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The Struggle for the Arab world
If you have some news, an achievement, or an aspect of LSE life that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch via:
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EDITOR’S WELCOME

Welcome to this issue of IR Spotlight. It is a great pleasure to be once again sharing with you the Department’s recent, exciting activities.

We are delighted to report on our continuing improvement of the student experience through the introduction of several new initiatives (page 2). The Department also recently announced the Susan Strange Professorship, and welcomed Michael Mastanduno as the inaugural professor to hold this post (page 3).

This issue of IR Spotlight also highlights our continuing commitment to world leading research. Dr Covadonga Meseguer has been awarded a British Academic Mid-Career Fellowship (page 4), the Centre for International Studies celebrated its 50th anniversary (page 13), and we have seen several publications from a number of our faculty members (page 11).

I would especially like to draw your attention to the Student Spotlight section on page 7, which details the recent travels of two IR students, Benjamin HO and Ben Eastman. We are also delighted to report on a recent workshop delivered by alumna, Madeline McSherry, as well as congratulate Marc Vlessing, on his inclusion in the New Year’s Honours list and receiving Order of the British Empire (page 9).

As we embark on Lent Term, I sincerely hope that this newsletter will continue to help us reconnect with our former students and strengthen the ties between our faculty, students and the many talented alumni who have studied at the LSE over the years.

*Professor Peter Trubowitz*

Head of Department

January 2018
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

IR Department develops new seminar series’

In our continuous endeavour to improve the student experience, the Department of International Relations is thrilled to announce the development of several new initiatives for our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Undergraduate students can now benefit from the development of two new seminar series. “Spheres of Influence” is a bi-weekly seminar open exclusively to undergraduate students in the Department. Each session welcomes an outside speaker currently working in the field of International Relations. Over lunch, the speaker shares their experience and advice in navigating the working world outside of LSE.

So far, we’ve welcomed Professor Michael Mastanduno (Dartmouth College), Professor Lynn Eden (Stanford University), Dr Ayham Kamel (Eurasia Group), and Dr Jacob Parakilas (Chatham House), and Anne Applebaum.

Later this month we look forwarded to welcoming Sir David Geoffrey Manning, a former British diplomat, who was the British Ambassador to the United States from 2003 to 2007.

“Food for Thought” is a separate lunch series, open exclusively to final year undergraduate students. Set within the prestigious Senior Dining Room, students share the opportunity to have lunch with a member of the professoriate, and discuss a set topic. So far, Professor Tomila Lankina enthralled students with a debate on Russia and the Global Information War, Professor Christopher Coker discussed North Korea and Professor Fawaz Gerges captivated students with his current thoughts on the Middle East.

With over 100 attendees and all-round praise, both seminar series have proved to be immensely popular with our students, and we look forward to seeing how they develop in the years to come.

The Department has also introduced a new informal lunch series for our PhD cohort, where students gather once a week to discuss areas of professional development including, publishing, navigating the job market, and building an academic community.

Open to all students in the Department, Lent Term will also see the introduction of “Wednesday Night Live”, a bi-weekly get together to discuss the latest news in International Relations, in the familiar guise of the popular, US Late Night shows.

Altogether, these new extra-curricular activities provide a much-needed platform for students to socially engage, and feel part of an enhanced community. We look forward to continuing with these initiatives, and seeing how they develop over the years to come.

Would you like to connect with our current students, and share your experiences after LSE? Then we’d like to hear from you! Please email s.wise3@lse.ac.uk

Spheres of Influence is fun, relaxing and a great way to network with students and faculty from across the department outdise the classroom...

Kekeli Mensa-Gohoho
BSc International Relations
IR Department introduces the Susan Strange Professorship of International Relations

The IR Department is delighted to announce the Susan Strange Professorship of International Relations – a named Chair in honour of Professor Susan Strange.

Professor Strange (1923-1998) was Britain's most influential scholar of world politics in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Today, she is widely recognised for having put the field of International Political Economy (IPE) on the map in the United Kingdom. A LSE graduate (first class honours in Economics, 1943), Professor Strange spent two decades working as a financial journalist for The Economist and The Observer and a Lecturer at UCL, before returning to the LSE to start up what became one of the most highly regarded IPE programmes in the world.

