



## LIONEL ROBBINS

### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013

Antony Part of the Ministry of Education wrote to Lionel Robbins on 10 October 1963 stating "Whatever may happen you will always be an internationally famous figure in British educational history, and generations to come will have continuing cause to be grateful to you". This proved prescient as the so called Robbins' principle set the agenda for the great expansion in access to Higher Education in the UK. The world is now having a Robbins moment, as emerging economies choose higher education as the best investment in their future. But there is still much we can learn in the UK from re-examining Robbins 50 years on.

David Willetts MP, Minister of Universities and Science

## LIONEL ROBBINS

Lionel Robbins (1898-1984), though eminent as an economist, was much more. He saw active service on the Western Front in 1917-18. He made major contributions to economics as a teacher and writer. *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science* (1932), perhaps his most famous book, is a methodological classic which is still regularly cited.

He was also deeply involved in policy. Moving in the circles at the centre of economic policy, Robbins advocated open, informed and intelligent discussion. Though an advocate of free trade he was never a free market purist, believing that such a system had grave deficiencies. During WWII he served as Director of the Economic Section advising government on how to run the economy in wartime. He also worked closely alongside JM Keynes in the post-war negotiations for US loans.

Later he chaired the Committee on Higher Education whose report (*the Robbins Report*, 1963) advocated what at the time was the revolutionary idea that anyone with the aptitude and desire to go to university should be able to do so, and thus underpinned the major expansion of British higher education.

He served as chairman of the *Financial Times* from 1961–1970 and was a government-appointed non executive board member of BP. Robbins was passionate about the visual and performing arts – supporting both through his involvement in their administration, for example at the National Gallery and the Royal Opera House. He also advocated large-scale government support for the arts.

Alongside these diverse public roles was a lifetime devotion to the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he studied as an undergraduate and spent the major part of his career as Professor of Economics, and where the development of the economics department is one of his major legacies. He later served as chairman of the LSE's Court of Governors during a particularly turbulent time in the late 1960s.

# SHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION 50 YEARS AFTER ROBBINS

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013

London School of Economics and Political Science

Shaw Library, 6th floor, Old Building, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE

10:00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
10:30	<b>Session 1: The Robbins Report: Then and now]</b> Welcome and introduction – Professor Craig Calhoun (LSE) Chair: Professor Craig Calhoun <b>What was the world like then? The context in 1963</b> – Professor Lord Layard ( <i>LSE</i> ) <b>The Report</b> – Lord Moser <b>What happened later? The British road to mass higher education</b> – Professor Sir David Watson ( <i>University of Oxford</i> ) <b>Conclusion</b> – Simeon Underwood ( <i>LSE</i> )
12:15	<b>LUNCH</b>
13:05	<b>Session 2: Competing visions: What structure for higher education?</b> Chair: Baroness Blackstone <b>Intellectually autonomous and democratically accountable?</b> – Professor Stefan Collini ( <i>University of Cambridge</i> ) <b>A European vision</b> – Professor Georg Winckler ( <i>University of Vienna</i> ) <b>The private sector</b> – Roxanne Stockwell ( <i>Pearson</i> ) <b>Conclusion: Should there be a “system” of higher education?</b> – Graeme Wise ( <i>NUS</i> )
14:50	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:15	<b>Session 3: How should higher education be financed?</b> Chair: Professor Howard Glennerster ( <i>LSE</i> ) <b>What is happening elsewhere on finance?</b> – Richard Yelland ( <i>OECD</i> ) <b>Widening participation: What does the evidence show?</b> – Professor Anna Vignoles ( <i>University of Cambridge</i> ) <b>Financing teaching: the 2006 and 2012 reforms in England: Where are we? Where should we be?</b> – Professor Nicholas Barr ( <i>LSE</i> )
17:00	<b>End of Session 3</b>
17:30	<b>Session 4: Shaping higher education 50 years after Robbins: What views to the future?</b> ( <i>Old Theatre, ground floor, Old Building</i> ) Chair: Professor Craig Calhoun Speakers: Bahram Bekhradnia ( <i>Higher Education Policy Institute</i> ) Rajay Naik ( <i>The Open University</i> ) David Willetts MP ( <i>Minister of Universities and Science</i> )
19:00	<b>Summary</b> – Professor Craig Calhoun (LSE)
19:15	<b>DRINKS RECEPTION</b>

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Craig Calhoun** is Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a social scientist whose work connects sociology to culture, communication, politics, philosophy and economics. He took up his post on 1 September 2012, having left the United States where he was University Professor at New York University, director of the Institute for Public Knowledge, and President of the Social Science Research Council. He co-founded, with Richard Sennett, Professor of Sociology at LSE, the NYLON programme which brings together graduate students from New York and London for co-operative research programmes. Professor Calhoun took a DPhil in History and Sociology at Oxford University and a Master's in Social Anthropology at Manchester. He is the author of several books including *Nations Matter*, *Critical Social Theory*, *Neither Gods Nor Emperors* and most recently *The Roots of Radicalism* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). Describing his own approach to academic work, Professor Calhoun says: *"We must set high standards for ourselves, but in order to inform the public well, not to isolate ourselves from it."*

**Richard Layard** is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, where he was until 2003 the founder-director of the Centre for Economic Performance. He first came to the LSE after being Senior Research Officer for the Robbins Committee and helped Claus Moser set up the Higher Education Research Unit. He is a labour economist who has made major contributions on unemployment, inflation, inequality and post-Communist reform. He was an early advocate of the welfare-to-work approach to European unemployment. In 2008, he was awarded the IZA Prize in Labour Economics. He now heads the Programme on Wellbeing at the LSE. Since 2000 he has been a member of the House of Lords and is a keen advocate of making subjective wellbeing of the people the central objective of governments.

