WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

- LAUNCH: International Relations Internship Programme
- Undergraduate Programme Review

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RESEARCH

- UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

- Professor Barkawi Wins AHA 2018 Paul Birdsall Prize
- New IR Faculty
- Tristan Naylor G20 Live Tweeting

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

- The Simulation Game: EU Human Rights Diplomacy in the UN
- Millennium Conference

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

- ISA Theory Section Awards
- Regular Giving to the IR Department
- Leslie Vinjamuri on LSE and the Importance of International Relations

PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

- Recent publications
- The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities
- Fred Halliday Lecture
- Susan Strange Lecture (Stephan Haggard)

CONTACT US

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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Welcome to the latest issue of IR Spotlight. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about the Department’s latest exciting news and developments.

We’re pleased to announce the launch of the IR Internship Programme, which supports the Department’s students to work and train during the summer months in non-profit organisations and small businesses. This programme is made possible by the generous support of our IR alumni and is part of our effort to improve the student experience at LSE, outside as well as inside the classroom.

This issue of Spotlight also highlights the global impact of the Department’s faculty. Read an in-depth interview with Dr Milli Lake, who talks about her research on the LSE’s newly-launched Gender, Justice and Security initiative, and find out all our Dr Tristen Naylor’s experience of live Tweeting the G20.

We also put the spotlight in this issue on one of the Department’s alumni, Dr Leslie Vinjamuri. She describes how her background and training in International Relations plays her current role at Chatham House.

As I write, we are gearing up to move to our new home in the Centre Buildings Redevelopment (CBR). You can check out the new building on page two. The CBR will also be home to LSE’s new Alumni Centre.

I hope this glimpse into the Department’s news and developments helps you feel part of LSE, and connected to the ongoing activities of the Department.

Professor Peter Trubowitz
Head of Department
The Department will be moving to the Centre Buildings Redevelopment over the summer months. Look out for lots more information about this in our next edition.
IR Futures is a collection of exciting new initiatives that give students hands-on research and practical experience: supporting their transition from higher education to further study or employment.

The aim is to give students a chance to explore and develop their skills and knowledge in real world situations and, in some cases, to begin building a portfolio of work. These initiatives are made possible by the generosity of our alumni via contributions to the International Relations Regular Giving Fund. Find out more about the fund by visiting lse.ac.uk/regulargiving

Following the successful introduction of the Undergraduate Research Assistantships last year, the Department is delighted to announce the official launch of the International Relations Internship Programme.

The International Relations Internship Programme is run in partnership with LSE Careers and supports students to find and undertake short work placements in a charity, NGO or organisation of their choice. Due to the generosity of our alumni we are able to support 14 students this year.

Look for student feedback about their internship experiences in the next issue.
Undergraduate Programme Review

In 2017/2018, the department underwent an Undergraduate Programme Review. The review was part of a School wide initiative focused on enhancing the educational journey through the BSc International Relations programme. This was a collaborative effort involving staff and students. Each step of the BSc journey is summarised below:

**Year one**
This is a foundation year. It has three aims: first, introducing students to the principal theories, concepts, debates and issues that animate contemporary International Relations; second, providing students with a strong historical foundation that will enable them to deepen and test their understanding of these theories and concepts; and third, providing an opportunity for students to take an outside option, putting IR in conversation with the broader social sciences.

**Year two**
The second year is about breadth. Here, too, students take four papers. Three of them are focused on the Department’s main sub-fields: International Relations theory, foreign policy analysis, international organisations, international security, and international political economy. A fourth paper may be in IR or in a closely related Department such as Government, History, Law, Sociology, and Development.

**Year three**
Year three is about specialisation. Having gained a foundation in the discipline and explored the breadth of the discipline, the final year of the programme gives students the chance to take research-led specialist courses, as well as conduct their own research project.

A key aspect of our third year offer is the opportunity to undertake a structured dissertation programme – students receive a mixture of lectures, seminars, workshops and surgeries that allow them to develop their projects. They also receive specialist supervision from a member of the IR faculty. Currently, roughly half of our BSc students take the dissertation; we expect this number to rise in future years.

