



News & Views

New research on independent schools

Competition for Private and State School Teachers and The Changing Economic Returns to Private Education, by Stephen Machin and Richard Murphy, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE, and Francis Green and Yu Zhu, University of Kent.

A new study has found that independent schools in Britain employ a disproportionate share of teachers relative to the number of pupils they educate, and the gap between the independent and state sectors has been increasing.

Further, the findings indicate that independent school teachers are more likely than state school teachers to possess postgraduate qualifications, and to be specialists in subjects – such as Maths and Science – where there are shortages of teachers.



In a related study, they find that not only do independent school pupils enjoy facilities that are

usually far better than those available in state schools, but these pupils also benefit through improved pay later in life. These financial returns are broadly comparable to the returns on other capital.

Professor Stephen Machin said: 'Our findings imply that many others could have benefited from the boost given by the resources available in private schooling, but did not do so. Since selection into the schools – despite some bursaries and the Assisted Places Scheme – is primarily based on families' ability to pay, and given the substantial returns achieved, it is hard to escape the conclusion that private schools have served to reproduce inequalities in British society.'

For more details visit: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/archives/2008/IndependentSchoolsResearch.htm

LSE video conferencing suite – the greener alternative to travel



LSE's state of the art video conferencing suite, on the ground floor, Tower One, is a greener, cheaper alternative to travel for maintaining LSE's global links and partnerships. It is also linked with the U8 lecture theatre allowing lectures to be sent to and received by a wider audience. The suite can be used by all LSE staff and students and has been used to conduct meetings and interviews globally. For further information please contact the Teaching and Learning spaces team by emailing IT.AV.Support@lse.ac.uk or calling ext 7437.

Social mobility remains low

Recent Changes in Intergenerational Mobility in Britain, by Dr Jo Blanden and Professor Stephen Machin, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE.

This research, funded by the Sutton Trust, found that social mobility in the UK remains at the low level it was for those born in 1970, with recent generations of children's educational outcomes still overwhelmingly tied to their parents' income.

The main findings show that:

- intergenerational income mobility for children born 1970-2000 has stabilised, following the sharp decline that occurred for children born in 1970 compared with those born in 1958
- those from the poorest fifth of households but in the brightest group at age three drop from the 88th percentile on cognitive tests to the 65th percentile at five. Those from the richest households who are least able at age three move up from the 15th percentile to the 45th percentile by five
- if this trend continues, children from affluent backgrounds who are doing poorly at age three would be likely to overtake the poorer but initially bright children in test scores by age seven
- inequalities in degree acquisition persist across different income groups. While 44 per cent of young people from the richest 20 per cent of households acquired a degree in 2002, only 10 per cent from the poorest 20 per cent of households did.

To download a copy of the report, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/pressAndInformationOffice and click on News.



Pensioners not claiming benefits

Maximising the Benefits: the performance of 'here to HELP' and Help the Aged's Benefits Advice Programmes.

This research, carried out for the British Gas Help the Aged Partnership's winter deaths campaign, reveals individual pensioners could be losing up to £50,000 in benefits over a lifetime by not claiming their entitlements.

These benefits currently sit in the Government's pot of £4.5 billion unclaimed benefits for older people, but one in three pensioners does not know who to turn to for help and advice on how to access these entitlements.

The research supports the partnership's call for the government to end fuel poverty and save lives in winter by introducing the automatic payment of benefits and investing more in face to face benefits advice programmes. It finds that around 50 per cent of those eligible for additional benefits could receive enough financial support to cover all their heating costs which would lift them out of fuel poverty.

Evidence from the face to face British Gas Help the Aged Benefits Advice Programme shows that one in five older people who accessed the projects were found to be eligible for around £50 per week in additional benefits over advice – around 66 per cent more than a similar phone based advice service. Additionally, the study strongly suggests that face to face benefits advice is needed to ensure older people with disabilities are receiving the benefits they are entitled to.

To download a copy of the report, see: http://corporate.helptheaged.org.uk/_corporate/Partnerships/BritishGas/_default.htm



Debates

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

Hellenic Observatory in association with the FT Business-European Institute Future of Europe series

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER PISSARIDES AND DR MICHALIS SARRIS
Cyprus Enters the 'Euro-zone': challenges and implications

Wednesday 23 January, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre

On 1 January, Cyprus adopted the euro currency. This discussion will focus on the implications of entry for Cyprus and the possible lessons for and from other entrants.

