



# News & Views

## Nanotechnology

A project to study how nanotechnology is being regulated and governed in Asia and Europe has been awarded a grant of \$30,000 by the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN).

Dr Robert Falkner (right), International Relations, and Professor Darryl SL Jarvis, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, will lead a research team examining the impact that economic globalisation and technological diffusion have on regulatory policies in key Asian and European countries.

The project will also consider the need for concerted policy responses to nanotechnology risk and explore the potential for regulatory co-ordination between European and Asian countries in this area.

The GPPN research grant is awarded annually to support collaborative research with a specific focus on policy-making and governance in the context of globalisation. As well as winning the 2008 award, the nanotechnology project will receive extra funding from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

GPPN is a non-profit international partnership of Columbia University in New York, LSE, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and Sciences Po in Paris. It is aimed at fostering globally-oriented education, training and research to address the most pressing public policy challenges of the 21st century. For more information about the GPPN and its activities visit: [www.lse.ac.uk/gppn](http://www.lse.ac.uk/gppn)



## Flexible housing



***The Right to Move: a new housing agenda for social housing tenants*, by Tim Leunig, reader, Economic History, Kate Davies, chief executive, Notting Hill Housing Trust, and Natalie Evans, deputy director, Policy Exchange**

This report advocates giving every social housing tenant the right to require their landlord to sell their current property and replace it with one of the tenant's choice. Tenants would be able to move to get work, cutting unemployment, to be able to take a better job, raising tax revenues, to be near good schools, raising educational standards, or simply

because they do not like their current house and location.

The right to buy was one of the Thatcher government's defining policies, offering new opportunities to many social tenants. The right to move offers opportunities for all social tenants. It could be a defining policy for this decade.

If you would like to download the full report, please go to: [www.policyexchange.org.uk/Publications.aspx?id=775](http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/Publications.aspx?id=775)

## Lakatos Award 2008

This year's Lakatos Award has gone to Richard Healey (University of Arizona), for his book *Gauging What's Real: the conceptual foundations of contemporary gauge theories* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

He will visit LSE to receive the Award and give the Award public lecture during this summer term.

Gauge theories have provided our most successful representations of the fundamental forces of nature. How though do such representations work to tell us what kind of world our gauge theories reveal to us? Professor Healey's book describes the representations provided by gauge theories in both classical and quantum physics. He argues that evidence for classical gauge theories of forces (other than gravity) gives us reason to believe that loops rather than points are the locations of fundamental properties. As well as exploring the prospects of extending this conclusion to the quantum gauge theories of the standard model of elementary

particle physics, the book assesses the difficulties faced by attempts to base such ontological conclusions on the success of these theories.

The Lakatos Award is given for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science, widely interpreted, in the form of a book published in English during the previous five years. It was made possible by a generous endowment from the Latsis Foundation. The Award is in memory of the former LSE professor, Imre Lakatos, and is administered by an international Management Committee organised from the School.

Imre Lakatos lectured at LSE from 1959 until his death in 1974 and latterly held the position of Professor of Logic with special reference to the Philosophy of Mathematics.



## LSE people



Martina Viarengo, research economist at the Centre for Economic Performance, has been selected for the From Harvard Square to the Oval Office: a political campaign practicum programme at Harvard University's

John F Kennedy School of Government.

This is a non-partisan initiative that provides a select group of Harvard members with the training and support they need to ascend in the electoral process at local, state and national levels.

Dr Viarengo holds a PhD in economic history from LSE and is currently postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Education Policy and Governance and fellow of the Women and Public Policy programme, also at Harvard. Her academic research focuses on understanding how to improve access to quality education in order to reduce poverty and inequality, and she plans to run for office in Italy in the future.

## Champion lifter

Evan Musing (right) competed at the US National Collegiate Powerlifting Competition in Scranton, Pennsylvania (see *News&Views* 2 February), where he lifted in the 220 pound raw class (raw meaning no body suit, compression shorts, or other aids that help lifting).

Evan won first place in his weight class as well as the Best Lifter award for lifting the most total weight of all competitors. He totalled 1,410 pounds with a squat of 485, a bench of 297 and a deadlift of 628. Pending National Committee verification, he broke two US national records in the deadlift and total.