At LSE, she quickly established herself as a leading voice in the vital debates of the day over financial capital, American power, and state sovereignty. In recognition, the School made her the Montague Burton Professorship of International Relations in 1978, the first woman to hold the Burton Professorship. While she is remembered mostly for her provocative writings and forceful debating style, she was also a devoted teacher, especially at the PhD level. Today, generations of her students are scattered around the globe.

Professor Strange's work was widely recognised on both sides of the Atlantic. Her writings continue to be read and assigned in graduate courses. Her major publications include Casino Capitalism (1986), States and Market (1988), the Retreat of the State (1996), and Mad Money (1998). In recognition of her many contributions to the discipline, Professor Strange was elected President of the International Studies Association (1995-96). After statutory retirement from LSE in 1998, she held chaired appointments at the European University Institute and the University of Warwick.

The Department of International Relations can proudly point to a long list of distinguished scholars who have served on its faculty. However, it is hard to think of any member of the faculty in the past fifty years that had more lasting impact on the discipline than Professor Strange. We are proud to introduce this professorship in her honour.

During Michaelmas Term, the Department of International Relations was delighted to welcome Professor Michael Mastanduno, the Nelson A Rockefeller Professor of Government at Dartmouth College, as the inaugural Susan Strange Professor of International Relations at LSE.

During his time here, Professor Mastanduno undertook a number of activities, including opening the Department's first exclusive, undergraduate seminar series – Spheres of Influence – and discussing US-China relations in the era of Trump at a Public Lecture in November.

It was a privilege having Professor Mastanduno with us, and we hope to welcome him back to LSE in the future. We look forward to hosting the next scholar and continue to celebrate Professor Strange's legacy.
Dr Covadonga Meseguer was awarded a Mid-Career British Academy Fellowship and a Santander Excellence Chair at University Carlos III, Madrid, to study the political consequences of emigration for sending countries, with a focus on new democracies (Mexico and Latin America) and on autocratic regimes.

The project pays special attention to the political consequences of migrants’ remittances and explores in detail the impact of these flows of capital on a variety of political outcomes. Dr Covadonga Meseguer (pictured) is working on several projects under the theme of the political consequences of emigration. First, in collaboration with Dr Sandra Ley (CIDE) and Eduardo Ibarra-Olivo (LSE, PhD candidate), Dr Meseguer is exploring the relationship between crime, migration, and protest against crime following the surge in violence in Mexico (2006–2012).

This project aims (1) to understand the relationship between high rates of crime and emigrants’ decisions to send money home (2) and to analyse whether the remittances that migrants send back home impact the levels of protest against crime at the state and at the municipal level. To explore these issues, Dr Meseguer and her collaborators have assembled a database at the state and municipal level with information on migration dynamics, remittances, violence, self-defense organisations, and protest against crime in Mexico.

In a second project, Dr Meseguer is looking into the political consequences of return migration and the overall consequences of what are called “social remittances”, that is, the transmission of ideas, norms, and values via communication with emigrant relatives. While ongoing research is showing that communication with relatives settled in advanced democratic countries results in the transmission of democratic values, return migration does not appear to have the same effect.

This project is being carried out in collaboration with Dr Christian Ambrosius (Free University of Berlin and UNAM Mexico), with whom Dr Meseguer is analysing a database on voting behaviour and return migration in Mexico to find out whether return migrants help to consolidate democracy in Mexico. Beyond new democracies, the project looks at questions such as why some dictators have open migration policies while others close down to emigration. Do emigration and remittances allow dictators to survive or do they threaten the survival of dictatorships? And what kinds of consequences do remittances have for political behaviour under dictatorship?

In particular, together with Dr Abel Escribà-Folch (UPF) and Dr Joseph Wright (Penn State University), Dr Meseguer is examining the political consequences of remittances in autocracies by exploring how they influence anti-government protest behaviour.

This project shows that remittances increase political protest in non-democracies by augmenting the resources available to potential political opponents. As a result, the project shows that remittances can facilitate transitions to democracy.
**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**CHRISTOPHER HUGHES**

receives 2016-17 LSE Excellence in Education Award

The Department of International Relations would like to congratulate Professor Christopher Hughes on his LSE Excellence in Education Award.

