



# News & views

## Criminal justice system: a history

Three LSE experts have been appointed to write an official history of the criminal justice system. Professors Paul Rock, David Downes and Tim Newburn will examine the significant changes in the criminal justice system in the 40 years leading up to the late 1990s. The history will also cover criminal justice policies, the courts and penal policy.

Professor Rock said: 'While many governments claim the successes in crime reduction are the result of their policies, in actual fact, nobody quite knows why there have been these peaks and troughs. Interestingly, the public refuses to believe that crime is going down.'

The official history will analyse a number of themes. For example, the transformation in the way policy is made including the shift away from a heavy reliance on official expertise to an increased focus on allaying public fears about crime. This is reflected in the fact that crime has become increasingly politicised as an issue and



has become more important in election campaigns since the 1970s.

Other themes will include 'hybridization' – the fact that criminal justice is no longer just the preserve of official agencies but is delivered as a collaboration between those agencies and non governmental organisations. Globalisation and the importance of, for example, international directives will also be looked at.

The government's official history programme, which is run by the Cabinet Office, is intended to provide authoritative histories on important events in British history and be a reliable source for historians in advance of the records being available in The National Archives. The histories are also meant to be a fund of experience for future government use.

Professor Rock said: 'The fact that three LSE academics have been appointed to write this reflects the strength of criminology at the School organised under the auspices of the Mannheim Centre.'

## Election to Peer Review



Mia Rodriguez-Salgado (left), professor of international history in the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies, has been appointed as an academic member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) Peer Review College.

The AHRC Peer Review College is charged with reviewing proposals to the funding schemes or programmes of the AHRC. Professor Rodríguez-Salgado will also occasionally sit on Peer Review Panels, which make grading and ranking decisions

on proposals to the AHRC.

Over 600 nominations were received this year, a record amount for the Council. Nominations are judged on the criteria that the individual is a researcher with an active track record and held in esteem by their peers.

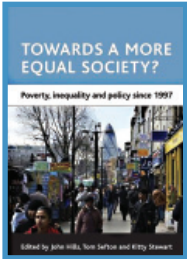
Professor Rodríguez-Salgado's appointment, which began in January this year, will continue for four years.

## Book launch

The book, *Towards a More Equal Society? Poverty, Inequality and Policy since 1997*, edited by John Hills, Tom Sefton and Kitty Stewart, was launched at a Social Exclusion seminar held on 25 February.

The study found that, while there is no simple picture of success or failure in progress towards a more equal society, trends have improved in more policy areas than have worsened, but this has varied between areas and over time.

The editors presented the report's key findings to an audience of around 90. The discussion included Professor Jane Waldfogel of Columbia University who took part via video link, and Matthew Taylor, CE of the Royal Society of Arts.



## LSE people

Dr Alec Morton, OR, Department of Management, was a panellist at the launch of the Council for Science and Technology's report *How Academia and Government Can Work Together*. The event was hosted by the secretary of state for DIUS, John Denham MP, and chaired by Professor Dame Janet Finch, vice-chancellor of Keele University.

The report found that, while academics and policy makers have a healthy level of engagement and goodwill, the relationship needs to be strengthened to ensure informed, evidence-based policy making.

Dr Morton was attending as a former visiting senior fellow at the National Audit Office, on the ESRC's Placement Fellowship scheme. The aims of the scheme are to promote knowledge transfer, use of evidence-based policy, and to create networks and career

development opportunities for the participants. The discussion centred on the benefits of, and barriers to, seconding academics into government departments and other public bodies.

The Council for Science and Technology (CST) is the UK government's top-level independent advisory body on science and technology policy issues. CST's remit is to advise the prime minister and the first ministers of Scotland and Wales on strategic issues that cut across the responsibilities of individual government departments. CST organises its work around five broad themes: research, science and society, education, science and government, and technology innovation.

The report is available at: [www.cst.gov.uk/cst/reports/files/academia-government.pdf](http://www.cst.gov.uk/cst/reports/files/academia-government.pdf)

## Want a des res? Ask the bees

**'Independence and interdependence in collective decision making: an agent-based model of nest-site choice by honeybee swarms', *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, by Professor Christian List, CPNSS, Dr Christian Elsholtz, Royal Holloway University of London, and Professor Thomas Seeley, Cornell University.**

This paper demonstrates how a swarm of honey bees collectively decides on a new home and accurately picks the best one.

