



News & views

Prizeworthy students

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WINNERS

A team of LSE students have become winners of Profitunity!, the annual undergraduate entrepreneurial challenge run by Ernst & Young in conjunction with youth charity The Prince's Trust.

The team, called Hot Press and comprising Sarah Martin, Fiona Mansfield, Manav Frohde and Jenna Tan, initially planned to develop yearbooks for graduates. However, it became clear this would not generate much money so they switched to producing T-shirts instead. The judges said that the team 'showed real entrepreneurial spirit by diversifying.'

This year's final involved six student teams competing from the universities of Bath (which had two finalist teams), LSE (again with two teams), King's College and Sheffield. Each had beaten 19 other UK student teams who had successfully started up and run their own business. Armed with £500 start-up funds and an Ernst & Young mentor, the teams had just five months to launch a business, with all profits going to The Prince's Trust.

Tara Leathers, senior head of corporate development at The Prince's Trust, said: 'Profitunity! harnesses the creativity of the student population to help us change the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged young people. Each week we need £1m to continue our work helping young people to get a foot on the career ladder. We'll be able to help many more young people achieve their potential as a result of the students' efforts.'

ONE IN A HUNDRED



PhD student Almudena Cañibano has been nominated by the Spanish monthly business magazine *Capital* as one of the 100 young people from across all walks of life who will most influence life in Spain in the coming decades.

The list was established by the magazine after consultation across a wide range of business, political, cultural and scientific organisations.

Almudena joined the PhD programme in the Employment Relations and Organisational Behaviour

Group from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. She is working on the effects of new work systems on employees' health, well-being, and organisational performance, looking at four major Spanish organisations.

For the early stages of her research, while at Complutense, she was awarded the Premio Joven UCM Economía 2008, a national research prize for researchers aged under thirty-five.

Dr Marsden, Employment Relations and Organisational Behaviour Group, said: 'Many of our doctoral students are immensely talented, and it is a privilege for us to supervise their work.'



SHINING EXAMPLE

Indian student Shruti Sharad Sonthalia's (left) inspirational story of student life in the UK has resulted in her being named as London's International Student of the Year 2009 in a prestigious British Council competition.

Shruti was one of over 1,500 students, from 118 countries to enter the seventh annual International Student Awards – a major initiative from the British Council that shines the spotlight on international students and their contributions to life in the UK.

In a bid to take home a £1,000 prize, students studying at universities, colleges of further and higher education, schools and English language institutions across the UK shared stories about the extra-curricular achievements that illustrate how they are making the most of their time in the UK.

Shruti was delighted to win her award, saying: 'My years here in the UK will indeed be one of the defining phases of my life. From becoming a more aware and active global citizen to being a more responsible community member, LSE has given me both the knowledge and the opportunity to do so.'

Speaking on behalf of the School, Will Breare-Hall, Student Recruitment, said: 'LSE is delighted that Shruti's talent has been recognised with this prestigious award. She is an excellent ambassador for the many gifted international students studying at the School.'

All set to square the block

The School has now received planning permission for the New Academic Building's final piece of artwork to go ahead. The work, called *Square the Block* by renowned sculptor Richard Wilson RA, will be positioned on the Kingsway corner of the NAB.

The sculpture will take the form of a false corner composed of random architectural elements copied from the existing facade. The bottom part will be crunched up to look as if a giant has lifted that part of the building in order to allow people to walk by.

The structure challenges conventional thinking and in this way, will mirror exactly what the School does in both its teaching and research.

Fabricators are surveying the building now and it is aimed to start erecting the sculpture over the summer so that it's in place by Michaelmas term. The feature is set to become one of London's landmarks and it is hoped will feature as such on the London Open Top Bus Tours alongside Nelson's column, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye.

LSE engaged the services of the Contemporary Arts

Society to assist in the process of bringing this, and the Joy Gerrard installation, *Elenchus Aporia*, inside the atrium, into being. They organised a competition to source the best artists who would be able to work with the building's architecture and who would reflect the School's *Raison d'Etre* and ethos.

The artwork was made possible through the generosity of alumni and donors.