Christopher Pissarides is the Norman Sosnow Professor in Economics at LSE. Michalis Sarris is the minister of finance of the Republic of Cyprus and an LSE alumnus.

Public Lectures

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

LSE Arts: talking pictures

CLARE GRAFIK

Tuesday 22 January, 1.05-2pm, Shaw Library

This lecture focuses on Canadian photographer Jeff Wall's photograph, *Picture of Women* (1979)

Clare Grafik is curator of The Photographers' Gallery.

FT Business-LSE European Institute: The Future of Europe

JEAN LEMIERRE

Russia and Europe: new neighbours defining a new neighbourhood

Tuesday 22 January, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

Countries of the former Soviet Union now share a common border with the European Union that both divides and unites. The challenge is for economic relations to reinforce political relationships that will help both neighbours thrive in a globalised world.

Jean Lemierre is president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

International Humanitarian Law Project

GENERAL SIR MIKE JACKSON

General Reflections

Wednesday 23 January, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

In this lecture General Jackson will look at today's strategic circumstances and the position of the UK, and look to future challenges.

Mike Jackson retired in 2006 after almost 45 years of service in the British Army, finishing as its chief of the general staff.

Lunchtime lecture

PROFESSOR DANNY QUAH

Thinking Like a Social Scientist

Thursday 24 January, 1-2pm, Hong Kong Theatre

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

Danny Quah is head of LSE's Economics Department.

Gender Institute

PROFESSOR JOAN W SCOTT

Cover up: French gender equality and the Islamic headscarf

Thursday 24 January, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre

This lecture takes a critical look at one aspect of the

ban on Islamic headscarves enacted in 2005 in France and examines 'a clash of gender systems' as a way of trying to understand some of the force of the reaction to Islam there.

Joan W Scott is Harold Flinder Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Politics and History.

Media@LSE

PROFESSOR SONIA LIVINGSTONE

Children's Media: more harm than good?

Thursday 24 January, 6.30-8pm, Hong Kong Theatre

Given the rapid expansion of the internet, fears over 'toxic' childhood, and pressing dilemmas for media regulation, public policy is scrutinising the potential harm that media can do. But is the media the problem or the solution?

Sonia Livingstone is professor of social psychology and director of the EU Kids Online project, Media and Communications Department, LSE.

Contemporary Turkish Studies

PROFESSOR SEVKET PAMUK

New Industrial Centres and the Rise of the Justice

and Development Party to Power in Turkey

Monday 28 January, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

This lecture will discuss the rise of export oriented industrial centres across Turkey in recent decades, how they have contributed to the electoral successes of the Justice and Development Party and their ongoing impact on Turkey's economic and political liberalisation.

Sevket Pamuk is professorial research fellow in contemporary Turkish studies, European Institute, LSE.

Department of Management Business in the Global Age

DOMINIC CASSELEY

The Global Company of 2020: what does the future hold?

Monday 28 January, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre

This lecture will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing global companies in 2020. Will they be similar to the multinationals of today? If not, how will they differ?

Dominic Casserley is managing partner of McKinsey & Company, UK and Ireland.

noticeboard

New job titles in IT Services

The job titles of the three senior managers in IT Services have changed. In line with practice in many other universities, and with some other departments in the LSE, the title of assistant director IT Services has been given to Amber Miro (User Services), Adrian Ellison (Technical Infrastructure) and Andy Coulthard (Management Information Services).

All three assistant directors report to Jean Sykes, librarian and director of IT Services, and together with Jean, they make up the ITS Executive Management Group.

Virtual IT Assistance (VITA)

IT Services is introducing a new software tool to enable support teams to provide real-time virtual IT assistance (VITA) to staff users on campus or offsite. LogMeln Rescue software allows support staff to view and assist with a user's computer, no matter where the user is located. LogMeln Rescue will eventually replace VNC, which is currently used to deliver remote support to staff in a number of departments. LogMeln Rescue is also being used to support students in public computer rooms, who can now get assistance from the Help Desk, without the need to visit the Library.

Users can initiate an online support session in one of three ways:

1. By double-clicking on the VITA icon on the desktop
 2. Via a link at www.lse.ac.uk/vita, or
 3. By emailing their IT support team
- Throughout Lent term, IT Services is extending the use of VITA. VITA will initially be deployed to staff and research postgraduates in over fifteen departments and research units and to students in public computer rooms, with the aim to be rolled out school-wide by the end of term.