Evan lifted a total of 3,393.9 pounds in the competition (three lifts each in the squat, the deadlift, and the bench press), not including warm up lifts which probably totalled at least another 5-6,000 pounds – that amounts to over four tons lifted in one day.

His performance was especially impressive as he was recovering from a pectoral muscle pull. This meant he only had one bench press in the competition, and could only lift 297.6 pounds instead of weights in the 300s as he had been doing before the injury.

Evan has now returned to London to finish his final year at the School.



## Public Lecture

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

### LSE Space for Thought series

PROFESSOR RICHARD H STECKEL

***Keeping Score: new approaches to the standard of living***

Tuesday 10 February, 6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre

Measuring social performance is an important task in the social sciences, and the complexity of the problem has given rise to numerous approaches. This lecture will discuss the use of anthropomorphic measures in this field, and explain the advantages of height as a measure of standard of living.

Professor Steckel is SBS Distinguished Professor of Economics, Anthropology and History at Ohio State University.

### Media and Communications

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR ARUN MAHIZHMAN

DISCUSSANT: CHARLIE BECKETT

***Internet and Its Myriad Ways: an Asian perspective***

Tuesday 10 February, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre

This lecture examines the vastly different impact of new communication technologies in different Asian countries.

Arun Mahizhnan is deputy director of the Singapore thinktank the Institute of Policy Studies, and a visiting professor at the Department of Media and Communications. Charlie Beckett is director of POLIS at LSE.

### Centre for the Study of Global Governance

LAKHDAR BRAHIMI

***Afghanistan and Iraq: good war, bad war?***

Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre

With an extensive career in peace-building, Lakhdar Brahimi reflects on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

Lakhdar Brahimi is former UN ambassador and special adviser to the secretary general on conflict prevention and resolution.

**FT Business/LSE European Institute: *The Future of Europe***

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BARR

RESPONDENT: LORD TURNER OF ECCHINSWELL

***Reforming Pensions in Europe: four policies in search of a politician***

Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre

How can European countries reform pensions so that they keep pensioners and taxpayers happy, follow workers who move from country to country within the EU, and allow workers choice about retirement?

Nicholas Barr is professor of public economics in LSE's European Institute. Lord Turner is chairman of the Financial Services Authority and chairman of the Climate Change Committee and the Overseas Development Institute. He is a visiting professor at LSE.

### Centre for Economic Performance

PROFESSORS JUDY DUNN, AND LORD RICHARD LAYARD

***A Good Childhood: searching for values in a competitive age***

Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm, Old Theatre

Is childhood all it should be? Or has it been spoilt by broken homes, junk food, alcohol and exam stress? The speakers will present the findings of The Good Childhood Inquiry.

Judy Dunn is professor of developmental psychology at King's College London, and was chair of The Good Childhood Inquiry. Richard Layard is director of the Well-being Programme in the LSE Centre for Economic Performance.

### Law: Officers of the Law series

ANDRÁS SAJÓ

***Where to Find European Values?***

Thursday 12 February, 6.30pm, Old Theatre

András Sajó is a judge of the European Court of Human Rights.

### Auguste Comte memorial lecture

PROFESSOR PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS

***European Democracy and the Language Question***

Thursday 12 February, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Is democracy sustainable in a multilingual polity? Or should appropriate institutions make democracy compatible with multilingualism? Which of these views does the experience of the European Union support? Or is the EU irrelevant to this dispute as English fast becomes Europe's lingua franca?

Philippe Van Parijs directs the Hoover Chair in Economic and Social Ethics at the University of Louvain and is visiting professor at the Philosophy Department of Harvard University.

### Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States

ABDULLAH BISHARA

***Political Reform in the Gulf States***

Monday 16 February, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Significant political reform processes are underway in all six member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In this lecture the first secretary-general of the GCC will reflect on their progress and future prospects.

Abdullah Bishara was secretary-general of the GCC from 1981-93



noticeboard

LSE Talent concert



On Thursday 12 February, 1.05, in the Shaw Library, LSE's best musical talent – both students and staff – will perform a varied programme of solos, duos, chamber music and songs.

Interfaith trips

On Wednesday 11 February, there will be an interfaith trip to Regents Park Mosque which will include a free lunch.

On Wednesday 18 February, there will be an interfaith visit to the largest Sikh Temple outside of India in Southall, west London, which will also include a free meal. The coach will leave LSE at 1.10pm and leave Southall to return to the School at 4pm.

