



News & views

Political award winners

Tony Travers (right), head, LSE London, and Anne Phillips (far right), Professor of Gender Theory, have both been honoured at this year's Political Studies Association (PSA) Awards. Tony Travers won the political studies communications award for his outstanding commentary on the London mayoral election, while Professor Phillips was given a special recognition award for her groundbreaking work in multicultural and gender politics.



This year's results were derived from nominations received by the PSA's 1750 politics professors, lecturers and researchers, with the final decisions being made by a seven person judging panel.

In making the awards, the judges noted:

'Tony Travers is one of the leading authorities on central-local relations, political decentralisation and local government. Academic distinction has been complemented by a major input to British

political life through his advice to national government and contribution to good governance in London. The award for political communication is merited due to the way in which academic knowledge, perceptive judgement and first-rate broadcasting skills were married in a series of shrewd and incisive judgements and commentaries on the London mayoral election.'

'Professor Anne Phillips is the most important figure in feminist political theory, evidenced by a range of important publications. From Hidden Hands: women and economic policies in 1983 to more recent publications such as Which Equalities Matter? and Multiculturalism without Culture, Anne Phillips has offered cogent challenges to existing assumptions in respect of liberal democracy, sexual equality and cultural status. The quality of her academic contributions has impacted upon debates within British political life and well beyond.'



Praise for LSE catering

Catering staff in the Directors Dining Room (DDR) received well deserved praise recently after Mary McAleese (right), president of Ireland, congratulated them on their excellent service.



The president, who was visiting LSE to give a public lecture on Wednesday 19 November, was so happy with the service she and her guests received during the post-lecture dinner reception, that her husband, Dr Martin McAleese, found and collected senior staff dining room manager, Joe Borg (below left), so that the guests could thank him personally for the excellent service.



Witnesses say that the sound of the dinner guests chanting Joe's name made both the Irish and British security staff jump from their seats.

Joe Borg said: 'It is nice to get praised, especially by some one in that position. We do these functions day in day out and all the staff do their best in order to give an excellent service to all.'

During her visit to the School, Mary McAleese gave a public lecture entitled *Ireland and Britain: old narratives and new*. Following the lecture, she and her guests were treated to a reception and dinner in the DDR.

The guests dined on a starter of leek and roquefort tart with salad leaves and walnut dressing, followed by mediterranean fillet of cod with a sun dried tomato and tarragon crust on braised fennel, and a desert of lemon crème brûlée with raspberries.

Joining the president and her husband were guests including Peter Sutherland, court of governors chair; Sarah Worthington, pro-director; Dr William Kissane and Professor James Hughes, Government; Professor Damian Chalmers, head of the European Institute; and Professor Conor Gearty, director for the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

'The service was quite usual by LSE standards, in other words obviously exceptional, and the president with her usual insight saw this and was kind enough to mention it,' said Professor Gearty.

After hearing about the president's praises for the excellent service the catering team had provided, Adrian Hall, secretary and director of administration, said: 'I am delighted that Joe and the catering team have enhanced LSE's reputation in this way – they know that we are all ambassadors for the School.'

Director visits ICEF in Moscow

On 17 November LSE Director Howard Davies visited the International College of Economics and Finance (ICEF) in Moscow. ICEF was established in 1997 as a joint venture between LSE and the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, with LSE sharing responsibility for academic management and the appointment of teachers. The college teaches degree programmes in economics, finance, banking and management leading to both Russian and University of London external degrees. Last year it launched its own MSc programme.

During his visit to the College, Howard met with the ICEF directors and led an MSc seminar on The Future of International Financial Regulation which was attended by the College's 35 MSc students. He also gave a public lecture to 800 people on 'The Credit Crunch and its Consequences'. In the evening, LSE and ICEF alumni were able to network at a reception generously hosted by the British

Embassy, where they were welcomed by deputy chief of mission Dr Laurie Bristow.

The School has played a critical role in the success of the college. This year 24 out of the 79 graduating students achieved first class honours in their University of London final exams.

Eight ICEF students commenced MSc programmes at the School at the beginning of this term.

