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## Editorial

LSEE has now completed its first year and this Newsletter is an opportunity for us to circulate news of our activities and outline our future plans. We can be satisfied with the start we have made. We have established a team of academic staff, ably supported by a manager and administrator. We have drawn together existing academic staff with long-term expertise on South Eastern Europe, with two new specialist senior research fellows. This provides us with a strong academic core, which will be complemented by a number of visiting research fellows who will broaden our research and dissemination potential.

Dissemination of research and knowledge transfer is facilitated through both public events and publications. Over this last year, we have held a rich programme of conferences, workshops, lectures and seminars sustaining a very high level of activity. These have included:

- A LSEE Research Conference in Zagreb on regional policy and decentralisation.
- A LSEE Research Workshop in Dubrovnik on health reforms in SEE
- A joint Summer School in Belgrade
- A joint conference in Bucharest on Europeanisation
- Public lectures at the LSE on Bosnia-Herzegovina; Serbia; the future of the Balkans; the economic crisis; the role of the EU; and the 'Yugosphere'.
- A Joint PhD Symposium on SEE held at the LSE
- A number of research seminars and workshops at LSE including a workshop on Civil Society and Transition in the Western Balkans and a seminar on the International Court of Justice ruling on Kosovo.

In addition, LSEE has developed a number of staff research projects. These range from the status of Kosovo to fiscal decentralisation in SEE, and from the contrasting experiences of 'Europeanisation' to the impact of health service reforms.

We are particularly pleased to record the support of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation for a joint research programme with *L'Institut français des relations internationales* (Ifri), Paris, which has supported a range of interconnected research projects - both internal and external. The projects cover the socio-economic impact of decentralisation and regionalisation; the privatisation of public services in Croatia and other SEE countries; the problems of energy poverty throughout South Eastern Europe; and the geo-politics of the region.

We plan to build on this strong start by expanding our network of collaboration in South Eastern Europe and beyond, heightening our profile in the UK, and sustaining high-quality research projects that can contribute to contemporary policy debate.

We are also delighted to announce that Dr. Spyros Economides will assume the role of LSEE Coordinator for 2010-11, helping to steer LSEE's progress.

Finally, we hope that you will find this Newsletter of interest and we look forward to welcoming you to our future events.

**Professor Kevin Featherstone** and **Professor Şevket Pamuk**  
LSEE Co-Chairs

# LSEE Events

LSEE hosts an array of public events ranging from academic seminars and public lectures to large conferences. The events naturally focus on the region of South Eastern Europe but cover a broad thematic range. Over the last year we have organised a number of public events, the more prominent of which are highlighted on these pages. For information on all of the events organised by LSEE, as well as podcasts of selected lectures or debates, please visit our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Home.aspx>)

## Other LSEE Events in 2009/10:

- "Why is Bosnia a Failure?" Public Lecture with Prof. Susan Woodward
- "Long Live the Yugoslphere" Public Lecture with Tim Judah
- "After the Economic Crisis, Back to Business as Usual?" Panel Discussion with Vladimir Gligorov, Laza Kekic and Peter Sanfey
- "The Kosovo Case Unpacked" Panel Discussion with Dr James Ker-Lindsay and Dr James Irving
- "Eastern Europe and the Balkans: what now?" Tim Judah and Nick Thorpe Public Lecture
- "Cultures of Corruption" Konstanz University Report
- "Serbian Economy in 2010" Public Lecture with Professor Boris Begović
- Book Launch: "Serbia's Transition: Towards a Better Future" by Prof. Milica Uvalić



## Regional Policy and Decentralisation

During May and June 2010 LSEE organised three events in South Eastern Europe, including a major academic conference on regional development and decentralisation policies in the region. Regional development has been a key dimension of EU policy, designed to ensure convergence, regional competitiveness and employment, and territorial cooperation. As such it has an important role in the European integration agenda, not just in the existing member states but also in the candidate and potential candidate states in South Eastern Europe. At the same time, in recent years decentralisation of administrative power and responsibility has been carried out in many countries in order to consolidate the new democratic systems, strengthen local governance, promote local economic development, and provide public services that are more responsive to local needs. However, decentralisation may also worsen the delivery of public services if not adequately supplemented by fiscal decentralisation.