Both trips have been sponsored from the pro directors' Discretionary Fund. For more details please email the School Chaplain at: d.peebles@lse.ac.uk

Media fellowships

The British Science Association media fellowships are intended to create a greater awareness and understanding of the workings of the media among practising scientists, social scientists, clinicians and engineers.

Fellowships provide placements working with a journalist from the national press, the broadcast media or the internet. During placements, fellows learn to work within the conditions and constraints of the media to produce accurate and well informed pieces about developments in science.

The scheme's impact extends beyond the summer placement. After their placements fellows are better equipped to communicate their research and expertise to the public and their colleagues. Some go on to do freelancing as an add-on to their normal jobs, others incorporate science communication activities into their academic or professional work in science and engineering.

The media fellowships reflect the British Science Association's commitment to work with the media to build understanding between science and society.

People working at any level in an academic or research institution are eligible to apply. For full application details, see: [www.britishsocietyassociation.org](http://www.britishsocietyassociation.org)

Fellowships are taken up some time during July and October and last for three to seven weeks. Closing date for applications is midnight on Tuesday 10 March.



Forum

The Forum for European Philosophy Provocations will take place on Thursday 19 February, 7-8.30pm, at the Institut Français, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7.

Speaker Rupert Reed will talk on *Gramsci and The Lord of the Rings: optimism and pessimism at a time of crisis*.



Small ads

**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 Rosemary at: 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>Tuesday 10 February</b>		
Access: <i>introduction to database structure and design</i>	10am	<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>Wednesday 11 February</b>		<b>For training in:</b>
Word: <i>essential formatting skills</i>	10am	<b>European information</b> , please email Maria Bell at: <a href="mailto:m.bell@lse.ac.uk">m.bell@lse.ac.uk</a>
<b>Thursday 12 February</b>		<b>Business information</b> , please email Barbara Humphries at: <a href="mailto:b.humphries@lse.ac.uk">b.humphries@lse.ac.uk</a>
HTML: <i>creating basic pages</i>	10am	<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>Friday 13 February</b>		<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>
PowerPoint: <i>images, tables an charts</i>	2pm	

Economists online

The Network of European Economists Online (NEEO) is an EU funded project which addresses the lack of integration of academic output amongst premier European economics institutions (eg LSE, Oxford, Tilburg and Toulouse) through the creation of a freely available research tool called ECONOMISTSONLINE.


It will increase the visibility of economists' research and improve access to it by providing material in a single, cross-searchable portal. The service also features comprehensive individual publication lists with links to as much full text material as possible.

ECONOMISTSONLINE provides access to the recent research results of over 800 leading economists from 20 prestigious academic institutions. It includes journal articles, working papers, book chapters, conference proceedings, theses and datasets. Anecdotal evidence has already shown that the service is providing more open access full text and bibliographic records for participating researchers than any current generic or economics-specific search engines or systems.

Research from LSE staff is already included in the portal from economics as well as research centres.

ECONOMISTSONLINE is available at: [www.economistsonline.org](http://www.economistsonline.org). We would like to encourage people to make full use of this new service and to complete the online questionnaire so their responses can feed back into the final version of the portal.





# Courses

**PHD EXAMINING: IDEAS ON PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE** *Monday 2 March, 2-4pm (staff only)*

The PhD examination process can seem opaque and arcane to those who don't know it well, and vivas in particular can be very tense occasions for examiners just as much as for the student being examined.

This workshop, open to all academic staff involved in arranging and/or taking part in PhD vivas, aims to demystify the process.

The session will provide an opportunity to consider

School procedures, exploring issues around selection, briefing and guidance of examiners, and running the viva meeting itself.

It will include reference to case studies of vivas that have proved problematic at the LSE, with suggestions on how to avoid such situations in the future.

Places can be booked online at: <http://tlcevents.lse.ac.uk>

Call for research project proposals

The Hellenic Observatory invites researchers with a recognised interest in contemporary Greece to submit an application for funding for the following themes: Inflation and Price Rigidities in Greece: causes and characteristics; Assessing the Impact of Privatisation in Greece on the Subsequent Management of the Enterprise(s); The Effect on GDP of the Opening-up of Closed Professions within Greece.

