



# MSC HEALTH POLICY, PLANNING AND FINANCING 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## DAY 2 PROGRAMME

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The London School of Economics and Political Science



LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



LSE

Department of  
Health Policy

# MSC HEALTH POLICY, PLANNING AND FINANCING 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## ALUMNI PRESENTATIONS

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Department of  
Health Policy

## DAY 2 – 28TH MARCH HPPF 40TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

### HPPF at 40: A Celebration of Careers and Impact

Venue: MAR 1.08 – LSE campus

10:30: **Arrival and Registration**

11:00–11:05: **Welcome** (Prof Andrew Street)

11:05–11:50: **First session of alumni presentations** (Chair: Dr David Lugo Palacios)

- Lilian Venetia Vildiridi (Greece)
- Rachel Arrundale (UK)
- Samuel Gonzalez García (Mexico)
- Georgina Connolly (UK)
- Ziqi Zhou (UK)

11:55–12:55: **Second session of alumni presentations** (Chair: Dr Mrigesh Bhatia)

- Dr Uju Mabel Onyes (Ghana)
- Joy Onyenaturuchi Uzoho (Nigeria)
- Caitlin Anne Asjes (Spain)
- Rahim Daya (Kenya)

12:55–13:40: **Lunch**

13:40–14:25: **Third session of alumni presentations** (Chair: Dr Emilie Courtin)

- Sonia Ike (UK)
- Donn Angelo T. Valdez (UK)
- Ruben Muyle (Belgium)
- Luis Felipe Aceves Arias (UK)
- Han Kang (USA)

14:30–15:15: **Fourth session of alumni presentations** (Chair: Dr Tracey Chantler)

- Priti Dave (UK)
- Ariel Frisancho (Peru)
- Dr Ashish Dwivedi (UK)
- Jerry Dalnes (USA)
- Anne Philpott (UK)

15:15–15:30: **Thanks and closure** (Dr. Justin Parkhurst)



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## ALUMNI SPEAKERS



### **Lilian Venetia Vildiridi**

*Secretary General for Health Services, Hellenic Ministry of Health*

As Secretary General for Health Services in Greece, Lilian oversees the operation of 127 public hospitals, emergency care services and workforce planning across the National Health System. Lilian studied HPPF to translate rigorous academic evidence into practical policies that strengthen health system performance, resilience, and equity.

PRESENTATION: **FROM ANALYSIS TO ACCOUNTABILITY: A JOURNEY IN HEALTH GOVERNANCE**



### **Rachel Arrundale**

*Interim Director, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency*

Rachel sits on the Executive Committee of a national health regulator, with responsibility for policy, legislation and partnerships, after 30+ years in health and social policy. Rachel's motivation was to explore and critique issues of policy and practice experienced during her career, and to develop research skills for further study.

PRESENTATION: **BEYOND MATURE! - HPPF FOR THE LATE CAREER PART-TIMER.**



### **Samuel Gonzalez Garcia**

*Health-Promoting Environments Coordinator, Mexico City Ministry of Health*

Samuel is a public health professional coordinating the Health-Promoting Environments program in Mexico City's Ministry of Health, working with community health workers. Samuel studied HPPF to strengthen his policy design skills.

PRESENTATION: **FROM POLICY TO TERRITORY: BUILDING HEALTH-PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**



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**Georgina (Geena) Connolly***Health Policy Lead at the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC)*

Geena is from a big Irish family with over 40 cousins – 20 of which are doctors! She started off in the family business (medicine) before developing an interest in policy and systems thinking during the junior doctor strikes in 2016. Geena chose to leave her degree in her third year, subsequently she was working cross sector in not-for-profits, academia and digital delivery (including NHS Digital, Deloitte Digital and a health tech start-up), before pursuing her Masters in Health Policy Planning and Financing to specialise in policy.

PRESENTATION: **FROM MSC TO IMPACT: A JOURNEY INTO EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH POLICY**

**Ziqi Zhou***HTA analyst*

Ziqi currently works as a Technical Analyst in the Commercial Liaison team at NICE, supporting engagement with companies and facilitating the evaluation of health technologies to inform evidence-based decision making in the NHS. Ziqi is a graduate of the MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing programme (HPPF 2019–2020) at LSE and LSHTM, and originally trained as a pharmacist at the University of Manchester. Ziqi's work focuses on translating evidence into policy and healthcare guidance.

