



News & views

Investigation party



Professor Christine Chinkin (pictured left) of the Law Department, is to join a United Nations' investigation team into possible war crimes in Israel and Gaza.

The team is being led by Richard Goldstone, a trustee of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a veteran prosecutor of war crimes in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

The investigation is to go ahead

Benefiting benefits

Department for Work and Pensions: communicating with customers, led by Patrick Dunleavy, chair Public Policy Group, Helen Margetts, Oxford University, Oxford Internet Institute, commissioned and published by the National Audit Office



This report found that changes in communication about social security benefits have helped the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to provide a more responsive service to their customers.

The research looked at the information exchanges between people and the Department that underpin applications for social security benefits and found that the Department has placed a reducing emphasis on

Recovery through ICT

The UK's Digital Road to Recovery, by Jonathan Liebenau and Patrik Kärberg, LSE, Robert Atkinson, Daniel Castro and Stephen Ezell, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

According to this report, investment in digital infrastructure would be able to revive the British economy by creating 700,000 jobs.

An additional £15 billion invested in broadband networks, intelligent transport systems and a smart power grid would not only create jobs – with more than half in small businesses – but also boost UK productivity. The extra investment would also improve the general quality of life and the environment, for example by reducing traffic congestion and reducing household energy bills.

The report found that investment in information and communication technology (ICT) would be even more effective at stimulating the economy than spending on roads, bridges and other forms of physical infrastructure. This is partly because many types of digital infrastructure create additional jobs outside their immediate sector – the 'network multiplier' effect.

While the report does not advocate a specific level of investment it models the benefits of £15 billion spent across the three areas: £5 billion on broadband networks (creating or retaining 280,000 jobs);

with or without Israel's co-operation: Israel regards the probe as 'intrinsically flawed' because it was ordered by the UN Human Rights Council which they allege has an anti-Israel track record. However, Goldstone said he wants to bring a balanced approach to the January conflict.

The team will first visit the southern part of the country and town of Sderot and then enter Gaza although no travel schedule has been arranged as yet.

The team includes Hina Jilani, a human rights advocate from Pakistan, and Desmond Travers, a former officer in the Irish Armed Forces with expertise on international criminal investigations.

issuing leaflets and had a significant growth in telephone enquiries and in online information provision about benefits on the internet.

The report concluded that, while the Department has significantly changed the way in which it provides information in recent years, there is still progress to be made in moving services online, some forms are still unnecessarily long and guidance notes are complicated. Moreover, the Department's computer generated letters are overly long and confusing for customers.

Professor Patrick Dunleavy said: 'This new report also shows that recently there has been a strong take-up of DWP's online facilities for claiming JobSeekers' Allowance, and that the Department is now moving rapidly to begin communicating with more of its customers online.'

The full report can be accessed from: www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/communicating_with_customers.aspx

£5 billion on intelligent transport systems (creating or retaining 188,000 jobs); and £5 billion on developing a smart power grid (creating or retaining 235,000 jobs).

Jonathan Liebenau said: 'Our report shows that in this severe economic climate the right investment in ICT infrastructure would have a significant effect in creating jobs now and in stimulating productivity and innovation for the future.'

Robert Atkinson said: 'Nations that invest in ICT to transform fields like transportation and energy reap substantial long-term economic and social benefits. This report shows that these investments also have a short-term impact by producing the jobs and economic growth the UK needs to get out of the current recession.'

A downloadable copy can be accessed at: www.itif.org/files/digitalrecovery.pdf



High flyers in Government

Two PhD students from the Government Department have won awards for best doctoral papers: Sofia Sebastian, *A Three-Level Framework of Analysis for State Building Processes: lessons from Bosnia*, and Fredrik Sjöberg for *Explaining Electoral Competitiveness in Kyrgyzstan: moving beyond the 'clan' hypothesis*.

The awards were presented at the 14th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities held at Columbia University in April.