The LSEE Research Conference in Zagreb sought to address these issues with a focus on South Eastern Europe by attracting scholars both from the region and from elsewhere. The response to the Call for Papers was highly encouraging and the

organisers had a difficult time selecting participants from such a large number of high quality applicants. The conference itself was a resounding success and

helped LSEE to achieve the aim of enabling closer links between academics and institutions from the region and farther afield. Over 40 people attended the conference, including speakers from Croatia, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as EU countries including Romania, Greece, Italy, and the UK. Each session was commented on by a discussant leading to lively debates on issues such as regional poli-



cies, spatial inequalities, administrative and fiscal decentralisation and inter-municipal cooperation. It is hoped that a selection of the papers will be published as an edited book, while some of the best papers have been chosen to appear in a special issue of an academic journal.

The LSEE Research Conference on Regional Policy and Decentralisation would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Institute for International Relations, Zagreb, and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and the support of the National Bank of Greece ●

## Health Sector Reform in SEE

The reform of public health systems has become a key issue for the countries in transition in South Eastern Europe. Public health has been adversely affected by many of the rapid social changes associated with transition across the region and the state managed health systems are in dire need of change.

In many countries this reform has taken the form of an attempt to introduce competitive market mechanisms into the public health system. However, there is a lack of evidence that these goals have been achieved, with concerns about increased costs through the contracting for health care services and a negative impact on equity. Reforms have aimed at reducing hospital expenditure and strengthening primary care. This has involved reforming the

system of polyclinics and promoting individual general practitioner models, on the basis of policy transfer from Western experience. However, many reform initiatives in the transition countries of SEE have been based on ideology rather than on evidence. There has also been a lack of capac-

ity to implement and evaluate reforms at different levels of the health system. The efficiency of health systems in SEE has also been adversely affected by the misallocation of resources towards hospital care, and an over-emphasis on inpatient stays. The financing of health systems in SEE relies to a large degree on health insurance, but this is sometimes subject to corruption and inefficiencies.



In order to examine these issues, LSEE organised a two-day Research Workshop on Health Reforms in South Eastern Europe in May 2010, in close cooperation with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health. The workshop, held at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, aimed to provide an opportunity for researchers from all fields of social science, including economics, politics, sociology, and health studies, to share their findings and discuss the current direction of health sector reform in South Eastern Europe. About 30 participants attended the workshop from countries throughout the region including Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. The workshop enabled a useful exchange of opinions and discussion of the latest research findings on the state of health reforms in the region. Especially notable from the discussion was the increasing role of the private sector in providing health services in some SEE countries in the face of poor quality and limited access to services in the public sector, which has been even more pronounced following the impact of the global economic crisis on public expenditure. The papers from the workshop have been collected as a book proposal and it is hoped that they will soon be published in an edited volume ●

## Conference: Civil Society and Transitions

In recent years there has been a proliferation of research on the role of civil society in the processes of political transition and post-conflict transformation. As well as highlighting the positive aspects of grassroots activities, this research has also shone a light on the darker, more negative side of these groups. This is as much the case in the Western Balkans as elsewhere.

Co-organised by LSEE and LSE Global Governance, this conference provided an opportunity to explore the part played by civil society with a number of leading academics and policy experts. Divided into four parts, the first three sessions focused on the part played by civil society in democratisation, state building and post-conflict reconstruction and included presentations by

Stephanie Schwandner Sievers (University of Roehampton); Nenad Markovic (Saints Cyril and Methodius University); Anita Brkanic (London School of Economics); Adam Fagan (Queen Mary, University of London); Francesco Strazzari, (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies); Jens Narten (University of Hamburg); Mladen Ostojic (Queen Mary, University of London); Jasna Dragovic-Soso (Goldsmiths, University of London); and, Gemma Collantes (City University). The day concluded with a fourth, policy orientated roundtable discussion with speakers from the FCO, 'The Economist' and the Euclid Network for Third Sector Leaders. Papers from the conference will be published as an edited volume by Palgrave Macmillan as part of LSEE's 'New Perspectives on South Eastern Europe' book series ●

## Visit by Former Bosnian PM



Dr Zlatko Lagumdžija discusses Bosnia's political situation with Balkans experts

In February, LSEE hosted Dr Zlatko Lagumdžija, the Prime Minister (1992-93) and Foreign Minister (2001-2003) of Bosnia & Herzegovina and currently the leader of the main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party. Given rising concerns about the apparent stagnation in efforts to introduce constitutional reforms, and the fears that this may lead to renewed interethnic tensions, his visit provided an ideal opportunity to explore the problems and prospects facing Bosnia.

