Global Policy Lab: Mobilising Global Brainpower at LSE

What we are about

The Global Policy Lab (G-POL) aims to harness the world’s combined brainpower to generate fresh thinking and research-based policy solutions to urgent global challenges. Global collaboration and international institutions are under threat from both sides: emerging economies have been questioning their underrepresentation in global decision making for quite some time, but some advanced economies have also started raising questions about the benefits of globalization and its supporting international system.

Drawing on LSE’s Nobel-prize winning faculty, G-POL engages with core policy institutions, senior policymakers and leading academics in both advanced and emerging economies to generate new thinking and sustainable solutions. Genuine collaboration between advanced and emerging economies is crucial to the development of innovative research and policy design. Emerging economies already account for more than half of the world’s GDP and should assume a greater role commensurate with their growing economic and political heft.

G-POL aims to serve as a laboratory for developing novel approaches, engaging in cutting-edge research and the design and testing of policy interventions, with the aim of helping emerging economies grow a strong research-based voice and shape the agenda. We co-design research and policy experiments and particularly encourage peer-to-peer transfer of knowledge across emerging economies.

In our first year, we have:

- Facilitated the first-ever research collaboration on cross-border policy spillovers between the central banks of China, India and Russia. To achieve this, we have brought together leading academic institutions and researchers in these countries and in advanced economies.

- Led research on growth and structural transformation in emerging economies, bringing together LSE faculty and five international financial institutions, including regional development banks, the World Bank and the IMF.

- Helped to shape a more evidence-based approach to migration and refugees creating a network of so far 16 lead universities across Europe and the Middle East. Working with the Italian Presidency of the G7, our findings will inform the G7 Summit in Taormina at end-May 2017.

- Established the “Arena” project, addressing the role of evidence in the public discourse, with new research on falsehoods, “fake news,” disinformation and the design of effective responses. In the “Transformation Lab”, academics and policymakers address these challenges in specific countries, currently Tunisia and Ukraine.

“The Global Policy Lab is an important innovation which deserves widespread support.” Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister
Our projects

We have developed a portfolio of proof-of-concept projects selected strategically for their particular mix of global and local engagement and to demonstrate what well targeted, sophisticated high-level interventions can achieve with limited resources:

- Rethinking Global Finance
- Avoiding the Middle Income Trap
- Governance
- Global Migration
- Blue Finance

The Rethinking Global Finance programme demonstrates that we can bring together leading policy institutions and top academics across G20 emerging economies in pioneering research collaborations. Launched in Mumbai in early 2016 by then Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, this historic initiative has brought together senior management and researchers from the RBI, the People’s Bank of China and the Central Bank of Russia. Current research includes a study of the impact of capital flows using firm level data, distributional impact of monetary policy, capital account opening with distorted financial system, and the changing role of central banks.

The Avoiding the Middle Income Trap project demonstrates that G-POL can mobilise the very best academic researchers alongside regional and international financial institutions - the ADB, EBRD, IADB, the IMF and the World Bank - in a unique research collaboration. This brings researchers from emerging economies together with some of the world’s leading academics in a project that analyses the process by which an economy transitions from middle to high-income status. The Avoiding the Middle Income Trap project is part of the INET Transformation Commission, led by Nobel Laureates Michael Spence and Joseph Stiglitz.

The Governance Project is dedicated to deepening our understanding of the root causes of the ongoing seismic shifts in many political systems in both developed and emerging economies and to designing and testing responses that can help revitalize democracy and foster institutional transformation. The Governance Project currently has three subprojects:

- The Arena project analyses and tests effective counter-strategies to the problems of disinformation, polarisation and hate speech. The project brings together researchers, policymakers and activists to better understand and combat these phenomena;

“We aim to maximize the impact of LSE’s leading expertise across the social sciences by shaping inclusive and locally-rooted responses to the most important and pressing global challenges.” Professor Erik Berglof, Director
A new Transformation Lab will work with governments, private sector and civil society in countries undergoing fundamental economic and political transformations to support the building of institutions through research and peer-to-peer exchange;

The Who Owns What project, joint with the UK government and the two NGOs Global Witness and Open Corporates, draws on a new publicly available dataset to analyse critical elements of transparency in corporate and political governance.

The Global Migration Initiative illustrates how G-POL can create a unique network of universities and researchers in both source and recipient countries, currently with 16 leading universities across Europe, the Middle East and Canada. We are also exploring how universities transform themselves as institutions to play a more active role in informing migration policy and facilitating integration focusing on frontier host countries. Our pooled knowledge is already informing policy makers at national and supranational levels, including in the G7 and the G20.

