



# News & views

## Research Assessment Exercise

LSE has the highest percentage of world-leading research of any university in the country, topping or coming close to the top of a number of rankings of research excellence in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). It is:

- equal second in the UK when universities are ranked using a grade point average of their research strengths
- first when universities are ranked according to the percentage of their research receiving the top 4\* (world-leading) grade
- fourth when universities are ranked according to the percentage of their research receiving either 4\* or 3\* (internationally excellent) grades.

The School submitted over 90 per cent of eligible staff for assessment. Howard Davies, LSE Director, said, 'I'm thrilled with our strong showing. To be ranked equal second among UK universities, using a grade point average, is impressive testament to the genuinely world-class research that goes on here – and we have the highest percentage of 4\*, or world-leading, research of any UK institution.'

Individual subject areas at LSE also head national tables of excellence, coming top nationally by grade point average in Economics, Law, Social Policy and European Studies, with Anthropology coming second.

'We are a small, specialist university that has delivered outstanding results,' said Professor Sarah Worthington, pro director for Research and External Relations. 'Two-thirds of our staff work in LSE departments ranked in the top five in the country, and 36 per cent work in departments ranked first in the

country. Students choosing to study at LSE know they will be taught by outstanding academics.'

- Economics has come top in the country, whether ranked by grade point average or by the percentage of research receiving the top 4\* grade, with 60 per cent of research activity considered world-leading and a further 35 per cent considered internationally excellent.
- Law also tops national tables, whether ranked by grade point average or by the percentage of research receiving the top 4\* grade, with 45 per cent of its research ranked world-leading and 75 per cent world-leading or internationally excellent.
- Social Policy leads the field nationally, whether ranked by grade point average or by the percentage of research receiving the top 4\* grade, with 50 per cent of its research recognised as world-leading, and 100 per cent ranked at international level.
- Anthropology has the highest percentage of world-leading research of any UK anthropology department (40 per cent), and is also equal first when ranked by grade point average.
- European Studies is first in the country when ranked by grade point average, with 65 per cent of its research judged world-leading or internationally excellent.



## LSE Archives in Parliament

A letter from suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst to James Keir Hardie, who became the first Labour leader, was just one of the items LSE Archives (another two are depicted below) contributed to an exhibition of political archives on show at the Houses of Parliament, 8-12 December.

In the letter, Pankhurst urges Hardie to return to Merthyr Tydfil to campaign for the constituency seat during the 1906 election, fearing his absence from the constituency would cost him the seat and that the suffragettes would lose his crucial supportive voice in Parliament. She wrote: 'We must fight as for life.'



They show how policies developed and, importantly, whether they were successes or failures.'

Sue Donnelly, LSE Archives, said: 'Political archives can tell us a huge amount about the formation and characters of the political parties. They show how policies

LSE Archives is home to the Liberal Party archive and provided a number of items from this for the exhibition including the election addresses of Winston Churchill, Liberal candidate for North West Manchester in 1906, and William Beveridge, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed in 1945.

LSE Archives also supplied the text of the Liberal Party Victory Song, probably composed for the 1945 general election. Despite the anthem the number of Liberal Party MPs fell to 12.

The exhibition, entitled *Turning Points*, focused on the three key 20th century elections of 1906, 1945 and 1979 and was a collaboration between the School, the Bodleian Library Oxford, which holds the Conservative Party archive, and the People's History Museum which holds the Labour Party Archive. It can be seen online at: [www.turningpointsexhibition.info](http://www.turningpointsexhibition.info)



## LSE academic honoured

Maurice Fraser, European Institute, has been presented with France's highest decoration – the Legion d'honneur. The presentation was made by French ambassador HE Maurice Gourdault-Montagne at a special ceremony held at the ambassador's residence in December.

The award was given for Maurice's 'contribution to intellectual understanding between Britain and France', both during his time as special adviser to three successive British foreign secretaries, and during his teaching career at LSE.

Educated at the Lycee Francais in London and LSE, Maurice is vice-chair of the Franco-British Council – the official body responsible for the development of bilateral relations – and a council member and trustee of several European think tanks. He is programme director of the LSE-Sciences Po Double Degree in



L-r: Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Maurice Fraser

European Studies, and director of the European Institute's European public lecture series. He is a regular commentator in the French media.

## New centre launched

The Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation, a collaboration between LSE and Imperial College and funded with an £8 million grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), was launched in December

The new centre will focus on synthetic biology, a field of science involved in modifying DNA for inserting into cells to function as parts in biological machines. These include bacterial cells that behave like time keeping devices in electronics, such as oscillators, and biologically based infection detectors in hospitals.

