

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Final message from **Judith Rees**



This is my last column for *LSE Connect*, written after an extraordinary year as director of LSE. I am signing off with a great sense of pride in the School and secure in the knowledge that I have, in Professor Craig Calhoun, an outstanding successor.

Craig will take up his post on 1 September and has already undertaken four week-long trips to LSE to meet colleagues and students. He will set out his initial thoughts on LSE in the next issue of the magazine, but I would like to use this column to introduce him to alumni. I would also like to reflect on the many, many events of this last year, most notably the publication of the Woolf report into LSE's links to Libya but also our preparations for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

When we announced Craig's appointment in late November 2011, the news that we had chosen such a prominent social scientist and public intellectual as the next director was immediately well received. Craig tells me that he received some 3,000 messages of congratulation, including 2,000 from alumni via Twitter and Facebook. As a non-Twitter user myself, I can only marvel at the speed of this mass communication!

Craig leaves his roles as university professor at New York University and director of NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge, as well as president of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), to come to LSE. As has been widely acknowledged, his work connects sociology to culture, communication, politics, philosophy and education. He has written extensively on the role of the public intellectual, most notably for the SSRC – where his essays on public social science have been widely translated, reprinted and circulated. After 11 September 2001, he launched an online essay forum called “Real Time Social Science”. This attracted over one million readers and has gone on to debate such issues as the impact of hurricane Katrina and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. He is also the author of several books, including *Nations Matter* (2007), *Neither Gods nor Emperors* (1997) and *Critical Social Theory* (1995).

An American citizen, Professor Calhoun has strong links to the UK. He took a DPhil in History and Sociology at the University of Oxford and a master's in Social Anthropology at Manchester. He also co-founded, with Richard Sennett, professor of sociology at LSE, the NYLON programme, which brings together graduate students from New York and London for co-operative research programmes.

It only remains for me to wish Craig well and to ensure that LSE is in good shape for his arrival.

This brings me on to Lord Woolf's “Inquiry into LSE's links with Libya and lessons to be learned”. Lord Woolf was commissioned by LSE Council in March 2011 to review LSE's links to Libya following the resignation of the director, Sir Howard Davies. The Council published Lord Woolf's report in full in late November, at the same time as it announced the results of a separate inquiry by the University of London into alleged academic misconduct by Saif Gaddafi. The University of London decided not to revoke his PhD.

Lord Woolf's report was highly critical, and for someone like me who has spent most of their working life at LSE, it made painful reading. It found that there were failings of governance, management and communication at LSE concerning Saif Gaddafi's PhD and the decision to accept a gift from the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation. I promised at the time to do everything in my power to implement the Woolf recommendations before the arrival of Craig, and I believe we have made significant progress.

At the time of writing we are firmly embarked on an extensive consultation on a new Ethics Code, with a view to presenting a Code to Council and Academic Board later in June. The Code will be a "living" document, constantly updated as new challenges arise. I firmly believe that we have an opportunity here to set a new standard of conduct in higher education, and would like to thank my many colleagues across the School for the frank and serious way in which the Woolf report has been debated to date. I have put references at the end of this article to our web page on Woolf and our Ethics page, for those who would like to follow this debate.

Running alongside this work has been a serious review of our research policy, as part of our preparation for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The outcome of this exercise will determine a significant chunk of our research funding for years to come. Under the leadership of Professor Stuart Corbridge,

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pro director for research and external relations, we have produced a green paper that has been discussed widely in the School. Although LSE has always performed extraordinarily well in the Research Assessment Exercises of the past, we have never traded long-term strength for short-term RAE gains. This paper is no exception and has stimulated discussion across LSE about the robustness of the School's policies for supporting world-class research over the next 10 to 20 years in a global environment where competition for academics, funding and research students is expected to increase sharply. It is an extraordinarily thorough piece of work, and the discussions it has provoked have been intense and will stand LSE in good stead as Craig takes the helm.

Equally important has been our continued work on improving the student experience. I was able to report in the last *LSE Connect* that LSE student satisfaction levels have been rising sharply. This is testimony to the hard work of Professor Janet Hartley, pro director for teaching and learning, who established the Teaching

Task Force and drove forward its recommendations. Janet comes to the end of her term as pro director this summer and I wish to thank her in particular for her support over the last year. I would also like to welcome Professor Paul Kelly to the role, who many of you will know as head of the Department of Government.

Finally, as I prepare to stand down and go back to my role as director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, I would like to thank colleagues, students and alumni alike for their support and comments over the last year. It has been quite a journey. ■

For more on the Ethics Code see: lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/planningAndCorporatePolicy/ethicsConsultation/Home.aspx

For more on the Woolf Inquiry, and to read the full report, see: lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/woolf/home.aspx

A tribute to Judith Rees from Peter Sutherland, chair of Council

When Professor Judith Rees took over as director of LSE following the resignation of Sir Howard Davies in March 2011, we were immediately put on notice. Originally referred to as "interim director", Judith was persuaded to drop the interim. It was the right decision. Her tenure as director may only have run from May 2011 to August 2012, but her legacy will be felt for years. She has been an extraordinary and inspiring director.

First, she put in place measures to secure the long-term future of the School. She instigated the search for a new director and ensured that vital projects, such as the review of the School's research policy and preparations for the Research Excellence Framework, went ahead as planned.

Second, she quickly took control of the day-to-day running of the School. She identified any ongoing management issues and dealt

with them systematically. In this her six years of experience as deputy director of the School from 1998 to 2004 stood her in good stead. But more than that, the high regard in which she is held across the School meant that she resolved issues quickly and straightforwardly.

Third, and by no means least, she saw through the submission of evidence to the Woolf Inquiry, the submission of evidence to the separate University of London inquiry into alleged academic misconduct by Saif Gaddafi, the publication of the Woolf report, the announcement of the University of London decision and subsequently the implementation of the 15 wide-ranging Woolf recommendations.

To do this Judith had to be the public face of the School. She was interviewed in a video by a young academic film-maker on the subject of the Woolf report and its recommendations, and dealt with the numerous requests from the

media on the day of its release. For someone who has never – as Judith herself has made clear – sought the limelight, her success in this was an extraordinary achievement.

The work on the Ethics Code also bears her particular hallmark. The consultation has been extensive and open, the documentation excellent. LSE is developing as a leader in this field. This is something many could not have dared hope for in March 2011. The fact that Judith has achieved it so seamlessly is again testimony to her many strengths.

As chair of Council it simply remains for me to say that I am personally immensely grateful to her for her gifted stewardship of the School over the last year. I am seeking to persuade her to have her portrait in the Shaw Library, along with all the eminent directors to date. I hope I will receive support from across the School in this endeavour. She will go down as one of the great LSE directors – and should be commemorated as such.