Professor Danny Quah, head of the Economics Department, took part in Intelligence Squared's debate, *The future belongs to India, not China*, held at the Royal Geographical Society on 12 May.

The debate looked at how all bets would appear to be on China rivalling the US and becoming the world's other superpower.

However, some believe that India, a democracy of over a billion people, has a rate of growth almost as impressive as China's, a burgeoning middle class, a highly skilled work force and an abundance of raw materials which could easily make it the next superpower. More important still, it operates under the rule of law not the rule of the politburo.

Could it be that India will end up the dominant power of the eastern hemisphere?

Professor Quah took the stance against the motion along with Lord Powell, chairman of the China-Britain Business Council from 1998 to 2007, and Sir David Tang, founder of the Shanghai Tang chain.

For more information on Intelligence Squared, see: www.intelligencesquared.com/

Public Lectures

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

FT Business – LSE European Institute The Future of Europe series with the European Cultural Foundation

LEONARD ORBAN

Multilingualism: a policy for uniting Europeans

Tuesday 19 May, 6.30-8pm, Wolfson Theatre

Languages are a bridge to other peoples and cultures and can improve the individual's life chances. But do we value them enough?

Leonard Orban is EU commissioner for multilingualism.

Financial Markets Group

PROFESSOR ROBERT J SHILLER

Animal Spirits: how human psychology drives the economy, and why it matters for global capitalism

Wednesday 20 May, 12.30-2pm, Old Theatre

The global financial crisis has made it painfully clear that powerful psychological forces are imperiling the wealth of nations today. From blind faith in ever-rising housing prices to plummeting confidence in capital markets, 'animal spirits' are driving financial events worldwide. Robert Shiller will put forward a bold new vision that will transform economics and restore prosperity.

Robert J Shiller is the Arthur M Okun Professor of Economics, Yale University, and Professor of Finance and Fellow, Yale School of Management. This event celebrates the publication of his latest book: *Animal Spirits: how human psychology drives the economy, and why it matters for global capitalism* co-authored with Professor George A Akerlof.

Psychology as Social Science series

PROFESSOR FATHALI M MOGHADDAM

The Failure of both Multiculturalism and Assimilation, and the New Path of Omniculturalism

Thursday 21 May, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

The two traditional policies for managing cultural diversity, multiculturalism and assimilation, are based on incorrect psychological assumptions, resulting in collective identity threats, destructive intergroup conflicts, and the marginalisation of minorities. Omniculturalism represents a constructive third path.

Fathali M Moghaddam is professor of psychology and director of the Conflict Resolution Program in the Departments of Psychology and Government at Georgetown University, USA.

LSE Arts/CsGG Talking Pictures series

OLIVER CHANARIN AND ADAM BROOMBERG

The Winning Side of an Image

Thursday 21 May, 7-8pm, Wolfson Theatre

Documentary photography is problematic. Without a witness, a victim is alone and de-humanised. We also know that victims are made for, or even by, the camera. In presenting work produced in Afghanistan, Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin attempt to highlight and compensate for these blind spots. In addition to showing *The Day Nobody Died*, they also present extracts from *The Red House*, produced in Iraq, and *Chicago*, produced in Israel.

The speakers have produced six books which examine the language of documentary photography. They are the recipients of many awards, including the Vic Odden Award, and are trustees of the Photographers Gallery and Photoworks.

Colloquium

Mathematics Department

PROFESSORS LESLIE GOLDBERG, JAROSLAV NESETRIL AND ANGELIKA STEGER AND DRS STEFANIE GERKE, PETER KEEVASH AND RAHUL SAVANI

Combinatorics

Thursday 21 May, 10am-5pm, New Theatre

Six different talks on aspects of combinatorics and related disciplines.

Stefanie Gerke is a lecturer in pure mathematics at Royal Holloway, University of London. Leslie Goldberg is a professor of computer science at the University of Liverpool. Peter Keevash is a lecturer in pure mathematics at Queen Mary, University of London. Jaroslav Nešetřil is a professor of mathematics at Charles University in Prague. Rahul Savani is research fellow at the University of Warwick. Angelika Steger is a professor of theoretical computer science at ETH Zurich.