PRESENTATION: **FROM MSC TO IMPACT: A JOURNEY INTO EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH POLICY**

**Dr Uju Mabel Onyes***Director, Health Financing, Last Mile Health (Global)*

Dr. Uju Mabel Onyes is a Health Financing and Health Systems Strengthening expert with over a decade of experience working across sub-Saharan Africa and global health institutions to design and strengthen health financing systems. She currently serves as Director of Health Financing at Last Mile Health, where she leads multi-country efforts supporting governments to develop, cost, and operationalise sustainable financing strategies for community health systems. Her expertise spans strategic purchasing, public financial management, and investment case development, with experience working alongside multiple Ministries of Health across sub-Saharan Africa.

PRESENTATION: **EMBEDDING HEALTH FINANCING CAPACITY: FROM STUDENT TO FELLOW TO DESIGNING GOVERNMENT-LED REFORMS**

**Joy Onyenaturuchi Uzoho***Founding Partner, Halton Health Development Foundation*

Joy is a Health Financing Specialist and Management Consultant with 11+ years of experience strengthening health systems. Co-founder, Nigeria-based NGO, Halton Health. Joy Pursued HPPF to influence government financing for health to reduce donor dependency for sustainable health reforms

PRESENTATION: **FROM HPPF TO HEALTH FINANCING LEADERSHIP: TRANSLATING KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY IMPACT**



**Caitlin Anne Asjes***Head, Policy & Access, Waters Advanced Diagnostics*

Caitlin's public health career began in South Asian villages. After four years living out of a suitcase, she sought a sustainable path. HPPF offered that through practical skills and niche expertise.

PRESENTATION: **HPPF IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR: NAVIGATING A GLOBAL CAREER, ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**

**Rahim Daya***Chief Growth & Strategy Officer*

Rahim is the Chief Growth and Strategy Officer at Shamiri, the largest youth mental health provider in Africa. Rahim studied HPPF to strengthen scalable health system design for underserved communities.

PRESENTATION: **FROM CLASSROOM TO SCALE: APPLYING HPPF TO BUILD SCALABLE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

**Sonia Ike***Medical Doctor*

Sonia is a surgeon, working in and outside of the NHS. Her background is in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive surgery to Registrar level. The Inverse Care Law motivated Sonia to apply. She has a strong interest in burns, its management and scarring. Understanding the intersection of socioeconomic, policy and the effects on patient outcomes in the above.

PRESENTATION: **THE SOCIOECONOMICS OF SCARS; INTRODUCING THE LSE HEALTH ALUMNI NETWORK**

**Donn Angelo T. Valdez***Real World Evidence Delivery Lead, Boehringer Ingelheim UK and Ireland*

Donn is a physician-leader who has spent his career moving across the worlds of health policy, real-world evidence, HTA, government affairs, and health systems strengthening. In recent years, his roles in industry—most recently as RWE Delivery Lead at Boehringer Ingelheim UK and Ireland, and previously as Government Affairs Senior Manager at Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines and Public Ecosystem & Health Economics Lead at Roche Philippines—have placed him at the centre of efforts to expand access to innovative therapies, navigate complex HTA pathways, and shape national policy on cancer, pandemic preparedness, and pharmaceutical reform.

Donn's work has taken him through government, academia, the private sector, and international collaborations. Across these roles, he has focused on policy development, economic evaluation, strategic leadership, and stakeholder engagement, always with the same goal: improving access, equity, and the performance of health systems.