By the end of their degree, students will be able to synthesise, critically analyse and defend reasoned arguments about International Relations in both written and verbal form. They will have developed a broad and deep understanding of theories, issues and debates in contemporary International Relations.

Finally, students will be able to assess the relationship between IR and the social sciences, more generally.
UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security hub

The UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security hub aims to accelerate progress towards achieving gender justice and inclusive security in conflict-affected societies by conducting research and engagement at the intersection of three policy agendas – Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 16 on the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions, and the UN Security Council agenda on Women, Peace and Security.

Research in the Hub will be structured under four project streams on Transformation and Empowerment, Livelihood, Land and Rights, Masculinities and Sexualities and Migration and Displacement, plus two cross cutting workstreams on Law and Policy Frameworks and Methodological Innovation. Dr Milli Lake will undertake a project within the Transformation and Empowerment stream with Dr Marie Berry at the University of Denver, on “Women’s Rights After War”. We spoke to Dr Lake about the project.

What are your personal aspirations for the project?

The Women’s Rights After War (WRAW) Project asks three core questions: (1) Who benefits, and why, from postwar gender reforms? (2) How does the implementation of postwar gender reforms shape peace and security and affect social divisions more broadly? And finally, (3) How are differently situated women able to take advantage of the rights and empowerment opportunities presented, and how do they define the terms of their own empowerment? We examine gender reforms across five issue areas: family law; criminal justice; international legal frameworks; economic opportunity programs; and policies and laws to advance political representation.

Through an innovative, multi-stage research design, we plan to explore the conditions under which the implementation of gender egalitarian reforms can advance women’s rights. While doing so, we also examine how such reforms can reinforce existing socio-political cleavages, aggravate conflict-era fissures, and/or be coopted to serve...
politically expedient goals – all processes can ensure that some women gain while others remain sidelined. Moreover, the elevation of women from certain identity backgrounds and the deliberate exclusion and marginalization of others can exacerbate conflict-era fissures, threatening both the quality and sustainability of the postwar peace.

How did you choose your cases?
We selected ten countries of focus that would help us answer our particular research questions pertaining to women’s rights, power and control in the aftermath of war. We began by mapping all of the major reforms related to women’s rights that followed war in all countries that had experienced armed conflict since 1980. Since we are interested in exploring both the drivers but most importantly the effects of postwar gender reforms, we identified cases that adopted minimal reforms (e.g., Lebanon) and excluded them from our analysis.

We also excluded cases which are still experiencing armed conflict and that have subsequently not engaged in many of the reforms that follow war, such as a constitutional re-drafting process (e.g., Myanmar). We then selected ten countries to capture regional variation and varying experiences of post-conflict gender reforms. These include Afghanistan, Bosnia, Colombia, DR Congo, Iraq, Liberia Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. Four of these (Bosnia, Iraq, Nepal, and Uganda) will constitute the sites for our early and in-depth analysis.

It is our hope that this research will directly inform advocacy, policy, and legal efforts directed at securing women’s rights and equality.

We often hear that the voices of experts are being lost in contemporary debates (e.g., the voices of scientists in the climate change debate); how do you hope to make the Hub’s research findings impact the lives of the women living in conflict-affected societies?
It is our hope that this approach will critically advance our understanding of how to further women’s rights and equality in the aftermath of war, which are increasingly understood as vital prerequisites for security and democracy.

Research on women’s empowerment has typically measured it by relying on indicators of women’s representation in formal institutions and spaces (e.g., national legislatures, higher education, the labor force). This scholarship has largely not examined which women benefit, and why, from these reforms, nor has it explored how women’s rights reforms can be strategically instrumentalized for political ends. The political cooptation of women’s empowerment and emancipation is worthy of particular scrutiny where women’s rights are granted selectively against a backdrop of otherwise oppressive or authoritarian practices.

Such unequal impacts of rights-based empowerment efforts can create new forms of social inequality, can widen the gap between policy and practice, and can potentially deepen some women’s oppression.

Using both conventional and participatory qualitative methods, we hope to illuminate how women with different social identities differentially benefit from gender equality interventions, as well as the gap between symbolic (and sometimes substantive) advancements in women’s rights, and the political (rather than structural or socioeconomic) constraints that impede their equitable realization.

