



# News & views

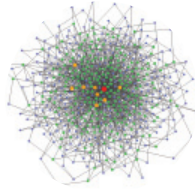
## Going global

Opportunities to expand academic horizons by teaching or researching abroad are multiplying at the School with a string of new grants on offer to LSE faculty and PhD students.

The awards will be offered to those people whose work would benefit by spending time abroad at partner institutions in New York, Paris or Singapore, or by conducting joint research with their scholars.

Funding is available in three separate schemes:

- PhD students can apply for bursaries of £2,500 to conduct research at Columbia University in New York, Sciences Po in Paris or at The National University of Singapore.
- Faculty members can apply to take part in an exchange scheme between LSE and Columbia, in which they would spend a term on the other side of the Atlantic.



- The Global Public Policy Network is offering up to £20,000 for two projects through its 2009 Call for Proposals under its Collaborative Research Grant Programme. The scheme requires collaboration between faculty at LSE and at least one of the other three GPPN partners.

Competition for all three initiatives is expected to be intense and successful applicants will be asked to report back at the end of their projects.

Mark Maloney, head of Academic Partnerships at LSE, said: 'All three of these schemes aim to cement the School's collaboration with its key partners. They also seek to enhance the quality of world-class contemporary teaching or research of all participants.'

For information about the full range of LSE's international collaborative activities, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/academicpartnerships](http://www.lse.ac.uk/academicpartnerships)

## Programmed to care

**'Individual and social discounting in a viscous population', Peter D Sozou, CPNSS, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B***

In this study, Dr Sozou suggests that individuals may have an innate tendency to care about the long-term future of their communities, over timescales much longer than an individual's lifespan. This in turn may help to explain people's wish to take action over long-term environmental problems.

The study examines what weight individuals should attach to future benefits. The study shows that the weight individuals attach to future benefits depends on whether those benefits are social and for the good of their community, or private which benefit themselves. Individuals should be expected to take a long-term view of benefits for their community, but a more short-term view of private benefits to themselves.

Humans, like all creatures, generally value a reward today more highly than a reward tomorrow – in other words they discount future benefits. But the model shows that the discount rate is lower for social, rather than individual, benefits. Dr Sozou said: 'This analysis shows that the social discount rate is generally lower than the private discount rate. An individual's valuation of a future benefit to herself is governed by the probability that she will still be alive in future. But she may value future benefits to her community over a

timescale considerably longer than her own lifespan.

'Evolution is driven by competition. Caring about the future of your community makes evolutionary sense to the extent that future members of your community are likely to be your relatives.'

However this evolutionary logic does not apply, at first glance, in the case of a global threat such as climate change where the 'community', the planet, is not in competition with other communities so why do we care at all about the long-term future of humanity? The answer, Dr Sozou suggests, is that we have evolved to value social benefits because in our ancestral environment they tended to deliver local benefits – helping our kin to survive. However in the modern age, it is this biological preference for social good which gives us an interest in the future of the planet

To download the paper, go to: [www2.lse.ac.uk/ERD/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/archives/2009/05/futureprogrammed.aspx](http://www2.lse.ac.uk/ERD/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/archives/2009/05/futureprogrammed.aspx)



## When silence can kill

**'Condoms Cause Aids: poison, prevention and denial in Venda, South Africa', Fraser G McNeill, Anthropology, *African Affairs***

This article presents a critique of the position that South Africans are engaged in a process of collective HIV/AIDS denial. Ex-President Mbeki's well-documented belief that HIV does not lead to AIDS, and that South Africans are not dying of AIDS-related disease, has been used by academics and journalists to explain the widespread public silence around the pandemic.

The article argues that the complex social processes employed to create and maintain the avoidance of open conversation around HIV/AIDS are rooted, not in Mbeki's denialism, but rather in conventions through which causes of death can, and cannot, be spoken about.

Through case studies of poisonings and public performances by HIV/AIDS educators, the article demonstrates that by invoking public silence and coded language, 'degrees of separation' are constructed

that create social distance between individuals and the unnatural cause of another's death.