Government PhD candidate Jan-Emmanuel De Neve was awarded the prestigious Wicksell Prize at the annual meeting of the European Public Choice Society (EPCS) held in Athens in April. The prize, worth 1000 Euros, is awarded for the best paper presented to the meeting by any scholar under the age of 30. It is open to scholars at the assistant professor level and to graduate students.

Jan-Emmanuel's paper, *Endogenous Preferences: the political consequences of economic institutions*, makes an important contribution to the debate over the relationship between economic institutions and voting behaviour.

The paper empirically demonstrates that the median voter is positioned further to the left in countries with strong institutions of economic co-ordination, and that patterns of voter behaviour are explained by these institutions.

How European do you feel?

Dr Michael Bruter, Government Department, has been awarded £193,133 from the ESRC to conduct research into a vision of EU Citizenship.

For the first time, *Feeling European* will tell us just how 'European' people from across the 27 EU member states feel themselves by employing a mass survey.

The research will also evaluate the impact of European identity, democratic preferences and political protest and ask citizens what new rights and duties they would like to see associated with European Union citizenship.

The same questions will then be addressed to political party leaders in nine countries in a series of in-depth interviews to be carried out in 2009-2010.



EU and China relations

On 30-31 May, a workshop on *EU-China Relations and Cross-Strait Relations* was organised by Prof Christopher Hughes of the International Relations Department.

The event was part of an on-going project with the Shanghai Institutes of International Studies (SIIS), one of China's leading international relations think tanks, and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, which advises the German Chancellor's office.

The workshop is held annually and alternates between China and Europe, giving experts from all sides an opportunity to exchange views on a range of issues affecting China-EU relations with special reference to developments between China and Taiwan, as well as developing the School's network of contacts in Europe and China. This year, the workshop was jointly supported by the Bosch Foundation, LSE's International Relations Department and SIIS.



L-r: Chris Hughes, Professor Yang Jiemian, president of SIIS.

Public Lectures

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

Forum for European Philosophy in association with Transatlantic & Caucasus Studies Institute, London

PROFESSOR ILHAN UZGEL
Turkey: east or west? The Rise of Religion in the Public Sphere
Tuesday 9 June, 6.30-8pm, Alumni Theatre

This series looks 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?

Ilhan Uzgel is an associate professor at the Faculty of Political Science at Ankara University, Turkey.

Modern Law Review 38th Annual Chorley Lecture

PROFESSOR ABDULLAHI A AN-NA'IM
The Compatibility of Islamic Law and State Law
Wednesday 10 June, 6-7pm, Shaw Library

The Chorley Lecture is named in honour of Lord Chorley of Kendal, the founding editor of *The Modern Law Review*. This is the most important occasion in the review's calendar.

Abdullahi A An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

School public lecture

HUSSAIN ABDUL HUSSAIN
The Lebanese Elections and Middle Eastern Democracy
Thursday 11 June, 6- 7.30pm, New Theatre

From military intervention in Iraq, to supporting an uprising in Lebanon; forcing elections in the Palestinian Territories and imposing international isolation on Syria, the world has tried several scenarios to spread democracy in Middle Eastern countries.

In light of the Lebanese elections being held on June 7, Hussain Abdul Hussain will explore the status of democracy in the Middle East and will look at the broader impact of these elections on the regional balance of power between Iran and the US.

Hussain Abdul Hussain is a visiting fellow at Chatham House, and author of the forthcoming paper *Confrontation through the Ballot Box: Middle East elections and the US-Iranian relationship*. An Iraqi-born journalist, Hussain is the former managing editor of Beirut's *Daily Star* and an expert on the Levant region of the Middle East.

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

MANUEL PINHO
A New Energy Policy for Portugal
Monday 15 June, 6.30-8pm, Wolfson Theatre


In 2005, Portugal adopted a new energy policy, promoting renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and reducing external dependency. The main results so far have been extremely positive and will lead the country to become one of the leaders in the new energy/environment industries.

