



European
Institute

2025/26 **ANNUAL REPORT**



2025/26
ANNUAL REPORT





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Introduction



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the fateful Brexit referendum that took the United Kingdom out of the European Union. In the immediate aftermath of the vote, serious existential questions arose for us here at the European Institute. Would it become less relevant and appealing to study Europe in London and at the London School of Economics and Political Science when we have left the EU? It was clear that the School's Senior Management regarded us as among the most vulnerable to the event. And I confess that, as the incoming Head of the Department in 2018, I was worried I would be overseeing an Institute in decline.

As it turned out, those who had worried were quite wrong to have worried. What we saw was that London became the centre of one of the most dramatic upheavals in post-War European politics – and we had front-row seats to it all. Perhaps paradoxically, the UK's departure actually increased the number of applicants applying for our programmes and we have had overshoots in admissions every year since 2018. This past decade has shown us that studying Europe in London is as relevant as ever: we are Europe's own outsider – and, once more, getting 'ever closer'.

I'm not sure I would go as far as to thank Brexit for this gift of growth – in fact, I would prefer not to. I agree with former Prime Minister Sir John Major who said, in an extraordinary event we hosted with him this year at the European Institute, that leaving the European Union was 'an act of collective folly'. However, it is clear that the unsayable is now being said. Brexit, as among the worst self-inflicted wounds in Britain's long history, will perhaps itself be history in the years to come. There is no smooth or rapid path here. British anxieties concerning amalgamating federalist ambitions in Europe took us out, and it will be difficult to steer back in while that ambition seems the main path.

“

Brexit has shown us the importance, here at the European Institute, to study Europe through a global perspective – Europe in the world – and not just as a continental institution.

Perhaps, however, we might heed the words of one of Britain's best philosophers, J.S. Mill, who in *On Liberty*, gave voice to a distinctively European cultural history of which Brexit is just a fleeting part:

"What has hitherto preserved Europe from [becoming a stationary rather than a progressive culture]? Not any superior excellence in the [European family], which, when it exists, exists as the effect not as the cause; but their remarkable diversity of character and culture. Individuals, classes, nations, have been extremely unlike each other: they have struck out a great variety of paths, each leading to something valuable; and although at every period those who travelled in different paths have been extremely intolerant of one another, and each would have thought it an excellent thing if all the rest could have been compelled to travel his road, their attempts to thwart each other's development have rarely had any permanent success, and each has in time endured to receive the good which the others have offered. Europe is, in my judgement, wholly indebted to this plurality of paths for its progressive and many-sided development."

Mill (thankfully) stresses cultural diversity and not racial superiority in his estimation of the cause of whatever comparative excellence one can find in Europe. And he stresses the 'unlikeness' of Europeans to each other too. Overall, it is Europe's singular identity as having no single identity that is to the fore. Each nation presented as something like a distinctive point of departure for discovery and invention, and we do this best when we do it in conditions of co-operation not conflict.

Brexit marked the beginning of new debates and conversations around EU and British politics. And it has shown us the importance, here at the European Institute, to study Europe through a global perspective – Europe in the world – and not just as a continental institution. With upwards of 250 postgraduate students joining us annually, we have grown from being a small centre for 'European Studies' to becoming a world-leading centre for the study of Europe in its global context, welcoming students from over 40 different nationalities through our doors every year.

And we are not the only ones to see the value of studying Europe from the heart of London at LSE. In 2025, we were delighted to receive a stunning £1m donation from the AKO Foundation, which will support five full scholarships for MSc students, covering tuition fees and living expenses, for four academic cycles (from 2025/26 to 2028/29). The scholarships will be awarded across our four single degree programmes to both Home and Overseas students. This 2025/26 academic year marks our first year offering the scholarships. Five very happy new arrivals came to the European Institute this year on the IMPP programme, supported by the AKO Foundation. I have met them all and I know how thrilled they are at the chance they have been given. It really is a life changing gift.

“

The European Institute remains at the heart of Europe.

And it all comes from a chance of history: one of the driving forces behind the AKO Foundation was an LSE alumna who graduated from the MSc in European Studies in 1993. She was, in fact, one of the very first people to come to the European Institute as a postgraduate student and the Foundation that she helped to establish has now created an opportunity for a future generation of scholars who would otherwise not have been able to afford it, to study here with us at the European Institute. We're absolutely delighted to welcome the first cohort of students.

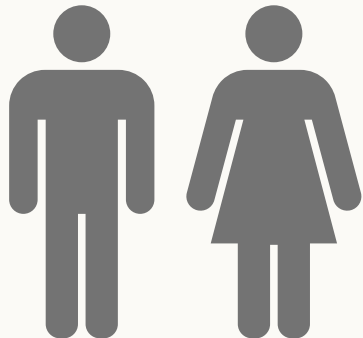
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'S. Glendinning'.

Simon Glendinning
Head of the LSE European Institute

The EI in numbers

PEOPLE.

1991 YEAR FOUNDED



32 ACADEMIC STAFF

50 VISITING STAFF

20 RESEARCH STAFF

13 PSS STAFF

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT.





100+ Research & blog publications



52K Total followers



7185 Total newsletter subscribers



1.8M Total post impressions



70 New Instagram reels



42.3K Highest reel views



18.7K LinkedIn followers



14.4K Twitter followers



6547 Instagram followers



1858 YouTube followers



730 Bluesky followers



398 TikTok followers

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.



19 Public events



4187 Total attendees



27K Event recording views



34.8K Podcast listens

EDUCATION.



8 MSC PROGRAMMES

1 PHD PROGRAMME



283 Students



46 Nationalities



27 Workshops delivered



47 Total courses delivered



2033 Total teaching hours



206 Certificates awarded

ALUMNI.



5739 ALUMNI GLOBALLY



119 Alumni volunteers



415 Hours volunteered by alumni



81 Alumni mentorship pairs



11 Alumni career & networking events



1008 Alumni visits to LSE Alumni Centre

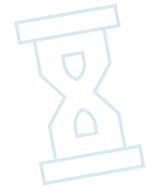
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Our year at a glance



14 Oct

Professor Yuk Hui opens this year's Beyond Eurocentrism Programme with a lecture on "Post-Europe" on what it means to think a 'Europe beyond Eurocentrism' and why both the East and West must learn to become 'post-Europeans.'

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25 Nov

The EI rounds off the term in style with its annual **Festive Drinks**, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and alumni to celebrate the end of term.

[See here](#)



26 Nov

The **LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus** relaunches the LSE Athens Lectures in partnership with the University of Athens, bringing leading LSE academics to present cutting-edge research on major societal challenges, followed by open discussion with audiences from academia, policy, and the wider public.

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20 Jan

As students, faculty, and staff settle into the Winter Term, the EI hosts a **Coffee Morning** for the community to reconnect over a hot drink and pastries.

[See here](#)



4-6 Feb

The new year begins with students attending the **EI Student Conference at Cumberland Lodge**. With four keynote speakers and a workshop on the theme of "Europe and Its Neighbours," attendees get the opportunity to hear about the idea of the West and the evolving role of Turkey in European affairs, concluding with an interactive workshop led by EI PhD students.

[See here](#)



22-26 Sep

The EI welcomes its new students to campus, including 268 MSc Students and three PhD candidates. The week kicked off with welcome drinks, induction sessions led by Professor Simon Glendinning and our Programme Directors, and featured a lot of activities for our new cohort, including a treasure hunt in the city, walking tours across London, and campus events.

[See here](#)



18 Nov

Sir John Major, former UK Prime Minister, delivers this year's Maurice Fraser Annual Lecture with a talk centred around challenges and opportunities shaping Britain's role in a changing world. The event is followed by a private reception where our students and Maurice's friends and family have the chance to meet and speak with Sir John Major.

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18 Nov

Dr Angelo Martelli and Visiting Professor Pirooska Nagy Mohacsi organise a workshop titled **The Euro and Europe's next stage**, bringing together leading economists and policymakers to debate the future of the euro at a moment of major global currency realignment, with students from the MSc Political Economy of Europe in the World attending the discussions.

[See page 14](#)



17 Dec

The EI welcomes its most recent cohort of MSc and PhD students back to campus to celebrate the **Class of 2025 Graduation**. Having completed their coursework in August, our new graduates officially join the EI's vibrant and global alumni community of over 5,700 members!

[See here](#)



11 Feb

The EI and Bruegel co-host a high-level conference titled "Security in Europe: how will it affect growth and competitiveness?," exploring the future of European security, defence financing and competitiveness which culminates in a fireside conversation between **Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP**, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Bruegel Director **Jeromin Zettelmayer** on the role of the EU and UK in a shifting multilateral order.

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26-27 Feb

As part of the three-day **Careers in Brussels Fair** organised by LSE Careers, our students join fellow LSE students to discover career pathways in Brussels and beyond, and to hear from the very active EI and LSE alumni working in the heart of the European Union. Between institutional visits to NATO and the European Commission, our students attend a career fair co-hosted by LSE, Sciences Po and the Collège d'Europe, gaining precious insights and connections with employers.

[See here](#)



27 Feb

Research on South Eastern Europe (LSEE) hosts a roundtable, "Memorialisation and Politics in the Western Balkans," which enables exchange between LSE researchers, UK policymakers and regional practitioners to examine how state and civil society approaches can foster inclusive memorialisation in the region.

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26-27 Feb

The second edition of the **LSE Joint Sessions on Critical Europe** organised by our PhD students is held over two days, bringing together over 30 early career academics from the UK, Europe, and beyond, to interrogate right-wing narratives and the idea of a "home under threat" taking root across Europe.

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6 March

Two of our LSE-Fudan alumni, **Sacha Courtial** and **Jonathan Schweska**, return to the EI to facilitate an EU450 Workshop introducing current MSc students to the world of think tanks and careers in the sector.

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16 March

The EI welcomes back President of Finland and LSE alumnus **Alexander Stubb** for an exclusive talk to students and staff on the challenges facing the global order, the role of the Global South in redefining it, and the need for a "values-based realism". The event finished with a private reception for EI students, who had the opportunity to talk to President Stubb over tea and scones.

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12 March

Our Class of 2011 alumna **Fitore Pacolli Dalipi**, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Kosovo, returns to the EI to speak with MSc students on Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis' course "The Balkans in Europe: Transition, Democratisation, Integration". Reflecting on her time at LSE and career path since graduation, Fitore shares insights into Kosovo's current geopolitical landscape and her work in government.

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14 May

The EI and **Contemporary Turkish Studies**, with support from CIVICA, co-host an event, "Coalitions of the willing in action: the role of non-EU NATO members in Europe's security and defence" examining how non-EU NATO members including the UK, Türkiye, Norway, and Canada can contribute to a more unified European security architecture at a moment of profound geopolitical transformation.

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4-5 June

Dr Benjamin Braun co-organises the first European edition of the **Finance and Democracy Summer Workshop** alongside the Berkeley Program on Finance & Democracy, Rhodes Center at Brown University, and LSE Huth Initiative. The workshop brings together over thirty doctoral candidates and early career scholars for two days of intensive instruction on finance, democracy, and state power.

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22 May

Students take a well-deserved break from the exam season with the **EI's Annual Ramble** to explore the Chiltern Hills together, making the most of the summer sunshine and swapping the city for a few hours of fresh air and countryside.

See here



16 June

As summer finally takes over the city, the EI community gathers for a last 'hurrah' over the **EI Summer in the City Drinks** on the Center Building 6th Floor terrace, officially concluding the Spring Term. Alumni join students, faculty, and staff for a relaxed evening of reminiscing and celebrating the end of the academic year.

See here



16-18 June

As part of this year's **LSE Festival**, the EI hosts two panel discussions aligned with the theme of How to save the planet. The first, entitled "Mobilising investment for a sustainable planet", welcomes Nadia Calviño, President of the European Investment Bank, to discuss the EIB Group's strategy to support a green transition and the growing urgency of reducing Europe's dependence on imported fossil fuels in the current geopolitical context. The second, "Green shoots of the new economy," invites attendees to consider whether solutions to the ecological crisis may emerge from innovative firms and financial actors operating within existing economic systems.

