



News & views

Outstanding achievement

Stanley Cohen (right), emeritus professor of sociology, has been awarded the British Society of Criminology Outstanding Achievement Award. Introduced this year, the award celebrates outstanding contributions to the discipline by member of the British Society of Criminology. Stan Cohen is being honoured for his contributions over the last forty years which have consistently proved to be reference points in the development of criminology.

Among Professor Cohen's notable achievements are his publications *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*, *Visions of Social Control*, and *States of Denial: knowing about atrocities and suffering* – all of which proved hugely influential and enhanced the discipline's interests on the national and international stage.

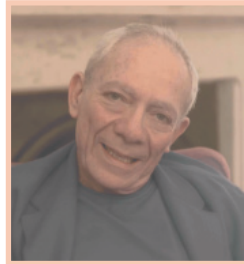
Possibly his most famous work remains *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* (1972), the central concepts of which have proved so influential as to have made the transition from academia into popular usage. *Visions of Social Control* (1985) is a rich source for the explication of ideas such as 'net-widening' and 'mesh-thinning' which remain among the most cited concepts in the critical literature on the criminal justice system. And with *States of Denial: knowing about atrocities and suffering* (2001), he interrogated the notion of being 'in denial' with such precision that it is now impossible to

seriously write about neutralisations and rationalisations, genocide and other atrocities, without reference to that work.

He received the Sellin-Glueck Award of the American Society of Criminology (1985) and is on the Board of the International Council on Human Rights. In 1987, he was elected as a member of the British Academy.

Professor Cohen's current work includes follow-up research to his book on *Denial: a study of how Truth Commissions create collective memory*, and an international project on 'crime, order and security' as a human rights problem. He has written a thirty-year review of his concept of 'moral panics' for a new edition of *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* and is editing (with Tom Blomberg) a new edition of *Punishment and Social Control*.

Professor Judy Wajcman, Head of the Sociology Department at LSE, said: 'Stan Cohen's work has influenced a generation of sociologists and helped shape the discipline today. Many congratulations to Stan for this well deserved award.'



Major new EU grant for LSE internet study

One of the largest grants ever won by the School, 2.5 million euros, has been awarded to Professor Sonia Livingstone, Media and Communications, for new research into children's experiences of risks on the internet.

Professor Livingstone will spend two years conducting original empirical research into online safety issues experienced by thousands of children aged 9-16 and their parents in up to 25 EU countries.

Professor Livingstone said: 'At last, Europe's children are to be asked directly what they see as the opportunities and risks of the internet. To inform public policy, and counter media panics, this new project will examine the nature, extent and consequences of youthful experiences of online risk, as reported to the researchers by a thousand 9-16 year olds in 20 or more European countries.'

'At the same time, their parents will be asked how they see the risks and what they do to try to minimise them. By next summer, *EU Kids Online* will present comparable findings for each country, pinpointing for which children in which countries the various kinds of online risk are greatest.'

This is the second project undertaken by the *EU Kids Online* network comprising around 70 academics across Europe. The first evaluated the findings of nearly 400 studies of children's experiences of online risk across 21 countries.

Key findings from the first project (published this month) include the discovery that giving out personal information is the most common risky behaviour, and while meeting an online contact offline is much less common, it remains the most dangerous risk.

The report's recommendations to minimise risks include strengthening regulatory frameworks, more industry self-regulation and more awareness-raising initiatives. Evidence suggests that awareness-raising should now focus on young and disadvantaged children and those new to the internet.

The research adds that making the internet safer for children is made difficult because those experiencing more risks are often those who take up more opportunities – reducing the risks may also reduce the opportunities. More positively, *EU Kids Online* found that as many parents as children are now online across Europe, so they can play an active role in helping keep children safe.

For more information on *EU Kids Online*, and for a downloadable copy of the new report, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/EUKidsOnline/Default.htm



LSE alumna wins the *Apprentice*

The final of BBC1's show *The Apprentice* saw LSE alumna Yasmina Siadatan win the six-figure salary prize, seeing off 14 other hopefuls to win the job on offer.

Yasmina, who graduated from LSE in 2004 with a BSc in Economic History and Population Studies, is a highly ambitious restaurant owner and marathon runner. She first experienced the world of business in her dad's restaurant and describes herself as dominating yet adaptable. She believes that business is all about spotting a gap in the market and filling it better than anyone else. An admirer of Sir Richard Branson's attitude to personal service, Yasmina would love to have been the brains behind Microsoft,

where the right idea at the right time led to riches.

Dudley Baines, emeritus reader in economic history was Yasmina's tutor during her time at LSE. He said: 'We'd like to offer our congratulations – it's quite an achievement, and I hope the LSE education helped in some part. We do work our students pretty hard in Economic History but I don't think we put them under quite as much pressure as Sir Alan Sugar does his trainees.'