The Blue Finance Project focuses on the largest yet neglected global public good: the ocean. Overexploitation, habitat destruction and pollution threaten marine and coastal ecosystems and challenge coastal resilience. The Sustainable Development Goals mention the ocean, but lack any institutional structure and means of implementation. The failure to align governance, infrastructure and finance at the global, regional and national levels affects particularly seriously emerging and developing countries. We bring together academics, policymakers and other stakeholders to come up with sustainable solutions for ocean risk mitigation and adaptation.

We are also working on the global dimensions of “Brexit”, focusing on its implications for services and trade with major economies outside the EU.

Why LSE?

Located in the heart of London, the world’s financial capital, the LSE – the most international of leading universities with more than half of its students from emerging economies – offers the ideal environment for mobilizing the combined brainpower of advanced and emerging economies. LSE attracts academic visionaries and through education populates tomorrow’s academe, government ministries, and corporate boardrooms. LSE’s unique focus and proven impact upon economic and political issues of global importance sets it apart from its elite peers. LSE faculty are leading contributors to policy design on critical challenges that impact billions of people around the globe.

G-POL - a new hub at LSE

G-POL brings together its extensive international network of high-level policymakers and academics with LSE’s world-renowned faculty and first-rate students to fulfil its mission: to join up emerging and advanced economies in designing and testing innovative, research-based and locally-rooted solutions to their common challenges. Through the IGA, G-POL will have access to the capacity of its eight constituent centres, including six regional centres with strong local networks and deep understanding of the local contexts in developing and emerging economies.

“The IGA’s Global Policy Lab is the right place to explore many of the most pressing global debates in order to provide an ‘antidote’ to the current wave of populism and autarky.” Duncan Clark, OBE
G-POL’s unrivalled structure allows both LSE faculty and students from emerging and developing economies to engage with their home countries, continuously developing their human capital even after they have returned to their home countries. This will enable them to play a more effective role in their local environments and strengthen their countries’ contributions to the global debate.

Who are we?

G-POL’s core group including its Director, Professor Erik Berglof, former Chief Economist of the EBRD and Programme Director Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi, have extensive hands-on experience in building research capacity and senior policy engagement. G-POL has attracted a distinguished visiting community of lead academics, policy makers and business leaders. G-POL is honoured that former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown serves as Chair of its Project Investment Committee. Peter Sutherland, former UN Special Envoy on Migration, Vince Cable, former MP and Secretary of State for Business, Anne Applebaum, journalist and prize-winning historian have been appointed as Professors in Practice. We are also pleased to host Visiting Professors Mario Blejer, former Governor of the Central Bank of Argentina, Brad Blitz and Eleonore Kofman, Middlesex University London, as well as Senior Fellows Duncan Clark, Chairman of BDA in Beijing; Christina Segal-Knowles, former Special Advisor to President Obama for International Economics, Jawad Iqbal, former senior analysis editor at the BBC; Mark Florman, co-founder and former CEO of Maizels, Westerberg & Co; Torsten Thiele, Founder, Global Ocean Trust; and Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

G-POL academic advisors include Philippe Aghion (LSE/College de France), Bai Chong-En (Tsinghua), Tim Besley (LSE), Patrick Bolton (Columbia), Wendy Carlin (UCL), Matthias Dewatripont (National Bank of Belgium), Ahmed Galal (Economic Research Forum), Serge Guriev (Sciences Po/EBRD), Simon Hix (LSE), Bengt Holmstrom (MIT), Huang Haizhou (CICC), Keyu Jin (LSE), Chris Pissarides (LSE), Katharina Pistor (Columbia), Raghuram Rajan (University of Chicago), Lucrezia Reichlin (LBS), Helene Rey (LBS), Gerard Roland (Berkeley), Howard Rosenthal (Princeton), Andrei Shleifer (Harvard), Nick Stern (LSE), Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden (University of Mannheim), Andres Velasco (Columbia); and Ekatherina Zhuravskaya (Paris School of Economics).
MAIN LSE IGA Events

Rethinking Global Finance (RGF)

Conferences

- Banking in the Balance, with Professor Raghuram Rajan, University of Chicago, May 16, 2017
- RGF Joint conference with the Bank of Russia, St Petersburg, Russia, June 30, 2016, with keynote speech by Governor Elvira Nabiullina
- RGF LSE IGA conference, co-organised with Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee (RBWC), May 5-6, 2016, London
- RGF Joint conference with Fudan University and Shanghai Capacity Building Foundation, Shanghai, China, February 25, 2016, with keynote speech by First Deputy Governor Yi Gang of the People’s Bank of China
- RGF Joint conference with the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai, on January 27, 2016 with keynote speech by Governor Raghuram Rajan