Designed to support the School’s aspiration of creating “a culture where excellence in teaching is valued and rewarded on a level with excellence in research” (LSE Strategy 2020), the Excellence in Education Awards are made, on the recommendations of Heads of Department, to staff who have demonstrated outstanding teaching contribution and educational leadership in their departments.

**JEFFREY CHWIEROTH**

talks banking crises and politics with Chatham House

In the latest installment of the International Affairs podcast series from Chatham House, Ben Horton speaks to two recent authors, including Professor Jeffrey Chwieroth, about their research on the relationship between banking crises and political unrest.

Over 30 minutes, Professor Chwieroth and Professor Andrew Walters (University of Melbourne, previously part of the LSE International Relations faculty) cover Brexit in the UK, the election of Donald Trump in the US and upheaval across the Eurozone, proving the effects of the 2008/09 financial crisis are still being felt around the world.

You can listen to the podcast via: [https://goo.gl/iq7GDo](https://goo.gl/iq7GDo)

**CHRIS ALDEN**

writes for The Conversation

Professor Chris Alden, and Cobus van Staden from the South African Institute of International Affairs, explain why the focus on China’s role in Mugabe’s fall missed the bigger picture.

In their latest article for The Conversation, Professor Alden and Cobus van Staden determine that the narrow interest in whether Beijing actively pushed for Mugabe’s fall is based on the assumption that the China-Africa relationship is an isolated phenomenon. In breaking down conspiracy, both argue that the Zimbabwe situation calls for a broader look at how various Chinese role players act globally.

Read the full article via: [https://goo.gl/2HPiMU](https://goo.gl/2HPiMU)
As part of my PhD study, I had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Hanoi, Vietnam between 13 September and 4 October 2017 to conduct interviews with Vietnamese scholars and policy makers to obtain their insights and views on Vietnam-China relations.

This was made possible through the Patrick Gillam Scholarship fund for fieldwork funding. Among the interviewees I spoke to include personnel from the Vietnamese Ministry of Defence, the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, the Institute of Defence and International Relations, the Vietnam Institute for Development Strategy as well as the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. I also had the opportunity to speak with various NGO groups as well as Vietnam-based journalists thus further enriching my understanding of Sino-Vietnam relations.

Given the long history of Vietnam-China relations, much of the conditions of present-day Vietnam society is intricately linked with developments in China, of which it shares a 1,280km land border with. Many of the respondents I spoke to expressed ambivalence towards China, particularly on the geopolitical front. While China's economic expansion and development provided opportunities for Vietnam to prosper, territorial disputes have also soured Sino-Vietnamese relations of late, thus creating pockets of unhappiness among the general population towards China. Nevertheless, both countries by virtue of their similar political systems meant that it was in their respective interests to maintain a stable relationship so as not to unduly jeopardise their political rule domestically.

I also participated in a conference entitled “100 years of real socialism and the theory of post-capitalist civilization: Commemorating 100 years of the Great Socialist October Revolution” which was held at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) on 26-27 September 2017. The event, which was co-organised by the VASS and the World Advanced Science Research Project, based in Mexico, provided me with the opportunity to understand how scholars from socialist nations perceive the international political system from a different ideological vantage point and their proffering of alternative viewpoints towards international issues. Given my PhD training in the UK, it was rare to attend, let alone present a paper, at a conference entirely dedicated to the promotion of socialist ideas. The conference was useful and help me to appreciate other scholarly insights into both my and other interrelated fields of study.

Finally, the research trip also allowed me to take in some of the historical sights and monuments of Vietnam's rich history. The visits for instance to the Ho Chi Minh museum allowed me to witness the enduring influence Ho Chi Minh had towards Vietnam's nation-building efforts, while the trip to the Military History Museum provided me with a brief, but poignant acquaintance with the numerous conflicts throughout the country's history. Of course, no visit to Vietnam would be complete without a visit to some of the landmark locations of the country, including the UNESCO-acclaimed Halong Bay, Ninh Binh and also Sapa Valley, which included an ascent of the 3,143 metre Mount Fansipan (by cable car, unfortunately). The trip was made possible through the Patrick Gillam Scholarship Fund for fieldwork, awarded by the Department of International Relations, LSE. Scholarly material from the trip will be included in the PhD dissertation as well as published in a journal article that the author is working on.
Ben Eastman attends the US Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference 2017

As a third year IR and history undergraduate student, I had the opportunity to go to the US NAFAC in Annapolis, Maryland in April 2017.