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16 July

Marking the 10-year anniversary of the Brexit referendum this year, the EI hosts a discussion of **Sir Anthony Seldon's** new book, *The Brexit Effect*, which delves into the lead-up to the referendum, its integration into law, and the impact on British Life.

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Our latest stories

Studying Europe in the UK: Student consultation with Irène Mingasson

October 2025

At the start of the Autumn Term, students on our **MSc European and International Politics and Policy** programme had the opportunity to meet with **Irène Mingasson**, Head of Unit for the Foreign Policy Instrument of the European Commission, for a discussion around their experience studying Europe in the UK, as part of her visit exploring the LSE's engagement with EU institutions such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus, as well as youth mobility.

 [Learn more](#)

A visit from our Fudan University partners

November 2025



In November, we were delighted to welcome **Professor Yijia Jing**, Dean of the Institute for Global Public Policy at Fudan University, and his team, back in London to meet with our new LSE-Fudan double degree students completing their first year here at LSE.

Our **Double Master's Degree in the Global Political Economy of China and Europe** offers students the unique opportunity to gain a multi-disciplinary understanding of key political and economic processes and issues in Europe and China within a global context, through two rich and diverse experiences in London and Shanghai.

 [Learn more](#)

Dr Angelo Martelli convenes leading economists for workshop

December 2025



Organised by **Dr Angelo Martelli**, Assistant Professor in European and International Political Economy, and **Piroska Nagy Mohacsi**, Visiting Professor, the workshop invited leading thinkers to come together to discuss and debate the future of the euro in a time when the world is shifting between three major currency zones. Contributors included **Előd Takáts** (Bank for International Settlements), **Professor Luis Garicano** (LSE), **Reiner Martin** (National Bank of Slovakia) and **Atanas Pekanov** (former Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria). Students from our MSc Political Economy of Europe in the World programme were also invited and had the amazing opportunity to join the workshop and observe the discussions up close.

 [Learn more](#)

LSE Excellence in Education Awards 2025

December 2025



The LSE Excellence in Education Awards recognise staff who have demonstrated outstanding teaching contribution and educational leadership in their departments.

We were delighted to celebrate twelve prize winners from the department this year: **Professor Iain Begg, Dr Natalie Grace, Stephen Jenner, Adam Judge, Dr Patrick Kimunguyi, Professor Denisa Kostovicova, Dr Angelo Martelli, Dr Vesna Popovski, Dr Tahir Rashid, Dr Eiko Thielemann, Dr António Valentim, and Wagio Waigi.**

 [Learn more](#)

Professor Kevin Featherstone attends investiture for OBE

December 2025



On 5 December 2025, **Professor Kevin Featherstone OBE**, Emeritus Professor, attended his investiture to receive the 'Order of the British Empire' (O.B.E.), awarded in the King's Birthday Honours in June 2024 for "services to academia and UK/Greece Relations". The investiture was held at St. James's Palace and he received the award from HRH Princess Anne.

Professor Featherstone held the Eleftherios Venizelos Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies in the European Institute from 2002 to 2022, and served as Head of the European Institute 2004-7, 2011-12, and 2015-18.

 [Learn more](#)

PhD alumna Dr Bea Lewkowicz OBE honoured in King's New Year List

January 2026

Our PhD alumna from the Class of 2000, **Dr Bea Lewkowicz**, received an OBE for her services to Holocaust remembrance and education in the King's New Year List. In 2003, Bea co-founded the Association of Jewish Refugees Refugee Voices Testimony Archive. Through this, Bea has built the UK's largest collection of Holocaust Testimony and has also led on the development of the Holocaust Testimony UK Portal, an education resource that pools records and information into one central hub.

On receiving her OBE, Bea said: "I feel very honoured to have received this meaningful award for my work in Holocaust education and remembrance. My career has been guided by a belief in the enduring power of testimony. At a time when Holocaust denial and distortion, and antisemitism are on the rise, and memory moves into history, I hope that the voices of the survivors will continue to shape Holocaust education, research and public engagement, now and in the future."

 [Learn more](#)

Dr Benjamin Braun co-authors report on economic democracy for Spanish government

February 2026



This academic year, **Dr Benjamin Braun** served on the International High-Level Expert Committee on Democracy at Work, a commission of thirteen members presided over by **Professor Isabelle Ferreras**, Research Director at the Belgian National Science Foundation (FNRS) and Professor of Sociology at the University of Louvain, which has been researching how to make good on the commitment in the Spanish Constitution (Article 129.2) to democracy at work. The results of the study were officially announced this month by **Yolanda Díaz**, Spanish Labour Minister, in Madrid where the final report was launched.

Dr Benjamin Braun reflected on the report's conclusion: "Led by the amazing Isabelle Ferreras, we have delivered what may well be the highest-level 400-page report on economic democracy out there. It's been a privilege to be working on something so ambitious and hope-inspiring. A lot of deep thinking and research have gone into this report, and the dedication of everyone on the commission really shows in the final product."

 [Learn more](#)

Dr Niina Vuolajärvi's research is quoted in Scottish Parliament

February 2026

Research produced by **Dr Niina Vuolajärvi**, Assistant Professor in International Migration, for the LSE Centre for Women Peace and Security in June 2022 on the criminalisation of sex buying on sex workers in the Nordic region was mentioned in a Scottish Parliamentary debate on the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill on Tuesday 3rd February.

Dr Niina Vuolajärvi remarked on the research's impact: *"I am really happy to see that politicians are relying on evidence-based research when making decisions on policies concerning sex work and trafficking. Often these policies are made more based on moral judgements rather than relying on research or sex workers' views and experiences."*

[Learn more](#)

PhD students host second conference to interrogate right-wing narratives

February 2026



On 26-27 February 2026, our PhD students hosted the second edition of the "LSE Joint Sessions on Critical Europe" at the LSE European Institute. The two-day workshop-based symposium brought together nearly 30 early career academics and PhD students from the UK, Europe, and beyond, to interrogate right-wing narratives across Europe. This year's theme explored the contemporary phenomenon of fascism in Europe, the function of nostalgia in portraying a home under threat, and the acts of resistance across and beyond Europe.

This year's conference was organised by our PhD students **Andréa Delestrade**, **Daniela Roxana Movileanu**, **Noa Thilla Krikler**, and **Rosa Golchin**, and our Fellow in International Migration **Dr Jacob Lypp**. Commenting on the event, our PhD candidate and co-organiser Noa Thilla Krikler said: *"Bringing together anthropologists, political scientists, historians, political theorists, heritage academics and others made for an incredibly rich and generative environment, and reiterated - for myself and for other participants - the value of mutual learning and engagement*

across disciplinary divides to think through the pressing social issues and deeply concerning political realities we face today."

[Learn more](#)

Dr Martin Westlake elected as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

March 2026

Dr Martin Westlake, Visiting Professor in Practice and co-chair of our flagship "EU in Practice" seminar series, was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences for his work on British and European Union politics and institutions. He was among 74 Fellows to have been elected to the Academy this spring.

Commenting on his nomination, Dr Westlake said: *"It is a privilege, pleasure and honour to have been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences after being nominated by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES). Now, more than ever, there is a need to foster practical knowledge about the European Union and to encourage common understanding."*

[Learn more](#)

Kevin Featherstone and Vassilis Monastiriotis attend Delphi Economic Forum XI with Larry Kramer

April 2026



This year's "Delphi Economic Forum XI" which took place on 22 April 2026 in Greece, featured two European Institute academics, **Professor Kevin Featherstone OBE**, Emeritus Professor, and **Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis**, Eleftherios Venizelos Chair of Contemporary Greek Studies and Professor in Political Economy, with the Hellenic Observatory serving as a content partner.

Professor Kevin Featherstone, was in conversation with LSE President Professor Larry Kramer discussing "Universities in an Age of Polarisation" on the competing pressures and obligations of universities today, while Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis joined a timely panel about

"The Future of the European Gig Economy" to explore how technology, regulation and shifting labour dynamics are reshaping Europe's gig economy.

[Learn more](#)

The European Institute hosts workshop to discuss the policies and influence of Giorgia Meloni on the EU

May 2026

On 15 May 2026, we convened a one-day workshop which brought together academics and researchers to assess the influence of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's migration strategy on other European governments and the European Union's leadership.

A few of our students also had the opportunity to attend the closing roundtable chaired by **Professor Danielle Albertazzi** (University of Surrey), which discussed the mainstreaming of radical right ideas in migration and security policy in Europe, with **Professor Tim Bale** (Queen Mary University), **Dr Caterina Mazzilli** (ODI Global), and **Dr Angelo Martelli** (LSE). Sponsored by the Political Studies Association Excellence and Impact Fund, the event was organised by the Italian Politics Specialist Group, in collaboration with the LSE European Institute.

[Learn more](#)

LSE Class Teacher Awards 2026

June 2026



The LSE Class Teacher Awards are given to Graduate Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows and Guest Teachers in recognition of their very special contribution to teaching at LSE. On 10 June 2026, we were delighted to celebrate **Dr Jacob Lypp**, LSE Fellow in International Migration, for winning the LSE Class Teacher Award in the European Institute, as well as **Dr Vesna Popovski**, Fellow in Conflict and Post-Conflict Studies, and **Dr Tahir Rashid**, Guest Teacher in Culture and Conflict, for being "Highly Commended" in the award category.

[Learn more](#)

Dr Benjamin Braun co-organises Summer Workshop with Brown University and LSE

June 2026



On 4-5 June 2026, the European Institute held the "Finance & Democracy Summer Workshop," a two-day intensive training programme co-organised by **Dr Benjamin Braun**. Run jointly by the Berkeley Program on Finance & Democracy, the Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance at Brown University, and the European Institute and Huth Initiative for a New Political Economy at LSE, the workshop marked the programme's first edition in Europe, following two successful years at Brown University.

The programme brought together over thirty advanced doctoral candidates and early career scholars for instruction and discussions focused on finance as a core dimension of political economy, democracy, and state power. Alongside these sessions, the workshop fostered an international, interdisciplinary community of scholars working at the cross-sections of finance and democracy.

[Learn more](#)

Dr Eiko Thielemann co-organises eight migration seminars at LSE

June 2026

This academic year, **Dr Eiko Thielemann**, Associate Professor in Political Science and Public Policy at the European Institute, has co-organised eight research seminars at LSE with **Professor Fiona Adamson**, Professor of International Relations at SOAS, under the auspices of the London Migration Research Group (LMRG) - an inter-university and interdisciplinary network of scholars who come together to present and discuss their latest and ongoing research in the field. The seminars are open to academics, students, policymakers and practitioners working on migration issues.

[Learn more](#)

Reflecting on 10 years of the Brexit referendum at the European Institute

To mark the 10-year anniversary of the Brexit referendum, this June we curated a collection of videos, blogs, and events featuring experts on Europe from the European Institute and beyond, drawing on their respective expertise to share reflections on the vote which forever altered the course of British and European politics. Join us to reflect on the impact of Brexit, 10 years on.

In the Brexit hot seat: 10 years, 10 experts

We are delighted to present an exclusive interview series, *In the Brexit hot seat*, featuring 10 voices from the European Institute, including key organisers of the LSE Referendum Night on the 23 June 2016.

- **Episode 1:** Kevin Featherstone on how LSE shaped the Brexit debate in London and beyond
- **Episode 2:** Sara Hobolt on how Brexit has impacted British party politics
- **Episode 3:** Simon Glendinning on what went wrong with the UK's remain campaign
- **Episode 4:** Marta Lorimer on how Brexit has shaped the political agenda of EU far right parties
- **Episode 5:** Nicholas Barr on the Brexit blog which crashed the LSE server 10 years ago
- **Episode 6:** Yaprak Gürsoy on evolving Turkish-UK and Turkish-EU relations
- **Episode 7:** Eiko Thielemann on how Brexit has shaped UK migration and asylum governance
- **Episode 8:** Vera Spyrakou on the future of EU-UK relations
- **Episode 9:** Iain Begg on whether the UK is likely to rejoin the EU soon
- **Episode 10:** Mareike Kleine on how Brexit has repositioned the UK on the world stage



[Watch now](#)

Blogs

Discover reflections from our academics on Brexit, written as part of the *LSE European Politics (EUROPP)* blog's 10-year Brexit anniversary collection, launched on 15 June 2026.

