



2023 2024 REPORT



LSE IDEAS is the LSE’s foreign policy think tank.

Through sustained engagement with policymakers and opinion-formers, IDEAS provides a forum that informs policy debate and connects academic research with the practice of diplomacy and strategy.

IDEAS hosts interdisciplinary research projects, produces working papers and reports, holds public and off-the-record events, and delivers cutting-edge executive training programmes for government, business and third-sector organisations. This report covers period LSE Financial Year, August 2022–July 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



PROFESSOR CHRIS ALDEN

teaches International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and is Director of LSE IDEAS. He is a Research Associate with South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

He is author/co-author of numerous books, including *Apartheid's Last Stand—the Rise and Fall of the South African Security State* (Palgrave 1996), *Mozambique and the Construction of the New African State* (Palgrave 2003), *South Africa's Post-Apartheid Foreign Policy* (Adelphi Paper IISS 2003), *China in Africa* (Zed 2007), *Land, Liberation and Compromise in Southern Africa* (Palgrave/Macmillan 2009), *The South and World Politics* (Palgrave 2010), *Foreign Policy Analysis—New Approaches, 2nd edition* (Routledge 2017), and co-editor of *China and Mozambique: from Comrades to Capitalist* (Johannesburg: Jacana 2014), *China Returns to Africa* (Hurst 2008), *China and Africa—Building Peace and Security Cooperation on the Continent* (Palgrave 2017), *New Directions in Africa-China Studies* (Routledge 2019) *China and Latin America—Development, Agency and Geopolitics* (Bloomsbury 2024); as well as having written numerous articles in internationally recognised journals.

Professor Alden has held fellowships at Cambridge University, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo; Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto; Ecole Normale Supérieure (Cachan), Paris; CERI, Paris; and University of Pretoria.

The last year was one of change and continuity for LSE IDEAS. The unexpected loss of Professor Christopher Coker in September, whose intellectual leadership, wit and wisdom served as a ballast to the troubled waters of these international times. He continues to be missed by all at IDEAS and beyond by the wider community of scholars.

We ran conferences in Turin, Belgrade and Cluj/Turda (Romania) that highlighted our innovation and collaborative strengths. We continued to deepen cooperation with our partners the Ratiu Foundation and Jagiellonian University. The Global Strategies programme ran in-person policy dinners with our partners from the policy community within (and outside) of the UK. We hosted two fellowships that target scholars from the region: the Jinnah and Sotirov; and we have provided support to the Women and Diplomacy programme. We worked together with our partners the Conflict and Civiness Research Group (CCRP), collaborating on programmes with links to Ukraine and South Sudan. These offer a unique opportunity for academics, policymakers, and financial firms to share their perspectives on the war in Ukraine, which is likely to continue to be a major feature of international politics for some time to come.

China Foresight, a resource that continues to help set the intellectual and policy agenda on the role of Global China, has maintained its leading resource in this area for academics and policy makers alike. IDEAS hosts the leading Space Policy journal, ensuring our involvement in this evolving sector. Our Digital IR project is building upon its past engagement with the G-20's Think Tank (T20) process and is pursuing further research-led inputs into emerging discussions on digital governance. Moreover, the Digital IR project is expanding its remit to co-partner with META to conduct workshops on disinformation and elections in Africa. Finally, the Global South Unit has produced publications and events which highlighted the growing significance of emerging powers in a changing international environment. Funded research on China's influence on Panama and Ecuador. Research collaboration with universities in South Africa, Kenya, Portugal, Morocco, Singapore, China, Panama and Ecuador have enabled us to strengthen our outputs.

Our Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy remains our flagship teaching programme and completed another successful academic year that brought together senior policy makers and top academics to engage with our cohort of first-class students. Highlights included our China weekend and retreat at Madingley Hall in Cambridge.

Thanks to Aaron McKeil, Hugh Sandeman, Nick Kitchen, Saniya Kulkarni and Oliver Gill for their support throughout. Special thanks to our Centre manager, Emilia Knight, who continues to be indispensable to the daily challenges of running IDEAS. Together, we hope that IDEAS, through its research, public outreach and educational endeavours provides the insights and critical analysis that helps unscramble the world of international politics.

Chris Alden
Director, LSE IDEAS

AT A GLANCE

46 EVENTS

- 16 Public Lectures
- 21 Private events (Strategic Debates)
- 2 Conferences/Workshops & Seminars
- 7 Other

150 PUBLICATIONS

- 2 Journals
- 3 Project Reports
- 3 Research Reports
- 1 Expert Analysis
- 4 Strategic Updates
- 12 China Foresight blog posts
- 28 China Foresight newsletters
- 4 Digital IR papers
- 7 Global South Unit collaborative research papers
- 2 Global South Unit working papers
- 2 International Orders Research Unit working papers
- 2 International Orders Research Unit research outputs
- 6 Jagiellonian Forum policy briefs
- 54 South Asia Centre blog posts
- 15 Sustainable Research Initiative collaborative publications
- 5 Turkey and the World publications

98 FELLOWSHIPS

- 18 Senior Fellows
- 8 Visiting Professors
- 6 Visiting Senior Fellows
- 7 Visiting Fellows
- 1 Jinnah Fellow
- 1 Sotirov Fellow
- 57 Associates

2 TEACHING PROGRAMMES

- 1 Executive Masters in International Strategy and Diplomacy
380 Alumni
- 1 Education for Victory programme
50 Alumni

10 RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Central and South-East Europe Programme
- China Foresight
- Digital IR in the Information Age
- Global South Unit
- Global Strategies
- International Orders Research Unit
- Sustainable Development Initiative
- Turkey and the World
- UN Business and Security Initiative
- Women in Diplomacy

2 RECOGNISED RESEARCH GROUPS

- Conflict and Civiness Research Group
- South Asia Centre

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 43,293 X followers
- 14,827 Engagements
- 18,008 Facebook followers
- 2,246 YouTube subscribers
- 4,035 YouTube hours watched
- 284,227 Website views
- 6,109 LinkedIn followers
- 95,322 LinkedIn impressions

NEW FUNDING AWARD

£ 1,580,895

TOTAL INCOME

£ 2,113,944

LSE IDEAS GOVERNANCE

The work of IDEAS is overseen by both an Academic Management Committee and an Advisory Board.

Academic Management Committee

The Academic Management Committee is comprised of academic staff from LSE who monitor our operations and research.

Professor Chris Alden
Director of LSE IDEAS

Professor Jeffrey Chwieroth
Department Head of
International Relations at LSE

Professor Piers Ludlow
Department Head of
International History at LSE

Dr Emilia Knight
Centre Manager of LSE IDEAS

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board provides an external perspective. Members are senior practitioners from the diplomatic and business worlds who provide independent oversight and guidance on IDEAS’ strategy.

Chair: Sir Richard Mottram is an expert on national security issues, including defence policy, strategy and planning. From 1992-2007 he was one of Britain’s top civil servants: he headed several departments, including the Ministry of Defence, and was responsible for security and intelligence matters in the Cabinet Office, and Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. He is also a Visiting Professor in the LSE’s Department of Government.

Gordon Barrass is Visiting Professor at LSE IDEAS, where he specialises on strategy, assessments and perceptions. After more than 20 years in the British Diplomatic Service he served as Chief of the Assessments Staff in the Cabinet Office. He then spent nearly a decade helping PwC expand its business in China’s rapidly growing financial services sector.

Professor Michael Cox is Founding Director of LSE IDEAS. He was appointed to a Chair at the LSE in 2002. He helped establish the Cold War Studies Centre at LSE in 2004 with Arne Westad, and later they were both Founding Directors of LSE IDEAS in 2008. Professor Cox has lectured to universities world-wide as well as to several government bodies and many private companies. He is currently visiting professor at the Catholic University in Milan. He is the author, editor and co-editor of over 30 books, including most recently a collection of his essays *The Post-Cold War World*, as well as new editions of J M Keynes’s, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* and E H Carr’s *Nationalism and After*. He is now working on a new history of LSE entitled, *The “School”: LSE and the Shaping of the Modern World*.

Dr John Hughes is a graduate of the LSE. He was a British career diplomat for 35 years serving mainly in the Americas, together with secondments to the Cabinet Office, BAE Systems, and Shell. His final postings were as Ambassador to Venezuela and then to Argentina. In retirement he has been Chair of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, Chair of Canning House, a Robin Humphreys Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, London University, and a Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE. He now directs the policy makers on LSE IDEAS Executive Masters in International Strategy and Diplomacy.

Dame Judith MacGregor served in the Diplomatic Service from 1976-2017. Her postings included the former Yugoslavia, Prague and Paris. She also served as Director for Security Policy 2000-2002, Ambassador to Slovakia, 2004-7, Director for Migration 2007-9, Ambassador to Mexico 2009-13 and ended her Diplomatic career as High Commissioner in South Africa 2013-17. Since then, she has taken up Board appointments with the UK/Mexican mining company, Fresnillo plc, the British Tourist Authority and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. She is Chair of the Strategic Advisory Group to the Global Challenges Research Fund and Vice Chair of Southampton University.

Mr Michael Maclay is Executive Chairman, Montrose Associates. Mr Maclay is a former diplomat, journalist and television producer, later Foreign Office political adviser and special adviser/chief spokesman at Office of High Representative, Bosnia. Mr Maclay is Advisory Board Chairman on the British American Project and Steering Group Chairman, Franco-German-UK Club of Three. He is a former Chairman, Citizenship Foundation (2001-2014).

Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid is Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE IDEAS and his work is focused on ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) regional politics and economy. As chairman of CARI ASEAN Research and Advocacy and of ASEAN Business Advisory Council Malaysia, he has been at the forefront of thought and practical business leadership for more effective regional integration. He was the founding chairman of the Malaysian Securities Commission and, over the past 50 years, has served in both the public and private sectors, and worked in academia, as a journalist, in banking, as regulator and corporate leader.

Guy Monson is Chief Investment Officer and a managing partner of Sarasin & Partners. He has played a major role in developing Bank Sarasin’s London based subsidiary, Sarasin Investment Management Ltd (SIML) since 1988. Monson founded and is a senior fund manager on the EquiSar Global Thematic funds and is also a senior fund manager on the GlobalSar family of balanced funds. He also manages a range of institutional global thematic equity and global balanced mandates in various regulatory jurisdictions.

Danny Quah was a Professor in the Department of Economics at LSE for several years. In his later years at the School, he was also Director of the LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre, before being appointed as the Li Ka Shing Professor of Economics at the National University of Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and now Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School.

Gideon Rachman is the chief foreign affairs commentator for the *Financial Times*, where he authors a weekly column on foreign affairs and feature articles. Before joining the Financial Times in 2006, he was a senior editor and correspondent for The Economist and BBC World Service presenter. He has worked as a foreign correspondent in Washington, Brussels, and Bangkok, and is the author of *Zero-Sum World and Easternization* which was launched at LSE in 2017.

Dr Liane Saunders is a serving diplomat and a practitioner lecturer on the LSE IDEAS Executive Masters in Diplomacy and International Strategy. Over the last decade she has held senior strategy and coordination roles in foreign policy and national security in the Cabinet Office and FCO/FCDO, most recently as Strategy Director and Strategic Programmes Coordinator at the FCO. Dr Saunders coordinated the UK National Security Advisor’s Lessons Learning process across Government following the publication of Sir John Chilcot’s Iraq inquiry.

Hugh Sandeman was an international banker for 30 years based in New York, Tokyo, London, and Frankfurt, and for the past decade has focused on India. He was previously Tokyo correspondent, international business editor and New York correspondent of *The Economist*.

Susan Scholefield held a distinguished career in the Civil Service. Roles in the Balkans Secretariat, Northern Ireland Office and in the Cabinet Office as head of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat were followed by a series of top level positions in the MOD culminating in her most recent role as Director General, Human Resources and Corporate Services. In 1999 she was awarded a CMG in the New Year’s Honours for her work on Bosnia.

Professor Lutfey Siddiqi is an Adjunct Professor at National University of Singapore and a Visiting Professor in Practice at LSE IDEAS. Previously Global Head of Emerging Markets for Foreign Exchange, Rates & Credit at UBS Investment bank and Managing Director at Barclays bank. World Economic Forum: Young Global Leader (2012), Global Futures Council (2014-2018). Advisory boards: LSE Systemic Risk Centre, Centre for Governance (Singapore); CFA Future of Finance, Bretton Woods Committee.

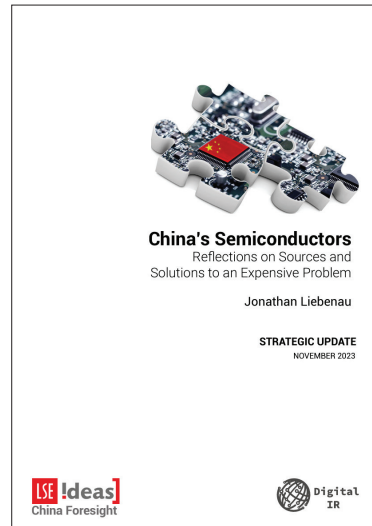
Cato Stonex graduated from LSE, of which he is now a governor. In 1986, he joined the European government bond trading department at Morgan Grenfell and in 1989, J. Rothschild Investment Management. With Nils Taube and John Hodson he formed THS Partners in 1997. He is now a partner and Fund manager at Partners Investment Company LLP.

Leslie Vinjamuri was Director of the Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice and a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in International Relations at SOAS, University of London. Leslie was also Chair of the International Relations Speaker Series at SOAS. Her research areas include transatlantic relations, US foreign policy, the politics of international intervention, human rights and justice, and UN Security Council Diplomacy. In 2018 she was appointed Head of the US and the Americas Programme, and Dean of the Academy for Leadership in International Affairs, Chatham House.