A three-day conference, the theme was "A new era of great power competition?" with reference in particular to the response of the United States to rising powers both today and in the near future. With a variety of speakers and delegates, the conference had a truly global outlook and facilitated the exchange of numerous interesting ideas.

As one of the delegates, I was required to produce a paper from a choice of topic, ultimately settling on the nature of contemporary Russian foreign policy and its implications for the United States. The conference primarily involved roundtable discussion groups for analysis and debate of the positions put forward in these respective delegate papers. Each group benefited from multidisciplinary perspectives, including those of economics, history and politics. It was particularly interesting to hear the views of midshipmen at the Academy, not least because the international tensions, issues and conflicts discussed will likely play a direct and significant role in impacting their futures.

Alongside the roundtable groups, multiple lectures and debates were provided involving decorated military speakers such as General John Allen, former commander of NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, as well as analysts from various American universities, think tanks and military institutions. It was fascinating to hear the insights of these individuals. The conference also provided regular opportunities for socialising with other delegates and nightly trips to the bars of Annapolis enabled the delegates and midshipmen to get to know each other in a more informal and relaxed environment.

I would highly recommend third year IR students to apply to participate in the NAFAC in future years. The content of the conference is stimulating and has clear relevance for IR studies at LSE. Moreover, it offers a great opportunity to make friends and develop contacts with some captivating people.

Report by Ben Eastman

Honourable mention for undergraduate in prestigious essay competition

We are delighted to announce that 2nd Year BSc Politics and International Relations undergraduate Yi Jun Mock received an Honourable Mention in the prestigious 2017 Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy X Foreign Affairs Magazine Undergraduate Essay Competition.

Out of nearly 300 submissions he was selected as 1 of 2 Honourable Mentions.

The essay is entitled "Does populism pose a threat to the international order? Why or why not, and what can be done about it?" and you can read it in full here: https://goo.gl/ZqkUgu

Report by Ben Eastman
IR alumna hosts workshop for IR students

IR alumna, Madeline McSherry, revisited the Department of International Relations in her new role as Founding Editor-in-Chief of Foreign Policy Rising.

Last year, Madeline founded Foreign Policy Rising – a platform dedicated to getting more women writing about international politics. With writing support, mentorship, and the space to showcase ideas, Foreign Policy Rising aims to increase, elevate, and amplify women’s voices in international affairs. In Michaelmas Term, the Department of International Relations was delighted to welcome Madeline back to Houghton Street, to host a workshop on Foreign Affairs Writing.

Open to student in the IR Department, Madeline discussed women in the media, generating ideas, preparing a pitch, and how to tailor academic writing for a web-based platform. The workshop was a resounding success, and inspired many of our young, female students.

On her time at LSE, Madeline adds:

“Though I’ve been working as a writer for years, my MSc at LSE helped give me the confidence and analytical tools I needed to write effectively about international politics. I really enjoyed coming back to LSE to share some advice and encourage students to take the theory they’re learning in the classroom and apply it to current events.”

We would like to thank Madeline for coming back to LSE, and look forward to more collaborations in the future.

Find out more about Foreign Policy Rising: https://foreignpolicyrising.com

Madeline McSherry talks to IR students

I really liked the initiative on encouraging women to write in foreign affairs.

BSc International Relations student

Since graduating with an MSc in International Relations from LSE, Madeline has worked as a freelance writer and researcher, collaborating on projects with the Overseas Development Institute in London, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva, and various international technology companies. Previously, she worked at New America, a non-partisan public policy think tank in the US. She’s an alumna of the US Fulbright Programme and also holds a BA summa cum laude in English from Boston College.
Marc Vlessing receives Order of the British Empire

Congratulations to Marc Vlessing, MSc International Relations 1983, who has received an Order of the British Empire in the 2018 New Year’s Honours for services to Housing Delivery.