Far from a collective denial, acts of public silence and obfuscation should be read as protestations of innocence: attempts to drive a wedge between open, public knowledge of death and potential implication in the increasing number of AIDS-related fatalities.

HIV/AIDS prevention policies based on inadequate understandings of this wider context have given rise to the social construction of peer educators – and condoms as their central symbol of prevention – as vectors of the virus.

To download a copy, go to: <http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/adp020?ijkey=Bne7zdzPBCJzkU3&keytype=ref>



## Public Lectures

*free and unticketed unless otherwise stated*

**Forum for European Philosophy annual lecture in association with Transatlantic and Caucasus Studies Institute**

PROFESSOR HAKAN YILMAZ

***Turkey: east or west? Turkey Looking West: culture, identity and European integration***

*Tuesday 2 June, 6.30-8pm, Alumni Theatre*

This lecture will look at the forces that are shaping Turkey from within and the impact and influence Turkey is projecting in the region and beyond; ultimately asking the question: Where next for Turkey?

Professor Hakan Yilmaz is from the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogaziçi University, Istanbul.

**LSE Arts/CsGG Talking Pictures**

RENZO MARTENS

***Enjoy Poverty***

*Thursday 4 June, 6.30-8.30pm, New Theatre*

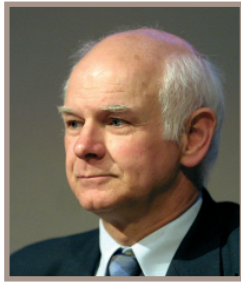
Renzo Martens will present a special screening of his film *Episode III*, (88 minutes) which investigates the emotional and economic value of Africa's most lucrative export: filmed poverty. As with more traditional African exports, suppliers of this new African commodity hardly benefit from it at all.

Renzo Martens studied at the Catholic University at Nijmegen and the Vrije Universiteit, Brussels. *Episode III* was recently exhibited at Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam and was screened as part of the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam.

## LSE people



LSE Director Howard Davies (right) and Professor Danny Quah (left), head of the Economics Department, took part in a debate at the Hay Festival on 23 May. The debate was on the topic of *Banks, Booms and Busts: where next for the global economy?*



## Academics abroad

Professor Janet Hartley, pro-director for Teaching and Learning, gave a paper at a conference held in Oryol, Russia, 23-24 May. The conference celebrated the Tercentenary of the Battle of Poltava, 1709, when Russia, under Peter the Great, defeated Sweden.

The title of Professor Hartley's paper was *Poltavskaia bitva i anglo-rossiiskie otnosheniia (The Battle of Poltava and Anglo-Russian Relations)*.



## The impact of autism

**'The economic impacts of autism in the UK', Martin Knapp, LSE, Renée Romeo, Kings College, London and Jennifer Beecham, LSE, *Autism (Sage)***

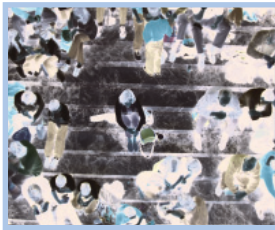
This research provides the most comprehensive analysis of the economic impacts of ASD in the UK to date and estimates the annual costs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to be more than £27 billion a year. The costs of supporting children with ASDs were estimated to be £2.7 billion per year and £25 billion each year for adults..

Costs were based on estimates for 539,766 people with ASD in the UK: 432,750 adults (aged 18 and over) and 107,016 children and adolescents (aged 0-17). There was no single, nationally representative data source in the UK looking at these costs, so the researchers combined existing data estimating prevalence; intellectual disability; place of residence; service use; lost productivity; and costs per individual. Average annual costs were also aggregated to estimate the lifetime cost of someone with ASD, calculated by combining costs for different age groups with life expectancy estimates.