Debates

free and unticketed unless otherwise stated

Centre for the Study of Global Governance (CsGG)

PROFESSOR MARY KALDOR, DRS MAUNG ZARNI AND ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI, AND RITA PAYNE

Opening up 'Illiberal' Regimes: do media and communications matter?

Tuesday 19 May, 6.30-8pm, Old Theatre

Even in closed authoritarian systems, or 'illiberal' regimes, spaces exist for civil society activity, debate, and networking. Accelerated by globalisation, this process is enabled by diverse actors using traditional and new communications tools, often challenging the status quo.

Mary Kaldor is professor of global governance at LSE and co-director of CsGG. Ziba Mir-Hosseini is senior research associate in the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law at SOAS. Rita Payne is chair of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (UK branch). Maung Zarni is co-ordinator of the Burma/Myanmar Research Initiative at the CsGG, and founder of the Free Burma Coalition.

noticeboard

Teaching Day!

As many of you will have heard, the first LSE Teaching Day will take place on Tuesday 9 June.

Director Howard Davies will open a programme of workshops, seminars and panel discussions – including innovative approaches to teaching and the latest technologies and resources for staff.

The keynote lecture will be given by Dr Jonathan Leape, senior lecturer in Economics, on *Thinking Like A Social Scientist* (TLASS). Prof Janet Hartley, pro-director for Teaching & Learning, will close the event with a presentation of the Teaching Excellence Awards at a wine reception.

Response has been good and there are limited numbers of places left on the day's events. Don't miss out!

Register at: www.lse.ac.uk/teachingday
Closing date is Thursday 28 May.



MEP voting records online

The complete voting records of MEPs are now available online. It is hoped that this will promote better debates and greater transparency in EU decision-making.

The website: www.votewatch.eu uses the European Parliament's own attendance, voting and activity data – available through the Parliament's website – to give a full overview of MEP activities, broken down by nationality, national political party and European party grouping. Using sophisticated statistical methods, developed by Professor Simon Hix, Government department, and Abdul Noury at the University of Brussels, the website covers the Parliament's activities during this entire term and will be updated following each voting session in plenary.

Professor Simon Hix said: 'Despite the influence the European Parliament has over our lives, the activities of the MEPs can seem a distant reality. VoteWatch.eu is designed to be an easy and accessible tool for anyone to see what MEPs do, and how the national and European parties behave in the EU's only elected institution.'



Small ads

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

To rent: one bed flat in Hampstead. Excellent condition. Hall, kitchen, living/dining room, bedroom, bath/shower, large walk-in cupboard/storage area. Peaceful location overlooking charming communal gardens. 2 mins from Heath, 5mins from Hampstead village and tube, 20 mins from central London. Available 6-9 months. £275pw or £325pw to include council tax and water rates. Contact jamiesons@libero.it

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

English proof-reading: essays, assignments, phd drafts. Is the quality of your work suffering due to poor English-language skills? Email Merryn at: merryng@hotmail.com

Proof-reading covers grammar, punctuation, spelling, idiomatic phrasing and paragraphing. £20 per hour (+/- 2,000 words per hour).

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 19 May <i>Word 2003: essential table techniques</i> 10am <i>Endnote: manage your references</i> 2pm	Friday 22 May <i>Word 2003: essential formatting skills</i> 10am
Wednesday 20 May <i>Access 2003: designing related tables and forms</i> 10am <i>Keeping Up To Date: tools and tips for your research</i> 12pm <i>Copyright, the Internet and Teaching Online</i> (PhD/staff) 2.15pm	For further details and a full listing of what is available, including booking information, 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 Paul Horsler at: p.n.horsler@lse.ac.uk
Thursday 21 May <i>Excel 2003: advanced functions</i> 2pm <i>Moodle: next steps training</i> 2pm	

Recruitment team update

The Recruitment team welcomes two new members of staff: Krushna Verkariya (right), ext 6217, email: k.verkariya@lse.ac.uk and Fani Sarridou, ext 6658, email: f.sarridou@lse.ac.uk

Krushna, who started at the School on 5 May, is covering for Pallavi Matmari who is currently on maternity leave. Fani, who is due to start on 1 June, will be covering for Nabila Majeed who is currently on leave.