Professor Linda Yueh is Visiting Professor at LSE IDEAS and Chair of the LSE Economic Diplomacy Commission. She is a Fellow in Economics, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford and Adjunct Professor of Economics, London Business School. Professor Yueh is the Editor of the Routledge Series on Economic Growth and Development and the author of numerous books including *China’s Growth: The Making of an Economic Superpower* and *The Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today*.

Peter Watkins CB, CBE is Senior Visiting Fellow at LSE IDEAS, an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), Visiting Professor at King’s College London, a Member of the Council of Cranfield University, and a Non-Executive Member of the Board of the UK Space Agency. He was previously Director General Security Policy (2014-17) and Director General Strategy & International (2017-18) in the Ministry of Defence. Earlier appointments at the Ministry of Defence included: Director General of the Defence Academy, Director of Operational Policy, Director of the Typhoon programme, Command Secretary (i.e. Finance Director) of RAF Strike Command (now Air Command), and Private Secretary to the Defence Secretary. He has also served as a Counsellor in the British Embassy in Germany. Peter was awarded a CB in 2019 and a CBE in 2004 and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Institute of Directors.

CHINA FORESIGHT



Strategic Update on China's Semiconductors



China Dialogues Opinion Platform

Prof Chris Alden
Project Head

Prof Michael Cox
Senior Academic Adviser

Lukas Fiala
Project Manager

Felix Brender 王哲謙
Project Associate

China Foresight analyses Chinese strategy, foreign policy and influence from the inside out. The core motivation of the programme is to understand the internal drivers and global implications of Chinese foreign policy and strategy and communicate these to a diverse and international audience through a range of different outputs.

EVENTS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year, the team has developed a new strategy to consolidate China Foresight's status as a key source of China-related expertise in the UK and beyond, expanding our outreach across a range of different areas. As part of this effort, we have reorganised the project's output around five research clusters: geopolitics, China's diverse relationship with the Global South, military and security issues, technology, and domestic politics and the economy. In cooperation with our Communications Officer, we have also created a new webpage for the project to make our work more accessible.

CHINA DIALOGUES, STRATEGIC UPDATES AND NEWSLETTERS

Over the past year, China Foresight hosted events and roundtables with leading experts on China. Topics included China's development finance programme, the evolving Cross-Strait relationship and other issues pertaining to the drivers and implications of China's foreign policy strategy. Through policy briefings and workshops, the programme has particularly focused on reaching and engaging policy makers in London to contribute to more informed and far-sighted engagement with China. In addition to public events, our team has been quoted in a range of different media outlets, including the South China Morning Post, The China Global South Project and others, with team members completing dozens of public engagements, talks and interviews.

OUTLOOK

Over the next year, the project will focus on further implementing our Vision 2025 strategy. This includes stepping up public engagement, hosting policy briefings for interested professionals, and diversifying our content along indicators outlined in the strategy.

THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE PROGRAMME (CSEEP)

Stuart Austin
Programme Manager

Maria Branea
Ratiu Forum Project Manager

CSEEP oversees three key project areas: The Ratiu Forum (our joint initiative with the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation [London] and Ratiu Democracy Centre [Romania]), our CSEEP desk at the Jagiellonian University (Krakow), and our Mladena and Dianko Sotirov Visiting Fellowship—this year, Dr Ivan Lidarev.

RATIUM FORUM

This year began with two November 2023 events in London centred on Dr Lidarev's research-led Strategic Update: China-US Competition in the Balkans: a roundtable discussion held for members of the LSE Balkan Society and Romania Society, followed by a public panel discussion held at the Ratiu Foundation in London and chaired by Prof Michael Cox.

Meanwhile, our Journalism Mentorship programme—promoting skills development and regional understanding among early-career journalists in Romania and Moldova—ran its webinars from January 2024, including mentors from *New Eastern Europe*, Associated Press, the BBC, and prominent Romanian journalists. February saw the annual Journalism Masterclass by John Lloyd (Financial Times), dealing with themes including conflict reporting, propaganda, disinformation, and corruption.

In April, as part of our Teaching History programme, we joined the 'Third Belgrade History Education Symposium', held by Serbian NGO Education for the 21st Century and the Council of Europe's Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHE). Our panel on disarming history was chaired by John Lotherington (21st Century Trust and Salzburg Global Seminar) and included Advisory Board member, Prof Slobodan Markovich (University of Belgrade). Maria Branea chaired the panel on reconciliation through History teaching.

In May, our annual workshop, Teaching Difficult Histories, led by John Lotherington—developing methods to combat politicised History and strengthening cross-border understanding for Romanian and Moldovan History teachers—included our Belgrade partners and the Council of Europe's OHE, EuroClio, The Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (the Hague), The Sofia Platform (Bulgaria), and the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (Bucharest office). Our Teaching History project report covering 2023 and 2024 was published in July 2024.

September 2024 will see the annual Dialogues on Democracy in Romania—this year led by Prof Michael Cox; conference report to follow.

CSEEP AT THE JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

In May, we joined the two-day event on 75 Years of NATO: Insights from Frontline States and Ukraine's Role in Shaping the Alliance's Future—organised and hosted by our Krakow CSEEP desk and the journal *New Eastern Europe*. The event included a public lecture and private roundtable discussion, including keynote address from Tanya Hartman (Head, Policy East, NATO). In addition, through our editorial board we co-published six policy briefs via the 'Jagiellonian Forum'.

In Autumn 2024, we will oversee two projects funded under the Future of Democracy Lab—part of the Jagiellonian University's Strategic Program Excellence Initiative. These projects will include expert seminars, lectures and workshops held at the Faculty of International and Political Studies in Kraków, and will result in policy briefs and project reports.

The projects are titled:

- 'Shadows of Truth: Decoding Russia's Disinformation Campaigns'—17-18 October 2024
- 'NATO after the Washington Summit: Challenges and the Way Forward'—Keynote, Public Panel and Closed Seminar—28 November 2024

Both projects are anticipated to expand into the 2024/2025 academic year.



John Lotherington leads the Teaching Difficult Histories workshop at the Ratiu Centre for Democracy, Romania.

'Disarming History' panel at the Third Annual Belgrade History Education Symposium, Embassy of France, Belgrade, Serbia. Photo credit: Hana Šuica / Edukacija za 21. Vek.

CONFLICT AND CIVICNESS RESEARCH GROUP AT LSE



Ukraine Recovery Conference, June 2024

The Conflict and Civiness Research Group (CCRG) focusses on the study of conflict from the perspective of those who experience war. The group works with in-country research networks in Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan. Its primary funding comes from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) as part of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep) consortium. The CCRG has been exceptionally active in 2023-2024 and engaged high-level policymakers, convened multiple public and private events, and authored over 20 publications.

War in Sudan erupted in April 2023 and, though millions of Sudanese are now on the brink of famine, the crisis has received little global attention. The CCRG's Sudans team, led by Dr Matthew Benson, has drawn awareness to the crisis with research on civic actors' role mitigating violence and the war's political economy. Dr Benson and Sudan researcher Raga Makawi regularly provide analysis drawing upon their research, which is produced in collaboration with displaced civic researchers outside Sudan and inside the country, for *Al Jazeera English*, *The Economist*, *The New York Review of Books*,

The New York Times, and *Voice of America*. One of Dr Benson's *Al Jazeera English* interviews has been viewed nearly 50,000 times on *YouTube* and over 531,000 times on *Instagram*.

Most contemporary conflicts are characterised by systemic corruption, which Professor Alex de Waal—who is part of CCRG—calls the political marketplace. The Somalia team is addressing this problem with two high-impact *corruption reports* and a *New Humanitarian* joint op-ed that have generated positive responses from the international and Somali policy-making community. We have participated in events including a Brussels EU Humanitarian Forum panel on food assistance and the humanitarian assistance funding shortfall, which focused on Afghanistan and Somalia, to catalyse our reform agenda.

The Ukraine team's research, led by Dr Luke Cooper, has continued to inform stabilisation and resilience thinking. We manage a network of 120 in-country researchers who generate data from 40 Ukrainian communities on the war's impact, developing a suite of political-economic needs analyses for the Ukrainian war economy. Our 'insourcing',

taxation, and state responses to market failure proposals have contributed to thought shifts in Kyiv on the management of the economic front and reached wider audiences through the *Financial Times*. We presented this work at the 2024 Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin and partnered with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Clingendael Institute, and the Kyiv School of Economics on a major side conference, *Resilience, Reconstruction, Prosperity: Perspectives for Ukraine's Economy*. 400 people were in attendance, including senior Ukrainian and German government officials, and EBRD, IMF and European Commission representatives.

The Syria team, headed by Dr Rim Turkmani, has innovated a methodology for studying conflict using an encrypted mobile app to collate findings from approximately 300 experts across Syria. The team has focused on supporting local civic partners given continuing division, violence, and predation. It has expanded its work on Syrian micro, small, and medium enterprises through the development of the concept of civic engagement for the Syrian private sector, in collaboration with UNDP Damascus. Findings were prominently discussed at the Brussels VIII Syria Conference side

event in March 2024, which was attended by experts and international representatives, including the FCDO and members of Syria's private sector and civil society.

The CCRG's South Sudan research focuses on the material and financial conditions underpinning war. Dr Benson published findings in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* in an article that traces 120-years of predatory revenue raising practices and the nature of rule in South Sudan through an analysis of over 200 interviews and archival research. In-country research now focuses on the political economy of timber, which is increasingly significant as South Sudan's oil fields are projected to run dry by 2030.

Meanwhile, our Afghanistan team, led by Dr Marika Theros, established a post-US withdrawal Afghan researcher-knowledge-hub comprised of in-country and diaspora research networks, *publishing an economic and humanitarian paper series*. Marika also authored an *International Affairs* article on shortcomings within the Afghan peace negotiations and additional *research* addressed disinformation-campaigns.

Since working with researchers in conflict entails considerable ethics and risk concerns, the CCRG convened an Istanbul-based 'Researching Conflict from Below' workshop in June 2024. The workshop formed a problem-solving community to innovate a civic network-based research methodology to improve knowledge generation within war-affected societies.

In addition to PeaceRep, the CCRG's portfolio includes the Climate Emergency and the Future of Civic Space project, led by Dr Iavor Rangelov. Our research aims to improve understandings and openings to mitigate risks from the increasingly securitized climate crisis upon the future of civic space. The project is funded by and implemented in collaboration with Civic Futures.

Professor Mary Kaldor was also awarded a new Carnegie Corporation of New York research grant. The two-year project seeks to innovate ways to prevent external state aggression without nuclear weapon-reliance, which we call 'non-nuclear deterrence'. The project has established a core practitioner and academic group who will both guide the research and produce a findings report.

Lastly, this year the CCRG released a new *Conflict Zone Podcast* season. The series explores the nature of 21st century violent conflicts and features CCRG researchers. The podcast is available on all platforms and has been streamed over 1,000 times on Soundcloud and Apple Podcasts.



Researching Conflict from Below, June 2024



Conflict and
Civiness
Research
Group
at LSE

THE TEAM

Professor Mary Kaldor
Head of the Conflict and Civiness Research Group (CCRG)

Alice Bryant
CCRG Programme Manager

Dr Rim Turkmani
Syria Research Director

Dr Nisar Majid
Somalia Research Director

Dr Matthew Benson
Sudans Research Director

Dr Luke Cooper
Ukraine Research Director

Dr Marika Theros
Afghanistan Research Director

Hannah Logan
South Sudan Research Coordinator

Raga Makawi
Sudan Researcher and Research Coordinator

Mazen Gharibah
Zaki Mehchy
Munzer Alkhalil
Syria Researchers and Research Coordinators

Khalif Abdurahman
Somalia Researcher and Research Coordinator

Dr Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic
Senior Research Fellow

Dr Iavor Rangelov
Dr Heljä Ossa
Research Fellows

Dr Roch Dunin-Wasowicz
Research Associate

Madihah Karim
Communications Officer

Adam Master
Finance and Grants Officer

DIGITAL IR IN THE INFORMATION AGE

Kendrick Chan
Head of Project

Professor Chris Alden
Senior Advisor

The Digital IR project conducts research and organises events with the aim of identifying trends in the world of digital technology and examining their implications for international relations. The long-term goal of the project is to situate LSE IDEAS as the key institution connecting academic research, policymakers, and the private sector on issues pertaining to digital international relations.

PUBLICATIONS

The Digital IR project produces publications on topics at the intersection of digital technology and international relations. Publication highlights for 2023-2024 include:

- **Subject Primer by Kendrick Chan and Professor Chris Alden:** *Understanding and Mitigating Disinformation: A Primer for Policymakers and Stakeholders* (in partnership with Meta and others)
- **G7 Background Book Article by Professor Chris Alden and Kendrick Chan:** *'Intelligent Governance' in G7 Italy: The 2024 Apulia Summit* (published by the G7 Research Group).

EVENTS

The Digital IR project held four notable events this year:

- Event featuring Taiwan's digital minister: Policymaking in the Digital Age: Lessons from Taiwan featured Taiwan's digital minister Audrey Tang

as the keynote speaker, Dr. Tristen Naylor from the Uni. of Cambridge as the discussant, and Professor Chris Alden as the moderator.

- Closed-door diplomatic roundtables: Disinformation, elections, and platform governance: Insights for policymakers featured high-level representatives from the diplomatic community, government, civil society, and academia (more information below).
- Two-day symposium in Turin, Italy: CTRL + Power: The (Geo)politics of Digital Authoritarianism was organised in partnership with the Torino World Affairs Institute (T.wai) and supported by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo

DIPLOMATIC ROUNDTABLES WITH META

The Digital IR project has been actively organising a series of diplomatic roundtables in partnership with Meta (previously Facebook), the LSE Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA), and GK Partners. These roundtables, held under Chatham House rules, are funded by Meta and aim to bring together senior representatives from the diplomatic community, government, civil society, and academia to discuss issues related to the intersection of technology, diplomacy, and policymaking. Two roundtables have been held to-date, with a third planned for late-2024.