The researchers suggest that the high costs associated with supporting adults with ASD warrant attention, supporting calls for wider provisions of early interventions with children and young people which have been shown to alter patterns of behaviour. They also call on the government to review policy frameworks for supporting those with ASDs, in particular reviewing support for independent living and for increasing productivity.

However, the researchers caution that the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of intervention must be evaluated further, saying: 'the costs presented in this paper certainly do not provide an economic case for early intervention, but they do emphasise the importance of addressing just that question. If early intervention could successfully change some aspects of behaviour that are cost raising, both in childhood and subsequently, it may allow cost savings to be made and quality of life improvements to be achieved.

For the full report, see: <http://aut.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/13/3/317>



## AUA BBQ

The London Region of the Association of University Administrators (AUA) will be holding their BBQ and Networking Event at Goldsmiths College on 2 July. All welcome.

For more info, contact Kate Brown: [aua@lse.ac.uk](mailto:aua@lse.ac.uk)



## Panel discussions

**Centre for the Study of Global Governance/LSE Arts**

PROFESSOR LILIE CHOULIARAKI, ADRIAN EVANS, RENZO MARTENS, SABINE SELCHOW, DR JULIAN STALLABRASS

***The Future of Picturing the World: filming and imaging in a global era***

*Wednesday 3 June, 6.30-8pm, New Theatre*

Faced with 'compassion fatigue', how is the practice of filmmakers and photojournalists changing and what are the implications for those who rely on photography and film? How will the internet open up new spaces and change the way in which images are used?

Lilie Chouliaraki is a professor in the Department of Media and Communications, LSE. Adrian Evans is director of Panos Pictures. Renzo Martens is an artist. Sabine Selchow is a fellow at LSE. Julian Stallabrass is a reader at The Courtauld Institute.





# noticeboard

## Senior staff termly meeting

Adrian Hall's termly meeting with senior staff will take place on Thursday 18 June at 11am in the Graham Wallas Room.

Noel Lawlor, head of Internal Audit, will discuss how the internal audit process can help managers, Barbara Bush, HR director, will outline the new draft HR strategy, and Adrian Hall will talk about the future purpose and direction of LSE services, which will include the establishment of a Service Excellence Group.

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## Cleaning

The schedule for office cleaning across the Campus has been changed to simplify and clarify cleaning provision, making it easier to understand when and what will be done in your respective buildings and areas.

For details and information, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/estatesDivision/Cleaning/CleaningServiceLevelDocuments.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/estatesDivision/Cleaning/CleaningServiceLevelDocuments.htm)

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## Maths day

It has become a tradition for the LSE Mathematics Department to host a one-day colloquium in combinatorics each May. This is timed to follow a similar event held on the previous day at Queen Mary. This year's colloquium attracted around 90 participants from all over the UK, around a third of whom were PhD students.

Six talks were given at the School. Peter Keevash of Queen Mary explained some of his impressive recent work on a class of processes for generating graphs without a given subgraph, improving the lower bounds on some Ramsey and Turan numbers. Stefanie Gerke, Royal Holloway, gave an entertaining account of her work on thresholds for connectivity in random intersection graphs, with applications to the problem of distributing secure keys in networks.

Angelika Steger, ETH Zurich, spoke about her mathematical analysis of a recent model for bursts of neuron firing in the brain, explaining how the rigorous analysis explained some (but not all) of the curious behaviour observed in computer simulations.

Leslie Goldberg of Liverpool University spoke about recent work on the complexity of evaluating partition functions and was able to describe exactly what types of weighted substructures of a large structure are computationally easy to count. Rahul Savani, Warwick, a former student in the department, explained how two game-theoretic problems related to connectivity in graphs are equivalent, and related to the structure of the graph.

Finally, Jaroslav Nesetril, Prague, gave the annual Norman Biggs lecture, speaking on the problems of graph-theory when the subject is approached from the category theory point of view, and described some of the extraordinarily rich structure of the class of directed graphs with the homomorphism relations.