For more information about ICEF, see: www.hse.ru/icef/en/ or contact Claire Gordon at: lse.icef@lse.ac.uk



Research at the School

'The Fiction of Development: literary representation as a source of authoritative knowledge' by David Lewis, Dennis Rodgers and Michael Woolcock, *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2

This paper introduces and explores issues regarding the question of what constitute valid forms of development knowledge, focusing in particular on the relationship between fictional writing on development and more formal academic and policy-oriented representations of development issues.

The authors challenge certain conventional notions about the nature of knowledge, narrative authority and representational form. They explore these by comparing and contrasting selected works of recent literary fiction that touch on development issues with academic and policy related representations of the development

process. In this way, they demonstrate the value of taking literary perspectives on development seriously.

It was found that, not only are certain works of fiction 'better' than academic or policy research in representing central issues relating to development, but they also frequently reach a wider audience and are therefore more influential. Moreover, the line between fact and fiction is a very fine one, and there can be significant advantages to fictional writing over non-fiction.

The paper also provides an appendix of relevant works of fiction which are hoped to be useful and enjoyable to both academics and practitioners. To read the original paper, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/DESTIN/pdf/WP61.pdf



Round table

LSE IDEAS: China

PROFESSORS CHRIS HUGHES, ATHAR HUSSAIN, AND CHEN JIAN, AND MARTIN JACQUES, AND MARK LEONARD

China After the Olympics

Tuesday 2 December, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

Sport and politics were closely intertwined at the Beijing Olympics. How has this impacted China? Has it improved or worsened China's world image? And how will it effect its future relations with the West?

Chris Hughes is senior lecturer in the International Relations Department. Athar Hussain is director of the Asia Research Centre. Chen Jian is the Philippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs, LSE. Martin Jacques is a visiting research fellow in the Asia Research Centre, LSE. Mark Leonard is the executive director of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Public Lecture

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

School and LSESU Italian Society public lecture

ALESSANDRO PROFUMO

The Role of Banks in a Globalised Economy: balancing innovation and stability

Wednesday 3 December, 5.30-6.30pm, Old Theatre

Banks are called upon to play a primary role, in cooperation with policymakers and regulators, in the quest for better levels of financial stability for the system as a whole. The real economy's needs must be central to the bank's characteristic function.

Alessandro Profumo has been the chief executive officer of UniCredit Group since it was founded in 1997. He is also on the board of many international bodies.

Confucius Institute for Business London

LI RONG ZHANG

Thirty Years of China's Reform: opening-up and looking forward

Wednesday 3 December, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Li Rong Zhang is the minister-counsellor and deputy head of mission of the Chinese Embassy in the UK.

LSESU Serbian society

DIJANA DRAGUTINOVIC AND RADOVAN JELASIC

East Europe and its Implications for Serbia

The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on South Thursday 4 December, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre

Dijana Dragutinovic is finance minister, Republic of Serbia. Radovan Jelasic is governor of the National Bank of Serbia.

LSE Arts Revolution Time

PAUL LOWE

The New Photojournalism and Revolution: Susan Meiselas in Nicaragua and Gilles Peress in Iran

Thursday 4 December, 7pm, Shaw Library

Paul Lowe is a senior lecturer in Photography at the University of the Arts London, and an award-winning photographer living and working between Sarajevo and London.



His work is represented by Panos Pictures, and has appeared in such publications as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *The Observer* and *The Independent*. He has covered breaking news the world over, including the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nelson Mandela's release, the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and the destruction of Grozny.

Since 2004, Paul has been the course leader of the master's programme in photojournalism and documentary photography at the London College of Communication. His book, *Bosnians, documenting 10 years of the war and post war situation in Bosnia*, was published in April 2005

Debate

free and unticketed

Centre for the Study of Human Rights

SHAMI CHAKRABARTI, JONATHAN COOPER, PROFESSOR CONOR GEARTY, BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY QC, PROFESSOR FRANCESCA KLUG, PROFESSOR PETER TOWNSEND

The Right of Rights 1948-2008

Thursday 4 December, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this fun yet challenging event will ask which is the greatest right.

