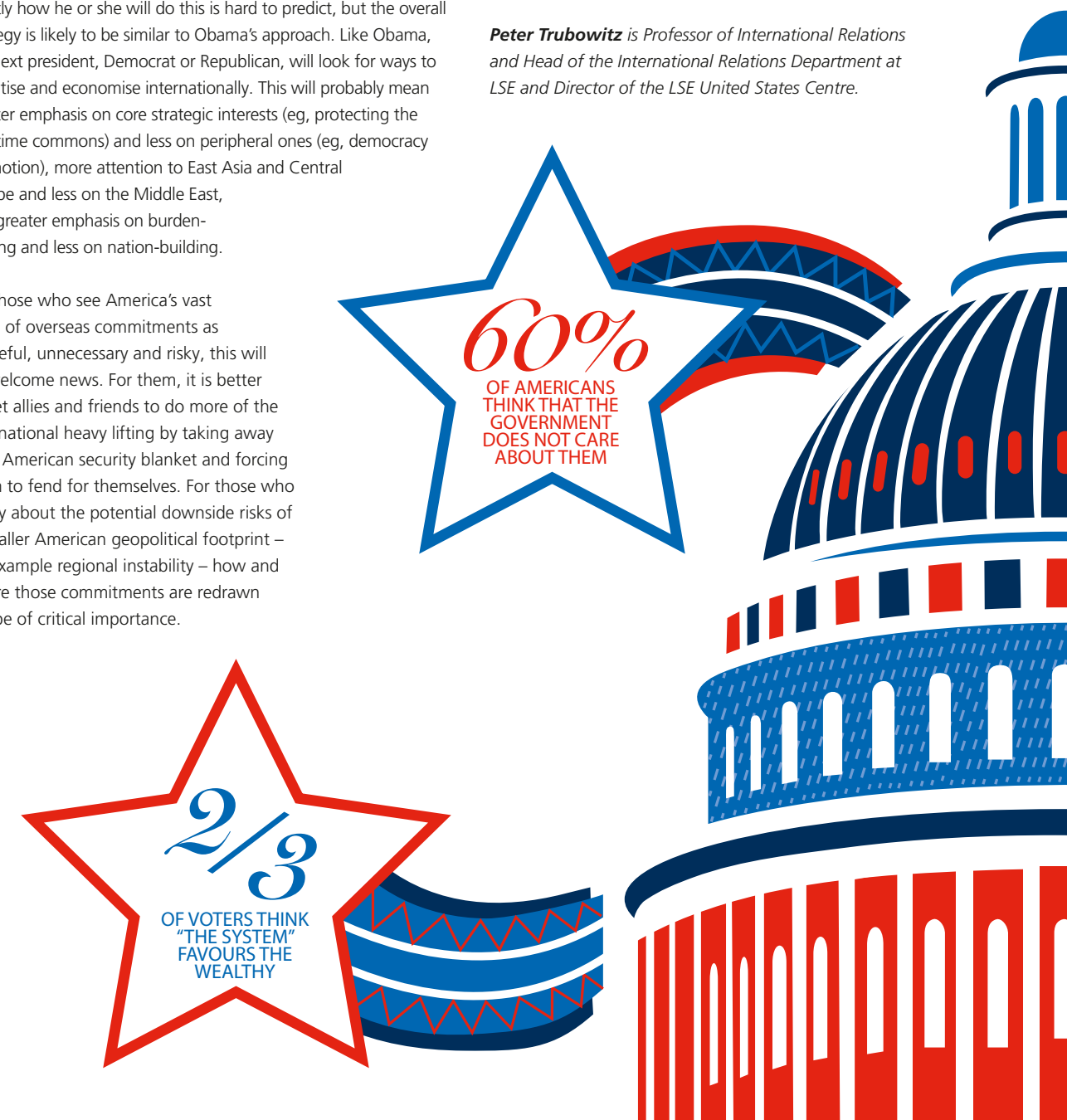
What will this mean for US foreign policy in the future? Should we expect the next president to trim America’s sails? This much is already clear: any president who wants to pursue an active internationalist agenda in 2017 will face stiffer political odds than his or her predecessors did. In my view, the main strategic challenge facing the next president will be figuring out how to reconcile the international demand for continued US leadership with America’s shrinking domestic political willingness to supply it.

Exactly how he or she will do this is hard to predict, but the overall strategy is likely to be similar to Obama’s approach. Like Obama, the next president, Democrat or Republican, will look for ways to prioritise and economise internationally. This will probably mean greater emphasis on core strategic interests (eg, protecting the maritime commons) and less on peripheral ones (eg, democracy promotion), more attention to East Asia and Central Europe and less on the Middle East, and greater emphasis on burden-sharing and less on nation-building.

For those who see America’s vast array of overseas commitments as wasteful, unnecessary and risky, this will be welcome news. For them, it is better to get allies and friends to do more of the international heavy lifting by taking away their American security blanket and forcing them to fend for themselves. For those who worry about the potential downside risks of a smaller American geopolitical footprint – for example regional instability – how and where those commitments are redrawn will be of critical importance.

Concerns about the future of American international engagement are now rife in London, Berlin, Tokyo and other international capitals. Given political trends inside the United States, these worries are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. There is some irony in this. After all, it was only a little over a decade ago that America’s closest allies worried about the risks of being too closely aligned to a hyperactive United States. In the next four years, we are likely to hear less about the risks of grand US designs and more about fears of American abandonment.

**Peter Trubowitz** is Professor of International Relations and Head of the International Relations Department at LSE and Director of the LSE United States Centre.



# An UNEQUAL disease

Disease-infected mosquitoes don't care who they bite, so why are those affected by the Zika virus overwhelmingly from the poorer areas in developing world countries? **Clare Wenham** argues that the virus will only truly be contained if we address the underlying inequalities of poverty, power politics and gender.

The Zika virus has dominated our newsfeeds this year, following hot on the heels of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, making us more aware of our global vulnerability to disease. Images of newborn babies affected with microcephaly (a foetal abnormality that limits the development of the brain in the womb) pull on our heartstrings, but what this disease has also highlighted is the range of inequalities which remain in the politics of disease.

Unlike Ebola, the Zika virus is spread through mosquito bites, producing mild flu-like symptoms that rarely require hospitalisation, and with a negligible mortality rate. Accordingly, Zika can be readily controlled through effective mosquito control procedures and therefore should not pose much of a problem in our contemporary world, which has a range of fumigation methods and insecticides. Three inequalities of poverty, power politics and gender, however, have pervaded the response to this disease, meaning that Zika has had a greater impact than might be expected and reminding us of the imbalances which remain in healthcare globally.

First, Zika can be understood as a disease of poverty. Despite the fact that mosquitoes do not check bank balances and could theoretically bite and infect a person from any background, this outbreak has appeared predominantly among those living

in poorer areas. The mosquitoes which transmit Zika thrive around open water and in dark areas – such as stagnant water in poorly maintained and badly lit urban areas: that is, where poorer housing tends to be. Moreover, these mosquitoes do not like air conditioning; therefore those who are able to afford such luxury are less likely to come into contact with the insects. As such, although a mosquito may be able to bite rich and poor alike, it is more likely that those who are infected with vector-borne diseases such as Zika reside in poorer areas than in richer abodes.

Ironically, it is these people who are also less likely to be able to afford health care or antenatal screening to be able to be diagnosed with Zika and make informed decisions to change their behaviour. Accordingly, this disease has acutely highlighted issues of poverty across Latin America within the continent, individual countries and cities.

A second area of inequality can be witnessed in the power politics between Brazil and the rest of Latin America. One of the criticisms of the response to Ebola was that the global community only took action when the first American and European patients were diagnosed. Although Zika has manifested in a range of states across the continent, including Colombia and El Salvador, Zika only reached global policy tables when it became of concern to Brazil,

a state with growing importance geopolitically, a member of the G20 and notably the host of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The fact that the World Health Organisation declared this outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern when the outbreak became of concern to Brazilian health authorities could therefore be seen as demonstrating the growing importance of BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) as players in global health, and may suggest more about the growing influence Brazil has on the world stage, in contrast to those other states in the region that have also been severely afflicted with the disease.

A final area of inequality can be seen in the gendered response to the outbreak. The predominant symptom of concern has been microcephaly, a condition which develops during the foetal stage of development. As a consequence, the focus of the disease control efforts has been among pregnant women, with women in Latin America being cautioned not to get pregnant for up to two years, as a precautionary measure. The burden of this policy to avoid pregnancy, however, has been placed entirely on women, with little consideration given to men, who are equally involved in conception and therefore should be jointly targeted with medical advice.

This focus on women abstaining from sexual activity and pregnancy also fails to take into account a woman's ability to negotiate sexual practices in certain environments in poorer areas of Latin America, nor does it consider women who may have fallen pregnant because of sexual violence. Moreover, this gendered inequality means that this disease may also add a certain stigma to women who choose to use contraception in a staunchly Catholic continent, or to those who have children born with microcephaly, adding further societal inequalities and difficulties for those unfortunate women who are already significantly burdened with the disease and lifelong health complications of their children.

Only time will tell whether the global community is willing and able to develop a suitable vaccine or treatment for the disease. The serendipity of the Olympics occurring in the region may in fact encourage greater activity in research and development among pharmaceutical companies and governments wanting to send athletes to the games – or at least the sporting event may offer greater awareness of the virus on the global stage. We should remember that, in many ways, this Zika outbreak is not unusual: several diseases highlight these same inequalities in health yet are neglected by the global community. If Zika is ever to be truly controlled, these structural inequalities of poverty, global power politics and gender will need to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. Otherwise the virus will continue to be endemic to the region, and could potentially spread to other mosquito-infected regions globally.

