



# News & views

## Sociology head

Professor Judy Wajcman (right) recently took up the position of head of Sociology Department.

She comes to the department from the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

Formerly a centennial professor at LSE, she has held several international posts, most recently as a visiting professor at London Business School and at Oxford University's Internet Institute.

Elected president (2009-2010) of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Professor Wajcman's current research explores the impact of mobile communication technologies on the management of time and their potential for humanising the workplace.



## Second Big Ideas film

In the second of the Big Ideas series of short films, a collaboration between the School and *The Independent*, Professor Julian Le Grand argues that, despite rocky times in the financial markets, the principle of market competition can still offer solutions to public sector problems. Furthermore, increased competition, because of greater parental choice and an increasing amount of independence for schools, has been good for education.

He says: 'Schools have been given the freedom and opportunity to experiment, innovate and to do their own thing. This can only improve the education standards of the country.'

He goes on to say that the government should pick up the idea of a 'pupil premium' in order to give young people from disadvantaged backgrounds greater access and choice of schools.

Professor Le Grand helped develop choice and competition in NHS health care during his time as senior policy advisor to the Labour government and also advised on choice in education. He counters the

ideas that choice is merely a middle class hobby horse, saying:

'Choice is popular and is particularly popular amongst the least well off. This is understandable because the middle classes usually have a way of manipulating non choice systems.'

'They can deal with bureaucracy and with professionals. They can, for example, negotiate with a GP to go to the best place for treatment or move house to be near the good schools. It's the less well off that don't have these opportunities.'

The film can be downloaded from: [www.lse.ac.uk/resources/videoAndAudio/choice.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/videoAndAudio/choice.htm)



## CCS conference

The *Organising for Social Justice and Poverty Reduction* conference, directed by Jude Howell, Centre for Civil Society (CCS), looked at how non-governmental public actors contribute (or not) to promoting social justice and reducing poverty. This was the final conference in the £5.24 million ESRC-funded Non-governmental Public Action programme, and marked the culmination of five years of international, comparative research.

With 37 projects, covering over 55 countries, and researchers from many UK and international institutions, the event was bound to be rich and diverse. Projects looked not only at NGOs and voluntary sector groups but also at a much wider range of non-governmental actors including co-operatives, trades unions, human rights groups, drugs pricing campaigns, faith-based groups and independent media groups.

The programme was distinct not only for its international focus, but also because it encouraged research and practice across orthodox North/South (developed/developing) boundaries. Moreover the practitioner fellowship scheme fostered significant synergies between researchers and practitioners engaged, for example, in child rights work in Argentina, youth participation work in Brazil, global campaigns run by Oxfam and participatory budgeting initiatives in Manchester and Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Sir Howard Davies opened the event and the morning sessions were chaired by Lord Frank Judd and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (above), author, journalist and columnist for *The Independent* and other newspapers.

The first day finished with a plenary debate on the topic *Does Non-Governmental Public Action Promote or Hinder International Development?*, involving MPs Malcolm Bruce and Daniel Kawczynski, and award winning film maker Sorius Samura, whose film *Addicted to Aid* was recently shown on the BBC's programme *Panorama*.

As well as break-out sessions on global policy processes, agencies of change, faith-based organisations, and violence, security and NGPA, there were also plenaries on influencing global policy processes, persuading the British public to give and the role of celebrities, and cultures of participation in the north and south.

The programme has led to a plethora of publications and outputs, including policy briefs, an NGPA working paper series, a joint seminar series with the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, and a book series with Palgrave Press.

For further information about the programme, publications and future activities, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/ngpa](http://www.lse.ac.uk/ngpa)



## New scholarship



On Monday 26 January, His Excellency Dragan Sutanovac (left), minister of defence, Republic of Serbia, took part in a roundtable discussion on *Security Situation in the Balkans and the Role of Serbia*. The roundtable was hosted by LSE IDEAS.

