



News & views

Union busters not welcome in the UK says new LSE report

Tactics used by US employers to keep unions out of the workplace are being increasingly used in the UK as employers here begin to hire firms of union busting consultants to persuade their workers against the benefits of union membership, warns new a report by Dr John Logan, Employment Relations and Organisational Behaviour Group, LSE.

The report, US Union Avoidance Consultants: a threat to the rights of British workers, by John Logan for the Trades Union Congress (TUC), explains that union busting is a multi-billion dollar business in the US. Despite some 60 million Americans saying that they would like to join a union, membership currently stands at just 7.5 per cent of the US private sector workforce.

The report says that the tactics used by union busters are designed to frighten and intimidate workers away from any union attempt to recruit them at work. Consultants hired by employers in the US warn the workforce that the union will start harassing them in their homes, risk their job security, and cause them a loss of earnings and benefits. Employees are also given company leaflets warning them that if



they join the union they are likely to be permanently on strike and under threat of violence should they join any picket line.

Although union busting is still relatively uncommon in the UK, the report warns British unions not to take their eye off the ball and says that although the law in the UK is much stricter on employers that violate workers' rights, the activities of union busters are likely to be much more widespread here than most unions realise.

Dr John Logan said: 'For over three decades, so-called "union avoidance

consultants" have helped American employers undermine their workers' fundamental right to organise and bargain collectively. The United States has an entire industry dedicated exclusively to stopping workers from forming a union. Several of these US consultants are now operating internationally and are seeking to expand their business in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. It is essential that union busting is not allowed to flourish on this side of the Atlantic.'

For more information visit: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/archives/2008/UnionBustersReport.htm>

Thinking outside the box

On Tuesday 12 February the LSE Bright Ideas campaign held a ceremony to celebrate its winning ideas and to thank everyone who has already contributed.

Bright Ideas is an ongoing scheme which encourages staff to contribute suggestions to make life at LSE easier, friendlier or more efficient.

Since its launch in January 2006, the programme has received over 130 ideas. The reception honoured staff like Gary Barclay of the Planning Unit; his environmentally friendly idea to make double sided printing a default setting was so popular that it has now become standard IT procedure. Among the other successful ideas was Emma Taverner's suggestion to sign up students for alumni events while they're still at school, and Maya Schram's widely popular LSE branded Oyster card wallets – soon to be copied by Kings College. In addition to their ideas being implemented, winners also receive £100 for their ideas.

Bright Ideas provides an easy way to make departmental suggestions more far reaching, and its informal, anonymous format means anyone



Bright Ideas winners

can contribute. Chris Connelley, head of the Staff Development Unit and a chairman of Bright Ideas, encourages staff to continue submitting their ideas. 'Good organisations listen to experts, and the experts tend to be staff,' he said. In addition to more bright ideas, the group is seeking volunteers to join their team. The committee meets once a month and those interested in evaluating submissions and helping out can contact Rachael Maguire at r.e.maguire@lse.ac.uk

Online risks to children on the increase across Europe, evidence shows

Evidence that more children across Europe are being exposed to risks online has been revealed by EU Kids Online – a network that looks at young people's internet experience, based at LSE.

Social networking spread like wildfire across Europe last year, to the delight of many teenagers, but despite the many benefits of social networking, there is also evidence of risk to teenagers' privacy and well-being.

EU Kids Online is collecting and comparing this evidence in preparation for a report to be published in June, and released selected advance findings to draw attention to Safer Internet Day, held on Tuesday 12 February.

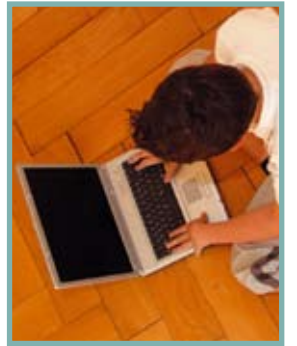
Key findings include:

- In the Czech Republic, most online teenagers have given out personal information to a stranger – 91 per cent email address, 79 per cent their picture, 72 per cent phone number
- Poland stands out as a high risk country for teens online across a range of risks, with 56 per cent of teenage girls online being subject to unwanted sexual conversation, and 52 per cent of 12-17 year olds being invited to meet an online contact offline – of those, 44 per cent went to a meeting and few told an adult
- Moreover, the evidence shows that children and young people are not just experiencing online

risks but also they are distressed by them, for example 44 per cent girls and 30 per cent boys in Germany (12-19 year olds) had unpleasant experiences in chat rooms

Professor Sonia Livingstone, director of EU Kids Online and professor in LSE's Department of Media and Communications, said: 'Although children and young people are delighted with the opportunities open to them on the internet – especially for social networking – many of them are giving out personal information without realising who might see it. As a result, our research has found substantial amounts of bullying, harassment and unwanted sexual messages, which is very distressing for some.'