For more information about VITA:

- See: www.lse.ac.uk/vita
- Staff – contact your IT support team: www.lse.ac.uk/itservices/help/Clusters/ContactsNew.htm
- Students – contact the IT Help Desk during opening hours: IT.Helpdesk@lse.ac.uk

Help for staff

Following on from the Staff Survey, so that staff are satisfied with the School as a place to work, here is information on where staff can go for help with resolution of work issues:

- Acas Advice Clinics
- recognised trade unions: UCU, UNISON and Unite
- the Anti-harassment Panel, see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/antiHarassment/introduction.htm>
- staff counselling services (FIRSTcall: 0800 072 70720)
- grievance and external mediation procedure <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/employeeRelations/>

Please see the latest edition of *Briefing* for detailed information. Help for Managers will follow in the next edition of *News&Views*.

£20,000 STICERD/Annual Fund new researcher awards

STICERD, supported by the Annual Fund, will offer up to three new researcher awards from March 2008. These awards are intended to promote and support the research of members of teaching units in the school if they are on the lecturer/research fellow grade (Band 7) and fit one of the following criteria: Lecturers must be either pre-major review or less than five years post-major review; part-time staff who satisfy the above criteria are eligible to apply, with awards to be made to successful applicants on a pro-rata basis; fixed-term staff whose contracts extend for the duration of the award are also eligible to apply.

Each award is worth £20,000 and can be spent on any legitimate research expense. Further information can be downloaded from: http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/_new/funding/grants/annual_fund.asp The deadline for applications is Friday 22 February 2008.

Small ads

Wanted: native Spanish speaker to tutor once or twice during the week in the evenings. Rates negotiable. Email Knut at: kgaskjenn@kaiserassociates.com or call 07786 280306.

Training opportunities at LSE

Academic, personal and professional development courses are available for all LSE staff and students. Courses on offer this month include:

Tuesday 22 January	
<i>Staff Training Workshop</i>	10am-12pm
Wednesday 23 January	
<i>PowerPoint 2003: templates and animation</i>	10am-12pm
Friday 25 January	
<i>CSS: cascading style sheets</i>	10am-12pm
Monday 28 January	
<i>PowerPoint 2003: importing, interactivity and automation</i>	2-4pm

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

Acas Advice Clinics

As a result of an Employment Relations' initiative Acas will be running half-day Advice Clinics for staff. This initial pilot will run for a period of six months. This is an opportunity for staff to seek advice on work-related issues from a Senior Acas Advisor, in strictest confidence.

As a staff member, you will be able to:

- meet with an adviser and discuss issues which relate to your employment
- with the help of the adviser, begin to explore what options are available to you, potential ways forward and possible outcomes.

Managers who need advice in respect of their role as a manager of staff should continue to contact the Employment Relations team.

Both Acas and the LSE hope staff will find these clinics both positive and practical and an additional means of seeking advice from within LSE.

Clinics will be held on:

- Tuesday 29 January, 1-4pm
- Thursday 14 February, 10am-1pm and Wednesday

27 February, 1-4pm

- Monday 10 March, 10am-1pm and Thursday 20 March, 1-4pm

To book a half-hour

appointment call Simon

Long on 020 7396 5114

or Henicka Uddin on 020

7396 6642 stating your

preferred date and time.

Alternatively, email either at slong@acas.org.uk or huddin@acas.org.uk

The School's trade unions, UCU (academic and academic support staff), UNISON (clerical and administrative grade staff) and Unite (trade, manual and catering staff) have discussed this initiative with the Acas advisors and it is understood that trade union matters (eg taking on formal grievances) should be referred on to the respective trade union, if the staff member is a member of one and is agreeable.



Henicka Uddin and Simon Long

Postroom thanks

The Postroom would like to thank everyone who donated stamps for Leukaemia Care. The 1kg target was hit – a total of over 4,500 individual stamps! The stamps will be recycled and the money used by the charity. However – don't stop donating your stamps, the team are now collecting for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, just put your stamps in your department's pot. Please email Helen Gaughan at h.l.gaughan@lse.ac.uk with any questions about the scheme.



LSE people

Warwick Smith joined LSE as head of Press and Information on 14 January. He comes with more than 15 years' experience as a newspaper journalist, television producer and press officer. Most recently he has been working as chief press officer at the Department for Transport. Warwick is based in the Press and Information Office, fourth floor, Tower Three, and can be reached on ext 7440, email w.smith@lse.ac.uk



Media bites

'I think this [Kenyan] conflict is very much a product of the politicisation of ethnic differences after colonial rule and (former president) Daniel arap Moi bears a tremendous responsibility for increasing ethnic tension.'