**Clare Wenham** is an LSE Fellow in Global Health Politics at LSE Health.





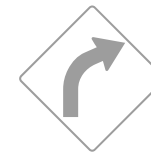
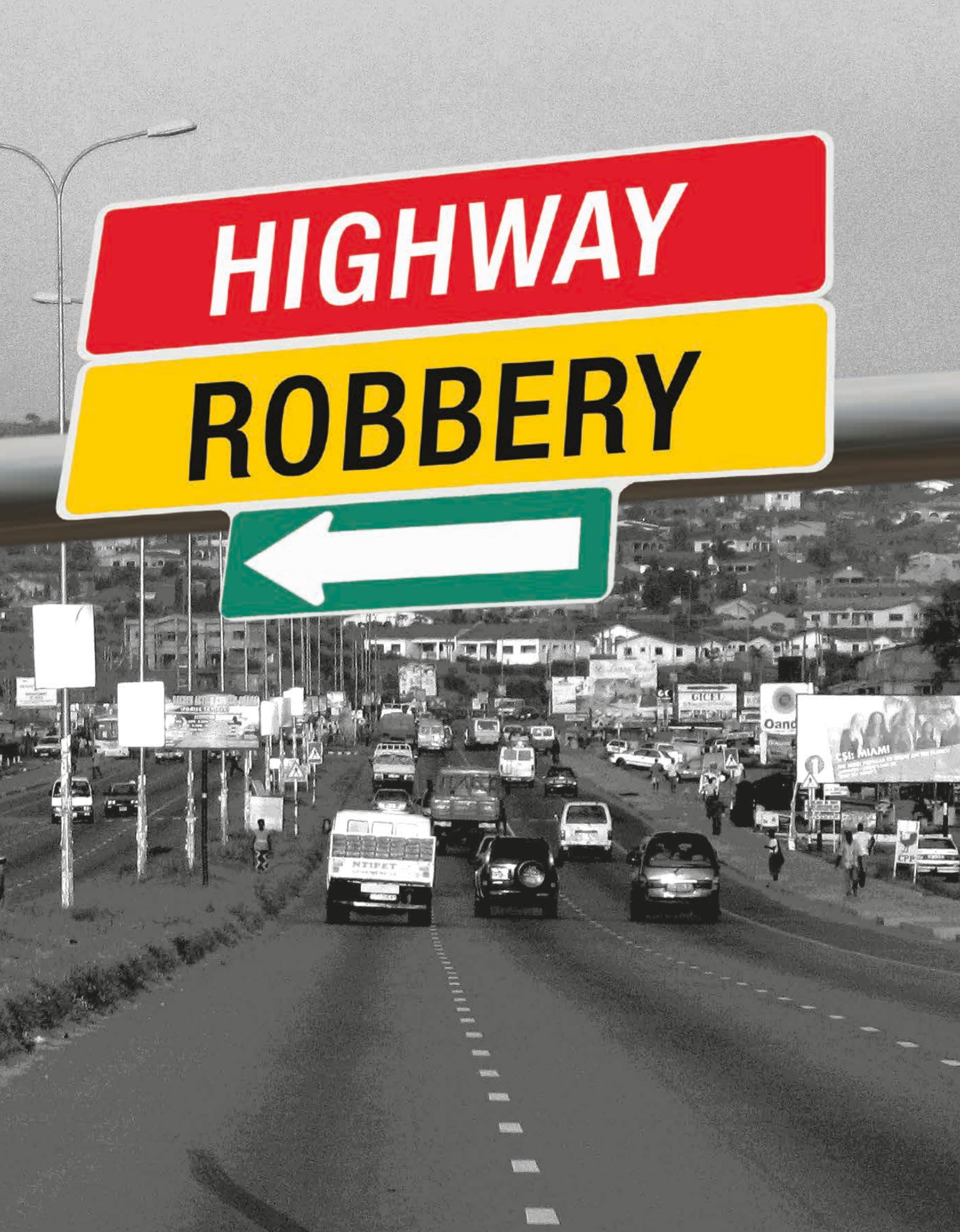
## THE BIG *picture*

### New Centre Buildings to include LSE's first alumni hub

Alumni are a highly valued part of the School community. To underline your importance to LSE, the new Centre Buildings redevelopment will feature a dedicated area for you to network, reconnect and relax whenever you are back on campus. The LSE Alumni Centre will have reception staff and includes access to refreshments, computer terminals, a lounge area and meeting facilities. Follow the regeneration of Houghton Street at

[lse.ac.uk/centrebuildings](https://lse.ac.uk/centrebuildings)





Petty corruption is rife across much of the developing world, with no clear understanding as to how to reduce extortion. When police in Ghana were given a pay rise, **Jeremy Foltz** and **Kweku Opoku-Agyemang** were primed to answer a burning question: could the key to reducing police corruption be as simple as increasing their salary?

Across much of Africa and the developing world, the police are notorious for petty corruption, with the extortion of monetary bribes on highways being one example of a persistent low-level problem that causes severe headaches for drivers in particular, and the economy in general. Since these are the poorer parts of the world, however, it is not always clear whether such corruption is simply the logical outcome of being poorly paid or a symptom of a deeper malaise. But if this extortion is a result of low pay, might the key to reducing petty corruption among officials in developing countries be as simple as increasing their salaries?

This question has been on the radar of policymakers and economists for decades, although clear assessments of corruption are usually as rare as salary increases in the developing world.

In June 2010, many police officers in Ghana were largely caught off-guard when, after years of discussion with no action, the government doubled their salaries, as part of a new and ambitious policy reform aimed at harmonising pay scales across the country. Several police officers imagined that some logistical error had been made when they saw their pay rises, but it was no error: they were the first target of the salary reform, with other public servants scheduled for later salary increases as well. As one can imagine, other public servants across the West African country angrily demonstrated or went on strike in response to the police salary increase.

One narrative put forward in the media, which may have helped the policy to be implemented, was a grudging perception that drastically raising the salaries might motivate policemen to refrain from extorting money from drivers on the road. Furthermore, since drivers and passengers across the country were likely to be aware of the policy, perhaps they would be

much less willing to pay bribes, since police salaries had improved.

The police pay rise provided us with the ideal opportunity to study a unique natural experiment in order to understand whether higher salaries would lessen corruption or, perhaps, have no effect on extortion at all. As part of a research project funded by the International Growth Centre and supported by USAID's West African Trade Hub, long-haul truck drivers were given surveys to fill out whenever they were stopped and bribed before, during and after the pay rise. Since the trucks were all independently confirmed to be roadworthy, with all papers in order, we would know for sure that any bribe extorted was a payment that should never have been made. Conveniently for our experiment, other officials' salaries within Ghana remained the same, as did salaries for officials in the West African sub-region, giving us control groups within Ghana and in neighbouring Burkina Faso.

We conducted a comprehensive analysis of bribery on the main highway connecting Ghana to its northern neighbour, Burkina Faso. When we compared the behaviour of Ghanaian police to that of other officials, we found that extortion by Ghanaian police significantly increased following the reform. Not only were, on average, higher amounts (20 per cent) extorted at every stop following the reform, but drivers were delayed for longer periods of time. In addition, the total amounts paid per trip to the police also increased after the reform. Unfortunately, instead of lessening highway bribery, the salary increase had worsened petty corruption on the roads.

Our results showed that Ghanaian police spent 19 per cent more time and effort stopping trucks on the highways after the pay





# RETHINK CITIES

## Analyse / Strategise / Deliver

The LSE Executive MSc in Cities fuses the latest cities research with the necessary leadership skills to improve the way we analyse, strategise and deliver urban projects and policies. The programme is provided in five intensive learning and networking weeks spread over 12 months followed by a six month consultation project in the participant's organisation.

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ARE FINANCIALLY  
COMFORTABLE.



rise than in previous years. Furthermore, instead of monitoring for violations and releasing roadworthy vehicles, these police officers were extorting larger bribes even though they were now better paid. This increased the average bribe paid at each stop to a policeman by 25 per cent. Although we do not have data for how drivers of taxis, private cars and mini-vans were affected, the fact that bribery of truck drivers worsened for years after the policy suggests that these drivers may also not have been exempt from increased corruption.

This was a surprising result, in part because, as economists, we tend to view corruption as a problem that should be lessened, or even completely eradicated, when people are better paid. Extorting money is something some might not expect people to do when they are financially comfortable. Certainly there can be no easy justification for extorting more than before. But as the case of the Ghanaian police demonstrates, the reasons for corruption are, in reality, more complicated. From a psychological perspective, for example, human beings may have increasing wants as their income goes up and may quickly get used to an improved situation and still desire to engage in corrupt behaviour.

If petty corruption is to be challenged, therefore, broader conversations on the relationships between salaries and illegal behaviour must be had. Relevant salary reforms should be made alongside reforms in enforcement. For example, reforms to strengthen institutions with transparent infrastructures should also be made, in order to help rebuild the trust between citizens and the organisations that serve them. Even with salary increases, many low-level public servants remain very poorly paid relative to their private peers, a problem that could affect the quality of staff who serve any nation. For developing countries, with many

political and social concerns, this issue is relatively urgent. It is worth noting that the salary reform in Ghana was accompanied by better pathways to promotion within the police force, as well as housing resources, and none of these seem to have been sufficient to lessen petty corruption.

A dilemma, then, is how to reform petty corruption when it has become entrenched over time and is less responsive to traditional policy measures such as salary reforms. One potential way would be to strengthen independent journalism as a field to raise awareness and even foster activism. An interesting phenomenon developing in Africa is a movement of undercover journalism, which is, especially in Ghana, helping to hold many officials to account. It may be just as critical to grow a generation of traditional journalists to help engage and educate the public and empower the disenfranchised with information.

As elsewhere in the world, sustaining an independent media is a challenge in an era of information overload where attention spans of audiences appear to be shrinking. Although internet penetration in Africa remains low, there are signs that African journalists will face similar hurdles as they come to grips with the mobile phone revolution and social media. On the other hand, such platforms may help to raise awareness on petty corruption and perhaps crowdsource ideas on how to combat this problem. For example, a number of open data initiatives across the African continent are putting information in the hands of citizens, and data science and other media initiatives are becoming easier to access as the cost of information continues to plummet and educational attainment in Africa continues to improve over time.