Public events

- The Fall of Technocracy, November 8, 2016
  Speakers: Sebastian Mallaby, Council on Foreign Relations and Charles Goodhart, LSE
- Rethinking the Global Monetary System, May 10, 2016
  Speaker: Dr Raghuram Rajan, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
- Central Bank Power Grab, PowerBreakfast Series, May 6, 2016
  Speakers: Mario Blejer, LSE IGA Visiting Professor; Ricardo Reis, LSE and Peter Sands, former head of Standard Bank
  Speakers: Anat Admati, Stanford Graduate School of Business; John Kay, LSE; and Charles Goodhart, LSE
- China’s Economic Adjustment, PowerBreakfast Series, March 10, 2016
  Speakers: Michael Pettis, Carnegie Endowment and Keyu Jin, LSE
- Alibaba: The House That Jack Ma Built, November 9, 2015
  Speaker: Duncan Clark, OBE, IGA Visiting Fellow

Global Growth - Avoiding the Middle Income Trap (MIT)

Conferences/workshops

- LSE MIT workshop, November 16-17, 2016, London
- MIT workshop with ADB, EBRD, IADB, the IMF and the World Bank, October 7, 2016
  Washington DC, hosted by IADB
- MIT conference jointly with the World Bank, September 7, 2015

Public events

  Speaker: Roger Nord, Deputy Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Governance

Workshops

- Beneficial Ownership workshop with the Inter-American Development Bank, October 7 2016,
  Washington DC
LSE IGA Joint workshop with Global Witness, July 6, 2016 on ‘Who Owns What in The UK?

Public events

- **The Pathology of Presidential Power, May 9, 2017**
  *Speakers:* Bill Antholis and David Leblang, Miller Center; Peter Trubowitz, LSE

- **North Korea: Beyond the Headlines, joint event** with LSE SU Korea Future Forum and the LSE SU China Development Society, March 18, 2017
  *Speakers:* Oh Joon, Former Korean Ambassador to the UN, Kihl-jae Ryoo, Former Minister of Unification, republic of Korea, Professor Seyul Choe, Poyongyang University, Dan Damon, BBC World

- **LSESU China Development Forum: A Nation at the Crossroads, joint event** with LSESU China Development Forum and China Development Society, February 11, 2017
  *Speakers:* Rt Hon Vince Cable, IGA Professor in Practice, Cindy Fan, UCLA, Zou Ming, Phoenix New Media, Lord Adair Turner, Former Chairman of the Financial Services Authority and Gudrun Wacker, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

- **The Future of Europe**, LSE IGA and LSE SU Italian Society lecture, February 9, 2017
  *Speaker:* Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of Italy

- **NATO and Russia in the New World Disorder**, PowerBreakfast Series, December 8, 2016
  *Speakers:* Hans Blix, Swedish diplomat and Tarak Barkawi, LSE

- **The Great Convergence: information technology and the new globalisation**, LSE IGA PowerBreakfast Series November 24, 2016,
  *Speakers:* Richard Baldwin, Director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Gianmarco Ottaviano, LSE

- **Rich People Poor Countries: the rise of emerging market tycoons and their mega-firms**, LSE lecture as well as PowerBreakfast Series, October 25, 2016,
  *Speakers:* Caroline Freund, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics

- **Germany and Brexit**, PowerBreakfast Series, September 7, 2016,
  *Speakers:* Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and IGA Visiting Fellow; Rt Hon Vince Cable, IGA Professor in Practice and Simon Hix, LSE

- **UN - to be fit for purpose. June 2, 2016,**
  *Speaker:* Dr Igor Lukšić, former prime minister of Montenegro

- **Are CEOs Fired for Bad Luck?** 22 April 2016, joint event with The European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI)
  *Speaker:* Professor Francesca Cornelli, Professor of Finance and Director of Private Equity at London Business School

- **The Evolving China Model: Meritocracy or New Autocracy?** PowerBreakfast Series, April 6, 2016,
  *Speakers:* Daniel Bell, Tsinghua University and Mayling Birney, LSE

- **The Political Economy of Change: the Case of Senegal, joint event** with The International Growth Centre and LSE Africa Centre, March 17, 2016
  *Speakers:* Mr. Ali Mansoor, IMF mission chief for Senegal; Daouda Sembene, advisor to the Minister of Finance of Senegal

- **ISIS: If a non-state actor becomes a state**, PowerBreakfast Series, October 1, 2015,
  *Speakers:* Stephen Walt, Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government

- **Global Leadership, joint event** with LSE Department of Management, July 2, 2015
  *Speakers:* Michael Maccoby, Marc Stears, University College Oxford; Mari Sako, Saïd Business School; and Stefan Stern, Financial Times
Global Migration

Conferences/workshops

- **Syracusa II Migration Conference: recommendations for the G7**, April 25-26, 2017, Siracusa, Italy. The Italian G7 Sherpa invited the ALUM to provide a non-paper with research-informed specific policy recommendations for the G7 Sherpas’ attention ahead of the G7 Taormina Summit on May 26-27, 2017. *Speakers:* Francesco Aureli of Italy’s G7 Sherpa Unit delivered the keynote speech.