The authors show that a swarm's remarkable reliability in picking the best site stems from a sophisticated interplay of individual and collective decision-making amongst the bees.

Scientists already know that when a swarm is looking for a new home a few hundred scout bees fly out to randomly explore potential nest sites. They then come back and perform a 'waggle' dance, with the duration of the dance indicating the quality rating they give to the site. Initially the scouts visit and inspect sites by chance, but once the dancing activity has built up, they are more likely to visit and inspect sites advertised by others.

Eventually dance activity tends to converge and a consensus emerges. Biologists have observed that the bees reliably find a high-quality nest site.

Professor List said: 'The honey bees' decision procedure is remarkably sophisticated. The swarm manages to block and prevent the kind of 'group think' that can bedevil good decision making.

'Humans, for example, demonstrate this kind of bad decision making behaviour when a number of investors, through random accident, buy stock in a company and others rapidly join in with the crowd, thinking that the increased demand for the stock indicates something real. This can result in a market bubble, where the price of the stock goes through the roof for no good reason and often with bad consequences.

'Looking at decision making processes in both humans and animals is very important. The need for collective decision making occurs almost everywhere in complex societies, and a good fundamental understanding of these processes can help design human organisations in ways that encourage good decision making.'

To read the paper, see: <http://publishing.royalsociety.org/index.cfm?page=1898>



## Sociconical project

The Complexity Group and the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) are representing the School on a 14 partner, FP7 integrated project called Sociconical. FP7 is the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme.

The 7.2 million euro, four year project began in February 2009. Sociconical is a socio-technical project that will study how ambient intelligence based environments can support the emergency services in a disaster, through complexity science based models and simulations.

The School is one of the main partners and will lead on the development of guidelines and recommendations to policy makers in the ten member states involved in the project.

On Thursday 19 and Friday 20 February, Maggie Ellis, PSSRU, and Eve Mitleton-Kelly, director of the Complexity Group, attended the launch meeting of the project held in Passau, Germany.

## Panel discussion

**Ralph Miliband: Sustainability, Social Justice, and Global Order series**

**PROFESSOR SIMON CANEY, PROFESSOR PAUL KELLY (RIGHT), AND BARONESS ONORA O'NEILL**  
***Social Justice and Sustainability: arguments from political theory***  
Thursday 19 March, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre



These three distinguished political philosophers examine and discuss how theories of social justice and sustainability can be related to each other.

Simon Caney is professor of political theory and fellow and tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford. Paul Kelly is professor of political theory at LSE. Onora O'Neill chairs the Nuffield Foundation and is professor of philosophy at the University of Cambridge.

## Public Lecture

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

### LSESU Baltic Society

PROFESSOR VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS

#### ***Europe's Growth as a Decline***

Monday 9 March, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre

Growing frustration and the crumbling myth of the welfare state point to a crucial need to consider a new philosophy for life. The lecture will be followed by a Q and A session.

Professor Landsbergis is a world-established Lithuanian conservative politician and MEP and holds honorary degrees from ten universities around the world.

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

THOMAS MIROW

***Will the Rich Man's Crisis Crush the Emerging Economies?***

Tuesday 10 March, 6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre

The crisis originated in the main western financial centres, but emerging markets will pay the price. How steep a price? And what is the responsibility of the rich countries now?

Thomas Mirow is president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

### Montague Burton Chair inaugural lecture

PROFESSOR BARRY BUZAN

#### ***China in International Society: can 'peaceful rise' succeed?***

Tuesday 10 March, 6.30pm, Old Theatre

China has moved closer to international society on regional and global levels. The tide of history will probably favour China's peaceful rise, but the country will need to act to ensure this happens.

Barry Buzan is Montague Burton Professor of

International Relations at LSE and honorary professor at Copenhagen and Jilin Universities.

### Thinking Like a Social Scientist series

PROFESSOR GILAT LEVY

Wednesday 11 March, 1.05pm, U8

In this lunchtime series LSE academics explain the latest thinking on how social scientists work to address the critical problems of the day.

Gilat Levy is professor of economics at LSE.