With increased pay alone not seeming to solve the problem, we would encourage further research into why corruption happens, and broader and more transparent discussions around how to ensure that it happens less frequently and severely. Having difficult conversations on such topics may well generate more and better ideas which can only help citizens overcome corruption.

STOP

**Jeremy Foltz** is a researcher at the International Growth Centre at LSE and Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Kweku Opoku-Agyemang** is a researcher at the International Growth Centre at LSE and a Research Fellow at the Center for Effective Global Action of the University of California, Berkeley.



## PHILANTHROPY



# LSE AND THE ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES to tackle global inequalities

The Atlantic Fellows programme at the International Inequalities Institute (III) is an ambitious 20-year programme designed to build a global community of leaders dedicated to changing policy, practice and public dialogue around inequalities. It has been created with a grant of £64.4 million (\$91 million) from The Atlantic Philanthropies – the largest philanthropic donation in the School's history.

Developed and led by III co-Directors Professors Sir John Hills and Mike Savage, the programme will train the next generation of leaders seeking to influence and facilitate changes in global policy and practice to enable greater equality, opportunity and outcomes for all. It is expected that well over 600 Atlantic Fellows will be developed across geographic and disciplinary boundaries over the duration of the programme. Christopher G Oechsli, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Atlantic Philanthropies said: "From its inception, Atlantic has invested in people and in

their vision and ability to realise a better world. In our final year of grant-making, we're making our largest philanthropic investment ever, in people. Our vision for the Atlantic Fellows is to connect and empower a new generation of people who are committed to working together, across disciplines and borders, to build fairer, healthier, more inclusive societies. LSE's values and commitment to excellence, coupled with the International Inequalities Institute's renowned leadership, multi-disciplinary approach, and ability to translate leading academic thinking into real policy and practice, make them an ideal partner and host for this programme."

III co-Director Professor Mike Savage, the initial Academic Director of the Atlantic Fellows programme, said "Inequalities are multidimensional, and narrow policy fixes – even radical ones – are unlikely to be sufficient to address the challenges involved. There is a need for future leaders to be informed by new research across a wide range of disciplines in order to address the challenge of escalating inequalities across the globe. The Atlantic Fellows programme at the International Inequalities Institute will nurture a large network of Fellows committed to tackling inequality who can draw on the best academic and practical experience in the world to enhance their skills, contacts and confidence."

Find out more about the Atlantic Fellows programme at [lse.ac.uk/atlanticfellows](http://lse.ac.uk/atlanticfellows)

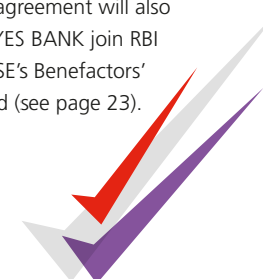
## India's YES BANK pledges £1m to support IG Patel Chair

India's fifth largest private sector Bank, YES BANK, has pledged £1 million to support the IG Patel Chair and the work of the LSE India Observatory. The Chair, named in honour of the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and former Director of LSE, was established in 2007 thanks to generous donations from RBI and the State Bank of India. RBI has also renewed its support for another ten years.

These gifts ensure ten years' funding for the Chair, which has been held by Professor Lord Nicholas Stern since its creation, and will also support the aims of the India Observatory, also set up in 2007, of continuing to develop and enhance research and programmes related to India's economy, politics and society.

Lord Stern said: "YES BANK's support will ensure that the India Observatory continues both its research and its work to build public understanding on the Indian economy and society."

The agreement will also see YES BANK join RBI on LSE's Benefactors' Board (see page 23).



## Understanding AFRICA

A new centre at LSE focusing on Africa has been endowed following a pledge of £10 million from alumnus Firoz Lalji (BSc Economics 1969) (pictured) through the Lalji Family Foundation. It is the largest single gift made by an alumnus to the School.

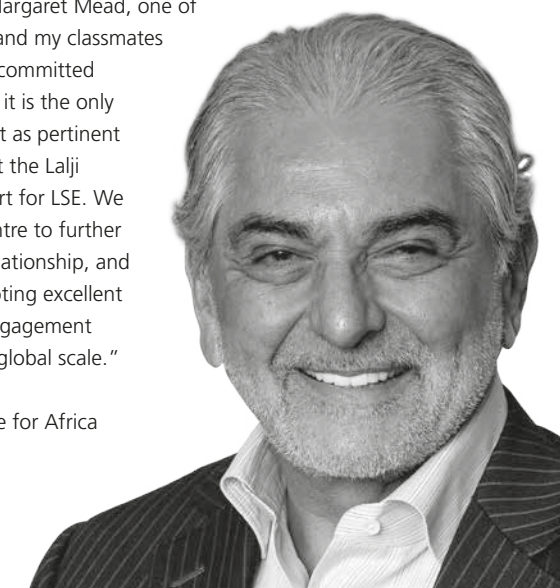
The Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa is named in recognition of the Lalji family's support for the School, that includes wife Najma's and daughters Farah's and Natasha's transformative gifts, of £13 million to LSE. The Centre, led by Professor Tim Allen, will focus on the dissemination of LSE's existing teaching and research expertise on Africa, and engagement with policymakers around the world.

Firoz has worked closely with LSE to promote Africa engagement and scholarship, and a donation from Firoz and Najma led to the creation of the Programme for African Leadership (PfAL) in 2012, which will be housed in the centre.

"LSE is the perfect setting for a centre dedicated to Africa and the ongoing education of future generations of African leaders," commented Firoz. "From the inspirational African LSE alumni who were integral to the first wave of post-independence African leadership, to leading academics and current LSE students from Africa and all over the world, the School has long held a meaningful connection with the continent."

He continued: "I recall the words of Margaret Mead, one of my teachers at LSE. She implored me and my classmates to 'never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'. Her words are just as pertinent today, and it is with them in mind that the Lalji family frames our philanthropic support for LSE. We are delighted to endow the Africa Centre to further advance LSE and Africa's invaluable relationship, and excited at the role it will play in promoting excellent scholarship, teaching, research and engagement with and for Africa and Africans on a global scale."

Learn more about the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa at [lse.ac.uk/africa](http://lse.ac.uk/africa)



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## Syrian scholar to benefit from NEW PHILANTHROPIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Jusoor and LSE Scholars at Risk Scholarship is designed to ensure an LSE offer holder resident in Syria, or who has left the country due to being impacted by the current conflict, can study on any master's degree at the School in 2016/17.

The scholar will be affiliated to the School's Middle East Centre for the duration of their degree, and will be invited to play an active part in the intellectual life of the Centre.

## RECOGNISING LSE'S TRANSFORMATIONAL SUPPORTERS

In 2016 Sutton Trust and Santander join Atlantic Philanthropies and YES BANK as new additions to LSE's prestigious Benefactors' Board. Sutton Trust's latest generous commitment to widening participation at LSE sees renewed support for the successful Pathways to Law programme for students interested in the legal profession, complemented by a new parallel programme for students interested in finance and banking. Both programmes will support students from Years 10-13, through lectures, workshops, e-mentoring and work placements. Santander has donated more than £1.1 million to LSE since 2007. Its most recent donation sees annual support for five Santander Scholarships, travel bursaries to allow staff and students to forge international links, support for the LSE Volunteer Centre, and support for entrepreneurship activities through LSE Careers' Generate programme.

## PHILANTHROPY in numbers

£85m

in philanthropic gifts was raised in support of strategic School priorities that enhance LSE.

£64.4m

record gift from

the Atlantic Philanthropies created the 20-year Atlantic Fellows programme at the International Inequalities Institute.

The £10m PLEDGE

from Firoz Lalji through his family foundation to endow the Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa is the largest ever gift from an alumnus to LSE.

### ANNUAL GIVING

2015/16 was another record year for the LSE ANNUAL FUND, with

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from 3,369 DONORS

in 81 countries around the world.

LSE Annual Fund

LSE American Fund

93% of Annual Fund donors were alumni.

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at LSE is being improved significantly through

93 projects and initiatives

that received Annual Fund support in 2015/16.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



# BUYING TIME



Expensive, invasive and with a low success rate – yet an increasing number of women would consider egg freezing as a way to delay motherhood. *LSE Connect* spoke to **Emily Jackson** about the need for women to know more before putting their family plans on ice.

The bustling underground walkways of London's Old Street Station seem an unlikely place for deep reflection on the social and ethical implications of the latest trend in fertility medicine. Yet it was here, nestled among the coffee shops, shoe repairers and newsagents, that LSE academics joined forces with a design consultancy to stage an innovative exhibition on elective egg freezing.

Located behind an ordinary glass shop front, it looked like a typical high-end beauty store, a Space NK or a Jo Malone, with smiling female assistants standing behind displays of stylish products. But the small print on the new "Timeless" range of face creams, perfumes and serums, soon made it apparent that they were not for sale and featured, instead, information about the pros and cons of egg freezing. This process, which involves harvesting eggs and storing them for later IVF, is increasingly being marketed by clinics as an insurance policy suitable for all. With companies like Apple and Facebook offering it in their benefits package, many women are beginning to see it as the perfect way to delay motherhood until career goals are reached or the right partner comes along.

Emily Jackson, Professor of Law at LSE, explained the need to engage the public effectively: "We were concerned that women were opting for egg freezing – an expensive and invasive process with relatively low success rates – without knowing all the facts. We wanted to encourage women and men to think about fertility loss and the implications of egg freezing."

Even if a woman decides to have eggs frozen, there is no guarantee that her frozen eggs will result in

the birth of a healthy child. For the best chance of pregnancy, it is recommended that at least 15 eggs are frozen. Some women will therefore have to go through the £3,000 procedure several times in order to have a reasonable chance of success. Nor is there much data yet regarding the expected success rates for different freezing techniques. Added to which, the law says you can only keep eggs for ten years, so eggs frozen at 25 will have to be destroyed at 35. Currently, the chance that a frozen egg from a fertile young woman will result in a live birth in the future is estimated at only 6.5 per cent.

Nevertheless, a project survey found that 11 per cent of women of all ages – and 20 per cent of women aged 18-24 – would consider paying to have their eggs frozen, even at a cost of up to £10,000.