Since graduating with an MSc in International Relations in 1983, Marc Vlessing (pictured) started his career as a Corporate Financier with County NatWest in 1984, where he became an Associate Director.

In 1991 he set up Media Finance, and in 1997, became Chief Executive of Crescent Entertainment, which he managed towards a successful sale.

He subsequently became Chief Executive of First Call International. Vlessing has since served as the Non-Executive Chairman and Director of Octopus Eclipse VCT 2 PLC since 2004, and the Chairman of ProVen Growth andIncome VCT PLC since 2010.

Currently, Vlessing is the Founder and CEO of Pocket Living Limited – a property developer with a mission to develop compact apartments for the millions of young, middle-earning Londoners who contribute to their city in so many ways but can’t afford to buy their first home.

This year, Vlessing received an Order of the British Empire in the 2018 New Year’s Honours for services to Housing Delivery. We wish to congratulate Marc Vlessing on this achievement.

Gifts to the IR Department

Alumni play a significant role in LSE life – especially as volunteers within the alumni community and as ambassadors through the lives you lead after graduation. This contribution is recognised and greatly appreciated by the School. By giving back to the School philanthropically, you can also make an investment in the future and help to maintain LSE’s global reputation for excellence.

The LSE Annual Fund, the School’s regular giving programme, is an essential resource that helps LSE to maintain its status as a world class university. The generosity of alumni, parents, governors, staff and friends of LSE enables the Annual Fund to support essential projects and initiatives on campus every year.

You can support the Department of International Relations by stating it as your preference when making your gift. All contributions will be extremely valuable for delivering a range of projects and initiatives which require flexible or additional funding. Find out more and make a gift to support the Department online at: http://goo.gl/yRIUry or by emailing: annualfund@lse.ac.uk
Recent publications

**Soldiers of Empire: Indian and British Armies in WWII**
Tarak Barkawi, Cambridge University Press 2017

How are soldiers made? Why do they fight? Re-imagining the study of armed forces and society, Barkawi examines the imperial and multinational armies that fought in Asia in the Second World War, especially the British Indian army in the Burma campaign. Going beyond conventional narratives, Barkawi studies soldiers in transnational context, from recruitment and training to combat and memory. Drawing on history, sociology and anthropology, the book critiques the “Western way of war” from a postcolonial perspective. Barkawi reconceives soldiers as cosmopolitan, their battles irreducible to the national histories that monopolise them.

This book will appeal to those interested in the Second World War, armed forces and the British Empire, and students and scholars of military sociology and history, South Asian studies and international relations.

**China and Africa: Building Peace and Security Cooperation on the Continent**
Chris Alden, Abiodun Alao, Zhang Chun, Laura Barber (Eds), Palgrave Macmillan 2017

This book investigates the expanding involvement of China in security cooperation in Africa. Drawing on leading and emerging scholars in the field, the volume uses a combination of analytical insights and case studies to unpack the complexity of security challenges confronting China and the continent. It interrogates how security considerations impact upon the growing economic and social links China has developed with African states.

**Global Historical Sociology**
Julian Go and George Lawson (Eds), Cambridge University Press 2017

Bringing together historical sociologists from Sociology and International Relations, this collection lays out the international, transnational, and global dimensions of social change. It reveals the shortcomings of existing scholarship and argues for a deepening of the “third wave” of historical sociology through a concerted treatment of transnational and global dynamics as they unfold in and through time.

The volume combines theoretical interventions with in-depth case studies. Each chapter moves beyond binaries of “internalism” and “externalism”, offering a relational approach to a particular thematic: the rise of the West, the colonial construction of sexuality, the imperial origins of state formation, the global origins of modern economic theory, the international features of revolutionary struggles, and more. By bringing this sensibility to bear on a wide range of issue-areas, the volume lays out the promise of a truly global historical sociology.
Event highlights

Cumberland Lodge

For students and faculty of the Department of International Relations, the last weekend of November is typically marked with a much-anticipated event: the annual Cumberland Lodge Conference. The conference is a special weekend during which IR faculty, guests and Undergraduate, Masters, and MPhil/PhD students gather to engage intellectually in an informal setting. Held in a remarkable former royal residence within the scenic Windsor Great Park, the 2017 conference, held between 24-26 November, centered on the timely theme of populism in the 21st century.