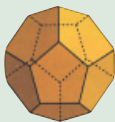
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## Small ads

**House to let for one year:** furnished, 4 bed, 3 loos, newly-decorated in New Malden, Surrey (25 mins to Waterloo by train). Includes all mod cons, and garden would ideally suit visiting scholar. Available summer 2009-summer 2010. For further information tel Carolina on 020 8949 7869 or 07882 538 272.

**To rent:** attractive, fully furnished top floor flat in Victorian conversion, Brixton-Herne Hill, overlooking the park. Quiet, light, airy. Open plan kitchen/living room, two double bedrooms, bath/shower. Recently refurbished to high standard. Ten mins walk to tube/overground. £280pw includes all bills except phone. Available from early June. Contact: [susan@nicolai.com](mailto:susan@nicolai.com)

**To rent:** attractive Chalk Farm flat, close to tube and direct buses to LSE. Available from 9 August onwards. 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)



# 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>Wednesday 3 June</b> <i>FrontPage 2003:</i> <i>creating a personal website</i> 10am <i>Moodle: next steps training</i> 10am <i>Video Conferencing for Teaching and Meetings</i> 12.15pm <i>Endnote: manage your references</i> 3pm	<b>Monday 8 June</b> <i>Excel 2003:</i> <i>shortcuts and basic formulas</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>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>Thursday 4 June</b> <i>Staff Training Workshop</i> 2pm	
<b>Friday 5 June</b> <i>HTML: formatting and layout</i> 10am <i>Finding and Using Images in Your Teaching</i> 12pm	

# Have your say

**NEW STUDENTS' CENTRE AT ST PHILIPS**

LSE is starting on the next phase of campus development with the redevelopment of St Philips and the creation of a new Students' Centre. The building will house the Students' Union (SU) and will, it is hoped, become a lively student hub that adds significant value to the student experience at LSE and become an international exemplar. See [www.lse.ac.uk/estates](http://www.lse.ac.uk/estates) for the full design brief.

It is hoped that the site will include a number of student-facing services such as the students' union reception, the SU advice and representation centre, the sabbatical and SU general manager's offices, a learning space, a pub, large and small venue spaces, media centre, a fitness centre including gym and dance studio, Interfaith prayer centre as well as LSE Residences accommodation office and sales and marketing office.

Six innovative architects practices have been shortlisted and their proposed designs will be submitted to the School by 5 June. LSE is inviting

students, staff, alumni and governors to vote for their preferred design with online voting from 10-18 June. Responses will provide an important steer to the panel of judges who will pick the winning design on 22 June.

Designs will be on display in the basement of St Philips (Z030) from 10-18 June and students and staff are welcome to attend a drop in day on 11 June to discuss each submission with the architects.

For more information, see: [www.lse.ac.uk/estates](http://www.lse.ac.uk/estates) and please don't forget to cast your vote online from 10-18 June. You can also email Emma Lovegrove at: [e.lovegrove@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.lovegrove@lse.ac.uk)



# Media bites

'I'm afraid in many ways it [health minister's allowance claims] just confirms what many people think of politicians already. That they're all basically crooks.'

Paul Kelly, CBC News, 13/5/09

'The Tories still have no council seats in Liverpool and Newcastle and only one in Manchester and they have taken over a decade to even start building up an activist base in the North,'" Mr Travers said. "Labour is set to experience the same problem and could all but disappear in the South for years.'

**Tony Travers**, *The Times*, 14/5/09

'I carried out a survey for the [ESRC] on childlessness in Europe, and found that a high proportion of women in higher-grade occupations are child-free or childless. It is a myth that women experience pressure on them regarding their choice not to have children.'

**Catherine Hakim**, *The Observer*, 17/5/09

Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues must seize this trial as a rare opportunity to revive a popular message of hope, addressing not just democracy and human rights, but also the survival concerns of ordinary Burmese. They should suggest ways for the international community to engage with Burmese people and civil society, if not the Neanderthal regime.