The first part of Dr Lagumdžija's visit consisted of a policy roundtable dialogue with a number of academics, policy-makers and journalists working on the Western

Balkans. This resulted in a frank and informed discussion of current developments in the country and the prospects for stability in the run up to, and in the period after, the forthcoming general elections. Following this, Dr Lagumdžija then gave a public lecture, which was chaired by Professor Mary Kaldor. In his talk, he outlined a positive vision for the future of Bosnia and sought to allay widespread concerns that the country is teetering on the brink of disaster.

Further information, including a downloadable podcast of Dr Lagumdžija's public lecture is available from our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Podcasts.aspx>) ●

## Joint PhD Symposium

On 18 June 2010 LSEE co-organised and hosted the first University of London Joint PhD Symposium on South Eastern Europe. Developed as a collaborative project with the Centre for the Study of the Balkans at Goldsmiths and the Centre for South Eastern European Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL. The aim was to provide an important opportunity to bring together young scholars working on the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, as well as to foster closer links between academics working on the region at the three institutions, and elsewhere in the University of Lon-

don. In the end almost 70 papers were delivered, covering topics from across the sciences and humanities, including history, economics, political science, international relations, anthropology and social policy. The range and geographical spread of institutions was also impressive. As well as students studying in the region, we also had participants from as far afield as Australia and the United States. Further infor-

mation as well as a selection of the papers from the symposium is available on the LSEE website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Home.aspx>) ●



Research students exchange ideas with their peers at one of twenty panels at the Joint PhD Symposium on SEE.

## MEPs Debate EU Enlargement

A long standing issue for South Eastern Europe, and for Europe as a whole, has been the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union. Although few would now doubt that the region will one day accede to the Union, the key question at this stage is 'when this is likely to happen?' With growing concerns about the situation in Bosnia and confusion over the status of Kosovo, not to mention the economic crisis that has befallen the region, there are voices calling for the accession process to be accelerated in order to enhance stability. Others take

a different view. The experience of Bulgaria's and Romania's accession has left many observers convinced that the EU must adopt a more cautious approach. In March 2010 LSEE had the privilege to bring together two prominent MEPs to examine these opposing views in great detail. Dr Ingeborg Gräßle made the case for a cautious approach, stressing that the new member states must meet the stringent legal and economic preconditions for membership. In contrast, Tanja Fajon argued that the political and economic stability of the region depends

on integration - as soon as possible. More information and podcast of this fascinating and informative debate is available from our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Home.aspx>) ●



# Belgrade Summer School

The South-East European Summer School for Democracy has been organised as a joint effort by the Hellenic Observatory and subsequently LSEE and the Anglo-Serbian Society, Belgrade, since 2008. Dr Spyros Economides is Co-Director of the Summer School and has been closely involved with the project since 2006. LSEE staff, Dr Spyros Economides and Dr Will Bartlett, gave lectures at this year's Summer School.

The Summer School strives to improve understanding of modern democratic theory among young academics, civil society activists and future political decision-makers in Serbia and beyond. The 13<sup>th</sup> Summer School was held from 5-12 September 2010 under the title "Enlargement Fatigue and EU Prospects of the Western Balkans". Fifteen participants from Serbia and fifteen from across South Eastern Europe had the

opportunity to attend lectures by eminent academics from institutions such as the LSE, the University of Westminster, the Belgrade University Faculty of Political Science, the Balkan Trust for Democracy and the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence.

In addition to the academic programme the Summer School also aims to promote the creation of networks of critically orientated, open-minded individuals able to analyse and promote the process of democratisation and transition in the countries of South Eastern Europe. Since 2007 the Summer School has also operated special sessions aimed at overcoming national stereotypes

and promoting democratisation and cooperation across the whole region.

For further information on the South-East European Summer School for Democracy please visit our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Home.aspx>) or the website of the Anglo-Serbian Society ([www.anses.rs](http://www.anses.rs)) ●



## Joint Workshop on Europeanisation and Enlargement

Together with The Center for European Studies of the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest (SNSPA), LSEE organised a two-day research workshop on Europeanisation and EU Enlargement. This was held on 11-12 June 2010 in Bucharest and was co-chaired by Dr Claudiu Cracu (SNSPA) and Professor Kevin Featherstone (LSEE).

The aim of this two-day workshop was to bring together scholars whose work focuses on the varied experiences of Europeanisation to be found across South Eastern Europe.

