

# Teaching prizes 2014

A celebration of the winners of this year's Major Review Awards, Class Teacher Awards and the new LSESU Student Led Teaching Excellence Awards

*LSE's Major Review Awards are given to faculty who have made a significant contribution to teaching at the School. We asked this year's winners to tell us about their best teaching experience of the year.*



"My best teaching experience this year was running an informal social psychological experiment in a seminar class. It gave students hands-on experience of the experiments reported in the literature, making the students more critical of the validity of such research. Moreover, the informed discussion about the experiment also changed my plans for future research."

*Alex Gillespie, Department of Social Psychology*

"The highlight of this academic year has been the opportunity to design and teach a new specialised graduate seminar that is directly related to my current research. It has been exciting to analyse and debate new readings, methodologies and thematic issues with a group of 13 informed and intelligent students. By asking them to post short weekly review essays of key readings to Moodle 24 hours before the class, I also found that the students were far more engaged and ready to contribute the minute they walked into the classroom than students in other graduate classes I have taught. There was a real buzz each week to the discussions and time flew by as everyone took part in a dynamic, interactive seminar."

*Tanya Harmer, Department of International History*





"I have come to appreciate that a critical factor in effective teaching is providing a road-map for students, which explains the rationale, story and underlying logic of the material covered. I have also increasingly realised the importance of offering detailed and constructive feedback which pivots around actionable recommendations as to how students can enhance their work in the future. Finally, I think it is important to approach teaching as an on-going learning process, and engage with and learn from the experience of colleagues."

*Carmen Marchiori, Department of Geography and Environment*

"When teaching, I try to cater to all types of students, bearing in mind differences in background and in learning pace. I encourage participation and questions during lectures, and I spend a considerable amount of time after lectures clarifying materials to the least advanced students, or providing advice and guidance to the most advanced. The best experience that I have every year is seeing some of the students, who were initially less advanced, progress and excel over their program."

*Francesco Nava, Department of Economics*



"My best teaching experiences usually occur when I introduce comparative law elements into my lectures or classes. Looking at the way other systems work is not only instructive, but it also stimulates wider discussion about legal and cultural differences. It shows students that in many cases there is not just one way of answering a legal problem, and that there is often no right or wrong answer. The LSE is the perfect place to introduce comparative law in this way as it is such an international institution. It is thrilling to hear what students from so many different parts of the world have to say about their own legal systems and cultures and to hear their comparative observations about English law."

*Solene Rowan, Department of Law*



*This year's LSESU Student Led Teaching Excellence Awards have a new name, new categories and of course new winners. Rosie Coleman, LSESU Education Officer, told us about the changes and the winners*

Every year the LSE Students' Union runs the LSE Teaching Awards. Following our re-affirmed commitment to a student led awards and a successful funding bid from NUS, a number of major changes to the project were made. Students have been involved at every stage; from the introduction of award categories for the first time ever, to setting the criteria and judging the winners.

Up until now LSE Teaching Awards have been reserved for professors, lecturers and class teachers. Yet our students felt that this limited understanding of "teaching" has excluded many staff members who offer crucial guidance and teaching services and who play a major role in shaping the learning experiences of LSE students. The new award categories were chosen therefore to maximize the inclusion of all types of staff and their different teaching roles - from class leader to PhD supervisor, academic adviser, language teacher and departmental administrator, to name but a few!

It also became clear that the vital work done across the institution in offering pastoral support and professional mentoring should be acknowledged. The introduction of the LSESU Award for Excellent Welfare and Pastoral Support and the LSESU Award for Professional Mentoring and Personal Development were very important additions to this year's awards and the heartfelt words submitted by students show the life-changing impact these two roles can have when done exceptionally well.

Students were free to individually nominate any member of staff and did not require signatories to their submission as in previous years. As a result, we had much higher engagement from students across the School and far more personal comments submitted in support of staff. We are delighted with the overwhelming response this year. With 993 individual submissions and over 450 members of staff nominated the competition was steep!

## Award for Sharing Expertise and Knowledge

*demonstrates a broad knowledge and variety in their teaching, facilitates engaging debates and dialogue and takes time to ensure you understand*

**Winner: Martin Anthony**, Department of Mathematics



“The best maths teacher I’ve had, both at my home university in the US and here at LSE.”