In addition to its intellectual and scholarly contributions, our proposed research prioritizes a re-theorizing of
what constitutes “women’s empowerment” by centering the perspectives of women who are ostensibly intended to benefit from postwar gender reforms.

While feminist scholarship has critically explored the limitations of women’s empowerment schemes, arguing that international norms and frameworks promoting women’s inclusion often neglect to fundamentally transform the gendered power relations and institutions that produce women’s marginalization in the first place, existing research typically neglects to examine how women understand the terms of their own empowerment. It is our hope that this research will directly inform advocacy, policy, and legal efforts directed at securing women’s rights and equality.

Over the course of the project, and in order to realize these goals, we develop toolkits for conducting participatory and inclusive research, especially among communities that have experienced violence, marginalization, or are traditionally excluded from de jure rights and opportunities. Such populations can be silenced or made vulnerable by conventional research methods. By including the participants of our research in defining and delineating the terms of the debate, by unveiling the questions that differently situated women consider to be important, and by centering our research participants’ own complex lived experiences in the postwar period, we hope to move towards more nuanced data and ethically sensitive research.

This approach permits us to more fully explore how empowerment programs, policies, and politics affect the day-to-day lives of women from a variety of different identity backgrounds, while allowing us to ensure that our approach supports, rather than undermines, the broader goals of women’s empowerment and gains.

For more information about this project, please visit: www.wrawproject.org and http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2017/06/06/women-and-power-after-war
Professor Barkawi wins AHA 2018 Paul Birdsall Prize

Professor Tarak Barkawi’s 2017 publication, *Soldiers of Empire: Indian and British Armies in World War II* (Cambridge University Press), has been awarded the prestigious 2018 Paul Birdsall Prize. This is awarded biennially by the American Historical Association for the best major book on European military and strategic history since 1870. Described by the panel as “theoretically rich […], lucid and informative”, Professor Barkawi’s publication explores varied aspects of the British Indian Army during the Second World War, including who the troops were, how they were trained, how they performed in conflict situations, as well as the politics surrounding them.

Examined from both a historical and sociological standpoint the text tackles broader issues of empire, the military, and social change and was described by Professor Christopher Dandeker (Military Sociologist, Kings College London) as “sociological military history of the highest quality”.

New IR faculty

The Department has welcomed a number of new faculty members.

**Dr Natalya Naqvi** has joined the department as an Assistant Professor in International Political Economy. Natalya’s research interests are in the areas of international and comparative political economy, with a focus on the role of the state and the financial sector in economic development, as well as the amount of policy space developing countries have to conduct selective industrial policy. Her current project investigates the conditions under which developing countries can exert public control over their financial sectors in order to support structural transformation of the economy, despite the constraints posed by economic globalisation. She is also interested in the role of the public ownership of large firms, and the consequences of privatisation in developing and industrialised economies.

Prior to joining the LSE Natalya held a research fellowship at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, and the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. She holds a PhD from the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge.

**Dr Luca Tardelli** has joined as Assistant Professorial Lecturer in International Relations.
His research focuses on international security, military intervention, and US foreign policy. His research draws primarily on both Realism and Political Sociology to study the practice of military intervention, particularly how elite politics and elite relations shape US decisions to intervene in civil wars and revolutions. Luca has taught various undergraduate and postgraduate courses on International Relations, International Security, American Grand Strategy, and the Middle East both at the LSE and at the University of Westminster. From 2013 to 2018, he was the Course Convener and Tutor of the executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy at LSE.

Prior to joining the Department, Luca worked at the Middle East Division of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, jointly for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), and at LSE IDEAS. Luca holds a PhD in International Relations from LSE. He graduated in International Relations from the University of Bologna (Forlì Campus) and holds a MA in War Studies from King’s College London and a MSc in International Relations from LSE. On joining the Department, Luca says “I first joined the IR Department as an MSc student and then remained to complete my PhD. It is terrific to have the opportunity now to teach the next generation of IR students at LSE”.