The first roundtable covered African access to digital solutions through global collaborations and SDG partnerships - attendees included:

- Representatives from 11 countries, including five ambassadors/high commissioners, and development organisations and agencies.
- The second roundtable covered the topic of digital disinformation and strengthened dialogue between the public and private sector—attendees included:
- 25 participants from 15 organisations, including high-level representatives from six different diplomatic missions

ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTI-LATERAL FORA AND OTHER WORK

Building on the success of our Think20, the Digital IDEAS project will continue its engagement of influencing the policymaking debate at various levels of policymaking. Our activity on this front includes:

- Kendrick Chan spoke on a panel at the 80th Commission Session of United Nations (UN) ESCAP on the topic of cross-border collaboration and international partnerships in fostering smart innovation for national development
- Kendrick Chan took part in a Wilton Park dialogue (full topic withheld for confidentiality).

EDUCATION FOR VICTORY

Oliver Gill
Programmes Manager

Matilde Marini
Programme Coordinator



The first cohort of the pilot programme in June 2023

Chris Alden, Director of LSE IDEAS kicking off the pilot programme

The LSE IDEAS—Grand Strategy UA programme 'Education for Victory' is designed to build a community of innovative, dynamic and proactive leaders within the Ukrainian government, equipped to think creatively and collectively about Ukraine's future in the context of reconstruction. It seeks to enhance the capacity of Ukrainian state institutions to swiftly and efficiently integrate Ukraine into Western institutions, by bolstering the professional potential of the country's leadership; enabling an effective and rapid restoration of its post-war security, economy and diplomatic capability.

Our partnership has so far produced two iterations of the programme with a third set to run late 2024:

- Pilot Programme May-June 2023 (20 participants)
- Programme 2 February-March 2024 (26 participants)
- Programme 3 to run October-November 2024 (30 participants)

Each cohort is added to our dedicated Alumni Programme involving follow-up lectures, policy projects, and events in Kyiv to sustain engagement and further networking, learning, and ideas exchange.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants are carefully selected from across Ukraine's professional community while ensuring a diversity of experience and gender balance, pulling from central government, regional and municipal administrations, as well as business leaders and financial institutions. All

participants play active roles in Ukraine's reconstruction, and are motivated by the vision of a prosperous, independent, and free Ukraine.

Notable alumni: Deputy Ministers (Energy; Economy; Finance; Agrarian and Food Policy; Ecology and Nat. Resources; Development of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure; Culture and Info. Policy); Advisors to Head of the Office of the President; mayors; ambassadors; Member UA Armed Forces General Staff; Director National Bank of Ukraine; Chairman of the Board State bank Ukreximbank; Head of Information Policy Directorate, Office of the President of Ukraine; Deputy Director General of the Government Office of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, amongst many others.

STRUCTURE

Each iteration of the programme constitutes four weeks of teaching: three online, and one intensive week in-person in London. The content is designed to situate Ukraine in its geopolitical and geoeconomic context, create strong links between participants, and help them think proactively about the key challenges facing Ukraine's reconstruction.

Each week of teaching corresponds to a module:

- Week 1: Introduction to International Political Economy
- Week 2: International Finance, Trade and Investment, and Digital Economy
- Week 3: Ukraine's Post-War Economy
- Week 4: IPE and IR Applied

The programme includes a mixture of lectures (20), visitations (four), simulations and workshops (four) with leading academics and practitioners. This structure provides the setting for focused learning, lively discussions, and development of critical and analytical skills. Teaching seeks to straddle the divide between theory and practice, providing students with a breadth of knowledge as well as new perspectives on the key challenges presented by Ukraine's reconstruction. The visitations to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UBS, the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, and the Houses of Parliament support the expansion of academic and professional networks and knowledge exchange.

IMPACT

- 50+ Alumni to date; set to be 75+ by 2025.
- 90% of participants reported enhanced confidence in decision making.
- 95% of participants reported improved team-working skills.
- 90% of participants reported enhanced understanding of international context.
- 100% would recommend programme to colleagues.
- 85% of participants joined the alumni programme.



Taiwan's digital minister Audrey Tang talking about policymaking in the digital age at an LSE IDEAS event

Kendrick Chan speaking at the 80th Commission of United Nations ESCAP

Professor Chris Alden at the LSE IDEAS-T.wai symposium held in Turin, Italy

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

Peter Jones CMG
Project Head

Professor Chris Alden
Director



Inaugural joint event with Wilton Park on 23 July on 'The Future of UK Soft Power'

The Global Strategies project has continued its work to connect the research and expertise available within LSE IDEAS, the International Relations Department, and the wider LSE academic community with officials in the UK government working on foreign, defence and security policy. The project's prime objectives are to provide ideas to and assist policy consideration and decision-making within the UK Government, drawing on a wide range of British and global perspectives. The project also works to promote and deepen personal connections between UK government officials and LSE and other counterparts.

ACTIVITIES

Global Strategies' private roundtable discussions involving LSE experts and UK policymakers continued during the year, addressing a range of current topics and challenges. These included the state of multilateralism in a multipolar world; the connection between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and geopolitics and the scope for international AI governance; the state of democracy around the globe in the 'year of elections'; contemporary strategic challenges in East Asia; and the possible foreign policy priorities of a second Trump administration in the United States after the next Presidential election.

Topics for these discussions were generated by LSE IDEAS in consultation with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Cabinet Office and Ministry of Defence, all of which were represented in the discussions, as were representatives of other UK-based foreign policy think-tanks and organisations—alongside LSE colleagues. Global Strategies also cross-connected with the work of China Foresight and other projects in LSE IDEAS, inviting government officials to LSE seminars and events.

Looking ahead, Global Strategies aims to continue and deepen its connections with UK officials following the July 2024 general election, with a view to connecting LSE expertise with likely post-election strategic reviews in the areas of foreign, security and defence policy.

PARTNERSHIPS

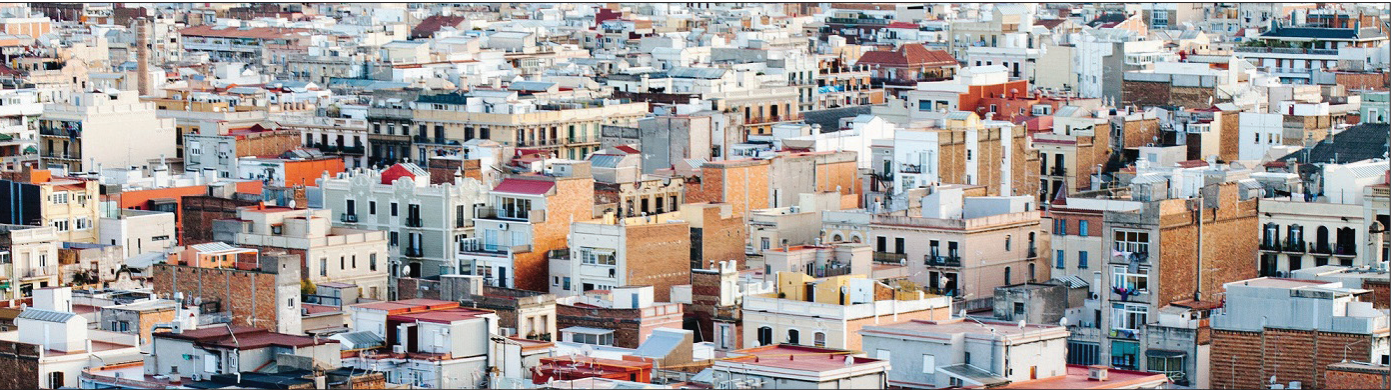
In addition to involving selected other think-tanks in Global Strategies' roundtable discussions, the project has also developed a partnership framework with Wilton Park, the FCDO Executive Agency and Arms-Length Body, which convenes discreet outcome-orientated dialogue on major global issues in support of UK priorities—including at its home, Wiston House in Sussex.

The aim of this collaboration is to leverage the strengths of two complementary bodies to bring greater UK government and international policy profile, convening and engagement experience into LSE, whilst providing Wilton Park with greater access to LSE's academic expertise and prominent London location. A first joint 'Wilton Park @ LSE' audience event took place at LSE in July 2024, with a panel discussion on the Future of UK Soft Power involving a range of external speakers, in addition to LSE IDEAS and Wilton Park participants.

THE LSE GLOBAL SOUTH UNIT

Professors Chris Alden and
Álvaro Méndez
Directors

Rosalie Roechert
Project Coordinator



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

This year we have reinitiated the long existing CAF-LSE collaboration. The CAF (Corporación Andina de Fomento), also known as the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the GSU are collaborating on capacity building Programmes in Latin America and in London, various research papers, and the CAF-LSE Conference. We are grateful for the sponsorship of the upcoming CAF-LSE projects and the renewed CAF-LSE cooperation.

PUBLICATIONS

- Alden, C., Martin, M. and Chan, K. (July 2023) 'Enhancing Efforts at Global Digital Governance: Recommendations to the G20'.
- Alden, C. and le Pere, G. (2024) 'Southern multilateralism from IBSA to NDB: Synergies, continuities and regional options', Global Policy, 15(2), pp. 389–397. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13246>.
- Alden, C. and Schoeman, M. (2024) 'The rise of multiplexity and future of world order/s', in Economic Shocks and Globalisation.
- Méndez, A. et al. (2024) 'How Socially Sustainable Multinational Banks Promote Financial Inclusion in Developing Countries', Research in International Business and Finance, p. 102470. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ribaf.2024.102470>.

- Méndez, A. (2024) 'Latin American agency: The New Development Bank, Uruguay's accession and Brazilian influence', Global Policy, 15(2), pp. 405–413. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13214>.
- Méndez, A. et. Al (2024), 'Sustainable Banking and Trust in the Global South', Global Policy 15, no. S1 (2024): 34–44. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1758-5899.13314>
- Méndez, A. (2023) 'Russia's Backyard: China and Central Asia after the Invasion of Ukraine', in A. Farhadi, M. Grzegorzewski, and A.J. Masys (eds) The Great Power Competition Volume 5: The Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Implications for the Central Region. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, pp. 199–216. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-40451-1_10.

WORKING PAPER SERIES

The GSU has celebrated the tenth-year anniversary of its working papers; a collaborative effort that provides an outlet for scholars from the South to publish their original work. The papers are stored at LSE Research Online, which allows worldwide dissemination. The series is published with the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation sponsorship. We publish between two-to-three papers annually; the two latest papers are:

- Murilo, G. (2024) 'Crisis of democracy: beyond malaise and autocratization.' Available at: <https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/123940/>
- Ouyang, H. and Shi, S. (2024) 'Is Mexico replacing China in US supply chains?' Available at: <https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/123941/>

EVENTS

- International Summer School in Shanghai: 'Global Public Policy'**, 1– 28 July 2024, Institute for Global Policy, Fudan University. Speaker: Prof. Álvaro Méndez.
- Non-Alignment and the Global South'**, 6–8 June 2024, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade. Speaker: Prof. Álvaro Méndez, Organiser: Prof. Chris Alden.
- Sixth year of teaching '**China and the Global South'** at Sciences Po.

INTERNATIONAL ORDERS RESEARCH UNIT

Dr Aaron McKeil
Founder



In 2024, the International Orders Research Unit advanced its research agenda with public and policy engagement, including invited policy reports for government, while continuing to extend its global research network. Innovative research workshops integrating practitioners and academics proved to have dynamism. Partnering with external research units and centres also proved to be highly useful for connecting world-leading scholars on common research interests. Multidisciplinary research integrating International History and International Relations, with policy relevant research on international order and grand strategy remains a guiding principle of the research unit.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- Public Panel, 'The Three Worlds: Does the Liberal Order have a Future?' G. John Ikenberry, Ayşe Zarakol, Leslie Vinjamuri, and Rohan Mukherjee, chaired by Michael Cox, 6 February 2024.
- Public Lecture, 'The Unfinished Quest: India's Search for Major Power Status from Nehru to Modi', T.V. Paul, chaired by Rohan Mukherjee, 8 May 2024.

- Roundtable, 'Political Pluralism and International Order', Andrew Hurrell, Sasikumar Sundaram, Courtney J. Fung, Aaron McKeil, and Line Engbo Gissel, chaired Laust Shouenborg, convened jointly with the Centre for Statecraft and International Order, University of Roskilde, 13 June 2024.

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

- 'Understanding the International in a Dividing World Order', William Bain, Jens Bartelson, Aaron McKeil, Andreas Aagaard Nohr, Aleksandra Spalinska, 5 May 2024.
- 'International Order Strategies, Past and Present', integrating practitioners and academics, chaired by Aaron McKeil, 8 May 2024.
- Working Paper Series (launched jointly with the Centre for the Study of Global Power Competition, University of Surrey):
 - 'Norms in Great Power Competition', Anders Wivel, with Arc Zhen Han as discussant, 18 April 2024.
 - 'The New Westphalians: China, India, and the Norm of Sovereignty', Rohan Mukherjee, with Rosemary Foot as discussant, 16 May 2024.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- Research Project Report, 'International Order Strategies, Past and Present', LSE IDEAS.
- Special Issue, 'Rethinking the Disordering of Liberal Internationalism, Past and Present' *International Relations*.

Ambitions for the year ahead include formally launching the book project *Cosmopolitan Imaginaries and International Disorder*, with the University of Michigan Press. This book makes a major statement on the decline of cosmopolitan politics after globalism, by asking why attempts to construct a cosmopolitan order in the modern experience tend to be followed by greater forces of division and disorder.