**Claus Moser**; social statistician, former Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, former Chairman of the Royal Opera, Vice Chairman of N.M. Rothschild, the Merchant Bank, President of the Royal Statistical Society, and since 2001 in the House of Lords as a cross-bencher. Much of his life he has spent at LSE, first as a statistics student, and after the war on the academic staff, for many years as Professor of Statistics. After that he served on various LSE Committees, including the Governing Body. He has also been involved with various other universities including the Open University in this country and in Israel, which he served as Chancellor. As he looks back on a long life of 90 years, he is particularly proud of his work on the Robbins Committee, his years at LSE and Wadham College and of course, all the time he has spent in music, not least at the Royal Opera House and playing the piano.

**David Watson** has been Principal of Green Templeton College and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Oxford since October 2010. He was Professor of Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education, University of London, from 2005-2010, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton between 1990 and 2005. His most recent books are *Managing Civic and Community Engagement* (2007), *The Dearing Report: ten years on* (2007), *The Question of Morale: managing happiness and unhappiness in university life* (2009), *The Engaged University* (2011), and *Learning Transitions in Higher Education* (2013). His new book – *The Question of Conscience: higher education and personal responsibility* – will be published in December 2013.

**Simeon Underwood** has worked as an administrator and manager in the HE sector since 1977, at Leeds, York and Lancaster Universities and at the LSE since 2000. As Academic Registrar and Director of Academic Services he heads a range of student-facing services from recruitment

to examinations. In the 1990s he also acted as consultant and adviser to a large number of universities across the sector on QAA Subject Review and the wider quality assurance movement. Between 2008 and 2010 he was Chair of the national Academic Registrars Council: in this role he was centrally involved in negotiations with the UK Border Agency over the new student visa regime. Currently he is an occasional contributor to the THE, mainly on topics around the theme of deregulation.

**Tessa Blackstone** graduated from LSE in 1964 with a BSc in Sociology, and in 1969 gained a PhD in the same subject. She started her career teaching at the London School of Economics and Political Science, later becoming Professor of Educational Administration at the Institute of Education, University of London and Master of Birkbeck College, University of London (1987-97). Tessa is a former governor at LSE, and holds Honorary Fellowships at several higher education institutions including LSE, St Andrews and the University of Sorbonne. She is a trustee of RIBA, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich (2004-11). Formerly Arts Minister (2001-2003) and Minister of State for Education and Employment (1997-2001). She has also worked as a policy adviser in the Cabinet Office.

**Stefan Collini** is Professor of Intellectual History and English Literature at Cambridge University, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He is also a frequent contributor to *The Guardian*, *The London Review of Books*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Nation*, and other publications, as well as an occasional broadcaster. Among his books, *Absent Minds: Intellectuals in Britain* (2006), a major analysis of the role of the intellectual and its place in British culture, received particularly widespread attention in both the academic world and the general media, while reviewers of his most recent collection of essays, *Common Reading: Critics, Historians, Publics* (2008), have described him as

"one of Britain's finest essayists and writers". *What Are Universities For?* was published by Penguin in February 2012.

**Georg Winckler**, born 1943, was educated at Princeton University and University of Vienna (PhD 1968). In 1978, he was appointed as Professor of Economics at the University of Vienna, specialising in monetary economics and macroeconomics. He served as Visiting Professor at the University of Graz (1977/78), of Fribourg (1977/78), of Linz (1985/86, 1992/93) and at Georgetown University (1995) and the Comenius University Bratislava (1998). In 1990/91, he worked as Visiting Scholar at the Research Department of the IMF in Washington DC. In the nineties, Professor Winckler was much involved in the debate on forming the European monetary union.

**Roxanne Stockwell** joined Pearson in early 2011 as the Managing Director for Higher Education Awards, a new division set up to enable Pearson to extend its education provision into the development and delivery of degree programmes and other higher education awards. She is now Principal of Pearson College, which aims to develop degree programmes that specialise in high levels of industry engagement. Just prior to joining Pearson Roxanne spent ten years at BPP University and was an executive director on the board of directors there with responsibility for teaching, learning and innovation. She originally graduated with a BA and an LLB from the University of Sydney and worked as a solicitor and an in-house corporate lawyer in Australia before moving to the UK. She has an LLM in Intellectual and Cultural Property from UCL and is currently studying for a doctorate in higher education management at the University of Bath.