So should we celebrate the widening of women's "window of opportunity" for childbearing, or should we be concerned that egg freezing pushes women into undergoing gruelling and costly medical procedures?

Professor Jackson explained: "There are potentially huge profits to be made from selling an invasive medical treatment to retrieve eggs from women who are unlikely to ever actually use them. It is therefore critically important that women have all of the information they need in order to give fully informed consent. It is also important that clinics do not oversell this technology, as the 'ultimate family planning technology', capable of 'stopping the biological clock'."

"Most women are freezing their eggs because they do not have a suitable partner, or they have



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a partner who claims to be not ready for, or sure about, parenthood. Women, and men, need clear and accessible information not only about egg freezing itself, but also about age-related fertility loss. Effective communication about medical risk is difficult, and the importance of this project was in its use of innovative ways to provide user-friendly information about the risks, benefits and wider implications of egg freezing."

The aesthetic appeal of the Old Street pop-up shop appeared to grab people and give them a visceral personal experience. By far the most popular and arresting exhibit were shelves displaying rows of numbered bottles filled with red "Anti-ageing serum". Labelled from 12 to 50 – the average span of female fertility – as the numbers increased, the amount and colour of the liquid in the bottles decreased, reflecting



the quantity and quality decline of a woman's egg reserve as she ages.

Amanda Gore of The Liminal Space, the design consultancy which proposed the idea of a fictional beauty brand, said: "Women who were nowhere near thinking about starting a family were shocked at the basic facts of fertility decline. This encouraged some very personal discussions as they sought out their age and started talking to us about their own situations."

Also popular were the "Eau So Pressured" perfume range, with names like "Promotion or Procreation", "Mr Wrong" and "Mr Right not Mr Ready". Ms Gore explained: "The product ranges were designed to help people access the information easily. We wanted the perfumes to bring a level of humour and then deepen the engagement through the facts each one detailed. It seemed to work, as many stayed in the shop for up to half an hour, which is far longer than we expected."

For a project designed to engage with the public, there is impressive data to prove that it achieved its aim. In the six days that it was open, 1,200 people visited the shop, which also featured a programme of talks and debates hosted by Professor Jackson and Professor Anne Phillips of LSE's Gender Institute and Government Department, and a further 5,000 visited the shop's website. It also attracted media coverage across print, online, television and radio, was viewed online by 335,000 people and shared over 2,500 times on social media. The collective reach of the print media was over 800,000, the combined TV and print reach was 11.8 million and the radio reach was 4.2 million listeners.

"At the moment, we don't have regulations on storage that are fit for purpose," says Professor Jackson, who is continuing her research by focusing on the statutory storage time limit for egg freezing, in collaboration with Sarah Franklin, a former LSE Sociology Professor now at the University of Cambridge.

*Emily Jackson is a Professor of Law at LSE.*

[www.the-liminal-space.com](http://www.the-liminal-space.com)

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**FIND OUT MORE: [www.lse.ac.uk/EMPA](http://www.lse.ac.uk/EMPA)**

LSE *events*GLOBAL  
DEBATE  
at LSE

The 2015/16 academic year has been another busy one for LSE Events with a series of high profile visitors from the world of academia, business, civil society and politics visiting the School over the past 12 months. The public events programme provides opportunities for the School community and the wider public to listen to and engage with a diverse range of speakers from across the social sciences. For those unable to come to campus, most events are recorded and made available as podcasts.

Highlights of this year's programme have included events with SOAS director **Valerie Amos**, former UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs who spoke on the challenges of the global refugee crisis; **Winnie Byanyima** (pictured), executive director of Oxfam International, who reflected on growing up in Uganda, the true nature of Africa's growth story and the crisis of inequality in Africa; **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, president and CEO of New America, who discussed the need to transform gender roles for men as much as women and to reinvent the workplace; former chair of the US Federal Reserve **Ben Bernanke**, who talked about his new book, *The Courage to Act: a memoir of a crisis and its aftermath*; Germany's Federal Minister of Finance **Wolfgang Schäuble**, who considered Germany's responsibility in fostering the positive and successful development of Europe and the world; and **Raghuram Rajan**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, who called for a more balanced global monetary system.

You can keep up to date with the latest news by following LSE events on Twitter [@lsepublicevents](https://twitter.com/lsepublicevents) and by checking out the website at [lse.ac.uk/events](https://lse.ac.uk/events)

EXPLORING  
UTOPIA

LSE's eighth Literary Festival, which took place in February 2016, marked the 500th anniversary of Thomas More's *Utopia* with a series of events exploring the power of dreams and of the imagination and the importance of idealism, dissidence, escapism and nostalgia, as well as the benefits of looking at the world in different ways. This theme weaved its way into many areas of discussion from philanthropy and feminism to cities, mental health and even gardening.

The Festival hosted a distinguished line-up of speakers, including innovation expert **Alec Ross**; best-selling author **Robert Harris**; award-winning African novelist **Chibundu Onuzo**; prominent philosopher **AC Grayling**; *Guardian* journalist and author **Zoe Williams**; and renowned historian **Margaret Macmillan**.

The Festival was dedicated to the memory of Maurice Fraser, a great supporter of the event, who sadly passed away this year (see obituary page 37).

Some highlights included: a special Director's Lecture by **Craig Calhoun** entitled "Can Imagination Change the World?"; a discussion marking LSE's 120th anniversary, "One School, Two Visions", with **Michael Cox** and **Chandran Kukathas** on the competing utopian ideas of prominent LSE figures; and events marking the 50th anniversary of *Star Trek*, the 80th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War and the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare. LSE Law put the UN on trial for failing to live up to its utopian ideals; and politicians and historians discussed "Getting Real about Utopia" in a special debate for BBC Radio 3's flagship programme *Free Thinking*, with journalist **Anne McElvoy**.

Podcasts and videos of many of these events can be viewed online: [lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/literaryfestival](https://lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/literaryfestival)







# CREATING A CALIPHATE

The spectacular rise of ISIS highlights the urgent need to understand what has happened within Arab societies and the international relations of the Middle East, argues **Fawaz Gerges**, whose new book charts the terror organisation's emergence.

Despite suffering major military setbacks in Iraq and Syria in the past two years, the so-called Islamic State, also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and wa-Sham or Levant), or by its Arabic abbreviation *Da'esh*, still controls a wide swathe of territory in Iraq and Syria – as large as the United Kingdom and with a population estimated at roughly six million people. Possessing a sectarian army numbering about 20,000 combatants and a small financial empire estimated at a few billion US dollars, the organisation's tentacles have spread to Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, North Africa, Afghanistan, Nigeria and beyond, exposing the existence of profound ideological and sectarian cleavages within Middle Eastern and Islamic societies, as well as the fragility of the state institutions there.

ISIS represents a new step in Salafi-jihadism (a term that refers to militant religious activists). In contrast to ISIS, al-Qaeda Central (AQC), the previous leading group of Salafi-jihadism, seems small by comparison – a borderless, stateless, transnational social movement which, even at the height of its power in the late 1990s, possessed only about a thousand fighters and no territories of its own. In the spirit of LSE's motto – understanding the causes of things – my new book, *ISIS: A history*, aims to make sense of the drivers behind the spectacular rise of ISIS and to identify the sources of its strengths and weaknesses.

One of the defining features of ISIS's strategy that contrasts with that of AQC is that it, along with its predecessor al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), has so far consistently focused on the Shia and the "near enemy" of the Iraqi and Syrian regimes and their Iranian ally, rather than the "far enemy" of the United States, Israel or other global actors.

ISIS's chief, Ibrahim ibn Awwad Ibrahim Ali al-Badri al-Samarrai, better known under his nom de guerre Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who anointed himself the new caliph, or supreme ruler of Muslims worldwide, has a genocidal worldview, according to which Shias are viewed as infidels, a fifth column in the heart of Islam who must either convert or be exterminated. The struggle against America, Europe and even Israel is a distant secondary goal that must be deferred until a Sunni Islamic state is built in the heart of Arabia and ISIS has consolidated its grip on the Iraqi and Syrian territories it occupies.

The media attention given to the massive attacks in Paris, California, Belgium, Florida and Nice fuelled by ISIS's actions, has created widespread confusion regarding ISIS's strategy. Although the group has begun to target the far enemy since suffering military setbacks in Syria and Iraq since 2015, those gruesome

ISIS is a symptom of the broken politics of the Middle East

acts account in reality for a tiny percentage of the deaths the organisation has perpetrated. Nevertheless, as ISIS's caliphate shrinks in Syria and Iraq, it is bound to intensify its gruesome attacks against external targets, particularly Western countries. These attacks are force multipliers because they divert attention from its military losses and reinforce its narrative of durability and triumphalism.

Although an extension of the global Salafi-jihadist movement in its worldview, ISIS's social origins are rooted in a specific Iraqi context and, to a lesser extent, in the Syrian war that has raged since 2011. Its strategic use of sectarian clashes between Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims in Iraq and Syria greatly benefited the group and shaped its activities. This anti-Shia, anti-Iranian focus has helped ISIS to differentiate itself from AQC.

The formal entrance of the United States into the war against ISIS in August 2014, and Russia's entrance at the end of 2015, together with other Western powers, partially collapsed these distinctions between the near enemy and the far enemy. Nonetheless, it would be foolish to lose sight of ISIS's core strategy of replacing the "apostate" regimes with an Islamic state, a caliphate, in the heart of the Middle East.

If we are to understand ISIS's popularity, we must view the organisation in the context of the wider events within Arab societies and the international relations of the Middle East. ISIS is a symptom of the broken politics of the Middle East, of the fraying and delegitimation of state institutions, as well as of the spreading of civil wars in Iraq, Syria and beyond. The cause of the group's development and rise is located both in the severe social and political conditions in Arab societies and in regional and global rivalries. The sustained crisis of governance and the political economy, decades old, is a key factor.