Public Lectures

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

LSE Space for Thought

PROFESSOR DANI RODRIK

Capitalism 3.0

Tuesday 16 June, 6.30-8pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre

Capitalism needs to be reinvented for a new century in which the forces of economic globalisation are much more powerful than before. Just as Adam Smith's minimal capitalism was transformed into Keynes' mixed economy, we need to contemplate a transition from the national version of the mixed economy to its global counterpart.

We have to imagine a better balance between markets and their supporting institutions at the global level. Sometimes, this will require extending institutions outward from nation states and strengthening global governance. At other times, it will mean preventing markets from expanding too much and going beyond the reach of institutions that must remain perforce national.

Dani Rodrik is Rafiq Hariri Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University.

Website launch

A seminar on *Surviving the Global Economic Crisis: perspectives from Africa and Asia* is being held in the Sheikh Zayed Theatre, Thursday 18 June, to mark the launch of the IGC (International Growth Centre) website. The seminar will look at how developing countries are being affected by the worldwide economic contraction, and what policy responses governments can make.

Presentations will be given by Yu Yongding, director, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, Surjit Bhalla, Oxus Research and Investments, New Delhi, Ernest Aryeetey, University of Ghana and Brookings Institution, Accra, and Richard Portes, London Business School, Centre for Economic Policy Research, and chair, Global Crisis Group.

A roundtable discussion group will take place after the presentations.

Stories from LSE

LSE has launched a series of films celebrating the School through individual stories. The series aims to give an insight into life at the School through the tales of people who study and work here. The first of an initial series of three films sees Conor Gearty, professor of law and head of human rights at LSE, talk of his passion for teaching – and what makes teaching at LSE so special.

'One of the remarkable features of a successful institution such as LSE's department of law is that most of the colleagues are teaching stuff of which they are a part and that makes for good teaching at university level,' he argues, as the film follows him from lecture theatre to Matrix Chambers, where he is a founding member and practising barrister.

Raised in Ireland, his family was 'extremely involved in both sides of the fight for Irish freedom', and he developed an early interest in human rights and the power of teaching. He said: 'The main thing that makes a teacher a good teacher across any level of education is interest in the person being taught – whether it's a four year old, a fourteen year old or a 24 year old.'

The second film features students who have come to LSE from non-traditional backgrounds, either the first in their family to go to higher education or from schools that do not traditionally send students to Russell group universities. They explain how LSE Choice, a scheme aimed at identifying the most talented people from London state schools and colleges, has broadened their horizons.

The third in the series profiles professional student musicians, who explain how LSE has allowed their musical ambitions to prosper. The Student's Story and the Musician's Story will be launched over the coming month.

To view Stories from LSE, see: www2.lse.ac.uk/ERD/pressAndInformationOffice/newsAndEvents/Home.aspx and click Stories from LSE news

Three more Stories from LSE will be launched later this year. If you are interested in commissioning a film, or have an idea for a good theme, please contact Claire Sanders at: c.e.sanders@lse.ac.uk

Flying high



Aris Trantidis (left), research student in the European Institute, was one of three top winners of the St Gallen Wings of Excellence Award and delivered a speech at the plenary session of the St Gallen symposium held in Switzerland in May.

Student participants are selected through a demanding essay competition. This year, around 1,000 contestants took part with the best 200 invited to the symposium. Aris' essay, *Building Bridges and Raising Boundaries:*

reconfirming the boundaries between the state, the market

and society, was placed among the three best.

Aris' speech reflected his recent work on the issue of regulation in the face of the knowledge problem as posed by Hayek, and the issue of motives behind decision-making put forward by public choice.

Obituary

Peter Townsend, professor of social policy, LSE, and founder of Child Poverty Action Group, died on 7 June aged 81

FROM THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Peter Townsend (pictured right), best known for his defining and far-sighted work on poverty and inequality in a career that spanned five decades, was also a driving force at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) and a great friend and mentor to staff and students alike.

As chair of the Advisory Board for more than five years, active contributor to all of the Centre's activities, and constant source of support and guidance, Peter will be greatly missed by the Centre staff, students and alumni.

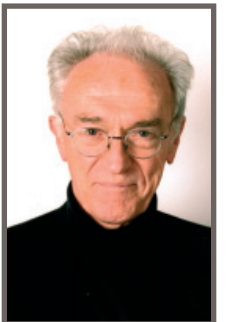
Peter's last public appearance at the Centre was as a finalist in the Centre's *Right of Rights* panel debate in December 2008, in which he launched a powerful case for economic and social rights to be recognised as the most important in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

More recently, he played an active role in the Centre's interdisciplinary research group dedicated to looking at questions of poverty, responsibility and globalisation, and just last week, he was serving on an LSE panel charged with recruiting the new director of the Centre.

