

FALLING WALLS LAB London

09 JUNE 2026
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



Supported by:



CONCEPT

The Falling Walls Foundation founded Falling Walls Lab in 2011 to:

- **CONNECT** aspiring innovators
- **DISCOVER** and develop talents
- **SUPPORT** interdisciplinary dialogue and international cooperation
- **DEVELOP** new ways of scientific communication
- **BUILD** new and strong networks

TIMELINE

10.00—11.00	Participant arrival and registration
11.00—11.10	Welcome and introductory remarks
11.10—11.40	Pitches (1-7)
11.40—12.00	Networking break
12.00—12.30	Pitches (8-13)
12.30—13.30	Lunch break and jury session
13.30—14.00	Awards ceremony and group picture
14.00	End of event

JURY

Professor Michael Bruter, Jury Chair

*Professor and Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research
London School of Economics and Political Science*

Michael Bruter is the LSE's Associate Vice President for Research, Director of the Electoral Psychology Observatory and Professor of Political Science. His research specialises in the fields of democracy, electoral psychology, political behaviour and research methods and his approach to democratic behaviours and crises is fundamentally people-centric and solution oriented.

Bruter's radically original take has earned him significant awards and recognition. He was notably invited to present his research by the Nobel Prize at the 2024 Nobel Prize Dialogue on the future of democracy, the World Economic Forum and the European Parliament where he was the first social scientist ever invited to give the Parliament's STOA (Science and Technology Panel) Annual keynote on the future of Science and Technology. He has similarly presented his research in other prestigious fora including the United Nations, Houses of Parliament, and International Day of Democracy.

Bruter's awards have included being a winner of the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year in Social Sciences and the Economic and Social Research Council's 10th Anniversary award for Outstanding International Impact, both jointly with Sarah Harrison.

*Bruter has published 7 books including *Inside the Mind of a Voter* (with Sarah Harrison), *Citizens of Europe*, and *the Future of our Democracies*, as well as numerous articles in leading social science journals. He has been a principal investigator for multiple external grants totalling over 5 million euros from funders such as the European Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Leverhulme Trust, Carnegie Corporation and Hewlett Foundation. His research has featured in the most prestigious media including *the Economist*, *Time*, *Financial Times*, etc and he has served as expert witness in electoral psychology in cases tried by the Irish High Court and*

Supreme Court. He has also worked with or advised multiple international organisations, the European Union, Council of Europe, and Electoral Commissions including Australia, South Africa, Sweden and many more.

Bruter's current research spans areas that include democratic hostility, electoral ergonomics, intergenerational tensions in democracies, the concept of democratic hopelessness and solution-oriented research on the impact of democracy on citizens' daily lives, interpersonal relationships and mechanisms of solidarity.

Professor Neil Lee

Professor

London School of Economics and Political Science

Neil is Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics, a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), and an associate member at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. He has held visiting positions at Columbia University, Oxford, Science Po Toulouse, and the University of Inland Norway. He also leads the LSE's International Inequalities Institute's 'Cities' network and is a former Chair of the Regional Studies Association.

His research considers innovation, economic development, and place-based policy. His 2024 book 'Innovation for the Masses' was featured as one of the Financial Times "best new books in economics" and his research and teaching has won awards including the Regional Studies best paper prize. He has acted as an advisor or consultant to governments and international bodies, including the OECD, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the Asian Development Bank.

Rachel Waites

Senior Director of External Partnerships

New York University

Rachel is based at NYU's London campus and is responsible for developing regional projects and partnerships for New York University. She works with industry, government and academia to raise awareness of NYU's intellectual capital in science, technology, engineering and the arts. Some current UK projects include partnerships in AI research for national security, Earth systems modelling, industry-led secure telecommunications and quantitative finance. Prior to this she spent fifteen years leading admissions, recruitment and science partnership initiatives for the University of Chicago in the EMEA region. She is a graduate of the University of Glasgow and holds trustee and advisory roles for the Royal Marines Charity and St Gabriel's, Pimlico.

Dr Yizhou Yu

Founder

Healthspan Biotics

Yizhou is a Senior Computational Biologist at Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, as well as the Founder & CEO of Healthspan Biotics. At Cambridge, Yizhou employs AI/ML to investigate autoimmune diseases. At Healthspan Biotics (onecarbon.com), he leads biotechnological research to improve healthspan, focusing on safe, affordable and effective supplements for Alzheimer's disease. His research excellence has been recognized through prestigious awards, including the Falling Walls Cambridge Prize, Oxford University Press Toxicology Research Prize, and Forbes 30 under 30.

Dr Andreas Hoeschen

Director DAAD London Office

German Academic Exchange Office (DAAD)

Andreas Hoeschen graduated in German, Russian and Philosophy at the Justus Liebig University of Giessen (JLU). After finishing his PhD in German Literature, he worked as a Research Fellow in a DFG-funded project on intellectual history. He joined DAAD in 2005 and since then he has held various positions. Prior to taking up his duties in London in April 2025, he was Head of the DAAD Internationalisation Programmes Division and Head of the DAAD Moscow Office.

PRESENTERS

- 1 Saeeda Alizada
London South Bank University
BREAKING THE WALL OF
INVISIBLE ORIGINS IN ONLINE
SHOPPING
- 2 Zehra Azim
University of Oxford
BREAKING THE WALL OF THE
NEVER PREGNANT MOUSE
- 3 Dr Khoela Bame
University of Oxford
BREAKING THE WALL OF
SILENT
NEURODEGENERATION
- 4 Juan Pablo Calderon Meza
London School of Economics
BREAKING THE WALL OF
CORPORATE IMPUNITY FOR
ATROCITY CRIMES
- 5 Dr Dipranjan Chatterjee
University of Oxford
BREAKING THE WALL OF
DISORDER: HARNESSING
FRUSTRATION FOR HIDDEN
QUANTUM STATES
- 6 Dr Daniel Hungeroth
University of Cambridge
BREAKING THE WALL OF
SECURE INITIAL CONTACT
FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS
- 7 María Emily Jenkinson Álvarez
University of Cambridge
BREAKING THE WALL OF
BRAIN BIOLOGY
- 8 Arjun Kamdar
University of Cambridge
BREAKING THE WALL OF
LIVING WITH SNAKES
- 9 Asja Puncuh
University of Oxford
BREAKING THE WALL OF
PERSONALISED CANCER
IMMUNOTHERAPY
- 10 Mir Sahebzada
London South Bank University
BREAKING THE WALL OF
FRAGMENTED
SUSTAINABILITY
- 11 Oleksandra Stepanets
London South Bank University
BREAKING THE WALL OF
INNOVATION AS GUESSWORK
- 12 Chris Toavs
University of Cambridge
BREAKING THE WALL OF
PLASTIC: CIRCULARITY IN
DIABETES CARE
- 13 Sera Tolgay Marshall
University of Cambridge
BREAKING THE WALL OF
WATER CRISES IN CONFLICT
ZONES

FALLING WALLS LAB

PARTNERS



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



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FEEDBACK

What was your overall impression of this Falling Walls Lab event?

Do you have concrete suggestions for improvement? If so, what?