Professor Kevin Featherstone
LSE and the Brexit referendum
LSE EUROPP Blog, 2026

Professor Iain Begg
Eight reasons why the UK will not rejoin the EU in my lifetime
LSE EUROPP Blog, 2026

Professor Simon Glendinning
Britain, Brexit and the spectre of Empire
LSE EUROPP Blog, 2026

Professor Nicholas Barr
Brexit – a bad idea then, a bad idea now
LSE EUROPP Blog, 2026

Dr Vera Spyrakou
The Brexit decade – Britain, Europe and the question of political identity
LSE EUROPP Blog, 2026

[Read more](#)

The Brexit Effect 2016-2026

On 16 July 2026, the European Institute marked the tenth anniversary of the Brexit referendum with a public discussion on *The Brexit Effect: 2016-2026* (Cambridge University Press 2026). The event launched **Sir Anthony Seldon's** new book examining the origins, implementation, and consequences of the UK's decision to leave the European Union. It explored how the referendum reshaped British politics, public policy, and the UK's relationship with Europe over the past decade.

Bringing together a panel of four speakers, the discussion featured **Sir Anthony Seldon**, political historian; **Steve Baker**, former Minister for Exiting the European Union; **Professor Anand Menon**, Director of UK in a Changing

Europe and Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London; and **Dr Madeleine Sumption**, Director of the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford. The conversation was chaired by **Professor Tony Travers**, Associate Dean of the LSE School of Public Policy.

Ahead of the event, the European Institute also hosted a networking reception for alumni and members of the LSE Policy Network, providing an opportunity for guests to reconnect with the Institute's community and continue discussions on one of the most significant political developments in modern British history.

[Catch up on the podcast](#)





RESEARCH

Research at the European Institute

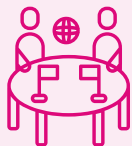
Researching Europe has rarely been more challenging or more important than it is today. Ongoing war and conflict on the European continent and neighbouring countries, the rise of populism and nationalism, rising inflation and energy insecurity, as well as immigration and labour market pressures, are among the many crises of the present contributing to the growing geopolitical uncertainty that is reshaping Europe and its place in the world. At the European Institute, we seek to use these unfolding events as the springboard to the study of all things European. Consistent with our interdisciplinary status, our research is focused on cross-cutting themes. The work of the EI’s faculty, research staff, and our highly active doctoral community focuses on our four key research themes: Political Economy, Politics & Policy, Culture & Society, and Migration.

Political Economy



Our research in Political Economy concentrates on the interaction between political and economic processes in Europe. We study these interactions in different areas, such as the monetary field, the field of international political economy, and the interaction between the labour market institutions and the economic governance of the EU and the Eurozone.

Politics and Policy



Our research in this field examines politics and policymaking in the context of pressures for integration and fragmentation within the European Union (EU) and as a response to developments in the wider international system. We explore the policy challenges that arise for the EU from different crises and analyse political responses.

Culture and Society



Our focus on Culture & Society examines the diversity of cultural, political and philosophical ideas invoked in Europe’s name, the ways these have been politically contested and reshaped, and the extent to which they intersect with the lived experiences of Europeans. We combine the methods of philosophy, sociology, political science, and anthropology.

Migration



Our scholars approach this topic from different disciplinary angles, exploring why migration policies are restrictive or liberal, why international attempts of sharing the burden and responsibility of refugee protection have been elusive, how migration transforms the cultural, religious, and memory landscape of the host and guest communities, and how racism plays out in Europe as a continent of migration.

Our research affiliates



Our research projects



Our research initiatives



Publications Highlights



Politics & Policy

Professor Jonathan White

w/ Antoine Vauchez
The crisis of long-termism: time and independence in the European Union
West European Politics, Taylor & Francis Online 2025

Chapter 60 - Vanishing point: how the future shapes constituent power
The Oxford Handbook of Constituent Power, Oxford University Press 2026

Professor Yaprak Gürsoy

w/ Buğra Güngör
Perceptions of government performance and collective trauma: the case of the 2023 Turkish earthquakes
The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Sage Journals 2026



Culture & Society

Professor Denisa Kostovicova

w/ Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic and Marsha Henry
The material basis of gender-based violence and its circuits
War Economy: Gendered Circuits of Violence and Capital, Routledge 2025

w/ Patrick Dunleavy and Timothy Monteath
Chapter - Doing 'citizen social science'
Doing Open Social Science, LSE Press 2026

w/ Myriam Denov
Speaking up: social interaction, disclosure, and meaning-making by youth born of conflict-related sexual violence in Rwanda
Journal of Human Rights Practice, Oxford University Press 2026

Dr Mareike Kleine

w/ Lucas Schramm
Taming of the shrews? The (non-)enforcement of informal norms in the European Council
Journal of European Public Policy, Taylor & Francis Online 2025

Dr António Valentim

w/ Tom Arend and Fabio Ellger
Green Party entry and conservative backlash: evidence from Germany
British Journal of Political Science, Cambridge University Press 2025

w/ Heike Klüver and Cornelius Erfort
How nuclear power hurts the Greens: evidence from German nuclear power plants
Electoral Studies, Elsevier 2025

Professor Simon Glendinning

The formation of European studies
The European Legacy, Taylor & Francis Online 2025

The origin of the force of law: 'a rather Wittgensteinian direction'
Oxford Literary Review, Edinburgh University Press 2025

Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece

Chapter 19 - Introducing sociopolitical peripheries: power, relationality, and transformation in the margins of Europe
The Routledge Handbook of Peripheries in European Studies, Routledge 2026

Dr Cristóbal Garibay-Petersen

w/ Marta Lorimer and Bayar Menzat
Creating certainty where there is none: artificial intelligence as political concept
Big Data & Society, Sage Journals 2025



Political Economy

Professor Nicholas Barr

Risk-sharing in pension plans: multiple options
Economics & Philosophy, Cambridge University Press 2025

Dr Robert Basedow

Weathering geopolitics – the contribution of EU trade policy
LSE Public Policy Review, LSE Press 2026

Professor Iain Begg

w/ Eulalia Rubio et al.
Adapting the EU Budget to make it fit for the purpose of future enlargements
Budgetary Support Unit (Directorate-General for Budgetary Affairs), European Parliament 2025

w/ Eulalia Rubio et al.
EU support for natural disasters: assessing the adequacy of the post-2027 MFF proposals
Budgetary Support Unit (Directorate-General for Budgetary Affairs), European Parliament 2026

Dr Benjamin Braun

w/ Gregor Semienuk, et al.
Best of times, worst of times: record fossil-fuel profits, inflation and inequality
Energy Research & Social Science, Elsevier 2025

w/ Donato Di Carlo, Sebastian Diessner and Maximilian Düsterhöft
Structure, agency, and structural reform: the case of the European Central Bank
Perspectives in Politics, Cambridge University Press 2026



Migration

Dr Jacob Lypp

Rethinking governmentality and citizenship in Germany: The spiritual path of civic education
The Sociological Review, Sage Journals 2026

Professor Paul De Grauwe

Towards a multipolar system: strengthening the Euro as a major international currency
w/ Yuemei Ji
EGOV Unit (Directorate-General for Economy, Transformation and Industry), European Parliament 2025

w/ Yuemei Ji
Monetary policies in a world of biased agents
Centre for Economic Policy Research, CEPR Press 2026

Dr Donato Di Carlo

w/ Luca Cigna and Niccolò Durazzi
The comparative political economy of the green transition: economic specializations and skills regimes in Europe
Regulation & Governance, Wiley Online Library 2025

Dr Angelo Martelli

w/ Nauro Campos, Flavia Ginefra, and Alessio Terzi
Institutions and climate change
Bennett School of Public Policy 2026

Dr António Valentim

w/ Korinna Lindemann
Political socialisation and immigrants' support for progressive politics: the case of green parties
Political Science Research and Methods, Cambridge University Press 2026

Global Perspectives on Europe: A new Jean Monnet Chair

This year, we were delighted to announce the launch of “Global Perspectives on Europe” (GLOPE), a Jean Monnet Chair project led by Dr Mareike Kleine at the European Institute and co-funded by the European Union’s Erasmus+ Programme.

The European Union is a key global actor, yet EU studies often remain narrow in scope: Eurocentric, complex, and inaccessible to audiences outside Europe. GLOPE aims to address this disconnect by placing Europe in its global context, in line with the European Institute’s mission to go “Beyond Eurocentrism”.

Under the leadership of **Dr Mareike Kleine**, Associate Professor in EU and International Politics, from September 2025 to 2028, the European Institute will seek to make EU studies at the European Institute more inclusive and outward-looking, broadening their appeal to international students, scholars, and practitioners, notably by embedding a global perspective into our teaching, research, and outreach, especially for audiences beyond Europe.

The Jean Monnet Chair is part of the European Union’s Erasmus+ Programme, which supports excellence in teaching and research on European integration worldwide. Jean Monnet Chairs are awarded to distinguished academics with recognised expertise in EU studies. By funding projects like GLOPE, the Jean Monnet Programme helps promote mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, and a more global debate about the EU’s role in the world.

“

Receiving the Jean Monnet Chair is a great honour—and a unique opportunity to rethink how Europe is taught, studied, and communicated in a rapidly changing world. At the European Institute, we are excited to open new global dialogues on the EU and its role in the world.

GLOPE will develop innovative teaching modules, including a revised MSc curriculum. It will support international academic exchange through the Jean Monnet Travel Award and host a global workshop on “International Perspectives on EU Studies.” Through the public event series Global Dialogues on Europe and a dedicated online presence, GLOPE will also engage broader audiences in conversation about Europe’s global role.

[Learn more](#)



Global Perspectives on Europe

A Jean Monnet Chair project at the LSE European Institute

The European Institute celebrates conclusion of the SOLID project with partners

Over 2-3 December at the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation, the final conference of the SOLID project - otherwise known as “Policy Crisis and Crisis Politics. Sovereignty, Solidarity and Identity in the EU Post 2008” - proposed a collective reflection on how Europe, in living with uncertainty, has redefined its way of governing, building consensus, and doing politics. It was an opportunity to look back at the transformations that the crises have wrought on the European project – and to ask ourselves what their legacy will be for the future of the Union.

Over the past fifteen years, the European Union has experienced an unprecedented series of crises: from the debt crisis to the migration crisis, from Brexit to the pandemic, to war, energy challenges, and climate change. Each of these trials has called into question not only Europe’s ability to act collectively, but its very existence as a shared political project, threatened by the rise of populism and growing mistrust among citizens. At the same time, however, it has opened up spaces for new forms of cooperation, leadership, and political legitimacy.

Coordinated by Principal Investigators **Professor Maurizio Ferrera** (University of Milan), **Professor Waltraud Schelkle** (European University Institute, European Institute), and **Professor Hanspeter Kriesi** (European University Institute), SOLID has analysed the political and institutional mechanisms that have enabled the European Union not only to navigate the era of polycrisis since 2008, but in some cases, to strengthen its capacity to intervene, consolidating innovative tools and new forms of democratic legitimacy.

SOLID is a European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Grant partnered by **Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli**, the **LSE European Institute**, the **European University Institute (EUI)**, and the **Università degli Studi di Milano (University of Milan)**. During its development, SOLID has produced a vast body of scientific contributions, including monographs, peer-reviewed papers, comparative analyses, and original surveys at the European level. Together, these outputs provide a detailed mapping of public expectations and the institutional and political dynamics that have shaped the EU’s ability to respond to the various crises currently underway.