PRESENTATION: **BRIDGING WORLDS: HOW HPPF SHAPED MY JOURNEY ACROSS MEDICINE, POLICY, AND INDUSTRY FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UK TO THE UK**



**Ruben Muyle**

*Brand Manager Belux at ViiV healthcare*

Ruben is Currently working at GSK focussing on the commercialisation of the HIV portfolio in Belux. Motivations to study the Msc HPPF was to gain a broader (international) understanding of health financing and economics

PRESENTATION: **INSIDE THE PHARMA JOURNEY**

**Luis Felipe Aceves Arias**

*Research Fellow in Health Economics*

Luis is a Researcher working at the intersection of clinical medicine, public health, and health systems research. His academic and professional trajectory has focused on generating policy-relevant evidence to strengthen health systems. After completing his MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing at LSHTM and LSE, Luis worked on WHO-commissioned research evaluating the cost-effectiveness of self-care interventions and essential medicines. Since December 2025, Luis has been serving as a Research Fellow in Health Economics, where he contributes to economic evaluations and systematic reviews to inform decision-making. Luis's work integrates his clinical and research experience to support equitable and efficient health interventions.

PRESENTATION: **EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY RESEARCH WITH A GLOBAL LENS**

**Han Kang**

*Chief Intergovernmental Relations Officer,  
Government for the City of San Jose*

Han lead teams to advocate for laws, policies and resources for health and social equity. He studied HPPF to bridge the gap between research and practice in strengthening health systems.

PRESENTATION: **FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: HOW I SOUGHT TO MAXIMISE HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPACT FROM MY HPPF STUDIES**

**Priti Dave**

*Independent Consultant, Global Health*

Priti is currently working as an independent consultant, focussing on evaluation of global health programmes. Recent clients include, British Investment International (BII), WHO, UNAIDS and Global Fund. Priti was drawn to studying HPPF, while working in an administrative capacity at ODA (erstwhile DFID, FCDO).

PRESENTATION: **A CAREER IN GLOBAL HEALTH AS OLD AS THE HPPF COURSE**



**Ariel Frisancho**

*COPASAH (Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health) South-America Coordinator and Lecturer at Universidad Señor de Sipan- Peru*

Specialist on RBAs and Health Governance. Professor and author on these themes. International NGOs' Health official. Ariel Studied HPPF to develop a sound understanding on Health Policy /Health Systems science & performance

PRESENTATION: **ON THE QUEST FOR HEALTH RIGHTS REALIZATION AND GENUINE PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**Dr Ashish Dwivedi**

*Director, Management Consultant*

Dr Ashish Dwivedi is a health system strategist with both clinical and commercial experience across primary, urgent, and acute care. He previously served as CEO of one of the UK's largest health social enterprises and later worked at PwC advising health and care leaders on strategy and transformation. Ash has worked with more than 50 health and care systems in the UK and internationally to design and implement new models of care across planned and unplanned services. He is the founder of Health Integration Partners (HIP), where he focuses on supporting clinically led transformation, data-driven improvement, and innovative approaches to delivering sustainable health and care systems.

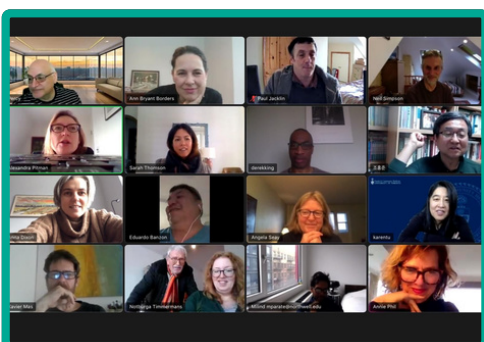
PRESENTATION: **DEMEDICALISING MEDICAL CARE - THE ONLY WAY NHS AND SYSTEMS ACROSS THE WORLD CAN SUSTAIN THEMSELVES**

**Jerry Dalnes**

*Business Developer*

Jerry is currently a business developer working for a commercial furniture and ergonomic company in the Portland, Oregon area. He is also on the local county Health Council serving as the Treasurer of a \$60M dollar budget. Jerry's motivation in pursuing the HPPF degree was to help create policies to decrease the number of uninsured individuals in the US.

PRESENTATION: **HOW DID I END UP DOING THAT?????**

**Anne Philpott on behalf of the HPPF 1998 Group**

*Global Health Advisor | SRHR Innovator | Founder of The Pleasure Project*

Anne Philpott is a senior global health advisor with over 30 years of leadership working in transformative sexual and reproductive health, disease preparedness, and health systems strengthening initiatives worldwide.