My book traces the journey of this *takfiri* organisation and identifies four key factors in ISIS's rebirth. (*Takfir* literally means "pronouncement of unbelief against someone"; *takfiri* refers to those who excommunicate and declare a person or group of people *kuffar* (infidels) or non-Muslims.) First, I argue that ISIS can be seen as an extension of AQI, itself a creature of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq and its aftermath. By destroying state institutions, the invasion reinforced popular divisions along ethnic and religious rather than national lines, creating an environment that was particularly favourable for the implantation and expansion of groups such as AQI and ISIS.

The fragmentation of the post-Saddam Hussein political establishment and its failure to articulate policies that emphasised the country's national identity further triggered a deep sectarian divide between Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims, propelling the rise of ISIS from an inconsequential non-state actor to an Islamic state. By offering aggrieved Sunnis a potent pan-Sunni (sectarian-Islamist) identity that transcends nationality, ethnicity and borders, ISIS filled an ideational and institutional void. Bluntly put, sectarianism is the fuel that powers ISIS, and it is fuelled by ISIS in return.

ISIS's viciousness reflects the bitter inheritance of decades of Baathist rule that tore apart Iraq's social fabric and left deep wounds that are still festering. In a sense, ISIS internalised the brutal tactics of the Baathist regime and Iraq's blood-drenched modern history. This does not imply, however, that the organisation's Salafi-jihadism is synonymous with Baathism, a relatively secular nationalist ideology, as some observers claim. It is important to distinguish between ISIS's vicious tactics, which resemble those of the old Baath ruling party, and Salafi-jihadist ideology on the one hand and those of the Baath's nationalism on the other. Former Baathists did not hijack ISIS. Rather, the latter converted many Baathists to its cause.

A more complex challenge is to confront ISIS's Salafi-jihadist ideology and worldview.

Another key factor in the resurgence of ISIS is the breakdown of state institutions in Syria and the country's descent into all-out war after the 2011 Spring uprising was aborted there. As Bashar al-Assad's security services violently clamped down on peaceful protesters and depicted anti-regime social mobilisation in sectarian terms, the revolt rapidly mutated, militarised and eventually radicalised. In a repeat of the Iraqi scenario, Islamist armed groups and the Islamist rhetoric of jihad were empowered, their existence becoming somewhat justified in the eyes of a significant proportion of Syrians owing to the regime's violent crackdown on civilians. Islamist groups in Syria portrayed themselves, and were often perceived, as the defenders of the persecuted Sunni community. Similar to the case of Iraq, where the Islamic Republic of Iran's support of the Shia community increased sectarian tensions, Iran's unwavering support of the House of Assad reinforces the sectarian narrative.

Feeding upon each other, Iraq and Syria were vital to the resurgence of ISIS, which defined the struggle in both countries through the framework of identity. It developed a distinct pan-Sunni sectarian identity, a deliberate contrast to the pan-Shia identity represented by the sectarian-dominated, Iran-backed regimes in Damascus and Baghdad, and a narrative that has infiltrated and is taking over the Islamic world.

This anti-Shia, anti-Iranian programme is the most effective card ISIS has played in Iraq and Syria, and has so far proved to be a powerful recruiting tool. The organisation has tapped into the communal rift that grew after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, a dispute that spiralled out of control after Syria and Iraq descended into war and chaos. It is this clash of sub-Islamic identities, a mini intra-Islamic war, that has fuelled ISIS's spectacular growth.

Finally, ISIS could not have surged without the derailment of the Arab Spring uprisings and the sabotage of the aspirations of millions of citizens by a grand collusion between authoritarian Arab rulers and their regional and global patrons to maintain the status quo at all costs. Although bitter regional rivals, both Saudi Arabia and Iran acted as counter-revolutionary powers, trying to stem the tide of political change at home and in the neighbourhood and to consolidate their influence. As a non-state actor, ISIS initially climbed on the shoulders of key regional states, particularly Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran, that battled each other for influence and supremacy in the heart of the Middle East. Not unlike AQC, which emerged out of the violent US–Soviet

rivalry over Afghanistan in the 1980s, ISIS is also a creature of the geostrategic and geosectarian conflict, as well as of the foreign intervention in the Arab east.

ISIS will endure as long as the circumstances that have fuelled its rise remain in place in Iraq and Syria and beyond. While the fragility of the state structures in Iraq and Syria is the key cause of the group's swift and spectacular surge, regional and global rivalries sustain and prolong its existence. As long as these conditions and cleavages exist, it is going to be difficult to defeat ISIS and dislodge it from Iraq and Syria.

If ISIS is a manifestation of the breakdown of state institutions, then the fragile authoritarian state system must be rebuilt on a more solid, legitimate foundation. This requires a transparent, inclusive and representative government that delivers public goods, including jobs, and gives millions of young men and women who feel forsaken a stake in the future of their countries.

A more complex challenge is to confront ISIS's Salafi-jihadist ideology and worldview. By portraying itself as the only alternative to a broken and corrupt political system, ISIS is trying to hijack agency from the people, yet in many ways it uses the same tactics as the authoritarian regimes that it seeks to replace. The challenge is to provide hope to the millions of men and women who called for justice, freedom and a life with dignity, as we saw during the Arab Spring uprisings, while simultaneously convincing them that there are non-violent options that can bring about meaningful and substantive political change. Until we do, the menace of the "Islamic State" and similar Salafi-jihadist groups will remain a problem both for the Arab-Islamic world and for the international community.



**Fawaz Gerges** is Professor of International Relations at LSE and holder of the Emirates Professorship in Contemporary Middle East Studies. His new book, *ISIS: A history*, is published by Princeton University Press.



## LSE community

### DESTINATION LSE welcoming new offer holders

Over 90 Destination LSE events took place over the summer, enabling overseas students preparing to study at the School to meet each other and connect with alumni and current students prior to arriving in London.

Organised by regional alumni groups worldwide, these sessions are a great example of alumni helping the next generation of brilliant minds at LSE. The new programme transforms the “pre-departure events” into a global experience and celebration of LSE’s international alumni network. Thanks to all alumni volunteer leaders for your hard work in making this possible.

### Pass the Torch Scholarships established

Two young LSE alumni are jointly funding a new scholarship programme for UK and EU students, commencing in 2016/17. Manuel Stotz and Ian Osborne have pledged £180,000 each. This will allow a total of six students to attend LSE over the next three years.

Manuel Stotz commented: “We are delighted to found this programme at LSE. For us, it is important not just to give back, but to begin this new relationship with the School comparatively early in our careers, on which foundations we hope to build in the future. We chose the name of the scholarships by way of recognising the responsibility of our generation to pass on the advantage of our LSE education to the next.”



### WASHINGTON DC WELCOMES GLOBAL FORUM SERIES

The School returns to the US for the second LSE North America Forum, taking place in Washington DC on Friday 28 October.

Hosted by Professor Julia Black, interim LSE Director and Pro Director for Research, this event features leading LSE academics including Peter Trubowitz, Head of the Department of International Relations and Director of the US Centre at LSE, as well as distinguished alumnus Jason Furman. Speakers and guests will discuss the key issues shaping lives and societies on a global scale – issues likely to be brought into sharper focus in the US as the race for the White House enters its final stage. A Forum highlight will be conferment of an honorary Doctor of Laws on Justice Anthony Kennedy.

To find out more please visit  
[alumni.lse.ac.uk/WashingtonDCForum](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/WashingtonDCForum)

### CHANGES TO Reunion Programme



Throughout 2016, alumni celebrating special anniversaries since graduation have been reconnecting at a series of exciting reunions with a programme of events set to continue.

The class of 2011 reunited in September to celebrate their fifth anniversary at stylish East London venue Hoxton Grill, a lively party where classmates reconnected and shared their experiences since leaving LSE.

Alumni celebrating their 40-year anniversary since graduating in 1976 will enjoy a Lunch and Lecture Reunion on Friday 4 November, where they will hear from Professor Mick Cox on the School's history and latest developments.

The reunions continue with the Class of 1991 and Class of 2006 marking their anniversaries with a special Reunion Dinner and Reception back on campus a little later in November, and the 2016 Reunion Programme concludes with the Afternoon Tea on Friday 18 November, which will see the classes of 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966 return to the much-loved Shaw Library to reminisce.

We want you to share your LSE memories: please send a memory or photo to us by email at [reunions@lse.ac.uk](mailto:reunions@lse.ac.uk) or on Twitter [@LSEalumni](https://twitter.com/LSEalumni).

Further information on upcoming reunions is available at [alumni.lse.ac.uk/Reunions2016](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/Reunions2016)

### WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2016

We are delighted to welcome all summer 2016 graduates into the global LSE alumni community – congratulations on your degree and on joining possibly the largest professional and social network of which you will ever have membership. There are 136,000 contactable LSE alumni living in 190 countries around the world. Get connected at [alumni.lse.ac.uk](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk)





## Supporting Zimbabwe's next generation

LSE alumni in Zimbabwe are helping to support the country's next generation through a new mentoring programme. The LSE Alumni Association Zimbabwe-led initiative, championed by alumni group leader Ratidzo Mutizwa (pictured right) and the British Ambassador to Zimbabwe Catriona Laing (left), comprises two key strands. The first is a series of motivational talks directed to students in high schools and universities, who hear from local role models they can identify with and aspire to emulate. The second initiative takes on a more personal approach, providing one-to-one mentoring to women from the ages of 18-30 as they make key decisions about education, career and life. Mentors encourage young women to continue with their education. They also assist in the provision of internship opportunities. Learn more about the LSE Alumni Association in Zimbabwe at [alumni.lse.ac.uk/Zimbabwe](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/Zimbabwe)

LSE prides itself on the many achievements of its global alumni community, which are too numerous to feature here. For more alumni news, and to submit your own class note, please go to [alumni.lse.ac.uk/classnotes](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/classnotes)

## NETWORKING NIGHT across North America

On 21 June the Alumni and Friends of LSE in the United States (AFLSE) and Canadian Friends of LSE (CFLSE) brought more than 500 LSE alumni together in cities across North America to make connections, share career advice, and build a strong network for alumni looking to advance their careers. Seventeen chapters participated in the cross border, coast-to-coast initiative, hosting networking events in cities from New York to Vancouver. Every chapter put its own stamp on events, which ranged from pub nights to speed mentoring evenings. To get involved with alumni groups in the region and learn about future events, please visit [AFLSE.org](http://AFLSE.org) (USA) or [CFLSE.com](http://CFLSE.com) (Canada).