After six years of research, the project concluded with a series of closed-door working groups over two days in Milan, as well as a public event, “Global (dis)order: can Europe resist itself?,” devoted to discussing the future of Europe in an increasingly unstable international order.

[Learn more](#)



In conversation with Professor Denisa Kostovicova on the impact and contributions of the JUSTINT Project

The Justice Interactions and Peacebuilding (JUSTINT) project was conducted from September 2018 to September 2025. It was supported by the European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant and directed by Professor Denisa Kostovicova, Professor of Global Politics at the European Institute and Programme Director of the MSc Culture and Conflict in a Global Europe programme and its LSE-Columbia double degree counterpart.

Focused on four former Yugoslav countries - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Croatia - JUSTINT has provided a novel way of analysing how post-conflict justice practices advance or hinder peacebuilding by studying the interactive and dynamic aspects of discourse. With the project reaching its conclusion earlier this year, we sat down with Denisa Kostovicova to hear about the JUSTINT project's key contributions to the field of peacebuilding.

Q: As a leading scholar in post-conflict reconstruction, what questions drive your research?

Professor Denisa Kostovicova: I have seen devastating impacts of war up close, when I worked as a journalist during Yugoslavia's bloody break-up. This experience shaped my interests as a scholar. Wars eventually end, but justice for the victims is slow, often elusive. I have dedicated my career to studying how to promote a peace that acknowledges the victims and how to support the repair of inter-group relations.

Q: When societies are deeply divided, what's one misconception people have about reconciliation or peacebuilding? What's a more helpful way to think about it?

Denisa: When studying reconciliation and peacebuilding, scholars and practitioners focus on divisions. When we only focus on divisions, we normalise and legitimise them – although unintentionally. Yet, divisions are never total, even in the most challenging contexts. We need to learn from actors who defy those divisions to break cycles of violence.

Q: With that being said, can you tell us how JUSTINT came about?

Denisa: I have observed scholars inferring the effects of transitional justice by analysing reactions to transitional justice mechanisms, such as war crimes trials, by

politicians, human rights activists, victims and ordinary people. Scholars have shown that ethnic elites contest the legitimacy of verdicts, reject their group's responsibility war crimes and acknowledge the suffering only of their co-ethnics. This work has thus led to conclusions that post-conflict transitional justice divides the very societies it is supposed to reconcile. Yet, based on my understanding of post-conflict societies, the limits of this scholarship were glaringly obvious to me. By focusing on isolated statements, it has overlooked how different types of actors, including ordinary people, engage in discussions about accountability for past violence. My goal in the JUSTINT project, therefore, was to address this gap and examine how people interact and whether these interactions lead to shifts in their views, and, if so, how.

Q: Looking back, what have been the project's key outcomes and contributions to the field of peacebuilding?

Denisa: For all of us studying how societies come to terms with mass atrocity crimes, accurately capturing the effects of different transitional justice mechanisms is paramount. The JUSTINT project has introduced a new theoretical perspective for evaluating these practices. It has reshaped the analysis of discourse in this field by shifting the focus from isolated statements to conversational sequences. In doing so, JUSTINT pioneered the concept of "discursive interaction" and advanced a theory of attitude change. It also provided robust empirical evidence,

using innovative qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the dynamics of communication, and to show how people negotiate, contest, and transform their views on accountability for wartime atrocities.

Q: What milestones or achievement are you most proud of?

Denisa: I am very proud that JUSTINT has made a major contribution to the field of post-conflict transitional justice. Beyond this field, the project also offers transferable insights, both theoretically and empirically, for scholars studying attitudes on divisive issues in non-conflict contexts, such as migration. I am equally proud that JUSTINT's research and findings have generated significant interest among policymakers and practitioners. The project has thus demonstrated that cutting-edge research, combined with actionable policy recommendations, can make a real-life difference in conflict-affected societies.

Q: Which finding surprised you the most?

Denisa: JUSTINT's research programme has been extensive. It has spanned a wide range of communicative domains, including national parliaments, domestic and international courts, interactions on social media and in online news comment sections as well as small-group discussions and interactions within families and local communities. We examined different facets of discursive interactions among different types of actors. If I had to single out one key finding, it would be this: the ways in which ordinary people correct biases and revise their views on the highly divisive issue of accountability for war crimes in face-to-face interactions with people from their own ethnic groups or from opposed groups. Despite their strong disagreements, they transform their views through moments of reciprocity and affiliation observable at the micro-level of communicative exchange.

Q: What are your main takeaways as the Principal Investigator?

Denisa: The Principal Investigator is tasked with delivering the research programme, so the primary focus is on the research team. I have been impressed by the creativity of the JUSTINT team members in engaging with the project's core aims when producing high-quality single-authored outputs while also bringing their distinct expertise to collaborative publications. At the same time, the Principal Investigator has a key responsibility to engage with the wider scholarly community. The team's engagement with researchers in the UK and internationally has generated productive exchanges centered on JUSTINT's theoretical and methodological innovations. I am also glad that this has included meaningful discussions with scholars from the Global South, to mutual benefit. They have benefited through participation in the project's special issues and other publications, while the JUSTINT team has gained insights into how our approach and findings travel beyond the cases we studied.

Q: What questions are you interested in exploring next?

Denisa: We are observing an unravelling of the liberal global order. We had an expectation that war criminals would be held to account. This norm is now challenged at the global level, but the demand for justice in the world's conflict zones is as pressing. Faced with the new reality, I have been rewriting my lectures and developing new approaches to difficult conversations about justice across conflict lines, such as the role of the arts and other everyday activities in promoting reconciliation.

 [Learn more](#)



Project outcomes

Research and publications

The team has published **17 publications**, with several still currently forthcoming or under review.

Dr Ivor Sokolić and Venera Čočaj

Finding the common good in divided societies: the benefits of self-interest in transitional justice interactions
The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Political Studies Association 2025

Dr Ivor Sokolić, Professor Denisa Kostovicova, Dr Lanabi La Lova and Dr Sanja Vico

Are domestic war crimes trials biased?
Journal of Peace Research, Sage Journals 2024

Professor Denisa Kostovicova

Discursive interaction and agency in transitional justice: a conversation analysis perspective
Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, Taylor & Francis Online 2024

Professor Denisa Kostovicova and Dr Vesna Popovski

Women's discursive agency in transitional justice policy-making: a feminist institutionalist approach
Review of International Studies, Cambridge University Press 2023

Dr Sanja Vico

Cognitive dissonance in social media and face-to-face interactions in relation to the legacy of war
International Journal of Communication, Annenberg Press 2022

[Learn more](#)



News and awards

The originality of the research on “discursive agency and policy-making” in a *Review of International Studies* article by **Professor Denisa Kostovicova** and **Dr Vesna Popovski** was recognised with the Women's Forum Article Prize Honourable Mention by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES). The jury praised the article's rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis, through which it sheds new light on the understudied question of women's impact on transitional justice in policymaking institutions, drawing on the study of the Croatian Parliament.

[Learn more](#)



Policy engagement

JUSTINT's path-breaking research has been of direct relevance to practitioners, informing their policies supporting reconciliation through engagement with war legacies in Europe and beyond (over 20 dialogues and meetings). For example, insights based on JUSTINT's research were cited in “*Justice and Security for Women in Peace Reconciliation*,” a report published in 2022 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Similarly, in 2024, House of Lords European Affairs Committee of the British Parliament published the report, “*The Ukraine Effect: The Impact of Russia's invasion on the UK-EU Relationship*,” citing evidence that referred to JUSTINT's research on the role of women in shaping transitional justice policy-making.

Team members engaged with national (UK and German) and EU policy makers on a number of other occasions. These have led to two policy publications with the ASPEN Institute Germany on transitional justice in the **digital sphere** and in **legislatures**. Equally, the team engaged with civil society stakeholders. Notable among these was the engagement with representatives of Uganda's Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) that supports women political leaders and that engaged with JUSTINT's findings, in a meeting

organised by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), also attended by representatives from Burkina Faso, Kenya, Guatemala, Colombia, Myanmar, and others.

[Learn more](#)



Conferences, seminars and workshops

The JUSTINT team organised panels and presented their research **on over 100 occasions** at international and national conferences and organised **5 workshops** and the end of project conference at the LSE, made podcasts, wrote blogs and gave comments to international media.

- **27 May 2022:** PhD workshop Transitional Justice in the Western Balkans: Emerging Research and Theory Building (LSE)
- **2 July 2022:** “Local Turn in Transitional Justice: Local Actors in Micro-Level Interactions”, Writers' Workshop (LSE)
- **20 October 2023:** “Justice Interactions and Peacebuilding” Conference (LSE)
- **5 March 2025:** Conference panel “Methods and Marginalization in Transitional Justice and Beyond” at International Studies Association (ISA) 66th Annual Convention: Reconnecting International Studies (Chicago)
- **24 June 2025:** “Deliberation and Anti-Deliberation: Addressing Polarising Issues in the Western Balkans” Writers' Workshop (LSE)

- **26 June 2025:** “JUSTINT Policy Roundtable on Reconciliation in Western Balkans” in collaboration with LSEE – Research on South-East Europe (LSE)

[Learn more](#)



Contemporary Turkish Studies

Contemporary Turkish Studies (CTS) is a recognised research group at LSE, bringing together academics from the European Institute and other departments. It focuses on Türkiye's politics, economy, and its relationship with Europe. The group is led by Professor Yaprak Gürsoy, Chair in Contemporary Turkish Studies, who fosters interdisciplinary and critical research, teaching, and public engagement. In the 2025/26 academic year, CTS continued to encourage dialogue and research on Türkiye's role in global affairs by organising a series of public events, facilitating in-depth discussions on Turkish politics, economy and society.

Alternative forms of political participation: youth, co-production and participatory art



On 12 November 2025, CTS hosted an event examining how marginalised youth create alternative forms of political participation across Türkiye, South Africa, and Uganda. The AHRC-funded Photovoice Project brought together 38 young people (aged 18–25) from diverse backgrounds, using photography, participatory action research, and youth-led exhibitions to explore political agency, challenge epistemic injustice, and foster shared narratives between refugee and host communities. Speakers included **Dr Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm**, **Dr Melis Cin**, and **Dr Manu**

Lekunze (with contributions on behalf of **Craig Walker**), and the discussion was chaired by **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy**. The panel addressed barriers to youth engagement and highlighted the role of participatory art in creating alternative civic “third spaces,” enabling young people - often excluded from formal politics - to express their voices and shape inclusive forms of deliberation.

 [Learn more](#)

Türkiye in 2025: structural continuities beneath apparent transformation

On 11 December 2025, CTS welcomed a panel which examined political, economic, and institutional developments over the past year, assessing whether recent changes represent genuine ruptures or reflect deeper historical patterns. Discussions addressed Türkiye's shifting foreign policy, evolving regional role, renewed institutional engagement with the Kurdish question, and domestic political tensions, alongside ongoing economic challenges. Speakers included **Dr Pelin Ayan Musil**, **Dr Esra Çuhadar**, **Dr Işık Özel**, and **Dr Buğra Süssler**, with the panel chaired by **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy**. Drawing on perspectives from political science, conflict resolution, political economy, and international relations, the panel highlighted the resilience of structural dynamics in Turkish politics and reflected on their implications for the country's future trajectory.

 [Learn more](#)

Hydraulic mission accomplished? Water infrastructure, policy and scarcity in Türkiye



On 10 February 2026, CTS, in collaboration with the British Institute at Ankara, hosted an event which explored the historical and contemporary dimensions of water governance in Türkiye through the lens of a national “hydraulic mission.” Discussions examined how large-scale infrastructure - such as dams, irrigation systems, and urban water networks - has shaped state priorities, development trajectories, and social and environmental outcomes. Speakers **Dr Arda Bilgen** and **Professor Jim Crow**, in conversation with chair **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy**, addressed pressing challenges including water scarcity, climate change, and unequal access across regions. The event highlighted the limits of existing policy approaches and encouraged critical reflection on more sustainable, resilient, and equitable water futures in Türkiye.