### Gender Institute: Gendering the Social Sciences

PROFESSOR RATNA KAPUR

#### ***Hecklers to Power? The Waning Tools of Liberal Rights and Challenges to Feminist Activism in South Asia***

Wednesday 11 March, 6.30pm, Hong Kong Theatre  
Professor Kapur examines the specific challenges

that have faced feminist activism in South Asia, and discusses how it might forge a new political direction.

Ratna Kapur is director of the Centre for Feminist Legal Research, New Delhi and fellow of the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

### LSE Space for Thought series

PROFESSOR WOLFGANG STREECK

#### ***Flexible Employment, Stable Society?***

Thursday 12 March, 6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre

How does the de-regulation of employment relate to the evolution of other social structures, in particular the family? And what are the consequences for the role of the state in society?

Wolfgang Streeck is professor of sociology and director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Germany.



noticeboard

Fundraising success

£1,700 for Medical Aid was gathered during a fundraising day held on 12 February. The event was a collaboration between the School, the Students' Union and the LSESU Palestine Society.

LSE Director Howard Davies said of the fundraising: 'It speaks well of the generosity of LSE students and staff.'

Special offers for March

 Working late? Don't fancy cooking at home? Why not enjoy a freshly cooked hot supper in the Fourth Floor Restaurant for as little as £2. A freshly cooked meal with vegetable, potatoes or rice and either soup or hot dessert or fruit for as little as £3.

On the Fourth Floor Cafe Bar, you can enjoy barrista coffee, wine or beer, hot and cold sandwiches and bar snacks. Spend £5 or more on drinks and get free tortilla chips and dip to share.

Serving times 4-7pm for both venues.



Lunchtime concert

On Thursday 12 March, 1.05-2pm, in the Shaw Library, the Heath Quartet will perform Haydn String Quartet in D, Op.76 No 5, and Brahms String Quartet in C minor, Op.51 No 1.

The trio won the 2008 1st, Audience and Youth Jury prizes in the Trump International Music Competition and have performed to critical acclaim in the UK.



CARR conference

The Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR) is hosting a conference on *Close Calls: organisations, near misses, alarms, and early warnings*, to be held on Thursday 26-Friday 27 March.

The conference will explore how organisations of all kinds, particularly regulatory bodies and states, define and deal with errors, near misses and close calls as part of their management and regulation of risk and will address such questions as: Can we improve our capacity to foresee crises and disasters? Can corporations and states get smarter at reading and acting on warning signs? What are the dangers of reacting to every 'weak signal' and whistleblower?



For further information and to register online, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events)

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: [r.fitzgerald@alumni.lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.fitzgerald@alumni.lse.ac.uk)

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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 March</b> <i>Staff IT Training workshop</i> 10am <i>RDP 6: writing an effective research grant proposal</i> (staff) 2pm <i>Endnote: manage your references</i> 3pm	<b>Monday 16 March</b> <i>Access 2003: calculating and presenting data</i> 2pm
<b>Wednesday 11 March</b> <i>Writing Effective Letters and Emails</i> (half-day course) 10am <i>Endnote: manage your references</i> 2pm	<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>Thursday 12 March</b> <i>Excel 2003: essential formulas and functions</i> 10am	<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>Business information</b> , please email Barbara Humphries at: <a href="mailto:b.humphries@lse.ac.uk">b.humphries@lse.ac.uk</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>
<b>Friday 13 March</b> <i>Time Management</i> (one-day course) 9.30am	

Disability equality conference

As part of SU Disability Awareness Week, a photographic exhibition, Alumni with Attitude, set the scene for an in-house conference, held in BOX, on 24 February.



**Alice**

Colleagues from all sections of the School shared information on the parts they play in the LSE experience of students with disabilities. Firstly, they outlined their roles and responsibilities within the whole system. Secondly, they described what measures had been put in place to anticipate the needs of people with disabilities. Thirdly, examples were given of specific 'reasonable adjustments' made to meet the needs of individual students.



**Amrela**

With the help of alumni, friends of the Disability and Well-being Office and current students, examples of good practice were highlighted and areas for possible action flagged up.



**Chandmi**

The improvements made by Estates, over the last ten years in providing greater access around the School were noted and Professor Margaret Bray described a way of using Skype to communicate with a hospitalised student keen to carry on studying.



**Diego**

These and other points made during the day will be published in a conference report before the end of term.