Dr Anna Getmansky has joined the Department in the role of Assistant Professor of International Relations. The main focus of Dr Getmansky’s research is understanding the sources, management, and consequences of intrastate and interstate conflicts. In particular, she is interested in the relationship between domestic political institutions and conflict. She has studied these topics cross-nationally, as well as in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Syrian refugee crisis.

Before becoming a member of the Department, Anna taught at the University of Essex, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya in Israel, and Carnegie Mellon University. She holds a PhD in Politics from New York University. She is currently working on a book manuscript that focuses on the question of how technologies that reduce the risk to combatants affect support for conflict at the individual level among citizens, military professionals, and political elites. He has been awarded the Robert Noxon Toppan Prize for best doctoral dissertation in political science at Harvard University, the Gibbs Prize for best undergraduate thesis in politics at the University of Oxford, and the Learner-Rosenthal Prize for Open Social Science from the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences. Before beginning his graduate studies, he worked as an economist at the Bank of England and an editorial writer for the Financial Times. Ranjit says “I’m thrilled to join such a distinguished and diverse group of International Relations scholars at a world-class institution in one of the most vibrant and exciting cities on the planet”.

Dr Ranjit Lall has joined us as Assistant Professor of International Political Economy. His primary research interests are international institutions, global governance, financial regulation, and empirical methods. He received a PhD from the Department of Government at Harvard University and a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (first class) from Merton College, University of Oxford.
I’ve been attending the G20 summits since 2012 and what’s repeatedly struck me is how different these things are on the ground from how they appear on TV. All we typically see is the leaders’ group photo and the summit chamber itself, but this is the tip of a big and fascinating iceberg. There’s so much more going on that’s important and so I wanted to give a “behind the scenes” look at these circuses. Twitter is one way I can show that what the cameras don’t capture at these summits ranges from the sublime to the absolutely ridiculous.

Dr Tristen Naylor is an LSE Fellow in International Relations. Dr Naylor’s work focuses on international summits, with a particular focus on the G7 and G20. His most recent work develops a theory of “International Social Closure”, improving IR’s accounts hierarchy, stratification, and status-seeking. His current research examines performative and theatrical practices at international summits, augmenting the English School’s account of the constitution of international society. Tristen also serves as the Deputy Director of the G20 Research Group in London.

He will be live tweeting again from the G20 in Osaka in June and the G7 in Biarritz in August. (@TristenNaylor)
The Simulation Game: EU Human Rights Diplomacy in the UN

In November 2018, IR students took part in the simulation of a meeting of an EU committee on the UN, to prepare the EU’s position on human rights issues within the UN. The simulation was an activity of the EUNNET programme, an EU-funded network on teaching and research on the EU and the UN. It was run by Professor Karen E. Smith. Students took the roles of different member states and argued their case for the inclusion or exclusion of various clauses from these standpoints.

After taking part, participants highlighted how much this problematised already-contentious issues, such as the explicit mention of Saudi Arabia in the paper, an issue on which each country’s representative espoused divergent views.

Participants also explained that the experience had given them insight into “how much discourse goes into every line [of the policy], and why it took so long to draft each of these documents.” Speaking after the event, Professor Smith noted that ‘the simulation was fun and useful in showing students how complex and difficult intergovernmental negotiations can be’, as one student noted ‘more goes into [negotiations] than you ever imagined”. The department hopes to run this successful event again in 2019.

Millennium Conference

On 27-28 October, Millennium Journal of International Studies hosted its annual conference, convened in 2018 on the theme of “Revolution and Resistance in World Politics.” Featuring an impressive list of invited speakers, the conference sought to foster cross-disciplinary conversations amongst scholars and students from around the world.

Millennium hosted 28 panels, two opening addresses, two roundtables, a debate, and a keynote speech across the weekend, which was attended by over two hundred participants.