For an up to date who is who list of the recruitment team, see: www2.lse.ac.uk/humanResources/recruitment/whosWho.aspx



New centre launched

A major new research centre on synthetic biology was launched on 12 May at Imperial College. The EPSRC Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation (CSynBI) will create a UK hub for research and development in this exciting new area of life science research.

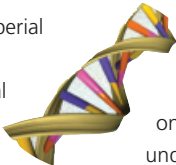
Synthetic biology is a field of science involved in modifying DNA for insertion into cells, to transform them into biological machines which can perform specified functions. These include bacterial cells that behave like time keeping devices in electronics, such as oscillators, and biologically based infection detectors in hospitals.

The Centre is based at Imperial BIOS centre form an integral recognition that the potential creating public value can be based on a firm understanding of the social processes of innovation and translation in the biosciences. The launch event brought together scientists, social scientists and policy makers to debate the potential of this exciting field of research in areas ranging through biomedicine, energy and the environment.

BIOS researchers, linked to LSE's Sociology Department, are exploring the social, political, economic and ethical dimensions of synthetic biology, addressing issues of public engagement and trust, examining the processes of translation from the laboratory to application, and engaging with the central concerns of policy and regulation in this novel and rapidly developing area.

As *Nature* magazine comments: 'This represents a new way to link social scientists into a developing field of research and application in bioscience and biotechnology, going far beyond the usual 'ELSI' (ethical, legal and social implications) paradigm, and may provide a model for developments in other areas.'

For further details, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BIOS/synbio/synbio.htm



Relaying excellence

A new service improvement team, Relay, has been up and running for the last month or so and had an information tent at last Thursday's Learning at Work Day. This hand-picked team looks at the way we go about delivering brilliant service at the School, picking up popular issues 'on the street', asking probing questions and delivering appropriate responses.

In a nutshell, it aims to explode common, everyday frustrations by taking actions that will enhance the student and staff community experience. One of the things the team has been involved in is the Customer Service Excellence Awards – awards which recognise and celebrate the effort and impact of excellent customer service at the School.

To this end, the team has created a special award ceremony aimed at giving real recognition to the winners of each of the five categories:

- innovation in service delivery
- welcoming/friendly approach
- eco friendly green award
- champion of champions
- open nominations.

The last category is where people can nominate the person they think has gone that extra mile and given excellent service in any capacity.

There was an unprecedented number of nominees this year and all have been invited to attend this ceremony hosted by LSE Director Howard Davies and Director of Administration Adrian Hall. This event will take place on Thursday 21 May in the Shaw Library.



Some of the members of the relay team. L-r: Nick Sharman, Sara Talbi, Gizelle Regis, Catherine Bennett, Adam Gale, Michelle Blake, Peter Anastasi, Glenn Ruan

Academics abroad



Mike Power gave the first Stockholm University Gröjer Seminar on April 24 in memory of Professor Jan-Erik Gröjer who passed away in 2007. The talk, *Organizations and the Logic of Auditability*, was well attended by Professor Gröjer's former colleagues and students from the Universities of Uppsala and Stockholm.

Bridget Hutter, professor of Risk Regulation, was one of the speakers at the *Societal Risk: relevant interdisciplinary frames of reference* conference held in Oslo, 24-25 April. The conference explored possible interdisciplinary contributions to understanding societal risk management, taking stock of state of the art knowledge in behavioural biology, psychology, risk governance and regulation, risk communication, law economics and sociology.

Bridget Hutter and Martin Lodge, research theme director, CARR, attended the Shanghai Forum 2009, held in Shanghai 11-12 May, where Bridget gave a presentation on Policy Responses to Climate Change: the role of risk regulation in mitigating adverse effects, and Martin spoke on The Public Management of Risk: the case for deliberating among world views. While there, Martin also gave a talk to LSE Alumni on *Resilience and the Modern State*.