## BRUSSELS European Internships Fair success

LSE Alumni Association Belgium played a huge part in the success of the LSE Careers European Internships Fair in Brussels in February. The alumni group used its connections to help source employers to attend the Fair and secure speakers for a panel discussion about the job market in European institutions. LSE alumni in Belgium also hosted a networking event open to current students the evening before the Fair, where they shared their experiences after graduating and provided support, job search advice and career guidance. To find out more about LSE Alumni Association Belgium please visit [alumni.lse.ac.uk/Belgium](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/Belgium)

## IN MEMORIAM

# Professor Maurice Fraser

2 March 1960 – 12 February 2016

“Maurice Fraser was a friend of LSE from his days as a student, through his career in public life, to his return as a distinguished leader in the European Institute. Charming, gracious, and a witty conversationalist, he brought wide and practical knowledge to the School. He will be sorely missed.”

**Professor Craig Calhoun**, LSE Director 2012-16



Maurice's ties to the School stretch over a long period. Having been an undergraduate in the Department of Government, he returned after 1995 to teach in what was then the new European Institute. LSE Programme Director for the European Institute's double masters' degree with Sciences-Po, he became Head of the European Institute in 2013, stepping down in December 2015 due to ill-health.

A Professor in Practice, having served as special adviser to three successive British foreign secretaries during the tumultuous historical period of 1989-95, amongst other posts, Maurice had wide professional experience as a member/trustee/chair of a range of public bodies, including as Vice-Chair of the Franco-British Council. He was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2008 and Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia in 2015.

Maurice's work on Europe, and in particular Anglo-French relations, was of special importance to him, and he utilised his extensive professional experience and contacts to make the School the premier UK platform for public debate on Europe. A devoted teacher, he helped bridge the gap between the practical world of policymaking and that of academe for successive generations of the European Institute's students.

Maurice was widely liked and admired, by both staff and students and across public life. He was a supportive and respectful colleague and he loved LSE. His family background and his professional experience made Maurice a committed and life-long "European" in his political orientation. His legacy of service to LSE will ensure that he always remains a cherished part of the European Institute community.

LSE is saddened by the deaths of members of the School community. For a full list of alumni obituaries, please visit [alumni.lse.ac.uk/obituaries](http://alumni.lse.ac.uk/obituaries). To view staff obituaries, please visit [blog.lse.ac.uk/condolences](http://blog.lse.ac.uk/condolences)



# INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS

Immigration is a key issue of our time, but with debate on how to manage migration driven by emotion over evidence, why is there such a gap between what we think and what we know? Jess Winterstein talks to **Erik Berglof** and **Dominik Hangartner** about the difficulties facing researchers interested in migration and why LSE is taking a new approach to the issue.

The history of humanity is also a history of migration. But, despite this, there is probably no issue today where the public debate is further removed from the evidence, nor where economic, political, humanitarian, cultural and legal points of view clash with such an emotive and particular force.

“The debate about migration and how to manage it is coloured by prejudice and emotional reactions and undocumented or unjustified fear,” agrees Erik Berglof, director of the Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) at LSE. “It’s an understandable fear – if you feel your country doesn’t have control over its borders and all these people are flooding in to take your job, or house, or social welfare benefits, for example. But the fact is that many countries in Europe need massive immigration and research shows that migrants are, if anything, a positive for economic growth. That is why we need effective policies to manage migration.”

The challenge of facilitating an evidence-based conversation around the issue is a significant one, and if governments are to

ensure their policies on immigration are based on more than rhetoric, close attention must be paid to how asylum seekers both move through the asylum process and settle into their new lives. This challenge has been taken up by LSE, which established the IGA Global Migration Initiative in 2015 to narrow this gap between research and policy.

“There is real difficulty in just accessing the data,” Professor Berglof says, “and if we’re to change this there needs to be real dialogue between researchers and those on the front line. By

creating this network and enabling events for such partnerships to develop, the IGA can help drive the debate forward. Research is very much a social business. Ideas come from talking to people and there are many facets to the issue of migration – health, climate change, security – so creating those links, not just nationally but globally, is important.”

Dominik Hangartner, a researcher in LSE’s Department of Methodology and Department of Government who is working with a number of governments in an attempt to understand the effects of integration policies, agrees that access to data is a key issue.

“Migration is one of the areas where opinions are running high but we actually have very little empirical evidence to give sound policy advice,” he explains. “You can’t compare apples and oranges. If we want to understand how naturalisation affects migrants in the longer term, for example, we need to look at both naturalised and unnaturalised immigrants who, aside from this issue, are very similar to each other. This problem of finding a suitable control group is often exacerbated by a lack of fine-grained, individual-level data on immigrants.”

A major problem, Dominik argues, is that, although data is collected, it is often not held in a way that is helpful for researchers. Researchers can’t access records that are not digitised, for example, and records can be held across several ministries, making it harder to track the longer-term effects of integration.

It is this issue that Dr Hangartner is currently working to address with the aid of the IGA, which has helped connect him with policymakers across Europe. He is particularly interested in how refugees integrate once asylum has been granted, and is currently working with the French and Swiss asylum ministries in manually inputting their asylum claims to create a bespoke database that will allow such in-depth analysis.

Although only in its early stages, the project is already revealing useful information. “This is a really exciting project,” enthuses Dominik. “Preliminary results are showing that the time an individual has to stay in the asylum process can have a huge impact on how they go on to economically integrate.

“If we compare two asylum seekers from the same country of origin, with the same ethnicity, gender, religion and age, for example, we have found that the person that receives a positive decision at the end of the first year is 23 per cent more likely to find a job than the one whose claim took two years to process. The longer a person is within the asylum system, the harder it is

for them to economically integrate, which has a significant cost, not just to them but to their host society.”

The project is not limited to Switzerland and France, with discussions underway with Swedish and German governments and hopes that the UK will also start a closer conversation in the future. “This is valuable information to these governments too, of course,” says Dominik. “It’s very much a collaboration between us as researchers and them as policymakers.”

By facilitating these partnerships, the IGA hopes to bring fresh energy and perspectives into the debate in a way that will bring positive change. “Any country experiencing major population change will have growing pains while the system adjusts,” says Professor Berglof. “Infrastructure will have to change to facilitate new numbers, for example, and what is particularly counterproductive at the moment is that, along with these adjustments, we get a political response which leads to numbers being reduced, meaning these new facilities are then left idle, until the next wave of migration.

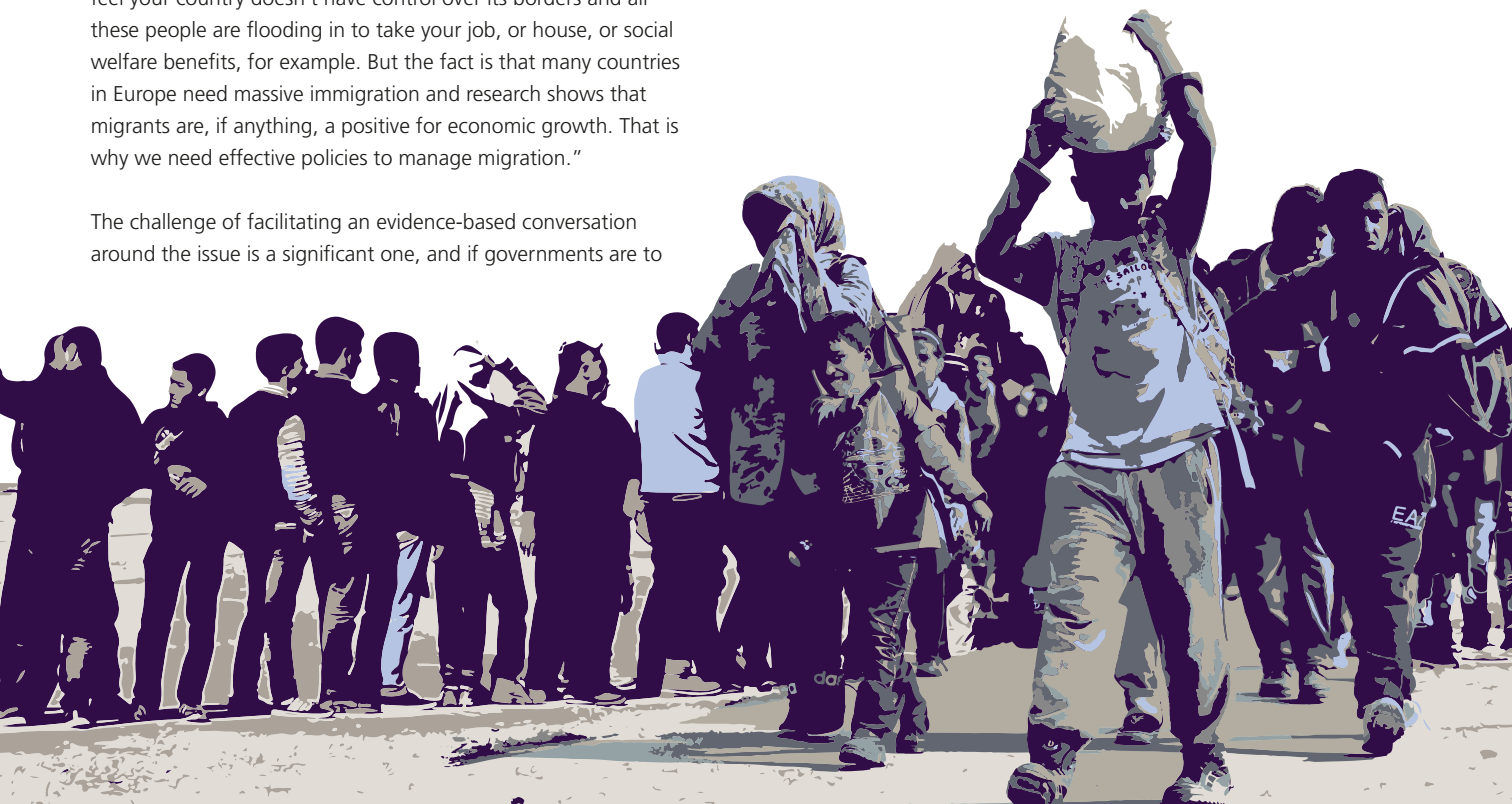
“Ultimately, migration is not going to stop. It comes in waves and we have to find a way to enable practical solutions to be taken up by policymakers. It is through researchers like Dominik, who are keen for their work to have broader policy impact, that we will be able to find ways to not just analyse the data available but look to ensuring as much practical data is collected as possible, which will ultimately be of benefit not just to those seeking asylum but to society in general.”

