

Launch of LSE's new Catalan Observatory: a space for ideas

Howard Davies, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), launched the school's new Catalan Observatory today together with Roser Clavell, Secretary General of Patronat Catalunya Món and Vice President for External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Catalunya.

The programme, a collaboration with Patronat Catalunya Món, will enable key issues to be discussed by LSE academics and Catalan authorities. Led by Professor Paul Preston and Dr Joan Costa-i-Font, it will see the exchange of ideas on topics such as European health, Catalanian media trends, the Catalan economy and economic competitiveness.

Seminars, workshops and regular publications will complement LSE's flourishing work in contemporary Spanish studies, and continue promoting its relationships with Spanish regional governments. LSE Enterprise, LSE's professional interface with business and the public sector, is managing the venture.



Today's event was held at the BOX and the official launch was followed by a drinks reception.

Dr Costa-i-Font, lecturer in European Social Policy and Senior Research Fellow in Health Economics, said: 'The Catalan Observatory will be a platform for research, debate and dissemination. It will strengthen LSE's interaction with the rest of the world, especially with European and Mediterranean countries. I'm really looking forward to getting involved with this programme.'

The Patronat's mission is to promote the internationalisation of Catalan society by providing support to both public and private bodies. It is also beginning work on a Catalan Observatory at Stanford University.

Ms Clavell said: 'It is a privilege to link Catalonia to such a prestigious institution as LSE. While Barcelona is well known, Catalonia is less so, and this Observatory will help us portray Catalonia internationally. It will be good to promote our interests directly, especially with a professor so well recognised in Catalonia as Paul Preston.'

The programme is supported by Abertis Infraestructuras SA, Foment del Treball Nacional, Mancomunitat de Municipis de Barcelona, Mediaproducción SL, Societat Econòmica Barcelonesa d'Amics del País and Obra Social La Caixa.

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Notes for Editors

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28 October 2009