Shami Chakrabarti is director of Liberty and an LSE governor. Jonathan Cooper, OBE, is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers and editor of the *European Human Rights Law Review*. Conor Gearty is Professor of Human Rights Law and director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, LSE. Francesca Klug is professorial research fellow at LSE and a commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Peter Townsend is Professor of International Social Policy, LSE.

noticeboard

AUA event

The Association of University Administrators (AUA) is the professional body for higher education managers and administrators with around 4,000 members in the UK and worldwide. There are around 180 branches based in universities and HE colleges as well as HE-related bodies.

The annual conference for 2009 will be held at Exeter University during the Easter break, 6-8 April.

If you would like to attend the conference and/or find out more about the AUA, please contact the branch co-ordinator for LSE Kate Brown at: k.b.brown@lse.ac.uk Also, see: www.aua.ac.uk

Lunchtime concert

On Thursday 4 December, 1.05 pm, in the Shaw Library, Martyna Jatkauskaite (piano) will perform Prokofiev, *Sarcasm*, Debussy, *Images Book 1*, Schumann Symphonic Etudes Op.13, and Chopin two waltzes.

Winner of several first prizes in international competitions, Martyna Jatkauskaite's performances electrify her audiences.



Christmas concert

The LSE Choir and Orchestra will perform this Christmas' concert on Monday 8 December, 7.30pm, at St Clements Danes Church, Strand

The choir will perform a selection of Christmas carols including Handel's *The King Shall Rejoice*, and *Magnificat* by Pergolesi.

The orchestra will perform Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, and Cy Lloyd's Symphony No 6.

Tickets cost £4 for LSE staff, students and alumni and £6 for members of the public. For a ticket, see: www.lse.ac.uk/events



Congratulations

The School's University Challenge team won their second round against Selwyn College, Cambridge with a score of 270-135.

They are now into the quarter finals and we all wish them good luck.



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

Rapid transcriptions: an accurate and confidential academic transcription service for over ten years. Acronyms no problem. Any format: digital recordings, minidisc, tapes, video. Transcripts to suit different budgets. Secure file transfer. Contact Alanna Ivin, tel: 07801 569045, email: Rapid.Transcriptions@pobox.com See: www.rapidtranscriptions.co.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:

Monday 1 December <i>Excel 2003: database features</i>	2-4pm	For training in: European information , please email Maria Bell at: m.bell@lse.ac.uk
Wednesday 3 December <i>Introduction to Database Structure and Design</i>	10am-1pm	Business information , please email Barbara Humphries at: b.humphries@lse.ac.uk
Friday 5 December <i>FrontPage 2003: creating a personal website</i>	3-5pm	US Government publications , please email Clive Wilson at: clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk
For further details and a full listing of what is available, including booking information, see: www.lse.ac.uk/training		UK Government publications , please email Ken Gibbons at: k.gibbons@lse.ac.uk

HR online recruitment

The School has appointed WCN Plc to design, build and implement a new online recruitment system. The contract with WCN is for five years. WCN's credentials in the Higher Education sector include the Universities of Birmingham and Salford.

The online recruitment system will replace the vast majority of paper-based recruitment activity for the School with a web based system which will reduce the time to hire and cost per hire, streamline the recruitment process, improve competitiveness in a global market and modernise the School's online presence and branding.

Work has already begun on the specification of the system and two departments have kindly agreed to pilot the system. The recruitment team and the User Committee will be involved in vigorous testing throughout the Lent term and it is hoped to introduce the new system during the Summer Term.

The project, which follows the PRINCE 2 methodology (see: www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/ProgrammeOffice) has two boards and one committee. The senior board is responsible for resourcing and championing the project and will be responsible for signing-off the final system. Its members are George Gaskell, pro-director for Resources and Planning, and HR director Barbara Bush.

The project board will represent the interests of the business (customer), users and supplier and provide overall direction and management of the project. Its members are: project executive Sofia Agerinou, HR manager; senior user Ian Spencer, director, Residential Services; senior user Eleni Michael, deputy HR manager; senior supplier Andy Coulthard, assistant director ITS (MIS); and senior supplier Stephan Freeman, information security manager. The Project manager is Janine Eagling, senior project manager, IT Services

The user committee comprises 18 members of staff from across the School who will also be users of the system. They will be responsible for communicating the project's progress to the rest of the School and for testing the system.