Beyond his professional contributions, it is Peter's warmth that will be most sorely missed. His generosity of spirit, his genuine interest in those around him, and his willingness to give his time and energy were great gifts to those who knew him.

Professor Conor Gearty, director of the Centre, said: 'Peter was a constant source of good advice and professional support, and of personal friendship. I last saw him on his way home from our alumni dinner via a group of MSc Human Rights graduates who had gathered enthusiastically around him, not wanting to let him go. Now alas we have to. His commitment to human rights as a means of securing justice and the alleviation of poverty was total: I feel honoured to have known him.'

All of us at the Centre are deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of such a great scholar, campaigner and human being. Our thoughts are with his family, about whom he talked with such love and affection.



noticeboard

Senior staff termly meeting

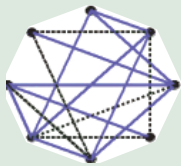
Adrian Hall's termly meeting with senior staff will take place on Thursday 18 June at 11am in the Graham Wallas Room.

Noel Lawlor, head of Internal Audit, will discuss how the internal audit process can help managers, Barbara Bush, HR director, will present 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.

Choice Group grant

The LSE Choice Group has been awarded a £37K grant by the AHRC to fund a series of interdisciplinary workshops, master classes and seminars in the area of individual and social decision making, with the aim of developing an international network of researchers in the field.

The award recognises the Choice Group's international reputation for philosophically informed decision theory and the contribution that the development of such a research network can make to furthering research in the field.



BIOS Blog

The BIOS Blog is a communal space for thought-provoking comments and discussion surrounding various overlooked, and often controversial, aspects of contemporary science.

Its aim is to bring an interdisciplinary social science perspective to developments in the life sciences that are challenging our concepts of identity, normality, responsibility, security and humanity.

Each blog topic will be discussed by multiple academics (faculty and students) from various disciplines and will be open to the public for comments. Please feel free to actively engage with this blog by commenting, posting questions and prompting further discussion.

See: <http://biosblog.org/siteapps/2347/htdocs/>



LSE Perspectives June 2009

This month's contributions to LSE Perspectives, the online gallery featuring images contributed by students and staff, are now available to view. The photos reflect some of the fascinations, concerns, quirks and artistic sensibilities of our LSE community. Go to: http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE_Perspectives/

To view a larger picture and to find out more information about each entry just click on the thumbnail.

A new selection of photographs is selected each month by the Arts Team. To find out how to submit a contribution, go to: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/artsAndMusic/LSE_Perspectives/LSEPerspectivessubmissions.htm



by graduate student Guillaume Hingel

Small ads

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

Needed: undergraduate, postgraduate and research students for a study on the use of online information resources. The study will last two hours and will be paid at £10 p/h. If you would like to take part in this research project, please contact Dr Hanna Stelmaszewska, tel 020 8411 6347 (office)/07748156669 or email: h.stelmaszewska@mdx.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:

Tuesday 16 June <i>FrontPage 2003:</i> forms and questionnaires	10am	Monday 22 June <i>PowerPoint2003:</i> images, tables and charts	2pm
Wednesday 17 June <i>Staff Training Workshop</i> <i>Presenting with PowerPoint:</i> communicating effectively with an audience Google and Beyond	2pm 2pm 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	
Thursday 18 June <i>Endnote: manage your references</i>	2pm		
Friday 19 June <i>Excel 2003: charts</i>	10am		

Staff survey

In 2006, the School carried out a staff survey about working at LSE. Next term, in November, a further survey will take place. This time, it will be carried out by the survey consultancy service of Bristol University. See: www.bris.ac.uk/pwe/positivepeople

As before, all individual responses will be completely confidential.

A small sample of staff will be asked to take part in focus groups during June to help identify the themes for the survey. Survey themes are likely to include issues such as learning and development, job satisfaction, leadership, organisational effectiveness, communication and reward.

All LSE staff will be invited individually to take part in the survey which will be hosted by Bristol's website and more information will be circulated in September and October.

If you would like to know more about the survey, have suggestions for areas that might be addressed or want to take part in one of the focus groups, please contact Alison Johns at: a.johns@lse.ac.uk or email: hr.survey.suggestions@lse.ac.uk

Howard Davies said: 'We found the results of the 2006 staff survey were very encouraging, and were helpful in identifying what staff thought about the School and where we could make changes. We want all staff to take part in the 2009 survey and give us your views on working here. This will help us to continue to improve working life for staff, which in turn helps everyone to perform better.'



Justice and reconciliation

Studies dealing with transitional justice and reconciliation often focusing on intra-state issues of truth-seeking, retribution and reconciliation after mass atrocity. On 4 June, the LSE Centre for Civil Society (CCS) hosted an international conference on *Civil Society and Reconciliation in Comparative Perspective* with the aim of exploring the role of civil societies in reconciliation processes and to open up these issues to debate and criticism.