Research workshops in the year ahead aim to engage the next major research project, *Power Political*. This project reconsiders the sources and changing character of the 'political' in power politics, and its implications for international order and the use of force in contexts of great power competition. This project includes major grant applications, and its outputs include peer reviewed articles and a monograph, invited for submission by Georgetown University Press.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE DIALOGUES

Dr Leon Hartwell
Chair & Co-founder

Maria Branea
Assistant

In response to the February 2022 escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war, LSE IDEAS launched the Russia-Ukraine Dialogues (RUDs) in March 2022. This initiative was created to address the conflict's far-reaching impacts, which extend beyond Ukraine and Russia's borders. Since the inception of the series, LSE IDEAS, with support from PeaceRep, has organised 40 RUDs, gathering a distinguished group of 120 professionals including military experts, high-level government officials, corporate leaders, and scholars from across the globe. Impressively, 43% of participants were female, reflecting a commitment to gender diversity in high-level discussions. Furthermore, the reach of the RUDs has been remarkable, accumulating approximately 35,000 views across platforms like YouTube, Spotify, Facebook, and Zoom.

OUTPUTS

During the reporting period, the RUDs explored a diverse range of topics relevant to the ongoing conflict. Key discussions included reflections on the two-year mark of Russia's full-scale invasion, the increasing role of Ukrainian women on the frontlines, the transformation of Ukraine and Russia since February 2022, an in-depth analysis of battlefield dynamics and prospects for 2024,

and the strategic importance of regions like Crimea and the Black Sea. The panels also scrutinised international support for Ukraine, the military balance on the ground, and the implications of unconventional military supplies to Russia.

Prominent speakers during this period included Prof. Michael Cox (Founding Director, LSE IDEAS), Dr. Nathalie Tocci (Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali), LTG (ret) Ben Hodges (Former Commanding General, US Army Europe), Keir Giles (Senior Consulting Fellow, Chatham House), Dr. Hanna Hopko (Ukrainian politician and activist), and Mariia Zolkina (DINAM Fellow, LSE), among others.

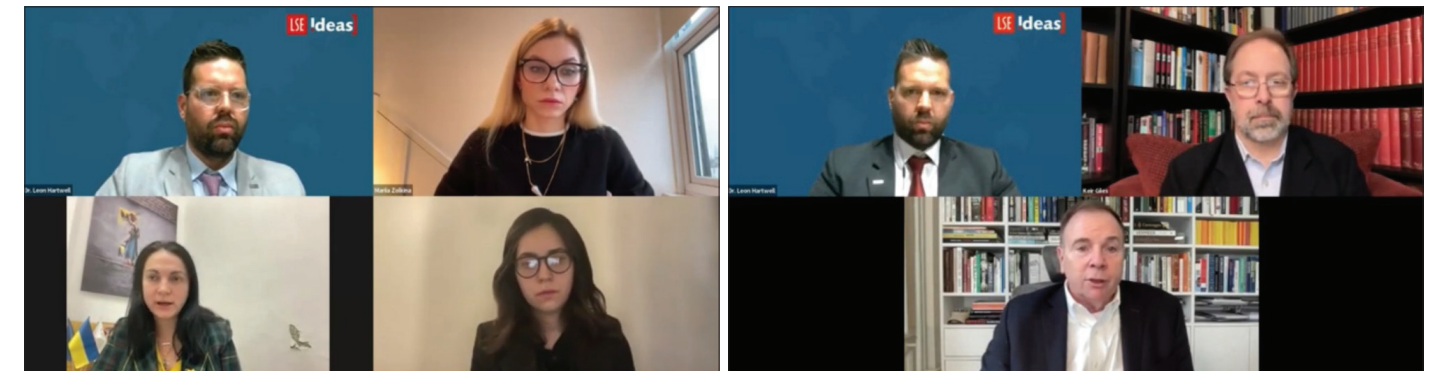
RECEPTION AND IMPACT

The RUDs continue to garner widespread attention and praise from diverse sectors, including academia, government, and international organisations. The sessions consistently attract an engaged transatlantic audience, drawing interest from scholars, policymakers, and civil society. Feedback from institutions like the UK Foreign Office, the U.S. State Department, and the Ukrainian Government has reaffirmed the initiative's value in shaping discourse on the conflict.

Dr. Leon Hartwell remains an active participant in international discussions, having been invited to present his insights at events hosted by organisations like PeaceRep, Jagiellonian University, and the Aspen Institute. His analyses have also been featured in prominent media outlets such as Newsweek and Al Jazeera, as well as in publications like Forbes and LSE IDEAS's Strategic Updates.

THE FUTURE OF THE DIALOGUES

The RUD initiative has provided critical analysis and facilitated meaningful discussions on the Russia-Ukraine war. While the next phase of the RUDs is contingent upon securing future funding, the significance of these conversations remains as vital as ever. LSE IDEAS remains committed to seeking opportunities to continue the RUDs, recognising their importance in shaping understanding of the conflict and its global ramifications. We are hopeful that with the continued support of our partners, the RUDs will be able to persist in contributing to key international debates and offering valuable insights as the war evolves.



Dr. Leon Hartwell (Senior Associate, LSE IDEAS), Mariia Zolkina (DINAM Fellow at the Department of International Relations, LSE), Dr. Hanna Hopko, Ukrainian politician, and activist), and Diana Butsko (war correspondent at Hromadske).

Dr. Leon Hartwell (Senior Associate, LSE IDEAS), Keir Giles (Senior Consulting Fellow at the Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House), and LTG (ret) Ben Hodges (Former Commanding General of US Army Europe).

SOUTH ASIA CENTRE



Michael Cox with audience members at The India Club, 14 September 2023.



Screenshot of 'South Asia @ LSE' blog titled 'Infernal Damnation: Sküm, Punk and the Political in Burma', by Tobiasz Targosz published on 18 September 2023. Photo © Arkadiusz Fudali



Director Alnoor Bhimani speaking at the India Elections event (with the Ralph Miliband Program), 11 June 2024, LSE.



Prof Alnoor Bhimani
Director



Dr Nilanjan Sarkar
Deputy Director

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One of several engaging aspects of South Asia is its constant dynamism. Just as we were coming to the end of the 75th independence anniversaries of India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (2022–23), three countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan and India—held national elections between January–June 2024, with Sri Lanka's elections earmarked for later in 2024.

The India Club (143 Strand, London WC2) had been the stamping ground for generations of India supporters and patrons, Indianists, Indophiles and others; offering Indian food, beer and a warm and welcoming environment. It was an important hub for generations on Indians, and staff and students of LSE patronised it for decades. When its closure was announced in August 2023, the Centre hosted an event at the Club on 14 September 2023 where Professor Michael Cox spoke on 'London and a Club called India'. It attracted a huge audience including a wide range of the Centre's well-wishers from across the academic and cultural worlds in London.

We hosted four Visiting Fellows in this academic year: an Early Career British Academy Fellow Umair Javed (LUMS, Pakistan), and one Fellow each from Bangladesh (M. Shafi Mostofa, Dhaka), Myanmar (Sang Hnin Lian, Yangon) and Pakistan (Aisha Jalil, Lahore)—all funded by the Charles Wallace Trust. Alongside their own research, each participated in the Centre's events, published blogposts, and will submit Working Papers for publication as part of their Fellowship requirements.

In all, the Centre hosted 20 public events, and published 54 blogposts in 2023–24.

PUBLICATIONS

The Centre's 'South Asia @ LSE' blog has continued to be ranked in the top eight (of 42) LSE blogs. We published several 'special' blogs this year but one — on [the Punk Rock scene in Yangon by Tobiasz Targosz](#), which we published as part of our 'Myanmar @ 75' series on 18 September 2023 — has stood out for its uniqueness. It tells the heart-rending story of 'Sküm', one of Burma's most well-known punk stars.

Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, strategically important countries in South Asia, held national elections this year. While Pakistan's election results were marred by allegations of rigging by the military establishment, India — the world's largest theatre of democracy, where the elections were conducted over two+ months — produced an unexpected result. At our Centre, we published special blogposts ahead of the polls for each country, outlining the issues and challenges for the main political parties contesting the elections. As part of our LSE-wide collaborations, we also hosted two on-site events on the electoral results of Pakistan (with the Department of Social Policy) and India (with the Ralph Miliband Program). Both events were expectedly animated, and very well attended.

Finally, the Vera Anstey Student Essay Competition was won by Zaid Ahmed Abro (LSE MSc Social and Public Policy) for his winning essay on 'Polling Agents: An Unlikely Agent of Development in South Asia'; he received £250 book vouchers from Waterstones, and his essay was published on our blog on 17 June 2024.

SPACE POLICY

Dr Dimitrios Strokos

Project Head

Space Policy aims to explore the interplay between international relations and outer-space politics and is associated with the Space Policy Journal—housed at LSE IDEAS. Research clusters include:

- Space Statecraft: The High Frontier in International Relations
- The Global Governance of Space Activities: Developments, Challenges, and Global Strategies
- Space Policy and the Global South
- Space Technology and Change in Global Politics

SPACE POLICY JOURNAL

LSE IDEAS became the institutional home of the journal in 2022, after Dr Strokos—editor-in-chief—joined LSE IDEAS as head of the project. See page 31 for more details.

Since September 2021, the following volumes have been published covering a wide range of topics related to space: 65, 66, 67, 68—see www.sciencedirect.com/journal/space-policy/issues

EVENTS

Recent public events include:

- Panellist speaker and co-organiser, 'Deciphering China's ambitions in space', public event co-hosted by the International Relations Department and LSE IDEAS, LSE, London, 30 April, 2024.

- Panellist speaker at the LSE IDEAS Alumni Weekend panel on space policy, 16 June, 2024.
- Delivered the lecture on the future of space security, LSE IDEAS Alumni Ukraine, 26 June, 2024.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

LSE IDEAS Space Policy created a platform for short, accessible publications on issues related to current dynamics and challenges pertaining to space policy and politics. There is also a forthcoming policy brief by experts based at the International Space University.

Highlights below (see full list on the project website):

- 2024. D. Strokos, 'The Transformation of India's Space Policy: From Space for Development to the Pursuit of Security and Prestige', co-authored with Dr Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, *Space Policy*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spacepol.2024.101633>.
- 2024. D. Strokos, 'NATO's Space Policy and the Global Context: Issues and Challenges'. In: Fasola, N. et al (eds) *Space: Exploring NATO's Final Frontier*, NATO Allied Command Transformation, Università di Bologna, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Available at: <https://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/9781954445024.pdf>.
- 2024. D. Strokos, 'Space Diplomacy? India's New Regional Policy under Modi and the "South Asia Satellite"', *India Review* 23 (1): 46-70.

- 2023 D. Strokos, 'Still Lost in Space? Understanding China and India's Anti-Satellite Tests Through an Eclectic Approach', *Astropolitics*, 21 (2-3): 179-205.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

- 2024 Co-organiser with Mariel Borowitz, Georgia Institute of Technology and Alanna Krolkowski, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and speaker at the International Relations and Cislunar Space Workshop, International Studies Association Annual Meeting 2024, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, San Francisco, USA.
- 2024 'Bound to Lead? China as a 'partial' great power in space', Paper presented at the 65th Annual Convention of the International Studies, San Francisco, USA.
- 2023 'The Global Context of Space Activities', Paper presented at the international academic conference on 'Space—Exploring NATO's Final Frontier', organised by the NATO Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, the University of Bologna, and the Istituto Affari Internazionali (upon invitation), 8-10 November 2023, Forlì, Italy.
- 2023 'Astro-nomics and the Politics of the New Space Race', sold-out event organised by the Science Museum, London, 13 September.



'Deciphering China's ambitions in space' co-hosted by the IR Department and LSE IDEAS, with onnor Horsfall, Juliana Suess, Robert Kerby, James Kynge, Dimitrios Strokos, and Chris Alden (Chair). 30 April 2024

Astro-nomics and the Politics of the New Space Race, sold-out event organised by the Science Museum, London, 13 September, 2023

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Professor Chris Alden and
Professor Álvaro Méndez
Directors

Rosalie Roechert
Project Coordinator



The Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI) is a research initiative that investigates the role of international organisations, multilateral development banks, and commercial financial institutions in generating resources for sustainable development. A particular focus of this research is the implementation of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria. The main objective of the SDI is to unite the expertise of academics, practitioners, policy makers, and business leaders who aim at achieving the UN 2030 Agenda. Based at LSE IDEAS, the SDI has been producing high-impact publications in some of the most renowned peer-reviewed journals.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

Partnering with the Global South Unit (GSU), the SDI is publishing the GSU Working Paper Series. The publication of this series is funded with the generous grants provided by the Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation (MCIN).

In an international team of researchers, Professor Méndez and Professor Forcadell have recently completed the second year of a three-year grant from the MCIN to investigate sustainable development issues in developing countries.