Further information and updates on the project will be available at: https://www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/ProgrammeOffice/internal/Staff/Project_HR070006.htm with termly updates in News&Views, Briefing and Staff Briefings.

For any further information in regards to the project please contact the Recruitment Team of the HR Division. Further information on WCN can be found at: www.wcn.co.uk



Courses

USING WEB 2.0 AND SOCIAL SOFTWARE TOOLS FOR TEACHING
Thursday 4 December, 12.15-3.45pm, S175

This session provides a general introduction to Web 2.0 and social software and looks at possible applications for teaching and learning. This includes blogs, wikis, social bookmarking, social networking, and media sharing sites.

The use of social software in education is somewhat limited at present but this session will look at both its current and potential use at LSE and beyond, while familiarising staff with some of the services students are increasingly using.

Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 3 December
1.45-3pm. R505. Welfare Policy and Analysis seminar. Richard Dickens and Abigail McKnight: *The Changing Earnings of Employees, Migrants and Families.*

4-6pm. A607. Anthropology of South Asia seminar. Louise Tillin: *Reorganising the Hindi heartland: the deep politics of state formation.*

6pm. J116. Cañada Blanch seminar. William Chislett: *Image and Reality: economics and politics in contemporary Spain.*

Thursday 4 December
12.30-1.45pm. NAB 1.14 CCS seminar. Nisrine Mansour: *NGOs, the Policy Process and the Politics of Resistance: women groups and family laws in post-war Lebanon.*

2-4pm. A607. Anthropology of East and Inner Asia Seminar. Marzia Varutti: *The Museum Representation of the Chinese Nation in the Post-Mao Era.*

Friday 5 December
10.30am-12.30pm. Anthropological Theory research seminar. Michael Scott: *The Matter of Makira: mythologising people in the medieval British isles and in postcolonial island Melanesia.*

1-2.30pm. R405. Urban and Regional Economics seminar. Harry Garretsen: *New Economic Geography Meets Chinese Data: the equilibrium allocation of economic activity for China.*

4pm. Hong Kong Theatre. DESTIN Friday visiting speaker seminar. Purna Sen: *From Destin to Amnesty to the Commonwealth: making human rights work in development.*

Library news

BOOK MOVES
From Monday 1 December to Friday 12 December, all items normally held in closed access are being brought back from an external store.

It will take approximately two weeks to move the books back.

During the book moves there will be some disruption to services in the immediate area, as follows:

- some PC and study desks will be unavailable. These will be clearly marked.
- study rooms R021-R025 will be closed
- eight lockers may be more difficult to access. Please notify a member of Library staff if you are affected.

All items will remain accessible during the book moves via a reduced fetch service.



Media bites




'I would expect bars and restaurants [in Islington] to be hit because they are small companies that cannot afford to keep workers on if there is a short-term fall in demand.'

Christopher Pissarides, *Islington Gazette*, 19/11/08


'Nkunda [Congoese rebel leader] wants to start a dialogue over national policy. There has been a review of all the mining deals that the Kabila government has done in the past and concern about what he has done since the elections. There is a lot of concern on the deals with China, that falls on deaf ears in African countries because the Chinese are bringing in size of an investment not matched by the West.'

James Putzel, *Googlenews*, 20/11/08


'We have missed the boat for high-speed rail. The UK doesn't do big projects like that very well.'

Tim Leunig, *Railway Technology*, 20/11/08

Reporting on the crunch

Iceland's banking system is ruined. GDP is down 65 per cent in Euro terms. Many companies face bankruptcy; others think of moving abroad. A third of the population is considering emigration.

The British and Dutch governments demand compensation, amounting to over 100 per cent of Icelandic GDP, for their citizens who held high-interest deposits in local branches of Icelandic banks. Europe's leaders urgently need to take step to prevent similar things from happening to small nations with big banking sectors.

Professor Jon Danneliesson, reader in finance, has written a response to the economic crisis which can be downloaded at: www.voxeu.org/index.php?q=node/2549