Professor Nikolas Rose (right), director of LSE's BIOS Centre, points out that consideration of the social issues has been built in to the very conception of this new centre. He said: 'We have developed a highly innovative link between life scientists and social scientists in teaching and research.'

'Crucially, we believe that informed public debate,

with active engagement by the research scientists, is essential if the many benefits of synthetic biology are to be fully realised.'

Initially, researchers at the centre will focus on developing standard systems and specifications to create these parts. This will involve modifying DNA, inserting it into cells, and cataloguing what these cells do. These will then be used to assemble devices for use in a range of applications.

The Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation is part of Imperial's Institute for Systems and Synthetic Biology. It will be physically located within the Faculty of Engineering and will work closely with the Department of Bioengineering.



## Academics abroad

Dr Sappho Xenakis, LSE fellow, International Relations, was invited to give a lecture at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in December.

Drawing in part on her contribution to a three-year research project funded by the European Commission into the relationship between culture and perceptions of corruption, the lecture offered a critical review of the use of culture as a causal factor in international comparative analysis of corruption, and discussed the problematic treatment of the UK as a paradigmatic case of low corruption within such analysis.

On 18-19 December, Sumantra Bose, professor of international and comparative politics, participated in Ideas India 2008, a major gathering of India's political

and professional leaders convened in New Delhi by the Confederation of Indian Industry in collaboration with the Aspen Institute India.

Professor Bose spoke on two of the conference's themes: the challenge of ensuring that India's ever-growing number of politically mobilised identity groups are absorbed into the nation's democratic and developmental paradigm; and the challenge of addressing the problem of corruption in the nation's political system.

Earlier in November, he spoke at Columbia University on *Coping with Self-Determination: Kosovo, Kashmir and beyond*, to an invited audience of Columbia faculty and UN diplomats.



## Public Lecture

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

### Thinking Like a Social Scientist series

PROFESSOR JANET HARTLEY

Wednesday 14 January, 1pm, U8

In this lunchtime series of lectures, a selection of LSE's academics from across the spectrum of the social sciences explain the latest thinking on how social scientists work to address the critical problems of the day.

Janet Hartley is professor of international history and pro-director for teaching and learning at LSE.

### Lionel Robbins Memorial lectures

PROFESSOR PHILIPPE AGHION

#### Designing Policies for Growth

Monday 19, Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 Jan, 6.30pm, Old Theatre

In Monday's lecture Professor Aghion will lay down the framework to think about growth policy design. On Tuesday he will discuss how policies inducing directed technical change can be designed to maximise sustainable growth. Wednesday's lecture will focus on the relationship between market reforms and trust.

Philippe Aghion is Robert C Waggoner Professor of Economics, Harvard.

## Round table

### LSE IDEAS

PROFESSORS MICHAEL COX AND DANNY QUAH

#### Declining Hegemon? The United States and the World of Crisis

Friday 16 January, 4.30-6pm, Old Theatre

How will the world economic crisis impact on the United States? Are we now witnessing the end of the American era?

Michael Cox (below left) is professor of international relations and co-director of IDEAS at LSE. Danny Quah (below right) is head of department and professor of economics at LSE.



## Great Ormond Street's very merry Christmas

In December, the LSE High Holborn Committee raised an amazing £5,700 for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, by organising a Christmas charity boat party. The money was raised from ticket sales, a raffle and generous donations.

Guests were treated to complimentary food and champagne, excellent entertainment as well as a Christmas present. One guest commented: 'This was a fantastic night! I loved every moment of it and I got to see all of London whilst giving money to charity – can't get much better than that!'

The committee is now pioneering a programme with Great Ormond Street to enable all LSE students to volunteer regularly at the hospital. The committee's president Nikhil Adhia said: 'We feel that it is not just about providing a monetary donation, but providing our time and effort to help children in need.'

'I was a patient at this hospital many years ago and effort and time put in by staff and volunteers played a great part in helping me to recover quickly. We want to mirror this.'

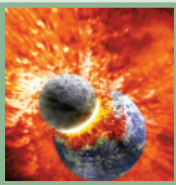




noticeboard

Literary Festival

LSE's first ever Literary Festival, Friday 27 February-Sunday 1 March, will celebrate the completion of the New Academic Building (NAB) with a series of events exploring the interaction between the arts and social sciences. Speakers will include Mohsin Hamid, Nicholas Hytner, Tim Parks, Professor Lord Anthony Giddens, Antony Gormley, Victoria Glendinning, D J Taylor, Michael Holroyd, Martin Rowson, Ben Okri, Iain Sinclair and Jerry White. The weekend's events, to be held in the NAB, will include music and poetry performances and, on Saturday 28 February, an afternoon of events for children. All events are free and open to all, but a ticket will be required. To request a hard copy of the programme please email: events@lse.ac.uk or call ext 6043. Quote 'LSE Literary Weekend' and give your full address.