Martin has been awarded this teaching prize because students wanted to thank Martin for his enthusiasm, generosity and compassionate approach to teaching complex mathematical concepts. Not only is Martin incredibly knowledgeable, nominations pointed to his ability to share this expertise using clear lectures, excellent additional resources, and a patient and coherent communication technique.

**Highly Commended: Renuka Fernando**, Department of Accounting



“Makes her own personal experiences relevant to issues we face at university and is a caring, understanding and supportive teacher.”

Renuka was one of the most nominated members of staff in this year’s awards. Her personable and charismatic approach to teaching accounting was repeatedly referenced by students. Renuka demonstrates a broad knowledge enhanced by her experience in the commercial field and expertly provides different perspectives to those covered in textbooks.

**Highly Commended: Lourdes Hernández-Martin**, Language Centre



“A truly great teacher and one that LSE should be proud to have.”

Students commended Lourdes on her clear, concise and thorough approach to language teaching. Lourdes’ thorough knowledge and passion for her subject encourages students to look outside grammar textbooks and into the world of cinema, music and books to experience the true culture of the language.

## Award for Collaborative Research and Guidance

*is personally invested in your education, recognises your value as an academic equal and provides you with fantastic guidance*

**Winner: Alexandru Marcoci, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method**



“Alex has been really helpful for the writing of that paper and more generally for deepening my desire to study for a PhD and work in the academic world.”

Alexandru’s commitment to teaching extends above and beyond the expected duty of the GTA role. Identifying talent in his masters’ students, he has worked closely with them to shape and inspire a new generation of academics. One student highlighted his crucial role in encouraging them to submit an academic paper for presentation at a conference, while others thanked him for showing so much respect for the academic prowess of those he teaches.

**Highly Commended: Clare Hemmings, Gender Institute**



“She pushes us as well as supports us. I’ve never seen a teacher balance this better.”

Clare is commended for her genuine and respectful approach to masters’ teaching. Clare provides excellent suggestions and advice, while pushing her students to fulfil their academic potential. Furthermore, students referenced the end of term conference event as a particularly interesting way to develop ideas and skills. She hits the perfect balance of holding students’ hands while letting them excel as young academics in the discipline of gender.

**Highly Commended: Nigel Dodd, Department of Sociology**



“He creates an ideal environment in which we can flourish as young, aspiring academics.”

Nigel goes far beyond class teaching, offering numerous 1-2-1 feedback and advice meetings and informing students about the specifics of the academic network. He provides additional resources and directs students to the latest research, publishing opportunities and suggests various perspectives for students’ individual academic careers.

## Award for Innovative Teaching

*goes beyond the traditional model of teaching, providing exciting perspectives and cutting edge research to your learning and can enhance your learning with technology*

**Winner: Nicholas Long**, Department of Anthropology



“Exciting and captivating dissemination of topic knowledge every week”

Students identified Nicholas’s use of innovative teaching methods as key to their enjoyment and successes in his courses. At the start of each lecture Nicholas plays a song relating to the topic of the week (even lugging in his own speakers every week!) grabbing students’ attention right from the beginning. His Powerpoints packed with vivid imagery and short videos were also praised.

**Highly Commended: Frederick Laker**, Department of International Relations

“I have enjoyed every single class and I truly believe Frederick deserves this award.”

Frederick’s creative approach to structuring a class, characterized by packing many activities into the hour, has enabled students to fully engage with the debates of this comprehensive course. Frederick demonstrates cases through Powerpoints with embedded short videos, highlights definitions, provides essay outlines, and his mini-quizzes are something of legend amongst IR203 students.

**Highly Commended: Nicola Limodio**, Department of Economics



“Employs out of the box methods to make every class different.”

Nicola has a unique and well-structured approach to teaching, always bringing something new to the class in order to make it more interesting. At the start or end of each class, Nicola shows two or three videos, articles or pictures which remind students of the core principles or important context to microeconomics. Additionally, he creates PDFs on his website to clarify problems and improve understanding.



## Award for Excellent Feedback and Communication

*approachable, responsive, provides excellent feedback and is willing to use innovative communication to help you develop and understand*

**Winner: Rosalind Coffey**, Department of International History



"Since joining LSE, Rosie has been the best teacher I have encountered."