The workshop comprised two keynote lectures: Professor Geoffrey Pridham (University of Bristol) contrasted the experiences of EU enlargement and Europeanisation

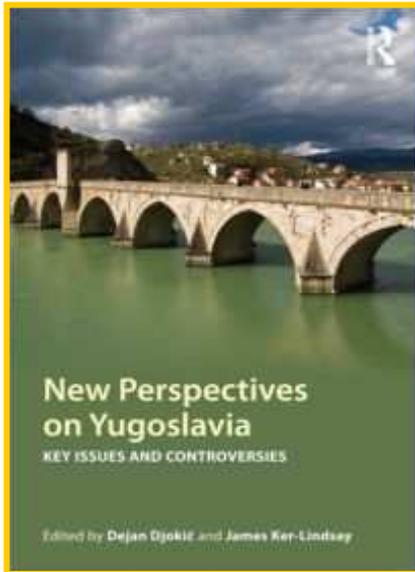
to date and Professor Kevin Featherstone addressed the theme of the study of Europeanisation in the specific cases of SE Europe. Four specialist research panels were convened with some 12 papers delivered. Speakers came from universities in Austria; Bulgaria; Germany; Spain; Tur-

key; U.K.; U.S.A. The papers covered comparative, as well as single case studies. Further information, including the programme of the workshop, can be found on our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Past-Events.aspx>) ●



## LSEE Publications

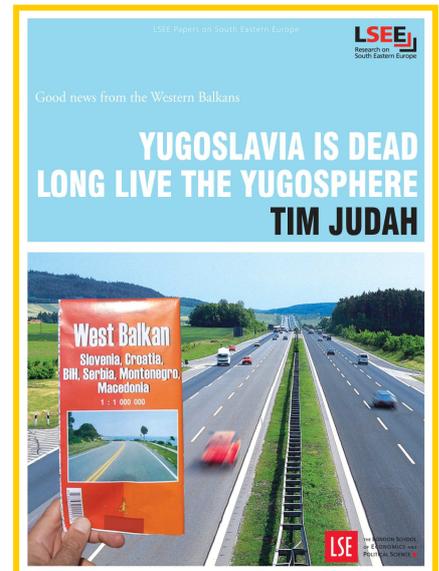
Alongside the core activities of academic research and public events LSEE also aims to publish topical, high quality publications with the goal of furthering understanding of South Eastern Europe, disseminating knowledge gained during internal and external or collaborative research projects and promoting in-depth debate of issues affecting the region. In order to achieve this, LSEE will produce an in-house



papers series, called 'The LSEE Papers'. The LSEE Papers, published online and in hard-copy format, will promote papers produced by the LSEE team or by visiting researchers and guest writers and will encourage debate within the academic community, the media and amongst the wider public. The first in this series, "Yugoslavia is Dead: Long Live the Yugosphere", by journalist and writer Tim Judah, has achieved just that as the unique concept of an emerging Yugosphere – the interlinking of cultural, administrative and economic cooperation between former warring states – was picked up by politicians, academics and leading media organisations across the Western Balkans raising awareness and provoking discussion of this fascinating phenomenon. The second paper in the series will focus on the effects of the Global Economic Crisis on a region that has yet to complete its post-socialist transition in a collection of papers by leading economists from western institutions and from the region itself.

In addition to the LSEE Papers series, LSEE will also seek to publish

the works of its regular team and visiting fellows either as part of the Palgrave Macmillan series 'New Perspectives on South East Europe' or as stand alone projects such as Dr James Ker-Lindsay and Dr Dejan Djokić's work 'New Perspectives on Yugoslavia: Issues and Controversies', which was recently released by Routledge ●



## Palgrave Macmillan Book Series

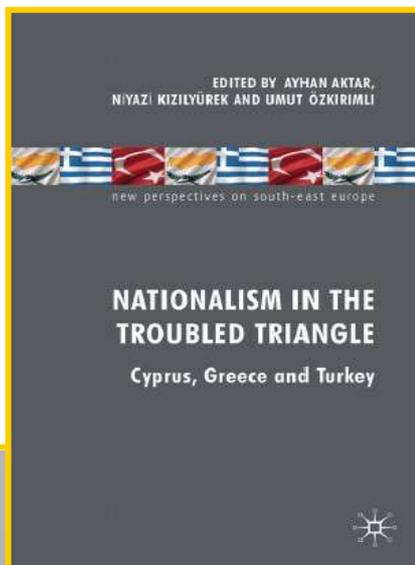
As part of its efforts to disseminate information and produce high quality research, working closely with Palgrave Macmillan Publishers LSEE has initiated *New Perspectives on South-East Europe*. *New Perspectives* is a book series which will tackle a range of issues affecting the South Eastern European region. The region has challenged concepts of European identity, values and interests during formative periods of modern history and is now undergoing a series of complex transitions. The series will examine issues of inheritance and adaptation. The disciplinary reach incorporates politics and international relations, modern history, economics and political economy and sociology. The EU is an obvious reference point for the current research on South-

