

PhD congratulations

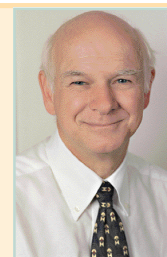
April 2006

'On behalf of the School, may I offer my congratulations to all those who've recently completed their PhD studies at LSE.

'Gaining a doctorate remains a highly challenging academic achievement. It requires intense dedication, great self-motivation and, more than that, original thinking to make a significant contribution to existing knowledge. A highly supportive network of family and friends are also needed.

'This News&Views special celebrates the success of some of our most recent PhD students, and I hope also serves as an inspiration to others thinking of following in their footsteps.'

Howard Davies, Director



PHILIPP U BECKMANN (Germany)

Supervisor: Richard Bradley

Philosophy

Preferences, Counterfactuals and Maximisation: reasoning in game theory

This thesis contributes to the discussion of what game theory, as a theory of human interaction, can and cannot deliver. It considers how game theory represents the reasoning of interacting agents and argues that orthodox game theory cannot capture all coherent strategic reasoning in principle.

KEVIN BURCHELL (UK)

Supervisor: Yvonne Rydin

Geography and Environment Department

Talking to Scientists. The Role of Scientific Knowledge in Environmental Policy-Making: a case study in biotechnology and genetics

This research with crop geneticists contributes to suggestions that scientists tend to highly condemn opposing public views. Scientists seek to present themselves as uniquely rational, knowing and ethical. The thesis argues that engagement and dialogue between the groups will yield those results expected by the government.

ANDY CHARLWOOD (UK)

Supervisor: David Metcalf

Industrial Relations

The Anatomy of Union Membership Decline in Great Britain

This thesis argues that union membership

decline in Britain is the result of politically driven changes to the legal and economic environment. Explanations of decline based on union failure are found to be less compelling.

MARY COOKE (UK)

Supervisor: John Carrier

Social Policy

An Examination of the Relationship Between Changes in the National Health Service Policy (1997-2000) and Three Patient Groups: an empirical and theoretical study

This thesis assesses how patient groups were involved (or not) with planning services for people with the same condition using a within case and between case analysis of three patient groups, and a means by which the influence of service users on health care delivery could be evaluated.

MIAN FAROOQ HAQ (Pakistan)

Supervisor: Steve Smithson

Information Systems

The Role of Information Systems in Islamic Banking: an ethnographic study/explanation

Islamic banking came into existence to fulfil the economic needs of Muslims who follow Shariah guidelines. This research studies Islamic banking from an information systems perspective and argues that the role of information in Islamic banks differs culturally in terms of transparency in the relationship between the bank and its customers.

JUSTINE EVE JOHNSTONE (UK)

Supervisor: Shirin Madon

Information Systems

Knowledge, Development and Technology: internet use among voluntary sector AIDS organisations in KwaZulu-Natal

This thesis applies naturalistic epistemology to

development and technology. The knowledge dimensions of NGO AIDS work are explored and conclusions drawn about the interactions between technology use, existing capabilities, and wider environmental factors in determining the degree to which technology can, in this case, be considered a knowledge tool.

EVAN KILLICK (UK)

Supervisors: Deborah James and Peter Gow

Anthropology

Living Apart: separation and sociality amongst the Ashéninka of Peruvian Amazonia

This study considers the Ashéninka group's notions of sociality and self-identification and examines how these shape the group's continuing interactions with Peruvian national society. It argues that the Ashéninka have developed an unusual social form that allows individuals to retain autonomy while preventing their isolation and enabling social reproduction.

DINA MATAR (Palestine)

Supervisor: Roger Silverstone

Media and Communications

News, Memory, Identity: the Palestinians in Britain

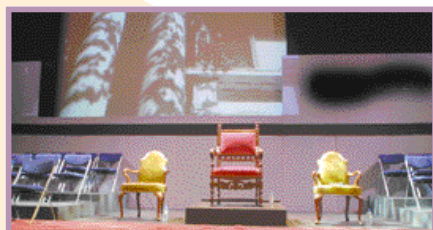
This thesis shows that news, particularly television news, is a significant resource around whose consumption, discourses of identity, of belonging and community and of citizenship are fraught with tensions between the personal and the political and between the national and cosmopolitan.

CARRIE ANNE MYERS (UK)

Supervisor: Paul Rock

Sociology

A Qualitative Analysis of the Social Regulation of Violence in a Cornish School 1999-2003



This research found that intricate patterns of violence and bullying reinforced an established hierarchy of pupils' informal relations. It showed that peer group power had to be considered when devising strategies to curtail bullying and violence at this particular school.