PUBLICATIONS

- Ubeda, Fernando, Méndez, Álvaro, Forcadell, Francisco Javier, & López, Belén. (2024). [How socially sustainable multinational banks promote financial inclusion in developing countries](#). *Research in International Business and Finance*, 71, 102470.
- Ubeda, F., Méndez, A. & Forcadell, F.J. (2024). [Sustainable banking and trust in the global South](#). *Global Policy*, 15 (Suppl. 1), 34–44.
- Méndez, A. (2023). [Latin American agency: The New Development Bank, Uruguay's accession and Brazilian influence](#). *Global Policy*, 15 (2), 405-413.
- Úbeda, Fernando, Méndez, Álvaro, & Forcadell, Francisco. (2022). [The sustainable practices of multinational banks as drivers of financial inclusion in developing countries](#). *Finance Research Letters*, 103278.
- Forcadell, Francisco Javier, Lorena, Antonio, & Aracil, Elisa. (2022). [The firm under the spotlight: How stakeholder scrutiny shapes corporate social responsibility and its influence on performance](#). *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*. doi:10.1002/csr.2417.
- Turzi, Mariano, & Méndez, Álvaro. (2022). [Latin America in/and the AIIB: A Constructivist Analysis](#). *Vestnik RUDN. International Relations*, 22 (3), 478-494.
- Ubeda, Fernando, Méndez, Álvaro, & Forcadell, Francisco. (2022). [The Sustainable Practices of Multinational Banks as Drivers of Financial Inclusion in Developing Countries](#). *LSE GSU Working Paper Series*, 8 (1).
- Úbeda, Fernando, Forcadell, Francisco Javier, Aracil, Elisa, & Méndez, Álvaro. (2022). [How sustainable banking fosters the SDG 10 in weak institutional environments](#). *Journal of Business Research*, 146, 277-287.
- Méndez, Álvaro, Forcadell, Francisco Javier, & Ubeda, Fernando. (2021). [Sustainable Banking in the Global South: ESG Innovations in China](#). *Digital Economy and Innovation Journal*.
- Úbeda, Fernando, Forcadell, Francisco Javier, & Suárez, Nuria. (2021). [Do formal and informal institutions shape the influence of sustainable banking on financial development?](#). *Finance Research Letters*.
- García R, Enrique, & Méndez, Álvaro. (2021). [Mañana Today: A Long View of Economic Value Creation in Latin America](#). *Global Policy*.

TURKEY AND THE WORLD

Dr Buğra Süssler
Head of Programme



LSE Festival panel "Global Middle Powers and the Changing World Order", 12 June 2024, L-R: Professor Yaprak Gürsoy, Professor Chris Alden, Dr Yolanda Spies, Dr Buğra Süssler.

Turkey's standing as an emerging power has evolved since the turn of the 21st Century and its new forays into regions such as Central Asia, Africa and Latin America have attracted wide international attention. From its initiatives in the Horn of Africa to its involvement in civil wars in the Middle East, Ankara's formulation of a 'new' Turkish foreign policy reflects changing domestic and external factors; it also reflects an overall trend away from Western orientation to an emerging-power foreign policy. LSE IDEAS Turkey and the World aims to contribute to academic and policy debates on contemporary trends in Turkish foreign policy and Turkey's global engagement.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- Süssler, B. 2024. "Turkey's Contestation of the West does not mean a lack of cooperation with the West". *LSE European Politics and Policy (EUROPP)*. 29 May 2024.
- Alden, C. and Süssler, B. 2024. "Brokering Peace: Middle Powers, Mediation, and Agency", and "Emerging Powers, African Agency, and Islam". Papers presented in the 65th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA). San Francisco, CA. 3-6 April 2024.
- Süssler, B. 2023. "China's Influence in the eastern Mediterranean", 13 December 2023, and "Power Shifts in the Mediterranean", 19 September 2023. Research presentation for the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).
- Süssler, B. 2023. "Renewed momentum in Turkey-China relations". *China-Global South Project*. 15 September 2023.
- Süssler, B. and Alden, C. 2023. "Emerging Powers, African Agency, and Islam". Paper presented in International Studies Association (ISA) International Conference. Al Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco, 21-23 June 2023.

EVENTS

The programme organised three events this year:

- A lecture by Ambassador Koray Ertaş, the Turkish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, titled 'Turkish Foreign Policy at its Centenary' was held on 6 December 2023. This event marked the centenary of the Republic of Turkey and discussed recent trends in Turkish foreign policy. It was chaired by Professor Chris Alden and attended by the students in the Executive MSc in International Strategy and Diplomacy programme and the wider LSE community.
- An online public event titled 'NATO Enlargement and Türkiye's Partnership with the West' took place on 24 January 2024, in collaboration with LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies. This event brought together experts and practitioners to discuss Turkey's role in NATO, particularly in light of the organisation's recent enlargement. The speakers included Professor Sinem Akgül Açıkmeşe (Kadir Has University), Dr Lisel Hintz (Johns Hopkins University SAIS), and Ambassador (R) Tacan Ildem (former Assistant Secretary General of NATO, chairman of Istanbul-based think-tank EDAM). The session was chaired by Professor Yaprak Gürsoy (LSE).
- A public panel as part of the LSE Festival 2024, themed 'Power and Politics', was organised on 12 June 2024, in collaboration with LSE Contemporary Turkish Studies. The panel, titled 'Global Middle Powers and the Changing World Order', explored the foreign policies of emerging middle powers—including Turkey and South Africa—and their role in the changing global order. The speakers were Dr Yolanda Spies (Oxford), Professor Chris Alden (LSE), and Dr Buğra Süssler (LSE), with Professor Yaprak Gürsoy (LSE) chairing the session.

UN BUSINESS AND HUMAN SECURITY INITIATIVE

Dr Mary Martin
Director

Mark van Dorp
Research Associate

Dr Vesna Bojicic- Dzelilovic
Co-Director

Carla Russo
Research Assistant



MEXICO. Business leaders explore how to align social actions with core business strategies, moving from traditional philanthropy to impactful, sustainable interventions.



Project coordinators from Tec de Monterrey share the successes of the Campana Altamira Initiative, emphasising institutional partnerships and community-driven change.



LIBERIA. The Human Security Forum brings together farmers cooperatives and local tech innovators, showcasing sustainable solutions for rural livelihoods.



A fruitful meeting in Foequellah Town Hall with local officials, community leaders, and representatives of youth and women's organisations.

The programme is focussed on two current goals:

1. To create evidence and opportunities for uptake and mainstreaming of the Human Security Business Partnership Framework (HSBPF), developed in the first phase of its engagement grant with the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.
2. To improve impact with the private sector through responding to current policy and practice needs.

A new application of the HSBPF in Mexico—a Water Resilience Community in the Monterrey Metropolitan Area (AMM)—is underway in collaboration with the Center for the Future of Cities at Tec de Monterrey University. The water resilience focus is on how collective action can generate durable and sustainable solutions to climate change and deliver ecosystemic change. The programme organised a week-long field visit including presentations and stakeholder dialogues with leading companies such as FEMSA, Signux, ARCA, (Coca-Cola), Heineken, Control Risks, and the government of

Nuevo Leon. The British Embassy has also expressed interest in supporting the programme, and we are currently seeking funding for the initiative to continue beyond 2024.

In Liberia, the programme has worked with the UNTFHS-supported Digital Village initiative; this includes constructive exchanges with private sector actors—Liberia Chamber of Commerce; Firestone; Coca Cola; Arcelor Mittal—and the Ministry of Labour deputy minister on how the programme's HSBPF can be used to structure multi-stakeholder partnerships, towards implementing digitally-enabled services for agriculture and livelihoods in six locations.

A substantial part of activities during the year has focused on developing a **human security-informed approach to environmental, social and governance impact assessment (ESG)** by the private sector. The programme submitted to the UN a proposal for a new approach to social impact assessment. In parallel, it participated in public consultations conducted by the two major global standard setting and rating agencies: OECD and the Global Sustainability

Standards Board. We submitted proposals that outline the value added of the human security approach in improving existing standards and practices.

A collaboration with the CSR Europe—a business association of leading European companies through an MoU which establishes LSE IDEAS as the association's knowledge partner—has focused on improving policy and practice around business accountability and supply chain transparency. Its members include leading European companies. Joint activities included:

- contribution to the CSR Leadership Materials Hub's position paper on 'Sustainable Raw Materials Sourcing: From Compliance to Impactful Social Engagement';
- presentations at two Leadership Hub's meetings in 2023, the CSR annual conference in 2024 and the CSR-LSE IDEAS jointly-convened panel at the OECD annual meeting on responsible minerals in 2024, at which the HSBP was introduced in the framework of discussions on sustainability issues.

The results of the CSR-led consultations with the private sector were outlined in the **'Business Manifesto for a Social Green Deal 2024-2029'** policy paper presented to European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen, members of the European Parliament, and the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian EU Presidencies of the Council of the EU. A significant strand of work during the year has focused on policy and practice implications of the new EU legislation on corporate accountability and due diligence.

The programme expanded working relationships with existing and new partners. In 2023 it joined a research consortium led by International Alert selected competitively by the UK FCDO to undertake research on private sector engagement in promoting peace and development. Unsuccessful consortium grant submissions were made to the European Commission Horizon programme and the Norwegian Research Council. An award of £16,000 from the Dutch Knowledge Management Fund has led to ongoing collaboration beyond the duration of the grant.

The programme has been invited to join the Business and Peace Research Initiative 2030, which is coordinated by the University of Oslo and aims to establish a virtual Business for Peace Institute to advance research, global outreach and engagement.

The Human Impact Pathway—a resource combining data and advisory services to companies and investors on how to understand and improve their social impact—was launched in June at an LSE Business Breakfast, chaired by Larry Kramer. Dr Mary Martin spoke alongside the Lord Mayor of London about the UN Business and Human Security Initiative as the LSE's contribution to the ability of UK organisations to solve global problems. Following the meeting, companies such as Chanel, Federated Hermes and Primark, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), and the International Chamber of Commerce have expressed an interest in helping pilot the Human Impact Pathway as it continues to develop. A website has been established www.humanimpactpathway.com, and a series of short video clips of leading companies speaking about their approach

to social impact is also in preparation. The first has been completed with EY and others with Heineken and Suez are planned.

The programme has also been active in training and capacity-building. A commission from United World Colleges led to the design and testing of a novel curriculum on human security as a tool for system change, alongside a companion curriculum from LSE Inclusion Initiative on inclusive leadership. The curricula aimed at Sixth Form students will be launched in September and is being rolled out at select UWC venues worldwide as part of a new International Baccalaureate syllabus. The programme is developing a new course on business responsibility and sustainability which will be piloted through LSE IDEAS short courses and the Erasmus Institute in the Netherlands.

WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY

Prof Karen E. Smith
Director

Marta Kozielska
Project Manager

Women are still underrepresented in diplomacy and foreign policy, particularly in senior positions.

Although women's representation in leadership roles within national diplomatic services and multilateral organisations varies widely across countries and organisations, under 21% of ambassadors worldwide were women in 2023.

Despite a proliferation of networks advocating for women across sectors, purported support by numerous governments for increasing women's representation in negotiations, and research illustrating the benefits of including women in negotiations, numerous barriers persist which prevent women from taking on leadership roles in diplomacy and foreign policy.

The Women in Diplomacy project was set up at LSE IDEAS to help address this issue, to understand what obstacles remain, and how they can be overcome. The project works to address the issues of women's underrepresentation in diplomacy and foreign policy, particularly in senior positions, and the lack of gender considerations in foreign policy-making.

The project also launched its social media account allowing to connect with wider audiences. The Women in Diplomacy LinkedIn account is now live.

RESEARCH

Research is an integral element of LSE IDEAS projects and an essential component of developing and disseminating nuanced insights on women leadership and gender considerations in foreign policy and policy-making. The first Women in Diplomacy research project was launched in May 2022; titled 'An examination of women's leadership in multilateral diplomacy', the ongoing project examines women's leadership in international and multilateral organisations, aiming to understand the causes of potentially changing gender and organisational structures across international and multilateral organisations. By collaborating with and interviewing designated women leaders in multilateral and international settings, the project will help analyse and streamline potential (transferable) solutions toward promoting a more balanced representation and increasing female leadership in diplomacy and foreign policy.

Between July 2023 and July 2024, we interviewed: state adviser in Romania's Department for the Relations with Romanians Abroad and a member of the Cabinet of the President of Romania, Sandra Pralong; Deputy Head of UK Delegation to EU, Nicole Mannion; Director, Health at Gates Foundation, High-level Commissioner, Health, Employment and Economic Growth and SDG Global Advocate at United Nations, Alaa Murabit; US Ambassador to the UK, Jane Hartley; Georgia's former Ambassador to Germany, Gabriela von Habsburg; and Deputy Director-General of Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, Mitsuko Hayashi.

All conversations are available as [podcasts](#), with audience figures for all interviews averaging approximately 1500 listeners as of July 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

A strategic update on 'Feminist Foreign Policy' was published on 26 October 2023.

The first edition of the report summarising results from the research project (as above), titled 'Strengthening the Representation of Women in Diplomacy: Challenges and Policy Solutions', was published on 24 June 2024. The first edition of the report serves as a basis for further dialogue and discussion with women's networks and international organisations, across countries and regions, with a view of building it out in subsequent editions.

EVENTS, ENGAGEMENTS, COLLABORATIONS

The project continues to engage with the academic and practitioner community on issues surrounding women leadership and gender in policy-making. Highlights include:

- **Seminar on Feminist Foreign Policy** (October 2023): The WiD team delivered a seminar discussing preliminary findings from the Strategic Update on Feminist Foreign Policy, hosted by the Women, Peace and Security Centre at LSE.
- **Conference on Women's Underrepresentation in Diplomacy** (October 2023): Marta Kozielska delivered a talk on women's underrepresentation in diplomacy and the role of universities, centres, and think tanks in addressing this issue at the International Conference organised by the Ratiu Democracy Centre, University of Iceland, and Babeş-Bolyai University.
- **LSE Careers Event** (February 2024): In collaboration with the Women, Peace and Security Centre at LSE, the WiD team hosted an LSE Careers Event titled 'Women in Security, Peace Processes, and Diplomacy'. The panel discussion featured prominent speakers such as Kirtbir Chahal (Senior Nuclear Skills Policy Manager, UK Dept for Energy Security and Net Zero), Alice Courlander (Second Secretary, Afghanistan, British High Commission to Pakistan), Oona Burke (Team Leader, EU-Liberia Facilitation Office, New York), and Mariana Herrera-Salcedo Serrano (Third Secretary, Economic Affairs, Embassy of Mexico to the UK). The panel was moderated by Professor Karen E. Smith.
- **ParliGender Talk** (March 2024): During Women's History Month, the WiD team delivered a talk to ParliGender (the gender equality network in the UK Parliament) on the topic of underrepresentation of women in policy and diplomacy.