Recurrent themes included the role of (non-)violence, scholar-activist identities and ethics, mothering, and revolutionary “success.” This year saw a continuation of Millennium’s travel bursaries for early career researchers and junior scholars to support widening participation. The conference continues to be the journal’s flagship event and a wonderful meeting of minds for critically engaged scholars. It also feeds exclusively into the journal’s annual conference special issue. Millennium is thankful to the school, department, and faculty for their continued support.
ISA Theory Section awards

November 2018 saw three IRD alumni become laureates of the ISA Theory Section of the International Studies Association. Established in 1959, the International Studies Association brings together members representing a broad range of professions and specialisms, to exchange knowledge about and understanding of international, transnational and global affairs. The Theory Section of ISA aims to “encourage and promote theoretical debates in the study of international politics”. Their annual awards programme seeks to highlight the best publications in the field of International Studies over the course of the year.

Best Edited Volume was won by Ilaria Carrozza, Ida Danewid, Evelyn Pauls (Eds.) for Racialized Realities in World Politics (Millennium: Journal of International Studies 45(3), 2017)

Best Pre-PhD Paper Award was awarded to Kerry Goettlich for “Enclosure and Survey Rationality”


Regular giving 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 also giving back to the School philanthropically, you can make an investment in the future and help to maintain LSE’s global reputation for excellence.

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 and friends of LSE enables the School and academic departments to support essential projects and initiatives every year which might not happen otherwise.

You can support the Department of International Relations by stating it as your preference when making your philanthropic gift to the School. All contributions will be extremely valuable in delivering a range of student-focused initiatives. To find out more about making a gift to support the Department please visit lse.ac.uk/regulargiving or by emailing: regulargiving@lse.ac.uk.
Leslie Vinjamuri on LSE and the importance of International Relations

Dr Leslie Vinjamuri in an LSE IR alumna, Reader (Associate Professor) in International Relations and Chair of the International Relations Speaker Series at SOAS, Head of the US and the Americas Programme and Dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs. Here she describes in her own words the importance of an awareness of International Relations in today’s fraught global context.
There are few things more captivating today than International Relations. Speaking and writing in an intelligent and also meaningful way to different audiences is a real challenge and one I am passionate about.

Today, the stakes are especially high. People are very divided about America’s role globally. They are also divided about democracy and any number of economic and cultural values. The same is true in Europe. The future of liberal internationalism has been called into question. For many people this is cause for great concern, but for others it is not only a long time coming, it is a necessary and long overdue adjustment.

International Relations today are marked by a sense of foreboding. This is probably what distinguishes contemporary international relations most dramatically from my time at LSE. When I arrived, the Cold War had barely ended. The world was full of possibility and a sense of imagination and excitement permeated daily life. The promise of democracy had been extended across Europe.

Still, there were signs that the political transitions in East and Central Europe would not follow a linear path and that democratisation had a dark side. In the summer after I finished at LSE, the world woke up to images of starving men in concentration camps in Bosnia. But we still think of the 1990s as an age of human rights, democracy and globalism.

Today, though, the political and social climate in Europe and America is different. Democracy in the United States and Europe is diminished. People are dissatisfied. Politics is defined by internal division more than national unity and this division is fuel for opportunistic leaders. We have become far less than the sum of our parts.

Still, some things remain the same. LSE has always been international and inspirational and this has not changed. It isn’t a place where you go to find your “comfort zone”. For all its diversity, LSE is strikingly homogenous in its passion for politics and, especially, for thinking seriously about international affairs.

At Chatham House, I lead our Academy for Leadership in International Affairs. We are taking the problem of social and economic division in our democracies very seriously and developing new strategies for cultivating leaders, expertise, and also for engaging the next generation.

We are critically aware of the need to widen participation across generations and across socio-economic divides, and to cultivate new constituencies in our work on international affairs. It has become patently obvious to us that that talking, working, and educating ourselves in echo chambers gets in the way of our work. It makes it difficult to ensure the validity of our research findings and inhibits our ability to generate new ideas and remain relevant.

I have been lucky to teach for over a decade in a very diverse and global setting at SOAS and to collaborate with colleagues and students at the LSE in my role as a fellow at LSE IDEAS.

I also found it immensely rewarding to speak to undergraduates in the Spheres of Influence series that is run by the Department of International Relations. London universities and think tanks are well positioned to take on today’s international challenges.