 [Learn more](#)

Coalitions of the willing in action: the role of non-EU NATO members in Europe's security and defence

On 14 May 2026, CTS and the EI hosted an event which discussed how non-EU NATO members - including the UK, Türkiye, Norway, and Canada - contribute to Europe's evolving security architecture amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and the EU's pursuit of “open strategic autonomy”. Discussions explored the role of flexible “coalitions of the willing,” the future of EU security and defence partnerships, and the balance between shared strategic interests and value-based differences. Speakers **Ian Bond**, **Dr Aaron McKeil**, **Dr Pernille Rieker**, and **Dr İlke Toygür**, chaired by **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy**, reflected on the prospects for a more inclusive and coordinated European security framework.

 [Learn more](#)



LSE Centre for Research on Contemporary Greece and Cyprus

The Hellenic Observatory has been a vital part of the European Institute since 1996, evolving from a small academic initiative into a leading research centre. Combining rigorous scholarship with strong public engagement, it connects academic research with policy and practice, contributing to informed debate on contemporary social, economic and political issues.

Expanding research activities and funding programmes

During 2025/26, the Centre continued to expand its research portfolio. Its activities spanned a broad agenda, from economic transformation and labour market change to questions of governance, social policy, and regional stability. The year saw continued growth in both internally driven initiatives and externally supported collaborations, alongside a marked expansion of public-facing work in the UK and Greece.

The HOC Research Fund continued into its second year with the support of M. Stassinopoulos, providing flexible seed funding for early-stage and innovative research projects. The Fund has enabled researchers to develop new lines of enquiry on a wide range of contemporary challenges and emerging policy debates, including vaccination behaviour and labour market incentives (**Dr Ioannis Laliotis**), trade shocks and macroeconomic adjustment (**Professor Theodore Panagiotidis**), housing financialisation (**Dr Philipp Katsinas**), diaspora identity in the post-Brexit context (**Dr Athanasia Chalari**), household health expenditure (**Dr Ilias Kyriopoulos**), housing inequality and political behaviour (**Dr George Melios**), climate risk and economic resilience (**Dr Stelios Sakkas**), land distribution and the political economy of tourism (**Dr Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni**), and digital infrastructure and regional development through data-centre investment (**Professor Konstantinos E. Zachariadis**).

Internal research activity in labour economics and public policy led by **Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis** also continued to expand substantially. Significant work has been completed on the Greek labour market with a major study on skills demand, examining how employers recruit,

train and reward workers, particularly in relation to digital and green skills. Additional projects explore the evaluation of the unemployment benefits system in Greece, the demand for human capital repatriation, and the exposure and employment effects of AI in the Greek labour market.

In parallel, the year saw the completion of substantial research projects initiated in previous years, resulting in major scholarly publications. This included work on femicides in Greek media led by **Professor Lilie Chouliaraki**, which contributed to the publication of *Wronged: The Weaponization of Victimhood*, a book that received major international recognition and awards. During the same period, work by **Professor Kevin Featherstone OBE** on political leadership and institutional governance culminated in the publication, *Greek Prime Ministers in the Eye of the Storm: Crisis Management and Institutional Changes*.

Alongside its internally driven research agenda, the Centre also relaunched the *Research Innovation Programme on Greece and Cyprus* with the support of the A. G. Leventis Foundation. The programme enables the Centre to help shape the wider research agenda on Greece and Cyprus through targeted research calls and extend its research reach and collaborative networks. The first call under the new programme has already supported a new wave of projects including work on Islamic law and minority rights in Northern Greece (**Dr Vasiliki Fouka**, Stanford University), migration governance under geopolitical pressures in Greece and comparable small states (**Dr Georgia Dimari**, UoCrete), and democratic accountability and trust in Greece and Cyprus (**Professor Margarita Katsimi**, AUEB).

 [Learn more](#)

LSEE: Advancing regional research and international collaboration

LSEE – Research on South East Europe continued to play a central role within the Centre, providing a platform for high-quality research, regional engagement, and policy impact across the Western Balkans and beyond. In 2025/26, its activities brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to address key political and security questions in the region.

A key event was the roundtable “Memorialisation and Politics in the Western Balkans” on 27 February, which enabled exchange between LSE researchers, UK policymakers and regional practitioners working on remembrance, oral history, museums, education, and post-conflict dialogue. The discussion examined how state and civil society approaches can foster inclusive memorialisation in the region. The idea for this British Council-supported initiative was the product of a previous policy roundtable organised by LSEE and the ERC JUSTINT project. Research of LSEE staff and colleagues informed the FCDO to support the memorialisation project.

In March 2026, the Centre welcomed the Kosovo Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Fitore Pacolli Dalipi. The programme included a private discussion on developments

in the Western Balkans and the Belgrade–Pristina Dialogue, followed by engagement with European Institute students on the course *The Balkans in Europe*, enabling direct exchange between policymakers and the academic community.

On 1 April 2026, LSEE co-organised a workshop with the British International Studies Association South East Europe Group and King’s College London on “Imagining the Future of Research on South East Europe”. The workshop brought together scholars across the region to reflect on research directions, methods, and priorities for the study of the region, contributing to the development of a forward-looking research agenda.

Alongside these activities, LSEE hosted a discussion on social media and identity politics in the Western Balkans, examining how digital platforms shape political narratives and cross-border interactions. It also partnered with the Carnegie Foundation-funded project to contribute to a policy event at LSE and publications such as “From Nuclear Deterrence to Democratic Resilience”, reinforcing its role as a key hub for research and engagement on South East Europe. (see page 39)

 [Learn more](#)



Public engagement in the UK and Greece

A central pillar of the Centre’s mission is its commitment to public engagement, informing public debate and contributing directly to policy understanding across the UK, Greece, and Cyprus. In 2025/26, this commitment was further strengthened through an expanded presence in Greece. Its engagement activities brought researchers

and senior policymakers into structured dialogue through lectures, events, and discussions in London and Athens. Together with the Centre’s research activities, these initiatives reflect a sustained effort to connect evidence with decision-making and to broaden the Centre’s impact across academic, policy, and public spheres.

LSE Athens Lectures: HO flagship events return to Athens

A key development in this remit was the relaunch of the LSE Athens Lectures in partnership with the University of Athens. Building on a tradition established in 2014, the series consolidates the Centre’s institutional footprint in Athens. It brings leading LSE academics to present cutting-edge research on major societal challenges, followed by open discussion with audiences from academia, policy, and the wider public. The 2025/26 programme marked a strong revival, addressing topics of Greek and European relevance including political polarisation (Professor Paul Dolan), gender inequality in the labour market (Professor Almudena Sevilla), and industrial strategy and growth (Professor Simona Iammarino), re-establishing the series as a key forum for intellectual exchange between the UK and Greece.

“By facilitating informed dialogue on complex policy issues, the Centre contributes to evidence-based decision making and enhances public understanding of the challenges facing Greece, Cyprus and Europe.



Policy oriented events at LSE

Strong policy relevance with the participation of senior policymakers marked the Centre’s events programme in 2025/26.

Events included discussions with **Kyriakos Pierrakakis** (Minister of Economy and Finance) on Greece’s economic transformation, digital transition, and reform trajectory, and with **Niki Kerameus** (Minister of Labour and Social Security) on labour market reform and skills development.

The annual programme was further complemented by a series of panels and thematic discussions across Greece, Cyprus, and Europe, including debates on green politics and environmental attitudes in Greece, the future of social protection in Europe amid demographic and technological change, and a major roundtable on the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and its role in supporting reform, investment, and productivity. The year concluded with a successful panel discussion on Cyprus and prospects for renewed peace talks amid shifting regional dynamics.

[Learn more](#)



‘Europe in Question’ Discussion Paper Series

The ‘Europe in Question’ (EIQ) discussion paper series promotes high-quality, cross-disciplinary research on a broad range of questions touching on Europe and the EU. It publishes papers, from scholars at the LSE and beyond, that seek to influence the academic and policy debates concerning the future development and governance of Europe, broadly defined.

Contributions to the EIQ span a variety of disciplines, from political science, political theory, political economy, and public policy, to law, sociology, geography, and history. The working paper format maintains a formal and rigorous in-house review process while aiming above all at the dissemination of ideas and discussion among scholars.

Discussion papers



Professor Jonathan Hopkin and Dr Andrew McNeil
Anti-system politics, welfare states, and the new age divide: a multi-level analysis of anti-system voting in Europe
EIQ Paper No. 190, September 2025



Dr Ignazio Visco
On European fragmentation and the single currency in an uncertain world
EIQ Paper No. 194, February 2026



Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis and Tea Gamtkitsulashvili
EU's strategic autonomy and regional development objectives: friends or foes?
EIQ Paper No. 191, November 2025



Dr Evangelos Rasvanis, Dr Andreas Psarras, and Professor Theodore Panagiotidis
(Why) do Europeans drive differently?
EIQ Paper No. 195, March 2026



Dr Omar Blanco-Arroyo, Professor Vicente Esteve, and Dr María A. Prats
Testing for co-explosive behaviour between mortgages loans and house prices in the Spanish economy
EIQ Paper No. 192, December 2025



Toon Van Overbeke and Ye Zhang
Measuring fiscal asymmetry: effective tax rates on capital and labour in 29 European countries, 1998–2021
EIQ Paper No.196, May 2026



Dr Francesco Scotti, Dr Carlo Caporali, and Dr Davide Luca
NextGenerationEU lands: assessing the territorial allocation of Italy's recovery and resilience funds
EIQ Paper No. 193, January 2026

Conflict, Justice and Peace Platform

The Conflict, Justice and Peace (CJP) platform embraces the multidisciplinary nature of research on conflict, justice and peace conducted by academics, researchers, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at LSE.

The platform is a joint initiative by the **European Institute, Department of International Relations, Department of Government and Department of International Development**. It fosters integration, linkages and the exchange of ideas among LSE researchers in diverse disciplines, and specialists on different global regions. The platform disseminates the latest publications and commentary on justice, conflict and peace issues at LSE. The CJP promotes understanding of the complexities of war, justice and peace, while seeking to engage with practitioners and contribute to policymaking.



Featured research:
The Non-Nuclear Deterrence Project

A two-year project hosted by the **Conflict and Civiness Research Group at LSE IDEAS** from March 2024 to January 2026. The project was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. It received additional funding from the LSEE-Research on South East Europe at the Hellenic Observatory and the Conflict Justice and Peace (CJP) platform, both at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The project's final report, a policy paper entitled "From Nuclear Deterrence to Democratic Resilience: Towards a 21st Century Security Paradigm," was compiled by **Professor Mary Kaldor, Dr Heljä Ossa and Sam Vincent**, based on papers and other inputs from members of the Network for Effective Security.

The views expressed are solely that of the authors and do not represent the views of LSE, Carnegie Corporation of New York or the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

 [Read the final report](#)



EDUCATION

The Think Tank Development Programme: A Professional Skills Workshop delivered by two LSE-Fudan alumni

This year, we were thrilled to welcome back two LSE-Fudan alumni, Sacha Courtial and Jonathan Schwestka to the European Institute to facilitate a brand new EU450 Professional Skills Workshop introducing the world of think tanks and careers in this sector to our current MSc students. Sacha and Jonathan graduated from our LSE-Fudan Double Degree in the Global Political Economy of China and Europe programme in 2022 and now work in Paris and Brussels, respectively.

Q: Could you tell us about your time on the LSE-Fudan Double Degree?

Sacha Courtial: Having studied Mandarin Chinese in Beijing in 2019, I was looking for a double degree that would reflect both my interest on international issues and on China. LSE was the second best in the world on political economy and the most international university in terms of student diversity. Fudan is also in the top three of Chinese universities. The programme was offering the perfect duality from West to East.