The event was also an opportunity to announce the co-operation between LSE IDEAS and the Serbian government to support a new scholarship at the School. Selection for the Scholarship will be made by LSE IDEAS and funded by the Serbian government.

LSE IDEAS will be assisting in the establishment of a Strategic Studies Centre in Bgrade and programme of workshops on international affairs, diplomacy and grand strategy will be held in there.

## Academics abroad



**Professor Sylvia Chant** (third from left), Geography and Environment, spent two weekends in Switzerland during the autumn of 2008 giving a

short Masters course on Cities, Poverty and Gender at the University of Fribourg.

Run with her colleague Professor Monica Budowski, chair of Social Work and Social Policy, the course attracted students of social policy, geography, and gender from the Universities of Fribourg and Berne.

Professor Chant and Professor Budowski first met during fieldwork in Costa Rica in the 1990s.

Focusing on themes such as urbanisation and urban policy, rural-urban migration, shelter, health and healthcare, household transitions and livelihoods, informal economy and the 'feminisation of poverty', the course included lectures, small group and plenary discussions, workshops and written assignments, and interpretation of print and visual media.

The course was a great success and Professor Chant will be running it again this autumn.

**At the end of January**, Professor Judy Wajcman, head, Sociology Department, spoke at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris on managers and globalisation.



## Debate

free and unticketed

**Centre for Civil Society (Social Policy) and Mediciens Sans Frontières (MSF)**

**LISA ANN RICHEY, PROFESSOR JOHN STREET AND KRIS TORGESON**  
***Celebrities and Aid: new humanitarians or just another fad?***

*Thursday 5 February, 6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre*  
Why do charities use celebrities to speak out on humanitarian action? Who do celebrities represent?

Lisa Ann Richey is associate professor of international development studies, Roskilde University, Denmark. John Street is professor of politics at the University of East Anglia. Kris Torgeson is the international secretary for the MSF international office.

## Book launch

**Taiwan Research Programme**

**PROFESSOR STEPHAN FEUCHTWANG, DR FANG-LONG SHIH, STUART THOMPSON, AND DR PAUL-FRANÇOIS TREMLETT**

***Re-Writing Culture in Taiwan***

*Tuesday 3 February, 6pm, Wolfson Theatre*

This inter-disciplinary volume reconsiders culture in Taiwan. It has its own distinctive collective voice, providing a point of departure for thinking through cultural issues in general.

Stephan Feuchtwang, Fang-Long Shih, Stuart Thompson and Paul-François Tremlett are members of the LSE Taiwan Research Programme Committee.



## Round table

**LSE IDEAS**

**PROFESSORS MARGOT LIGHT AND MARIE MENDRAS, DR BOBO LO**  
***Russia After Georgia***

*Tuesday 3 February, 6.30, Sheikh Zayed Theatre*  
Russia it seems is drifting away from the west. The west is becoming disenchanted with Russia. Some even talk of a new Cold War between them.

How did we arrive at the current situation, can further problems be avoided and where are the two sides headed?

Bobo Lo is director of the Russia and China programme at the Centre for European Reform. Margot Light is professor emeritus of international relations at LSE. Marie Mendras is LSE-Sciences Po Alliance Professor.

## Public Lecture

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

**School public lecture**

**PROFESSOR CLAY SHIRKY**

***Here Comes Everybody: how change happens when people come together***

*Tuesday 3 February, 6.30, Hong Kong Theatre*

Professor Shirky steers us through the online social explosion and asks what happens when people are given the tools to work together, without needing traditional organisational structures.

Clay Shirky is a professor at New York University's interactive telecommunications programme, and has consulted for organisations including Nokia, Procter and Gamble, the BBC and the US Navy.