Dr Leslie Haddon, co-director of EU Kids Online at LSE, said: 'It is important for those involved in awareness-raising programmes to be kept updated about the latest research findings in order to target their effort.' For more information visit www.eukidsonline.net/



New scholarships reach out to the developing world

Students from developing countries are invited to apply for new scholarships at LSE, funded by Deutsche Bank and named in honour of School governor and former director Lord Dahrendorf.

The Lord Dahrendorf scholarships will be for students taking an MSc in the Department of Finance. The first scholars will take up their places in October.

Applicants must come from a developing country. LSE and Deutsche Bank particularly welcome applications from South America, sub-Saharan Africa and former Soviet Union countries.

LSE director Howard Davies said: 'We are extremely grateful to Deutsche Bank for its generosity in funding the scholarships. We have named them after Lord Dahrendorf as a fitting way to honour one of the School's great figures who embodies both academic brilliance and leadership. Lord Dahrendorf helped shape the LSE as a place that draws its talent from every background. These scholarships will ensure that we continue to reach every part of the globe.'

Each scholarship is worth £17,352 and is available to applicants for an MSc in Management & Regulation of Risk, Finance & Economics, or Finance. For more information visit <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/archives/2008/Dahrendorfscholarships.htm>



Public Lectures

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

LSE Arts: talking pictures

HANA SAKUMA

Tuesday 19 February, 1.05-2pm, Shaw Library
Artist Hana Sakuma will talk about her conceptual work *Diffelence*, in which the letters 'R' and 'L' have been removed from a bag of tiny alphabetically shaped pasta.

DESTIN public lecture

SPEAKERS: PROFESSOR PETER GOWAN, DR JAN TOPOROWSKI AND PROFESSOR ROBERT WADE

The financial crisis: the economic and political backstory

Tuesday 19 February, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre
Most of the media commentary finds the causes of the current financial crisis within the financial sector, and proposes 'better information' and 'sounder regulation' as cures. This panel puts the crisis in the context of the triumph of the financial sector over the rest of the economy over the past three decades, and the resulting financial fragility in the world at large.

Forum for European Philosophy–LSE European

Institute: Heart of Europe

PROFESSOR DAMIAN CHALMERS

The Shrivelling of European Citizenship

Tuesday 19 February, 6.30-8pm, U8

The institution of EU citizenship is increasingly challenged yet the heterogeneity and intensity of membership rights enjoyed by non-nationals has increased. Would more differentiated forms of membership be more attractive and better capture the sense of place many non-nationals wish to create for themselves in their host societies?

Damian Chalmers is professor in European Union law at the European Institute and Law Department, LSE.

Michael Oakshott memorial lecture

DAVID WILLETT'S MP

The Ideas that are Changing Politics

Wednesday 20 February, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre

There has been an extraordinary surge in the study of behaviour from evolutionary biologists, neurologists and game theorists, but this has been largely divorced

from the political debate. David Willetts will draw on the latest research from these disciplines to explain what government can and cannot do to influence our behaviour.

David Willetts is shadow secretary of state for innovation, universities and skills and has been the MP for Havant since 1992.

PROFESSOR DICK HOBBS

Thinking Like a Social Scientist

Thursday 21 February, 1-2pm, Hong Kong Theatre

How social scientists work to address the critical problems of the day.

Dick Hobbs is professor of sociology at LSE.

Department of Management: Business in the Global Age

HELEN ALEXANDER

Building Intelligent Media Brands in a Global Market

Thursday 21 February, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Helen Alexander will discuss how building intelligent media brands has an international outlook and is

dependent on customer insight and special client relationships. She will also explore the challenges we are facing in the current media environment and the role of the internet.

Helen Alexander was appointed chief executive of The Economist Group in January 1997.

Centre for the Study of Global Governance

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR JOSEPH E STIGLITZ

DISCUSSANT: PROFESSOR MARY KALDOR

The \$3 Trillion War: the true cost of the war in Iraq

Monday 25 February, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

This event marks the launch of Professor Stiglitz's new book *The \$3 Trillion War*, a devastating reckoning of the true cost of the Iraq war.

Joseph E Stiglitz is university professor of the Columbia Business School. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2001.