Jonathan Schwestka: My background is quite similar to Sacha's. I've been studying Chinese for many years, spent a year abroad in Beijing, and have long been interested in making China part of my future professional path. After completing my bachelor's degree at Sciences Po Paris, where I focused on EU politics, I wanted to deepen my understanding of China's political and economic model. At the same time, I was curious about the UK's academic approach, which is quite different from the French system, with a stronger emphasis on independent learning and academic research. Finally, I was looking for a programme that would strengthen my career prospects in terms of academic excellence and prestige. In that sense, the LSE-Fudan double degree felt like the perfect fit.

Q: How has the European Institute shaped your career journey?

Sacha: Beyond the rigorous linguistic immersion of studying in London, the European Institute provided me with a sophisticated understanding of the European economy. My final dissertation focused on the EU Budget, a technical and often underestimated area. This specialisation was the "foot in the door" I needed; it directly led to my traineeship at the European Parliament working on budgetary issues, which eventually paved the way to my current role at the Jacques Delors Institute.

Jonathan: My master's degree has indeed let me quite directly into my past and current job. After my studies, I started a traineeship with a Member of the European Parliament who worked on China and trade issues. This,

in turn, helped me get my next job, working at a Brussels-based NGO focused on EU-China relations, called the Europe-Asia Center. Through this experience, I was able to travel extensively to China and expand my network in both the Brussels and the Chinese policy circles, which then helped me get my current job, being the assistant of another Member of the European Parliament who has also put EU-China relations at the top of his agenda. In short, having expertise in the "Global Political Economy of China and Europe" has been invaluable!

Q: What was one of the highlights of your time at the European Institute?

Sacha and Jonathan: The academic curriculum was excellent, but we discovered that the biggest added value was the European Institute's professional network. I think we did all the EU450 classes possible at the time: learning more about consulting with the Eurasia group, about negotiation with Harvard Kennedy School, about the limits and constraint of development banks with the EBRD, about think tanks with the 89 initiatives (led by the inspiring EI alumnus Dr Michael Cottakisi), and even very practical skills with the class on the software Stata.

Q: Can you tell us more about the EU450 Professional Skills Workshop on think tanks that you facilitated for our students this term?

Jonathan: All of this began a few months ago when Sacha and I had a phone call. As we reminisced about our time at LSE, we both agreed it would be wonderful to reconnect with an institution we remember so fondly and explore ways to contribute our expertise and experience. Having both worked in a think tank, we realised that many students at the European Institute were interested in such careers, yet there was only limited guidance on what these paths mean in practice and how to pursue them. That's why we reached out to Adam Judge and Pierre Hausemer at the European Institute, and we were thrilled when they not only understood our idea but expressed their full support!

“

I came to LSE to decode the relationship between Europe and China; I left with a map of the world and the tools to navigate it.

Sacha: Jonathan and I designed this workshop by asking ourselves: "What do we wish we had known while sitting in those seats?". We wanted to demystify the think-tank industry from A to Z. We explored how they are funded, how they communicate, and the diversity of jobs available (spoiler: apart from researchers, many jobs exist in the think-tank world). We wanted to give students a practical toolkit for the 'day-to-day' reality of the job, from policy brief drafting to high-level stakeholder management.

Q: What was it like to return to the European Institute to share your insights as alumni with our current students?

Sacha: Returning to campus was a powerful reminder of the LSE "vibe" with all the students working in the library, having quick lunches in the canteens, casually playing some concerts on Thursday's lunches breaks in the Saw Swee Hock Centre's last floor. I have given class in other universities, but the students here definitely exceeded my expectations. Attendance and interest were high. Interactions were sharp and curious. There is something deeply rewarding about returning to the place that shaped your career to help the next cohort find their footing. I would be very honoured to facilitate this workshop again in the coming years.

Jonathan: Coming back to campus immediately brought me back to the time when I was a student there, cycling to Old Building every day from my LSE student residence

Butlers Wharf. In an episode of The Office, one of the main protagonists expressed his wish that "there was a way to know you're in 'the good old days', before you've actually left them" - and this is exactly how I felt, looking at students rushing to class, couples holding hands walking to the library, or the co-op meal deals. As to our class, I was extremely impressed by the quality of students. As this was a facultative class, we did not have high expectations regarding attendance or the final presentations - both of which were extremely rewarding. I think both Sacha and I also learnt a lot through this seminar, and I would be very honoured should the LSE invite us again: to implement our learnings and help future cohorts make up their minds on becoming a "think-tanker."

Q: What does being a part of the European Institute's global alumni community mean to you?

Sacha: Our LSE-Fudan cohort was a tight-knit family despite the challenges of the pandemic. We've remained very close as we've scattered across the globe. Any business trip becomes a reason to visit an old friend! For me, the alumni community is a like a global home. Whether I am in Brussels, Paris, or Shanghai, there is an immediate sense of belonging and a shared intellectual language. For people moving in a new city without established social network, knowing that there is an LSE group in almost every major city is incredibly reassuring.

Jonathan: I have tried to stay in touch with the European Institute's global alumni community, but I must admit that there may be individuals that are better than me at this. However, getting the LSE Alumni Card was an (almost surprisingly) touching moment, and it really gave me the feeling that I was, and will always be, part of the EI family. For the future, I will try to be more engaged in the Brussels branch of this circle and may even reach out to other branches when I travel abroad: one of the many under-utilised opportunities of the LSE!

 [Learn more](#)



Master's Programmes

Core programmes



MSc Political Economy of Europe in the World

This programme offers a historically grounded, multi-disciplinary exploration of the intricate relationship between European political economy and how it influences - and is influenced by - international markets. Students engage with key topics such as European integration and fragmentation, welfare states and labour markets, finance, and global trade. The programme's distinctive blend of analytic elements and political theory also engages with contemporary issues such as industrial policy and inequality, and the green transition.

 [Find out more](#)

MSc European and International Politics and Policy

This master's degree welcomes students interested in exploring the world of policy and governance challenges across domestic, EU, and global landscapes. It also gives students the opportunity to engage with EU policy practitioners, equipping them with essential policy knowledge for the future. Students gain a unique understanding of the multi-faceted realm of European politics and policy, helping them transition into their chosen careers.

 [Find out more](#)



MSc Culture and Conflict in a Global Europe

Staying true to the EI's multi- and inter-disciplinary approach, this programme offers a range of courses investigating the nexus of politics, culture, identity, and international relations. Students analyse how culture shapes conflict and affects its resolution through our varied curriculum. With a comprehensive knowledge drawn from social and philosophical realms, this degree sheds light on the intricacies of European debates and policies on culture and conflict within a global context.

 [Find out more](#)

MSc International Migration and Public Policy

This programme welcomes students interested in studying policy responses to migration at national and international levels. The multi-disciplinary degree tackles major contemporary debates, piercing through the myths that have developed around this highly politicised issue, and analysing the intricate relationship between migration, globalisation, and public policy. This degree equips our students with skills which will help them tackle real-world challenges in migration policymaking and practice.

 [Find out more](#)



Double degrees



Bocconi

Double Degree in European and International Public Policy and Politics (with Bocconi University, Milan)

This joint programme gives students the opportunity to study European politics and policymaking globally. New students commence their studies at Bocconi with the MSc Politics and Policy Analysis, and continue on to our MSc European and International Politics and Policy at the EI. The curriculum spans the social sciences and enables students to acquire comprehensive knowledge from two prestigious institutions, with a focus on European and international public policy and politics.

 [Find out more](#)

Double Degree in European Studies (with Sciences Po, Paris)

Our double degree programme offered in partnership with Sciences Po offers a prestigious multi-stream European Studies qualification combining the strengths of two leading social science institutions in the UK and France. In the first year, students complete the Master Affaires Européennes (Master of European Affairs) in Paris, expanding their intellectual horizons. In the second year, students continue their studies in London on one of our four core MSc programmes at the European Institute.

 [Find out more](#)



FUDAN UNIVERSITY

Double Degree in the Global Political Economy of China and Europe (with Fudan University, Shanghai)

This joint programme is popular with students who wish to gain a comprehensive expertise of political and economic processes in Europe and China within a global framework. In the first year, students complete our MSc in the Political Economy of Europe in the World at the European Institute featuring a policy incubator project, where they propose solutions to a real-world policy challenge. In the second year, students undertake the Master of Management Science in Public Policy in Shanghai, with some opting for Mandarin language courses to improve their language skills.

 [Find out more](#)

Double Degree in European Politics, Conflict and Culture (with Columbia University, New York City)

This double degree offers students the chance to explore the role of globalisation in shaping Europe politically and culturally, as well as its role as a global actor and in global conflicts, from across the Atlantic. Our latest double degree combines an MA in European History, Politics, and Society at Columbia University in New York City in the first year, followed by an MSc in Culture and Conflict in a Global Europe at the LSE European Institute in the second year, where students have the opportunity to further expand their academic and career horizons from the heart of London.

 [Find out more](#)



Welcoming our new AKO scholars

In 2025, the European Institute launched the **AKO European Institute Master's Scholarship**, made possible through the generous support of the AKO Foundation. This major philanthropic partnership marks a significant step forward in expanding access to graduate study at LSE.

Each year, five scholarships are awarded to outstanding students across the Institute's single honour MSc programmes, covering the full cost of tuition fees and providing a maintenance stipend. The scholarships are designed to support students who would not otherwise be able to take up a place at LSE, helping to remove financial barriers and enabling them to benefit from the academic and intellectual life of the Institute.

The 2025/26 academic year welcomed the first cohort of AKO scholars to the European Institute. Their arrival represents an important milestone for the Institute. This partnership also reflects the connection between the European Institute's past and its future. The AKO Foundation's support, shaped in part by its links to LSE alumni, is helping to create new opportunities for a generation of students.

The AKO Foundation was created in 2013 by the Norwegian financier Nicolai Tangen, who subsequently obtained an MSc from LSE's Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science. The Foundation now supports charitable causes that improve education, promote the arts or mitigate climate problems.

 [Learn more](#)

“

The AKO Foundation is delighted to support the AKO Scholars at LSE's European Institute. By helping talented students access graduate study, we hope to contribute to a richer exchange of ideas on the issues shaping Europe's future. We look forward to seeing the scholars make the most of this opportunity and carry its impact into their future work.

Mr Philip Lawford,
CEO of the AKO Foundation

“

The AKO Scholars programme at the European Institute reflects our commitment to bringing outstanding and diverse students into critical engagement with Europe's challenges. Their time with us will prepare them to engage with the ideas and issues shaping Europe's future. We are deeply grateful to the AKO Foundation for its support in making this possible.”

Professor Simon Glendinning,
Head of the European Institute



A year of insightful career development workshops at the European Institute

This academic year, in addition to our rich Student Engagement Programme which includes our “EU450 Professional Skills Workshops” and our flagship “EU in Practice” seminar series, we were delighted to offer three additional insightful career development workshops delivered by experienced EU practitioners.

Geopolitical risk in the era of Trump



On 3 December, we were delighted to host our Visiting Research Fellow **Mujtaba Rahman**, Managing Director of Eurasia Group's Europe analysis and co-head of their London office, for an exclusive talk to our master's students on “Geopolitical risk in the era of Trump.” In this two-hour long talk, Mr Rahman discussed his views on the major geopolitical issues the world is confronting, and what it is like to work in the political risk industry.

 [Learn more](#)

How to make it in the Eurobubble

On 5 December, we welcomed **Valentin Dupouey**, Director for Communications, External Relations and Events at the College of Europe, for a workshop on “How to make it to the Eurobubble.” The talk discussed the diversity of this professional ecosystem, which consists of over 75,000 people and 79 EU institutions and bodies, and potential career paths. Drawing on his 15 years of experience working in European affairs in varied sectors and contexts, Valentin shed light on how to break through the Eurobubble, including the soft skills and attitudes that are needed to succeed beyond the knowledge you gain at university.

 [Learn more](#)



Career pathways with EU think tank Bruegel



On the occasion of our “Security in Europe” conference co-hosted with Bruegel on 11 February (see page 56), our MSc and PhD students had the opportunity to hear from **Scarlett Varga**, Secretary General of Bruegel, about career pathways in economic policy and insider perspectives on how think tanks shape European decision-making while connecting with a leader at the forefront of economic research.