- **International Studies Association (ISA) Conference** (April 2024): Professor Karen E. Smith presented preliminary findings from the research project at the ISA Conference in San Francisco, discussing barriers and potential solutions to women's underrepresentation in senior leadership positions in diplomacy.
- **GenDip Project Presentation** (May 2024): Professor Karen E. Smith discussed findings from the research project with researchers involved in the GenDip project at the University of Gothenburg.
- **Luncheon at the Austrian Embassy** (June 2024): The WiD team delivered a presentation and hosted a discussion with European state representatives on barriers and potential solutions to female underrepresentation in diplomacy. This event was organized by Ambassador Katharina Rauscher at the Austrian Embassy.
- **Presentation to the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the European Union** (July 2024): Professor Karen E. Smith presented findings from the published report at the invitation of the Permanent Representative of Croatia.
- These activities reflect the project's ongoing commitment to addressing gender disparities in leadership and policy-making through research, dialogue, and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.



Working lunch at the Austrian Ambassador's Residence in London



Speaking at 'Transnational Politics, Gender (In)Equalities and Collective Memory: Romanian-Icelandic Perspectives' Conference.



Meeting with diplomats in Brussels at the invitation of Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU and Ambassador Irena Androssy.



Meeting with Ambassador Jane Hartley, US Ambassador to the UK.

EXECUTIVE MSC INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY

The Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy is a unique Programme designed to enhance the strategic vision of global leaders. Through innovative teaching by world-class scholars and senior policy practitioners, the Programme provides both the analytical tools to understand a changing world and the policy skills to operate within it.

—Professor Chris Alden
Programme Director

STAFF

- Professor Chris Alden
Programme Director
- Hugh Sandeman
Head of Practitioners
- Dr Aaron McKeil
Academic Director and
Course Convenor
- Saniya Kulkarni
Executive Programme Manager
- Yuseong Choi
Executive Programme Assistant
- Marta Kozielska
Alumni Network Coordinator
- Professor Chris Alden,
Hugh Sandeman,
Dr Nicholas Kitchen,
Dr Aaron McKeil
Executive Programme
Teaching Faculty

SUMMARY

Since its inception in 2011, the Executive Masters Programme has attracted the highest calibre of professionals in diplomacy and international affairs, defence, international business, and finance. The Programme is tailored for those who operate in high pressure environments and with little time to spare. With its eleventh intake of students graduating in December 2022, the Executive MSc in International Strategy and Diplomacy has quickly gained a reputation as one of the leading courses in strategic thinking in the world.

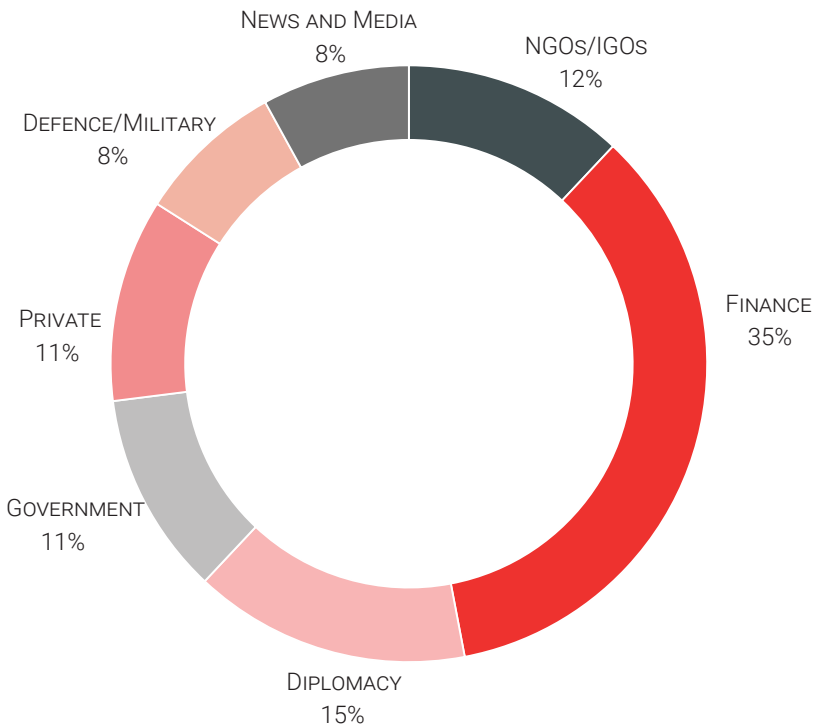
STUDENTS

The twenty-eight students admitted in 2023/24 came from over ten different industries across the public and private sectors. This balance is most important in stimulating group discussions with a variety of views and perspectives. The backgrounds of past and current students cover a wide range of professions and sectors including international affairs, defence, finance, international business, and NGOs. See below for a breakdown of the current cohort's professional backgrounds.

CONTENT

The programme begins by taking a fresh look at the nature of strategy, explaining why new approaches are needed and offering a rigorous assessment of the assumptions that underpin strategy. This is followed by modules introducing students to the craft of diplomacy in practice, through themes on the nature of diplomacy, diplomacy and peacebuilding, and case studies of breakthrough diplomacy in practice. The next modules focus on the different types of risks and threats that may occur in the decades ahead. Finally, there is a series of exercises aimed to transform strategy into practice.

Industry-wise distribution of students 2023/24:



STRUCTURE

Through interactive seminars and workshops, participants engage directly with both senior academics and practitioners. The year-long programme consists of:

- Four intensive weeks of lectures and seminars spread throughout the year
- Two policy workshop weekends
- Twenty evening lectures and seminars.

The programme is offered to students via two routes of participation: residential and non-residential. The residential route is delivered fully in-person. The non-residential route has a mixed-delivery, with in-person core taught components (four intensive weeks and two policy weekends), complemented by hybrid weekly sessions. This modified delivery has provided greater flexibility for students.

The non-residential route meets the needs of executive students in demanding professional roles who are unable to attend the weekly in-person sessions. Attending the core components of the programme through in-person intensive teaching weeks, while participating in regular online weekly sessions throughout the year offers these professionals the ability to balance their professional and academic commitments.

FACULTY

A vast range of highly experienced and well-known academics and policymakers from LSE, other universities, think tanks, international organisations and government departments—both in the UK and abroad—keep the course intellectually stimulating, topical, and highly relevant.

ALUMNI

Upon graduation from the Executive Programme, students join the LSE IDEAS Alumni Network; a constantly growing and diverse global network of leaders, professionals and experts as well as the dynamic LSE IDEAS community. With over 380 professionals, the Alumni Network is increasingly active with continued initiatives to share, connect, and engage in discussions surrounding international strategy, diplomacy and current affairs. With unique insight into LSE IDEAS activities, Alumni are key to the life of the Centre and are invited to participate in public and exclusive events, form partnerships, share expertise, and learn from our faculty and fellows.

The flagship annual Alumni Policy Weekend took place on Saturday, 15th June 2024, in a hybrid format to allow those based outside of London and the UK to join remotely, whilst offering the opportunity to network and interact with other attendees and speakers to those who wish to attend in person. Titled “The Return of History: Can We Do Better Strategy?”, it featured Faculty and Alumni speakers as well as industry experts. The event gathered Alumni across 10 cohorts, spanning years 2015 - 2024. The Alumni Policy Weekend was organised in close collaboration with the Alumni Committee to facilitate timely discussions, insightful panels, and a networking opportunity for all. This year the Committee was represented by Remi Meehan, Kartherine Urbaez, Nurolamin Abas and Massimiliano Magi (Class of 2023).

One the key objectives of the Alumni Network is to ensure regular contact to keep Alumni connected with relevant LSE, LSE IDEAS and network-exclusive initiatives. This is achieved through a regular newsletter ‘The Strategist’, and a private Alumni LinkedIn

group. Additionally, the Alumni Network works closely with Alumni to share and spotlight their profiles in the media which gives them an opportunity to share their story and speak about the value and impact of the Executive MSc Programme.

IMPACT

The impact that the executive programme has had on the group is best expressed in students’ own words:

“As a former Australian diplomat, the course structure enabled me to think critically about the strategy sitting behind diplomatic practice. It provided a welcome academic distance for thinking and writing about my contributions to the field from a higher vantage point [...] It was at LSE IDEAS that we were taught to be straightforwardly confident in our own voices and ideas, which is not always straightforward for women in diplomacy.”—Sarah Leary, Assistant Commissioner, Australian Productivity Commission.

“The Executive Master’s Programme has been an intellectually stimulating and thoroughly enriching experience [...] The high-quality teaching has been matched by the diverse, international cohort of students from different professional fields, each providing their unique perspective. I have already started applying insights and learnings in my organisation and look forward to leaning on the newly gained expertise and skillsets for my next careers steps.”—Christoph Saenger, Head of Competitiveness Policy, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.”—Christoph Saenger, Head of Competitiveness Policy, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



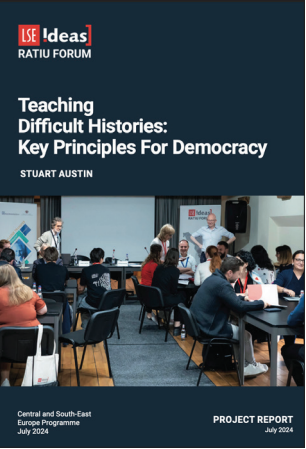
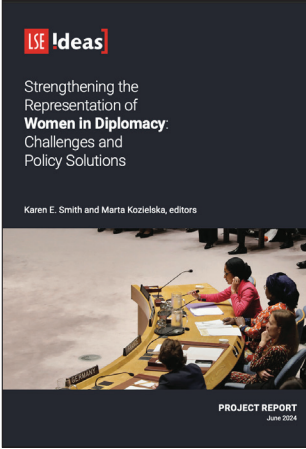
Alumni Policy Weekend

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Rohan Mukherjee
IDEAS Deputy Director

Stuart Austin
Editor

Indira Endaya
Designer



This year's publications reached a total audience of 48,321 readers: 36,411 via our webpage uploads and 11,910 from our JSTOR open access platform (see below).

This year, we have formalised our commissioning and editing process, as well as redefined our categories and their formats. The revised formats are as follows:

Strategic Update

- Length: 15-20 minutes read, 4,000-5,000 words
- Description: Forward-looking paper addressing an emerging strategic issue, concluding with policy advice.

Project Report

- Length: 15-25 minutes read, 4,000-6,000 words
- Description: Report detailing the proceedings and findings of a conference, seminar, or other output tied to an LSE IDEAS project or programme.

Research Report

- Length: 6,000-10,000 words
- Description: Long-form report drawn from a research project or stand-alone conference, usually multi-authored and co-branded. Expect a minimum of two months for publication turnaround.
- Working Paper
- Description: Paper tied to an LSE IDEAS research project in advance of journal publication.

Expert Analysis (formerly Occasional Paper)

- Length: 10-15 minutes read, 3,000-4,000 words
- Description: Analysis from an LSE IDEAS academic, associate, or guest contributor addressing a current foreign policy issue or historical context theme, typically including policy recommendations.

Additionally, we have implemented a new commissioning form that requires authors to submit abstracts for their topics to be included in the production pipeline.

JSTOR OPEN ACCESS PLATFORM

JSTOR's Open Research Reports platform aggregates more than 39,000 research reports from over 140 policy institutes and think tanks, on disciplines and topics that include climate change, cybersecurity, energy policy, international relations, and terrorism. LSE IDEAS currently contributes over 150 research reports published between 2010 and the present, enhancing discoverability and amplifying the reach of our knowledge-driven content to a wider audience. Our publications received 11,910 access requests for 2023/24, out of a total of 20,135 since the platform was established in December 2022.

2023/24 PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Journals

1. Nations and Nationalism
2. Space Policy: An International Journal

Project Reports

- Stuart Austin, *Teaching Difficult Histories: Key Principles for Democracy* (July 2024) [CSEEP]
- Karen E. Smith and Marta Kozielska, *Strengthening the Representation of Women in Diplomacy: Challenges and Policy Solutions* (June 2024) [Women in Diplomacy]

Research Reports

- Richard Higgott, *The Decline and Rise of Hegemonic Narratives: From Globalisation and the 'Asia-Pacific' to Geopolitics and the 'Indo-Pacific'* (April 2024)
- Antonio Giustozzi, *Crisis and adaptation of the Islamic State in Khorasan* (February 2024)
- Hugh Sandeman, *Restoring Competitive Politics: Electoral Contestation and the Future in Turkey and India, and Iran and Russia* (October 2023)

Strategic Updates

- Ivan Lidarev, *China-US competition in the Balkans: Impact, regional responses, and larger implications* (November 2023)
- Jonathan Liebenau, *China's Semiconductors: Reflections on Sources and Solutions to an Expensive Problem* (November 2023)
- Caroline Green, Marta Kozielska and Karen E. Smith, *Is Feminist Foreign Policy driving progress for women's representation in diplomacy?* (October 2023)
- Global Strategies, *NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept: One Year On* (September 2023)

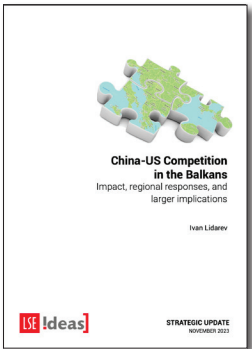
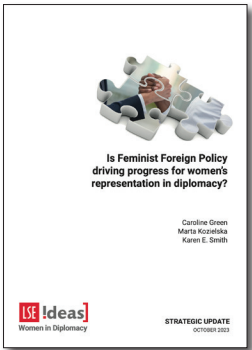
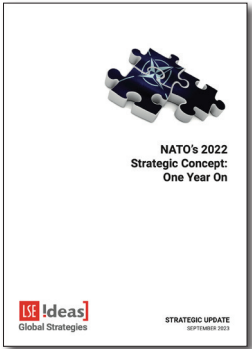


Numbers from
JSTOR OPEN ACCESS

150
RESEARCH REPORTS

11,910
ACCESS REQUESTS
IN 2023/2024

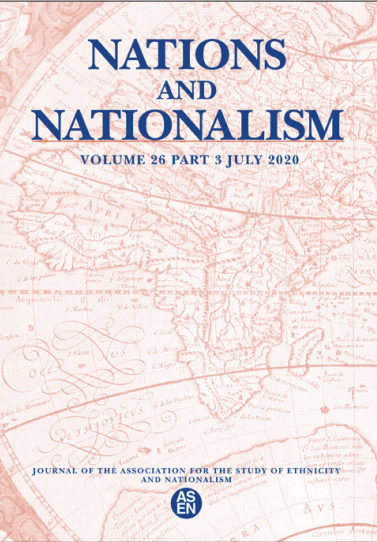
20,135
TOTAL ACCESS REQUESTS
SINCE 2022



JOURNALS

LSE IDEAS proudly houses two leading academic journals.