**Dr Muang Zarni**, *The Independent*, 19/5/09

'The political decisions that could be endorsed by the mobilisation of thrift are many and various, and the slogans about 'teaching the values of thrift in the family' are no doubt already being written. But inevitably, it will be the poorest and most vulnerable, already thrifty as a direct consequence of poverty, who will be most affected, be it in terms of access to higher education or the quality and availability of other state services.'

**Mary Evans**, *THE*, 21/5/09



# Library news

**HELEN GREER AWARD TO LSE LIBRARY**

The Helen Greer award acknowledges a European Documentation Centre (EDC) librarian who has made a particularly outstanding contribution to EDC librarianship.

This year the award goes to Maria Bell, LSE liaison librarian for law and the European Institute. Paul Clarke, chairman of the European Information Association (EIA) said: 'In choosing Maria to be the 2009 recipient, the judges recognised her valuable work not just during 2008 but over a period of time.'

Maria, who has worked in the Library since 1997, also manages the European Documentation Centre (EDC) that is housed within the Library. The EDC holds official EU documents and publications spanning the whole history of the European Union for the academic community and Maria will provide assistance and guidance in tracing EU documentation for LSE staff and students.

As an extension of her role, Maria also works with the European Commission and European Information Association (EIA) training information professionals in understanding and using EU information resources.



# Can you help?

A visiting Chinese research fellow to the Geography and Environment Department will be starting at the School in August and requires reasonably priced accommodation in London for one year, starting August 2009. If you can help, please email: [rayeleesz@hotmail.com](mailto:rayeleesz@hotmail.com)

# New paper series

The European Institute (EI) has launched its new Discussion Paper series, *LEQS (LSE 'Europe in Question' Series)* which are available at: [www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/LEQS/LEQSHome.aspx](http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/LEQS/LEQSHome.aspx)

May's articles are: *The Liberty of the Post-Moderns? Market and Civic Freedom within the EU* by Richard Bellamy; *Gauging the Cumbersomeness of EU Law* by Damian Chalmers; *A New Concept of European Federalism* by Bruno S Frey; and *They Have No Idea... Decision-making and Policy Change in the Global Financial Crisis* by Erik Jones.

Forthcoming titles for June will include: *Immigration to the Land of Redistribution* by Tito Boeri and *On Building the American and the European Empires* by Josep M Colomer.

The electronic series is intended to become a key outlet for European research, where scholars from LSE and beyond publish on themes related to Europe and the EU. This endeavour is seen as strengthening academic and policy debates concerning the future development and governance of Europe, exploring new lines of reflection and analysis, and promoting the cross-fertilisation of research across cognate disciplines.



# Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

**Tuesday 2 June**  
**12.45-2pm.** R405. CEP Labour Market workshop. Jonathan Wadsworth: *Chernobyl, Health and Labour Market Performance in the Ukraine*.  
**5-6.30pm.** Z132. Narrative, Discourse and Representation postgraduate seminar. Alexandra Zavos: *Gender, Migration and the Anti-Racist Movement in Athens*.

**Wednesday 3 June**  
**1pm.** R407. FMG lunchtime workshop. Jens Hilscher and Mungo Wilson: *Credit Ratings and Credit Risk*.  
**5-6.30pm.** NAB LG09. Sociology seminar: Understanding Freedom. Nikolas Rose: *Freedom in an Age of Insecurity*.  
**5.30-7pm.** T206. Choice Group seminar. Samir Okasha: *Individuals, Groups, Fitness and Utility: levels of selection meets social choice theory*.

**Thursday 4 June**  
**5-6.30pm.** NAB LG09. Population Research seminar. Wolfgang Lutz: *Population, Education and*

*Development: addressing the interactions.*

Free but registration is necessary. Email: [d.e.josephs@lse.ac.uk](mailto:d.e.josephs@lse.ac.uk)

**Friday 5 June**  
**10.30am-12.30pm.** A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. George StClair: *Building Purity: the construction of a church of the Christian congregation in Sao Paulo*.