 [Learn more](#)

Doctoral Programme

The MPhil/PhD in European Studies offers research students the opportunity to make an original contribution to the study of contemporary Europe by undertaking an MPhil or PhD. We offer expertise in our Political Economy, Politics and Policy, Culture and Society, and Migration subfields. Students benefit from being situated in a world-class social science institution with a powerful public profile and have earned the prestigious UACES doctoral prize on four occasions.

Our recent PhD graduates

Dr Yonatan Levi

Class of 2026

Destination: Associate Editor & Research Fellow, Berl Katznelson Foundation; Research Fellow, Molad – The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy

Expertise: Europe, European Union, Politics, Populism, Political behaviour, Social identity, Israel, USA

Thesis: “Essays on right-wing populism in Israel – and the resistance to it”



Dr Virginia Crespi De Valldaura

Class of 2025

Destination: Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute

Expertise: Financialisation, Social democracy, European welfare states, Comparative political economy

Thesis: “New means to old ends? The social democratic politics of financial reform in France and Spain (1981-1996)”

Dr Chris Bick

Class of 2025

Destination: Senior Research Fellow, Democracy and Politics at the Institute for Public Policy Research

Expertise: Party Politics, Democracy and Capitalism, Ideas and Politics

Thesis: “Ruling the informational void: ideational infrastructure and party democracy in the United Kingdom”



Dr Friedrich Püttmann

Class of 2025

Destination: Guest Lecturer, Sciences Po; Policy Adviser & Liaison Officer, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Europe

Expertise: Turkey, Migration, Kosovo, Islam in Europe, German Policy-making

Thesis: “Boundaries of brotherhood: Syrian refugee reception and national identity contestation in Turkey”



Dr Tommaso Crescioli

Class of 2024

Destination: Research Fellow, Bocconi University

Expertise: Political Economy, Market Power, Voting Behaviour, Competition Policy

Thesis: “Essays in the political economy of competition aligned interests, institutions, and market power in Europe”

Dr Jacob Lypp

Class of 2024

Destination: Fellow in International Migration, LSE European Institute

Expertise: Political Sociology, Migration, Citizenship, Religion & Qualitative Methods

Thesis: “A spiritual state: civil education, Christianity, and the governance of Islam in Germany”



Dr Michael Cottakis

Class of 2024

Destination: CEO, 89 Global

Expertise: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial imaginaries, Port cities, Greece, Turkey

Thesis: “Entrepreneurial imaginaries: explaining the long persistence of entrepreneurship in Thessaloniki and Izmir”

Dr Sarah Ciaglia

Class of 2023

Destination: Economist, Public Sector

Expertise: Fiscal Policy

Thesis: “Why comply? Experimental evidence on the European stability and growth pact’s incentives for member states”

Life after the European Institute: Connecting our students and alumni

With over 5,700 alumni, the European Institute has a vibrant and engaged community that remains closely connected after graduation. This year, we hosted a series of alumni events, ranging from reunions, career panels, student networking opportunities, informal drinks and of course our Alumni Mentorship Programme. Our strong community spirit is reflected in the continued support of our alumni, who contributed over 345 hours through mentoring, speaking engagements, and giving alumni testimonies. We are grateful for their commitment to making the EI a thriving community during and beyond our programmes.

A look back at our alumni engagement activities

The European Institute delivered a varied programme of alumni engagement activities across the academic year, combining networking, learning and community-building opportunities. In October, the **What I Wish I'd Known Alumni Panel** brought recent graduates back the EI to share reflections on their transition into the workplace, offering students practical advice on career pathways and early professional challenges. In December, our annual **Festive Drinks** offered alumni the opportunity to reconnect with classmates, faculty, and staff, and to meet current students.

In January, our alumni participated in a new **Online Alumni Webinar Series** featuring graduates from across our MSc programmes, who shared their experiences and career journeys with prospective and current students. Also in January, the European Institute hosted the event **Building New Bridges: EU–UK Relations**, which marked the launch of the London chapter of the European University Institute.

The panel discussion was followed by a drinks reception and brought together alumni networks from LSE and the EUI, creating opportunities for future collaboration and partnership.

In March, the **Student–Alumni Networking Evening** brought together students and alumni working across a wide range of sectors, creating space for informal mentoring, career conversations, and relationship-building. Finally, in June, our annual **Summer in the City Drinks** reception marked the end of the academic year, bringing together alumni, students, and staff to celebrate the wider EI community.

Alongside these moments, alumni received special invitations to attend EI lectures, panels, and conferences, throughout the year and were invited to private receptions to some of our high-profile events.

[Learn more](#)



Kosovar Minister and EI alumna Fitore Pacolli Dalipi visits her alma mater

On 12 March 2026, **Fitore Pacolli Dalipi**, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Kosovo and a Class of 2011 alumna, visited the European Institute to speak to students about her career journey and Kosovo's current geopolitical landscape. Her visit featured a dedicated session as part of **Professor Vassilis Monastiriotis'** course, "The Balkans in Europe: Transition, Democratisation, Integration," where students engaged directly with her on questions of leadership, policy challenges, and opportunities in government.

[Learn more](#)



The EI Alumni Mentorship Programme

The EI Alumni Mentorship Programme ran for its third year over the course of the 2025/26 academic year, with 77 alumni supporting one or more student mentees. Our mentorship programme seeks to help students gain valuable insight into the professional world by matching alumni to students: alumni mentors then commit to at least three meetings over the academic year, answering questions about their career, providing advice, and sharing their own experiences.

Reflecting the broad range of our student body's professional interests, our mentors come from a wide variety of backgrounds: working in consultancy, European Institutions, diplomacy, humanitarian aid, sustainable finance, refugee advocacy, journalism, research, international organisations, economics, public policy, and many other areas.

[Learn more](#)

Our alumni mentors by sector

Consultancy	18		PR and Comms	5	
Public sector/Government	14		Diplomacy	3	
European Institutions	11		Law	2	
Academia and Research	7		Energy and Environment	2	
Finance and Banking	6		Freelance	1	
NGOs, Charities and Humanitarian Work	5		Journalism	1	

International Women's Day 2026: Celebrating the power of mentorship

This year, to celebrate International Women's Day and honour its theme, #GiveToGain, which encourages a mindset of generosity and collaboration, we wanted to platform our wonderful alumni mentors who have been volunteering their invaluable time and insights with our MSc students as part of our Alumni Mentorship Programme.

We reached out to our lovely cohort of alumni mentors to ask them how they have benefited from giving back to the department and mentoring our current generation of European Institute students. Moreover, on this occasion, we caught up with one of our amazing mentor-mentee duo, Zeinep and Rio, who are both very passionate about advancing gender equality, to hear about their experience getting paired up together on the mentorship programme.



Zeynep Aydemir Koyuncu

Zeynep graduated in 2003 from our MSc EU Policy Making and is currently working as a Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Manager at UNICEF. She previously also held roles at UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), UN Women, and the European Union.

Q: Can you tell us about your career journey?

Zeynep Aydemir Koyuncu: Since my early ages, I've always felt the urge to fight against inequalities and injustice and stand with the most marginalised and discriminated people. I've always believed in the power of intergenerational partnerships and collectives, be it formal or informal, to address the development challenges and inequalities. I have worked to co-create and grow such structures in all mandates I held at the European Union, UN Women and UNICEF. Speaking of gender equality and women's rights, we need to boost our alliances and collective minds even more to dismantle the strong pushback we are facing.

Q: What motivated you to participate in the EI's Alumni Mentorship Programme?

Zeynep: This is my third year with the EI's Alumni Mentorship programme. I am also part of the "Ask an Alum" initiative of LSE. I cannot emphasise how much I enjoy learning from and sharing this intergenerational space with my mentee. Every mentee is an inspiration for me. I had a very fulfilling academic year at LSE for my MSc degree with a full scholarship, and I see the EI Alumni Mentorship programme as way of giving back - but not only that - it's also a way to continue to be nourished and refreshed by having first-hand insights from early career folks.

Q: What has been the most fulfilling part about supporting a current MSc student as an alumna?

Zeynep: I especially enjoy the initial conversations where I try to make sense of the gems of the young person on the other side of the screen. The regular conversations with Rio, and with my past mentees provide a powerful, safe feminist space that both of us create. This is very valuable and fulfilling for a development professional and gives me a lot of hope for the future knowing that these wonderful minds are there.



I had a very fulfilling academic year at LSE with a full scholarship, and I see this mentorship programme as a way of giving back. It's also a way to continue to be nourished and refreshed by having first-hand insights from early career folks.

Q: Would you recommend other alumni to mentor our current MSc students?

Zeynep: Absolutely. This is an excellent programme that is carefully curated and managed. What I also appreciate is that the mentor and mentees are free to design it flexibly at their own pace and expectations. This is unique for a mentorship programme.



Rio Fuseya

Rio Fuseya is part of our current Class of 2026 cohort, studying on our MSc International Migration and Public Policy programme. After graduation, Rio is interested in working in international organisations.

Q: Can you tell us more about yourself and your programme of study?

Rio Fuseya: As an aspiring professional in international organisations, I am committed to promoting inclusive societies and ensuring that mobility translates into meaningful opportunities and dignity for all. I am also particularly passionate about women's empowerment, a dedication shaped by my time at Ochanomizu University, Japan's only national women's educational institution. Being part of that environment instilled in me a belief that gender equality must remain central to building just and inclusive societies, and it is a focus I intend to carry throughout my career.

In my current programme, I am investigating the challenges posed by international migration and resulting policy responses, exploring mobility and borders as sites of contestation. The courses examine perspectives emerging from the everyday practices of migration in Europe and beyond, while analysing competing representations of migrants and post-migration communities. The programme also provides insights into contemporary sociological perspectives on migrant integration and the many forms of cultural politics that shape social inclusion, helping me develop a critical understanding of how migration, policy, and sociopolitical responses intersect. Through research projects, case studies, and policy analysis, I am gaining practical experience in applying theoretical knowledge to real-world migration issues.

Q: What inspired you to get paired with an alumni mentor?

Rio: I joined this programme because I was eager to connect with someone who had once walked a similar path at LSE and could offer insight into navigating the transition from graduate study to professional life. As I explore different career pathways and refine my academic interests during my master's, I hoped to gain guidance on developing my employability skills and navigating opportunities within the sectors I care about.

Having access to a mentor who has first-hand experience in these spaces provides a source of perspective and encouragement that might not otherwise be possible. More than anything, I was excited about the opportunity to build a one-to-one connection with someone whose work and career trajectory I deeply admire.

Q: What have been your main takeaways so far from working with your mentor?

Rio: One of the most meaningful aspects of this mentorship has been the opportunity to connect with someone who shares a deep commitment to women's empowerment. Having a mentor who is actively working in this field has been incredibly inspiring.

Through our conversations, I have gained insight into what it looks like to advance gender-responsive agendas strategically and practically. From leading gender-responsive refugee response capacity-building programmes for local authorities, government officials, frontline responders, and NGOs, to programmes focused on strengthening civil society capacities and multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance women's rights, Zeynep's experiences have given me a clearer understanding of how meaningful change can happen through collaborative action.

It also made me reflect on how I can stay present in these spaces moving forward and begin establishing my own presence within the conversations and networks shaping this field.



Having the opportunity to build a meaningful, long-term connection with someone who has already navigated the path you hope to pursue is powerful. Zeynep is a source of encouragement for me to keep building my passion, and she's helped me clarify my goals and given me greater confidence as I move forward.

Q: Would you recommend the programme to future students?

Rio: I would absolutely recommend this programme to future students. Having the opportunity to build a meaningful, long-term connection with someone who has already navigated the path you hope to pursue is powerful. Zeynep is a source of encouragement for me to keep building my passion, and she's helped me clarify my goals and given me greater confidence as I move forward. I hope that one day I will be able to support and encourage younger students in the same way my mentor has supported me.