Eastern Europe, but this series also highlights the importance of this region in a context, the Caucasus, the Black Sea and the Middle East.

The first book in the series, *Nationalism in the Troubled Triangle* by Ayhan Aktar, Niyazi Kızılyürek and

Umut Özkırmı is now available for order from Palgrave Macmillan. Two other books, *The Greek-Turkish Conflict in the Aegean* by Alexis Heraclides and *The Last Ottomans* by Kevin Featherstone, Dimitris Papadimitriou, Argyris Mamarelis and Georgios Niarchos, are due to be released at the end of 2010. Other planned publications include collected papers from LSEE Conferences in London, Zagreb and Dubrovnik and works by visiting research fellows. The series editors are Professor Kevin Featherstone, Professor Sevket Pamuk and Dr Spyros Economides.

For more information on this book series please visit our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Home.aspx>) or contact the LSEE Administrator's office ([Eurolnst.LSEE@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Eurolnst.LSEE@lse.ac.uk)) ●



LSEE aims to produce high-quality, multi-disciplinary research that will track developments in the region both in-house and in collaborative efforts and co-authorships with partners at the LSE, in the region and further afield. LSEE staff engage in a range of research projects covering a variety of thematic and geographical areas.

Recent and current research in the area of conflict management and state-building covers topics such as the role of the EU (including the EU as state-builder and the limits of EU foreign policy in Kosovo), the role of international organisations, transforming the Balkans (in collaboration with the US-Greece Task Force) and quality of life in FYR Macedonia (in collaboration with the UNDP and the South East European University in Tetovo). Minority rights research focuses on Roma rights, minority rights post-conditionality and ethnic relations in FYR Macedonia. In the fields of economic policy and performance the topics covered have been FDI spill-overs in Bulgaria, FDI in Serbia, new industrial centres in Central Turkey, institutions and economic growth in Turkey, the economic crisis and structural reform in Greece, poverty and social protection in Albania, Bosnia and Kosovo, and the impact of the economic crisis on the region as a whole.

Completed and on-going research on regional processes and governance covers lessons from transition in the Balkans, regional cooperation and models of development, Serbia's EU integration, differentiated integration in the Western Balkans, aid effectiveness and policy transfers in the Western Balkans, Europeanisation and the core executive in Greece. Additionally, research on regional governance, policy and performance examines regional disparities in South Eastern Europe, spatial connectivity and cohesion in the region, economic integration and regional imbalances, regional structures and the crisis, decentralisation and local governance in FYR Macedonia, regional development in North East Montenegro, decentralisation and regional development in Serbia and also decentralisation and local economic development in Kosovo.

Work on these topics has been presented in various regional and international conferences, including at the Annual Conference on Research on Economic Theory and Econometrics (Greece), the Regional Studies Association International Conference (Hungary), the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia, the Annual UACES Conference (Belgium), MET Network 24th Re-

search Seminar "Crisis in Transition" (UCL, London), a conference on "The International World Crisis and the Regional Governance in the Balkans: is there a Threat to Stability?" (Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica, Italy), a SEE-SOX conference on "The Role of the State in South Eastern Europe Today", (St Anthony's College, Oxford) and elsewhere.

Some of this work has already been published in scientific outlets, including the Review of Development Economics, the journal Southeastern Europe, the Croatian Economic Survey, and others.

LSEE plans to continue to produce high quality research in these areas and more outputs are expected in the near future in the form of published papers, books and in-house publications. LSEE has also initiated a 'New Research Programme on South Eastern Europe' in a joint effort with *L'Institut français and relations internationales* (Ifri). The Research Programme has been made possible by generous support from the John S Latsis Public Benefit Foundation to whom we wish to record our gratitude. Further information on this ambitious research venture can be found below ●

## Research on Regional Development and Decentralisation in South East Europe

In recent years, decentralisation and regionalisation have been key elements of the processes of Europeanisation, democratisation, and economic transition in South Eastern Europe. The aims of decentralisation have been to consolidate new democratic systems, strengthen local governance, promote local economic development, and provide public services that are more responsive to local needs.