**Graeme Wise** is Assistant Director (Policy) at the National Union of Students, where he works mainly on policy relating to structure, markets, funding and participation in higher education. He was the principal staff member at NUS dealing

with the *Browne Review* and subsequent policy developments, and is currently fulfilling the same role in relation to broader matters of higher education reform such as the future of regulation and data capability in the sector. He has also recently led a major programme of research and policy development at NUS on the issue of student financial support for living costs. He has previously worked in a wide range of areas including development in student representation, charity law reform, co-operative models in education and student services, Scottish public and educational affairs, as well as more conceptual work on the curriculum and the question of “students as consumers”. He has degrees from Canterbury Christ Church University and Goldsmiths College, University of London, and is currently undertaking a doctorate in policy studies at the University of Bristol. He lives in Deptford, London.

**Howard Glennerster** is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy and an Associate of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the London School of Economics. Howard was born in Hertfordshire and attended first a secondary school, then Letchworth Grammar School. After graduating from Oxford with a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, he worked for the Labour Party Research Department in the period leading up to Harold Wilson’s victory in 1964, including work on proposals to create what became the Open University. He joined LSE in 1964 as a Research Officer in the Higher Education Research Unit, working on the financing of private schools. He began teaching in the Department of Social Administration in 1968 where he remained until he retired (in name only) in 2001 – by then it had been renamed, despite his “requiem for social administration”, the Department of Social Policy. He progressed from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer to Reader then to Professor of Social Administration in 1984. His wide-ranging writing includes one of the earliest UK articles on income-contingent loans.

**Richard Yelland** is Head of the Policy Advice and Implementation Division (PAI) in the Directorate for Education at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) based in Paris. OECD’s motto is ‘Better Policies for Better Lives’ and the Directorate’s mission is to assist in achieving high quality lifelong learning for all that contributes to personal development, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. Richard joined OECD from the then Department of Education and Science in 1986. From 1998 to 2012 he led the Organisation’s work on institutional management in higher education. He is frequently invited to speak at international meetings on education. He was born and educated in England, and has a degree from the University of Cambridge. He is married to Anne and they have three adult children. All of them have obtained degrees from English higher education institutions in recent years!

**Anna Vignoles** is Professor of Education at the University of Cambridge. She has published widely on the socio-economic gap in pupil achievement and widening participation to higher education. Anna is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Education. Anna has advised numerous government departments, including the Department for Education, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and HM Treasury. In particular, she provided advice to the Browne Review of Higher Education Funding and the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee investigation of higher education funding. Anna is also the economist member of the NHS Pay Review Body.

**Nicholas Barr** is Professor of Public Economics at the London School of Economics and the author of numerous books and articles including *The Economics of the Welfare State* (OUP, 5th edn, 2012), *Financing Higher Education: Answers from the UK* (with Iain Crawford) (Routledge 2005), and *Reforming Pensions: Principles and Policy Choices*

(with Peter Diamond) (OUP, 2008). Alongside his academic career is wide-ranging involvement in policy. He had two spells at the World Bank – from 1990-92 working on the design of income transfers and health finance in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia, and in 1995-96 as an author of the *World Bank's World Development Report 1996: From Plan to Market*. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Fiscal Affairs Department at the International Monetary Fund and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Councils on Demographic Shifts and on Ageing Society.

**David Willetts MP** is a British Conservative Party politician and the minister of for universities and science. He has been MP for Havant since 1992 and previously worked at HM Treasury and the Number 10 Policy Unit. He served as Paymaster General in the last Conservative Government. Willetts has written widely on economic and social policy, and is a council member of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. His book *The Pinch: How the Baby Boomers Took Their Children's Future – And Why They Should Give It Back* was published in 2010.

**Bahram Bekhradnia** became the first director of the Higher Education Policy Institute on its creation on 1 November 2002. Prior to establishing HEPI Bahram was the Director of Policy of HEFCE. Bahram holds a degree in Literae Humaniores from the University of Oxford, honorary degrees from the University of North London and BPP University and has been a visiting professor at the University of Bath and the London University Institute of Education. Until recently he was on the governing council of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, and until it was disbanded he was Special Adviser to the IUSP Parliamentary Select Committee. Since 2008 Bahram has been a member of the Editorial board of Times Higher Education, and in 2009 chaired the Ditchley Park Conference on Higher Education. In March 2012 he was appointed by the Irish Government to be a member of the Higher Education Authority of

Ireland. In January 2014 Bahram takes up the post of HEPI President.

**Rajay Naik** is Director of Government and External Affairs at The Open University – the UK's largest University – and Chairman of UK Programmes at the Big Lottery Fund – the largest funder of charities in the UK. Rajay is also a Commissioner at the Department of Health; a Member of the National Careers Council; and Associate Director at Coventry City Football Club. Rajay was one of five panel members on Lord Browne's Review of Higher Education. Previously he held senior roles in Local Government at Coventry City Council; Central Government at the Cabinet Office and in the voluntary sector at the Royal Society of Arts. He is a former Chairman of the British Youth Council; Trustee of the National Youth Agency, vInspired and Changemakers Foundation; and Council Member of the Learning and Skills Council. Rajay holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from The University of Warwick.

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