- **Beyond Tolerance: Citizenship, Diversity & Constructive Conflict**, November 25, 2016, LSE

- **ALUM Workshop** hosted by the University of Mannheim, November 2-4, 2016

- **From Migration Crisis to Migration Governance**, student-led UN style conference on Global Migration, with student participation from ALUM universities, May 6-8, 2016, London

Public events

- **Refugees and Economic Migrants: facts, policies and challenges, joint event with CEPR**, November 16, 2016. *Speakers:* Christian Dustmann, (UCL), Giovanni Facchini, University of Nottingham; Francesco Fasani, Queen Mary, University of London; Philippe Legrain, European Institute at LSE

- **LSE in Brussels: Migration - Maintaining Hospitality**, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, July 13, 2016. *Speakers:* Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration, Dominik Hangartner, LSE

- **Migration – the Ins and Outs**, LSE IGA PowerBreakfast Series June 20, 2016. *Speakers:* Peter Sutherland, UN and LSE IGA, Ruben Andersson, Oxford University, and Dominik Hangartner, LSE


- **Migration: Challenge of Our Generation**, December 3, 2015. *Speaker:* Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration and LSE IGA Professor in Practice

- **Climate Change and Migration to Europe**, joint event with the European Institute, the Grantham Institute, the Embassy of France in the UK, and the European Commission, November 18, 2015. *Speakers:* Mary Robinson, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change and former President of Ireland, Alain Le Roy, Secretary General of the European External Action Service, Prof Neil Adger of the University of Exeter

- **Migration - the ultimate challenge for Europe and the world**, October 22, 2015. *Speaker:* Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration and LSE IGA Professor in Practice

- **A Better Life - The Refugee and Migrant Crisis**, joint event with LSE Students' Union Italian Society, October 5, 2015. *Speakers:* Sohrab Ahmari, Wall Street Journal; Rear Admiral Aliperta, Italian Representative to International Maritime Organisation; Pamela DeLargy, Senior Advisor to the UN Special Representative for International Migration; Sanj Srikanthan, International Rescue Committee, UK

Blue Finance

Seminars

- **LSE IGA joint seminar** with the Grantham Research Institute (GR), June 2016

Public events

- **Displacement, Development, and Climate Change: International Organizations Moving Beyond their Mandates**, October 24, 2016. *Speaker:* Dr Nina Hall, lecturer at The Hertie School of Governance
Climate Change and Migration to Europe, November 18, 2015, joint event with the LSE European Institute, LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, the Embassy of France in the United Kingdom, and the European Commission in the UK. Speakers: Mary Robinson, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change and former President of Ireland, Alain Le Roy, Secretary General of the European External Action Service and Prof Neil Adger, University of Exeter

Join us!

You can help support LSE’s aim to lead the world in delivering high-quality, high-impact and multidisciplinary research and policy initiatives on the most critical of global challenges. We will also invite you to guide G-POL in an advisory capacity.

Funding priorities
LSE has provided significant seed money to start building up the G-POL through 2016 and many of our initial projects have partial and even full funding. We now are looking for individuals, corporations and foundations to support our budding venture of policy-focused high quality research and high impact at this critical juncture:

- **Naming the Global Policy Lab**
  Your opportunity to provide a transformative gift that will truly cement the foundations of the Global Policy lab and enable a step change in LSE’s impact through interdisciplinary, international and issue-orientated social science.

- **Driving research innovation**
  Your opportunity to make a powerful investment in path-breaking, world leading research that tackles the most pressing global issues of our times. You enable joint work by global and local researchers under lead scholars.

- **Supporting research networks and exchange programmes**
  Your opportunity to help link up and nurture the next generation of exceptional scholars and policy makers, giving them direct access to real-world settings and issues. You will be placing them on a trajectory to becoming leading lights in the global research and policy arena.

- **Fostering engagement and understanding**
  Your opportunity to vastly increase the reach of the work of the IGA through public events series, weblogs, working papers and training programmes that have the potential to reach LSE’s annual audience of over one million people around world.

Contact us to find out more

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