The call has been made possible by funding generously provided by the National Bank of Greece. This new initiative is consistent with the Observatory's mission to promote public policy research and to foster academic collaboration and networks. Grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded for research to be undertaken normally within a period of 12 months.

Applications should be submitted via email by Thursday 30 April to: [Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Hellenicobservatory@lse.ac.uk) with the subject line "HO Call 2009" only. All

Library news

**COURSE BOOK AVAILABILITY EXERCISE**

The Library is undertaking a book availability checking exercise on Thursday 12 February.

This annual event takes place in the Course Collection for one day only.

Course Collection users willing to answer a few questions on that day will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher and the results will be publicised on the Library website in due course.



Black liberation

A small oral history conference on *Southern Africa in the Cold War, Post-1974*, co-hosted by The Southern Africa Initiative at LSE IDEAS and the International Studies Section at Monash South Africa, took place on 30-31 January on the Monash South Africa campus.

The Conference was intended to address the interaction of the domestic dimension of the struggle of black liberation with regional and global affairs and was explicitly designed to discuss documentary data from the liberation era from multiple perspectives.

By presenting documentary material from the white governments and their armies, as well as archival material from liberation forces, it promoted discussion and debate between all parties.



L-r: Drs Anna-Mart van Wyk and Sue Onslow

Symposium

The *British Journal of Industrial Relations* (BJIR) is hosting an international symposium entitled *Government Regulation of Occupations* to be held at the School on 12-13 March.

The event is free but registration is required. Email Sylvia Roesch, at: [jir@lse.ac.uk](mailto:jir@lse.ac.uk) by 25 February.

To see the programme, visit: [www.blackwellpublishing.com/pdf/bjir\\_prog.pdf](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/pdf/bjir_prog.pdf)



Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

<b>Monday 9 February</b>	seminar. Paul Gregg: <i>Realising Potential: a vision for personalised conditionality and support</i> .	History seminar. Joachim Voth: <i>All the King's Silver: debt and default in the age of Philip II</i> .
<b>5.30pm.</b> H615. BHU seminar. Tim Leunig: <i>Post-War Railways: why did we get it so wrong?</i>	<b>5-6.30pm.</b> D602. Information Risk and Security colloquium. Robert Temple: <i>Developing a Security Architecture For One of the World's Top Telcos</i> .	<b>Friday 13 February</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 February</b>	<b>5.30-7pm.</b> T206. Choice Group seminar. Elliott Sober: <i>What is Darwin's Theory?</i>	<b>10.30am-12.30pm.</b> A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. Marcello Sorrentino: <i>Betrayal, Vengeance, Rectification: the Careta ritual and the rise of social inequality in Guaribas</i> .
<b>5-6.30pm.</b> S421. Geography and Environment seminar. Anita Schrader: <i>Promoting Mental Health of Young Children Through Urban Renewal: pulling together the evidence</i> .	<b>Thursday 12 February</b>	<b>4pm.</b> Hong Kong Theatre. DESTIN Friday lecture. Sue Unsworth: <i>Is Politics Just Something That Gets In the Way of Good Policies?</i>
<b>6-7.30pm.</b> J116. Hellenic Observatory research seminar. Manos Matsaganis: <i>Distributional Implications of Tax Evasion in Greece</i> .	<b>12-1.30pm.</b> J116. Europe@LSE seminar. Michael Bruter: <i>Mapping the European Extreme Right</i> .	<b>Monday 16 February</b>
<b>6-8pm.</b> D502. Forum for European Philosophy Book Launch seminar. Richard Bronk: <i>The Romantic Economist: imagination in economics</i> .	<b>12.30-2pm.</b> NAB1.04. Forum for European Philosophy dialogues. Michael Tanner: <i>In Conversation with Sebastian Gardner</i> .	<b>4.30-6pm.</b> S78. LSE London seminar. Jon Rouse: <i>Living on the Edge: the changing face of the outer London boroughs</i> .
<b>Wednesday 11 February</b>	<b>4-6pm.</b> A607. Anthropology of East and Inner Asia seminar. Mette High: <i>The Cultural Logics of Illegality in Mongolia</i> .	
<b>12.45-1pm.</b> R505. Welfare Policy and Analysis	<b>5pm.</b> A379. Modern and Comparative Economic	