Manuel Pinho is Portuguese minister of Economy and Innovation, a position he has held since 2005. Prior to this he served in various positions including vice-president of BES Investment, S.A, president of Espírito Santo Research, and as an economist at the International Monetary Fund.



noticeboard

Staff briefings: summer term

 All support staff are invited to attend one of the two termly briefings, chaired by Adrian Hall (pictured left), Secretary and Director of Administration.

The briefings this term will take place on Monday 29 June at 11am and on Tuesday 30 June at 2pm. Both sessions will take place in the Vera Anstey Room.

Director Howard Davies will talk about current developments and issues at the School at the Monday session while pro-director Professor George Gaskell will present this talk at the Tuesday session.

HR director Barbara Bush will present the new draft HR strategy and Adrian Hall will discuss the future purpose and direction of services at LSE.

Party on the Plaza

All members of staff are invited to the summer party which takes place on Friday 3 July, 5.30-8.30pm at the John Watkins Plaza.

A free bar, music, BBQ and entertainment will be on offer.

You should have received your invitation but in case you haven't and want to go, please email: conferences@lse.ac.uk

Innovation questionnaire

Pera is conducting a study into open innovation and is asking for people involved in innovation to complete an online questionnaire: *Facilitating Open Innovation: landscape and feasibility study*.

The study has been commissioned by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) which is an advisory committee to the education funding councils. It aims to identify barriers to open innovation (specifically co-development between universities and companies), explore previous attempts to overcome these barriers and finally, based on this research, to suggest potential solutions which will facilitate open innovation.

All information will be analysed by Pera and JISC and no other party will have access to any of the data from this questionnaire. Data will be used for research purposes for the *Facilitating Open Innovation: landscape and feasibility study* and will not be used for any other purpose. The results of the questionnaire will be made public on the JISC website some time after the project is finished at the end of September.

The questionnaire can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZjAOEaDQXw2KYMCC3BfmXQ_3d_3d

Pera is one of Europe's leading innovation and business support organisations. Founded over 60 years ago, it works to improve the growth and competitiveness of industry and business in Europe.

For further information, contact Dr Iain Roche at: ian.roche@pera.com

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 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

Training opportunities at LSE

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

Wednesday 10 June <i>Lost (and Found) in Translation:</i> <i>Producing, collecting and analysing data in a foreign language</i> 10am <i>Access 2003: working with database objects and data</i> 2pm	Monday 15 June <i>PowerPoint2003:</i> <i>creating a presentation</i> 10am
Thursday 11 June <i>FrontPage 2003: website images</i> 2pm	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 Paul Horsler at: p.n.horsler@lse.ac.uk
Friday 12 June <i>Endnote: manage your references</i> 10am <i>Moodle: basics training</i> 10am <i>Word 2003: useful features and shortcuts</i> 2pm	

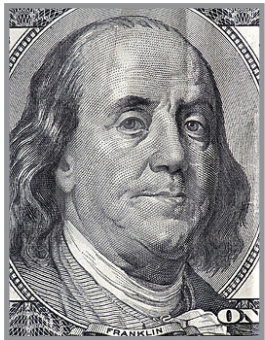
Bill Black award

Nominations for the Bill Black award are being sought. This award is given to people who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their own development and its benefits to the wider School community (ie through the importation or application of new ideas) or to the development of others, perhaps through encouraging colleagues to take up new opportunities.

Nominations should be emailed to Chris Connelley, head of the Staff Development Unit, at: c.connelley@lse.ac.uk


Bill (pictured right), who was tutor for the Diploma in Management, died suddenly in 2006. His ceaseless efforts to encourage staff learning at LSE, and the great respect colleagues had for him, led to the setting up of this annual award.

Applications wanted for the 2009 Benjamin Franklin literary prize

 Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the US, was a noted polymath, leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat.