The breadth and depth of support provided by Rosalind is truly exceptional. Feedback is provided quickly and in great detail following every formative submission: all comments are delivered in 1-2-1 meetings and Rosalind makes full use of students' Moodle registers. She is extremely approachable and communicates students' strengths and development areas through personal interactions, group work and responsive emails.

**Highly Commended: Diana Popescu**, Department of Government



"I'd like to thank Diana for her hard work and fantastic attitude to teaching."

Diana matches the hard work of her students with timely, detailed and constructive feedback which provides great assistance in understanding course material and preparing for exams. Diana gives two to three times the amount of written feedback her students are used to, providing a separate document with paragraph-by-paragraph analysis and referring explicitly to the strengths and weaknesses of each submission.

**Highly Commended: Stephan Maurer**, Department of Economics



"Stephan is the most responsive teacher I have ever met and always delivers high quality classes."

Stephan is patient, dedicated and thorough. He provides timely feedback to all students on paper and in class, often including his own ideas on many topics covered to help students gain an alternative perspective on the material. He is very flexible with his time and regularly stays back or uses email to address questions unanswered in class.

## Award for Inspirational Teaching

*really charismatic, drives you to learn more, challenges your perceptions and encourages you to apply your knowledge to the wider world*

**Winner: Antoine Paccoud**, Department of Geography and Environment

“Antoine is the most inspiring teacher I have ever had.”



Antoine received by far the most individual nominations of any member of LSE staff nominated. Students submitted more than 3000 words collectively in his support. He is acknowledged for his excellence as a lecturer, teacher and academic adviser and thanked for his dedication to students across a range of teaching functions. Students have immense respect for Antoine’s intelligence and amazement at his ability to rephrase, re-contextualise and reimagine age-old theories to make them accessible for every student.

**Highly Commended: Alice Evans**, Department of Geography and Environment

“As a woman studying at LSE, she is a wonderful female example to me.”



Alice is everything you could ask for in a teacher – sharp, quick-witted and motivational. Her knowledge is limitless and really inspires students to push themselves. She offers new perspectives to every topic and her incredible work ethic means that formative work is marked at an incredible speed and quality. She was commended for her teaching both in the department and on the LSE100 programme.

**Highly Commended: Hakan Seckinelgin**, Department of Social Policy

“What I learned in his class will stay with me for the rest of my life.”



Hakan is commended for teaching with passion and encouraging everyone to engage with deep discussions. By combining knowledge of key course content with practical examples based on his own field experiences, Hakan creates an inspiring class atmosphere, encouraging students to challenge what they have already learned, really caring about the wellbeing of every individual and driving them to further their knowledge of the course and the wider world.



## LSESU Award for Excellent Welfare and Pastoral Support

*really cares about your personal welfare, is a constant point of support and has been able to signpost you to appropriate support services*

**Winner: Alicia Mejia, Department of Management**

“The most amazing person I have met at LSE and in my life so far.”



Many students at LSE will resonate with the experiences of those Alicia has supported. LSE is a challenging place to study, academically and socially, and many students look to their class teachers for pastoral support. Alicia expertly offers that support within an academic context, giving hands-on advice to students on how to achieve academically while also remaining confident in a competitive atmosphere.

**Highly Commended: Sue Haines, Disability and Well-being Service**

“Without Sue, I would not have been able to complete my studies here at LSE.”



Sue is a vital point of contact for many students at LSE, frequently liaising between service providers, university management and national organisations to make students' time at LSE manageable. She is renowned for her no-nonsense approach and working quickly, efficiently and persistently to get answers and outcomes. For the many disabled students at LSE, Sue is one of the most important members of staff at LSE.

**Highly Commended: Richard Perkins, Department of Geography and Environment**

“He really is the unsung hero of LSE.”



Richard is commended as a lecturer, MSc programme director, academic adviser and warden. Many students describe Richard as a “life-line”, empathetic to student issues and always able to give excellent pastoral advice. Students thank him for always considering them as intellectual equals, believing in their potential and providing them with the opportunity to flourish during their time at LSE.

## LSESU Award for Professional Mentoring and Personal Development

*added value beyond the traditional academic reach, helping you to develop professionally and helping you to add value to your skill set*

**Winner: Devika Hovell, Department of Law**



“Everyone has heard of Devika, even outside the department!”