Free but ticketed. Visit www.lse.ac.uk/events and click on the event to book.

noticeboard

£150 reward for the best ideas to improve the social aspect of the LSE ‘student experience’

The School is continuously making efforts to improve various aspects of the LSE ‘student experience’ and wants to make sure you get the best out of your time at LSE; in your academic studies, your social life and your career prospects. The Student Affairs Committee is coordinating the School’s efforts in this area and is about to establish a new plan of action to make further improvements in a discrete number of areas over the next two years. The committee wants to hear your ideas on what can be done to improve the social aspect of the LSE ‘student experience’. Your ideas might relate to services or activities in the area of culture, sport or the environment. There is a reward of £150 in Amazon vouchers for the best ideas. Please send your ideas by Friday 22 February to: L.Fletcher@lse.ac.uk

Part time research assistant at CSGG

The Centre for the Study of Global Governance (CSGG) have an opening for a part time research support assistant that will suit a PhD student. For a job description and person specification, email Harriet Gallagher at h.c.gallagher@lse.ac.uk. To apply applicants should send a CV and brief cover letter, and refer to the job description and person specification to h.c.gallagher@lse.ac.uk. Deadline for submissions is 5pm, Wednesday 20 February. Interviews are likely to take place in the following week, and candidates will be contacted soon after the closing date. For further information about the Centre please visit www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global/

LSE-Cambridge Inter-University Graduate Conference – call for papers

The ninth LSE-Cambridge Inter-University Graduate Conference on Constructions, Discourse and Representations is inviting papers, posters and symposiums from graduate students in the Social Sciences, around the following topics: culture, self and identity; culture and cognition; co-construction of social knowledge; narrative, development, and ‘the lifecourse’; institutions and society; questioning methodologies; and social representations.

The conference is organised annually by LSE and the University of Cambridge. This year it will take place on Saturday 17 May at Cambridge University. The conference is aimed at research students of all levels, and aims to provide a friendly environment in which research students can attend, develop contacts, and gain experience presenting research to peers. Presentations of works-in-progress are encouraged.

The submission deadline is Monday 10 of March. Please submit an abstract of 300 words to gradconference2008@gmail.com, including your name, academic institution and topic. Visit <http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/2007-8/interunigrad.html> for more information.

Small ads

Confused or unsure about which career path to take? Life coaching can help you clarify your options, focus your life and career objectives and help you better understand your motivations. Through clear and practical steps, you can work towards your goals, within a safe and confidential environment, call 07729 163347.

Need help with your essay writing or with your English? Finding it hard to structure your essays and convey your points? Professional, experienced and qualified one-to-one tutoring offered, individually tailored to meet your specific requirements, call 07729 163347.

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 18 February	
<i>HTML: Simple HTML</i>	10am -12pm
Tuesday 19 February	
<i>Authoring a PhD Endgame: preparing for and handling the viva</i>	10am-1pm
Thursday 21 February	
<i>Moodle Training (Staff)</i>	10am-1.30pm
Friday 22 February	
<i>Access 2003: working with relationships</i>	10am-12pm

For further details and a full listing of what is available, including booking information, please see: www.lse.ac.uk/training

For training in:

European information, please email Maria Bell at: m.bell@lse.ac.uk

Business Information, please email Barbara Humphries at: b.humphries@lse.ac.uk

US Government publications, please email Clive Wilson at: clive.wilson@lse.ac.uk

UK Government publications, please email Ken Gibbons at: k.gibbons@lse.ac.uk

LSE and LSESU celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight

Since 2004, LSE has been recognised as a Fairtrade College and the School and the Students’ Union have introduced a number of Fairtrade product ranges that allow you, as a consumer, to choose products that will help disadvantaged farmers, workers and their families in the developing world.

This year there are a number of activities arranged to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight – 25 February to 9 March, including:

- A film screening powered by bicycles
- Redress Fashion Clothes Trade In
- Promotions in both the School’s and Students’ Union’s catering outlets
- Promotional deals on Fairtrade products in the Students’ Union’s Shop

For more information regarding Fairtrade Fortnight at LSE, please contact Libby Meyer, su.treasurer@lse.ac.uk For information regarding the Fairtrade Foundation, please visit <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>



Lunchtime concert



On Thursday 21 February, 1.05-2pm, in the Shaw Library, the Badke String Quartet will perform Haydn Quartet in F minor Op20 No 5 and Debussy Quartet in G minor Op10.

Since their last performance at the School, this outstanding quartet has won the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition held in January 2007.

Leontief Prize

Professor Robert Wade, professor of political economy and development at LSE, has been awarded the 2008 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. The citation recognizes ‘the exceptional contributions ... to theoretical and practical understandings of equity and development, at global and local levels’.

The prize is in honour of Wassily Leontief, Nobel Prize winner in economics for his work on the structure of economies and its effects on growth and inequality. Earlier winners of the Leontief Prize include J K Galbraith, Amartya Sen, Sam Bowles, Robert Frank, Paul Streeten, Juliet Schor, Herman Daly, Richard Nelson and Dani Rodrik. The award ceremony will take place in November at Tufts University, Boston.

Professor Wade said ‘Studying economics in remote New Zealand in the 1960s I was intrigued by Leontief’s approach, much more interesting than the dreary microeconomic textbooks. I am delighted (not to mention surprised, since I later switched to a PhD in anthropology rather than economics) to have my writings recognized by a prize named in his honour.’