The conference brought together academics, practitioners and policy makers to critically analyse and examine how civil society is, or can be, a space for diverse voices and different kinds of political discourse.

Plenary speakers Professor Elazar Barkan (Columbia University, New York) and Professor Ruti Teitel (New York University of Law) discussed different dimensions of conflict resolution, reconciliation and transitional justice processes from a comparative perspective.

Other speakers considered how civil society actors have been involved in reconciliation processes in different parts of the world including Germany, Iraq, Morocco, Northern Ireland, Poland, Serbia, as well as in stateless and diasporic communities.

In conjunction with the conference, a roundtable was hosted the following day on *Civil Society and Turkish Armenian Relations* where discussants considered the challenges, opportunities and limitations of civil society engagement around Turkish Armenian rapprochement efforts.

Changing the union

LSESU has undergone a restructure to focus resources on societies, sports, campaigns, welfare and other membership services. More staff in membership services will improve commercial services and create new operations and finance divisions, enabling LSESU to be more professional and student-focused. Key to this is the new senior management team.

While the restructure involves sharing some staff with the University of the Arts London (SUARTS) Students' Union, LSESU will remain a completely separate, independent organisation, with its own democratic structure, budget, services and policies. Sharing of staff allows economies of scale and means the union can employ specialist staff it would be unable to do on its own.

Although LSESU is led by elected student officers, the new senior management team are responsible for operating and developing the union. The team members are:

- Andrea Strachan, general manager
- Martin Laws, head of commercial services
- Kat Stark, head of membership services
- John Bloomfield, head of operations.

The team is recruiting for a head of finance plus 18 other new staff over the coming month. For further details see: www.lsesu.com/jobs. More details on the changes are available at: http://lsesu.com/export/sites/LSE/upload_gallery/yourunion.pdf



Library news

NEW SOCIAL INTERACTIVE SPACE

Over the summer, the Foyer area is being converted into a comfortable place for taking breaks from studies. Library users will be able to relax, eat, drink and chat.

Work begins on Monday 29 June and is due to complete by start of Michaelmas term.

Likely disruption during the building work:

- the Library will remain open as usual throughout, and all Library services will be maintained
- at certain points, the front entrance will be blocked off and an alternative Library entrance will be provided
- there will inevitably be some noise and disruption in the immediate area. Please use the study spaces on the upper floors
- a small area directly below on the lower ground floor will be blocked off at certain times.

Check the Library website throughout the summer for the latest information.



Effective education

This latest edition of *CentrePiece* focuses on a long-running research programme by the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) which has been assessing the effectiveness of the UK's educational policies in raising standards.

This issue provides an overview of some of the most significant findings across a wide range of policies. It details a series of studies which have evaluated efforts both to improve the quality of education overall and to tackle the 'long tail' of people without basic skills by giving better opportunities to low-achieving, hard-to-reach children from poorer families.

Key findings from this collection of studies include:

- academies have improved their GCSE performance after changing status – but so have comparable schools that did not become academies
- raising the school leaving age, as the UK government is currently proposing to do, may increase regional mobility and improve the employment outcomes of the least educated segment of the population
- higher ability pupils tend to be graded higher by tests than by teachers, while lower achieving pupils are graded better by the teachers rather than by tests
- the effects of higher spending on educational attainment have been consistently positive across all areas tested at the end of primary education. Resource-based interventions seem to produce their best outcomes when targeted towards pupils and schools in real need
- remedial programmes are not working for a significant proportion of children labelled as SEN (special educational needs). There is no net effect of being labelled as SEN on the performance of pupils with moderate difficulties.



Diary
Open to all unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 17 June 12.30-2pm. R405. CEP/LSE International Economics seminar. Alan Spearot: <i>Multilateral Liberalisation and Bilateral Trade: It's all about value.</i> 1pm. R505. STICERD Work in Progress seminar. Aaron Grech: <i>Assessing the Social Sustainability of Pension Reforms in Europe.</i>	Thursday 18 June 12.30-1.45pm. H202. CCS seminar. Nick Sireau: <i>Make Poverty History: what can we learn for future campaigns?</i> 5pm. A379. Modern and Comparative Economic History seminar. Pradipta Chaudhury: <i>Political Economy of Caste in Northern India, 1840-1947.</i>
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Friday 19 June 10.30am-12.30pm. A607. Anthropological Theory research seminar. Nina Glick Schiller: <i>A Global Perspective on Migration: theorizing migration without methodological nationalism.</i> Monday 22 June 5.45-8pm. R405. Financial Regulation seminar. Giorgio Szego: <i>Crash 08: a regulatory debacle.</i>
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