Decentralisation has been a feature of the post-war settlements in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, while in Kosovo the Ahtisaari plan stipulated extensive decentralisation, as did the Ohrid Framework Agreement in FYR Macedonia. At

the same time regional disparities have widened due to restructuring and internationalisation through trade and FDI. This has created vulnerabilities to external shocks such as the recent economic crisis, and consequent threats to political stability.

A new research project carried out by staff at LSEE (Will Bartlett, Vassilis Monastiriotis, Vesna Bojčić-Dželilović, with able research assistance from Maja Savić) investigates the impact of decentralisation and regionalisation on local socio-economic development in the post-socialist countries of South Eastern Europe, and explores the extent and nature of spatial inequalities, the forces that drive them, and evaluates the policy responses in

different political and institutional environments. The research is being carried out in collaboration with research partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Early results of the research were presented at a project workshop held at LSEE in June 2010. Further results will be presented at a conference organised jointly with *L'Institut français and relations internationales* (Ifri) in Brussels in late Autumn 2010, with project completion in March 2011.

As ever we are grateful to the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation whose generous support has made the 'New Research Programme on South Eastern Europe' possible ●

## Forthcoming Events

Building on the experience of the high-tempo events schedule from the 2009-10 academic year, we are planning another busy year of public lecture discussions, seminars and roundtables starting in October. Once again, our hope is to be able to provide a forum for informed debate between members of the academic and policy communities on the key economic and political developments in the region. In order to provide a more focused showcase for the latest scholarly research on South Eastern Europe, we are also introducing a visiting speaker programme. These talks will be held on a regular basis throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. Another idea that we are pursuing is the LSEE

Annual Lecture, which will involve a leading public figure from the region.

Finally, we have already started planning two academic conferences, one of which will be held at School and the other in South Eastern Europe. For up-to-date information on our events programme or for details of past events, including podcasts of key public lectures, please visit the events pages of our website (<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/LSEE/Events/Home.aspx>). If you would like to receive announcements of upcoming events, please write to the LSEE administrator's office (email [EuroInst.LSEE@lse.ac.uk](mailto:EuroInst.LSEE@lse.ac.uk)) and ask to be added to our mailing list ●



## LSEE Donors

We would like to record our gratitude to:

**Eurobank EFG**  
**Hellenic Petroleum S.A.**  
**John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation**  
**National Bank of Greece**  
**Viohalco S.A.**

## Visiting Fellows

**Tim Judah** — Writer and Journalist for 'The Economist', LSEE Visiting Senior Fellow, Spring 2009

**Dr Umut Özkırmlı** — Istanbul Bilgi University, LSEE Visiting Senior Fellow, January-December 2010

**Dr Slobodan Markovich** — Belgrade University, LSEE Visiting Fellow, Spring 2010

**Dr Florian Beiber** — University of Kent, LSEE Visiting Fellow, Spring 2010

**Dr Adam Fagan** — Queen Mary University of London, LSEE Visiting Senior Fellow, 2010-2011

## Who's Who

**Professor Kevin Featherstone**  
**Eleftherios Venizelos**  
Professor of Contemporary Greek Studies  
**LSEE Co-Chair**

**Professor Şevket Pamuk**  
Chair of Contemporary Turkish Studies Programme  
**LSEE Co-Chair**

**Dr Spyros Economides**  
Senior Lecturer in International Relations and European Politics  
**LSEE Co-ordinator**



**Dr James Ker-Lindsay**, Eurobank EFG Senior Fellow on the Politics of South East Europe — **LSEE Public Events UK**

**Dr William Bartlett**, Senior Research Fellow in the Political Economy of South East Europe — **LSEE Research Grants and Networks**

**Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis**, Senior Lecturer in the Political Economy of South Eastern Europe

**Dr Vesna Bojičić-Dželilović**, Senior Research Fellow at LSEE and LSE Global Governance

**Dr Claire Gordon**, Teaching Fellow in East European Politics, LSE European Institute

**Maja Savić**, Research Assistant

**Ismini Demades**, Hellenic Observatory and LSEE Manager

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