It is in our DNA, as academics and students in some of the world’s most diverse universities to develop knowledge and policy that can tackle real world problems. The Ivory Tower has never really been an option for London’s students and intellectuals.
Recent publications

**The Rise of the Civilizational State**
Christopher Coker

Christopher Coker looks in-depth at two countries that now claim the title of civilizational state: Xi Jinping's China and Vladimir Putin's Russia. He also discusses the Islamic caliphate, a virtual and aspirational civilizational state that is unlikely to fade despite the recent setbacks suffered by Isis. The civilizational state, he contends, is an idea whose time has come.

**Social Closure and International Society: Status Groups from the Family of Civilised Nations to the G20**
Tristen Naylor

Laying the foundations of a theory of "international social closure" this book examines how actors compete for a seat at the table in the management of international society and how that competition stratifies the international domain.

**Gender and bias in the International Relations curriculum: Insights from reading lists**
Kiran Phull, Gokhan Ciflikli and Gustav Meibauer

Following growing academic interest and activism targeting gender bias in university curricula, this article presents the first analysis of female exclusion in a complete International Relations curriculum, across degree levels and disciplinary subfields. Previous empirical research on gender bias in the teaching materials of International Relations has been limited in scope, that is, restricted to PhD curricula, non-random sampling, small sample sizes or predominately US-focused. By contrast, this study uses an original data set of 43 recent syllabi comprising the entire International Relations curriculum at the London School of Economics to investigate the gender gap in the discipline's teaching materials.
Event highlights

The Great Delusion: liberal dreams and international realities

On Thursday 17 January LSE welcomed Professor John Mearsheimer, who delivered a public lecture entitled The Great Delusion: liberal dreams and international realities. Professor Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. He is also the world-renowned author of award-winning titles such as Conventional Deterrence (1983), The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (2001, 2014), The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy (with Stephen M. Walt, 2007), Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics (2011) and, most recently, The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities (2018).

Professor Mearsheimer’s international renown drew a large audience, with the venue being filled to capacity. The lively lecture was testament to Professor Mearsheimer’s distinguished teaching career; he is the recipient of a number of teaching awards and kept the 400-strong audience captured with an incisive exposé of liberalism, as contrasted with nationalism. Drawing on a broad range of case studies, Professor Mearsheimer explained why US foreign policy so often backfires, and what can be done to set it straight. He closed with a discussion of the future of liberal hegemony. An animated question and answer session followed, with Professor Peter Trubowitz acting as Chair. Professor Mearsheimer rounded off the fantastic event by signing copies of his newest book for a very keen audience. A full podcast of the event and the slides used can be found [here](lse.ac.uk/events).
Fred’s family, friends and former students were in attendance to see the lecture, which explored the very concept of revolution, its manifestations and its effects.

The speakers provided a perceptive analysis of revolutions around the globe. Professor Ismail and Dr Lawson offered distinct theoretical approaches considering both how revolutions develop through the acts and choices of individuals as well as global forces and pressures that affect the scale of revolutionary change.

The event also formed part of the “New World (Dis)Orders” series, held in the run up to the LSE Festival, a week-long series of events which took place from 25 February to 2 March 2019, and explored how social science can tackle global issues.

**Susan Strange Lecture (Stephan Haggard)**

Professor Stephan Haggard, Susan Strange Visiting Professor, gave a lecture on Thursday 31 January on the theme of International Liberalism and its Discontents. Professor Haggard’s work focuses on transitions to and from democratic rule and the political economy of economic reform, social policy and globalisation.

His research on the Asia-Pacific region includes extensive work on North Korea with Marcus Noland, including Famine in North Korea: Markets, Aid, and Reform (2007), Witness to Transformation: Refugee Insights into North Korea (2011) and Hard Target: Sanctions, Inducements and the Case of North Korea (2017).

Haggard is the current editor of the Journal of East Asian Studies, maintains the North Korea: Witness to Transformation blog and has a regular column with the Joongang Daily. During his lecture, Professor Haggard discussed the causes of the Western backlash against liberal internationalism and also its global implications.

Providing a strong counterpoint to John Mearsheimer’s lecture earlier in the month, Professor Haggard’s lively defence of Liberalism touched on a wide range of issues. From his position of Chair, Professor Trubowitz underlined the particular significance of the Susan Strange professorship, being LSE’s first named chair after a female scholar.