Anne is the founder of The Pleasure Project, a pioneering initiative that integrates sexual pleasure and well-being into global health programming. Her work has created paradigm shifting evidence and influenced policy at the UN and over 70 major delivery agencies alongside being featured widely in global media. Her innovative approach challenges traditional narratives, advancing more effective, inclusive sexual health programming globally.

She studied HPPF 27 years ago over two years part-time whilst working in London in an SRHR agency. Her dissertation focused on the evidence to policy pathways for STI prevention.

PRESENTATION: **A 27-YEAR LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY OF SUSTAINED FRIENDSHIP: THE HPPF 1998 GROUP**



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## FACULTY (LSE & LSHTM)



### **Professor Andrew Street**

*Head of Department*

Andrew Street joined the London School of Economics in September 2017. Previously he was at the University of York, which he joined in 1995, and where he was Director of the Health Policy team in the Centre for Health Economics and Director of the Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (ESHCRU). Andrew has published numerous articles on topics including health system productivity, hospital efficiency, performance measurement, patient reported outcomes, integrated care and the Hospital Frailty Risk Score (HFRS). He has worked for health ministries in England and Australia, and was editor of the Journal of Health Economics from 2006-2018.



### **Dr Emilie Courtin**

*Associate Professor*

Emilie Courtin is Associate Professor of Health Policy. She co-directs the MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing (HPPF) programme. Her research combines social epidemiology and social policy to assess how non-medical policies influence health, disease and health care use. Emilie has a PhD from the Department of Social Policy at the LSE, for which she was awarded the 2018 Richard Titmuss prize for best thesis. She was previously a David E. Bell Fellow at Harvard University and MRC Skills Development Fellow at LSHTM.



### **Dr Mrigesh Bhatia**

*Assistant Professor*

Dr Mrigesh Bhatia is Lecturer in Health Policy and Course Director for MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing.

He is a medical graduate with an MD in Preventive and Social Medicine (Bombay) and PhD in Health Economics from University of London. His previous teaching experience was in India, first as Lecturer at Seth G S Medical College and KEM Hospital, Bombay, and subsequently as Reader in the Department of Health Services Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.



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**Dr. Justin Parkhurst***Associate Professor of Global Health Policy*

Dr Justin Parkhurst is an Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy. He served for many years as co-director of the MSc in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing programme, and was the inaugural Chair of the LSE Global Health Initiative. Dr Parkhurst's research interests lie in global health politics and policy, as well as the political nature of evidence use to inform policy decisions.

He led the 5-year GRIP-Health programme funded by the European Research Council, producing extensive work on the politics and governance of evidence, and co-led a Wellcome Trust project on strengthening health sciences research in Africa. Since 2025, he has jointly led the SEIHPA programme, studying evidence-advice systems for health policymaking across Uganda, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda (funded by the National Institute of Health Research).

**Dr Tracey Chantler***Associate Professor - LSHTM*

Tracey is a social scientist with expertise in using a wide range of evaluation methods to examine factors that can affect the delivery of immunisation programmes in low, middle, and high-income countries. The initial catalyst for her interest in vaccination was being tasked as a nurse to support primary health care programmes in Haiti in the early 1990s. Subsequently, Tracey worked at a paediatric clinical vaccine trials unit in Oxford, then completed a PhD at LSHTM. Tracey gained expertise in medical anthropology, ethics, and public health during her doctoral studies. Tracey's thesis (fieldwork linked to malaria and rotavirus vaccine research conducted in western Kenya) contributed to debates in ethics around the nature and goals of community engagement, and the social value and practice of solidarity in bio-medical research conducted in resource-limited settings.

**Dr David Lugo Palacios***Associate Professor in Health Economics - LSHTM*

David is a health economist with expertise in policy evaluation and applied microeconometrics. He joined LSHTM in November 2020, where he is an Associate Professor in Health Economics. David co-leads the Policy Evaluation theme within the Global Health ECONOMICS (GHECO) centre at LSHTM. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow at Imperial College London and a Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE Health. David holds a BA in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), an MSc in Health Economics and Policy from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and a PhD in Health Economics from LSHTM.



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