**Gender Institute: Gendering the Social Sciences series**

**SPEAKER: PROFESSOR LAUREN BERLANT**

**DISCUSSANT: DR SADIE WEARING**

***After the Good Life, the Impasse: human resources, time out, and***

***the precarious present***

*Wednesday 4 February, 6.30, Hong Kong Theatre*

This lecture draws on two films of Laurent Cantet: *Human Resources* (1999), and *Time Out* (2001) in order to engage the new affective languages of the contemporary economic atmosphere – languages of anxiety, contingency and precarity.

Lauren Berlant is George M Pullman Professor, Department of English, University of Chicago. Sadie Wearing is lecturer in gender theory, culture and media at the Gender Institute.

**School public lecture**

**PROFESSOR DAVID REYNOLDS**

***Obama and the Empire of Liberty***

*Thursday 5 February, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre*

A new president. A new era? David Reynolds will introduce the Obama presidency against the backdrop of America's epic, tangled history.

David Reynolds is professor of international history at Cambridge University and a fellow of the British Academy. His most recent book is *America, Empire of Liberty*.

**LSE European Institute/Sciences Po series, with the support of the French Embassy**

**PROFESSOR OLIVIER DUHAMEL**

***French Bonapartism: good or bad for Europe?***

*Monday 9 February, 6.30pm, Wolfson Theatre*

Is the French political system out of step with the European Union? What does Nicolas Sarkozy's 'hyperpresidentialism' mean for the EU's member states, institutions and modes of governance?

Olivier Duhamel is professor of constitutional law at Sciences Po, Paris, and a former member of the European Parliament.



noticeboard

Lunchtime concert

The lunchtime concert on Thursday 5 February, 1.05, Shaw Library, will be performed by pianist Clélia Iruzun.

Her programme will comprise Beethoven Waldstein Sonata opus 53, Mendelssohn Variations Sérieuses Op.54, Gottchalk Great Fantasia on the Brazilian National Anthem, and Marlos Nobre Ciclo Nordestino No 1.

This renowned Brazilian pianist has given recitals and concerto performances all over Europe, the Americas and Asia. Her latest CD, championing the music of South American composers, has received excellent reviews.



LSE Perspectives

This online gallery features images contributed by students and staff of the School which reflect their experiences, fascinations and artistic sensibilities. The picture below is of a Swiss garden in the snow by Professor Sylvia Chant, Geography.



A new selection of photographs is selected each month by LSE's arts team – January's can be seen at: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE\\_Perspectives/Default.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE_Perspectives/Default.htm).

To submit your photo/photos, please email: [lseperspectives@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lseperspectives@lse.ac.uk) with your name, department, UG/Graduate/staff position, student society (if applicable), title and date of picture(s) and 50 words about how and why you took it. All photos submitted should be saved at 72 dpi. Up to five images can be sent per submission.

For submission rules, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE\\_Perspectives/LSEPerspectivessubmissions.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE_Perspectives/LSEPerspectivessubmissions.htm)

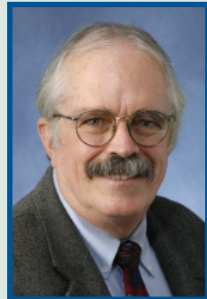
Inform Spring Seminar

Like early Christians, many new religions live in more or less closed communities, often with life styles that differ radically from the rest of society. Inform's spring seminar, *Intentional Communities*, Saturday 23 May, 9.30am-5.30pm, will examine some of the assorted belief systems, and the patterns of behaviour that these may underpin – ranging from strict rules to libertine freedom; from special diets to unusual clothing; and from celibacy to sexual orgies.

Speakers include Professor Timothy Miller (above) and a variety of people with experience of living in religious communities.

Timothy Miller is chair of the Religious Studies Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence. His many publications include *America's Alternative Religions*, and *The Hippies and American Values*.