EBENEZER OBADARE (Nigeria)

Supervisor: David Lewis

Centre for Civil Society

The Theory and Practice of Civil Society in Nigeria

Both the global and Nigerian literature denies, misunderstands, and ultimately misrepresents the reality of civil society in Nigeria. This study shows civil society in Nigeria in all its conceptual and actual complexity using the mass boycott of mobile phone services, and the 2002 Miss World contest protest.

TAMARA RELIS (UK)

Supervisor: Simon Roberts

Law

Parallel Worlds of Disputes and Mediation

Little empirical data is available on what happens inside dispute mediations and how they are experienced by those involved. This thesis found that all actors' mediation objectives and perceptions showed significant differences in language and agenda. In juxtaposing all actors' discourse, the data reveals inherent problems with the core workings of the legal system.

SHARON SHALEV (Israel)

Supervisor: Stan Cohen

Sociology

Solitary Control and Punitive Isolation: 'new' forms of solitary confinement in Supermax prisons of the USA

This thesis traces the history of solitary confinement over the last two centuries and argues that Supermax prisons are not 'new'. Rather, they draw on principles set out in the early 19th century but are enhanced by the most advanced technologies available to today's prison planners and administrators.

KWOK TONG SOO (Malaysia)

Supervisor: Steve Redding

Economics

The Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity: natural advantage, market access and politics

This thesis identifies three key forces in determining where economic activity is located: natural advantage or factor endowments; market access or economic geography; and politics, and shows the relative importance of each.

RADOSLAW ZUBEK (Poland)

Supervisors: Klaus Goetz and Ed Page

Government

Europeanizing from the Centre: core executive institutions and the transposition of European community legislation in Poland 1997-2002

This thesis argues that the extent to which the Polish government complied with EU commitments was related to the institutionalisation of rules that could be used to extend selective incentives and monitoring to ministers and departments.

In brief

OLUGBENGA ADESIDA (Nigeria)

Supervisor: Robin Mansell

Media and Communications

Intermediating Institutions and the Diffusion of Complex Technological Innovations: the case of electronic commerce

DAMIEN FENNELL (Ireland)

Supervisor: Nancy Cartwright

Philosophy

A Philosophical Analysis of Causality in Econometrics

CONSTANTINOS GIANNARIS (Greece)

Supervisor: Bob Galliers

Information Systems

Making Sense of Knowledge Creation Processes: the case of a Greek petrochemical company

DERMOT HODSON (Ireland)

Supervisors: Bob Hancké and Waltraud Schelke

European Institute

Economic Governance and the Dual Outcome in Euro Area Fiscal Policy 1999-2002

Dermot was awarded the first annual UACES Best PhD Thesis prize in September for this study. See: www.uaces.org under Prizes and Awards.

JOËLLE KIVITS (Belgium)

Supervisors: Roger Silverstone and Cathy Campbell

Media and Communications

Health Information on the Internet: researching information seekers and practices in a mediated health context

WAINER LUSOLI (Italy)

Supervisor: Margaret Scammell

Media and Communications

Voice and E-quality: the state of electronic democracy in Britain

THI MINH PHOUNG NGO (Vietnam)

Supervisor: Marcus Goldstein

DESTIN

Gains and Losses from De-collectivisation in Vietnam: land redistribution, agricultural growth and rural poverty (1992-1998)

KARL PALMAS (Sweden)

Supervisor: Don Slater

Sociology

ReVolutions: innovation, politics and the Swedish brand

SILVIA PEZZINI (Italy)

Supervisor: Tim Besley

Economics

The Role of Economic and Institutional Change in Shaping Social Preferences

IFFATH ANWAR SHARIF (Bangladesh)

Supervisor: Markus Goldstein

DESTIN

Banking on Social Capital for Household Welfare: evidence from the Samurdhi Programme in Sri Lanka

ROONA SIMPSON (Trinidad and Tobago)

Supervisors: Ros Gill and Diane Perrons

Gender Institute

Contemporary Spinsterhood in Britain: gender, partnership status and social change

FANNEY THORSDDOTTIR (Iceland)

Supervisor: George Gaskell

Social Psychology

On the Validity of Attitude Measurements in Survey Research: a comparison of psychometric models

The Teaching and Learning Centre, together with colleagues in the Careers Service and Language Centre, now organises a full academic and professional development programme for PhD students across the School. The programme is tailored for students at different stages of their research, covering topics from Project Management for Your PhD to Preparing For the Viva.

For more details, contact Dr Rhiannon Thompson, development adviser for PhD students, ext 6850, email: r.thompson@lse.ac.uk