He believed in the power of the written word to inform and stimulate

Media bites

 'A police investigation into the MPs expenses scandal will swiftly identify false accounting as the criminal offence most likely to have been committed by the most egregious of the SW1 claimants. The offence is committed when a person dishonestly, with a view to gain, produces a record or document that he or she knows is misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular.'

Jonathan Fisher, *The Times*, 21/5/09

debate and as the bedrock of a democratic society.

The theme for this year's Benjamin Franklin House Literary Prize, run in association with The Telegraph online, is an interpretation of Franklin's words: 'They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety' and the significance they hold today.

Essays should be emailed to: info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org by 30 September. For further information, see: www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org/site/sections/news/literary_prize.html

'The time to [bring in PR] is now, because if the Conservatives win the next election under first-past-the-post, it's all over for a decade or two.'

Jonathan Hopkin, *The Guardian*, 27/5/09

'The French have always been very good at industrial planning, while in this country it is usually a disaster. It is very hard to believe that the UK is suddenly going to become French-like in the way its plans national infrastructure projects.'

Sir Geoffrey Owen, *The Times*, 31/5/09

Library news

NEW ACCESS TO PAST DEBATES

LSE 19th century pamphlets are to be made available online as part of a collaborative project with other major research libraries.

Over 20,000 pamphlets in total will be searchable on JSTOR.

Railways, women's suffrage and trades unions are just some of the subjects covered.

Find out more about this new resource for historical research at a special event being held on Monday 29 June, 4.30-6pm, in room S75 (St Clements).

Speakers will include:

Dr Tim Leunig (pictured below), who is also a member of the RLUK 19th century pamphlets steering committee, on the importance of pamphlets for historical research

Grant Young, project manager for the RLUK 19th Century Pamphlets Project, on the scope and aims of the project

Anna Towlson, assistant archivist at the Library, on the contents of the pamphlet collection at the LSE Library.

This is a free event with refreshments provided.

For more information and to book a place, please go to: www.lse.ac.uk/library/news/pamphletpromotion.htm

Changes in SDU

Staff Development Unit (SDU) manager Claire Hackshall has gone on to pastures new in the Library.

Claire's post has changed to incorporate a broader professional services manager role to cover SDU operations and other HR functions.

If you would like to apply for this position, please go to the HR website. SDU will be filling the post temporarily until the post has been filled.

'Twitter is definitely an important tool but it's also important to note how fast this technology can change.

In five years' time, sites such as Twitter or Facebook may not exist at all – something else will have replaced them.'

Charlie Beckett, *The Guardian*, 1/6/09

Diary

Open to all unless otherwise stated

Tuesday 9 June
12.30-2pm. S78. Grantham Institute seminar. Ralf Martin: *Climate Change Policy and Business Performance*.
12.45-2pm. R405. CEP Labour Market workshop. Raffaella Sadun, Oriana Bandiera, Andrea Prat and Luigi Guiso: *How do CEOs spend their time?*

Wednesday 10 June
12.30-2pm. R405. CEP/LSE International Economics

seminar. Christian Fons-Rosen: *Knowledge Flows Through FDI Activity: the case of privatizations in Central and Eastern Europe*.
1pm. R407. FMG lunchtime workshop. Kathy Yuan: *Trading Frenzy and its Impact on Real Investment*.
5pm. R405. Capital Markets workshop. David Scharfstein: *Bank Lending During the Financial Crisis*.
6.30-8pm. A316. Mannheim Centre and British Society of Criminology seminar. Ben Bowling: *Transatlantic Policing: a Caribbean island perspective*.

Friday 12 June
10.30am-12.30pm. A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. Armine Ishkanian: *Civil Society, Reconciliation and Transitional Justice*.

Monday 15 June
5.30pm. B615. BHU seminar. Terry Gourvish and Kevin Tennent: *The Peterson and Berger Thesis Revisited: market dominance in the British popular music industry, 1950-80*.