After tackling London’s dense Friday evening traffic to the accompaniment of festive Christmas carols, 88 conference participants were warmly welcomed to Cumberland Lodge with drinks and a hearty dinner. Following a brief history of the Lodge presented by the site’s education officer, Rachel Smillie, the Director of LSE Ideas, Michael Cox, officially opened the conference with a talk on the history of IR at the LSE. Through a lively dialogue, Professor Cox outlined the many path-breaking contributions that have been made to the field of IR by the LSE IR Department, its faculty and its students. Particularly noteworthy individuals and themes that founded and developed both the IR Department and the study of IR at the LSE included a rather multi-talented Olympian, the English School theory of International Relations, and the Millennium: Journal of International Studies. In response to student queries, Professor Peter Trubowitz, Head of the IR Department, joined Professor Cox for an interactive discussion regarding diversification within the IR Department, in relation to both faculty research areas and course offerings.

The second day of the conference commenced with a traditional English breakfast that complemented the beautiful and historic British ambiance of the Lodge. The first session chaired by Dr Milli Lake offered an opportunity for Professor Peter Trubowitz and Dr Jennifer Lind from Dartmouth College to discuss security, stability, and anti-democratic movements in the 21st century. Dr Lind offered her insights into the rise of populist leaders, with specific reference to Donald Trump, and contrasted relevant pre-conditions with the lack of those in Japan. Professor Trubowitz, meanwhile, credited the US moving from the liberal internationalist image combining power and partnership, to that of globalization comprising power over partnership, for the US populist backlash. The second session of the morning, chaired by Professor Trubowitz, invited Dr James Morrison and Professor Chris Brown of the IR Department to debate the descriptive and predictive power of IR in a changing global order. Through an engaging conversation, both faculty members and students explored the role of IR scholars in predicting and explaining global events, as well as challenging global phenomena.

A tasty lunch saw the end of the morning session, followed by a free afternoon that offered an opportunity to explore the remarkable countryside scenery of Windsor Great Park and/or walk to the famous Windsor Castle. Refreshments were later served to reinvigorate the weary minds and energies of the participants prior to the commencement of the late-afternoon session led by PhD students in the IR Department. In a forum chaired by Emma Saint, four PhD candidates – Jackie Majnemer, Adrian Rogstad, Alireza Shams Lahijani, and Nicola Degli-Esposti – discussed the role of populism and populist discourses in their own research. Offering four unique perspectives, the conversation challenged the very concept of populism and reflected the weekend’s theme of the causes and consequences of populism in diverse global settings. Following dinner, the last session of the day comprised a town hall style discussion and debate on populism in the 21st century involving all conference participants. Academic discussions continued into the evening both at the bar over lively evening drinks and a basement party session.

The final day of the 2017 conference commenced over brunch followed by a Matins Service at the Royal Chapel, in which the presence of Her Majesty the Queen delighted and provided an unforgettable memory for all in attendance. A fascinating panel on the future and survival of global governance by the IR Department’s Dr Mathias Koenig-Archibugi and Professor Karen Smith, as well as Dartmouth College Professor Michael Mastanduno, subsequently concluded the conference. The final discussion allowed for both panel and audience members to actively debate the challenges facing global governance in the 21st century with growing populist sentiments and the rise of new powers. Discussions continued over lunch in the beautiful dining rooms of Cumberland Lodge prior to the conclusion of the conference and return of participants to London.

Report by Marnie Howlett and Emma Saint
Centre for International Studies (CIS) celebrated its 50th anniversary on 8th December 2017, with a Roundtable event in which academics and practitioners with connections to the Centre debated the challenges that the world will face over the next 50 years.