 [Learn more](#)



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves participates in high-level security conference

On 11 February 2026, the European Institute co-hosted a high-level conference with Bruegel to mark the think tank's 20th anniversary. The half-day event, featuring a keynote conversation with the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer brought together leading policymakers, researchers, industry experts, LSE students, members of the public and media representatives, to examine the growing interconnections between security, economic performance and Europe's global position.

Titled "Security in Europe: how will it affect growth?," the conference opened with remarks from **Professor Yaprak Gürsoy**, Professor of European Politics and Chair in Contemporary Turkish Studies at the European Institute, and **Jeromin Zettelmeyer**, Director of Bruegel, who set out the importance of understanding the links between security and economic policy in a changing geopolitical context. With around 200 participants in attendance, the conference brought together leading voices from policy and academia. It also marked an important milestone in the Institute's partnership with Bruegel, highlighting a shared commitment to shaping debate on Europe's future.

Across two panel discussions, participants explored key challenges facing European defence and security systems, including issues related to financing, governance and industrial capacity. Contributions examined the implications of defence investment for growth, competitiveness and innovation, while also highlighting the need for more coordinated and forward-looking policy responses at both national and European levels.

Discussions were chaired by **Dr Angelo Martelli**, Assistant Professor in European and International Political Economy at the European Institute. The first panel welcomed contributions from speakers including **Dr Domitilla Sagramoso**, Lecturer in Security and Development at King's College London, **Sander Tordoir**, Chief Economist at the Centre for European Reform, and **Jeromin Zettelmeyer**, with **Pierre Heilbronn**, France's Special Envoy for Ukraine's Relief and Reconstruction, as discussants.

The second panel invited speakers **Ethan Ilizetzi**, Associate Professor of Economics at LSE, **Paolo Surico**, Professor of Economics at the London Business School, and **Guntram Wolff**, Bruegel Senior Fellow and Professor at the Université

libre de Bruxelles, to share their expertise in a discussion moderated by **Charles Clover**, Financial Times Defence and Security Correspondent, with discussant **Lucrezia Reichlin**, Professor Economics at the London Business School.

The conference concluded with a conversation between the **Rt Hon Rachel Reeves** and **Jeromin Zettelmeyer**, chaired by Dr Angelo Martelli, focusing on the role of the UK and the European Union in a changing multilateral system. The discussion addressed the challenges and opportunities for cooperation in areas including security, trade and economic policy, building on the themes explored throughout the afternoon.

 [Learn more](#)



Former UK PM Sir John Major delivers the 2025 Maurice Fraser Annual Lecture

On 18 November 2025, the European Institute hosted the Maurice Fraser Annual Lecture, delivered by former UK Prime Minister Sir John Major on the theme “Britain in a Changing World”. The annual lecture is held in honour of Professor Maurice Fraser, former Head of the European Institute and Special Adviser to three UK Foreign Secretaries, whose work and legacy continue to shape the Institute’s engagement with European politics and public life.

In a reflective address, **Sir John Major** examined the UK’s position within an increasingly uncertain global landscape, marked by geopolitical instability, shifting alliances, and growing pressures on the rules-based international system. Drawing on his experience in office, he considered the evolution of Britain’s relationship with Europe and the wider world and reflected on the strategic challenges facing policymakers in a period of global change.

Chaired by **Professor Simon Glendinning**, Head of the European Institute, the lecture attracted a large in-person and online audience and formed a central part of the EI’s annual public events programme. It was followed by a private drinks reception for invited guests, Maurice’s friends and family, and selected European Institute students and alumni.

 [Learn more](#)



The EI welcomes back Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland

On 16 March 2026, we had the pleasure to host Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland, for a special keynote speech on “Rebalancing the New World Order in an Age of Fragmentation,” open to LSE staff and students. An LSE alumnus, President Stubb returned to the European Institute for a second year in a row.

Chaired by **Professor Susana Mourato**, Professor of Environmental Economics and Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at LSE, the discussion explored the shifting architecture of global politics, tracing the transition from Cold War bipolarity to post-Cold War unipolarity and towards an increasingly multipolar international system. Drawing on Finland’s experience and his own policy background, **President Alexander Stubb** examined the implications of geopolitical fragmentation, highlighting the risks posed by intensifying competition and the erosion of multilateral norms.

He emphasised the need to balance competition with cooperation and to reform international institutions to reflect evolving global power dynamics, noting that “every so often a world order changes, and I think we are in one of those moments.” The event concluded with a Q&A with the audience, and it was followed by a special reception for EI students and staff, as well as members of the Finnish LSE community.

 [Learn more](#)



“Every so often a world order changes, and I think we are in one of those moments.”



The green transition: An interdisciplinary debate at the European Institute

In 2026, the European Institute hosted a series of public events addressing the economic, financial, and political dimensions of the green transition. These events brought together leading academics, policymakers, and practitioners to examine key challenges related to decarbonisation, sustainable finance, and the transformation of economic systems.

Fossil fuel profits and the low carbon transition: who stands to lose?

On 3 March 2026, the European Institute hosted a public event examining the political economy of the transition to a low carbon economy. **Dr Gregor Semieniuk**, Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy and Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, spoke about the implications of declining fossil fuel profitability for different actors across the global economy. The discussion also explored how financial systems may either accelerate or hinder decarbonisation depending on how capital is reallocated in response to changing expectations about future returns.

The event featured **Professor Mariana Mazzucato**, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value and Founding Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) at University College London, as discussant, and was chaired by **Dr Benjamin Braun**, Assistant Professor in Political Economy at the European Institute.



Does decarbonization still have a future?



On 19 March 2026, the European Institute hosted a public lecture by **Professor Mark Blyth**, William R. Rhodes '57 Professor of International Economics and Director of the Rhodes Centre for International Economics and Finance at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, examining the future of global decarbonisation in a changing geopolitical context. Blyth discussed developments following the emergence of a United States strategy of 'carbon dominance', including the use of fossil fuel exports in tariff policy, restrictions on green research and investment, and support for political movements opposed to decarbonisation. The event was chaired by **Dr Benjamin Braun**.



Mobilising investment for a sustainable planet

On 16 June 2026, the EI participated in the *LSE Festival 2026: How to save the planet*, welcoming President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), **Nadia Calviño**. As one of the world's largest public banks and the financing arm of the European Union, the EIB Group is mobilising private finance to support breakthrough technologies and clean tech start-ups central to achieving a net zero economy. In her talk, the President discussed the EIB Group's strategy to support a green transition that benefits citizens, businesses, and the planet. She highlighted the growing urgency of reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthening Europe's energy security in the current geopolitical context.

The event also featured **Professor Iain Begg**, Professorial Research Fellow at the European Institute, and was chaired by **Professor Andrés Rodríguez Pose**, Princesa de Asturias Chair and Professor of Economic Geography at LSE.

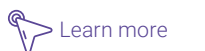


The green shoots of the new economy



On 18 June 2026, as part of the LSE Festival 2026, the European Institute hosted a panel discussion on emerging responses to the ecological crisis. Dr Frédéric Basso, Associate Professor of Economic Psychology at LSE, joined **Charmian Love**, Co-Founder of B Lab UK, **Anuradha Chugh**, business leader and sustainability advocate, and **Akshat Rathi**, senior climate journalist at Bloomberg, to consider whether solutions to environmental challenges may emerge from innovative firms and financial actors operating within existing economic systems.

The event, chaired by **Dr Abby Innes**, Associate Professor of Political Economy at the European Institute, explored whether small and large firms, alongside financial actors, can develop solutions not only through technological innovation, but also by rethinking their social purpose and organisational forms. The discussion also addressed what these developments may suggest about the next steps required to move towards more regenerative forms of economic activity and thought.



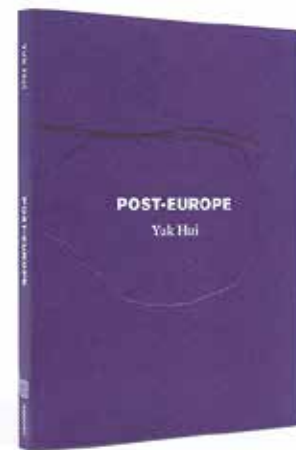
The Beyond Eurocentrism Programme

The European Institute's Beyond Eurocentrism (BE) Programme reflects its strategic commitment to studying Europe within a wider global context, while critically interrogating the enduring assumptions of Eurocentric thought. Through public events, research and teaching, the programme explores how Europe is shaped by global interconnections, historical legacies and diverse perspectives. Below, we highlight three key events from this year's programme.

Post-Europe: In conversation with Yuk Hui

On 14 October 2025, the EI welcomed **Professor Yuk Hui** from Erasmus University Rotterdam for a public event marking the launch of his new book, *Post-Europe*. The event explored how Europe is understood today and how it can be rethought in a global context. Chaired by **Professor Simon Glendinning**, Head of the European Institute, the discussion focused on Hui's argument that moving beyond Eurocentrism is not only about looking at Europe differently, but also about rethinking how its ideas and history are used and understood. He suggested that Europe's intellectual traditions can still be important but should not be treated as universal or applied in the same way everywhere. The event, which was attended by a wide audience, encouraged reflections on how different cultures and ideas can better inform one another.

 [Learn more](#)



Prosecuting the powerful: Confronting the challenges of international justice



On 26 November 2025, the EI welcomed **Steve Crawshaw**, journalist and author, for a public event on the challenges of international justice. Drawing on his experiences as former director of Human Rights Watch (UK) and the Office of the Secretary-General at Amnesty International, and his new book, *Prosecuting the Powerful*, Crawshaw explored how difficult it remains to hold powerful individuals and states to account for serious human rights abuses.

Chaired by **Professor Denisa Kostovicova**, Professor in Global Politics at the European Institute, the discussion focused on the role of international courts, governments and civil society organisations in pursuing justice. Crawshaw reflected on both the progress made in recent decades and the obstacles that continue to slow down or prevent effective action, including political pressures and limited global cooperation. The event raised broader questions about how justice is understood and applied across different regions. It encouraged the audience to consider who shapes global conversations on accountability, and how these can be made more inclusive.

 [Learn more](#)

West End comes to the European Institute: About *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

On 27 May 2026, the European Institute held a roundtable discussion on a new West End musical, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, exploring themes of creativity, resilience and intercultural translation. The event brought together dramaturg **George Harrison**, book writer and lyricist **Richy Hughes**, and composer and lyricist **Tim Sutton**, to reflect on the musical adaptation of William Kamkwamba's story and its development for the stage.

Originally told in a memoir and later adapted into a film, Kamkwamba's story of building a windmill in drought stricken Malawi is widely recognised as an inspiring account of resilience, innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussion explored how this story has been translated into a musical production, using performance, music and staging to bring it to new audiences. Chaired by **Professor Denisa Kostovicova**, the panel focused on the process of adapting a story rooted in a specific cultural context for a global audience. Speakers shared insights into collaboration, storytelling and the challenges of remaining faithful to the original narrative while making it accessible across cultures. They also reflected on how music and performance can communicate complex themes, including empowerment and climate change.

 [Learn more](#)



“

Our motto is “Study Europe. Understand the World” because the issues we face are not unique to our continent. We are not bound by a Eurocentric approach to our work. On the contrary; through a critical approach to studying Europe, we can better understand the world around us.

Support for the European Institute

The support from our alumni and friends is immensely appreciated by everyone at the LSE European Institute, helping us to keep our community strong and to introduce new opportunities to our students. Our thanks go out to everyone who has supported us through donating their time volunteering with our students and providing them with much needed advice – you are helping us keep the European Institute a fantastic place to learn.

We would also like to take this time to recognise those in our community who have supported the European Institute through philanthropic donations. The ongoing generosity of such supporters helps our institution thrive and enables us to find new ways of supporting new generations of scholars and policy leaders.

We would like to thank and recognise the friends of the EI who made a philanthropic donation over the 2025/26 financial year:

- AKO Foundation
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Contact us

European Institute
London School of Economics
and Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
ei@lse.ac.uk