*Professor Erik Berglof is Director of the Institute of Global Affairs at LSE. Dr Dominik Hangartner is part of the IGA Global Migration Initiative.*

## Managing Migration: solutions beyond the nation-state

Siracusa in Sicily has been completely transformed by immigration. In April 2016, the IGA hosted a conference in the historic city. The conference encapsulated the IGA’s approach in a single event – that of working to create a network of positive partnerships between the academic and policymaking worlds in order to find lasting solutions to this truly global issue.

[lse.ac.uk/IGA/Events/IGA-Events/2016/Managing-Migration](http://lse.ac.uk/IGA/Events/IGA-Events/2016/Managing-Migration)







# Poverty lines

Beatrice Webb's diary entry from April 1886 records her attendance at the first meeting of a group of social investigators called the Board of Statistical Research. The object of the committee was, in her words, to "get a fair picture of the whole of London society". The meeting was called by Charles Booth, a Liverpudlian who grew wealthy from shipping. Poverty was a pressing issue for Booth, who had already been analysing employment and unemployment. The initial purpose of the group was to "connect poverty and wellbeing with conditions of employment [and] to describe the industrial peculiarities of London."\* This task would seem enormously difficult today, even with access to so much data. Booth, however, was not only interested in raw data. "The figures or the facts may be correct enough – but they mislead from want of due proportion or from lack of colour," he explained in a letter to Beatrice Webb.

The publication of the 17 volumes of *The Life and Labour of the People of London* did not lack facts, figures or colour. The seven colours demarcated levels of wealth on the Descriptive Maps of London Poverty that are the most visually compelling legacy of the work.

For more on Booth and LSE's rich history go to [blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory)

\* The survey led by Booth discovered that 30.7 per cent of London's population lived in poverty. The research also included thousands of pages of observations concerning London's industries and religious practices.

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\* The survey led by Booth discovered that 30.7 per cent of London's population lived in poverty. The research also included thousands of pages of observations concerning London's industries and religious practices.

 Lowest class.  
Vicious, semi-criminal.
  Very poor, casual.  
Chronic want.
  Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week  
for a moderate family.
  Mixed. Some comfortable,  
others poor.
  Fairly comfortable.  
Good ordinary earnings.
  Middle Class.  
Well-to-do.
  Upper middle and  
upper classes. Wealthy.



## RESEARCH *update*

For more research highlights see [lse.ac.uk/researchandexpertise](https://lse.ac.uk/researchandexpertise). You can also browse a collection of videos of current research projects at [lse.ac.uk/videoandaudio](https://lse.ac.uk/videoandaudio) on the research channel.



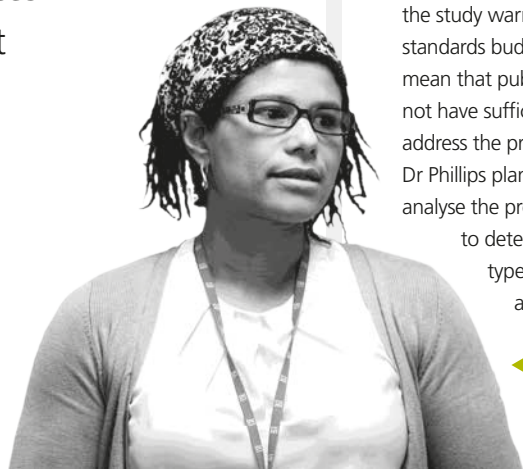
### WORK STRESS CAN CHANGE PERSONALITIES

- Negative workplace experiences can shape the personalities of employees, LSE

“Managers and employers can be aware of the effect that job stress can have on their staff and ensure that they allocate sufficient resources to create a supportive environment to boost mental welfare.”

**Dr Chia-Huei Wu**, Assistant Professor in LSE's Department of Management and author of the study.

research has shown. People who felt excessively stressed at work were more prone to becoming worried and irritable, showing signs of shyness and speaking less often, the research, published in the *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, has found. At the same time, workers who had greater control in their jobs were more co-operative and had greater creativity and imagination. Dr Chia-Huei Wu analysed changes within the “big five” personality traits – openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism – against changes in workplace time pressures, levels of job control and job stress.



### CRIMES against elderly people are under-reported

Doorstep fraud targeting the elderly may be under-reported because of its complex nature, a study conducted by Dr Coretta Phillips (pictured) at the Department of Social Policy has found. Dr Phillips analysed investigation and prosecution material for 140 elderly victims, and found that these crimes go unreported because victims may often not be aware that they have been defrauded, and those who do may feel too ashamed to report it. Coercion and fraudulent intrusion is sometimes, perversely, appreciated by the victims, the study, published in the *British Journal of Criminology*, found. “Criminals can alleviate the chronic loneliness that many elderly people suffer from,” Dr Phillips said. Increased life expectancy may lead to more “available” victims in the future, the study warns. Cuts to trading standards budgets can also mean that public authorities do not have sufficient funding to address the problem. Dr Phillips plans to further analyse the profiles of offenders to determine why certain types of people are drawn to criminal activity.

## Dog IQ in the spotlight

Dog intelligence can be measured similarly to human intelligence, research from LSE has suggested. The study, published in the journal *Intelligence*, examined whether dog intelligence is structured in the same way as in humans. It found that dogs who performed well in one IQ test tended to also do better in other tests. This pattern is also consistent in human IQ testing. Dr Rosalind Arden from LSE and Dr Mark Adams from the University of Edinburgh created a prototype dog IQ test, which they used to assess the intelligence of 68 working border collies. Tasks included navigation, telling the difference between food quantities, and ability to follow human gesturing at objects. Dogs that completed the tests faster were also likely to do them more accurately, the study found. “In humans there is a measurable tendency for people who are brighter to be healthier and live longer,” said Dr Arden. She added that the study could help researchers understand the cause of dementia in humans and possibly test treatments for it.



### Internet widens the inequality gap

Internet use is increasing the inequality gap between rich and poor people, a study conducted by LSE researcher Dr Ellen Helsper and Dr Alexander van Deursen of the University of Twente has revealed. Rich, educated people are able to get better online deals – such as discounted products and holidays – than poor, socially deprived people who have the same levels of internet access, the study found. The authors examined how internet use affected the wellbeing of about 1,100 people from different socio-economic backgrounds. The findings, published in the *Communication and Information Technologies Annual*, showed that people with higher social status benefited most from the internet. Unemployed, retired and disabled people were disadvantaged.



## PASSPORT KEY TO INTEGRATION?

Giving citizenship to immigrants could make it easier for them to integrate into society, research by Dr Dominik Hangartner of the Departments of Methodology and Government has found. The study focused on 46 municipalities in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, where public ballots were used to decide each citizenship application from the 1970s until 2003. Dr Hangartner's research focused on 768 people whose applications were either barely accepted or barely rejected. These people were asked about their level of political knowledge, voting participation and whether they felt discriminated against. The study found that migrants who became Swiss citizens are now considerably more socially and politically integrated than migrants whose applications were narrowly rejected.

## The makings of a good teacher

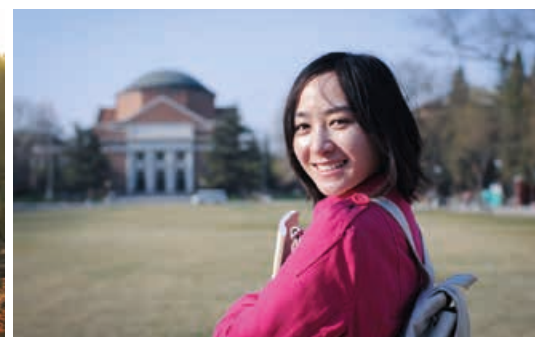
Teachers' job satisfaction and teaching methods are more important factors in ensuring student success than work experience, an LSE study has found. Dr Sarah Fleche of the Centre for Economic Performance, who conducted the study, said: “The finding that teacher quality is mostly correlated with teachers' job satisfaction and teaching methods suggests that traditional teacher appraisal schemes [based on their qualifications and experiences] might need to be revised.” The study, which was presented at the Royal Economic Society's annual conference in March, also found that good teachers not only help children learn more but also make them happier. A better school environment increases students' emotional wellbeing, but not as much as good teacher quality, the study suggests.



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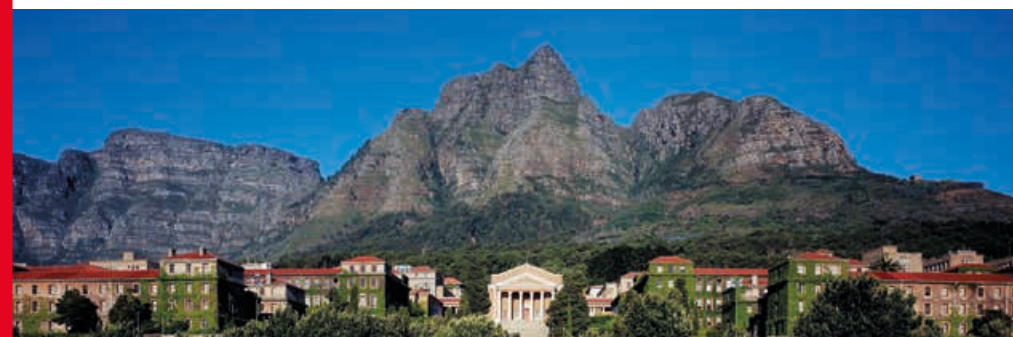
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# LSE STUDENTS GO THE EXTRA MILE

LSE students have raised the fundraising bar as they look set to achieve a School record of £175,000 for charities this year.