Joanna Lewis, *The Star*, 5/1/08



Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

Tuesday 22 January

5-6.30pm. R405. CEP/LSE Money Macro workshop.

David Debortoli: *Political Disagreement, Lack of Commitment and the Level of Debt.*

4.30-6.30pm. D106. LLM Intellectual Property seminar. Ken Shadlen: *The New Politics of Intellectual Property in Latin America.*

5-6.30pm. D209. Geography and Environment Department research seminar. Harriet Bulkeley: *Climate Change: governing beyond the state.*

Wednesday 23 January

5.30-7pm. T206. Choice Group seminar. Martijn Boot: *Conflicts of Justice and Justified Choice.*

6.15pm. H216. LLM Corporate/Commercial seminar. Deborah Sabalot: *Understanding MiFID.*

6.30-8pm. S78. LLM Media & IT Law seminar: Oliver

Castendyk: *Advertising, Product Placement, and Media Autonomy.*

Thursday 24 January

2pm. S300. CDAM Discrete and Applicable Mathematics seminar. Akira Okada: *Coalitional Bargaining Games with Random Proposers: theory and application.*

5pm. Z329. Comparative Economic History seminar. Naofumi Nakamura: *Railway Systems and Time Consciousness in Modern Japan.*

5-7pm. H615. BIOS seminar. Christoph Rehmann-Sutter: *A Role for Genome Metaphysics in Governing Stem Cell Research?*

5.15-6.45. D702. Population Research seminar. Julie Jeffries: *Fertility Trends in the UK.*

Library news

PROTEST AND SURVIVE:

PEACE MOVEMENTS DURING THE COLD WAR

An exhibition of posters and publicity for the peace movement is now showing in the Atrium, Student Services Centre, until Friday 8 February.

The exhibition, designed to coincide with the International Conference on Peace Movements in the Cold War and Beyond in February, features documents held in LSE Archives which illustrate some major Cold War events and themes.

Included are:

- examples of publicity produced by various peace organisations from the 1940s through to the 1980s
- minutes of an early meeting of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), 27 February 1958
- CND flyers protesting against H-Tests (1958) and promoting an Aldermaston march (1961)
- flyers produced by the Committee of 100 – a peace group set up by philosopher Bertrand Russell which advocated campaigning against nuclear weapons through mass civil disobedience, 1961
- letter from the National Peace Council to Harold Macmillan pleading for a peaceful solution to the Cuban missile crisis, 1962
- British Council for Peace in Vietnam flyer for a National Convention on Vietnam
- European Nuclear Disarmament flyers, 1980s.

The display also celebrates the deposit of the archives of European Nuclear Disarmament in LSE Archives and a major new project to open up access to the archives of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament during their 50th anniversary year.



Lunchtime concert



On Thursday 24 January, 1.05-2pm, in the Shaw Library, Morgan Szymanski (guitar) and Gemma Rosefield (cello) will perform De Falla *Five Spanish Songs*, Piazzolla *L'Histoire du Tango*, Ponce *Estrellita*, Zenamon *Reflections* No 6, Villa-Lobos *Bachianas Brasileiras*

No 5, De Falla *La Vie Brève*.

Winner of first prize in the 2002 National Guitar competition in Mexico, Morgan Szymanski (above left) has appeared as soloist in over 15 countries. This week's lunchtime concert presents a rare opportunity to hear unique arrangements of these pieces with cellist Gemma Rosefield (who will perform solo at LSE on Thursday 7 February).

Friday 25 January

10.30am-12.30pm. A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. John Peel: *Preliminaries To a Comparative Study of Christianity and Islam in Nigeria.*

11.30-1pm. R505. CEP Labour seminar. Yuval Salant: *Procedural Analysis of Choice Rules With Applications to Bounded Rationality.*

2-4pm. D502. LLM Comparative Legal Studies seminar. Irit Rogoff: *Taking Part.*

4pm. Hong Kong Theatre. DESTIN Friday visiting speaker lecture. Ricardo Oliveira: *Oil and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea.*

Monday 28 January

1pm. D111. LLM International Law seminar: Tomer Broude: *Normative Integration as Authority Allocation: two models and their application in the WTO.*