AUA reception

The Association of University Administrators (AUA) is holding a brief introduction and reception on Thursday 15 January, 5pm, S221. If you would like to hear more about joining the AUA and would enjoy a glass of wine and some nibbles, please come along. Everyone is most welcome. For more information, email: aua@lse.ac.uk

Mumbai podcast

Professor Bose did a podcast interview for the Government Department's Hot Seat series on the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. This ten minute interview discusses the implications of the attack at three levels: within India, for India-Pakistan relations, and for the region, including Afghanistan and Iran. The interview, in mp3 and video formats, can be accessed via: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/government

Lunchtime concert

On Thursday 15 January, 1.05, in the Shaw Library, James Barralet (cello) will perform Bach Suite No 1 in G major BWV 1007, Kodaly Sonata for solo cello and Tagore The Boatman Song (arrangement by Barralet).



Book launch

Dr Michael Braungart will give a speech to mark the launch of his book *Cradle to Cradle: re-making the way we make things* on Tuesday 13 January, 5.30-7pm at Waterstones Bookshop, LSE campus. The event will be followed by a reception.

Governing bodies vacancies

The University of London is calling for university appointees to the positions of trustee and school governor of St Saviour's and St Olave's Girls' School. The school is a Church of England all ability inner city school in Southwark whose governing body is made up of 22 members who meet three times per academic year in October, March and June. The governors of the school's foundation accept either two individuals, one trustee and one governor or, alternatively, one person to undertake both roles. Please state on any application which role you would prefer to be considered for, or if you would be willing to undertake both roles. The deadline for applications is Friday 16 January. For full details, please email Toni Sym at: t.sym@lse.ac.uk who will send a word document by return.

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

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>Monday 12 January</b> <i>Access 2003: calculating and presenting data</i> 10am <i>Moodle: basics training</i> (staff) 2pm	<b>Friday 16 January</b> <i>Moodle: next steps training</i> (staff) 10am
<b>Tuesday 13 January</b> <i>Word 2003: useful features and shortcuts</i> 10am <i>Presenting with PowerPoint: communicating effectively with an audience</i> 10am	<b>Monday 19 January</b> <i>FrontPage 2003: managing your website</i> 2pm
<b>Wednesday 14 January</b> <i>Powerpoint 2003: templates and animation</i> 10am <i>Presenting with Powerpoint: communicating effectively with an audience</i> 10am <i>RDP 3: getting grant funding - the funders' view</i> (staff) 11am	<b>For further details</b> and a full listing of what is available, including booking information, see: <b>www.lse.ac.uk/training</b>
<b>Thursday 15 January</b> <i>HTML: creating basic pages</i> 10am <i>Refresher Recruitment</i> (one-day course) 10am	<b>For training in:</b> <b>European information</b> , please email Maria Bell at: m.bell@lse.ac.uk <b>Business information</b> , please email Barbara Humphries at: b.humphries@lse.ac.uk <b>US Government publications</b> , please email Clive Wilson at: clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk <b>UK Government publications</b> , please email Ken Gibbons at: k.gibbons@lse.ac.uk

Call for papers

Papers and expressions of interest to attend are being sought for the *Close Calls: organizations, near misses, alarms, and early warnings* conference to be held 26-27 March. The conference aims to explore how organisations of all kinds define and deal with errors, near misses and close calls as part of the management and regulation of risk. Near miss analysis is normally associated with high reliability organisations, and specifically safety management in the nuclear, chemical and airline industries. In theory, tolerances are specified and designed into technological infrastructures, and investigations are required when these tolerances are breached. Yet what is the potential reach and applicability of this kind of analysis beyond these specific contexts? For example: how do financial institutions and their regulators develop early warning capacities? What kind of event would constitute a 'near miss' for a food retailer or an energy company? Do organisational and

system-wide management information systems trigger remedial actions at the right time? These questions are of fundamental importance to a somewhat bruised risk management agenda in both public and private organisations. Submissions which explore how organisations and organisational fields process (or ignore) risk events in their broadest sense are invited from scholars of accounting, crisis and contingency management, information systems, political science, psychology, organisation studies, sociology, and regulation. Abstracts or, better still, full papers should be sent to Michael Power, email: m.k.power@lse.ac.uk or John Downer, email: j.r.downer@lse.ac.uk by 1 February For further details, online registration and payment service, go to: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events/ If you have any queries, or prefer to pay by cheque, please email CARR at: regulation@lse.ac.uk