For further information, call ext 7677, email: [Inform@LSE.ac.uk](mailto:Inform@LSE.ac.uk) or see: [www.Inform.ac](http://www.Inform.ac)



Small ads

**Transcription services:** fast (typing speed 85 wpm), efficient and accurate. Competitive rates. All media accepted. Please email Joyce Lorinstein at: [joyceisobel@btinternet.com](mailto:joyceisobel@btinternet.com)

**To rent:** attractive Chalk Farm flat, close to tube and direct buses to LSE. Living/bedroom, sunny kitchen/diner, shower, separate WC. Fully furnished, well decorated, c/h. £260 p/w includes all bills except phone. Suit couple or single. N/S only. Contact: 020 7482 0158, email: [r.fitzgerald@alumni.lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.fitzgerald@alumni.lse.ac.uk)

Training opportunities at LSE

Academic, personal and professional development courses are available for all LSE staff and students. Courses on offer this month include:

<b>Wednesday 4 February</b> <i>Excel: essential formulas and functions</i> 2pm	<b>For training in:</b> <b>European information</b> , please email Maria Bell at: <a href="mailto:m.bell@lse.ac.uk">m.bell@lse.ac.uk</a>
<b>Friday 6 February</b> <i>FrontPage: creating a personal website</i> 10am	<b>Business information</b> , please email Barbara Humphries at: <a href="mailto:b.humphries@lse.ac.uk">b.humphries@lse.ac.uk</a>
<b>For further details</b> and a full listing of what is available, including booking information, see: <a href="http://www.lse.ac.uk/training">www.lse.ac.uk/training</a>	<b>US Government publications</b> , please email Clive Wilson at: <a href="mailto:clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk">clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk</a>
	<b>UK Government publications</b> , please email Paul Horsler at: <a href="mailto:p.n.horsler@lse.ac.uk">p.n.horsler@lse.ac.uk</a>

More power to your elbow

Evan Munsing hopes to add an American national title to the state record he achieved last October (right) when he competes against collegiate lifters in the USA Powerlifting Raw Collegiate Championships in Scranton, Pennsylvania on 1 February.

Evan, who is a third year International History student studying for a joint BSc in International Relations and History, started weight training at secondary school and became a member of the United States under 16 and under 21 men's field hockey teams, continuing when he went to college.

At LSE, he became the first American to captain a British university men's field hockey team. At the same time he continued weight training, finding that he had to put together his own gym because British college gyms did not have enough free weights for the level he was lifting. The only space he could find was a covered passageway open to the elements on two sides, and he's lifted there ever since, in the best British tradition of the amateur against the elements.

During the summer he worked at a Washington think tank by day and helped at the Georgetown University weight training centre at night because none of the health club gyms in Washington had the

free weights he needed. That discipline allowed him to compete in the State games at his first powerlifting event where he earned a bronze.

Two weeks later, he set a Pennsylvania record for his age class with a lift of 569 pounds.

After the competition, Evan will return to London to finish his last season playing hockey for LSE and hopefully receive his degree. He then hopes to enter a doctoral programme in strategic studies or military history.



Media bites

'The [Malaysian] government should not be too obsessed with budget deficits. It is important to develop policies that can increase the country's competitiveness in order to sustain economic growth and momentum.'

**Danny Quah**, *New Strait Times*, 10/1/09

'Countries that have a huge banking sector and a small currency – a currency that is not a global reserve currency – are vulnerable and at risk of being 'Icelandised.'

**Willem Buiter**, *Interactive Investor*, 16/1/09

'The strategic problem a female faces is how to screen out bad males, and this is where long courtship comes into play.

'A male is assumed to always want to mate with a female, but a good male is more willing to pay the cost of a long courtship to claim the prize of mating.'

**Peter Sozou**, *The Independent*, 17/1/09

'A number of religious groups are paying particular attention to 'current events' as possible 'evidence' of prophecies unfolding.

'It would appear that interest in 2012 as a date of prophetic significance is growing. Some religious groups see the recession as a means of reaching out to people and possibly gaining new members.'

**Inform**, *Daily Star*, 18/1/09

'In the next four years the future of journalism will be decided in this country. With new technology we have a fantastic opportunity to create a richer, more useful and open news media that brings the world to the people of Britain.