NATIONS AND NATIONALISM



Nationalism is the central political issue of the modern world. The demise of the Soviet Union witnessed the proliferation of nationalist and ethnic conflicts, including wars, across the world. The rise of populism and the ‘new’ nationalism have highlighted the relevance of emerging value cleavages and cultural grievances. The consequent explosion of interest in ethnicity and nationalism has created an urgent need for systematic study in this field.

Published quarterly by Wiley and affiliated with LSE IDEAS, *Nations and Nationalism* was founded to satisfy that need. As a scholarly, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary journal, *Nations and Nationalism* is designed to respond to the rapid growth of research in the study of nationalism and nationalist movements throughout the world. It is the only journal in the English-speaking world specifically devoted to the study of nations and nationalism in all their manifestations and varieties, both in the past and present, and across the globe.

Recent issues include the 2023 annual lecture on Ukraine by Andrew Wilson; a set of articles on nation promotion and the crisis of neoliberal globalisation; a debate on the 2022 book, *The New Nationalism in America and Beyond*, by Robert Schertzer and Eric T. Woods.

IMPACT

The 2023 Journal Impact Factor of 1.5 was released in June 2024 (2.2 IF in 2022)

Ethnic Studies ranking: **16/39 Q2** (2022 ranking: 9/20)

History ranking: **6/518 Q1** (2022 ranking: 1/101)

Political Science ranking: **133/317 Q2** (2022 ranking: 72/187)

Sociology ranking: **102/2017 Q2** (2022 ranking: 71/149)

EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

Nations and Nationalism Annual Lecture: The 2024 Anthony D. Smith Nationalism Lecture was delivered by Lars-Erik Cederman on ‘Nationalism and the transformation of the state’, on 9 April at the University of Edinburgh. The full version was published in the July 2024 issue of the journal.

The third Anthony D. Smith Visiting Fellowship was awarded to Timo Aava, University of Vienna, on the topic ‘Minorities and the State. Non-Territorial Autonomy in Estonia in the Late Tsarist and Interwar Periods’. He will take up the fellowship based at LSE IDEAS in the spring of 2025.

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ASEN

JOURNALS

SPACE POLICY JOURNAL



The LSE IDEAS Space Policy Project houses *Space Policy: An International Journal*, published by Elsevier four times a year.

Space Policy is an international, interdisciplinary journal which draws on the fields of international relations, economics, history, aerospace studies, security studies, development studies, political science and ethics to provide discussion and analysis of space activities in their political, economic, industrial, legal, cultural and social contexts.

Alongside full-length papers, which are subject to a double-blind peer review system, the journal publishes opinion pieces, case studies and short reports and, in so doing, it aims to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions and a means by which authors can alert policy makers and international organizations to their views. *Space Policy* is also a journal of record, reproducing, in whole or part, official documents such as treaties, space agency plans or government reports relevant to the space community. Views expressed in the journal are not necessarily those of the editors or members of the editorial board.

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Dan Hurst
Communications Officer



43,293

X FOLLOWERS



14,827

X ENGAGEMENTS



18,008

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



2,246

YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS



4,035

YOUTUBE HOURS WATCHED



284,227

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS



6,109

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS



95,322

LINKEDIN IMPRESSIONS



Numbers from BlueSky PR

51 PIECES OF MEDIA COVERAGE

802,000 ESTIMATED VIEWS

(prediction of lifetime views of coverage, based on audience reach and engagement rate on social)

316 MILLION COMBINED TOTAL

of publication-wide audience figures for all outlets featuring coverage

1,420 ENGAGEMENTS

combined total of likes, comments and shares on social media platforms

Throughout the 2023/24 academic year we have continued to expand our digital activities focusing on LinkedIn, X (Twitter) and YouTube. This has enabled us to grow the size of our following particularly amongst our target audiences of public, private and third sector professionals particularly those working in policy making and academia.

Public events taking place have largely shifted back to either solely in-person or online post-pandemic, even so we have continued to record where possible and publish these for use by our audience after the event. Our use of social media to deliver both pre- and post- event promotion has continued successfully.

One key decision following analytics monitoring was to increase the number of events we produce solely as podcasts. In late 2023 the decision was taken to move the Russia-Ukraine Dialogues into podcast format along with expanding the Women in Diplomacy podcast series. This was highly successful, with the 12 podcasts produced by the latter being downloaded a combined 17,745 times.

Across our social media presence, we have been agile in terms of the content we produce to meet the demanding and changing needs of our audiences. This has been demonstrated in the continued expansion of our LinkedIn presence through audience targeting, including scrollable native content of publications and follower outreach to engage wider with the network we are targeting.

In addition, our YouTube channel has continued to provide lucrative results demonstrating the appetite for our content. Subscribers have increased nearly 15% whilst our average views per video have increased 68.5%; we have also seen a similar rise in the average watch hours per video that shows our content is engaging.

The look and feel of our webpages are something we constantly update. The communications officer works closely with the project teams to ensure that their websites reflect the most recent work and we have continued to develop more multi-page sites for projects with enough output. Another major development has been the redesign to reflect the new publication's structure launched in 2024. The separation of research and project reports, strategic updates and expert analysis has enabled a more user-friendly experience, as well as shorter and well-organised publication lists.

We send regular updates to our mailing list to reflect both the academic publications we produce as well as upcoming events, recent podcasts and news articles. Across our two mailing lists we now have 6,652 subscribers.

BLUESKY HEADLINE STATS

BlueSky PR are a specialist PR firm we have worked with for several years to ensure that we maximise our reach, particularly with international audiences. Our academics have featured in 61 pieces of coverage this year in outlets such as Forbes, The Washington Times, The Express, and NewsWeek—with an estimated viewership of 7,320,000 people.

EVENTS SUMMARY

Dave Sutton
Events Manager



46

TOTAL

(Oct '23 – July '24)



16

PUBLIC EVENTS



2

CONFERENCES



21

PRIVATE EVENTS

7

OTHER



12

OF WHICH WERE ONLINE

1

OF WHICH WAS HYBRID

This past year has been a transformational year for the LSE IDEAS events team. Primarily this seems to have been due to the tragic loss of one of our directors—Professor Christopher Coker—before the start of the academic year. Christopher had a hand in a lot of events and projects, with a seemingly endless list of contacts, speakers and topics that were run by us. It was therefore no surprise that his memorial event was just about the single largest event we staged this year.

It is also not a surprise that the knock-on effect of him no longer being with us is that our events output has taken a hit—down on last year's total. It is going to take a while to get the event number back up as other people take up the reins of contacts—old and new—and get things moving again.

The other change that has been noticeable, and is a continuation from last year, is that the proportion of invite-only or private discussion meetings and events has increased—now accounting for 50% of our output. This trend is also magnified by this year's decrease in public events.

Following on from last year as the first year fully out of COVID-19 lockdowns, most of the events have been on campus. Some have been online-only, while the hybrid events now only account for a handful of the total.

Aside from rebuilding contacts, many of the issues that the LSE IDEAS events team face this year are the same as before: the ongoing challenges that come from competing with the academic teaching timetable means that room booking and availability is a difficult process at times; this often means that events cannot get the room or dates that would be wanted. The other problem is that the PLP dates are often so far in advance of the thinking of event convenors that we have little chance of getting an event on the programme and therefore getting a boost from the central marketing team.

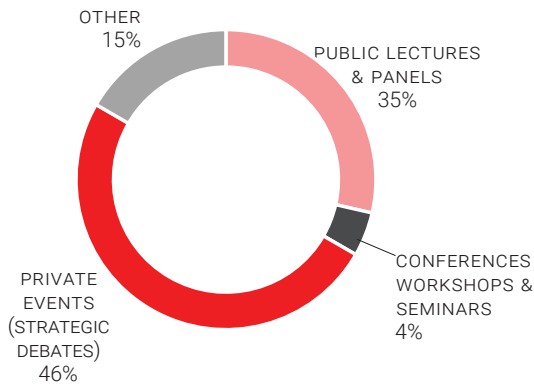
For the events we do run, we now operate a pre-registration process which enables us to keep a track of numbers and then upsize or downsize the room as appropriate to ensure the event has a good atmosphere and attendance high enough for the panellists. This also enables us to be more efficient on the costs of catering. Slow sign-ups however seem to be an LSE-wide issue (and possibly wider).

Over the next year we aim to remedy the issues mentioned above with more lead-in time, overlap between projects and other departments, and event topics and speakers that are of broader appeal to the public and students. We will also amend our feedback approach to try to get better data to help develop our events in the future.

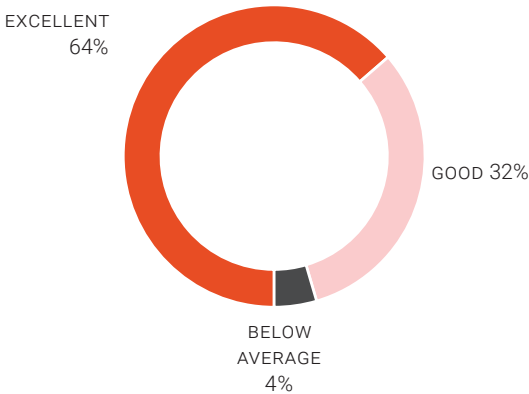


EVENTS STATISTICS FOR 2023/24

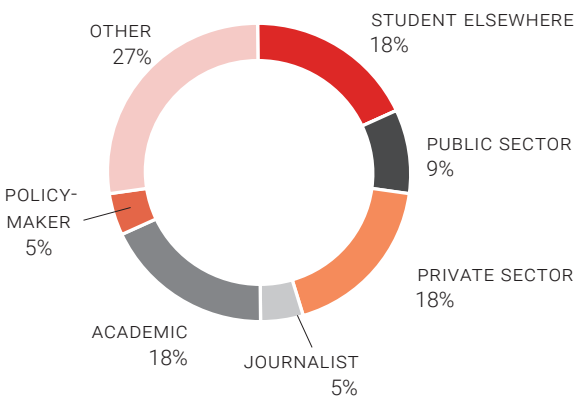
Events breakdown



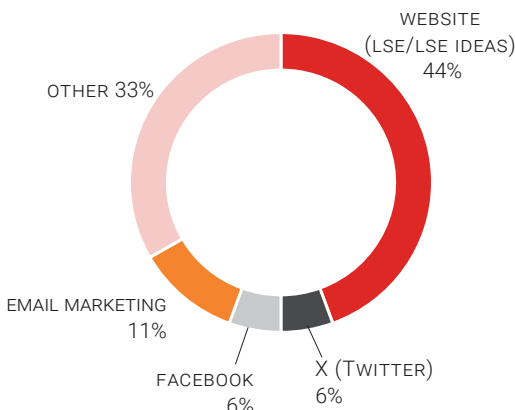
Public lecture feedback



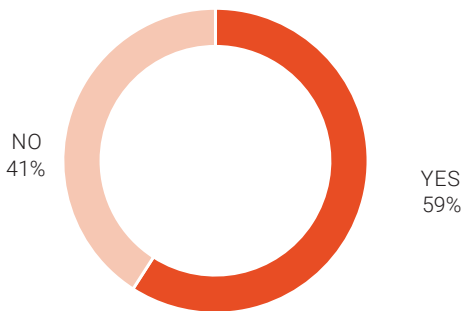
Participants background



How attendees heard about LSE IDEAS Events



First-time attendees



EVENTS LIST

MICHAELMAS TERM

Russia-Ukraine Dialogues: The Evolution of Cyber Warfare

3 October 2023
Chair: Dr Leon Hartwell
Speakers: Prof Alexander Crowther, Dr Nadiya Kostyuk, and Ambassador Tanel Sepp
Public webinar

A Global System in Transition and Ukraine’s Reconstruction

18th October 2023
Speaker: Hugh Sandeman
Private webinar

Fireside Chat - LSE IDEAS Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy Programme

19 October 2023
Chair: Dr Aaron McKeil
Speaker: Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid
Private event—the topic of discussion was the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the history and role of LSE IDEAS in a changing international order.

Russia-Ukraine Dialogues: the war’s impact on the Western Balkans

24 October 2023
Chair: Dr Leon Hartwell
Speakers: Dr Kurt Bassuener and Dr Dimitar Bechev
Podcast

Management Committee meeting

31 October 2023
Various speakers
Private meeting

Advisory Board meeting

1 November 2023
Various speakers
Private meeting

Euro-Atlantic Strategy & Security: China in the Balkans

20 November 2023
Speakers: Dr Spyros Economides, Peter Jones CMG, and Dr Ivan Lidarev
Private event

China–US Competition in the Balkans

29 November 2023
Chair: Prof Michael Cox
Speakers: Dr Ivan Lidarev with Dr Eli Gateva and Dr Ana Krstinovska
Public event

Populism Responds to the Russia-Ukraine War

Friday, 24 November,
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speakers: Dr Rohan Mukherjee and Prof Maxi Shoeman
Private webinar - this is the second lecture under the Global System in Transition and Ukraine’s Reconstruction: Alumni lecture programme.