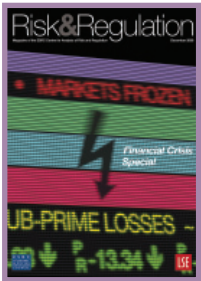
Media bites

There is no way you can decarbonise the aviation industry. That means if we are to make an overall 80% cut in emissions by 2050, some sectors of life will have to reduce their carbon output by 100% to accommodate aviation's increase. That will involve not just turning over our electricity generation to nuclear plants and wind and wave turbines, but making major changes in transport, land use, domestic heating and the insulation of homes across the country. And that assumes that all the improvements promised by the aviation industry, but which have yet to be developed and tested, work as promised. At present, people decide to fly off on holiday if they can afford the cost. Soon they will have to work out if they can afford the carbon as well. **Sam Fankhauser**, *The Guardian*, 21/12/08



Special edition

The financial crisis of 2008 is much more than financial, it is also a crisis of knowledge and ideas that demands a response from the social sciences. This special issue of *Risk & Regulation*, the magazine of the Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR), assembles some early reflections and reactions from CARR staff who draw on their expertise in accounting, law, political science, sociology, science studies and management. A pdf copy of the magazine is available to download at: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/documents/magazine.htm



Library news

OUT OF THE BOX  
NEWS AND COMMENT FROM  
LSE ARCHIVES

*Out of the Box* is the new blog from LSE Archives, covering newly available archive and rare book collections as well as events and exhibitions and behind the scenes views of the wide-ranging of work undertaken.



Recent entries include an exhibition in the Houses of Parliament (see front page), the loan of one of our rare books to the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona and an introduction to the correspondence and diaries of the Liberal and progressive political campaigners Kate and Leonard Courtney whose papers have recently been added to the online Archives Catalogue.



The blog can be found at: http://lib-1.lse.ac.uk/archivesblog/ An RSS feed is available for those who want to keep up to date.

LENT TERM OPENING

The Library is open everyday from 8am to midnight, with staffed services available 9am-8pm, Monday to Friday, and 11am-6pm at weekends. Term time opening hours continue into Easter vacation, with 24 hour opening available during exam time (exact dates of 24 hour opening during exam time will be announced nearer the time).

New visiting chair

The Department of International History and the German Historical Institute, London (GHIL), are pleased to announce the creation of the Gerda Henkel Visiting Professorship – a one-year post from 1 October 2009 – which will be focused in the research area of Germany in Europe, 1945-2000. The post, to be financed through the support of the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the GHIL, and LSE, will provide an outstandingly qualified academic in the area of German contemporary history with the opportunity to develop a major research project during the term of the award. The visiting professor, who will be based at both GHIL and LSE, will teach a seminar on contemporary German history within the School's master's programme and organise an international conference. Anyone interested in further details of the post should consult the International History website, or the GHIL webpage at: www.ghil.ac.uk

Urban growth SA

The Urban Age South America conference, held 3-5 December, brought together 100 leaders in city making to address the key social, spatial and economic issues underlying urban growth in South America. Focusing on the significant structural changes affecting São Paulo, Brazil's largest city and major economic powerhouse (with a growing population of over 19 million it is the 5th largest city in the world) the conference ended a year of research into regional urban trends in South America's five fastest growing cities: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Bogotá and Lima. The event offered a mirror to reflect on global urban issues with the world's leading experts of urban change. The impact of ever-increasing sprawl on energy consumption and pollution, the exponential increase in car ownership and the debilitating effect of uncontrolled growth on basic urban infrastructure were analysed in the context of emerging governance structures, a growing service economy and new forms of political engagement. Keynote speakers included Tony Travers, head of LSE London, and Professor Richard Sennett, Sociology.



Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

**Tuesday 13 January**  
**6-7.30pm.** J116. Hellenic Observatory research seminar. Panayiotis Ioakimides: *Greece and the EU: prospects for Greece's European policy.*

**Wednesday 14 January**  
**3.30-5pm.** NAB 117. OR seminar. Antuelo Tako: *Exploring Model Building in Discrete Event Simulation and System Dynamics Using Verbal Protocol Analysis.*  
**5-6.30pm.** D602. Information Risk and Security colloquium. Alastair MacWillson: *Information Risk Management in the Large Corporation: what next?*

**Thursday 15 January**  
**2pm.** S300. CDAM Discrete and Applicable Mathematics seminar. Andrew Thomason: *2-Colourings of Complete Graphs.*  
**5pm.** A379. Modern and Comparative Economic History seminar. Regina Blaszczyk: *The Business of Style.*

**Monday 19 January 2008**  
**6.30-8pm.** R505. FMG Taxation seminar. Emma Chamberlain and Carl Emerson: *Taxing Wealth and Inheritance: where to from here?*