Evening concert

A celebrity recital featuring Natalie Clein (cello) will take place on Thursday 21 February, 6.15-7.15pm, in the Shaw Library. She will perform Kodaly Sonata and other works.

Natalie Clein is one of Europe’s leading young cellists whose performances have met with international acclaim.

Tickets cost £4 for LSE staff, students, and alumni and £10 for members of the public and will be available at the door from 5.15pm on the night. You can also obtain tickets by calling ext 6100, by emailing: events@lse.ac.uk or going to: www.lse.ac.uk/events



Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

Tuesday 19 February

5-6.30pm. D209. Geography and Environment Department research seminar. Jurgen Essletzbichler: *Diversity, Growth and Stability in US Metropolitan Areas.*

Wednesday 20 February

12.30-2pm. R405. International Economics seminar (macro/trade): Robert Zymek: *The Impact of Sovereign Default on Trade.*

6-8pm. Vera Anstey Room. Contemporary Turkish Studies seminar. Richard Rose: *Applying EU Criteria of Democratic Governance to Turkey: a bottom up approach.*

6.15pm. H216. LLM Corporate/Commercial seminar. Roger McCormick: *Public Private Partnerships.*

Cañada Blanch seminar. Time and place to be announced. H E Carlos Miranda: *Experiences of the Transition to Democracy.*

Held in conjunction with King’s College, London

Thursday 21 February

12.30-1.45pm. H216. CCS seminar. Dr Ben Jones: *Significant civil society developments: burial societies in eastern Uganda.*

1pm. D106. LLM International Law seminar. Virginia Mantouvalou: *International Protection of Labour Right.*

2pm. S300. CDAM Discrete and Applicable Mathematics seminar. Sergiu Hart: *Evolutionarily Stable Strategies of Random Games, and the Vertices of Random Polygons.*

5-7pm. D209. LLM Intellectual Property and Human Rights seminar. Holger Hestermeyer: *The First Amendment to a WTO Agreement: how to square patents and human rights.*

Library news

E-books

The newest addition to the growing collection of e-books is MyLibrary which provides access to over 500 full text electronic books from the social sciences. All have been identified as texts on LSE reading lists and are also listed in the Course Books List (click on the Reading Lists tab from the Library Catalogue). Other major e-book databases available via the Electronic Library include SourceOECD, Oxford Scholarship Online and The Academic Library.

LSE and Deutsche Bank host one day financial crisis conference

What lessons can be learnt from the financial crisis of 2007? What are the practitioner perspectives to the current crisis? And what next for the regulation of financial markets? A one day conference organised by the Financial Markets Group (FMG) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Deutsche Bank addressing these issues will be held on Monday 3 March.

The Structure of Regulation: lessons from the crisis of 2007, will feature prominent experts in the financial markets field from LSE, the Deutsche Bank, the Bank of England, International Institute of Finance, Swiss National Bank, National Bank of Belgium, Paternoster, French Commission Bancaire, US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Bank for International Settlements.

The programme includes speeches on:

- Five stages of grief – Gillian Tett, Financial Times
- The regulatory response to the financial crisis – Charles Goodhart, FMG, LSE
- Fundamental drivers of capital markets – Mark Wood, Paternoster
- Preliminary conclusions for risk management of a private bank – Hugo Banziger, Deutsche Bank
- Supervisory perspectives – Danièle Nouy, French Commission Bancaire and former CEBS chair
- The view from the International Institute of Finance – Charles Dallara, International Institute of Finance (TBC)
- A central bank’s perspective – Philipp Hildebrand, Swiss National Bank

The day will also feature panel discussions on The response of the regulatory system to the crisis and Conclusions for financial markets.

The Structure of Regulation: lessons from the crisis of 2007 will be on Monday 3 March at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE. Entry is free but registration is required. For more details and a registration form, see <http://fmg.lse.ac.uk/events/eventconfdetail.php?eventid=2303&catid=33&thead=Future%20Conferences&etype=f&mainid=2>

Friday 22 February

10.30am-12.30pm. A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. Henrike Donner: *New Vegetarianism: gender, maternity and the neo-liberal subject in Bengali middle class families.*

Monday 25 February

12.45-2pm. R405. CEP/DOM Management seminar. Mariano Selvaggi: *Governance and Performance in Corporate Britain: evidence from the IVIS system.*

5.45-7.15pm. R405. FMG seminar. Thomas Huertas: *The Purposes of Financial Supervision.*

6-7.30pm. D702. LLM Jurisprudence and Legal Theory – Law, Reason, Violence seminar. Maeve Cooke: *Law and Violence.*

6-8pm. J116. Contemporary Turkish Studies seminar. Nathalie Tocci: *Conditionality, Impact and Prejudice in EU-Turkey Relations.*