Memorial for Professor Christopher Coker

30 November 2023
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speakers: Prof Michael Cox, Prof Christopher Dandeker, Dr Anja Kaspersen, Dr Terence McNamee, and Nicolae Ratiu
Public event - celebrating the life and achievements of the former LSE IDEAS Director, Professor Christopher Coker, who died in September 2023.

Policymaking in the Digital Age: Lessons from Taiwan

1 December 2023
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speakers: Audrey Tang (Minister of Digital Affairs, Taiwan) and Dr Tristen Naylor
Public webinar

Turkish Foreign Policy at its Centenary

6 December 2023
Chair: Professor Chris Alden
Speaker: Dr Buğra Süsler
Public Lecture

The Contribution to Economic and Social Priorities of Defence Acquisition & Industry: Lessons from the UK’s Experience

11 December 2023
Speaker: Peter Watkins CB CBE
Private webinar—the third lecture under the Global System in Transition and Ukraine’s Reconstruction: Alumni lecture programme.



Public Panel, 'The Three Worlds: Does the Liberal Order have a Future?' 6 February 2024.

Inaugural event on 'The Future of UK Soft Power' at Wilton Park, 23 July 2024

Finance Manager:
Mireia Franch

LENT TERM

Russia-Ukraine Dialogues:
Taking the Pulse

16 January 2024,
Chair: Dr Leon Hartwell
Speakers: Prof Michael Cox, Dr
Tamara Krawchenko, and Dr
Nathalie Tocci
Public event

NATO Enlargement and
Türkiye’s Partnership
with the West

24 January 2024
Chair: Professor Yaprak Gürsoy
(LSE). Speakers: Professor
Sinem Akgül Açıkmeşe (Kadir
Has University), Dr Lisel Hintz
(Johns Hopkins University
SAIS), and Ambassador (R)
Tacan Ildem (former Assistant
Secretary General of NATO,
chairman of Istanbul-based
think-tank EDAM)
Online Public Event

Geoeconomics and
China-India Competition in
the Indo-Pacific Region

30 January 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Prof Robert Dygas
Private meeting

Russia-Ukraine Dialogues:
Women on the Frontlines

30 January 2024
Chair: Dr Leon Hartwell
Speakers: Diana Butsko,
Hanna Hopko, and Mariia
Zolkina
Public event

The Three Worlds: Does the
Liberal Order have a Future?

6 February 2024
Chair: Prof Michael Cox
Speakers: Prof G John
Ikenberry with Dr Rohan
Mukherjee, Prof Leslie
Vinjamuri, and Prof Ayse
Zarakol
Public Event

Russia-Ukraine Dialogues:
battlefield dynamics and
prospects for 2024

13 February 2024
Chair: Dr Leon Hartwell
Speaker: LTG Ben Hodges
Public event

Aid Data Workshop

16 February 2024
Private meeting

Sustainable Finance for a
Just Transition

11 March 2024, 16:30 GMT
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speaker: Prof Nick Robins
Private webinar–fourth Alumni
lecture under the Alumni
lecture series programme
delivered to Ukrainian civil
servants who completed the
LSE IDEAS short course

Explaining India’s Reluctance
to Support Targeted
Resolutions in the UN Human
Rights Council

21 March 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Dr Shubha Kamala
Prasad
Private event

SUMMER TERM

2024: A Tipping Point Year

24 April 2024
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speaker: Prof Michael Cox
Private webinar

Nationalism and Conflict in
South Asia

1 May 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Dr Manjari Chatterjee
Miller
Private event

Current strategic challenges
in East Asia: what we get
wrong

7 May 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Prof Evelyn Goh
Private event

The Unfinished Quest: India’s
Search for Major Power
Status from Nehru to Modi

8 May 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Prof T. V. Paul
Public event

International Order Strategies,
Past and Present

8 May 2024
Chair: Dr Aaron McKeil
Various speakers
Private meeting

Non-Traditional Security
Threats and the Decision-
making Mechanism in
Pakistan

11 June 2024
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speaker: Dr Saadia Zahoor
Public event

Global Middle Powers and the
Changing World Order

12 June 2024
Chair: Professor Yaprak
Gürsoy (LSE). Speakers:Dr
Yolanda Spies (Oxford),
Professor Chris Alden (LSE),
and Dr Buğra Süsler (LSE)
Public Panel, LSE Festival

LSE IDEAS Alumni Policy
Weekend

15 June 2024
Chairs: Prof Chris Alden and
Dr Aaron McKeil
Speakers: Carissa Bryce
Christensen,
Prof Michael Cox, Prof
Christopher Dandeker, Prof
Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, Dr
Aaron McKeil, Dr Dimitrios
Stroikos, and Peter Watkins
CB CBE
Private event

The Shape of Modern War:
Insights from Twentieth-
Century Conflicts

19 June 2024
Chair: Dr Luc-André Brunet
Various speakers

The Future of Space Security

26 June 2024
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speaker: Dr Dimitrios Stroikos
Private webinar

The Future of UK Soft Power

23 July 2024
Chairs: Prof Chris Alden and
Peter Jones
Speakers: Evie Aspinall, Helen
Jones, and Mona Lotten
Private event

The Blockade Contingency:
Taiwan’s Vulnerability and a
Plan for Action

24 July 2024
Private event

FUNDING SUMMARY

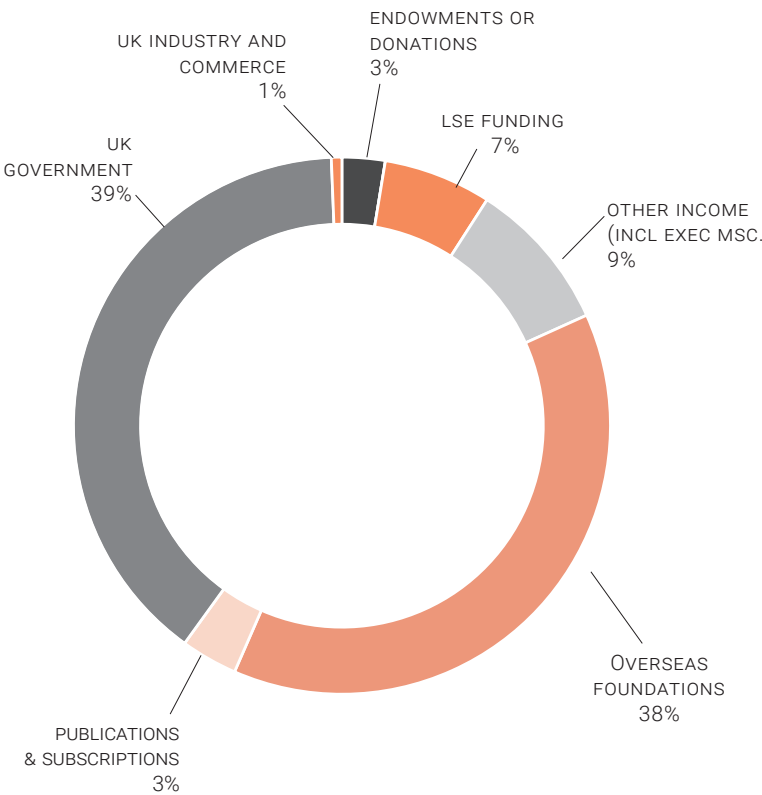
NEW FUNDING FOR CENTRE	2019/20	2020/21*	2021/22*	2022/23*	2023/24*
	£	£	£	£	£
Charities	0	0	0	0	0
Endowments or Donations	168,361	341,703	38,900	15,432	40,988
HEIF	2,500	0	0	0	0
LSE Funding	3,870	29,941	0	39,040	102,767
Other (incl. Exec. MSc)	121,682	140,376	145,913	104,129	144,834
Overseas Foundations	191,744	551,201	816,661	745,575	605,423
Publications and Subscriptions	42,790	74,000	63,117	30,191	54,000
UK Government	0	449,820	274,461	502,291	622,883
UK Industry and Commerce	1,500	0	25,000	37,379	10,000
TOTAL	532,447	1,587,041	1,364,052	1,474,037	1,580,895

* Includes funding from the Conflict and Civcness Research Group (CCRG). Excludes South Asia Centre (SAC).

NEW FUNDING (% OF TOTAL INCOME)

FISCAL YEAR 2023/24	
Endowments or Donations	3%
HEIF	0%
LSE Funding	7%
Other (incl. Exec. MSc)	9%
Overseas Foundations	38%
Publications and Subscriptions	3%
UK Government	39%
UK Industry and commerce	1%

* Includes: Executive MSc International
Strategy and Diplomacy



FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

FUNDING RECEIVED*
(amount awarded)

CONTRACT RESEARCH FUNDING	
	AMOUNT £
Charities	0
UK Government	622,883
UK Industry & Commerce	10,000
Overseas Foundations	605,423
Endowments or Donations	40,988
SUB-TOTAL	1,279,294
NON-CONTRACT RESEARCH FUNDING	
LSE Funding	102,767
HEIF	0
Publications & Subscriptions	54,000
Other (incl. Exec. MSc)	144,834
SUB-TOTAL	301,601
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED	£1,580,895

* Includes CCRG. Excludes SAC.

SUPPORTERS

£100,000 to £1,000,000

- Banco de Desarrollo de America Latina y el Caribe (CAF)
- LSE IDEAS Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy
- The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Universidad Europea de Madrid (UEM) - Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- University of California, Davis (UCD) - Strategic Partnership and Outreach

£10,000 to £99,999

- ASEN to Nations & Nationalism
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros de Madrid (CUNEF)—Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- Fundacion Universidad Intercontinental de la Empresa (UIE)—Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- International Institute of Business Management (IIBM) - Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- Lance Batchelor
- LSE Department of International Relations
- Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation
- Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ)
- The Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL)
- Ukraine Programme - Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- Ukraine Alumni Programme - Strategic Partnership and Outreach
- UWC Atlantic College

Less than £9,999

- Anonymous
- Charles Bishop
- Growth Hub Global Ltd
- Lim Pen-Yuan Cultural & Educational Foundation
- Open University
- Shanghai University MBA Centre - Strategic Partnership and Outreach

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT*

INCOME FROM	
	AMOUNT £
Charities	0
UK Government	622,883
UK Industry & Commerce	10,000
Overseas Foundations	635,401
Endowments & Donations	74,293
Opening Balance	469,766
SUB-TOTAL	£1,812,343
NON-CONTRACT RESEARCH INCOME	
LSE Funding	102,767
HEIF	0
Publications & Subscriptions	54,000
Other (incl. Exec. MSc)	144,834
SUB-TOTAL	301,601
TOTAL INCOME	£2,113,944
EXPENDITURE	
	AMOUNT £
Staff Costs	918,781
Non-Staff Costs	512,486
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	1,431,268
OVERHEADS	68,919
Opening balance 2024/25	£613,757

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER COKER (1953-2023)



Early this academic year, LSE IDEAS unexpectedly lost its co-Director, Professor Christopher Coker. Christopher joined IDEAS as Director in 2018, following his retirement from the LSE's International Relations Department where he taught International Relations for over 40 years. Christopher also sat on IDEAS' Management Committee, shaping the centre's strategic direction.

Prior to his appointment, Christopher had been a regular contributor to IDEAS over the years. From the beginning, he lectured on the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy course, where he was one of the most highly regarded speakers. In 2014, the Global Strategies project was established with Gordon Barrass and Christopher as its co-leaders, having previously contributed to roundtable discussions since 2010. His interventions in these regular and mostly private debates between LSE experts and UK policymakers were always carefully thought through, delivered in measured tones, and changed the course of the conversation. His perspective on any topic was an invitation to step out of the immediate assumptions and inferences into which most participants were locked, to take a longer and more critical view, and to be more honest in following through on the implications of strategies that states and individuals professed to hold. On the few occasions when Christopher was not around the table at Global Strategies discussion dinners, seminars, or public events, it felt as though some crucial ingredient was missing.

Christopher loved the discussion dinners with interesting people from Whitehall, and the bigger discussion projects on strategic issues. The highlight was the 2016, round-table discussion at Ditchley on 'Enhancing Decision Making in Foreign and Security Policy'; it was attended by 10 politicians, including the leader of the House, and 10 senior officers. Christopher, who was the rapporteur, boosted IDEAS' standing by the summaries he gave of the discussion, which were crisp and with bright touches of humour. It was these things, he said, that convinced him that he should take over from Professor Arne Westad as the Co-Director of IDEAS.

During his tenure as Director, Christopher oversaw and shepherded many key initiatives and new projects: the Central and South-East Europe Programme from 2018, including the Ratiu Forum (alongside the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, Romania / UK) from 2019, and the CSEEP desk at the Jagiellonian University (Kraków) from 2020; the Engelsberg Chair in History and International Affairs from 2019-2022, funded by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation; the IDEAS Europe Programme and the Mladena and Dianko Sotirov Visiting Fellowship from 2021; among many others.

Over the many years of his association and leadership, Christopher brought his compelling intellect, sharp wit, and warm generosity to LSE IDEAS—as well as his global army of students and unrivalled contacts—and is sorely missed.

TEAM IDEAS

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WC2A 2AZ



AARON



ÁLVARO



BUGRA



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KENDDRICK



LEON



LUKAS



LUTFEY



MARIA



MARIAH



MARTA



MARY



MATILDE



MICK



MIREA



NICK



OLIVER



PETER



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ROSALIE



SANIYA



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Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy



LSE IDEAS, a centre for the study of international affairs, brings together academics and policy-makers to think strategically about world events.

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– **Dame Karen Pierce**
UK Ambassador to
the United States

CONTACT US

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