"When the doors opened I was immediately approached by a student who began to cross examine me on the programme logistics of Future Frontiers, asking me to explain our theory of change and the key competencies of our organisation," Dominic said. "She even paused to make notes in her well-detailed volunteering menu."

After a barrage of questions and obviously satisfied with his responses, the student exclaimed:

**"IT ALL SOUNDS GREAT, BUT CAN I VOLUNTEER EVEN THOUGH I AM ONLY 17?"**

It was then he realised that LSE students were a little different.

Just under 50 per cent of LSE's undergraduate students sign up for volunteering opportunities during the course of their degree. More than a quarter of these students take their first step into volunteering once enrolling at LSE.

LSE Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator David Coles said the latest survey commissioned by the School shows that almost 70 per cent of students who have volunteered believe it has improved their university experience.

"The benefits of volunteering extend into many different areas," David added. "Forty-three per cent of our students said last year their physical and mental health was better as a result of volunteering. The survey showed that students who volunteer were more likely to enjoy their time at LSE, feel more

When it comes to recruiting students for voluntary work, Future Frontiers CEO Dominic Baker is used to putting his persuasive skills into action. As the founder of an award-winning social enterprise tasked with training university students to provide one-on-one coaching to pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, Dominic attends numerous volunteer fairs each year to seek out the next outstanding group of teachers.

It's normally a difficult task, encouraging hesitant students to come forward and commit to a mentoring scheme which helps pupils from low-income backgrounds, many of whom have very low aspirations in life.

So when the young executive set up his stand at the LSE Volunteering Fair earlier this year – alongside 32 other organisations – he hadn't reckoned on a Spanish inquisition from a first-year LSE undergraduate student.

# REAL ISSUES DON'T COME IN BOXES SO WE THINK OUTSIDE THEM

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confident and part of LSE and also more likely to excel in their career."

The latter statistic is important because – nationally – 70 per cent of employers are also more likely to offer graduates a job if they have volunteering experience.

Why? Because volunteering builds personal and professional skills, self-confidence and provides potential job seekers with valuable insights and experience in real-world environments.

James Wurr, the outgoing president of LSESU's RAG Society who graduated this year with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in History and International Relations, is living proof.

"Taking on the RAG presidency at LSE has been an incredible personal development opportunity for me," James said. "It has been hugely rewarding, I've made wonderful friendships and it has given me such a wide insight into so many different areas as well as learning skills which I will use for the rest of my life and career," he said.

James has set an incredibly high bar for his successor, this year overseeing the most successful LSESU RAG Week in the UK's history, with the Student Union's fundraising arm earning £17,000 for charities in one week, smashing the previous £12,000 record for universities across the country.

LSESU's RAG Society is also on target to achieve a School fundraising record of £175,000 for local, national and international charities by the end of the current university year. To put it into perspective, that equates to a 600 per cent increase in the past five years compared to the Society's 2011 fundraising amount of £25,000.

While other UK universities have posted higher annual totals, most of them have a much larger student body. James has calculated that, in terms of money raised per student, LSE sits in the top 5-10 per cent of universities in the country and the leader among London's university sector.

### SO, WHAT SETS LSE APART FROM ITS CONTEMPORARIES?

"To some extent, the energy, dedication and commitment which LSE students show towards volunteering and fundraising reflects the School's underlying ethos – to improve society," James said.

The marriage of social science students with economics and finance students at LSE may also have a bearing on the School's fundraising successes, combining a humanitarian approach with hard-nosed business acumen.

"But it also shows that most LSE students are not just happy with walking away with a degree after three years. They are always striving for something more and want a complete university experience. LSE students are the cream of the crop; they are competitive, ambitious and goal-oriented. Most have a strong social conscience and they also want to improve their chances of employment on graduating, although I think that motivates them less than a desire to make a difference," James said.

David Coles reiterates these sentiments, but also credits the high volunteering engagement to the generous resources offered by the School.

"We have an excellent set-up at LSE and are based within the LSE Careers so can piggyback on a lot of different volunteering projects with our colleagues. The volunteering model we have set up also works well. Our approach is very light touch; we encourage students to take small steps into volunteering without pushing them into a big time commitment, conscious they have a pretty heavy study load," David said.

For more information about volunteering and fundraising at LSE, visit the LSE Volunteer Centre and LSESU RAG Society websites.





**BOOK** *shelf*

# NAVIGATING AUSTERITY

Professor of Anthropology **Laura Bear** (pictured) examines how the Indian government's debt reduction policies in the 1990s have affected life along the Hooghly River. She found that local budget cuts have drastically lowered working conditions and created a dangerous environment for river workers, including boatmen and shipyard workers.

Returning to the UK, she saw her experiences mirror the austerity policies implemented by European governments following the 2008 financial crisis. She calls for a more socially responsible approach to policymaking, and proposes a range of alternatives to austerity – such as limiting sovereign debt bonds and creating global tax redistribution organisations.

## How did you become interested in studying South Asia?

I grew up in Acton in west London, and many of my neighbours and friends were from South Asia. Later, I left state school and went to a private school where several students had ancestors who had been colonial officials. Many were nostalgic about the colonial era, which never sat very well with me. The two things came together during my

graduate studies, when I began studying the impact of colonialism on contemporary politics and economics in South Asia.

## Why did you choose to study the Hooghly River?

I have returned to Kolkata for research regularly since 1994, and I realised that the Hooghly River had a very powerful place in the public imagination. It is Mother Ganga, the goddess, and a source of fertility and purity. People go down to the river for festivals and worship, and I was fascinated by the presence of the river in the city.

## What was the most memorable day during your fieldwork?

The Vishwakarma Puja religious festival, where people working in industry worship the Hindu god of creation and artisanship. In the shipyard where I did my fieldwork, employees set up enormous images of the god. Workers showed their sons and daughters inside the ships and how they work. This is a day of real joy and pride, and one that I'll always remember because people felt that their skills were recognised.

## Why is it important to study austerity from an anthropological perspective?

Firstly, you can trace the direct effects of policies on communities, and that means you can apply a social calculus – meaning that you can measure policy according to the quality of social relations that it creates. You can't just accept the argument that austerity is a necessary form of economic policy. Secondly, anthropology always goes beyond public discussions because it's committed to the reality of social experiences. This always leads to new insights.

## What can economic and political leaders learn from reading your book?

Political leaders haven't always been imprisoned by economic instruments and policies that give control to financial market institutions. We need to think about creating new structures for government financing and monetary policy. This would give political leaders more freedom to assert their own more socially just principles and values.



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**Punam Yadav**

**Routledge £90 h/b**

Through extensive interviews with women in post-conflict Nepal, Punam Yadav analyses the impacts of conflict and traces the transformations in women's understandings of themselves and their positions in public life.

This is a just a small selection of recently published books by LSE academics.

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## LETTERS *to the editor*

### A HEAD START FOR REFUGEES

'Headline news' (*LSE Connect*, winter 2015) writes about how the School is increasing funding for scholarships for asylum seekers and refugees. Many in Europe and especially in North America are trying to close doors to Syrian and other refugees. What great news that LSE is offering help.

In 1968, I was on a train from Czechoslovakia to England, fleeing the Russian invasion of the country. Although not on the same scale, that emigration sent 150,000 Czechs and Slovaks to Western Europe and we were warmly welcomed. People in England set up welcome committees and advertised their houses for "Czechoslovak students". I stayed in two of those during the first couple of years. The most important thing for me was the offer of a grant at LSE. I arrived in September 1968 and was attending classes by October. The School waived my tuition fees for the entire course. I had to work for a living, across from LSE at Bush House (BBC Overseas Services) and Radio Free Europe, but without LSE I would not have gone to a British university.

I also ran a University of London Union Czechoslovak Society, where journalists gave presentations, we watched movies, had parties and got immersed in the British way of life, as many British students joined the society out of curiosity. One of my closest friends, a Czech student, married a Brit and after many years living and working around the world, she is back in Prague and leading a women's movement in the country.

I worked for Reuters in their financial services in various management and product development jobs in London and New York, all thanks to the head start that LSE gave me then. I am sure there will be many happy stories in years to come, told by the new refugees, whom LSE will help to get a start.

**Tomas Cernikovsky** (BSc Economics 1971)  
La Antigua, Guatemala



### TASTE OF NOSTALGIA

Virginia Beardshaw ('LSE and me', *LSE Connect*, winter 2015) reminisces about her time as a student at this august institution in the 1970s and states that she has yet to find "anyone who remembers the rock cakes in the Refectory in the Old Building". I was at LSE from 1970 to 1971 and what I remember most vividly and with most nostalgic delight is those very rock cakes! They were at their best when accompanied by hot Ribena and lemon.

Should anyone contact you or Ms Beardshaw with the mysterious and magical recipe for these wonderful creations could I please be informed?

**Ralph Allemano**  
(MSc International History 1971)  
LLanelli, UK

[Editor's note: The recipe is available on the LSE history blog, just search under rockin' rock cakes! [blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsehistory)]



### Something lost?

I am writing in response to the article on the origins of LSE ('Laying the foundations', *LSE Connect*, winter 2015), in particular what the Webbs would think.

When I came to my 50th anniversary reunion in 2007, I tried to get the Director's eye to ask about the end of part-time first degrees. I began mine in 1952 after national service, and just starting as a civil servant. I doubt whether my HSC French, history and Latin would get me past the front door these days, but I had a wonderful education with an identical curriculum and the same inspiring academics. I think something important has been lost from the philosophy that created the wonderful institution of which I am proud to be a graduate.

**Tony Lees** (BSc Economics 1957)  
Blackwood, Australia



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