Current CIS Director, Dr Kirsten Ainley, opened the event by presenting a historical overview of the Centre, noting that when it was created in 1967, it was the first international studies centre in the UK. A range of LSE departments were involved in its establishment, making the Centre interdisciplinary by nature, a feature that still characterises the institution and that is reflected in the broad range of topics CIS fellows have worked on over the years.

Dr Ainley then continued to present two important upcoming initiatives: the CIS-Cambridge University Press (CUP) book series, and the Fred Halliday Postdoctoral Fellowship. The book series is a much-awaited revival of a long-standing joint venture between the CIS and CUP. The Fred Halliday Postdoctoral Fellowship is a new initiative aimed at raising money to fund a postdoctoral fellowship in honour of Professor Fred Halliday, a pivotal figure at LSE for more than 30 years. Finally, before passing over to Chair-for-the-night, and LSE IDEAS Director, Professor Mick Cox, Dr Ainley presented a book written by Dr Aaron McKeil with the support of former CIS Directors and LSE faculty, recollecting the history of the Centre, The LSE Centre for International Studies. A History: 1967-2017.

The roundtable started with Dr Leslie Vinjamuri, Director of the Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice, and Chair of the IR Speaker Series at SOAS. She talked about the US backlash against liberalism, asking whether it was inevitable and/or consequential. The second speaker of the night was Professor Barry Buzan, Emeritus Montague Burton Chair at the Department of International Relations, LSE. Professor Buzan talked about the global challenges for the next 50 years, as seen by China and emanating from China.

The third speaker was Professor Tomila Lankina, Professor of International Relations at LSE. Professor Lankina compared Russia to China defining the first a predatory autocracy and the second a developmental one. The conversation continued with Professor Lutfey Siddiqi, Visiting Professor-in-Practice at the Centre for International Studies, LSE. Professor Siddiqi talked about the fact that when thinking about global challenges in the next 50 years, we need to consider that we are inside of a tumble drier called the fourth industrial revolution. It is a technology revolution, but its impacts are far reaching.

Last was Professor Julian Go, Professor of Sociology at Boston University, who focused on how we might use history to confront challenges in the next 50 years. Professor Go focused on the link between rising inequality among individuals and rising competition in a multipolar world. Finally, a lively Q&A session took place, with themes of debate revolving around globalisation, i.e. shared problems and faiths, the assumption that the State will exist in 50 years, the hegemony of liberal ideology, and deeper pluralism with the diffusion of wealth, power and cultural authority. And finally, the degree to which agency matters and where concerned political citizens should concentrate their energies in the years ahead.

This post is only a sketch of the rich and provocative arguments put forward at the debate. Watch the video of the event for the full discussion: https://goo.gl/qArSnz

Report by Maddalena Procopio
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Diversifying IR: Gender, Race, and Class
International Relations Roundtable
Wednesday 7 March 2018, 3-5pm
Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building

Speakers: Dr Jennifer Eggert, Dr Kerem Nisancioglu, Professor Patricia Owens, Professor Robbie Shilliam, and Professor Karen Smith

Chair: Dr Claire Gordon

A dynamic conversation about barriers to higher education (including race, class, gender, and sexuality), the difference between decolonising and diversifying curricula, and strategies for developing an inclusive academic environment.

Two Minutes to Midnight: International Relations in the Shadow of Doomsday
Second Annual LSE IR Roundtable
Monday 19 March 2018, 5-6.30pm
Vera Anstey Room, Old Building

Speaker: Dr Malfrid Braut-Hegghammer, Dr Axel Marx, Professor Kathleen R McNamara, and Dr Lauren Wilcox

Chair: Professor Peter Trubowitz

This year’s LSE IR Department Annual Roundtable calls for a coming to terms with the sense of urgency and crisis felt in world affairs, in so many domains.

The Struggle for the Arab World
International Relations Public Lecture
Date: Tuesday 24 April 2018, 6.30-8pm
Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building

Speaker: Professor Fawaz Gerges

Chair: Professor John Sidel

Fawaz Gerges, one of the world’s leading authorities on the Middle East, tells how the clash between pan-Arab nationalism and pan-Islamism has shaped the history of the region from the 1920s to the present.

From time to time there are changes to event details so we strongly recommend that if you plan to attend this event, check the departmental homepage on the day of the event.