The afternoon programme looked at the work of the Disability and Well-being Office, which has specialist advisers for students with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia and dyspraxia and for those with mental health concerns. The DWO co-ordinates the School's support for students with a wide range of long term illness and disabilities and provides an information point for staff and students.

Alumni who attended the conference (pictured) are re-launching the Alumni Disability Interest Group, to work with the Disability and Well-being Office and to support the School on disability issues. They are planning mentoring and networking schemes to provide ongoing liaison between former and current students, with links to various professions.

By December 2009, the Disability Equality Scheme has to be revised in the light of the progress reports on the last three years' action plan and this event will provide a valuable starting point.

Some of the remarks made by alumni on how the School helped meet their needs:

'While at LSE, a suitable timetable enabled me to have all my teaching concentrated in a few days.'

'Circles worked really well for me – great support from readers and note takers. My tutor and teachers were so helpful in providing material so I could access it.'

'I've studied at Yale, Cambridge and comparable institutions but found LSE most supportive: The personal touch was really important at a time when there were so many uncertainties studying as a dyslexic, older, overseas, ethnic minority student.'



**Priya**



**Sharon**



**Sue**



**Sufam**

Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

**Tuesday 10 March**  
**1pm.** M101. CsGG seminar. Sasa Drezgic: *How Does Public Investment Affect Economic Growth in Croatia?*  
**5-6.30pm.** S421. Geography and Environment seminar. Hyun Bang Shin: *Mega-Events in China: social implications for local residents.*  
**6-7.30pm.** J116. Hellenic Observatory research seminar. Kostas Ifantidis: *Greek-US Security Relations: the limits of influence and partnership.*  
**6.30-8pm.** H102. Forum for European Philosophy *Re-Visions: the actor and the audience in the theatre* seminar. Aoife Monks: *The Actor and Theatricality on the 20th Century Stage.*

**Wednesday 11 March**  
**4.30-6pm.** R505. Social Exclusion seminar. Lorraine Dearden: *When You Are Born Matters: the impact of date of birth on educational outcomes in England.*

**Friday 13 March**  
**5pm.** A379. Modern and Comparative Economic History seminar. Om Prakash: *Indian Merchants in the Indian Ocean Trade in the Early Modern Period: some issues.*  
**5-6.30pm.** D602. Information Risk and Security colloquium. Stephen Bonner: *Information Security Awareness Campaigns: making an impact in the business.*  
**5.30-7pm.** T206. Choice Group seminar. Jacques Duparc: *Logic in Game Theory.*

**Thursday 12 March**  
**12.30-2pm.** J116. Forum for European Philosophy dialogues. Miguel Beistegui and Robert Eaglestone: *Jean François Lyotard's The Post Condition.*

Library news

**COURSE BOOK AVAILABILITY EXERCISE**

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

**Please note:** this exercise was originally scheduled to take place on 12 February and was postponed due to technical problems with the Library Catalogue on that date.

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.

The results will be publicised on the Library website in due course.



Staff briefings

All support staff are invited to attend one of the termly briefings, chaired by Adrian Hall, secretary and director of administration. The briefings this term will take place on Monday 16 March at 11am in the Vera Anstey Room, and on Tuesday 17 March at 3pm in the Shaw Library.

The briefings will cover the following topics: an update on online recruitment; the review of the School's strategic plan; information security; and the School's new wellbeing policy.

We do hope you will be able to attend.

Media bites

'Globally co-ordinated fiscal expansion as opposed to each country going it alone has particular merits in a world of economic integration. While nobody welcomes the human consequences of major events like wars and depressions, it is in the face of tough rather than easy times that many important long-term policy reforms are undertaken.'

**Tim Besley**, *The Telegraph*, 17/2/09

'There's an enduring view in the US that the national economy is a powerful machine that crashes every now and again, but which eventually fixes itself and roars back to the front of the pack. The European leaders proposing... international regulation are generally conservative, not wild-eyed socialists. Still, any effort to come up with international rules applicable to the US usually raises fears about American businesses finding themselves hog-tied as a result – which gets Joe the Plumber types shouting bloody murder.'

**Mark Duckenfield**, *Time*, 23/2/09

'The Canadian banks haven't been in this position of global strength since between the two World Wars. They're very diversified, didn't get heavily involved in the international investment banking industry and they've benefited from good central banking.'

**Charles Goodhart**, *bloomberg.com*, 25/2/09



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