'The danger is that commercial collapse, combined with policy complacency, could rob us of that exciting prospect.'

**Charlie Beckett**, *The Independent*, 21/1/09



Library news

**BOOK SALE**

The Library is holding its annual book sale on 3 and 4 February from 9am-5pm each day.

The majority of material on sale will be course books no longer on reading lists. The sale takes place in Room R301 on the 3rd floor and is open to all Library users.

Books are sold at £1 each. The proceeds and any remainders are given to charity. If possible, please bring your own carrier bags for your purchases.



Remembering

On Tuesday 27 January, an inter-faith Holocaust Memorial took place in the Shaw Library. The day marked not only the Shoah, the Jewish holocaust, but has come to include, amongst others, genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia.

Representatives from the various religious societies at LSE read appropriate texts from their respective scriptures and made a brief commentary on them. The School choir sang, there was a two minute silence and there was an act of solidarity and commitment. The Revd Dr Michael Barnes S.J. of Heythrop College gave an address.

The memorial was not an act of worship, but a gathering in which people of all faiths and of none could participate. It was a space for students and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs to be still and to reflect together on both the past, as well as our responsibility to seek understanding and respect in the immediate place we find ourselves.

Volunteer Centre

Are you thinking of doing volunteer work but not sure where to start? Many students find it's a great way to meet new people, to get to know their community and to develop their skills.

Why not visit the Volunteer Centre and find out more. Drop ins are held in the Careers Service every Friday, 2-4pm.

See: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/volunteerCentre/](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/volunteerCentre/) for more information.

Courses

**HANDLING WORRYING STUDENT CASES:**

**PHD PROGRAMMES**

**Wednesday 25 February, 1-2pm**

*Presenters: Simeon Underwood - Kevin Haynes*

This one-hour briefing will cover:

- Likely issues on which students raise complaints or make appeals
- How to handle complaints and appeals swiftly and effectively
- Who to turn to for advice
- How to handle the 'paper trail'

To book, go to: <http://tlcevents.lse.ac.uk>

Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

**Tuesday 3 February**

**1pm.** M101. CsGG seminar. Lada Sadikovic: *The European Convention for Human Rights and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

**1-2.30pm.** H615. CARR seminar. Erik Millstone: *Risk Assessment Policy: a critical innovation for both scientific and democratic legitimacy*.

**5-6.30pm.** Z132. Narrative, Discourse and Representation postgraduate seminar. Siyanda Ndlovu: *Narratives of Blackness: questioning boundaries of time and space*.

**6.30-8pm.** H102. Forum for European Philosophy *Re-Visions: the actor and the audience in the theatre*

seminar. Aoife Monks: *The History of the Actor*.

**Wednesday 4 February**

**5-6.30pm.** D602. Information Risk and Security colloquium. Kieron O'Hara: *The Place of Trust in Information Risk and Security*.

**Thursday 5 February**

**12.30-1.45pm.** U101. CCS seminar. Jan Scholt: *Global Civil Society Forums: voice for the poor?*

**4-5.30pm.** R505. STICERD Economic Theory seminar: Michael Whinston: *Property Rights*.

**Friday 6 February**

**10.30am-12.30pm.** A607. Anthropological Theory

research seminar. Morten Axel Pederson: *Apparently Irrational Optimism: the work of hope in urban Mongolia*.

**4pm.** Hong Kong Theatre. DESTIN Friday lecture. Jonathan Murphy: *Global Managerialism, Multinational Corporations and Development: the search for accountability and alternatives*.

**Monday 9 February**

**4.30-6pm.** S78. LSE London seminar. Andrew Barry-Purssell: *Current Developments in the London Plan*.

**6.30-8pm.** R505. FMG Taxation seminar. Stephen Smith: *Economics and Arithmetic of a 'Green Tax Shift'*.