Devika masterfully combines academic rigour with professional mentoring, going above and beyond to make her course content relevant to the wider world and incorporating practical skill training into her classes. Devika frequently invites guests to speak to students, judge mooted competitions or discuss their practice areas after a seminar. Devika has inspired many students to pursue law careers and sharpened the interests of those who had already decided on this path.

**Highly Commended: Helena Ivins, Department of Economic History**

“I have never met someone so committed to the department and the students as Helena.”

Helena is commended for the exceptional amount of time and effort she puts into helping students with career development. Alongside her administrative role in the department, she cares about the progression and success of every student. Students thank her for always informing them of alumni networking events, research internship vacancies, LSE part time jobs or mentoring programmes and potential career opportunities.

**Highly Commended: Matthew Whiting, Department of Government**



“Matthew is the best teacher I have come across, not just at LSE but at any institution.”

Matthew is aware of students’ academic interests (and non-interests!) and takes a genuine interest in each class member’s career goals and aspirations. Matthew recognizes that university is part of a longer journey and is active in helping students move on to the next stage of their professional lives.

## LSESU Award for Exceptional Contribution to Teaching

*is consistently exceptional in all areas of teaching, has been nominated repeatedly in recent years, and valued by a vast number and range of students at LSE*

**Winner: Ulrike Theuekauf**, Department of Government

"I feel very privileged to have had Ulrike as my teacher."



Year after year, students tell LSESU how phenomenal Ulrike's teaching is. This year she received one of the highest number of nominations, and has been commended for her high quality feedback, her inspirational teaching style, and the amount of personal attention she showers on each and every student. She is always on hand to help, and takes time to ensure everyone understands the course content. Passionate, patient and infectiously enthusiastic, she is truly a credit to the School.



STUDENT LED  
**TEACHING  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS**2014

*Class Teacher Awards are nominated by academic departments in recognition of the special contribution made by graduate teaching assistants, teaching fellows and guest teachers to their work*

Department of Accounting

**Chrisoulla Constantinou**

**Renuka Fernando**

Department of Anthropology

**Ana Guttierrez**

**Joanna Whiteley**

Department of Economic History

**Edward Kerby**

**Bernardo Wjuniski**

Department of Economics

**Joshua Bernstein**

**Yi Jie Gwee**

**Andrew Hodge**

**Luis Martinez**

**Mohammad Vesal**

*Runners-up:*

**Florian Blum**

**Albert Blue Perez**

**Thomas Carr**

**Alex Clymo**

**Ana McDowall**

**Clement Minaudier**

**Maria Molina Domene**

**Frank Pisch**

**Rajneesh Verma**

Department of Finance

**Adrien de Boisanger**

**Panagiotis Couzoff**

**John Kuong**

**Kevin Long**

**Milan Martinovic**

Gender Institute

**Amanda Conroy**

**Harriet Gray**

Department of Geography and Environment

**Joel Gill**

**Thomas Smith**

Department of Government

**Inez Feiin von Weitershausen**

**David Jenkins**

**Maria Norris**

**Diana Popescu**

Department of International Development

**Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock**

**Guo Xu**

Department of International History

**Rosalind Coffey**

**Valeska Huber**

**Andrea Mason**

**Robin Mills**

**Elizabeth Shlala**

Department of International Relations

**James Strong**

**Yuan (Joanne) Yao**

**Language Centre**

**Stephanie Beltrando**

Department of Law

**Robert Craig**

**Marie Burton**

**Keina Yoshida**

LSE100

**Zeynep Kaya**

**Diego de Merich**

**Claire O'Donnell**

**Jose Javier Olivas Osuna**

Department of Mathematics

**Ahmad Abu-Khazneh**

**Matthew Jenssen**

**Ioannis Kouletsis**

**Tony Whelan**

Department of Management

**Jonathan Ashong Lamptey**

**Dimitrios Karamanis**

**Karin King**

Department of Media and Communications

**Alex Free**

Department of Methodology

**Lukas Linsi**

Department of Philosophy, Logic and

Scientific Method

**Chris Blunt**

**Andrew Goldfinch**

Department of Social Psychology

**Jenevieve Mannell**

Department of Social Policy

**Joseph Downing**

**Margarita Gelepithis**

**Eleri Jones**

Department of Sociology

**Liene Ozolina-Fitzgerald**

Department of Statistics

**Rafal Baranowski**

**Youyou Zhang**